

## ***An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Song Lyrics of Map of The Soul : 7 Album***

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### **Abstrack**

This study aims to find the types and the meanings of figurative language used in the lyrics of BTS songs on the album *Map of the Soul: 7*. The writer uses Abrams's theory (1999) in identifying the types of figurative language used. This study uses a descriptive qualitative analysis method in analyzing the data. The data were obtained from BTS songs contained in the album *Map of the Soul: 7*. This album has 19 songs, there are *Interlude: Shadow*, *Outro: Ego*, *Intro: Persona*, *My Time*, *Black Swan*, *On*, *Filter*, *Friends*, *Moon*, *Inner Child*, *00:00*, *Respect*, *UGH !*, *We Are Bulletproof: The Eternal*, *Jamais Vu*, *Dionysus*, *Make It Right*, *Boy With Luv* and *Louder Than Bombs*. There were 53 data found. From the analysis, the writer found several types of figurative language used, there are 1 data of Synecdoche (1.88%), 1 data of Paradox (1.88%), 1 data of Sarcasm (1.88%), 1 data of Allusion (1.88%), 3 data of Apostrophe (5.67%), 3 data of Symbol (5.67%), 5 data of Simile (9.44%), 5 data of Antithesis (9.44%), 10 data of Hyperbole (18.86%), 11 data of Metaphor (20.76%), and 12 data of Personification (22.64%). The most dominant type of figurative language in the data is Personification. The writer found that BTS used some imagery on non-human objects as if they were acting like humans. In the data (2) "*but my growing shadow swallows me and becomes monster*", as is a well-known shadow is an object that is dark in color and has properties. However, in the song *Interlude: Shadow*, the word shadow is described as something that can act like a human that is swallowing. In the data, BTS describes that the shadow is like the fear they have in the future that can later bring down their current career.

**Keywords:** *Semantics, Figurative language, Song Lyrics of Map of the Soul: 7 Album*

### **1 Introduction**

Linguistics is a science that focuses on language. Studying and analyzing the intricacies of language is the role of linguistics. Linguistics helps the people to understand language. Linguistics has many parts; the study of sounds (phonology), the study of formation of words (morphology), the study of the unspoken meaning of speech that is separate from literal meaning of what is said (pragmatics), the study of grammatical structure (syntax), semantics, etc.

Semantics is the study of word and sentence meaning. Basically, figurative language is a part of semantics. Whereas, both of them discussed the meaning of words or sentences.

Figurative language is a part of semantics that used words to convey and acquire meaning. It is used when someone says or writes something to create a broad meaning. Figurative language is when people describe something by comparing it to something else.

In this study, the writer is interested in analyzing figurative language in a song. Therefore, this study used data from K-Pop (Korean Pop) songs. K-Pop songs are currently global and favored by many people. By analyzing the figurative language of the songs, readers or listeners can find out the meaning of the song lyrics found in K-Pop songs. Therefore, the writer is very interested in doing this study because then the use of figurative language in various workd can be known by many people

### **Linguistics**

Abrams (1999:140) “Linguistics is the systematic study of the elements of language and the principles governing their combination and organization”. Linguistics aims to discover the science of language, how they originate and evolve. It is concerned with identifying the aspects, such as the meaning, form and context language. Robins (1964:2), “Linguistics is concerned with human language as a universal and recognizable part of human behavior and of the human faculties, perhaps one of the most essential to human life as we know it, and one of the most far-reaching of human capabilities in relation to the whole span of mankind's achievements”. They can be concluded that linguistics is concerned with identifying the meaning of languages. It is concerned with describing how languages can express meaning. Studying linguistics makes people familiar with the different components that make up a language.

### **Semantics**

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in a language. Semantic is the study about meaning in language. Griffiths (2006:6), “Semantics is the study of sentences meaning and word meaning”. Further Kreidler (2002:59), “Semantics is the study of meaning through a consideration of the conditions that must exist for a sentence to be true, and how the truth of one sentence relates to the truth or falsity of other sentences”.

They can be summarized that semantics is the study of the meaning of words and sentences and how language organizes and expresses meaning. Semantics attempts to study the attribution of meaning to words, and how these are combined to produce complex meaning.

