

AN ANALYSIS OF SEMANTIC DEVIATION IN MAROON 5'S SONG LYRICS IN ALBUM V

Gina Anggraeni, M. Bahri Arifin, Famala Eka Sanhadi Rahayu

English Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences Mulawarman University

Email: ginaanggraeni06@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Song lyric is a literary work that contains the outpouring of personal feelings, emotions, and expressions of soul-shaped experiences in the form of the composition of words in a song. This finding is qualitative research using stylistic approach, which aims to identify types and functions of semantic deviation found in Maroon 5 song in album V. The utilized theories in this research are semantic deviation by Heinrich F. Plett (2010) and Laurence Perrine (1963). The data were lines which contained semantic deviations in Maroon 5 song in album V. The results of the research are as follows. First, eight out of twelve types of semantic deviation, there are in Maroon 5 song in album V, namely: 1) pleonasm, 2) oxymoron, 3) metaphor, 4) irony, 5) simile, 6) hyperbole, 7) paradox, and 8) litotes. Metaphor is the prominent type used in this work. This finding indicates that the songwriter tends to deliver his ideas through some comparisons. It is because metaphor gives the broadest freedom for creativity, but it also looks interesting. Second, there are four functions found, i.e: 1) to bring additional imaginary, 2) to add emotional intensity, 3) to afford imaginative pleasure, and 4) to say much in brief compass. To bring additional imaginary is the dominant function. This is because Adam Levine has the tendency to make his song lyrics by using interesting expression, and it imagined as if it was real.

Keywords: stylistics, semantic deviation, Maroon 5 album V

ABSTRAK

Lirik lagu merupakan karya sastra yang berisi curahan perasaan pribadi, emosi, dan ekspresi pengalaman berbentuk jiwa berupa susunan kata-kata dalam sebuah lagu. Temuan ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan stilistika, yang bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis dan fungsi deviasi semantik yang terdapat pada lagu Maroon 5 di album V. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah penyimpangan semantik oleh Heinrich F. Plett (2010) dan Laurence Perrine (1963). Data berupa baris-baris yang mengandung penyimpangan semantik pada lagu Maroon 5 album V. Hasil penelitian adalah sebagai berikut. Pertama, delapan dari dua belas jenis penyimpangan semantik terdapat pada lagu Maroon 5 di album V, yaitu: 1) pleonasm, 2) oxymoron, 3) metafora, 4) ironi, 5) simile, 6) hiperbola, 7) paradoks, dan 8) litotes. Metafora adalah tipe utama yang digunakan dalam karya ini. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa penulis

lagu cenderung menyampaikan idenya melalui beberapa perbandingan. Karena metafora memberikan kebebasan seluas-luasnya untuk berkreasi, tetapi juga terlihat menarik. Kedua, ada empat fungsi yang ditemukan, yaitu: 1) untuk membawa tambahan imajiner, 2) untuk menambahkan intensitas emosional, 3) untuk membeli kesenangan imajinatif, dan 4) untuk mengatakan banyak di kompas singkat. Untuk membawa imajiner tambahan adalah fungsi yang dominan. Hal ini karena Adam Levine memiliki kecenderungan membuat lirik lagunya dengan ekspresi yang menarik, dan dibayangkan seolah-olah nyata.

Kata Kunci: *stilistik, penyimpangan semantic, Maroon 5 album V*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is used by human to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings in various situations of communication. People can express their feeling by using language then write it into a beautiful and meaningful word to make a song by its lyric. Lyrics in every song could have implicit or explicit meaning based on the use of words. There are many songs that contain poetic language, and sometimes it is difficult to understand. According to Adams (2015) listening to the music benefits the listeners such as helps with exercising, improves sleep quality, decreases stress and anxiety, may help with memory, and relieves symptoms of depression and elevates mood.

