

ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN *FEEL GOOD INC* AND *CLINT EASTWOOD* SONG LYRICS BY GORILLAZ

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Abstract

This study entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Feel Good Inc and Clint Eastwood Song Lyrics by Gorillaz" has two objectives. The first is to find out the meaning that Gorillaz wants to convey through the song *Feel Good Inc* and *Clint Eastwood*, and the second is to find out the types of figures of speech contained in the Gorillaz song lyrics. The data used for this analysis are the lyrics of the Gorillaz song entitled "*Feel Good Inc*" and "*Clint Eastwood*". The qualitative descriptive method was used in this study. The data obtained were then analyzed by separating each sentence to get contextual meaning and assisted by a dictionary. The types of speech were found: metaphor, hyperbola, allusion, simile, and personification. The most figurative language in the song is hyperbole. Three lyrics contain hyperbole, two personifications, one metaphor, two similes, and two allusions. Based on the contextual understanding of Gorillaz's song, *Feel Good Inc*. Gorillaz wants to convey criticism of *Feel Good Incorporated*, a consumerism crime company in which the workers are locked up and unable to get out. This song also describes people who are fed up with the evil that has happened for so long that people want to make a revolution for a better life. Then, in the song "*Clint Eastwood*" throughout the entire song, several words are mentioned related to disorders and conditions such as schizophrenia, a condition in which reality is convoluted, and the person is unable to think and act clearly, as well as psychosis, which is far away.

Keywords: *Contextual Meaning, Figurative Language, Song Lyrics.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is an organized form of communication made up of linguistic building blocks such as words, word groups, phrases, and sentences that may be expressed orally or in writing. According to Richards, Platt & Weber (1985), the organization of sounds or written phrases to create bigger units, such as morphemes, words, and sentences, constitutes the human communication system known as language. Nevertheless, language can also be confusing when the meaning needs to be better understood. A language is a tool of

However, language can also be confusing when the true meaning is not fully grasped. Because of misunderstandings, such as describing

conflict because of misunderstandings, such as describing humans as complex creatures. That's why researchers study linguistics as a science of language, such as semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that explores the meaning of a language. Chaer (2002) states that Semantics is the science of language meaning. That branch of linguistics is one of the 3 (three) levels of language analysis (phonology, grammatical, and semantics). By studying linguistic semantics, it is expected that an understanding of the utterance can be gained, including the meaning of a song lyric.

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meaning is the domain of the linguistic discipline of semantics. According to Chaer (2002), the study of language meaning is known as semantics. This linguistics subfield is one of the three levels of language analysis (phonology, grammatical, and semantics). By studying linguistic semantics, it is anticipated that utterances, including the meaning of song lyrics, can be comprehended.

One of the most effective strategies is using a song to convey your message. The lyrics of the music generally employ figurative language. It is an essential instrument for sharing notes, beauty, and specific impact on readers or listeners. According to Mahmood (2014), each figure of speech contributes to developing and expressing ideas. In addition, sometimes, listeners or readers will use songs to convey their feelings or messages because some individuals find it difficult to express their emotions or willingness directly. As James (1960) stated in Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim (2019), Speaking and writing figuratively can successfully express a notion.

Lyrics are an essential part of a song. People listen to songs for lyrics that represent their feelings and enjoy songs for melodies and instruments. As a critical part of the song, the lyricist uses creative and imaginative words that are sometimes difficult for listeners to understand. Creating a beautiful string of words requires imagination and figurative meaning. The lyrics will be interesting when listeners think about the song's deep sense. With figurative language, the writer creates an implied meaning that each listener can interpret differently.

To interpret figurative language expressions from song lyrics, learning how to interpret figuratively is essential. Every pleasant experience has the value of meaning expressed by language patterns, including figurative language. This

figurative language characterizes Gorillaz as a reasonable band implication their song lyrics. They combine the reality of the world around us with the mood that gives Gorillaz its impression on listeners, especially from the song *Feel Good Inc* and *Clint Eastwood*, which is the focus of this research.

Since *Feel Good Inc.* and *Clint Eastwood* is a popular song by Gorillaz, This study's goal is to evaluate the lyrical content's figurative language and context. Gorillaz is a world-famous cartoon music group that won the Best Virtual Band title in the Guinness Book of Records. This British band was released in 1998 on EMI Music, Parlophone. This band consists of 4 characters: Stuart Tusspot, singer, Murdoc Nickals, bass player, guitar player Noodle, and drummer Russell. Gorillaz is one of the best musicians with unique lyrics and implies hidden meaning in their song lyrics using figurative language. The band was formed in 1985 and has been active until now.

