



FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS IN SELECTED LOVE- THEMED SONGS IN THE ALBUM “34 NUMBER ONES” BY ALAN JACKSON

by

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Abstract:

Alan Jackson is a country music singer who is enthusiastic about supporting and maintaining the existence of country music. FigurativeLanguage is found in many Alan Jackson songs, which makes it difficult for listeners to understand the meaning of the song lyrics. Country music was feared to disappear since country music fans are mostly adults. Thus, understanding the meaning of figurativeLanguage in the Alan Jackson songs in order to avoid misunderstanding the meaning is also the aim of this study. A qualitative method was used while conducting this study, which was considered more suitable to be applied. The researchers used a qualitative data analysis model from Miles et al. (2014), which mentioned there were three concurrent flows of activity (Data condensation, data display, and Conclusion). 18 songs have been selected from the album “34 Number Ones” based on love-themed. The result showed 86 data and 13 types of figurativeLanguage found in the 18 Alan Jackson songs. This study found that the types of figurativeLanguage in the 18 selected Alan Jackson songs appeared as additional words and established a consistent rhythm in the songs. Also, it impacted the meaning that was explained deeply in the data which was to describe the songwriter’s experiences and emotions.

Keywords: Alan Jackson, country music, figurativeLanguage, linguistic, love songs

Abstrak:

Alan Jackson merupakan seorang penyanyi musik country yang memiliki semangat dalam mendukung dan mempertahankan eksistensi dari musik country. Bahasa kiasan banyak ditemukan dalam lagu-lagu Alan Jackson, yang membuat pendengarnya sulit untuk memahami makna dari lirik lagu tersebut. Musik country sempat dikhawatirkan akan hilang karena penggemar musik country kebanyakan adalah orang dewasa. Oleh karena itu, memahami makna bahasa kiasan dalam lagu-lagu Alan Jackson agar tidak terjadi kesalahpahaman dalam memaknai lirik lagu tersebut merupakan tujuan dari penelitian ini. Metode kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini karena dianggap lebih cocok untuk diterapkan. Peneliti menggunakan model analisis data kualitatif dari Miles dkk. (2014), yang menyebutkan ada tiga alur kegiatan yang terjadi secara bersamaan (Data condensation, data display, dan Conclusion/kesimpulan). Sebanyak 18 lagu telah diseleksi dari album "34 Number Ones" berdasarkan tema cinta. Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan 86 data dan 13 jenis bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam 18 lagu Alan Jackson. Penelitian ini mendapati bahwa jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dalam 18 lagu Alan Jackson yang dipilih muncul sebagai kata-kata tambahan dan membentuk ritme yang konsisten dalam lagu-lagu tersebut.

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Selain itu, hal ini juga berdampak pada makna yang dijelaskan secara mendalam pada data yang menggambarkan pengalaman dan emosi penulis lagu.

Kata Kunci: Alan Jackson, country music, figurative Language, linguistic, love songs

INTRODUCTION

Music has always played an important role in people's lives: it is everywhere, it surrounds us, and it is widely appreciated all over the world because primarily, people may simply listen to music at any time and at any place. Next, there is a possibility to sing without listening to any recording—still, some people like humming or whistling while listening to a piece of music. Music may be with us everywhere, whether we want it or not since it has been with people for a long time and has become part of our habitual lives (Kuśnierek, 2016). According to Engur (2020), Music is a form of aesthetics that uses tones to process and express feelings, ideas, and emotions that are related to each other by purpose and technique, with a clear aesthetic understanding. There are many different genres of music, and one of them is Country Music, which has become an interesting phenomenon around the world (Malone & Laird, 2018). The modern style of country music is a musical tradition throughout the southern and southwestern United States. Country music was first produced commercially through the Victor Records label in 1922 by Eck Robertson. However, many historians argue that 1927 was the year that country music was created when Victor Records signed Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family (Dooley, 2019). In current times, country music is known as “country” or “western”. The genre was initially called ‘hillbilly music, which was used by the print media in New York in the 1900s, which wrote: “A Hill-Billie is a free and untrammled white citizen of Alabama, who lives in the hills, has no means to speak of, dresses as he can, talks as he pleases, drinks whiskey when he gets it and fires off his revolver as the fancy takes him.” (Flippo, 2010).

