

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRICS IN ED SHEERAN'S *DIVIDE* ALBUM

Heriyansyah, M. Bahri Arifin, Ririn Setyowati

English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences

Mulawarman University

Email: heriyansyah311@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Song lyrics have messages to convey to their listener and cannot be interpreted in literary ways. The researcher uses figurative language to analyze the song lyrics. This research is focused on the types of figurative language and its meaning used in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album. This research is included in descriptive qualitative research which is the appropriate method for analyzing the figurative language. There are two research questions in this research. The first research question is "what are the types of figurative language found in song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album?". The second research question is "what are the meanings of figurative language found in song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album?". By using Perrine's theory, the result of the research showed that the types figurative language in song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album are metaphor and metonymy. Beside metaphor and metonymy, the researcher also found another types of figurative language; such as simile, hyperbole, personification, understatement, and irony. By understanding the figurative language, the researcher is able to recognize the meaning of the song lyrics that contain figurative language. Most of the song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album are about gratitude of the singer life and his finding in love. Based on the meaning that already found, the singer or the song writer mostly plays with associative meaning in order to use figurative language in his song lyrics.

Keywords: semantics, figurative language, Ed Sheeran

ABSTRAK

Lirik lagu memiliki pesan-pesan untuk disampaikan kepada pendengarnya dan tidak bias diinterpretasikan secara harfiah. Peneliti menggunakan bahasa kiasan untuk menganalisis lirik lagu tersebut. Penelitian ini berfokus pada tipe-tipe bahasa kiasan dan maknanya yang digunakan dalam album Divide Ed Sheeran. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dimana ini adalah metode yang cocok untuk menganalisis bahasa kiasan.

Ada dua rumusan masalah di dalam penelitian ini. Rumusan masalah yang pertama yaitu “apa saja tipe-tipe bahasa kiasan yang ada di lirik lagu dalam album Divide Ed Sheeran?”. Rumusan masalah yang kedua yaitu “apa saja makna-makna bahasa kiasan yang terkandung di lirik lagu dalam album Divide Ed Sheeran?”. Dengan menggunakan teori dari Perrine, hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa tipe-tipe bahasa kiasan di lirik lagu dalam album Divide Ed Sheeran yaitu metafora dan metonimi. Selain metafora dan metonimi, peneliti juga menemukan tipe bahasa kiasan yang lainnya; seperti simile, hiperbola, personifikasi, understatement, dan ironi. Dengan memahami bahasa kiasan, peneliti dapat mengenali makna dalam lirik lagu yang berisi bahasa kiasan. Sebagian besar lirik lagu dalam album Divide Ed Sheeran adalah tentang rasa bersyukur atas hidup sang penyanyi dan perjalanannya dalam menemukan cinta. Berdasarkan makna yang telah ditemukan, penyanyi atau penulis lagu hamper semua bermain dengan makna asosiatif untuk menggunakan bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagunya.

Kata kunci: semantik, bahasa kiasan, Ed Sheeran

A. INTRODUCTION

Music is something that cannot be separated from us. Some people like many kinds of music such as classical music, popular music, and even traditional music. Music has many genres, they are classified by rock, jazz, metal, pop, classic, dangdut, and many more, and every single person in the world has their own taste of music. Music is not only for entertainment, some people can be very emotional when they listen to a certain song. For instance, when a person is heart-breaking, usually, they would choose the melodramatic, slow, or sad songs. In the opposite, when a person is in a happy mood, mostly, they would choose a beating song.

Song lyrics have messages to convey to their listener, a song writer would normally have a target to who would be they listeners. A song can become popular because of its singer, its lyrics, its interesting tone and its music. It is obvious that tones and music are outside from the literary work; however, song lyrics contain messages to convey to its listener and can be interpreted in literary ways.

It is not easy to find meaning and message behind the song lyrics; we need a specific method in finding the important message in song lyrics. Talking about the song lyrics, it is clear that the lyrics in the song are related to meanings contained in it. Meaning consists of literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Literal meaning relates to the physical nature or lexical meaning, in other words, it is meaning that is found in a dictionary. However, most meanings found in communication do not have lexical meaning. That mostly refers to non-literal meaning. One of them is figurative language. Figurative language is the conscious departure from normal ways of saying things. This means that most words have more than one meaning.

