



Understanding Figurative language at the Eighth Semester Students of English Language Education Study Program

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to know the Students' Ability in understanding Figurative language at the eight year students of English language education study program of UNCP. This study focuses on figurative testing specially in metaphor test. Quantitative descriptive method is the research design that the researcher used in this research. The population in this research was the eight year students of English Language Education Study Program, and sample in this research was 30 students. The ability of students is very poor that the mean score was 32.67 which is classified into "low level" score category.

Keywords: Reading, Figurative Language, Metaphor.

A. Introduction

Language is one of the most important things in communication and it is used as a tool of communication among the nations in all over the world. As an international language, English is very important and has many interrelationships with various aspects of life owned by human being. Language is a process of communication between someone who has something and someone who receives the message. English is one kind of foreign language, and becomes international communication tool. People all over the world used English as the

international language. They need English in every activity like trading, education or even in science and technology. By using English, people are able to improve the ability in understanding many kinds of knowledge. English is taught in the school, which has functions as a means of developing students' knowledge and technology. They learn to speak and to understand it in their school. Their language ability will grows as they learn to read and write the sentences.

There are many types of sentences known in Indonesian. One type of sentence that is often used is *majas*. *Majas* itself has a characteristic of the style of language used, one of which is figurative language. Figurative language in Widiyanti (2007) is a kind of language that uses figures of speech as a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the words. The use of figurative language in literary works is intended to obtain aesthetic or beauty effects, so readers will be more interested.

Based on the subjects that have been studied are semantic, pragmatic and interpretation subjects. The researcher tries to match the material that was made into the title of the research, which is figurative language, and basically this material has the same effect in interpreting the language to be conveyed in a word or language. Researcher found that students had problems interpreting the meaning of English song lyrics. When they listen to the song lyrics, they really don't understand the meaning, sometimes students are confused about the meaning of the song, and interpret the words for the song, so the meaning was very different, as we know in English different writings was mean different. This problem is very important to solve, because students get problems, when they do not understand the meaning of the song.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in conducting research at the student level, with the title "Understanding Figurative Language in Western song at students of the eight years of English language Education study program", researcher tried to use figurative language to determine students' abilities from high, medium, and low level, and also researcher try to use western songs, as a medium to test students' understanding in interpreting western songs.

Based on the background above, the researcher would like to present the research question: How is the students' ability in understanding figurative language in western song at the eight year students of English Language Education Study Program?

The result of the research can be see the level of students' ability to understanding figurative language in western song, and this research can be a reference for the next researchers, who are going to research about figurative language.

In this research, researcher focused on students' ability in understanding figurative language. The researcher focused metaphorical meaning as the kind of figurative language. The researcher focused on knowing the students' ability in understanding high, middle, and low Ability.

B. Literature Review

1. Figurative language

According (X.J. Kennedy in Widiyanto 2018, figurative language is language that uses figures of speech. A figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the world. Figure of speech may be said occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words.

It is believed that figurative language could convey meaning which cannot be expressed exactly any other way. In a short definition figurative language is a different way of saying something other than its ordinary way to make the language sounds more beautiful. The figurative language can be found in many kinds of literature's works like poetry, prose fiction, and also non-fiction.

The figure of speech is flowery words, not in the actual sense of the word, figurative words are used to give a sense of beauty and emphasis on the importance of things to be conveyed, figurative words are often found in poems and songs. In describing meaning, figurative words make people guess in interpreting sentences. In responding to this problem, figurative words are a variety of languages used to express a meaning, contained in every literary work, which is expressed indirectly in a lecture.

Figurative language in Arifah (2016) is part of the semantic. As we know that with semantic we can know the true meaning in a song. Figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. Figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song, can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This study attempts to provide a description about figurative in human daily life. this chapter will discuss about the types of figurative language, they are hiperbola, simile, personification, and metaphor.

