

**An Analysis of Figurative Language used in Coldplay’s Song feat BTS  
Entitled “My Universe”**

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**ABSTRACT**

Conveying messages to the listeners not only can be done by conversation or discussion but also can be done in some ways like song, drama, and poem. Every song has the potential to tell a story, but only a select few possess the ability to touch our souls and leave an indelible mark on our hearts. Coldplay's featuring BTS 'My Universe' is undeniably one of those rare gems. At its core, this song is a symphony of emotions, a melodic embrace during times of turmoil. In this study, the researchers try to figure out figurative language used in Coldplay’s Song Entitled 'My Universe' feat BTS (one of the hits Korean boy bands in the world). This research uses qualitative research methodology because this research describes and finds out figurative language that is used in Coldplay’s song. Based on the lyrics, here is the figurative language used in Coldplay Song entitled My Universe. There are metaphors, repetition, imagery, hyperbole, and symbolism. All of the figurative language used in the lyric show that the lyric has beautiful meaning like this sentence “you are my star and my universe”. This sentence contains of hyperbole because the writer of this song uses my star and my universe to describe someone he loved in words. The figurative language used in the song makes the lyric more attractive and artistic for the listeners. Moreover, figurative language also used to make the words in the song more beautiful when it was delivered with the music.

**Key words:** Coldplay Song; Figurative Language

**INTRODUCTION**

Language and humans cannot be separated today. Language as a tool for communication between people. Language is also used for conveying messages between speakers to listeners. It is undeniable that the nature of humans in the present day is to communicate with one another on a regular basis (Karina et al.,

2019). Conveying messages to the listeners not only can be done by conversation or discussion but also can be used in some way like song, drama, or poem. There are numerous ways for people to express their feelings, perceptions or sentiments to others so that they can understand what is being said. One method is through literary work (Hariyanto, 2017; Karina et al., 2019).

Song is a kind of communication to convey the message to the listeners using lyric then melody. In the song, sometimes the creator uses some figurative language to make the song feel more interesting for listeners. The human voice and a musical instrument make up a whole song. The writer of a song usually uses metaphorical language in each stanza to communicate a message to the listener (Barung et al., 2023). Figurative language is one of language that does not have its real meaning but has another meaning. The most interesting one from the song is that every lyric has its own real meaning. Figurative language used in the song is one of the ways from the author to make the song more beautiful and meaningful. Figurative language is considered to be more successful in conveying the author's message because, first of all, it allows readers to enjoy literary works in an imaginative approach (Swarniti, 2022). The employment of a figure of speech in a language is known as figurative language. Here, figure of speech applies to the skill of conveying a message in a way that transcends from its direct meaning (Kennedy, 1979; Listiani, 2015; Putu Ratna, 2017).

Every song has the potential to tell a story, but only a select few possess the ability to touch our souls and leave an indelible mark on our hearts. Coldplay's featuring BTS 'My Universe' is undeniably one of those rare gems. At its core, this song is a symphony of emotions, a melodic embrace during times of turmoil. Yet, it is the skillful implementation of figurative language that elevates 'My Universe' from a melody to a masterpiece. In this exploration, we embark on a literary and musical journey through the intricate tapestry of 'My Universe', dissecting the metaphors, similes, and other figurative devices that lend the song its remarkable depth and resonance. Through the lens of language, we'll decipher the song's emotional code, uncovering hidden meanings and understanding the poetic techniques that give life to its verses. From the tears that cascade down like rain to the stars that illuminate the path ahead, each instance of figurative language is a brushstroke on the canvas of our imagination. 'My Universe' becomes more than just a song; it becomes a shared experience, a bridge between artist and listener, emotion and expression. Together, we'll unravel the layers of metaphorical intricacy, allowing the song's sentiments to resonate anew.