"*Feel Good Inc.*" is a song by the De La Soul, an American hip-hop group, and Gorillaz, a British electronic band. The track was presented to the public for the first time as a single on May 9, 2005, two days before the official release date of the group's second studio album, which was titled *Demon Days*. The song peaked at No. 2 in the UK and No. 14 in the US, respectively. It topped the US Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart for eight weeks and was ranked in the top 100 songs of the 2015 and 2006 Billboard Hot 100. The tune *Feel Good Inc* has received several awards including at the 2005 Music Awards presented by MTV: Breakthrough Video and Best Video Special Effects, then in 2006 at the Grammy Awards, were awarded Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals. Then, "*Clint Eastwood*" is the album Gorillaz's fifth song 2001 album "*Gorillaz*," together with the debut Gorillaz single. Due to this, the track is titled after

the actor with the same name, The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly's theme song. It reached at number four on the US Billboard Hot100 and number 57 on the UK Singles Chart. The piece demands 600,000 UK copies and has earned Platinum certification from the BPJ. It was voted the 14th-best debut single of all time by double J.

Examining the song's figurative language, which was used by Clint Eastwood and Feel Good Inc. The study's objective is to comprehend the true message that Gorillaz is trying to get over in its music.

There are two potential issues with the background research, depending on this research:

1. What specific figurative or metaphorical language examples can be found in Clint Eastwood and Feel Good Inc. lyrics?
2. What is the actual contextual meaning that Gorillaz wants to convey in the song Feel Good Incand Clint Eastwood?

Definition of Language

The language aims to transmit messages and generate communication, whether via oral or written statements. Wibowo (2001) claimed in Fatmawati (2018) Language is a system of sound-articulating symbols with a meaning-stated instrument that is arbitrary and conventional and that a group of people uses to communicate to express their feelings and views.

According to Keraf (2007) in (Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim: 2019), The writer or speaker uses various techniques when conveying either concept. Verbal communications are used to communicate messages, while in written languages,

messages are transferred and received in specific ways.

Definition of Figurative language

Figurative languages exaggerate or change the conventional meanings of their words. According to Hutauruk (2019), " As a result of the words' deviation from their regular meaning, figurative language is a type of language that is utilized creatively rather than literarily." It means that metaphorical language appeals to the imagination rather than being meant to be understood literally. Metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole are the figurative language forms that are employed the most frequently. In every one of those kinds of speech, the author compares two things, either subtly or overtly. (2012) Rhody and Lisa. in Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim (2019); Using metaphorical language means allowing for an analogous, admirable failing rather than an actual failure of speech, but an inevitable inclination in the direction of a form that implies a reduction in the potential meanings of language.

Figurative language offers fresh perspectives on the world and consistently draws comparisons between various things. Figurative expression affects attitudes are generally favorable contexts (Kronrod & Danziger: 2013). Figurative language contrasts two things, making the similarities intriguing, distinctive, and unexpected. Keraf (2007: 19) said: "Figurative language is used whenever you compare something to another object to describe it."

Definition of Song

A song is a musical composition for singing or speaking, accompanied or unaccompanied; one or more people can sing a song. The Songs are among the most famous literary creations; it is the most favored and well-liked by the populace since they will not only be amused by,

brought into, and significant; songs can be used to communicate opinions, discuss history, society, or someone's life in a close and current way. A song is also utilized to motivate those in attendance or alter their minds. The song is typically written in simple, immediately understandable language (Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim: 2019). Nevertheless, according to Awe (2003), vocal play, language style, and word meaning deviation are language games when writing song lyrics. Then again, musical notation and melody To make the lyrics more powerful, modifications made to them are applied listeners will be taken up with what they created.

Definition of Lyric

Greek lyrics, which suggest singing to the harp, are the basis for the lyrics. Here, "lyrics" refers to the terminology employed in the song. The words of a song are all collected in the song's lyrics. The message of the lyrics may be made clear or ambiguous.

When the song's lyrics are incomprehensible, the explanation focuses on form, articulation, timing, and expressive symmetry. Song lyrics may be written in practically any meter and on virtually any topic, despite the fact that the most often expressed emotions, such as love and sadness, are often included.

METHOD

The figurative language theory proposed by Reninger & Knickerbocker (1963) and the Longman theory of contextual meaning (1992). served as the main conceptual approaches in this study. The hypothesis put forth by Reninger and Knickerbocker (1963) was a tool for figuring out figurative language, and Longman's theory was to analyze with contextual meaning.