Country music was feared to be disappearing since country music fans are primarily adults; this is evidenced by the data that shows there are around 51% of adult listeners who listen to this genre (Country Music Association, 2021). However, according to Newman (2023), Grammy voters are disinclined towards country music, even though the genre is popular with a few loyal listeners, especially among US adults. Data shows that Among the more than 12,000 current voting members, fewer than 10 percent of respondents identify with the country music genre, compared to 23 percent for pop, 16 percent for jazz, 15 percent for rock, 15 percent for R&B, 13 percent for American roots, 10 percent for alternative and 10 percent for classical.

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Nevertheless, during the later decade in the 20th century, country music experienced spectacular growth, and was criticized by some people for its changes, especially traditionalists, and a song selected in 2000 was declared the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Song of the Year and the Country Music Association's Recorded Event of the Year, which was recorded by George Strait and Alan Jackson at that time (Malone & Laird, 2018).

The existence of country music is expected to be maintained since this type of music is attached to the lifestyle of Americans. Alan Jackson is a country music singer who has enthusiasm for supporting country music, as evidenced by the instrumentals in his songs (Malone, 2018). Alan Jackson modernized traditional country music for the twenty-first century. He maintained the traditional image of country music during the 1990s when the genre expanded dramatically. He made old-fashioned music sound contemporary by adding modern touches to his songs (Country Music Hall of Fame, 2023). Remz (2010) noted that Alan Jackson has released many songs based on his compositions. Over the past two decades, he has been voted one of the most prominent country artists to present the genre so well that it is widely recognizable.

On some online platforms, Alan Jackson's songs are frequently listened to. For instance, on Spotify, he had over 8 million monthly listeners and 2.3 million followers. "34 Number Ones" is a compilation album release that contains Alan Jackson's first Top Ten hits, which round up the greatest of his blockbusters. The album "34 Number Ones" contained 37 songs. Furthermore, the researchers selected 18 songs on the album based on love-themed songs since many of Alan Jackson's songs talk about love, disappointment, and heartbreak. Also, the love songs that Alan Jackson has recorded are songs that were categorized as popular; some of them were on the album "34 Number Ones" such as Here in the Real World, Remember When, Livin' on Love, and so on. Although most of Alan Jackson's songs had happy expressions, some of them were sad, but the songs were still about love. Alan Jackson once argued "To me, country music's about being in love, having your heart broken, drinking and partying, living and dying, family, and where you grew up" (White, 2012).

Alan Jackson is one of the country music singers whose songs contained hidden meaning in the song lyrics which was explored to determine how it affects the conveying of messages about the theme of love in the song lyrics. Song lyrics are made to combine with the music tone and create an aesthetic effect on the song using a distinctive language (Neisya et al., 2023). Since the song lyrics are someone's expressions about something that has been seen,

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heard, or experienced (Aprilia et al., 2023). In a song, lyrics have an important role in conveying a clear message (Aprilia et al., 2023). The message conveyed through song lyrics is an implied expression by using non-literal words that contain hidden meaning behind them, which is known as figurative Language.

People use figurative Language all the time, even in daily conversation or in media such as songs and movies. According to Abrams (2012), figurative Language is mainly used in poetic situations or literature because figurative Language is the first thing that might be preferred and used when reading or composing poetry. The use of figurative is also to avoid misunderstanding the meaning of the song lyrics so that the listeners, especially country music fans, can easily understand the meaning of figurative Language in the Alan Jackson songs which can be the applied in linguistics field. Furthermore, in the Education field, figurative Language can be a material for teaching or research. That is also the reason why the researchers conducted this study.

Figurative Language involves descriptive words that carry a message in a way that does not explicitly state it (Neisya et al., 2022). Figurative Language is defined as any way of saying something other than in an ordinary way (Syaputri & Leonardo, 2019). On the other hand, figurative Language is also known as a language that contains figures of speech. Figures of speech traditionally convey several types of figurative Language, which are phrases distinct from literal uses of Language. Figurative Language is part of semantics since semantic means to inform about meaning (Agustine & Mustikawati, 2023). Semantics studies the meaning of words and sentences and is a branch of linguistics. Commonly, figurativeLanguage is used in literary works such as song lyrics (Syaputri & Leonardo, 2019).

