

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ALESANA'S ALBUM TRY THIS WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED

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Received: 20 May 2024

Accepted: 01 June 2024

Published: 08 June 2024

Abstract: The aim of this study was to examine the types and meaning of figurative language present in Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed*. A semantic approach and descriptive qualitative research methods were employed for this analysis. The figurative language theory by Miles and Huberman (1994) guided the data analysis. Data collection was carried out through documentation, which included three steps: listening to the songs, transcribing the lyrics, and highlighting the lyrics containing figurative language. The focus was on three types of figurative language: metaphor, hyperbole, and irony. The results of this study explain how figurative language plays an important role in song lyrics to convey meaning indirectly and add a dramatic impression, there are 23 metaphor, 18 hyperbole and 7 irony, out of the five chosen songs in this album, there are also data that have two figurative language at the same time, for a total of 48 figurative language found. The analysis revealed that metaphors were the most frequently used figurative language in the album's lyrics.

Keywords: *Semantics approach, Figurative Language, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Irony.*

INTRODUCTION

Languages can be expressed through both spoken and written mediums. Language is not solely defined by its phonetic, morphemic, and grammatical aspects but also by its inherent meaning. According to Maru (2016, p. 7), in social interactions, some individuals convey more through their communication than just words, they employ language that hints at deeper meanings beyond its literal interpretation.

According to Sondakh et al., Semantics delves into examining the connections between words and how we derive meaning from them. Semantics is the field of study that examines meanings, including the examination of symbols or signs that convey meaning and their effect on individuals and society. According to (Griffiths,

2006), the term 'semantics' had its roots in the Greek language, specifically derived from 'sema' or 'semainen,' signifying conveying meaning. Therefore, figurative language is essentially a component of semantics because semantics delves into how words convey meaning, According to Griffiths (2006:81), a figurative interpretation can be understood as an explicature that involves interpreting one or more words as if they had meanings different from their literal definitions. We use figurative language on a regular basis, and it's a great communication tool that helps us convey complex ideas or feelings clearly and quickly. Figurative language employs figures of speech, extending beyond the literal meanings of words (Perrine, 1963).

Known by another name, figures of speech are a powerful tool for persuasion, engagement, and audience connection that helps us convey our desired message (Sondakh et al., 2023). Figurative language involves communication utilizing words that carry meanings distinct from their literal interpretations. There are several types of figurative language according to Perrine (1969), including personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and so on. And this research only focuses on the three types of figurative language, the first is metaphor, metaphor is a linguistic device without using the word "like" or "as" to compare an object with another object. Instead, it states clearly that the two things are similar. Employing metaphorical imagery allows us to better understand abstract concepts, suggesting a significant potential for enhancing social intelligence (Shavkatjonova, 2022). The second is hyperbole, according to Bian et al., 2021, hyperbole as a rhetorical method that intentionally employs exaggerated words to evoke and enhance strong emotional responses. And lastly is irony, Irony is a part of speech that conveys a different meaning or purpose from what the words literally express (Hanisfi et al., 2022). Irony occurs when there's a disconnect between what is said or expected and what actually happens, often revealing a contradiction or unexpected outcome.

This study aims to explore the figurative language used in the songs of Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed*, analyze and describe their meanings, and contribute to the broader understanding of figurative language in musical contexts. Alesana, a post-hardcore band from Raleigh, North Carolina, is renowned for their captivating music and emotionally resonant lyrics. They have released several notable

albums, including "Try This With Your Eyes Closed" (2005), "On Frail Wings of Vanity and Wax" (2006), "Where Myth Fades to Legend" (2008), "The Emptiness" (2010), "A Place Where the Sun Is Silent" (2011), and "The Decade" (2014). Based on the above description, the researcher decided to conduct a study titled: "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Alesana's Album Try This With Your Eyes Closed."

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research method, commonly referred to as descriptive research. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1992), qualitative research is a descriptive method in which data is gathered in the form of words rather than numbers.

Data collection

In collecting the data, the researcher used several procedures, Firstly, the researcher listened to the songs from Alesana's album Try This With Your Eyes Closed. second, the researcher reading the lyrics carefully, after reading the lyrics, the researcher underlined the lyrics that contains of figurative language.