Songs are a part of musical composition that loads the musician's idea, meaning, intention, messages, and kinds of feeling, to be communicated to the audience. So, it can be said that song is a kind of poetry and poetry include to literature. The researcher conducts the study about semantic deviation, because lyrics in a song to which the composition of words are usually arranged nearly same with the poem and the language in it is poetic. To analyze a poetic lyrics through linguistics' point of view, it can be used a stylistic analysis. According to Leech and Short (2007), stylistic is study of style. In stylistics study, the creative use of language is said to deviate the original use of language. The deviation is referred as linguistic deviation. One of the most interesting deviations in stylistic study is semantic deviation. The focus of this study is semantic deviation as one of linguistic deviations which occurred in the lyrics of song. In this research, the researcher analyzed about the song lyrics.

In this study, under stylistics theories the discussion of semantic deviation is explored in this research to analyze the lyrics. The researcher takes eight out of eleven songs in Maroon 5's album V. Because the data found from the three songs is not the types of this research. Therefore, the writer only took eight songs in album V by maroon 5. Those songs are: 1) Animals, 2) Sugar, 3) Maps, 4) New Love, 5) Feelings, 6) It Was Always You, 7) My Heart is Open, and 8) Lost Stars. Thus, the songs are related and are investigated further, and in order to have more incased understanding, stylistics theories are employed.

Moreover, two questions are formulated in this study. First, it deals with the types of semantic deviation used in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V;

and second, it deals with the functions of semantic deviation in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V. The purposes of the study are to find the types of semantic deviation used in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V and describe the function of semantic deviation in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V. Theoretically, this research is expected to be a reference in improving the ability of analyzing the semantic deviation use and describe the function of semantic deviation. Practically, it is expected to be used in teaching linguistics and literature by describing and explaining the use of semantic deviation and appreciate the literary work. After reading this research, readers are expected to be more open-minded toward literary works, and this researcher is useful and adds the knowledge of other people about the use of semantic deviation.

B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Stylistics

Leech and Short (2007) defines style as selection of the words from a grand linguistic vocabulary. Accordingly by Simpson (2004) stylistics explained is a method used to interpret language style where the language has a role as a function of text that can produce utterances (literary or otherwise) in a time, a place, a cultural and cognitive context. In another part of his book, he underlines that stylistics can be used to explore language, and, more specifically, to explore creativity in language use. Moreover, the essential purpose of stylistics is to explore language and creativity in language use. (Simpson, 2004, p. 3).

Based on the theory above, the researcher presented stylistics as an approach which is used to describe the literary work through language which is in this case the researcher took eight famous songs of Maroon 5 to be analyzed. The stylistic analysis becomes a tool to analyze the aspects of semantics in those songs to find out the semantic deviation.

2. Foregrounding

In stylistics, according to Leech and Short (2007) states that foregrounding refers to 'artistically motivated deviation'. Foregrounding on the other hand is the deliberate manipulation of the language for the purpose of highlighting and emphasizing a message in a piece of literary text and attracts attention. Considered in this, way, foregrounding emerges as the main concept. Halliday (1973) regarded foregrounding as a kind of "motivated prominence. He advocated judging the relationship between "prominence" and "foregrounding" from the perspective of functional analysis. Based on the theory, the researcher presented foregrounding may occur in normal everyday language, such as spoken discourse or journalistic prose, but it occurs at random with no systematic design.

3. Deviation

Deviation is a term used to describe spelling and pronunciation of a word or a sentence structure which does not conform to a norm (Richards and Platt, 1985, p.79). Deviation as a linguistic phenomenon has an important effect on the readers (and

hearers), if a part of a poem is deviant it becomes especially, noticeable, or perceptually prominent (Short, 1969, p.11).

a. Semantic Deviation

Leech (1969) explains that semantic deviation is a characteristic of poetry which is commonplace to regard it as a kind of inspired nonsense with irrational element. Leech states that semantic deviation can be divided into three types. They are semantic oddity, transference of meaning, and honest deception.