The purposes of this research were to find the types and meaning of the lyrics that contain the figurative language. Figurative language is part of the study of meaning, which is meaning itself is the part of semantics study. Semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences (Yule, 2010). Yule also added, in semantics analysis, there is always an attempt to focus on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what an individual speaker might want them to

mean on a particular occasion. This approach is concerned with objective or general meaning and avoids trying to account for subjective or local meaning. Doing semantics is attempting to spell out what we all know when we have behaved as if we share knowledge of the meaning of a word, a phrase, or a sentence in a language.

B. REVIEW AND RELATED THEORIES

1. Concept of Meaning

There are two kind of meanings which are conceptual meaning (denotation) and associative meaning (connotation). Yule (2010) mentioned that there is a broad distinction between conceptual meaning and associative meaning. He said that conceptual meaning is the type of meaning that dictionaries are designed to describe, for example a word *needle* in English might include “thin, sharp, steel instrument”. However, in associative meaning, different people might have different connotations attached to a word like *needle*. They might associate it with “pain,” or “illness,” or “blood,” or “drugs,” or “thread,” or “knitting,” or “hard to find” (especially in haystack), and these associations may differ from one person to the next.

2. Concept of Figurative Language

Perrine (1977) stated that figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way. And it is more narrowly defined as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. When a speaker says a word in figurative language, the hearer could not comprehend the meaning as literal, but in an imaginative way. According to Perrine, the types of figurative languages are:

a. Simile

Simile means comparing two things that are essentially unlike directly by using connecting words, e.g. the connecting word is most commonly *like* or *as* similar to, like, same as, etc. In other words, simile is comparison of two things that are not necessarily alike, using connecting words to link the comparison. For example: *His mind is hard as rock.*

b. Metaphor

Metaphor is a means of comparing things that are essentially alike directed without any connective word showing comparison, such as *like*, *as*, and etc. in other words, metaphor is a figure of speech that used to compare two unlike things by claiming that one thing is another. For example: *You are my sunshine at noon and my moonlight at night.*

c. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is simply exaggeration out in the service of the truth. Hyperbole is overstatement or over reaction to react to something. For example: *Please go away! I have an allergy to a liar friend.*

d. Personification

Personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. In other words, an object or idea is described by the speaker or writer in a way that could only apply literally to a person. Personification is when an object does something that only humans do. For example: *If you wasted your time, it would kill you.*

e. Metonymy

Metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. It is a figure of speech in which the name of one object is replaced by another which is closely associated with it. For example: *He drank the whole bottle!*

f. Understatement

Understatement is saying less than one means that may exist in what is said or merely in how one says it. Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole. For example: *Welcome to my little house.*

g. Irony

Irony is the opposite of what one means. Irony involves a difference or contrast between appearance and reality; there is a clear difference between what appears to be true and what actually is true. For example: *Wow! Look at those arts you made in your room.*

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

This research is included in descriptive qualitative research. A descriptive qualitative research is the appropriate method in analyzing the figurative language in this research. As Bogdan and Biklen (1990) stated that qualitative research is descriptive. When the data collected are in words or pictures form, the best method is using qualitative research. In qualitative research, the data is dominated by words rather than numbers. It is in line with Miles and Huberman (1994) that qualitative data are usually in the form of words rather than numbers.

2. Data and Source of Data

The sources of data are all songs in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album. All songs become the research focus to be investigated in this research. Meanwhile, for the data, they are from the sentences, phrases, and words throughout the lyrics related to figurative language classification.

3. Research Instrument

As Bogdan and Biklen (1990) said that the researcher is the key instrument in qualitative research. With that argument, the researcher is the key instrument in data collection and data analysis.

4. Data Collection

For collecting the data, the researcher has done an observation through these steps as follow:

1. Downloading all of the lyrics in the *Divide* album by Ed Sheeran.
2. Listening to all of the songs to verify the lyrics.
3. Reading and observing all the lyrics transcripts.
4. Finding and selecting the figurative meaning which is based on the theories.
5. Writing down the data.
6. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification of figurative language.

5. Data Analysis

In doing analysis, the researcher uses three steps procedures from Miles and Huberman (1994). The first step is data reduction. Data reduction is referred to the process of selecting, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that has been taken from the song lyric in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album and other data as supportive data taken from some books, journals, essays, or online and academic articles. In this process, the researcher reads the song lyric many times in order to eliminate some irrelevant data; and in this process, the researcher identifies the categories of figurative meaning stated in those songs.

