PERSONIFICATION USED IN WEDDING-THEMED SONG LYRICS

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Abstract: This study looked for personification expressions and the many kinds that might be found in wedding-related music lyrics. This study used the descriptive technique. Only the personification expressions in the lyrics of well-known songs with wedding themes were the subject of this investigation. Only songs that were released between 2010 and the present were used by the researcher as sources of data. Dodson (2008) combined the data, classified them according to linguistic theory, then conducted an analysis and interpretation. The research reveals that twenty personification data were discovered in song lyrics with wedding-related themes. Six of the phrases are categorized as casual personification (30%), nine are categorized as broad personification (45%), and the remaining five are representational personification (which account for 25% of the total). The most common sort of personification in lyrics is type 2, whereas type 3 is the least common. Most often, the purpose of utilizing personification phrases is to embellish or beautify the song lyrics itself so that they are attractive to the audience and attractively convey the content to the song listeners. Figurative language is a useful technique for improving song lyrics since song lyrics have the ability to convey messages to listeners about life, love, and a variety of other topics. The lyricist becomes more lyrical and the phrases gain strength by employing metaphorical language. In the course of teaching literature and linguistics, it is suggested that personification, which is frequently utilized in song lyrics.

Keywords: *Figurative language, personification, wedding-themed, song lyric.*

INTRODUCTION

Semantics is one of linguistic branches and important in language study. Semantics is a scientific study of meaning, including meaning in words, sentences, and pictures. Whether words are used in a sentence to convey literal or metaphorical

meanings, semantics serves to make sense of what is being said. According to Hurford and Heasly (1983), semantics is the study of language's meaning. Semantics is the study of phrase and word meanings apart from their usage settings. Semantics is used to comprehend how people express themselves through language.

Language serves several purposes in human life. The expressive function is one of them. The expressive function, according to Halliday and Hasan (1991: 15), communicates individual feelings, thoughts, ideas, and opinions through various word choices, tone, etc. These expressions are dependent on societal variables and the expression's inherent good or bad qualities. Holmes (1992) (p. 255).

One of language's figurative expressions is personification. Personification, according to Wolosky (2001), is a figure of speech in which an animal, an item, or a concept is given human characteristics. Personification is a figure of speech that compares things to people, giving inanimate objects the ability to act, think, and feel similar to people. It turns into the kind of metaphorical language where lifeless objects and abstract concepts are given human characteristics. Personification is a literary technique used to give human characteristics to inanimate objects or things. Personification is a unique characteristic of a metaphor that portrays inanimate objects as speaking, acting, and behaving like people.

Songs frequently use personification. Since both feature characteristics like sound, rhythm, and rhythm, which are the formal elements of a poem, a song may be thought of as a poetry that is sung. When assessing the meaning of a song, other factors must be taken into account in addition to these formal ones. comprehending the language or symbols employed in poetry is essential to comprehending its meaning. It is challenging to comprehend the content of a poem without an awareness of the poetic aspects of poetry, such as the arrangement of stanzas that uses poetry, alliteration, diction, figurative language, and symbolism.

Songs use words to express themselves. Songs can be written for one or more voices and are often performed with instrumental accompaniment, according to Jack (1999: 15). They are brief musical works that are set to poetic text. The lyrics are the words that make up a song and are composed by the lyricists from their ideas, thoughts, emotions, and expressions of their emotions. Originally, the lyrics referred

to poetry that was intended to be sung. Nobody can dispute that they need music in their lives. Considering the aforementioned viewpoints, it can be said that personification is a linguistic style that suggests that inanimate objects could.
For example:

Tonight our spirits will be climbing

To a sky filled up with diamonds (Peabo Bryson and Roberta Flack). The example above is taken from a song, which shows the use of personification. Particularly, in Tonight our spirits will be climbing. The word "our spirit" is made living as if it is able to do "climbing". It shows how personification gives special and deep meaning in a song.

A figure of speech that attaches human characteristics to an inanimate object so that it seems as if it has the properties of a fateful object. The feature of this figure of speech is the availability of word options that apply human characteristics to these inanimate objects. The personification figure of speech has a comparative figurative language, namely comparing inanimate objects or things that cannot move so that they appear alive and can behave like humans. Therefore, this figure of speech is also categorized as a comparative figure of speech. Personification figure of speech is useful for giving a clearer picture of the situation being depicted and for sharing concrete images. The use of personification figure of speech is often found in various uses, especially in song lyrics.

The use of language style in songs becomes more obvious when the songs are performed on certain occasions such as weddings. The meaning of the song is even more beautiful because it contains personification. Therefore, nowadays a lot of wedding themed songs are released. This is of course a language phenomenon, especially semantics. The reasons stated above drive the writer to conduct a research about Personification used in Wedding-Themed Song Lyrics.