b. Semantic Oddity

It refers to semantic bizarreness of expression. Semantic oddity means semantic peculiarity of expression. There are five types of semantic oddity; pleonasm, periphrasis, tautology, oxymoron and paradox.

c. Transference Meaning

Leech (1969) in his book *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* states that the reason why figurative interpretation is not completely random is that language contains *Rules of Transference* or particular mechanism for deriving one meaning of a word from another. This section treats four tropes: Synecdoche, Metaphor, Metonymy, and Simile. They are connected in that in a sense of using a word or phrase that means something more or something other than it seems to say.

d. Honest Deception

Honest deception is a sense of misrepresenting the truth. According to leech's classification, the term honest deception is classified into three types: hyperbole (exaggeration), litotes (understatement), and Irony.

4. The Function of Semantic Deviation

According to Perrine (1963) semantic deviation has four functions. They are to afford imaginative pleasure, bring additional imagery, add emotional intensity, and say much in brief compass (Perrine, 1963 p.77).

a. To bring additional imaginary

By this function an abstract idea, a thing becomes concrete. In addition, it spices poetry to be richer in expressions since language deviation, specifically semantic deviation in this case and violates the general conventions of language use to produce something attracting and appealing. Hence, semantic deviation and figurative language is together a tool that allows poets and authors to multiplying the sense appeal of poetry.

b. To add emotional intensity

The next function puts its way in a deeper level to convey an abstract thing in creating emotional sense. Semantic deviation can be used to add emotional intensity.

c. To afford imaginative pleasure

Another function in the list is to afford imaginative pleasure. Imaginative pleasure is obtained from imagination since it is unavoidable that people take pleasure

from imagining something out of nothing. Imaginative pleasure gives people the sense of satisfaction as if they make a world of their own.

d. To say much in brief compass

The last function here is to say much in brief compass. In this way, the writer does not need so many words to explain ideas or opinions. The writer usually used in poetry since the ideas or stories are presented as short as possible without reducing the meaning behind it. Hence, this function almost appears in every type of semantic deviation.

5. Song's Lyric

Song is a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments. According to Hornby (1995) song is a piece of music with words that is sung. A song is a composition made up of lyrics and music, with the intent of the lyrics being sung, for the purpose of producing a proportionate feeling or emotion in relation to a particular matter. The song is part of the art expressed through the lyrics. The lyric of the song is a pithy arrangement. Song lyrics are not as easy as composing the essay, but can be obtained from various inspirations. Lyrics are a set of words that make up a song. Hornby (1995) states that lyric is expressing the writer's feelings. Lyric is made to express deep emotion of the writer. The lyric or song texts do not only as a complement of the song, but also as an important part of the music elements which determine the theme, character and mission of the song.

C. RESEARCH METHODS

Methodologically, the researcher decided on having a descriptive qualitative methodology applied as the study is concerned in the form of words rather than numbers. Bodgan and Biklen (as cited in Sugiyono, 2010) said that qualitative research is descriptive; the data collected is in the form of words or pictures rather than number. The qualitative approach is a research procedure which results in descriptive data including written and oral word from the research objective whether it is from society or books. Then, the data collection method was conducted through listened to some of the music of Maroon 5 on album V, read the lyrics to identify the semantic deviation that found in song lyrics on album V, to finally the data was arranged systematically in accordance with the research focuses.

After that, the data analysis in this study was done based on the steps proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994) in which the researcher reviewed the data by a three-phased cycle, they were (1) data reduction; data reduction is a form of analysis that sharpens, sorts, focuses, discard and organizes data in such a way that "final" conclusions can be drawn and verified, (2) data display; data displays is the research had been collection the data to analysis before it, (3) drawing conclusion; the result of the analyses were drawn and verified that make them connected to the preferred conclusion.