There are 8 types of figurative language contained in the song as follows:

a. Hyperbola

Hyperbola in Hamzah (2014) is a type of language style which contains a statement that exaggerates the amount, its size or its nature, with the intention of emphasizing a statement or situations to intensify, enhance the impression and influence.

b. Simile

Simile in Sumarni 2017 comes from Latin which is simile which means "like" Meanwhile, according to the Big Indonesian Language Dictionary (KBBI), Majas simile is a linkage that compares two things that are essentially different, but are considered to contain similar aspects, expressed explicitly in the words: like, like. Explicit comparisons on the Majas simile can be interpreted as giving meaning to things / things that are compared directly with the words that are the parable.

c. Personification

Personification In Mutia 2016 is a form that describes abstract objects or inanimate objects as if they have human nature, in these inanimate objects as if they were living and behaving like humans.

d. Allusion

There is one type of Figurative Language found in the second song lyric. *Only miss the sun when it starts to snow* as shown in the data above is an allusion of a reference to warmth. The use of allusion is a reference to some wellknown place, event, or person

e. Irony

Line thirty-three shown in the data above is irony. The sentence *You learn to need the things that stop you dreaming* is an irony because no one wanted to learn the things that stop a dream, but we must learn the thing that made the dream come true through an effort and perseverance.

f. Paradox

We're born with millions of little lights shining in the dark is one of an example from paradox, and is illogical because in general, we were born by the medical team, not by the millions of little lights.

g. Metonymy

Metonymy in Antonius 2017 can be interpreted as the style of language that uses names an item to state something else that has a close relationship. Language style metonymy can be seen in the following lyrics:

‘And I don’t know any more if you appreciate pain too hard to confine him and when you will go to, tonight, don’t forget me’.

h. Metonymy

This Majas in Isabella is often used in the form of figurative words to complement the language style elements in the work. In contrast to other Majas, the metaphorical assembly has special characteristics not shared by other majors. This is important to know so that we do not misidentify the majas in a literary work. For this purpose, the Knowledge blog presents articles that you are currently reading for readers. Our discussion is detailed into two parts, namely the understanding of the metaphorical form and the example of the metaphorical approach.

The metaphorical phase is an illustration that describes something with direct and precise comparisons on the basis of the same or almost the same nature. In another sense, Majas Metaphor is the use of words or groups of words that are not true meanings, but as paintings based on equality or comparison. This feature is the use of figurative words and there are choices of words that equate something with something else. In equating or comparing something, the metaphorical majors use direct comparison without being followed by comparative words such as, like, like, or like. The metaphorical rank itself falls into the comparison category.

This research the researcher did on figurative language contained in western song, where students are expected to be able to understand the meaning of Metaphor contained in the western song lyric. Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that semantics is the study of real meaning or meaning. The meaning of those things comes from many thoughts and many theories. All theories have the same conclusion that every work absolutely has its meaning. Sometimes semantics use associative meanings in text or manuscripts to make the meaning of sentences in the text or in the lyrics more beautiful.

One language study that discusses the continuity of meaning is a metaphor. Metaphor not only adds strength to a linguistic expression, but also to the equation or comparison of the ideas conveyed.

Moeliono in Hartanto 2018, clarifies the notion of metaphor into two parts, namely in the narrow sense and the broad meaning, in the strict ‘sense narrow’ metaphor is an implicit form of figurative or advanced language, without using the auxiliary word “as” “like’ and “like” (example : baby, golden baby, etc.). metaphor in the “board sense “ includes all forms of majors, which are divided into three majors categories, namely comparison meetings, majors of contradictions, and linkages.

2. Function of metaphor

According to leech in Hartanto 2018 the function of using oral form metaphors, grouped into several types of function, including:

1. Information Function

What is meant by the information function here is the use of speech language metaphorically, whose function is a means to convey information about the thoughts and feelings of the speaker to the opponent he said. The characteristics of the function of

information are the characterization that is implied in the message that is conveyed and the bias containing ideas, beliefs, certainty, anger, worries, anxiety, and courage. Language which means figurative (majas) with elements that containing comparisons.

2. Expressive Function

What is meant by an expressive functioning metaphor is the delivery of the use of language speech metaphorically containing an expectation in accordance with the expectations and desires of the speaker to the opponent he said. The characteristics of the function with the implicit meaning indicates the direction, suggestion, or expectation.