Every expert has different ideas about defining and determining the various types of figurativeLanguage. Colston (2015) stated that the study conducted by Roberts & Kreuz provided the participants with examples consisting of eight types of figurative languages, such as hyperbole, idioms, indirect requests, irony, understatement, metaphor, rhetorical questions, and similes. Yuningsih (2019) wrote that 18 types of figurativeLanguage were concluded by Abrams: anaphora, personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, allusion, alliteration, litotes, apostrophes, paradox, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, parallelism, climax and anti-climax, and rhetorical question. Abrams (2014), has already described many different kinds of figurativeLanguage. The following 13 common types of figurativeLanguage suggested by Abrams (2014) include; Hyperbole: is a statement that contains exaggeration of fact in any

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amount of size, quality, or even nature, personification: in which either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings, metaphor: a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison, simile: is a comparison of two distinctly different things indicated with the connective word “like” or “as.”, imagery: signified all the objects of sense perception that are used in a literature work by literal description, allusion: is as a passing reference, without explicit identification, to a literary or historical person, place, or event, or to another literary work or passage, anaphora: is derived from the Greek Language and describes this repetitive technique, alliteration: is the repetition of a sound in a sequence of nearby words, with the sound used at the beginning word to make the word emphatic, irony: is used by writers to attract readers and amuse them as it refers to the clash of expectation and reality, metonymy: is used to describe a situation in which one object is associated with another as a result of a recurring connection within a shared experience, synecdoche: is used to refer to a part of a whole in order to signify a part, Paradox: is a statement which appears to be either contradictory, and apostrophe: is a direct and explicit address either to an absent person or to an abstract or non-human entity.

Figurative Language is found in many Alan Jackson songs, which makes it difficult for listeners to understand the meaning of the song lyrics. Although the figurative meanings in Alan Jackson’s songs can be easily found on the internet, numerous types of figurative meanings cannot be found on the internet because no one has discussed them before. However, there was rarely a previous study specifically categorizing figurative Language using love-themed songs in country music. Additionally, Alan Jackson’s songs were not very popular to be discussed in research.

Some studies that also discuss the topic of figurative Language in a song include a study entitled “Figurative language used in Eminem’s songs” by Syaputri & Leonardo (2019). It utilized Eminem’s songs as the object and provided a descriptive method. Furthermore, documentation techniques were also used to obtain the data for the study. As a result, the study was conducted to identify the kinds of figurative Language found in the songs of Eminem. The data found consisted of ten figurative language types, dominated by Simile (32%), Metaphor (31%), Apostrophe (15%), Symbol (7%), Irony (6%), Personification (4%), Allegory (2%), Overstatement (2%), Paradox (1%), and Synecdoche (1%). The novelty between the study and this previous study is that the researchers selected the songs from an album based on love-

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themed songs. Another study was conducted by Neisya *et al.* (2023) that discussed woman empowerment through one of Katy Perry's song entitled "Roar" as the object of the study. The result of the study showed seven types of figurativeLanguage. Additionally, the song utilized 4 different types of imagery consist of visual Imagery, auditory imagery, organic Imagery, and kinesthetic Imagery. The novelty between this study and the previous study was that the researcher included figurative elements and imagery to prove the woman's feminist perspective in the song, while in this study the researchers also discussed the types and impact meaning of the songs. To increase the information about country music and give significant ideas to the readers, the researchers formulated this study with the following questions:

1. What were the types of figurativeLanguage found in the 18 selected love-themed song lyrics in the album "34 Number Ones" by Alan Jackson?
2. How was the impact of the figurativeLanguage used on the meaning of the 18 selected love-themed songs in the album "34 Number Ones" by Alan Jackson?

METHOD

Design

This study used a descriptive-qualitative method to answer the problems formulated in the first chapter. Qualitative research is an emergent, inductive, interpretive, and naturalistic approach to the study of people, cases, phenomena, social situations, and processes in their natural settings to reveal in descriptive terms the meanings that people attach to their experiences of the world (Yilmaz, 2013). Qualitative research is a method that uses descriptive data in its collection. According to Tracy (2012), in qualitative research, the researchers focused on data collection, analysis, and questions. The methods used also tend to lead to observations and interactions. Based on the explanation, the researchers chose the qualitative method in conducting this study since this method was more suitable than other methods as this study discusses figurativeLanguage in a song. Using this method, the researcher described and searched for data in the 18 selected love songs in the "34 Number Ones" album.