Data analysis

For analyzing the data, the researcher employed the qualitative data analysis method outlined by Miles and Huberman (1994). The process proceeded as follows.

1) Data reduction

Data reduction involves the selection and reducing data. The researcher gathered data by choosing lyrics from Alesana's album Try This With Your Eyes Closed containing figurative language. After selecting these lyrics, the researcher categorized them according to types of figurative language. Consequently, any lyrics lacking figurative language were excluded from the analysis.

2) *Data display*

The researcher displayed the selected data in a table, organizing them by the different types of figurative language. Each instance of figurative language was classified according to its specific type.

3) *Conclusions drawing*

The conclusion was derived from the evidence collected during the study, allowing the analyzed data to address the question of figurative language in Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed*.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter presents the analyzed results of figurative language found in the lyrics of selected songs from the post-hardcore band Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed*. These findings are relevant to the objectives of the research on figurative language.

Data reduction

No	Name of song	Data analysis	Line	Figurative language
1	Congratulations, I Hate You	I hate your pity	7	Hyperbole
		Taste your vanity and its sweet bitterness	8	Metaphor
		My stolen hopes and lost dreams (I watched you steal my thoughts)	10	Metaphor
		As you build your dreams on my shattered hopes	12	Metaphor
		Swallow your pity	18	Metaphor
		And listen to my hopeless cries	20	Hyperbole

			I lust to see you swallowed by the mess that you left in your wake	23	Hyperbole
			My envy can't describe how i loathe you for having all the stars	33	Hyperbole
2	Apology		I'll tear off your face to see your smile	40	Metaphor & Hyperbole
			Tonight you are everything	3	Hyperbole
			And to think that you will not be scared or surprised I severed all these ties	11	Metaphor
			I'll lose myself in anguish for tonight	14	Hyperbole
			One last false apology	22	Irony
			Urgency overwhelms me as I must restrain my flood of tears	25	Hyperbole
			I refuse to be slave to your false beauty again	26	Metaphor
3	Ending Stories	Without	This time I die!	1	Hyperbole
			Our love ruined by your malignance	2	Metaphor
			I watched the smile fading from your face	6	Metaphor
			You bled till there was nothing in your veins	7	Metaphor & Hyperbole
			Blood stains my hands so I won't forget you	8	Metaphor
			Caress this bullet as eyes close to the painful memories you left	14	Metaphor
			My vision of you has now turned to dust	16	Metaphor
			Your porcelain smile gone	17	Irony

		I love your meaningless words that slip away as i slit your throat	25	Irony
4	And They Call This Tragedy	I will slit your throat	27	Hyperbole
		You make me sick	1	Hyperbole
		I'll tear out those diamond eyes i can't bear to see	2	Metaphor & Hyperbole
		Crimson spills on paper skin	3	Metaphor
		Remembering the nights when you'd whisper to me soft, "forever more my heart is yours" realize those words have died	5	Hyperbole & Irony
		As the life fades from your eyes	7	Metaphor
		All that i can say is it may not be too late	8	Irony
		If i can not be loved then none shall be	11	Hyperbole
		Your face disgusts me, smile and bear your lies	14	Metaphor
		To kill the memory of you, and you said this would be forever	23	Irony
5	Red and Dying Evening	A lovely evening draped in regret	8	Irony
		The shadow of justice now engulfs you	9	Metaphor
		As cold hands reap the pain they've sewn	10	Metaphor
		Suffocate your will to live with my pain	20	Metaphor & Hyperbole
		You were so easily seduced by greed	21	Metaphor

You could never feel my calloused hands closing around your throat	22	Hyperbole
Wake into the nightmare that has become our love	24	Metaphor
May your screams never cease	25	Hyperbole
A knight in shining armor can make your dreams come true	45	Metaphor

Data display

Metaphor

A. First song Congratulations, I Hate You

Data 1

Taste your vanity and its sweet bitterness (L8)

In this phrase, the word "taste" is used to convey the idea of seeing what it's like. "vanity" means thinking too highly or being excessively proud of oneself. The juxtaposition of "sweet" and "bitterness" creates a powerful contrast that adds depth to the metaphor. The intended meaning of the lyrics is to experience the consequences of being overly prideful. The phrase suggests experiencing both the pleasure and the regret that come with being selfish.