A research method is a specific procedure used to collect and analyze data. The method used in this research was a technique for qualitative description. The info collected was obtained using the internet in the form of song lyrics and then analyzed descriptively. The lyrics from the song were separated according to their context; then, the writer began to explore after finding figurative language in the data source and then recorded it in the analysis. First, the writer uses the theory of Figurative language types to identify what kinds of figurative language are by compiling and analyzing each sentence fragment. After figurative in lyrics were found, then writer explored the implied meaning to see the contextual meaning of each lyric which had been compiled based on the figurative language by combining background information related to songs from internet sites and the music video (MV) was analyzed from YouTube.

Research Design

This study used qualitative methods to answer the objectives and research problems. The research procedure is as follows:

1. Analyze the data that has been collected by reading the data.
2. Looking for figurative language from the music's lyrics Feel Good Inc and Clint Eastwood.
3. Use current theories to classify the different figurative language usages in Clint Eastwood and Feel Good Inc. songs.
4. Re-analyze the figurative language found and read the lyrics to conclude the contextual meaning of the song Feel Good Inc and Clint Eastwood.

Data Collection

This research method uses data collection to process data. According to Suharsimi Arikunto (2006), data are all facts and figures that can be used as material for compiling information. So, it can be interpreted that information is data that can be processed for specific purposes. All data in this study were obtained from the internet in the form of song lyrics, video clips, and information on the Gorillaz music group and albums, which were then analyzed using existing theories. Data collection is collecting and analyzing accurate data from various sources to solve a research problem.

There are two methods of data collection:

1. Primary

Primary data is collected by the researcher based on his findings, which can be said to be original data collected directly by the researcher. This process is a collection of information that is carried out before someone conducts further research.

2. Secondary

Secondary data are used in this investigation. Data is secondary data that has been collected by other parties and has gone through statistical analysis. The data in this study were evaluated using the referential identity technique.

The procedures for data analysis are as follows:

- a. Using theories related to what is required to meet study goals.

- b. Figurative language is conveyed by interpreting data based on song lyrics.
- c. Data should be interpreted based on the sort employed in figurative language.
- d. After analyzing the metaphorical language, style is completed, based on these findings, then conclude the contextual meaning.
- e. Reach a decision.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The Analysis of Figurative Language

Similes and other figures of speech are used in figurative language and using metaphors to create new pictures or images with more substantial effects. Figurative language includes a variety of forms a simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, dead metaphor, allusion, and paradox. Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963).

Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger's idea (1963), there are ten figurative language forms, but there are several various figurative language styles that need to be known, namely:

1. Personification

Personification is the act of inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas that behave like humans, giving vitality, vibrancy, and proximity to what is usually considered impersonal and away from human affairs. It is a metaphor that endows people with human traits: a human, a thing, an animal, or abstract ideas.

2. Metaphor

A metaphor is an implicit comparative or the phrase utilized in a new sensor based on the similarity of its literal meaning and the current circumstance to that it applies, omitting "like" or "as."

3. Simile

A simile compares two distinct objects, which is denoted by the terms "like" or "as." A comparison is a metaphor when the comparison is communicated using a particular word or phrase, (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963).

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is figurative language that uses exaggeration for special effects.

5. Allusion

An allusion refers to some famous location, thing, or person. It is not an evaluation of exact meanings but a picture that implies a purpose beyond that narrow meaning.

Concluding contextual meaning

Following the discovery of the metaphorical language style, the researcher reevaluated the findings of the analysis of the type of figurative language by carefully reading each word, each sentence, and all the lyrics in this song, as well as information about the song's background and the Gorillazband, in order to determine the context of this song's meaning.

Discussion

Table 1. Show the lyrics and types of figurative language

Lyrics	Figurative Language
- Laughing gas these hazmats, fast cats - I see destruction and demise, corruption in disguise from this fuc*in' enterprise, now I'm sucked into your lies	Personification
- Love forever love is freely	Metaphor
- Lining them up-a like as* cracks	Simile
- City's breaking down on a camel's back - I got sunshine in a bag - Picture you gettin' down in a picture tube	Hyperbole
- A melancholy town where we never smile. - So you can survive when law is lawless	Allusion

The kinds of Figurative Language Found in Feel Good Inc and Clint Eastwood song lyrics:

1. Personification

- a. "Laughing gas these hazmats, fast cats."

A hazmat suit is a suit worn to protect against harmful gases somewhere. However, Feel GoodInc's "laughing gas" is

not gas because it's all in your head. As for "fast cats," this is most likely a clever reference to the world's fastest land animal, which is also a cat, the cheetah. The play on words here is that "cheetah" is pronounced similarly to "cheater" (with some accents, they're pronounced the same). It implies that the Inc does not play fair, and they can "laughin' gas these hazmats," which in a literal sense wouldn't work.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, that lyrics were included in the type of personification because those lyrics were an act of inanimate objects and animals that behave like humans to what is usually considered impersonal and away from human affairs, which has been shown in the word 'Laughing gas' and 'fast cats.'