Next step is data display. Data display concerns the process of an organized, compressed, assembly of information that leads to the conclusion drawing and action. In this process, the researcher displays the data by categorizing the figurative meaning according to their types and then analyzing them one by one according to the title song lyrics.

The last step is conclusion drawing. This is the process of verifying the analysis proceeds. In this stage, the data that had been reduced and displayed is tested to find out their meaning for their validity. In this last step, the researcher made the conclusion of the data in order to answer the research question.

6. Triangulation

In this research, the researcher uses the data triangulation and theoretical triangulation in order to validate the data.

1. Data Triangulation

The researcher uses data triangulation by checking the interpretation according to the result of some similar previous studies about figurative meaning or figure of speech.

2. Theoretical Triangulation

After doing data triangulation, the researcher uses related theories or concepts from the experts in the references. In this research, the researcher used Perrine's

explanation about figurative language. To support it, the researcher used the theory of semantics by Yule to analyze the meaning.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Figurative Language in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* Album

There are various types in each song such are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, understatement, and irony. The following part is presented to give detail about the type of figurative language in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album.

a. Figurative Language in *Eraser* by Ed Sheeran

The first song in the *Divide* album is *Eraser*. This song tells a brief story of how the singer starts his career. There are six types of figurative language in this lyric; they are metonymy, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, simile, and understatement. One of its example is metonymy which is can be found on the first verse, second line that said *learned to sing inside Lord's house* (Ed Sheeran, *Eraser*: verse:1, line:2) in this case, *Lord's house* is a replacement closely to a church and it is convenient with the explanation about metonymy. For more details about the figurative language that has been found in this lyric, can be seen in the following table:

Table 4.1 Figurative language in *Eraser*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	√
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	√
7.	Irony	√

As seen on the table above, the only figurative language that does not appear in the song entitled *Eraser* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is personification.

b. Figurative Language in *Castle on the Hill* by Ed Sheeran

The next song in the *Divide* album is a song entitled *Castle on the Hill*. In this song, the singer told a story about his homesickness and childhood in his hometown. The researcher has found four types of figurative language in this song; they are metaphor, personification, irony, and metonymy. A metaphor can be seen on the phrase *Tasted the sweet perfume of the mountain grass...* (Ed Sheeran, *Castle on the Hill*: verse:1, line:3) is clearly a metaphor or comparison for “smell of the grass on the mountain. The detail about figurative language that found in this lyric can be seen at the table below:

Table 4.2 Figurative language in *Castle on the Hill*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	-
4.	Personification	√
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	√

As seen on the table above, simile, hyperbole, and understatement is the figurative language that does not appear in the song entitled *Castle on the Hill* in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album.

c. Figurative Language in *Dive* by Ed Sheeran

The third song in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album is a song entitled *Dive*. *Dive* tells a story about a man that falls in love with a girl; however, he still hesitates about the girl. There are three types of figurative language in *Dive* lyrics that the researcher found; they are metaphor, hyperbole, and understatement. For example, in the sentence *I could fall or I could fly here in your aero plane* (Ed Sheeran, *Dive*: verse:2, line:1-2), the researcher classified it to metaphor. It is classified as a metaphor since the singer uses the word “aero plane” to compare the girl he likes. The table below showed the detail about figurative language that the researcher found in this song.

Table 4.3 Figurative language in *Dive*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	-

2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	-
6.	Understatement	√
7.	Irony	-

The table above shows that metaphor, hyperbole, and understatement are the only figurative language used in a song entitled *Dive* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album.

d. Figurative Language in *Shape of You* by Ed Sheeran

The fourth song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is *Shape of You*. This is one of the famous songs in the *Divide* album. It tells a story about a lover that has just met. Four types of figurative language had been found by the researcher; they are metonymy, understatement, simile, and hyperbole. In line *We push and pull like a magnet do* (Ed Sheeran, *Shape of You*: verse:3/reff#1, line:2), the singer compares his action to a magnet. It is an obvious example from simile that compares two things by using the connective word "like". The table below showed the detail about figurative language that the researcher found in this lyric.

