

A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXPRESSION IN THE SCRIBBLES UNDER MARK LEE'S INSTAGRAM POST

ANALISIS STILISTIKA EKSPRESI MAJAS DALAM CORETAN DI BAWAH POSTINGAN INSTAGRAM MARK LEE

Alfiani Indah Nurhasanah¹, Chusni Hadiati^{2*}, Eka Dyah Puspita Sari³

^{1,2,3}Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman

*Corresponding Author: chusni.hadiati@unsoed.ac.id

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Abstract

Figurative language is a type of language that cannot be interpreted literally and is used to convey someone's feelings through literary works such as Scribble. This article aims to analyze the types and functions of figurative language from figurative language expressions in Mark Lee's Instagram posts. The research method used is a qualitative method with descriptive analysis. The material object is in the form of five scribbles that Mark Lee shared on his personal Instagram account, while the datum is a line in the data that uses figurative language. To determine the sample, total sampling was chosen. The steps in the data analysis process include data reduction, data visualization, and drawing conclusions. The formal object used is Perrine's theory, to analyze the types and functions of figurative language found. The research findings show that there are seven different types of figurative language in the five graffiti that Mark Lee uploaded on his personal Instagram account, and there are four functions of figurative language found in this research. In short, the dominant type of figurative language found from the data is personification, while the dominant function is to add additional imagery and to increase emotional intensity; both functions are found in equal numbers.

Keywords: *function of figurative language, Mark Lee's scribbles, stylistics, types of figurative language*

Abstrak

Bahasa kiasan merupakan jenis bahasa yang tidak dapat diartikan secara harfiah dan digunakan untuk menyampaikan perasaan seseorang melalui karya sastra seperti Scribble. Artikel ini bertujuan menganalisis jenis dan fungsi bahasa kiasan dari ekspresi bahasa figuratif dalam postingan instagram Mark Lee. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif dengan analisis deskriptif. Objek material berupa lima coretan yang dibagikan Mark Lee di akun instagram pribadinya, sedangkan datum adalah baris dalam data yang menggunakan bahasa figuratif. Untuk menentukan sampel, dipilih total sampling. Langkah-langkah dalam proses analisis data dilakukan reduksi data, visualisasi data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Objek formal yang digunakan adalah teori Perrine, untuk menganalisis jenis dan fungsi bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada tujuh jenis bahasa kiasan yang berbeda dalam lima coretan yang diunggah Mark Lee di akun Instagram pribadinya, dan ada empat fungsi bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini. Singkatnya, tipe bahasa kiasan yang dominan ditemukan dari data adalah personifikasi, sedangkan fungsi yang dominan adalah untuk menambahkan citra tambahan dan untuk meningkatkan intensitas emosional; kedua fungsi tersebut ditemukan dalam jumlah yang sama.

Kata kunci: fungsi bahasa kiasan, stilistika, tipe bahasa kiasan, tulisan coretan milik Mark Lee

INTRODUCTION

Communication is one of the things we do most in our lives; it's the transmission of facts, ideas, and feelings. To communicate, people need a language. One of the types of language that we can use to communicate is literary. In literary work, an author could have a different style in writing their work so that they leave the reader with a different impression. The different styles that the author uses can be considered Stylistic since they deal with language varieties and style. The object of Stylistics could also be written or spoken, but here the researcher focuses on written text only, and it is a well-written scribble that could be considered poetry.

Poetry uses so many elements that make the words arranged in it beautiful. Poetry also has a meaning that is less obvious than in other literary works because it uses indirect words. One of the way to achieve the indirect words but meaningful is using figurative language. As Perrine said, "figurative language" is any method other than the usual one of expressing things, and it is used to beautify the work by expressing the language hidden behind normal conversation. One of the many people who use figurative language is Mark Lee.

This study aimed at finding the types and functions of the figurative language found in the scribbles under Mark Lee's Instagram Post. Lee Minhyung (이민형), known professionally as Mark Lee, is a Canadian rapper, singer, songwriter, and dancer. He is a member of the South Korean boy group, NCT, and its fixed sub-units, NCT 127, a leader of NCT Dream, and is also a member of the supergroup, SuperM (SM Entertainment, 2022). Aside from his background in entertainment, he is known for his writing, which he currently posts on his personal Instagram account. He currently has five posts with his scribbles on them. The dates of his posts are not scheduled, he posts his writing when he wants to.