### **Figurative Language**

Figurative language is the use of words that go beyond their ordinary meaning. It requires you to use your imagination to figure out the author's meaning. According to Abrams (1999:96), “Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect”. Arvius (2003:30), “the interest in figurative meanings, or tropes, has in many ways been inspired by the kind of approach to human experiences, behaviour, and mental capacities that we find within the general”. The writer concludes that figurative language is the language that uses words to express meaning. It is typically showing the personality and experiences of someone.

### **Types of Figurative Language**

According to Abrams (1999), there are 16 types of figurative language.

**a. Simile**

A simile is a direct comparison between things, which are not particularly similar in their sense. Abrams (1999:97) defined that simile is figurative language that makes a comparison between two different things using words such as "like" or "as". Example: *She's as sweet as honey*

**b. Synecdoche**

Synecdoche language is a language that expresses a part of a whole or expresses a whole for a part. According to Abrams (1999:98), synecdoche (Greek for "taking together"), a part of something is used to signify the whole, or (more rarely) the whole is used to signify a part. Example: *England won the match.*

**c. Metaphor**

In a metaphor, a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison (Abrams, 1999:97). Metaphor can describe. Example: *Argument is a war.*

**d. Metonymy**

Abrams (1999:98) stated that in metonymy (Greek for "a change of name") the literal term for one thing is applied to another with which it has become closely associated because of a recurrent relationship in common experience. The name of a place, for instance, can be metonymically used about the people who live or work in it. Example: *Jimin was washing his Honda.*

**e. Hyperbole**

Abrams (1999:120), stated that hyperbole (Greek for "overshooting") is bold overstatement, or the extravagant exaggeration of fact or of possibility. Hyperbole is the type of figurative language that explains something more exaggeratedly than the original. Example: *I will waiting you for a thousand years.*

**f. Personification**

This type giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or an idea. When an inanimate entity or an abstract concept is spoken of as if it were born with life, human qualities, or emotions, this is known as personification (Abrams, 1999:99). Example: *The moon smiled at me.*

**g. Paradox**

Paradox is a statement which seems on its face to be logically contradictory or absurd, yet turns out to be interpretable in a way that makes good sense (Abrams, 1999:201). Example: *You have to be cruel to be kind.*

**h. Sarcasm**

Sarcasm in common parlance is sometimes used as an equivalent for all forms of irony, but it is far more useful to restrict it only to the crude and taunting use of apparent praise for dispraise (Abrams, 1999:136). Example: *"I'm delighted that I get to be here for the next few hours"* (When something is uninteresting)

**i. Allegory**

An allegory is a narrative, whether in prose or verse, in which the agents and actions, and sometimes the setting as well, are contrived by the author to make coherent sense on the literal or primary level of significance and at the same time to signify a second, correlated order of significance. (Abram 1999:5). Example: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

**j. Allusion**

Allusion is a passing reference, without explicit identification, to a literary or historical person, place, or event, or to another literary work or passage (Abrams, 1999:9). Example: *We got a new Einstein in school today.*

**k. Antithesis**

Antithesis is a contrast or opposition in the meanings of contiguous phrases or clauses that manifest parallelism-that is, a similar word-order and structure-in their syntax. Antithesis, which literally means "opposite," is the two opposite ideas that are put together in a sentence to achieve a contrasting effect (Abrams, 1999:11). Example: *Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.*

**l. Apostrophe**

An apostrophe is a direct and explicit address either to an absent person or to an abstract or nonhuman entity. Often the effect is of high formality, or else of a sudden emotional impetus. (Abrams, 1999:271). Example: *Car, please get me to work today.*

**m. Epithet**

Epithet is a phrase or adjective which is used to express a quality or characteristic which can be attributed, rightly or wrongly, to a person or thing. Epithet denotes an adjective or adjectival phrase used to define a distinctive quality of a person or thing (Abrams, 1999:82). Example: *Daddy Longlegs.*

**n. Euphemism**

An inoffensive expression used in place of a blunt one that is felt to be disagreeable or embarrassing. Euphemisms are used frequently with reference to such subjects as religion, death and sex (Abrams, 1999:83). Example: *He has passed away.*

**o. Symbol**

The term "symbol" is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference, beyond itself. (Abrams 1999:311). In the broadest sense a symbol is anything which signifies something. Example: *She is my rock.*

**p. Irony**

Irony is the use of words to convey a meaning that is opposite of what is actually said . In most of the modern critical uses of the term 'irony' there remains the root sense of dissembling or hiding what is actually the case; not, however, in order to deceive, but to achieve special rhetorical or artistic effects (Abrams, 1999:135). Example: *"Thank you Officer, now that you have my license I can't drive".*

### **Song and Lyrics**

According to Hornby in Lubis (2019:3), “Song is a short piece of music with words that you sing”. Songs can be sung solo, both (duet), three (trio) or the rollicking (koir). Lyrics is a set of verses and choruses that make up a full song. According to Hornby in Lubis (2019:3), stated that the lyrics is expressing a person's personal feeling and thoughts, connected with singing and written for a lyric poem is the words of a song.