Table 4.4 Figurative language in *Shape of You*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	√
2.	Metaphor	-
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	√
7.	Irony	-

Metaphor, personification, and irony are the figurative language that does not appear in songs entitled *Shape of You* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album as seen on the table above.

e. Figurative Language in *Perfect* by Ed Sheeran

The fifth song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *Perfect*. Beside *Shape of You*, this song is popular as well. *Perfect* narrates about a man that is found and grateful for having a beautiful woman. The researcher found five types of figurative language in this song; they are metonymy, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and understatement. For example, personification can be found in sentence *Your heart is all I own and in your eyes, you're holding mine* (Ed Sheeran, *Perfect*: verse:2, line:4-5). As Perrine explained that a personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. In that case, the phrase "...in your eyes, you're holding mine" is included in a personification for the word "eyes" is a part of the human body that does not have a hand for holding a thing. The detail about figurative language that the researcher has found in this lyric, can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.5 Figurative language in *Perfect*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	√
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	√
7.	Irony	-

As seen on the table above, the only figurative language that does not appear in *Perfect* lyric in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album are simile and irony.

f. Figurative Language in *Galway Girl* by Ed Sheeran

The next song in Ed Sheeran's album *Divide* is a song entitled *Galway Girl*. This song is telling a story about how an English man could fall in love with an Irish woman. Galway itself is a city in the West of Ireland. The researcher has found four types of figurative language in this song lyric; they are metonymy, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole. For instance, a hyperbole can be seen in the sentence *I swear, I'm going to put you in a song that I write* (Ed Sheeran, *Galway Girl*: verse:8, line3). As we know, we cannot put a person into a song, it is too exaggerated. What the singer meant is to put the girl's name. For furthermore detail about figurative language that the researcher found in this lyric, see the table below.

Table 4.6 Figurative language in *Galway Girl*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearances
1.	Simile	√
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	-

The table above showed that figurative language such as personification, understatement, and irony do not appear in songs entitled *Galway Girl*.

g. Figurative Language in *Happier* by Ed Sheeran

The seventh song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *Happier*. This is another famous song in this album. The song itself tells a story about a man that saw his former girlfriend is happier than him. The researcher found four types of figurative language in this song, namely metonymy, simile, irony, and personification. An Irony can be seen in the sentence *And until then, I'll smile to hide the truth* (Ed Sheeran, *Happier*: verse:4, line:3) is kind of irony where the situation is a contrast between appearance and reality. For furthermore detail about figurative language that the researcher found in this lyric, see the table below.

Table 4.7 Figurative language in *Happier*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	√
2.	Metaphor	-
3.	Hyperbole	-
4.	Personification	√
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-

7.	Irony	√
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To conclude, metaphor, hyperbole, and understatement are figurative language that do not appear in songs entitled *Happier* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album.

h. Figurative Language in *New Man* by Ed Sheeran

The next song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *New Man*. This song tells a story about the singer's former girlfriend that has a new boyfriend and she is not happy with him. In this song, the researcher found three types of figurative language; they are metonymy, metaphor, and irony. For example, the sentence *I guess if you were Lois Lane, I wasn't Superman...* (Ed Sheeran, *New Man*: verse:3, line:5) is kind of metaphor since the singer compares himself and his girlfriend as Superman and Lois Lane. For more information about figurative language that has been found in this lyric, can be seen in the following table:

Table 4.8 Figurative language in *New Man*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	-
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	√

As seen on the table above, the song entitled *New Man* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album only has three types of figurative languages; metaphor, metonymy, and irony.

i. Figurative Language in *Hearts Don't Break Around Here* by Ed Sheeran

The ninth song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *Hearts Don't Break Around Here*. This song contains an expression of a man that how grateful he is for having a woman that saved him from heart break. There are three types of figurative language that researchers found in this song; they are hyperbole, metaphor, and simile. One of its example is in the sentence form

fifth verse, third line that said *She is the lighthouse in the night that will safely guide me home* (Ed Sheeran, *Hearts Don't Break Around Here*: verse:5, line:3) is included as a metaphor since the singer compares his girlfriend to a lighthouse. The table below shows information about figurative language that the researcher has found.

