

Paradox and Irony Found in Selected Song Lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in The Album Entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007

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Abstract

The aims of this research are as follows: to find out the types of figurative language, namely paradox and irony found in selected song lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007. This study focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language, namely paradox and irony found in selected song lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007. The Selected song lyric, such as, Dear God, Afterlife, A Little Piece of Heaven and Almost Easy. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to describe the types of figurative language, namely paradox and irony based on the theory proposed by Kennedy, (1983). The finding and the analysis are explained descriptively, then the data is taken by listening and reading the song lyric comprehensively.

Keywords: Paradox, Irony, Song lyric

1. INTRODUCTION

Kreidler (1998:3) argued that semantics is the systematic study of meaning and the way that language structures and conveys meaning. Every word and expression spoken by people can have both a non-literal and a literal meaning. Non-literal meaning refers to a different meaning or hidden meaning of an utterance, whereas literal meaning refers to the actual meaning of the speaker, which contains a precise definition. There are lessons in this field that broadly explain non-literal meanings, commonly called figurative language.

Figurative language refers to the use of expressive words, sentences, and phrases to express a message that means something without directly saying it. There are various kinds of figurative language usually used in literary works, for instance, song, prose, poetry, and drama, which aim to state the intention when the literal language cannot do so. Figurative language itself means that language employs the varied figure of speech (Reaske 1996:27), like the states by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), figurative language is categorized into simile, personification, irony, metaphor, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. In daily conversation, sometimes people use figurative language, which has a meaning that differs from the literal meaning, to express their feelings or ideas. In addition, literary works frequently use figurative language, and a song is one of those literary works.

Song is a combination of words or lyrics and music. The song can be a communication tool to convey the composer's message, thoughts, and feelings to the listeners. There are various ways a composer can use to insert a message that the composer wants to convey to listeners indirectly. Recently, many song composers and musicians convey hidden messages in their songs through figurative language. And many people usually have difficulty in interpreting the meaning of song lyrics and it is difficult to distinguish the figurative language types utilized in the song lyrics, therefore this study aims to help analyze the intent of the composer in the lyrics song and classify what kinds of figurative language are employed in the songs.

Because of interest in the study of figurative language, this research concentrates on the use of figurative language in song lyrics of one of the best Heavy Metal Band from United States, named Avenged Sevenfold. there is selected song lyric in the album to be analyzed namely Dear God, Afterlife, A Little Piece Heaven and Almost Easy. This study only focus on two types of Figurative Language, namely: Irony and Paradox.

2. METHOD

The aims of this research are as follows: to find out the types of figurative language, namely paradox and irony found in selected song lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007. This study focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language, namely paradox and irony found in selected song lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007.

The data was obtained by listening and reading the lyrics of these selected songs, then ‘note taking’ applied to record words used in the lyrics to further defining the figurative language namely paradox and irony within the songs.

2.1 Research Design

The study uses descriptive qualitative method to describe all the data and the processes of analyzing it. No numbers are included only the description and explanation on how and what types of figurative language especially paradox and irony can be found in the songs of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007.

2.2 Research Population and Sampling

Due to being the descriptive qualitative research, there are participants involved in the process of the research. There are only the data or the songs both lyrics and video required to perform the analysis of this study.

2.3 Data Collection Instrument

Since this study is library research, the data was collected from reading and understanding the information carefully both lyrics and video required to perform the analysis of this study. The information of this study is obtained from the lyrics of the songs.

2.4 Data Analysis

Being the descriptive qualitative research has brought this study to analyzing the qualitative data that is more subjective, rich, and consists of in-depth information presented in words/song lyric. It required reading in huge amount of time as well as reading other transcripts and theories looking for the types figurative language used in the song lyric.

The data were analyzed by using Kennedy, (1983). The theory tells about contradictive figurative language, the types of this figurative language such as, Hyperbole, Litotes, Paradox and Irony. In this study only focusses on Paradox and Irony found Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007. The explanation of Paradox and Irony, presented as follows:

Paradox

It statements which seem to contain two opposite facts but is or may be true. Paradox occurs in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense (Kennedy, 1983:488).

For example:

- 1) He was dead in the middle of his riches.
- 2) We just need to move quickly but carefully. (Kennedy,1983:488)

The meaning of the first statement is the man was dead when he was in the top in his riches has much money. The meaning of the second statement is they need to move as fast as possible but carefully. The both of example are contradictory statement because it has made sense.

Irony

The last contradictory figurative language is irony. Irony has a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. Irony almost arises from a contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen (Kennedy 1983:485). For example:

- 1) You are so discipline because you come the meeting at 8:00 o'clock
- 2) Your house is very beautiful because there are so many things on the floor (Kennedy,1983:485)

The meaning of the first example is the employee come too late at the meeting. The meaning of the second statement is the house is very dirty because there are many things in everywhere. The statement above is a contrast between what happens and what his been expected to happen.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study would be presented below,

a. Song entitled Dear God

This song tells about The protagonist is traveling on a lonely road and missing his partner whom he left behind. He wishes that God could hold her when he's not there because she's the only person who can be true to him. He regrets leaving her and realizes that he's lonely and tired without her.