As the journey through the pages that follow, let the words and music intertwine, revealing a deeper understanding of 'My Universe'. In an exploration that marries the poetic with the melodic, we invite you to join us in uncovering the enigmatic beauty of Coldplay's 'My Universe' and the figurative language that makes it an enduring anthem of solace and rejuvenation. In this study, the researchers try to analyze figurative language used in Coldplay's Song Entitled 'My Universe' feat BTS (one of the hits Korean boy bands in the world). The Researchers are interested

in analyzing this song because Coldplay is one of the legendary bands that has sold more than 50 billion albums all over the world and their Youtube video has been watched by more than a billion people. Coldplay also now is doing Coldplay Music of the Spheres World Tour 2023. The tour proves that Coldplay is one of the legendary bands in the world. The researchers want to conduct this research because Coldplay is one of the legendary bands in the world that has launched many popular songs. Although, many research also conduct kind of this research like this, this current study has the special one because this lyrics contain mix languages between English and Korean language. This song is also one of the songs that was made by collaborating between legendary band Coldplay and BTS (one of the most popular boy bands in the world). The mix between two languages (English and Korean language) is also one of the concerns of this current study to analyze the figurative language contained in this song.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Previous Related Study**

The writer have five previous studies that related to this research as for supporting the data. The first one is from Siallagan et al., (2017) entitled “Analysis of figurative and imagery in Taylor Swift’s Song”. The main goal of this study was to examine the various metaphorical language and imagery employed in Taylor Swift's "1989" album song lyrics. There are thirteen songs on this album. While this current research just focus to analyze one song from Coldplay. The second previous research is from Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language used in the Lyric of “A Whole New World” By Zayn Malik and Zhavia Ward”. The result highlighted how this song makes use of personification, alliteration, similes, metaphors, and hyperbole, among other figurative language techniques. Furthermore, metaphor is the most frequently used figurative language in the song. The third previous research is from Fajrin & Parmawati (2021) entitled An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars entitled “Greenade”. The findings showed that metaphor, exaggeration, and repetition are examples of figurative language used in this album. Moreover, the most figurative words used in the lyrics is hyperbole. The fourth previous research is from Ibrahim et al., (2019) entitled “The Analysis of Figurative Language in “Endless Love” Song Lyric”. The study's findings highlighted that the song's lyrics include of seven different types of figurative language: personification (4%), depersonification (4%), repetition (36%), hyperbole (32%), metaphor (12%), pleonasm (8%), and onomatopoeia (4%). The last previous research is from Swarniti (2022) entitled “Analysis of Figurative Language in “Easy On Me” Song Lyrics” Based on the findings of this study, personification was showed to contain four data points in Comparative Figurative Language. It was discovered that paradox (1 datum), litotes (2 data), and hyperbole (3 data) all occur in contradictory figurative language. This data source contained the following: metonymy (2 data), ellipsis (2 data), allusion (1 datum), and symbol (8 data) in Correlative Figurative Language. In the data source, symbols contained the most data. All of the previous research found many

kinds of figurative language. In addition, although all of the previous studies have the same theme to analyze figurative language on song, in the end the results of their research have different type of figurative language. From this current research, the researchers want to analyze the song from Coldplay feat BTS entitled “My Universe”. The researchers also want to figure out what kind of figurative language is mostly used in this song.

### **Figurative language**

Figurative language is any term or phrase that expresses ideas to the reader or listener without accurately expressing or portraying their true meaning. Figurative language, according to Ratna (2017) as cited in Hulu et al., (2021), is an additional means of expressing ideas in addition to the conventional methods of enhancing speech beauty. Figurative is one of the languages used by the musicians in writing their song lyrics to make every word in their song more beautiful and interesting. Figurative language also has special meaning. In addition, the ideas deliver beautiful lyrics and have another meaning. Furthermore, Harya (2017), referenced in Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020), defines figurative language as language that uses terms or sentences that have a meaning that differs from the literal interpretation. Because of this, it is required to deduce the meaning of the words or expressions because taking them at face value from a dictionary would render them meaningless.

According to Mahmood (2014) as cited in Ibrahim et al., (2019) each figure of speech has a specific role in the formulation and explanation of concepts. People learn the meaning that is embedded in the language itself as well as how it is generated through the process of comprehending and learning it (Karina et al., 2019). Figurative language has been considered to be more effective at conveying the writer's meaning for the following reasons: (1) it permits readers to enjoy literary works in an imaginative way; (2) it includes additional imagery to verse, making the abstract concrete and making literary works more sensual; (3) it brings emotional intensity to statements that would otherwise be merely informative and conveys attitudes along with information; and (4) it is an effective means of saying a lot in a short amount of ((Perrine, 1991; Swarniti, 2022)). Peter (2002) as cited in Barung et al. (2023) defines figurative language as language that combines the speaker's intention to evoke strong feelings in order to shock and motivate listeners to take action. It is clear from the definition above that figurative language is used to convey ideas, emotions, and perceptions that are difficult to convey by literal interpretation(Barung et al., 2023).