THEORETICAL BASES

a. Semantics

There are several subfields in linguistics that research particular areas of interest. One of the linguistic subfields that picks meaning as its emphasis is

semantics. According to Yule (1996:4), semantics is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and actual items, or how words actually relate to things. It implies that each concept has a unique reference that conveys its meaning. Regardless of who creates the description, semantics clearly explains the links between verbal descriptions and actual world conditions as correct (true) or not. It is evident that the message conveyed in the speech is completely related according to meaning theory.

Semantics, according to Crystal (1992:100), is the study of language's meaning. This supports the claim made by Pei and Gaynor (1980:193) that semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationships between linguistic symbols (words, expressions, and phrases) and the things or ideas to which they refer as well as the evolution of linguistic meaning.

b.   ***Figurative Language***

Figurative language has become a widespread occurrence in reality, revealing how language is actually used. According to Alexander (1977–190), figurative language or figures of speech are ways to utilize words to create and amplify sensory imagery. They accomplish this by linking one item, activity, or concept to another one it is typically associated with. That idea makes it obvious that language is employed for communication on both a literal and metaphorical level. Literal language only use words for their purest, most fundamental meaning. It signifies exactly what it appears to mean on the surface, thus it may be taken at face value. Therefore, figurative language is language that has been severed from its literal meaning; it cannot be taken literally. It essentially tells a surface-level falsehood in.

The use of lexeme with meanings that are not actual strongly relates to figurative meaning. For example the phrase 'the sun of my life' is not meant as a sun owned by someone, but this phrase is interpreted as 'someone who always gives enthusiasm' In addition, the figurative meaning is also found in proverbs or parables. For example, once embracing the paddle, two or three islands were exceeded. Figurative language (figurative language) gives the word its meaning. Figurative or figurative languages deviate from commonly used language in order to achieve

particular effects or distinctive meanings. They also deviate from standard or standard languages, meaning, and word arrangement (series). 63 (Abrams, 1988).

According to Perrine (1992), there are four basic motivations for employing metaphorical language. First off, reading literary works with figurative language allows readers to enjoy their imagination. Second, it gives verse more imagery, makes the abstract real, and gives literary works a more sensual feel. The third, metaphorical, is a technique to transmit attitudes together with facts and gives emotional dimension to otherwise purely factual comments. And last, it is a means of stating a lot in a concise manner.

C. *Personification*

One of the often employed figurative languages is personification. Personification is a technique used to give a word a living appearance. According to Wolosky (2001:93), personification is a type of metaphorical language. Personification is a figure of speech in which objects are given human characteristics or are said to have human form. Personification is a type of figurative language that is connected to people's perceptions of inanimate objects and abstract concepts.

Personification is a special metaphoric pattern where the item being analogized may be measured, act, and speak like a human. Figurative language serves to amuse readers while capturing their attention and conveying concepts and ideas. It will be very meaningful or full of meaning. The use of figurative language not only embellishes poetry and gives them artistic value, but it also enlivens the texts by adding connotative meanings and producing specific effects that make the writings' contents clearer and more concrete. Ogunsiji (2000), page 56.

Personification is a figure of speech that equates things with humans, inanimate objects are made able to do, think, etc. like humans . Personification has the effect of clarifying the image (image of the imagination) of the reader because by equating non-human things with humans, empathy of the reader is easily generated because the reader feels familiar with the things described or conveyed in the poem.

Opinions above can be concluded, that personification has the effect of clarifying the image (image of the imagination) of the reader because by equating non-human things with humans, empathy of the reader is easily generated because the reader

feels familiar with the things described or conveyed in the poem. Personification is a kind of figurative language that describes un-living matter as if having humanism attitudes for example, the personification of "love is blind" does not mean that eyes of love was blind. In fact love does not have eyes. This personification of sentence shows human act that describes blindness is something with no clear direction. This feature of the figurative langauges is the choice of words that impose human nature on these inanimate objects. Feeling Like I'm Gonna Lose You by Meghan Trainor (2015). The information was gathered from a wide range of sources. The main data were further supported by other sources. In accordance with the aforementioned declaration, the author gathered and identified the research's data.

The use of personification majors is found in many types of literary works, such as short stories, poems, songs and others. Personification is recognized as a part of stylistic devices, it is necessary to present the concepts and definitions of such related items as stylistics and stylistic devices. According to Dodson (2008), There are several types of personification which are divided into 3 categories including:

Casual Personification

Casual personification is a popular type of personification in which the human features are employed but not acknowledged, forgotten, or deleted (Dodson, 2008:31). In the phrase "waiting for our eyes to meet," for instance, "meet" simply indicates that both sets of eyes are looking at each other.