Data 2

My stolen hopes and lost dreams (I watched you steal my thoughts) (L10)

The words "stolen" and "lost" are not meant to be taken literally; the hopes and dreams haven't actually been stolen or lost like physical objects. Instead, they metaphorically represent the feelings of disappointment and loss of hope. The meaning of this lyric is that the author is desperate and has no purpose anymore.

Data 3

As you build your dreams on my shattered hopes (L12)

The lines above contain metaphors. The phrase "build your dream" represents the ambition to achieve something, while "shattered hopes" describes the profound disappointment and feelings of betrayal. The meaning of the lyrics is that a person is building their happiness on top of the author's suffering.

Data 4

Swallow your pity (L18)

This line is a metaphor, the "swallow" represents hiding or do not showing. The meaning of these lyrics imply that the author doesn't want or need the person sympathy, they're urging the listener to keep it to themselves.

Data 5

I'll tear off your face to see your smile (L40)

In this line, "Tear off your face" does not involve the literal act of physically tearing someone's face off. Instead, it serves as a metaphor to convey the author's anger and hatred, symbolizing their desire to uncover the true emotions. the meaning of this lyric is the author believes that the person addressed in the lyrics is not genuinely sympathizing but rather pretending to be concerned. Behind this facade of concern, the person is actually smiling

B. Second song Apology

Data 1

And to think that you will not be scared or surprised I severed all these ties (L11)

In this line, the author draws a comparison between "ties" and "relationships". Therefore, the intended meaning of this sentence is that the author terminates the relationship with the person being referred to in the lyrics.

Data 2

I refuse to be slave to your false beauty again (L26)

In the lyrics above, the author is not literally a slave but analogizes "a slave" with the situation of being controlled. The meaning of this lyric is that the author is tired and runs out of patience due to being bridled by his beautiful but manipulative lover.

C. Third song Ending Without Stories

Data 1

Our love ruined by your malignance (L2)

The phrase "your malignance" is used metaphorically to represent destructive behavior. The meaning of this lyric is that the author shows that the behavior of the person referred to in the lyric has damaged the love relationship between the author and that person.

Data 2

I watched the smile fading from your face (L6)

in this line represents a change in a person's mood. The "smile fading from your face" marks an emotional shift from happiness to a sad state. the meaning of this lyric is that the author seeing the moment when the person was sad.

Data 3

You bled till there was nothing in your veins (L7)

In this line the author analogizes suffering with physical bleeding, this metaphor emphasizes the depth of emotion of the person addressed in the lyrics. the meaning of this lyric is that the person is experiencing a problem so great that they have been drained of their emotional vitality.

Data 4

Blood stains my hands so I won't forget you (L8)

In this line, the phrase "blood stains" does not refer to literal blood on the hands, but analogizes the bad memories left by the person addressed in the lyrics. The meaning of this lyric is that the person's negative memories are not forgotten and may even leave traces in the author's life.

Data 5

Caress this bullet as eyes close to the painful memories you left (L14)

In this line, the phrase "caress this bullet" is analogized to the act of wanting to end life with a firearm. The meaning of this lyric is that the author wishes to commit suicide as a means to escape from the painful memories associated with the person mentioned in the lyrics, seeking to bury them forever.

Data 6

My vision of you has now turned to dust (L16)

this line compares "vision of you" and "dust". This shows a profound change in the way the author sees or thinks about the person. The meaning of this lyric is that the author's perception of the person referred to in the lyric has deteriorated or disintegrated, just as something solid turns to dust.

D. Fourth song And They Call This Tragedy

Data 1

I'll tear out those diamond eyes I can't bear to see (L2)

In this line, "diamond eyes" is not meant to be interpreted literally as actual diamonds in the person's eye sockets, instead, it serves as a metaphor for the eyes of someone who is very attractive. The meaning of this lyric is that the author is unable to look into the beautiful eyes of the person due to their strong negative feelings toward them.