### **Songs**

Songs are enjoyable to listen to because they are poems with different melodies and tones. Listening to music is one of the most popular activities among people these days (Hulu et al., 2021). One of the most well-liked and intimate literary works is the song. Not only can songs make people laugh and provide them with a new and intimate connection to life, but they can also be used as a media from the writers to express their opinions, suggestions, perfectives, discuss society, history, and

personal experiences (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Song also is an art that is made by musicians to express their feelings. Musicians have their own style when writing their songs.

## **METHOD**

### **Design and Samples**

This current research uses qualitative research methodology because this research describes and figures out figurative language that is used in Coldplay's songs. To illustrate and describe the significance of figurative language in song lyrics, this study used a qualitative descriptive methodology (Karina et al., 2019). A descriptive qualitative study typically uses non-numerical data and focuses on the development of meaning. (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020).

### **Instrument and Procedure**

The instrument used in this research is the lyric from Coldplay's song. The documentation method is used for collecting the data for this research. This research takes the data from all of the documentation of Coldplay song lyrics entitled 'My Universe'. The researcher employed study documentation as a means of data collection in this investigation. Study documentation is described as the process of gathering information about cases, transcripts, books, magazines, and other sources (Arikunto, 1990; Listiani, 2015; Ratna, 2017).

### **Data Analysis**

The Researchers try to analyze the figurative language used from the lyrics. The data analysis process is a critical step in ensuring the authenticity and reliability of the data gathering. The processes for data analysis are as follows: 1) the researchers search a Coldplay Song entitled 'My Universe' on Youtube and listen to the song. 2) the researchers search the lyric from Google and type it to the Ms. Word. 3) the researchers then read the lyric and look for figurative language used in the lyric. 4) the researchers then analyze the data once again and come to the conclusion for finding what type of figurative language used in Coldplay song entitled 'My Universe'. And the last 5) the researchers check the data again to ensure all of the processes have been carried out correctly and related it with the theory and previous research that used.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the lyrics, here is the figurative language used in Coldplay's Song entitled My Universe.

Metaphor :

Metaphor is a type of analogy that directly compares two things, therefore this figurative language actually has some simile-like characteristics. However, a metaphor is a straightforward comparison without a word of connection (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018; Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). Metaphorical language, such as metaphors, is used to compare objects, projects, people, etc (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Metaphor and simile both have the same characteristic but simile is always using connection words such as like and as.

1) *"You are my universe"*

This line establishes a metaphor where the person being addressed is compared to the universe. This suggests their immense significance and the idea that they encompass the singer's world.

2) *"There's a paradise they couldn't capture / that bright infinity inside your eyes"*. The metaphor of "paradise" and "bright infinity inside your eyes" suggests that the person's essence holds something profoundly beautiful and unattainable. It conveys a sense of wonder and admiration.

3) *"You in my universe / Make another world for me"*

Here, the person in the singer's universe is metaphorically described as creating another world. This reinforces the idea that the person expands the singer's experiences and perspectives.

Repetition:

One type of figurative language is repetition, which emphasizes and produces a poetic or rhythmic effect by repeating a word or set of words in a sentence (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Repetition is the act of repeating a tone, syllable, word, or portion of a sentence that is required to convey stress in the appropriate context (Fajrin & Parmawati, 2021).

1) *"And I just want to put you first"*

The repetition of this line emphasizes the singer's desire to prioritize the person. It's a straightforward expression of their feelings and intentions.

2) *"My universe"*

In the lyrics "my universe" has appeared many times. It also shows that repetition is one kind of figurative language used in the lyric.

Imagery:

The definition of imagery is the portrayal of sensory experience in language (Arp, 2011; Siallagan et al., 2017). Imagery is also one of figurative language that is used for describing sensory experience of humans to language.

1) *"In the night I lie and look up at you / when the morning comes I watch you rise"*  
These lines use vivid imagery to describe the act of looking at the person both during the night and in the morning. The imagery captures a sense of intimacy and admiration.

2) *"I fly to you every night / forgetting that it's just a dream"*  
This imagery of flying to the person every night, even in dreams, reinforces the idea of their strong emotional connection. It also underlines the dream-like quality of their bond.