Subject of the study

The release of this album was also a time to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his debut album on November 23, 2010. The songs on the 34 Number Ones album are arranged

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chronologically, from the oldest popular song (Here in the Real World) to the latest popular solo song (Country Boy). Furthermore, this study focused on the 18 selected love-themed Alan Jackson songs on the “34 Number Ones” album since the album contained many songs about love, which was the seventh greatest hits compilation. Therefore, the researchers selected songs based on love-themed songs. The songs were Tall, Tall Trees, Livin’ on Love, Dallas, Here in the Real World, Remember When, Who’s cheatin’ who, It Must Be Love, Who Says You Can’t Have It All, She’s Got the Rhythm, Tonight I climbed the wall, Ring of fire, As She’s Walking Away, Love’s got a hold on you, Someday, Look at me, I’ll try, Between the Devil and Me, and There Goes. The researchers used some online platforms such as Spotify and Musixmatch to listen and acquire the lyrics of the songs.

Data collecting technique

According to Tracy (2012), the process of interpreting in qualitative data is unpredictable because the technique requires reading the data, reflecting on the literature, thinking, talking, taking notes, writing, and thinking more. The figurativelanguage found in the song lyrics was the main source of the data. The researchers used the platforms Spotify and Musixmatch as tools to collect the data. The data were collected, and the figurative language types were categorized into notes while the researchers listened and found out the types of figurativelanguage. After the researchers found all of the data, the researchers moved the collected data into a document to analyze all the data found.

Data analysis technique

In the data analysis technique, the researchers used the method from Miles et al. (2014), who mentioned three concurrent activity flows. Data condensation, data display, and Conclusion drawing/verification were used. (1) Data condensation: As the further part of data condensation, the researchers generated categories to analyze the data and selected and collected the data. (2) Data display: the researchers identified all types of figurativelanguage, describing the impact on the meaning used in the figurativelanguage and finding out the meaning and impact of the figurativelanguage. (3) Conclusion drawing/verification: Miles et al. (2014) explained that the conclusion is only half of a Gemini configuration. Conclusions are also verified as the analyst proceeds.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings

The researchers found 13 types of figurative language used in the 18 selected love-themed songs in the album “34 Number Ones” by Alan Jackson. Furthermore, 86 data were obtained from the 18 selected love-themed song lyrics in the album “34 Number Ones” by Alan Jackson. The 13 figurative language types were obtained were based on Abrams’ theory (2014).

Table 1. Figurative language used in the 18 Alan Jackson Love-themed songs

No	Types of Figurative Language	Data frequency	Percentage
1.	Imagery	16	19 %
2.	Hyperbole	14	16,3 %
3.	Alliteration	14	16 %
4.	Simile	10	12 %
5.	Personification	7	8 %
6.	Metaphor	7	8 %
7.	Allusion	5	6 %
8.	Anaphora	4	5 %
9.	Irony	4	5 %
10.	Metonymy	2	2 %
11.	Apostrophe	1	1,2 %
12.	Synecdoche	1	1,2 %
13.	Paradox	1	1 %
Total		86	100 %

Table 1 shows the 13 types of figurative language the researchers found in 18 Alan Jackson’s songs in the album “34 Number Ones”. Imagery was a figurative language with the dominant or highest data frequency being 16 frequencies. In imagery, the most dominant Element is tactile imagery. Furthermore, Alan Jackson’s song “*Between the Devil and Me*” was the most figurative language used with nine data. Apostrophe, Synecdoche, and Paradox were the types of figurative language with minimum or lowest frequencies, with each only 1 data frequency. The detailed explanations of the data findings will be presented in the following subheading.

Table 1.1. Imagery

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song	Type Imagery
1.	Remember when the sound of little feet	16	Remember when	Auditory
2.	You can't stick your nose	5	Who's cheatin' who	Tactile
3.	When she held me tight	18	Who's cheatin' who	Tactile
4.	First I get cold and hot	1	It must be love	Thermal
5.	The minute that she waltzed right through that door	3	She's got the rhythm	Kinesthetic
6.	Now she's with somebody new out on that floor	5	She's got the rhythm	Visual
7.	With every little move she's telling me I'm over you	8	She's got the rhythm	Kinesthetic
8.	Well that music's getting louder	10	She's got the rhythm	Auditory
9.	As my heart keeps beatin' faster	11	She's got the rhythm	Tactile
10.	I said my hands are sweaty and my knees are weak	5	Love's got hold on you	Tactile
11.	Holding my pillow hanging on for life	10	Love's got hold on you	Tactile
12.	And I took her by the arm and said "don't leave me."	5	Someday	Tactile
13.	The flames are spreading everywhere	9	Between the Devil and Me	Visual
14.	And a cool breeze blows, cross our bodies	14	Between the Devil and Me	Thermal
15.	There you were standin' in the shadows	1	There goes	Visual
16.	And you sneak up from behind and whisper my name	8	There goes	Auditory