Table 3.1 Data of Figurative Language found in Dear God

No	Type of Figurative Language	Data
1	Irony	While I recall all the words you spoke to me, line 3
2	Paradox	To hold her when I'm not around, line 6

The analysis of Figurative Language found in Dear God

Data 1

While I recall all the words you spoke to me, line 3

This song lyric categorized as irony, it is because of the theory proposed by Kennedy, 1983. In this theory mention the indicator of irony is a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. Irony almost arises from a

contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen. The data 1, **While I recall all the words you spoke to me, line 3** has the meaning that, the words that is already spoken by the man to this partner cannot be recalled, in this case the man want to leave the woman that he really loves, so in the end he fell regret to say that words, he wants that words to be recalled and want stay with the person that he really loves.

Data 2

To hold her when I'm not around, line 6

This data 2 can be classified as paradox because it statements which seem to contain two opposite facts but is or may be true. Paradox occurs in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense. In the data 2, **To hold her when I'm not around, line 6** reflects that the man to hold the woman, take care of her but the situation cannot support to that thing because he is not near to the woman that he loves so he just wishes that the woman always in the good situation, feel happy.

b. Song entitled Afterlife

Story of this song is It's about looking into a reflection of yourself. It uses the sort of metaphor of falling into the afterlife and arguing with the gods and realizing you kinda left too soon and didn't do the things you needed to do. You didn't get to make up with your father; you didn't get to let the ones that you love know that you love them. It's kinda saying live in the moment and be the person you want to be now before it's too late.

Table 3.2 Data of Figurative Language found in Afterlife

No	Type of Figurative Language	Data
3	Irony	I don't belong here, we gotta move on dear escape from this afterlife, line 10
4	Paradox	Give me your hand but realize I just wanna say goodbye, line 20

The analysis of Figurative Language found in Afterlife

Data 3

I don't belong here, we gotta move on dear escape from this afterlife, line 10

The statement in the song lyric here can be classified as irony. It because a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. Irony almost arises from a contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen. Data 3, **I don't belong here, we gotta move on dear**

escape from this afterlife, line 10 tells about arguing with the gods and realizing your kind left too soon and didn't do the things you needed to do. You didn't get to make up with your father; you didn't get to let the ones that you love know that you love them.

Data 4

Give me your hand but realize I just wanna say goodbye, line 20

The lyric on data 4 is classified as paradox. It can be seen on the indicator from the theory that two opposite facts but is or may be true. Paradox occurs in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense. In the lyric **Give me your hand but realize I just wanna say goodbye, line 20** mention that It's about looking into a reflection of yourself. It's kind of saying live in the moment and be the person you want to be now before it's too late.

c. Song entitled A Little Piece of Heaven

The meaning of this song is about a man who, fearing that his proposal to her will be rejected, murders his girlfriend. He then eats her heart and rapes her corpse. The girlfriend then returns from the dead and murders him and eats his heart.

Table 3.2 Data of Figurative Language found in A Piece of Heaven

No	Type of Figurative Language	Data
5	Irony	Almost laughed herself to tears, line 42
6	Paradox	She was never this good in bed, line 18

The analysis of Figurative Language found in A Piece of Heaven

Data 5

Almost laughed herself to tears, line 42

This song lyric categorized as irony, it is because of the theory proposed by Kennedy, 1983. In this theory mention the indicator of irony is a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. Irony almost arises from a contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen. The data 5 **Almost laughed herself to tears, line 42** states that a man who, fearing that his proposal to her will be rejected, murders his girlfriend.

Data 6

She was never this good in bed, line 18

This data 6 can be classified as paradox because it statements which seem to contain two opposite facts but is or may be true. Paradox occurs in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense. In the data 6 **She was never this good in bed, line 18** that mention about the man then eats her heart and rapes her corpse. The girlfriend then returns from the dead and murders him and eats his heart.

d.Song entitled Almost Easy

The content of this song is the singer's mother is dying because he "left her with suicidal memories" and he treated her so wrong. He wants to make it right and he is apologizing. He is asking her to come back because it's "almost easy."

Table 3.2 Data of Figurative Language found in Almost Easy

No	Type of Figurative Language	Data
7	Irony	It's hard to face but the fact remains, line 15
8	Paradox	Now that I've lost you, it kills me to say, line 29

The analysis of Figurative Language found in Almost Easy

Data 7

It's hard to face but the fact remains, line 15

The statement in the song lyric here can be classified as irony. It because a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. Irony almost arises from a contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen. Data 7 **It's hard to face but the fact remains, line 15** tells about the man asking to the woman, in this the mother of the singer to come back because it's "almost easy."

Data 8

Now that I've lost you, it kills me to say, line 29

The lyric on data 8 is classified as paradox. It can be seen on the indicator from the theory that two opposite facts but is or may be true. Paradox occurs in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense. In the lyric **Now that I've lost you, it kills me to say, line 29** reflects that the singer's mother is dying because he left her mother with suicidal

memories and he treated her mother so wrong. He wants to make it right and he is apologizing by his mother.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of study about Figurative language in this case Paradox and Irony found in selected song lyrics of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007, such as Dear God, Afterlife, A Piece of Heaven and Almost Easy, there are 8 data, Paradox 4 data, and Irony 4 data. It can be concluded that, figurative language, especially Paradox and Irony implemented in selected song lyric of Avenged Sevenfold in the album entitled Avenged Sevenfold 2007.

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