BTS (Bangtan Sonyeondan)

BTS (in Korean: Bangtan Sonyeondan), also known as the Bangtan Boys, is a seven-member South Korean boyband that began formation in 2010 and debuted in 2013 under Hybe Label. The septet is composed of Kim Namjoon as a leader, Kim Seokjin, Min Yoongi, Jung Hoseok, Park Jimin, Kim Taehyung, and Jeon Jungkook. BTS can become a worldwide boyband now because of the members' efforts in creating songs on their albums.

BTS released Map of the Soul: 7 album on February 21, 2020. Map Of The Soul: 7 album tells about the past seven years of BTS since their debut as seven members of one team. Their journey was not smooth sailing, and there were special travails that they had to endure in their rise as global superstars. This album has 19 songs, there are (1) Interlude: Shadow, (2) Outro: Ego, (3) Intro: Persona, (4) My Time, (5) Black Swan, (6) On, (7) Filter, (8) Friends, (9 ) Moon, (10) Inner Child, (11) 00:00, (12) Respect, (13) UGH !, (14) We Are Bulletproof: The Eternal, (15) Jamais Vu, (16) Dionysus, (17 ) Make It Right, (18) Boy With Luv and (19) Louder Than Bombs.

### **2. Research Method**

This study used descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive research is used to identify and obtain information on a particular issue, such as community, situation or phenomenon. Descriptive research answer the questions what, who, where, how, and when. Accoding to Fraenkel, Wallen & Hyun (2012: 17), “the term qualitative research refers to studies that investigate the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials”. Qualitative research is procedures of the research which produces descriptive data in the form of written words or oral words about the object that is observed.

The writer has taken the data using the following procedures :

1. Downloaded the BTS song of the album Map of the Soul: 7
2. Transcribed the lyrics of BTS songs from the album Map of the Soul: 7
3. Underlined the song lyrics that contain of figurative language

The writer has analyzed the data using the following steps:

1. Classified the data that contain figurative language based on Abrams’s theory.
2. Draw conclusion based on the data analysis.

### **3. Data and Data Analysis**

After listened and read the song lyrics of Map of the Soul: 7 album by BTS, the writer found 53 sentences that contain figurative language from 1-19 songs. The classification of figurative language used in BTS’s songs in the following table.

Table 4.1 : The Data Finding of BTS’s Song Lyrics

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Total	Percentage
1.	Metonymy	0	0%
2.	Allgory	0	0%
3.	Epithet	0	0%
4.	Euphemism	0	0%
5.	Irony	0	0%
6.	Synecdoche	1	1.88%
7.	Paradox	1	1.88%
8.	Sarcasm	1	1.88%
9.	Allusion	1	1.88%
10.	Apostrophe	3	5.67%
11.	Symbol	3	5.67%
12.	Simile	5	9.44%
13.	Antithesis	5	9.44%
14.	Hyperbole	10	18.86%
15.	Metaphor	11	20.76%
16.	Personification	12	22.64%
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>

The results of the data analysis, the writer found 11 types of figurative language used. They are Simile, Synecdoche, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Personification, Paradox, Sarcasm, Allusion, Antithesis, Apostrophe, and Symbol. The writer concludes from the 11 types of figurative language found, the type of Personification is the most dominant type found in the data, with a total of 12 (22.64%), which means this type giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or an idea in the data.

## 2. Conclusion

Finally, the writer can draw the conclusion and give the suggestion that hopefully will be useful for readers. After analyzing the types of figurative languages in BTS’s “Map of the Soul: 7” album, the writer would like to conclude that the types of figurative language in “Map of the Soul: 7” album are Simile, Synecdoche, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Personification, Paradox, Sarcasm, Allusion, Antithesis, Apostrophe, and Symbol. The most dominant type is Personification with a total of 12 (22.64%).

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