General Personification

Instead of talking about a person, general personification describes inanimate things, abstract notions, or impersonal creatures (Dodson, 2008:31). Since inanimate items are compared to actual humans, this broad personification does not genuinely represent the human features or attributes that are given to them. Conclusion: General personification is the comparison of inanimate things, abstract ideas, and other creatures to people. In general, personification lacks obvious personality because the comparison is between a human and an inanimate thing. For instance, in the phrase "the night deceives us," the night isn't meant to symbolize people; it's meant to represent the night itself. Night is comparable to people who are lying to one another.

Representative Personification

The emphasis on the traits, feelings, or components of the personified creature is known as representative personification. Personification through representative means can convey both superhuman abilities and human wants. In other words, if the general personification serves as a comparison with someone, then this representative personification serves to symbolize a quality, a passion, a trait of a person, or a superhuman ability. In the case of representative personification, since this personification is a depiction of an actual person or object, it is a personification with personality. As in "I know my soul believe." In that particular instance, the phrase indicates that the soul stands in for the writer or singer who is conveying what she feels.

RESEARCH METHOD

According to Bogdan and Biklen (1992:30), this study was conducted using a qualitative research design, which is often referred to as descriptive research. "Descriptive research is qualitative research. Instead of numbers, the data will be gathered in the form of words or images. To support and bolster the presentation, the written study findings include quotes from the data. This implies that the information in this study will be presented in the form of words or quotations rather than numbers, diagrams, or formulas. The data for this study are found in books, articles, and other relevant documents, hence it falls under the category of library research.

In this study, the data were collected from the popular songs lyrics which are wedding-themed, more particularly published from time range of 2010 till present time namely the songs of Bruno Mars- Just The Way You Are (2011), John Legend- All of Me (2013), Ed Sheeran- Thinking Out Loud (2014), Maroon 5 - Sugar (2015), Pharrel Williams- Happy (2014), Pink Sweat$- Run Through Fire (2023), Arlo Parks Ft. Phoebe Bridgers- Pegasus (2023), Katy Perry- Hummingbird Heartbeat (2010), Bruno Mars - Marry You (2011), Plain White T's - Rhythm of Love (2011), Justin Timbelake- Mirror (2013), Jason Mraz- I Won't give up (2012), Jack Johnson- Better Together (2013), James Arthur- Say You Won't Let Go (2016), Rachel Platten- Stand

by You (2015), Feeling Like I'm Gonna Lose You by Meghan Trainor (2015). The information was gathered from a wide range of sources. The main data were further supported by other sources. In accordance with the aforementioned declaration, the author gathered and identified the research's data.

In doing data analysis, the writer followed the procedures as suggested by Bogdan and Biklen (1992:1) as follows:

1. The Activity of Unitization

    The data were collected and put into units for identification the data.

2. The Activity of Categorization

The data were then categorized based on theory related to types of pesonification as argued by Dodson (2008)

3. The Activity of Explanation

    The data were explained based on the related theory

4. The Activity of Interpretation

    In this activity, the data were interpreted based on the explanation

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data Number	Expressions	Song Title & Type
1	*Oh, her eyes, her eyes* *Make the stars look like they're not shinin'* Her hair, her hair Falls perfectly without her trying She's so beautiful And I tell her everyday Yeah	**Bruno Mars- Just The Way You Are** **CASUAL**
2	And when you smile (smile, smile...) *The whole world stops and stares for a while* 'Cause, girl, you're amazing (amazing) Just the way you are (are)	**Bruno Mars- Just The Way You Are** **CASUAL**
3	What would I do without your smart mouth? Drawing me in, and you kicking me out You've got my head spinning, no kidding, I can't pin you down What's going on in that *beautiful*	**John Legend- All of Me** **GENERAL**

mind?
I'm on your magical mystery ride
And I'm so dizzy, don't know what hit
me, but I'll be alright