Mark Lee published his first poem on his Instagram account @onyourm__ark on February 1, 2021. His musings on sleep, thoughts, feelings, and writing are put into words in his first poem, loosely titled "Late Night Scribbling." It wanders from subject to subject, vacillating between optimism and pessimism, before ending with a comically uncomfortable "haha."

One line on his poem is "Black but not bitter". The statement demonstrates how allegory, a type of figurative language, is used by Mark in his first poem. Here, he describes his sentiments towards the term "good night" (the previous lines) as "black but not bitter" by using figurative language. Black is frequently linked to melancholy, depression, challenging times, and many other "dark" things. As an artist who has a very tight schedule in 2021, Mark Lee expresses his need to sleep despite his busy schedule. Having 5 comebacks in sequence make him only have a little time to rest. The only 'rest' that he has is only when he sleeps, when someone sends him with a 'good night'. Due to his hectic schedule, the majority of his fans were concerned about his health and believed that the company had overworked him.

He works quite hard, in fact. Like his partner said, Mark just knows how to practice and work hard. Mark's fans believe that his life has become darker since they said that the Korean entertainment industry was a "black" industry, but in reality, this is not how Mark feels. People might assume that figurative language serves as the objective of conveying a more important message in Mark's scribble in simpler terms or "speak a lot in a brief." Even though there are only 4 words in it, people interpret more than what is written. Mark Lee

doesn't necessarily say much to help people, especially his fans, understand what he is trying to convey.

METHOD

This research used a descriptive-qualitative method. It was tried to describe the language phenomena observed in the scribble. It focused on Mark Lee's chosen scribble, which contains Perrine's figurative language theory. Mark Lee's scribbles posted on his personal Instagram account between February 2021 and May 2023 served as the research's data source. These scribbles were picked as the data source based on the researcher's personal preferences as well as the engagements of each and every scribble that Mark Lee shared on social media, including Instagram and other platforms.

The primary data for this research were sentences that contain figurative language in Mark Lee's scribbles that were posted on his personal Instagram account between February 2021 and May 2023. The writer's method of sampling is total sampling. Total sampling is a sampling method in which the total population is represented by the same number of samples. The sample in this research was an expression written in scribbles that was posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account, which carries figurative language.

There are numerous steps taken in this research to collect the data, and they are observed Mark Lee's personal Instagram account to find his writing posts, collected the data by reading the scribbles more than once, and took notes on the scribbles to differentiate which lines contained figurative language. For the analysis, the steps taken in this include organized and prepared the data by classifying it for analysis using Perrine's theory of figurative language.

Second, read, sorted, and arranged the data into different types depending on the source of the information. Here, the classification is based on each of the 12 types of figurative language that show up in the scribbles posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account. Third, coded all of the data. It involves taking text data gathered during data collection, categorizing the sentences into categories, and labeling the categories into terms. Here, the categories are about the type of figurative language shown in each scribble posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account.

Fourth, generated a description by elaborating on the data based on the figurative language by Perrine to analyze the functions of figurative language in the scribbles posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account. Fifth, represented the description using the findings. The researcher relates the usage of figurative language to the researcher's perspectives in scribbles posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account through the figurative language and its meaning.

Lastly, drawn a conclusion. The answer to the research questions should be included in the conclusion. The researcher draws conclusions about all the figurative language found in scribbles posted on Mark Lee's personal Instagram account based on Perrine's theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher presented the data collected from the analysis of Mark Lee's posted scribbles on his personal Instagram account. There are five posts of scribble from his account

between February 2021 and May 2023, and from those scribbles, the data were taken, classified, and analyzed based on Perrine’s figurative language theory.

Types of Figurative Language

The data were analyzed using the theory of figurative language and its function by Perrine. The researcher identified the figurative language of scribbles posted on Mark Lee’s personal Instagram account. Perrine and Arp define figure of speech and figurative language as "any way of saying something other than the ordinary way" . While figurative language—language using figures of speech—is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken only literally)" (Perrine & Arp, 2010). The types of figurative language found in scribbles under Mark Lee’s Instagram post can be seen in the table below.