Table 4.9 Figurative language in *Hearts Don't Break Around Here*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	√
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	-
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	-

The table above has shown that the song entitled *Hearts Don't Break Around Here* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album has only three figurative language.

j. Figurative Language in *What Do I Know?* by Ed Sheeran

The tenth song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *What Do I Know?* In this song, the singer tells a story about how his song can change the world. There are four types of figurative language that the researcher found; and that figurative languages are metaphor, personification, metonymy, and understatement. For example, the researcher classified the sentence *but God gave me a stage, a guitar, and a song* (Ed Sheeran, *What Do I Know?:* verse:1, line:2) as a personification. As Perrine explained that personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. In this case, "God" is not count as a human being. The information about figurative language that the researcher found can be seen as the table below.

Table 4.10 Figurative language in *What Do I Know?*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearance
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	-

4.	Personification	√
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	√
7.	Irony	-

As seen in the table above, the figurative languages that do not appear in song entitled *What Do I Know?* In Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album are simile, hyperbole, and irony.

k. Figurative Language in *How Would You Feel* by Ed Sheeran

The next song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *How Would You Feel*. This eleventh song tells a story about how the singer describes the one who he loves. The researcher found three types of figurative language; they are hyperbole, metaphor, and metonymy. In the sentence *I'm feeling younger, every time that I'm alone with you* (Ed Sheeran, *How Would You Feel*: verse:1, line:2) is classified as a hyperbole. Since the human being is getting older and cannot get younger, the phrase "I'm feeling younger" has an element of exaggeration. The table below showed information about figurative language that the researcher found in this song.

Table 4.11 Figurative language in *How Would You Feel*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearances
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	√
4.	Personification	-
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	-

The table above shows that metaphor, hyperbole, and metonymy are the figurative languages that appear in a song entitled *How Would You Feel* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album.

1. Figurative Language in *Supermarket Flowers* by Ed Sheeran

The last song in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album is a song entitled *Supermarket Flowers*. This song has a story about a son describing his dying mother and how he loves her. Three types of figurative language have been found by the researcher in this song, they are metonymy, metaphor, and personification. Personification is when an object or a concept does something that only humans do. In this case, the sentence *and when God takes you back, He'll say Hallelujah, you're home* (Ed Sheeran, *Supermarket Flowers*: verse:4/reff, line:4-5) can be categorized as a personification because "God" is not a human being. For furthermore information about figurative language in this song, it can be seen in the following table.

Table 4.12 Figurative language in *Supermarket Flowers*

No.	Type of figurative language	Appearances
1.	Simile	-
2.	Metaphor	√
3.	Hyperbole	-
4.	Personification	√
5.	Metonymy	√
6.	Understatement	-
7.	Irony	-

As seen as in the table above, the figurative language that appears in the song entitled *Supermarket Flowers* in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album are metaphor, personification, and metonymy.

2. Meaning of Figurative Language in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* Album

In this part, the researcher presented the meanings of figurative language that are found in song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album in terms of conceptual and associative meaning.

a. *Eraser*

The line that says "*I'm not trying to preach like I'm reverend run*" (Ed Sheeran, *Eraser*: verse:4, line:7), this sentence is classified as simile since it is using the word "like" for comparison. When it comes to figuratively meaning, the researcher implied the meaning as "I'm not a sanity person, I'm just a normal human being as you". The word "reverend" has conceptual meaning as

someone who is dedicated to Christian religion. In this case, the singer wanted to give some advice and he is not trying to be a better person to anyone.

b. *Castle on the Hill*

The line that goes “*Tasted the sweet perfume of the mountain grass...*” (Ed Sheeran, *Castle on the Hill*: verse:1, line:3) in song entitled *Castle on the Hill* is a metaphor. In metaphor, two unlike things are compared as if they become one. In that line, the singer compares the smell of the grass to fragrant, this implies that the singer love the smell of the mountain grass.

c. *Dive*

The paragraph “*I have travelled the world, And there’s no other girl like you, no one*” (Ed Sheeran, *Dive*: verse:4, line:2-3) is categorized as hyperbole. The part of the hyperbole is phrase “*I have travelled the world...*”, it is an exaggeration. The conceptual meaning of “travelling the world” is to wander 7 continents and 195 countries, and it will take so much time to do that. Moreover, it is really exaggerating that he travel the world just because a girl. The researcher reckons that paragraph is a flattery and has the intended meaning “you are the one and only girl I love”.