4	When your legs don't work like they used to before And I can't sweep you off of your feet ***Will your mouth still remember the taste of my love*** ***Will your eyes still smile from your cheeks***	**Ed Sheeran - Thinking Out Loud** **CASUAL**
5	So honey now ***Take me into your loving arms*** Kiss me under the light of a thousand stars 6Place your head on my beating heart I'm thinking out loud Maybe we found love right where we are	**Ed Sheeran - Thinking Out Loud** **GENERAL**
6	I don't wanna be needing your love I just wanna be deep in your love And it's killing me when you're away, ooh, baby 'Cause I really don't care where you are I just wanna be there where you are And I gotta get one little taste	**Maroon 5- Sugar** **GENERAL**
7	It might seem crazy what I am 'bout to say ***Sunshine, she's here, you can take a break*** ***I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space*** With the air, like I don't care, baby by the way	**Pharrel Williams= Happy** **CASUAL**
8	Oh, you're sounding like a raindrop When you're falling on the trees Make your way down to the soil ***<u>And those roots, they do run deep</u>*** Oh, you're something like a sunrise Pretty to my mind Soothing to my soul Watching the world spin one more time	**Pink Sweat$- Run Through Fire** **REPRESENTATIVE**
9	***Blue jewels 'round your neck (oh)*** ***Can cool my distress*** Loose cherries, hard breath I'm overwhelmed	**Arlo Parks ft. Phoebe Bridgers- Pegasus** **GENERAL**

10	Got the red eye ***Just to be near 'cause my head eats me alive*** You're makin' sure I'm eatin' I call my mother just to tell her that I'm happy	**Arlo Parks ft. Phoebe Bridgers- Pegasus** **GENERAL**
11	***Oh, white flower with the power to bring life to me*** You're so exotic, my whole body fluttering Constantly craving for a taste of your sticky-sweet Always on the brink of a heart attack	**Katy Perry** **Hummingbird Heartbeat** **REPRESENTATIVE**
12	It's a beautiful night, we're looking for something dumb to do Hey baby, I think I wanna marry you Is it the look in your eyes or is it this ***dancing juice***? Who cares, baby, I think I wanna marry you	**Bruno Mars- Marry You** **GENERAL**
13	That roll back when she's laughing at me She rises up like the tide The moment her lips meet mine	**Plain White T's- Rhythm of Love** **CASUAL**
14	'Cause I don't wanna lose you now I'm lookin' right at the other half of me ***The vacancy that sat in my heart*** ***Is a space that now you hold*** Show me how to fight for now And I'll tell you, baby, it was easy Comin' back here to you once I figured it out You were right here all along	**Justin Timbelake- Mirror** **REPRESENTATIVE**
15	And just like them old stars I see that you've come so far To be right where you are ***How old is your soul?***	**Jason Mraz- I Won't give up** **REPRESENTATIVE**
16	I don't wanna be someone who walks away so easily I'm here to stay and make the difference that I can make ***Our differences, they do a lot to teach us how to use*** The tools and gifts we got yeah, we got a lot at stake	**Jason Mraz- I Won't give up** **GENERAL**
17	And all of these moments Just might find their way into my dreams tonight But I know that they'll be gone ***When the morning light sings*** ***Or brings new things***	**Jack Johnson- Better Together** **CASUAL**
18	I'll wake you up with some breakfast in bed	**James Arthur- Say You Won't Let Go**

	I'll bring you coffee with a kiss on your head And I'll take the kids to school Wave them goodbye ***And I'll thank my lucky stars for that night***	**GENERAL**
19	Even if we can't find heaven, heaven, heaven, heaven Hands put your empty hands in mine ***And scars show me all the scars you hide*** And hey, if your wings are broken Please take mine 'til yours can open too 'Cause I'm gonna stand by you	**Rachel Platten-Stand by You** **GENERAL**
20	In the blink of an eye ***Just a whisper of smoke*** You could lose everything The truth is you never know	**Meghan Trainor-Like I'm Gonna Lose You** **REPRESENTATIVE**

It is summarized below the use of personification expressions in Wedding-Themed Song Lyrics.

NO	PERSONIFICATION CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	%
1	*Casual Personification*	6	30
2	*General Personification*	9	45
3	*Representative Personification*	5	25

From data 1, It is understood that the word "eyes" is made living, although it refers to part of human's body. It is linked with an ability to do action of "make". This is the personification tells about.

From data 2, the reference "world" is personified in which it "stops" and "stares" as human capabilities. This is personified as by the song writer to beautify the words so that the song is able to attract listeners. From data 3, the phrase "beautiful mind" becomes the part where personification expression exists in that song lyrics. The "mind" is conceptualized able to have the "beautiful" quality as if it is living subject.

From data 4, there are lines consisting personification sentences. The reference "mouth" as an object itself instead of body part of human being is made vivid becaouse of being added verb "remember". it goes the same way with the last line about "eyes" that is capable to do "smile". Those are the evidence of personification.

From data 5, It is inferred that the lyric part stated is quite figurative. It clearly shows that reference "arms" can have quality of "loving". It means that the songwriter personifies the word.