Finally, the researcher used data triangulation proposed by Denzin (1973) to establish accuracy and validity. The data triangulation mentioned was done by getting the data source not only by getting it from the song lyrics in maroon 5 albums V but also having YouTube video of the maroon 5 band.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

1. The types of semantic deviation specific used in lyrics of Maroon 5's songs in album V

a. Pleonasm

Plett (2010) said that as a rhetorical figure, pleonasm gives an utterance an additional semantic dimension. Pleonasm is when a reference applies many words than it is supposed to be in conveying an idea, the meaning does not change even though the excessive words are deleted. In other words, it is stated that in using two or more words which have the same meaning in conveying message and it is something unnecessary. It does not change the meaning.

S7.L6.P1 : I'll **walk away** and I will **leave** you be

The researcher found only one pleonasm in *My Heart is Open* song. The word **leave** is not necessary since a **walk away** is already described that it is leave. Therefore it is a pleonasm. The word **leave** here is the emphasis of the phrase **walk away** which has been mentioned before. Here, the writer tries to emphasize that he surely will leave his lover.

b. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is composed of a pair of neighboring contradictory words (often within a sentence).

S8.L13.O : Don't you dare let our **best** memories bring you **sorrow**

He clearly refers to her crying in sorrow of grieving, because of his deeds. Guilty as he is, he tells her, not remember the best memories as grief, to retain worth of memories, to be remembered with a smile, not tears, from the betrayal. In one expression, there is two conflicting linguistic concept which are **best** and **sorrow**. **Best** is the most excellent something or person, and this includes a sense of pleasure while **sorrow** is feel or express great sadness. Thus, it contradicts each other as oxymoron is.

c. Paradox

Paradox is a combination of two or more opposing semantic deviation in concepts. Paradox appears in statement. The statement is relatively absurd, because

it is self evidently false since it does not match the common belief or knowledge in society. In short, paradox is something that logically is unacceptable in literal meaning.

S8.L14.Pa : Yesterday I saw a **lion kiss a deer**

This is a paradox statement because when a lion saw his prey like a deer in a wood, he would hunt the deer down and eat it directly. In this statement, this lion kiss the deer instead. People who can understand paradox well will see something at first impossible is actually possible and contains truth. The song writer's intention within the expression is insistin that the impossible thing can indeed happen.

d. Metaphor

Metaphor happens when two different things were brought together according to the relation of meaning between literal and figurative senses.

S1.L15.M : You can find other **fish in the sea**

This line have a certain meaning that cannot be taken literally. They have to be understood figuratively, **the other fish in the sea** does not refer to any animal that lives exclusively in water. The meaning of **other fish in the sea** is used to indicate other romantic partners or significant others to pursue, **Fish** in this line refers to person. Through those lines, the writer wants to say that he will give freedom to another party. She can go wherever she wants, she can find another person that she likes or loves.

e. Simile

Simile is nearly identical to metaphor in a sense since the compared things or ideas are usually associated or related. A simile is a way of comparing one thing with another and of explaining what one thing is like by showing the similarity to another thing. It uses explicit markers in a text such as like, as, and etc.

S1.L2-3.S : **Hunt you down eat you alive, just like animals**

In this song the researcher found the semantic deviation types of transference meaning, it is simile. The researcher analyzed the lyric line by line. The word of **hunt you down eat you alive, just like animals** called as simile because the line

compares his acts to an animal. He is obsessed with this girl and will do anything to have her. He stalks her, like someone hunting an animal.

f. Hyperbole

Hyperbole or overstatement is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth (Perrine, 1963, p.110).

S3.L9.H : And it's **killing me when you're away**

In this song, the song writer makes the lyric with the beautiful word. The example of this semantic deviation is in the lyric is and it's **killing me when you're away**. It is hyperbole because a human could not dead when someone he really loved not around. It is a different case when that someone killing himself with a purpose. Probably, when lovers not in a same place but apart between spaces, they only feel lonely.

g. Irony

Leech (1969) describes “irony as a mode of expression which postulates a double audience, one of which is in the know and aware of the speaker’s intention whilst the other is naive enough to take the utterance at its face value”.