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language found in scribbles under Mark Lee's Instagram Post

Types of Figurative Language	Total	Percentage
Simile	3	16.67%
Personification	5	27.78%
Allegory	3	16.67%
Overstatement	1	5.56%
Paradox	3	16.67%
Symbol	2	11.11%
Metaphor	1	5.56%
Total	18	100%

The table showed that there were 15 types of figurative language found in scribbles under Mark Lee’s Instagram post between February 2021 and May 2023. However, the findings were dominated by personification with 5 data points (27.78%), paradox with 3 data points (16.67%), simile and metaphor with 3 data points each (16.67%), symbol with 2 data points (11.11%) , allegory, and overstatement, with each of them having only 1 data point (5.56%).

Simile

Simile is a type of figurative language that occurs when direct comparisons are used. Similes are explicit because they are used to address comparisons with similar characteristics. If words like "like," "as," "than," "similar to," "resembles," or "seems" occur in comparisons, it is implied that the objects being compared are similar even if they are not identical.

Data 1

“To me, these two words feel like a vast sky” (First scribble, line 3)

The first datum was “To me, these two words feel like a vast sky”, found in the 3rd line of Mark Lee’s first scribble, which was posted on February 1st, 2021, right the next month after his Instagram account was made. His first scribble was basically talking about his late-night thoughts, as he said in his previous interview with Vogue. This first scribble put into words his musings about sleep, thoughts, feelings, and writing. It meanders from

topic to topic, hovering between feelings of hope and hopelessness (Vivien, 2021). However, this specific line was considered a Simile since it explained the comparison, which used the connector word "like". The phrase "two words" on Table 3 referred to the previous line, "good night". The comparison happened between "good night" and "vast sky," which were two very different things. "Good night" was a greeting to send someone to sleep, while vast sky was an adjective. The researcher assumed that Mark Lee felt that a 'good night' was a very rare thing that happened in his lives since he did not get his proper rest; he had a very tight schedule as an idol, so it was like a vast sky that was hard to reach.

Personification

Personification is the implicit comparison between a human being and an animal, an object, or a concept. Personification may also be summed up as the application of human characteristics to inanimate objects in an attempt to establish a connection between them and humans.

Data 2

"A spacious bed for me and my thoughts to sleep in" (First scribble, line 9)

The Personification found was "A spacious bed for me and my thoughts to sleep in." The utterance found in the 9th line of Mark Lee's first scribble, which talked about his late-night thoughts. This line showed how Mark Lee's head had a lot of thoughts that needed a place to go. By looking at the word "a spacious bed for me," he needed a place to put his thoughts that was as wide as the bed he used to put his body to sleep. The personification was located in the word "my thoughts to sleep in". As it is known that "mind" is not a human being, it is a general term for the way people think, perceive, will, and feel. On the other hand, "sleep" is a verb that is generally done as a human activity.

Allegory

Allegory is defined as a narrative or description with a hidden, deeper meaning. Another definition of allegory includes an extended metaphor and, at times, a group of related symbols. Through symbolic elements, acts, imagery, or events in the text, allegories indicate their deeper meanings.

Data 3

"Black but not bitter" (First scribble, line 5)

This data was the same as in the pre-analysis. The utterance was "Black but not bitter". This line comes from the 5th line of Mark Lee's first scribble that he posted on early February 2021. Though black but not bitter seems normal; black could be black and not bitter, this line seems to have more meaning to tell us. He worked exceptionally hard. As his partner previously stated, Mark knows how to exercise and work hard. The Korean entertainment industry had been described as a "black" industry, leading Mark's fans to speculate that his life had become darker. In actuality, though, Mark did not feel this way. He would much rather practice, create new songs, or do anything related to his jobs in the practice room than sit around doing nothing in his free time. As a result, Mark Lee's life

could be better. He was worn out, but his achievements and the support of his fans motivated him to work even harder in the future. Thus, he used an Allegory in the line "black but not bitter" to tell us about his life.

Overstatement

Overstatement/Hyperbole is a type of figurative language where an expression is purposefully exaggerated, and it can be used for useful purposes.