From data 6, It is implicitly stated in the lyric that "love" a an object is able to "kill" as selected by the writer as the lyric. This makes the lyric figurative in form of personification.

Based on data 7, as meant by the writer, "sunshine" as an object can "take a break" because of the lover exists. This parts functions as personification expression. From data 8, line 4 contains personification. The object "root" is made living by connecting to verb "run". This deals with personification as figurative language to create great impact to song listeners.

As showed in the data 9, two first lines contain personification. The phrase "blue jewels" is written and made vivid since it has capability to "cool my distress". The figurative language is put in the purpose of giving strength to the song lyric to be delivered to listeners.

In data 10, To beautify the song, the song writer wrote the lyric using figurative sentences. In the line 2 as clearly seen in the lyric above, the object "my head" is linked to do "eats me alive". This is meant to be understood figuratively not literally. In data 11, It can be explained linguistically that the object which is "white flower" as an object can have human being's quality in which having "power". it clearly proves that this is an existence of personification.

The use of phrase "dancing juice" in data 12 explicitly shows the use of personification. The reference "juice" is personified by the songwriter with the action "dancing". It shows that the figurative language in form of personification expression is selected to beautify the song so that it becomes more interesting be listened to.

According to the lyric piece seen in data 13, the songwriter used personification. In the last line, the object "lips" are made alive by connected to "meet" as verb or action as if it can do so.

From the lyrics in data 14, it is quite explicit that line 3 is where the personification placed by the songwriter. The action "sat" from the verb "sit" is linked

to reference "vacancy". It is the proof that by personifying, a song becomes more vivid.

Based on the data 15, "soul" is a reference that although it is in human beings, it is seen as an object itself not human as a whole living creature, then it is personified with the question "how old". This is grouped as personification.

The second last line in data 16 becomes the evidence that the song lyric is quite figurative. The phrase "our differences" is made alive since it is written that "they do a lot to teach us". Therefore, "they" refers to "differences". It is a personification. As read in the song lyric in data 17, the two last lines contains figurative language which is personification. The reference "morning" is not an animate object which is made alive as if it has capability to do "sings" from verb "to sing" and "brings" from "bringing". This makes the lyric more interesting.

As appeared in the data 18, there is a phrase in the last line tells a personification. The adjective "lucky" as a quality of human being is used for object "stars" as a non living thing. This aims at strengthening the meaning of words used in the lyric by the song writer.

It can be known from the lyric in data 19 that line 3 becomes so figurative. The object "scars" is made alive by being added verb "show". It shows the personification use which automatically beautifies the lyric to make song more poetic and influential to those who listen to it and understand the lyric.

From data 20, tt is able to infer that the second line contains personification as a figurative language. The noun phrase "whisper of smoke" is the existence of personification since "whisper" is logically from human beings but it is used for inanimate object "smoke". This shows the figurative part in the lyric of song.

By using language, humans can express thoughts, feelings, and abilities (creativity, taste, intention) to others. So by using language, humans can be creativeuse their creativity to produce a masterpiece. One form of creativity in using language is the use of language style in song lyrics. Song lyrics are essentially the same as poetry as one of the genres in literature. Song lyrics when viewed from the

angle of the concentration of the language used or the language used to express, in essence the language is dense like poetry.

Disclosure of feelings and thoughts conveyed in a concise and precise way, because is the expression and outpouring (content) of the heart of the song writer. In song lyrics, personification style plays a big role in creating beauty and make song lyrics look alive. The use of personification in song lyrics has a purpose imaging emotional features on inanimate objects that can move like living things (like a human or animal).

The personification in song lyrics functions to describe conditions/situations that seem alive and real, for reasons it can generate states, impressions and images for certain senses; and also can bring out the beauty (aesthetics) of the lyrics of the song itself.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that:

- The way that words are used in songs' lyrics and the messages they convey may all be more understood by readers and listeners when the language style is used. The words to the song make use of figurative language. Particularly, the figurative language discovered in this study is personification. Personification occurs frequently in wedding-themed song lyrics. Personification was employed by the songwriter to enhance, make more powerful, and make more beautiful the message of the lyrics. Personification is frequently used in song lyrics by prominent singers and bands.

- Lyrics of songs with wedding themes contain twenty personification data. Six of the phrases are categorized as casual personification (30%), nine are categorized as broad personification (45%), and the remaining five are categorized as representational personification (25%) (see Table 1). This indicates that type 2 personification is the most prevalent form in lyrics, while type 3 personification is the least common. The primary purpose of employing personification expressions in song lyrics is to make them more attractive or

decorative so that the audience will be drawn in and the message will be wonderfully conveyed to the listeners.

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