Data 2

Crimson spills on paper skin (L3)

Instead of directly stating that blood is spilling, the word "crimson" is used to refer to blood. It's a figurative way to describe the color of blood. The meaning of this lyric is blood spilled on the skin.

Data 3

As the life fades from your eyes (L7)

this is a figurative way of describing the moment of death, the sentence "life fades from your eyes" it shows that someone's eyes which are usually associated with life, gradually lose their activity. this analogizes the life fading to the dying state of a person.

Data 4

Your face disgusts me, smile and bear your lies (L14)

In this line, the author doesn't literally feel disgusted by the person's physical appearance but expresses a strong hatred towards them. This metaphor uses the concept of the "face" as an analogy for the person's personality itself. The meaning of this lyric is that the author despises the person because of their lies.

E. Fifth song Red And Dying Evening

Data 1

The shadow of justice now engulfs you (L9)

in this line, "the shadow of justice" is used as a metaphor that represents justice as a force that is ready to take action or judge. the meaning of this lyric is that the person referred to in the lyric will be responsible for the consequences of his actions.

Data 2

As cold hands reap the pain they've sewn (L10)

In this line, "cold hands" does not refer to literal hands, but symbolizes those responsible for the pain. This metaphor suggests that the person's actions have caused suffering and are now coming back to affect them. "Reap the pain they've sewn" compares the consequences of their actions to a harvest, emphasizing that they are experiencing the results of their painful deeds.

Data 3

Suffocate your will to live with my pain (L20)

In this line, "suffocate" symbolizes the idea that the author's pain is so overwhelming that it can destroy the desire of others to continue living. the meaning of this lyric is that the author feels hurt so that it can make others feel guilty about enjoying life.

Data 4

You were so easily seduced by greed (L21)

In this line, the phrase "seduced by greed" analogizes the fragility of a person who is easily tempted by something negative. the meaning of this lyric is that the person cannot resist the misleading temptation.

Data 5

Wake into the nightmare that has become our love (L24)

In this line, "the nightmare that has become our love" uses a metaphor to describe the state of the author's love as a nightmare. it is not meant to be a literal nightmare but symbolizes a relationship that has been filled with difficulties and challenges. the meaning of this lyric is that the love relationship has deteriorated to the point where it is emotionally painful.

Data 6

A knight in shining armor can make your dreams come true (L45)

In this line, "A knight in shining armor" is not meant literally a medieval knight but analogizes a perfect heroic figure who can fulfill the wishes of the person referred to in the lyrics. The meaning of the lyrics is actually a sarcasm, that is, someone else who are more perfect can fulfill the person's wishes, but not the author.

Hyperbole

A. First song Congratulations, I Hate You

Data 1

I hate your pity (L7)

This line is expressing intense resentment toward the pity they receive, emphasizing the strength of their negative emotions through the use of the word "hate" The meaning of the lyrics is that the author wants to convey that he does not want to receive any sympathy from the person referred to in the lyric, because the only person who makes him filling with hatred is that person.

Data 2

And listen to my hopeless cries (L20)

this line is a hyperbole, the "hopeless cries" is an exaggerated way to describe the intensity of the author emotional pain or depression. The meaning of the lyrics above is that the author wants to be understood and noticed that he is depressed.

Data 3

I lust to see you swallowed by the mess that you left in your wake (L23)

This lyric is a hyperbole, the word "lust" emphasizes the intensity of the author emotions. the meaning of this lyric is that the author wants to see the people who hurt him get karma from their own actions.

Data 4

My Envy can't describe how i loathe you for having all the stars (L33)

This is an hyperbole, "the stars" represent dreams goals. The speaker is exaggerating, saying the person they're talking about has achieved or gotten everything they dream of, as if they've captured all the stars in the sky the meaning of the lyrics above is that the author is feeling very jealous of the person addressed in the song because they consistently get what they want.