d. *Shape of You*

The line that stated “*I may be crazy, but don’t mind me*” (Ed Sheeran, *Shape of You*: verse:2, line:4). The line is categorized as understatement. In this sentence, the conceptual meaning of “crazy” is not sensible or logical. In this sentence, the singer is not literally crazy; he just acts like a crazy person to get the attention and to make a humorous situation. The researcher defines this sentence as his crazy act is not important as long he can get her attention.

e. *Perfect*

In a song entitled *Perfect*, the line said “*I found a love, to carry more than just my secret, to carry love, to carry children of our own*” (Ed Sheeran, *Perfect*: verse:4, line:3-4) is kind of personification. The word “love” is an idea of a great interest or an intense feeling of deep affection. Since it is a concept, it cannot carry anything like the human do. The researcher interprets the “love” as the girl that can carry the singer's dreams.

f. *Galway Girl*

A line said “*but she fell in love with an English man*” (Ed Sheeran, *Galway Girl*: verse:1/Reff, line:2) in a song entitled *Galway Girl* is one of the examples of metonymy. In this sentence, the singer replaces himself with “English man” since the singer was born and raised in England. The singer implies the girl has affection to him.

g. *Happier*

In the line “*I’ll smile to hide the truth*” (Ed Sheeran, *Happier*: verse:4, line:3) in a song entitled *Happier* is one of the irony in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album. It has the intended meaning that “the truth” describes the singer sadness, madness, jealousy, or disappointment, but he manages to hide it by smiling. In denotative meaning, “smile” is an expression when we feel pleased or happy, in this situation, its contrast between appearances and reality where he is supposed to be sad but he smiles to deceive his surroundings.

h. *New Man*

The line “*’cause I’m positive that he don’t wanna know about me*” (Ed Sheeran, *New Man*: verse:4/Reff, line:3) is a metonymy. The singer uses word “positive” for a replacement like words “sure”, “believe”, “certain”, etc. The word “positive” has associative meaning similar to “very sure”, “without hesitation”, and more. Accordingly, the line describes that the singer is very sure about his opinion.

i. *Hearts Don’t Break Around Here*

The most figurative language that appears in this song is metaphor. One of its examples is in line that says “*She is the lighthouse in the night that will safely guide me home*” (Ed Sheeran, *Hearts Don’t Break Around Here*: verse:5, line:3). The line is clearly a metaphor since the singer compares himself and his girl to something without any connective words. The singer compares his girl to a lighthouse; lighthouse is building that is built by the seafront to guide a ship to be anchored without getting crashed. The researcher interprets the line as someone who can lead the singer from adversity to a better life.

j. *What Do I Know?*

This song has a personification that is written “*But God give me a stage, a guitar, and a song*” (Ed Sheeran, *What Do I Know?:* verse:1, line:2). As we know that “God” is a concept that is created by humans to be worshipped. In conceptual meaning, the word “God” has meaning as the creator and ruler of the universe; thus making “God” does not count as human being. The researcher implies that this sentence is the way the singer expresses his gratefulness.

k. *How Would You Feel*

The line stated “*Watching the sunrise replace the moon*” (Ed Sheeran, *How Would You Feel*: verse:3, line:4) is a metaphor. The phrase “the sunrise replaces the moon” is a comparison for a dusk switch into a night. The line interpreted as the singer is waiting a night and enjoys it with the girl he loves.

l. *Supermarket Flowers*

Metaphor is the most figurative language that appears in this song, one of them is in the line that says “*Spread your wings as you go*” (Ed Sheeran,

Supermarket Flowers: verse:4/Reff, line:3). The phrase “Spread your wings” represent as someone that finally free from all he/she problems and word “go” in this line has associative meaning as “dead” or “die. Therefore, the line “*Spread your wings as you go*” is interpreted as someone that dies peacefully.

E. CONCLUSIONS

In song lyrics in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album, the researcher found all types figurative; they are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, understatement, and irony. Metaphor and metonymy appear the most in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album. Based on the meaning that already found, the singer or the song writer mostly plays with associative meaning in order to use figurative language in his song lyrics. The singer includes conceptual meaning as well to make his songs can be easily understandable. In the use of figurative meaning, the song writer uses metaphor in his love stories to emphasize what he feels and to make more memorable his stories and metonymy to make his songs easier to listen to. By understanding meaning of figurative language, the researcher can recognize the meaning of song lyrics as a whole. Most of the song lyrics are about gratitude of the singer life and his finding in love.

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