- b. "Corruption in disguise from this fuc*'in' enterprise."

Another exciting interpretation builds on this one lyric and involves criticism of the music industry. As mentioned, these lyrics personify the concept of Rhythm here – specifically, the unadulterated Rhythm of music. But when he opens his eyes in proper form, he sees the corrupt company that led to Rhythm's demise and death: the music industry. Rhythm is nature; the music industry sucks people into its lies by exploiting Rhythm for profit.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, that lyric was included in the type of personification because those lyrics were an act of inanimate objects that behave like humans, which has been shown in the word 'Corruption.'

2. Metaphor

- a. "Love forever; love is free."

These lyrics illustrate that love is something that, when given, always stays with and is free to give and take. These lyrics suggest turning away from today's society and loving each other forever. Unlike the power of a windmill, love is free and can be powered by love if they 'turn forever' like a windmill.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, that lyric was included in the type of metaphor because those lyric expresses something using a new sensor depends on how closely its literal meaning matches the particular circumstance to which it applies.

3. Simile

- a. "Lining them up-a like as* cracks."

In metaphorical language, a simile establishes a comparison by using the terms "like" or "as". In Music video (MV) hints at some fascist regime moving in on the unsuspecting people. "Lining 'em up like as* cracks" is a simple play on how as* cracks are a literal line down one's backside. But it also implies that these people are suckers and are as vulnerable as sitting ducks. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, because of the resemblance between the literal meaning of the song and the particular circumstance to which it relates, it was decided to include it as an example of a simile.

4. Hyperbole

- a. "City's breaking down on a camel's back."

The city is disintegrating and crumbling. Here is also mentioned eventually in the song. It refers to the proverb, "the straw that broke the camel's back," or the final prod that tipped the delicately balanced situation out of control. The inversion of the camel (initially being the ideally placed situation) -and the city (initially being the straw or final nudge)

sets a precedent for the wanton recklessness that this song perfectly characterizes.

- b. "I got sunshine in a bag."

The allusion to Clint Eastwood's line in 1968 in the film *Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* is when the child asks, "you gonna be all right?" Clint replies, "Yeah, kid, I got sunshine in a bag." He's referring to Gold in his suitcase, declaring that he will be all right because he has money.

- c. "Picture you gettin' down in a picture tube."

Having hyperbole figurative language because it expresses something with the impression of being exaggerated, even almost nonsensical. In the lyrics, imagine someone entering a picture tube. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, those lyrics were included in hyperbole type because that lyric expresses something by using particular words that are exaggerated so that listeners can feel the meaning with full appreciation and broad understanding.

5. Allusion

- a. "A melancholy town where we never smile."

That lyric describes the state of the society in which they live; they never smile and have no freedom of speech. Those who display rebellious behavior think that when they live in complete freedom, they are in chains like everyone else. They buy only the illusion of space. It fits the running theme of this song: escapism. In this imaginary city, the pursuit of freedom is crushed, so all anyone can do to feel out of control is distract themselves with extreme pleasure.

- b. "So you can survive when law is lawless."

This line is a final allusion to the man in the title, Clint Eastwood, whose man with no name and Dirty Harry characters survive in largely lawless worlds, creating their own rules and defending themselves entirely without the aid of a more extensive governmental system. "Law" in the Wild West was often a synonym for "guns," like some of the roughest ghettos in America even today. Del promises to teach you how to rough it like Clint.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory, those lyrics were included in the allusion type because those lyrics describe a famous location and a famous person, which is reflected in words that imply meaning beyond that narrow meaning.

Contextual Meaning

Contextual meaning is linguistic meaning in context (Leech: 1974); based on the figurative language above, *Feel Good Inc.* is an example of the adverse effects of consumerism. It is a lousy company that you cannot leave anything that makes money through pleasure (like *Hotel California*). Murdoc's situation, its sexual enjoyment, then for 2D, the enjoyment of performing his sound. De La Soul, who raps in the video, is in charge. But 2D isn't as uninformed as Murdoc and decides he's had enough of being her. When 2D notices what *Feel Good Inc.* is doing to the city and sees it through the window, he starts singing about how everyone is being controlled.

Then out the window, he sees Noodle, a former band member, almost like family to him. She's playing her guitar on her floating island with a giant windmill. The fourteen-year-old is the smartest in the band, and she is too intelligent to have gone to *Feel Good Inc.* in the first place. Or maybe she's legally too young. 2D watched her, wishing he could

be with her. Now he sings the best part of the song, the pretty and soulful hook.