Data 4

“Your absence is more than just the feeling of vacancy” (Fourth scribble, line 1)

The expression contained Overstatement was “Your absence is more than just the feeling of vacancy”. It was found in the 1st line of the fourth scribble Mark Lee posted on his personal Instagram account. This scribble mainly talks about Mark's glasses. In this line, it was hyperbole since Mark Lee was exaggerating his feelings about the absence of his glasses as more than a feeling of vacancy. Although the feeling of losing his helper tool to see is indeed troublesome, it was quite an exaggeration to use "vacancy" to describe his feeling. He can use a lens or other glasses if he has them and even buy a new one. If he needed it, he would not hesitate to renew his glasses when one went missing.

Paradox

A paradox is a supposedly contradictory statement that is still true. It might be a situation or a statement. There are times when Paradox seem contradictory or even irrational. A paradox is often used to encourage the reader to consider an issue in a new way.

Data 5

“Ignore them in the way you naturally are because you look good in noir” (Fourth scribble, line 10)

The utterance contained Paradox was “Ignore them in the way you naturally are because you look good in noir”. This utterance was found in the 10th line of the fourth scribble. This line clearly shows the contradiction in the word, "You look good in noir." Noir was something black, the darkest color, the color of the sky at night when there was no light at all, so the researcher thought it was paradoxical when we think something looks good in noir when we can see nothing in noir.

Symbol

A symbol is an object, place, thing, or action that suggest meaning beyond its literal tense.

Data 6

“A question above my head” (First scribble, line 10)

The utterance contained Symbol was “A question above my head”. This utterance was found in the 10th line of the first scribble, which told us about his late-night thoughts. As

everyone knows, a question is a non-human thing that cannot be seen; it existed only in our mind, and by saying "above my head, it showed how it symbolizes how he had been thinking about some question in his head and that maybe he has not found the answer, so the question kept popping up above his head.

Metaphor

A metaphor implies a comparison by using a figurative term that is either used in place of or associated with a literal term (Perrine & Arp, 2010).

Data 7

"A coin is tossed (the outcome is what I see before the landing) (Fifth scribble, line 4)

This data is found in the 4th line of the fifth scribble that Mark posted on his Instagram account. The expression contained a metaphor: "A coin is tossed". This expression is categorized as a metaphor since there is meaning implied between a coin that is tossed based on the context of the next line, "The outcome is what I see before the landing". If looking at the literal meaning, "a tossed coin" is usually used to show a situation to decide something by throwing a coin up in the air and seeing which side is shown after it lands (Merriam-Webster, 2023). On the other side, by looking from another perspective, a tossed coin means that we could have a different way of thinking about a situation or a different way of dealing with the same situation. A coin tossed could also mean that a thing that has already been done cannot be rewinded; you can already guess the outcome even when you just started the action. As humans, we can only arrange, but the outcome is that we must surrender to fate.

Functions of Figurative Language

Perrine defines figurative language as "saying something in a way that is different from the ordinary way." It implies that figurative language is meant to give literary works life and clarity. Perrine classifies the functions of figurative language into four classifications, such as to afford imaginative pleasure, to add additional imagery, to increase emotional intensity, and to say much in a brief compass. The detailed findings of the functions of figurative language found in scribbles under Mark Lee's Instagram post can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. Functions of Figurative Language Found in Scribbles under Mark Lee's Instagram Post

Functions of Figurative Language	Total	Percentage
To afford imaginative pleasure	5	27.78%
To add additional imagery	6	33.33%
To increase emotional intensity	6	33.33%
To say much in brief compass	1	5.56%
Total	18	100%

The table showed the functions of the figurative language used in scribbles under Mark Lee's Instagram post. The researcher found 5 data (27.78%) for the first function, which

is to afford imaginative pleasure. The second function of figurative language, which is to add additional imagery, was found in 6 data (33.33%). The third function, to increase emotional intensity, was found in 6 data (33.33%) and the fourth function, to say much in a brief compass, was found in 1 data (5.56%).

To Afford Imaginative Pleasure

The first function highlights how authors brighten their writing by using figurative language to provide imaginative pleasure, which occurs in the reader's mind by creating imagination—the mind's ability to proceed in abrupt steps from one point to another. The researcher found 5 data of this first function and 1 data represented as follow.