3. Function of the Directive

What is meant by directive function if the language speech is metaphorically contains elements that can influence attitudes, and independence. Usually the characteristic function of the directive is marked by commands, instructions, threats, or questions.

4. Fatik Function

What is meant by fatigue function when the language speech metaphorically contains elements that can inform the message with the aim of keeping the relationship in harmony. Its characteristic include the use of language which means good and bad relationships, the closeness of social relations, the relationship of intimacy, kinship relations between speakers and opponents said.

C. Methodology

1. Research Design

The design of this research is descriptive quantitative. Creswell (2003) stated that descriptive research aims to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or phenomenon. It can answer *what, when, where, when* and *how* questions, but not *why* questions. To determine cause and effect, experimental research is required. A descriptive research design can use a wide variety of quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate one or more variables. Unlike in experimental research, the researcher does not control or manipulate any of the variables, but only observes and measures them

The researcher was conducted a test. It was done in one meeting for the test. The results of this research was determine the significance of students' Ability in understanding figurative language, contained in western song using a metaphorical meaning, to know students' Abilities.

This research was conducted at Cokroaminoto Palopo University, especially for the eight year students of English Language Education Study Program. This research was conducted in April 2019.

2. Population and Sample

The population of this research was the eight year Students of English Language Education Study Program, in Academy year 2018/2019. There are 3 classes in the eight Semesters. The total of population was 173 students. This research used cluster sampling as sampling technique. The researcher chose one class in 8B as the sample of the research. The total number of sample was 30 students.

3. Technique of Data Collection

Technique of collecting data in this research is observation technique. The step to collect the data as below:

- a. The researcher explained what the students will do.

- b. The researcher distributed the paper in the form of song lyrics to see the ability of students. It is done to know the ability of students in understanding figurative language in western song.
- c. The researcher collected the data and analyzed the data.

4. Instruments

The instrument of this research is test, researcher gave the text in song lyrics, then the researcher gave the test to the students related the text in song lyrics. It is meant to know the students' understanding the meaning in the figurative language contained in western song lyrics.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

After finding the figurative language in the data source, the first step in this research is to analyze the students' ability to understand western song lyrics. Second discuss data from each category.

To analyze the data, the researcher conducted some steps as follow:

1. Scoring the students' answer

Scoring = $\frac{\text{Students correct answer}}{\text{Total numbers of items}} \times 100$

Source : Rusdi (In Aisyah, 2013 :27)

2. To understand the level of the students score, was use the following classification:

Table 1. Classification of Students Score

No	Classification	Range
1.	Excellent	96-100
2.	Very good	86-95
3.	Good	76-85
4.	Fairly good	66-75
5.	Fair	56-65
6.	Poor	36-55
7.	Very poor	0-35

Therefore, students who get score between 86-100 was categorized into high level, then when the range of score between 66-85, was categorized into middle level, and below 0-65, was categorized into low level.

D. Findings and Discussion

1. Findings

In this finding the researcher reported the analysis of the data collected and the application of the technique explained in the previous chapter. The finding is processed to find out, the achievement of the students ability in figurative language in western song. This part presented the result of the reading song lyrics and understood the meaning. The test consisted of 20 item question in figurative test. The table below presents the students' raw score in identifying figurative test through metaphorical meaning, which consist of 20 items.

a. The Students' Score in the Test***The students' score of answering the test*****Table. 1** The students' score of test

No.	Samples	Score	Classification
1	S1	25	Very poor
2	S2	25	Very poor
3	S3	25	Very poor
4	S4	50	Poor
5	S5	40	Poor
6	S6	45	Poor
7	S7	45	Poor
8	S8	45	Poor
9	S9	30	Very Poor
10	S10	45	Poor
11	S11	45	Poor
12	S12	35	Very Poor
13	S13	35	Very Poor
14	S14	35	Very Poor
15	S15	35	Very Poor
16	S16	35	Very Poor
17	S17	35	Very Poor
18	S18	35	Very Poor
19	S19	35	Very Poor
20	S20	30	Very Poor
21	S21	30	Very Poor
22	S22	25	Very Poor
23	S23	25	Very Poor
24	S24	40	Poor
25	S25	25	Very Poor
26	S26	15	Very Poor
27	S27	25	Very Poor
28	S28	20	Very Poor
29	S29	20	Very Poor
30	S30	20	Very Poor
Total		980	
Mean		32.67	Very Poor

Based on the table 1, the researcher could see that the most students had poor ability in answering the question correctly. Therefore the result of the students answer is poor. Table above shows that the high students number 20 with score 8 (Poor) and 22 (Very Poor). The means score of all students is score 32.67 (Very Poor) this classification is low ability.