*"Windmill, windmill for the land
Love forever hand in hand
Take it all in on your stride
It is ticking, falling down
Love forever, love is free
Let's turn forever, you and me
Windmill, windmill for the land.
Is everybody in?"*

It refers to the 1945 book *Animal Farm* in which a windmill-powered an entire farm. Literal and mechanical energy and totalitarian and coercive energy for the farm's oppressive ruler. If we are following the city analogy, it's not out of the question to assume that the windmill was symbolic of the modern world's—or this city's—existence under a despotic, authoritarian framework that hides from being known by its inhabitants inside a 'fun' club.

The ticking falling means that time is ticking on Noodle's blissful escape. As in *Feel Good Incorporation*, helicopters start to follow her floating island at the end of the video.

Does the *"Is everybody in?"* mean anyone is prepared to try revolution in 2D that will take down *feel good*? Is everybody in on the plan?

For a windmill to function, all four components must be active. The Gorillaz is a four-piece band. Therefore, if you take away one piece, the windmill won't turn right. In the music video, Noodle is distinct from the other members of the Gorillaz, unable to get to them, and Murdoc is distracted by sexy women. 2D walks away from the window and sees Murdoc on a stage, playing his guitar with women groveling around him.

He can only start his revolution with Murdoc's help and realizes something can be done. So he sits back sadly in the same place he was in the beginning. The

meaning of Clint Eastwood, penned by Jason Cox, Tom Girling, Dan the Automator, and Gorillaz, is very different from what has previously been discussed. Every new song by Gorillaz brings another piece to their story. Clint Eastwood is not about one thing, but relatively a few. Perception, and how we see it, is one of them. Throughout the entire song, it mentioned quite a few times of words related to disorders and conditions such as schizophrenia, an illness where reality is contorted, and the person is not able to think and act clearly, as well as psychosis, which is much more severe, in which the person has lost sense with reality.

In the beginning, the song quotes;

*"I ain't happy, I'm feeling glad
I got sunshine in a bag*

*I'm useless but not for long
The future is coming on"*

I'm useless, but temporarily, it is saying that something is going to happen. The verse repeats, "it's coming on" (the future.)

The 1st verse of the song that Del the Funky Homosapien has is significant. In the second line of the verse, it quotes;

"Finally, someone let me out of my cage."

The cage, supported by the next part of his verse, means reality.

"Time for me is nothing 'cause I'm counting no age."

In reality, aging must happen for all things except time. But in verse, It is supposedly escaping reality into the mind. Other parts of the verse mention, *"you think it's fictional?"* and *"mythical."* Perception is playing a significant role in the song now. *"Hero who appears in you to clear your view when you're too crazy"*

Crazy refers to how out of control reality is in your mind. Clear your view is clearing out your mind and getting back in touch with the real world. All support the perception theory.

The song goes back to 2d's singing (voiced by Matt Damon) with the "*I ain't happy, I'm feeling glad*" parts. Then Del's 2nd verse has some significant features to it. The perception is described at the bottom of the verse;

"Y'all can't see me now 'cause you don't see with your eye , you perceive with your mind."

Then, the last line that Del quotes is:

"...remember that it's all in your head."

Thoughts and perceptions.
Thoughts and perceptions are in the head. All of the evidence forms anet in which what we see is not always reality. It can be manipulated. Altogether, Clint Eastwood is not explicitly stated. It takes a much deeper exploration to understand not just for simple, careless relaxation but for pure enjoyment and lesson. Hopefully, the lyricists will keep their game up with more lessons to learn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis done by making tables and groupings, the song lyrics are selected based on figurative language. The Gorillaz songs "Feel Good Inc." and "Clint Eastwood" can be seen as including five different forms of figurative language: personification, simile, metaphor, exaggeration, and allusion. The most figurative language in the song is exaggerated. Three lyrics contain hyperbole, two personifications, one metaphor, two similes, and two allusions.

Based on the contextual meaning analysis, the songs "Feel Good Inc" and

"Clint Eastwood." in the song "Feel Good Inc." Gorillaz wants to convey criticism of Feel Good Incorporated, a consumerism crime company in which the workers are locked up and unable to get out. This song also describes people who are fed up with the evil that has happened for so long that people want to make a revolution for a better life. Then in the song "Clint Eastwood," several words are mentioned related to disorders and conditions such as schizophrenia, an illness in which reality is convoluted and the person is unable to think and act clearly, as well as psychosis, which is far away, where the person has lost his mind with reality.

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