Data 5

I'll tear off your face to see your smile (L40)

In this line, "I'll tear off your face" seems to describe the author hate and anger. The meaning of the lyrics is to emphasize their intense desire to see the true emotions behind the other person's smile.

B. Second song Apology

Data 1

Tonight you are everything (L3)

The phrase "you are everything" exaggerates the importance of the person referenced in the lyrics, extending to the literal sense of encompassing all aspects. The intended meaning of the lyrics is to convey the author deep admiration and love for the person referred to on that particular night.

Data 2

I'll lose myself in anguish for tonight (L14)

In this line, the author exaggerates his emotional distress and suffering by stating "lose myself in anguish". The author uses hyperbole to express his profound sadness. The meaning of these lyrics is that the author felt deep sadness on that night.

Data 3

Urgency overwhelms me as I must restrain my flood of tears (L25)

In this line, the “flood of tears” does not mean a literal flood, but the author uses hyperbole to describe his feelings. The meaning of this lyric is that the author has many problems that make him really sad and want to cry.

C. Third song Ending Without Stories

Data 1

This time I die! (L1)

In this line, the phrase “I die” is not meant to be taken literally as the physical death of the author but rather as an exaggerated statement to emphasize the emotional impact felt by the author. The meaning of this lyric is that the author is experiencing a moment of deep emotional change, where something within them ends or undergoes a significant transformation.

Data 2

You bled till there was nothing in your veins (L7)

In this line, the author uses hyperbole because it exaggerates the person's emotional suffering. In reality, although a person can experience deep suffering, emotions are not physically stored in blood veins, and the author uses hyperbole to emphasize the depth of their emotional suffering. This suggests that the person is experiencing such extreme emotional suffering, that they are completely drained or emptied of their emotions, as if there is nothing left in them.

Data 3

I will slit your throat (L27)

In this line, the hyperbole is used to convey a sense of extreme vengeance or anger. the author is not literally planning to slit someone's throat but his using this hyperbolic language to express their anger, betrayal, or a desire for retribution. It's an

exaggerated way to express the intensity of their feelings and the severity of the situation or conflict being depicted in the song. The meaning of this lyric is that the person wants revenge so that the person referred to in the lyric can feel extreme heartache.

D. Fourth song And They Call This Tragedy

Data 1

You make me sick (L1)

in this sentence the author does not literally state that the person made them physically sick, but uses the phrase to convey a strong sense of anger. the meaning of this lyric is that the author wants to emphasize how much the person's actions have negatively affected him.

Data 2

I'll tear out those diamond eyes i can't bear to see (L2)

In this line the author exaggerates the statement by using the word "tear out", this statement does not literally mean that the author will physically tear out the person's eyes, instead the author uses this exaggeration to express a very strong sense of anger, especially their incapability to look into the person's eyes because of strong negative feelings.

Data 3

Remembering the nights when you'd whisper to me soft, "forever more my heart is yours" (L5)

The hyperbole in this lyric can be found in the phrase "forever more my heart is yours." This statement is hyperbole because it is an exaggerated statement of love.

Data 4

If I can not be loved then none shall be (L11)

In this line, the hyperbole is evident in the speaker's declaration that "none shall be" loved if they cannot be loved. This is an exaggerated statement that implies that the speaker's inability to be loved somehow will prevent anyone from experiencing love. The meaning of these lyrics is that the author is emphasizing how crucial love is to them and how strongly they feel its absence.

E. Fifth song Red And Dying Evening

Data 1

Suffocate your will to live with my pain (L20)

The use of "suffocate" can be seen as hyperbolic. It exaggerates the impact of the speaker's pain to an extreme degree, suggesting that it is so intense that it could completely extinguish the other person's will to live. This is a dramatic way of conveying the emotional burden the speaker feels.

Data 2

You could never feel my calloused hands closing around your throat (L22)

The hyperbole in this line lies in the extreme way the threat is described. The phrase "my calloused hands closing around your throat" is an extreme way to convey the level of violence. Although the physical act of strangling someone is serious, the use of "closing around your throat" in this context makes the threat sound even more severe.