3) *"We will follow you through this long night"*  
The imagery of following the person through a long night metaphorically represents navigating challenges together. It indicates solidarity and support.

#### Hyperbole:

Hyperbole is a type of metaphorical language that is employed to inflate an object beyond its true size (Padillah et al., 2016; Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020).

1) *"Never-ending forever, baby"*  
This phrase employs hyperbole by combining "never-ending" and "forever" to emphasize the enduring nature of their connection. It's a poetic way of expressing eternal love.

2) *"You are my star and my universe"*  
This hyperbolic statement intensifies the person's importance, likening them to both a star and the universe. It emphasizes their unique role in the singer's life.

#### Symbolism:

Symbols are the parts of a poem's structure that are difficult to focus on because of how important they are to understanding the poem's message. Anything or behavior that has more meaning than it is by itself can be considered a symbol (Siallagan et al., 2017).

1) *"The star embroidered with love called you"*  
The person is symbolically referred to as a star that's adorned with love. This symbolizes their luminance and significance in the singer's life.

In addition, Coldplay's "My Universe" employs various figurative language techniques, including metaphors, imagery, hyperbole, and symbolism, to convey the depth of emotions, the strength of the connection, and the transformative power of love between individuals.

Based on those findings, the researchers find five types of figurative language mostly used in Coldplay's songs. There are metaphors, repetition, imagery, hyperbole, and symbolism. In metaphor, the writer of this song compared the person whom he loved with the universe like in this sentence *"You are my universe"*. The word universe in real meaning means all of the life element in this galaxy either visible or invisible. Furthermore, word "you" or "someone who inspires" the writer

of this song means everything for his life. In addition, the writer describe her like universe. A methapor is a proposition that purports to be something that it isn't in the strict sense(Fajrin & Parmawati, 2021). This song also uses many of repetition in its lyric like *"And I just want to put you first"*. This sentence also has same meaning with the first one. The writer of this song also wants to emphasize that "you" or "someone who inspires" him as the priority for his life. Either as everything or priority, the listeners of this song know that the word "you" or "someone who inspires" the writer of this song in thins song really loved by the writer and means everything for his life. Repetition is the act of repeating a tone, syllable, word, or portion of a sentence that is required to convey stress in the appropriate context (Fajrin & Parmawati, 2021). In next figurative language, the writer also uses imagery for this song like *"In the night I lie and look up at you / when the morning comes, I watch you rise"*.

The writer of this song also describes the word you as the beginning and the end of his day every day. Furthermore, as the listeners of this song, we also can imagine that the writer try to describe that his someone like a sun that shines in the day and the moon that lights in the night. These lyrics are so beautiful that really describing the feeling of love using figurative language (imagery). The definition of imagery is the portrayal of sensory experience through language ((Arp, 2011;Siallagan et al., 2017)). The next figurative language used in this song is hyperbole. In this song, the researchers find the example of this lyric *"Never-ending forever, baby"*. This phrase employs hyperbole by combining "never-ending" and "forever" to express the writer's love. This lyric also describes that the word "you" or "someone who inspires" the writer of this song exactly means everything to him. Hyperbole is a type of metaphorical language that is employed to inflate an object beyond its true size (Padillah et al., 2016; Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). In addition, the researchers also find symbolism as one of figurative language used in thi song. "The star embroidered with love called you" The person is symbolically referred to as a star that's adorned with love. This symbolizes their luminance and significance in the singer's life. "Something that means more than what it is" is one way to broadly define a symbol, according to Arp ((Arp, 2011; Siallagan et al., 2017)). Symbols are the parts of a poem's structure that are difficult to focus on because of how important they are to understanding the poem's message. Anything or behavior that has more meaning than it is by itself can be considered a symbol (Siallagan et al., 2017).

## CONCLUSION

This research analyzed songs from famous bands and boy bands in the world. This song from Coldplay featuring BTS (a famous Korean boy band) was launched on 24 September 2021 by Parlophone and Atlantic Record. This is also the second single from the ninth album of Coldplay, Music of the Spheres. This song entitled my universe. The examination shows that the song's lyrics use a variety of figurative languages, including metaphor, repetition, imagery, hyperbole, and symbolism. Figurative languages are employed to make lyrical content more appealing and



artistic to listeners. Furthermore, figurative language was used to enhance the beauty of the words when delivered alongside music.

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