The scoring classification and rate of the students, the researcher classification students score based on the table score and classified their score in to table as follow:

Table 2. The Rate Percentage of the Students' Ability test Score

No.	Classification	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Excellent	96-100	0	0
2	Very good	86-95	0	0
3	Good	76-85	0	0
4	Fairly good	66-75	0	0
5	Fair	56-65	0	0
6	Poor	36-55	8	13.3
7	Very poor	0-35	22	6.7
Total			30	100

Based on table 2, the researcher found that students' ability in reading ability test is in very poor classification. It is proven by the table above is there are 30 students' ability, researcher it is found that none of them got excellent, very good, good, fairly good and fair, there are 8 (13.3%) students classified as poor, and 22 (6.7%) students classified as very poor.

The Students ability in figurative test is low level. It was proven by the means score of students and also classification of students' achievement. Therefore reading ability test is not effective in teaching at the eight year semester.

b. The Mean Score, Standard Deviation of Test

Table 3. The mean score and standard deviation of test.

Type of test	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Test	30	32.67	9.444

The data shows that the mean score of the students is 32.67. It means that the students ability to understand figurative language in western song still low level. And the standard deviation is 9.444.

2. Discussion

The ability of students about figurative language is still needed to be improved. When the researcher collecting the data, researcher explained what the students did about the test. The researcher distributed the paper in the form of song lyrics. It has been done to know the ability of students in understanding figurative language in western song especially metaphorical meaning.

When doing the research, the researcher observed the situation in the classroom a little noisy, because the first time they regrouped in a classroom again. The researcher has a little problem in collecting samples because the samples have been busy with various activities, who if to campus only at certain time. They were very enthusiastic about receiving and working on the test, but there was little concern because they were afraid of being wrong and their names would be published.

From the data finding the result of the figurative test shows, that the students test ability is categorized into low level classification in the figurative test through western song lyrics. It is found that not ones got excellent, very good, good, fairly good, and fair. There were 8 (13.3%) students classified as poor, and 22 (6.7%) students classified as very poor, the test consisted of 20 items questions in figurative test and a total sample of 30 students. In general, we could test through western song but it was still difficult to be mastered and understood the meaning of the song by the eight year semester English Language Education study Program especially in class 8B.

From the test, the following are examples of song lyrics that contain true and false metaphor meaning. For example "My head is circus" its means that the brain full of case, where one's thoughts are really chaotic, from 30 samples only 7 students answered correctly. And the next question " You kept me breathing under the water" its means that comparing something with the impossible, if it is related to real life, no human can breathe in water, from 30 samples only 8 students answered correctly. And the last question "You where the light that shone through the darkness" its means that someone who is very meaningful, the meaning someone who is able to provide a source of strength or enthusiasm in his life, from 30 samples only 6 students answered correctly.

According to Kennedy in Widiyanto (2018), figurative language uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive, and impactful. Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and allusions go beyond the literal meanings of the words to give readers new insights. On the other hand, alliterations, imageries, or onomatopoeias are figurative devices that appeal to the senses of the readers.

As the students, they need to understand the meaning and message from the song in order that they increase their knowledge. Many students read the text song lyrics without knowing or understanding main idea the meaning and the content of the lyrics. It can be said that the students still need many improvement especially for figurative language, and then the lecturer also should find out the appropriate way in teaching figurative language.

E. Conclusion

The Ability of students in the eight year semester of English language Education study program especially class 8B is still low level. Considering the result of the data analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher concludes that the eight year student of English Language Education study program, especially class 8B have low ability to understand the meaning of figurative language in western song lyrics. It is proven by the mean score 32.67 of the students obtained through the test. It is 30 which is classified as low.

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