Data 3

May your screams never cease (L25)

The hyperbole in the lyric lies in the use of the phrase "never cease". In reality, most screams are brief and don't continue endlessly. However, by saying never cease the lyric exaggerates the wish into an extreme level. The meaning of this lyric is that the author wishes for the person to suffer forever.

Irony

A. Second song Apology

Data 1

One last false apology (L22)

In this line, the author says something that is contrary to the actual intention. The irony in this lyric lies in "false apology". The meaning of the lyrics above is that someone apologizes to the author but the apology is not sincere as a real apology, so this is the last time the author hears the apology and will soon forget that person.

B. Third song Ending Without Stories

Data 1

Your porcelain smile gone (L17)

In this line, the use of "porcelain smile" is ironic because porcelain is associated with being perfect, and unbreakable, but the phrase "gone" implies that the smile is no longer present. The irony lies in the contrast between the fragility and perfection often associated with porcelain and the idea that the smile has disappeared. Essentially, the line suggests that the smile was not as perfect or enduring as one might expect, subverting the initial impression created by the word "porcelain". The meaning of this lyric is that the author no longer admires the person referred to in the lyric.

Data 2

I love your meaningless words that slip away as I slit your throat (L25)

In this sentence, the irony lies in the phrase "I love your meaningless words". The speaker is saying they love something that is described as "meaningless". This creates a sharp contrast between the stated emotion of love and the negative characterization

of the words as meaningless. The irony is intensified by the violent and morbid imagery that follows

C. Forth song And They Call This Tragedy

Data 1

Remembering the nights when you'd whisper to me soft, "forever more my heart is yours" realize those words have died (L5)

The irony in these lyrics lies in the contradiction between the initial statement of eternal love "forever more my heart is yours" and the subsequent statement that "those words have died". The irony is found in the fact that the commitment expressed in the past has now vanished. The use of the word died is ironic because it implies the opposite of eternal love. The meaning of these lyrics is to depict the disappointment of changes in the relationship and unfulfilled promises of eternal love.

Data 2

All that I can say is it may not be too late (L8)

This phrase appears to express hope however, the irony lies in the fact that the speaker is saying this in the context of a situation where there is no chance for a positive outcome. the use of "may not be too late" implies that there is still hope but in reality, it is too late to change the situation, given the theme of this song about lost love and the end of a relationship. the meaning of this lyric is that the author hopes that the relationship can still be repaired even though he knows that in fact their relationship is coming to an end.

Data 3

To kill the memory of you, and you said this would be forever (L23)

The irony in this line serves to emphasize the emotion of the author as it highlights the contradiction between the speaker's desire to "kill the memory of you" and the previous statement of the person they are addressing, "and you said this would be

forever." the irony lies between the author's intention to erase the memory of someone and the assurance of permanence in the relationship. the meaning of this lyric is that the author wants to break his relationship with the person even though they have committed to be together forever.

D. Fifth song Red And Dying Evening

Data 1

A lovely evening draped in regret (L8)

The irony in this lyric comes from the juxtaposition of "lovely evening" with "regret." The word lovely suggests an enjoyable experience, while regret implies a sorrowful feeling. The irony lies in the contradiction between the expectation of a pleasant evening and the reality of regret, highlighting the discrepancy between reality. The meaning of this lyric is that the evening is beautiful, but the author feels sadness and regret.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed*, it is clear that the lyrics heavily employ figurative language. This study focuses on three specific types: metaphor, hyperbole, and irony. Out of 43 instances identified, 23 are metaphors, 18 are hyperboles, and 7 are instances of irony. Some instances contain two types of figurative language at the same time, bringing the total to 48 instances across the five selected songs. This study not only highlights the prevalence of figurative language but also details its distribution within the album. Metaphor is the most frequently used, while irony is the least common. Unlike previous research, this study examines the more poetic lyrics of Alesana's songs, which have not been analyzed before. It can also be seen that the figurative language used in Alesana's album *Try This With Your Eyes Closed* tells the story of various emotional experiences, they are about love, loss, sadness, and inner struggle. The varying frequencies of different types of figurative language indicate the depth of the album's meaning.

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