S1.L22.I : **I love your lies**

The line that contains irony is **I love your lies**. This is because someone would never like when the other person that they knew lie about anything. Even it was just a small lie about a simple issue, nobody would love it. Instead, the man in this song love about his girlfriend lies. It contrasts in the reality.

h. Litotes

Litotes is opposite from hyperbole. It is kind of understatement where the speaker uses negative of a word ironically, to mean the opposite.

S8.L11.L : Just *a speck* of dust within the galaxy

The statement of Just a **speck** of dust within the galaxy described about human as **speck** which really small. Human’s need to be humble and grounded. They are nothing. As complex or large their lives might seem to us, but it is not even visible in the perspective of the galaxy.

2. The function of semantic deviation specific used in lyrics of Maroon 5's songs in album V

a. To afford imaginative pleasure

In poetic form, imagery can be defined as the figurative description. It experiences reader's mind to create such imagination through the text. Authors, composers make their story or lyrics into wordplay to afford readers or listeners' minds in providing a source of pleasure in the form of imagination.

S5.L24.1 : **You're** the only **drug** I wanna do

First, the researcher found only one function to afford imaginative pleasure in *New love* song. A way of achieving creativity is relating a thing to another which is completely different from it. Imaginative pleasure is obtained from imagination since it is unavoidable that people take pleasure from imagining, visualizing something out of nothing. This happens in the example of affording imaginative pleasure function brought by metaphor as in song new love **you're** the only **drug** I want to do. It can be seen that metaphor is employed in this song; it compares two things in common between **you** and **drug**. **You** is human and **drug** is the stuff, both of which have the same effect on this song. From these lines, imaginative pleasure arises from feelings, because it appears that this data makes people imagined that having a lover is right having a drug.

b. To add emotional intensity

The engagement of semantic deviation also to add emotional, make people are easy to convey their voice to others about their feeling and emotion with a different interpretation.

S3.L9.2 : And it's **killing me when you're away**

First, this line implies the function of adding emotional intensity. The author shows an exaggeration words. The expression uses the word **killing me** which means the writer makes an extraordinary word to express his feeling that is sad.

c. To bring additional imaginary

The third function to be discussed is to bring additional imaginary. By this function an abstract idea, a thing becomes concrete. In that regard, the author takes the liberty using semantic deviation to bring additional imaginary in his work.

S6.L5-6.3 : Hazel eyes, I was so **color blind**

That expression implies to bring additional imagery that is easily captured by humans' sense in visual. The words color blind implied symbolism by using the expression **unconsciousness** to represent a moment when he did not see that he loves her and could have got together much earlier. In addition, this sentence implies to give an additional imagery that is more affecting the humans' sense in visual term by imagining the parts of the words, this is a waste of time for the writer's life just because he does not realize that someone he loves is right in front of his eyes.

d. To say much brief compass

The writer usually used in poetry since the ideas or stories are presented as short as possible without reducing the meaning behind it.

S4.L2.4 : Loosen my tie, lie down, **let's fly**

The hyperbole expression above depicts that he wants to persuade his woman to fly and go far, but human could not fly except with an airplane, balloon, etc.

3. Discussion

As found, the types of semantic deviation used in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V were hyperbole, simile, irony, metaphor, paradox, pleonasm, litotes, and oxymoron. Metaphor is most dominant semantic deviation found in Maroon 5's song. This finding indicates that the songwriter tends to deliver his ideas through some comparisons. It is because metaphor gives the broadest freedom for creativity which is appropriate to the writing style of the songwriter, namely Adam Levine. Metaphor is an imaginative way of describing a person, object or idea by referring to something else that you think has similar qualities to the person, object or idea that you are trying to describe (Lazar, 2007, p.5). Then for the function of semantic deviation in Maroon 5's song lyrics in album V were found all function; to afford imaginative pleasure, add emotional intensity, to bring additional imaginary, and to say much in brief compass.