Data 8

“To me, these two words feel like a vast sky” (First scribble, line 3)

The data above showed the first function of figurative language, which was to afford imaginative pleasure. The utterance was “To me, these two words feel like a vast sky”. It could be found on the 3rd line of Mark Lee's first scribble. The line above was figurative language, a simile that talked about late-night thoughts. By writing "like a vast sky," the reader could sense how big the things are to be reached since the sky itself was already wide, and here Mark added "vast," which made it more unreachable.

To Add Additional Imagery

This function shows how an author adopts figurative language to transform the imagination into something vast for the reader. The researcher found 4 data of this second function and 1 data represented as follow.

Data 9

“A spacious bed for me and my thoughts to sleep in” (First scribble, line 9)

The utterance contained the second function of figurative language was “A spacious bed for me and my thoughts to sleep in”. It could be found on the 9th line of the first scribble, discussed Mark Lee's late-night thoughts. This line was a personification since it gave a human attribution to an inhuman thing. By putting "spacious bed" before "my thoughts to sleep in, Mark Lee was giving the reader time to imagine how a thought can sleep in a spacious bed. It also gave us the sense of resting our heads after a long day since finally our "thoughts" can "sleep." Also, based on the expression, we could imagine a person lying their body in a broad space, relieved by how they can already rest their mind and body after a long day.

To Increase Emotional Intensity

This function shows how figurative language create the emotional sense along with the informative statement. The researcher found 5 data of this third function and 1 data represented as follow.

Data 10

“Without you I’d be helpless like a lost heart with no match” (Fourth scribble, line 6)

The utterance contained the third function of figurative language was “Without you I’d be helpless like a lost heart with no match”. This utterance above, found in the 6th line of the fourth scribble, discussed Mark Lee's glasses. This datum was considered a simile since it has the connector word "like," but it can also be considered hyperbole; that was why the third function was shown on this line. By writing an exaggeration "like a lost heart," the reader can feel the sense of losing direction, being confused, and being overwhelmed. Moreover, by adding the line "with no match," the reader can feel the hopeless sense of having no pair.

To Say Much in Brief Compass

Figurative language enables the author to communicate their ideas without having to go into excessive detail. The intended meaning of the work is briefly conveyed to the readers. The researcher found only 1 data of this last function and the data represented as follow.

Data 11

“The nights know me well” (Second scribble, line 2)

The utterance contained the third function of figurative language was “The nights know me well”. This utterance came from the 2nd line of the second scribble, mainly about Mark Lee's late-night thoughts. By writing "know me well," from which we can assume the nights know all aspects of him; Mark Lee does not need to tell us something like "the nights know my worry," "the nights know my name," "the nights know my job," and so on. Only with "know me well" could the reader understand the close relationship between "the nights" and Mark Lee, so he obviously does not need to explain it in detail.

CONCLUSION

The researcher reaches a conclusion based on the findings of two research objectives: identifying different types of figurative language and their functions in Mark Lee's scribbles, which are posted on his personal Instagram account from February 2021 to May 2023. Some conclusions can be drawn based on the results and discussion in the previous chapter concerning the research questions and objectives of the study. From this discussion, it can be concluded that there are only seven out of twelve types of figurative language discovered in the four from five scribbles that Mark Lee posted on his personal Instagram account from February 2021 to May 2023, i.e., metaphor, simile, personification, allegory, overstatement, paradox, and symbol. Personification is mainly found in the scribbles, with a total of 5 times and a 27.78% occurrence. Also, from the discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher finds all four functions in 15 pieces of data from scribbles that Mark Lee posted on his personal Instagram account from February 2021 to May 2023.

The second and third functions are found in the scribble, with 6 data (33.33%). The second function shows how an author adopts figurative language to transform the imagination into something vast for the reader, while the third function shows how figurative language

creates an emotional sense along with the informative statement. In addition, the first function occurs five times (27.78%), and the last function occurs once (5.56%). Further, the researcher suggests that other researchers carry out comparable research using different approaches, theories, and objects. The researcher's context or idea can also be added by analyzing the figurative language, which can contribute to a fresh understanding of what the author wants to express, especially when expressed in a scribble or a poem. Lastly, future researchers are encouraged to discuss other stylistic elements, such as phonetic, lexical, and grammatical aspects.

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