E. CONCLUSIONS

In this research, there were eight songs Maroon 5 album V analysed. From the investigation, we concluded that there were two conclusions as follows. First, there were eight kinds of semantic deviations occurred in the eight songs of Maroon 5 album V. They were pleonasm, oxymoron, paradox, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony and litotes. There were two phenomena of pleonasm, one case of simile, litotes, and paradox, there were three phenomena of irony, there were one phenomena of oxymoron, there were seventeen phenomena of hyperbole, and the last there were twenty phenomena of metaphor. Metaphors were the most often occurred in these eight songs. This finding indicates that the songwriter tends to deliver his ideas through some comparisons. It is because metaphor gives the

broadest freedom for creativity. Appropriate to the writing style of the songwriter, namely Adam Levine.

Based on the finding there are 8 types of semantic deviation in Maroon 5's song lyrics. They were pleonasm, oxymoron, paradox, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, and litotes. There were no application of tautology, periphrasis, synecdoche, and metonymy found in 49 data the researcher has analysed. Although there is another trope of semantic deviation in his work, tautology, periphrasis, synecdoche, and metonymy were exception. From the analysis, Maroon 5's songs are generally built by giving readers contradictory ideas or metaphorical statements which aims to embed the idea or thought solidly in listeners' mind. Thus, he might avoid using tautology, periphrasis, synecdoche, and metonymy because it does not suit the songwriter's style

Concerning with the second objective which is to describe the function of semantic deviation, the researcher could find four function of in the object of the research. There were four functions of semantic deviation were found in Maroon 5's song's lyrics in album V. The most dominant function used in Maroon 5's song in album V is to bring additional imaginary which found in metaphor. This is because Adam Levine has the tendency to make his song lyrics by using interesting expression, and it imagined as if it was real.

REFERENCES

- Abrams, M.H. 1999. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. United States of America: Earl McPeck.
- Adams, Sharena. (2015). *The Benefit of Listening to Music*. Available <http://www.theodysseyonline.com/the-benefits-of-listening-to-music>, accessed on January 25, 2016.
- Burns, A. (1999). *Collaborative action research for English language teachers*. Cambridge University Press.
- Denzin, Norman K. (1973). *The research act: A theoretical introduction to sociological methods*. New Jersey: Transaction Publishers.
- Fraenkel, J. R., Wallen, N. E., & Hyun, H. H. (2012). *How to design and evaluate research in education*. New York: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages.
- Halliday, M. (1973). *Explorations in the functions of language*. London: Edward Arnold Limited.
- Hornby, A.S. (1995). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Fifth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lazar, Gillian. 2007. *Meanings and Metaphors*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Leech, G. (1969). *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*. London: Longman.
- Leech, G., & Short, M. (2007). *Style in fiction: A linguistic introduction to English fictional prose* (2nd ed.). London: Longman.
- Matthias Baumgarten, Paradigm Wars- Validity and Reliability. (2010). *Qualitative Research*. Norderstedt Germany : Grin.

- Miles, Mathew B., dan A. Michael Huberman. (1994). *An Expanded Sourcebook: Qualitative Data Analysis*. London: Sage Publications.
- Perrine, Laurence. (2011). *Sound and Sense; An Introduction to Poetry*. Florida: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- Perrine, Laurence. (1963). *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.
- Plett, H. F. (2010). *Encyclopedia of Rhetoric*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Richards, Jack, John Platt, and Heidi Weber. (1985). *Longman dictionary of applied linguistics*. Harlow, Essex, England: Longman.
- Simpson, P. (2004). *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Student*. London: Routledge.
- Short, Mick (1969) *Exploring the Language of Poems ,Plays, and Prose*. Edinburgh : Pearson Education Ltd.
- Sugiyono. (2010). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: CV Alfabeta.