From the data that had been classified above, the researchers assumed that the data could be verified based on the theory of Abrams. Those lyrics were classified as imagery since they used all of the objects of the senses of perception. In Alan Jackson's songs, imagery was used to encourage listeners to deeply imagine the lyrics' content. One of the examples of imagery was thermal imagery, which could be found at the beginning of the lyrics of the song It Must Be Love: "*First I get cold and hot. Think I'm on fire but I'm not*". The inclusion of the words 'cold' and 'hot' in the lyrics referred to temperatures. As an impact meaning, the use of imagery was to show the nervousness and hesitation that the narrator in the song experienced when he fell in love. Furthermore, tactile imagery was the most common type of imagery that was found. For instance, in the song entitled Who's Cheatin' Who, the lyric showed: "*You can't stick your nose*". The use of imagery in the lyrics supported the idiomatic statements that contained hidden messages in the lyric. The songwriter explained how the female narrator attempted to

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discover mistakes made by the male narrator. It was proven in lines 5 and 6 that contain idioms: “*You can’t stick your nose, into something that you don’t understand.*”

Table 1.2. Hyperbole

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	I’ll buy you tall, tall trees and all the waters in the seas	3	Tall, tall trees
2.	Then nothing else would come between the two of us	12	Dallas
3.	To hold your heart , when times got rough	12	Here in the Real World
4.	How could I be so blind	19	Who’s cheatin’ who
5.	Love is stolen in the shadow of the night	29	Who’s cheatin’ who
6.	There’s nothing I can do	5	It must be love
7.	Our room was filled with silence	1	Tonight I climbed the wall
8.	After all these years of holding her	16	Tonight I climbed the wall
9.	The taste of love is sweet	13	Ring of fire
10.	We never spoke a word	1	As she’s walking away
11.	There’s nothing in this world I wouldn’t do	6	Someday
12.	And darlin’ can’t you see, I’d do anything you want me to	7	Look at me
13.	And there go your paralyzin’ eyes	9	There goes
14.	And there go your tantalizin’ smile	10	There goes

The researchers found 14 lyrics that contained hyperbole, such as one that said, “*I’ll buy you tall, tall trees and all the waters in the seas*”. The lyric is hyperbole since it makes an exaggerated statement. Trees in the seas are impossible. The songwriter uses the lyrics’ hyperbolic statement to express love. The use of figurative language in this song also provides an impactful meaning to prove the narrator’s feelings of love in the song to his lover since this song tells listeners about a person who sacrificed everything for her.

In addition, the beginning line of the song Tonight I Climbed the Wall contains an idiomatic hyperbole: “*Our room was filled with silence*” whereas the phrase illustrates the lack of communication between the couple in the song. Silence cannot occupy space since it possesses no physical properties.

Table 1.3. Alliteration

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	I’ll buy you <u>t</u> all, <u>t</u> all trees and all <u>t</u> he waters in <u>t</u> he seas	1	Tall, tall trees

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No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
2.	Remember w hen w e vowed the vows and w alked the w alk	6	Remember when
3.	To w here w e are, w here w e've been	23	Remember when
4.	Remember w hen w e said w hen w e turned gray	26	Remember when
5.	T hat t ru e love is a t reasure	18	Dallas
6.	Give m e one m ore m ove	4	As she's walking away
7.	But t hrough t he smoke I see her t here	10	Between the Devil and Me
8.	I h old h er in my arms Tonight	12	Between the Devil and Me
9.	And a cool b reeze b lows 'cross our b odies in the dark	14	Between the Devil and Me
10.	Darlin', look at me, I've f allen like a f ool f or you	6	Look at me
11.	M ake m e feel like I'm the only m an alive for you	11	Look at me
12.	I wish t hat I could t ake t hat for t he t ru t h	8	Someday
13.	I'll t ake t he sunshine over t he rain	4	I'll try
14.	Well I t oss and t urn t ill t he morning light	19	Love's got hold on you

Over the centuries, alliteration has been used by other researchers in literature to emphasize a particular text and make it more memorable. Generally, the term is used only for consonants. Alliteration created a discernible beat to produce a corresponding rhythm. In addition, it provides an emotional response in the reader, particularly in pieces of music. For instance, as shown in the data above: I wish *I could take that for the truth*. In the lyrics of the sentence, several words use the same prefix. They were that, take, that, the, and truth.

Table 1.4. Simile

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	Just l ike an old fashion story book rhyme	11	Livin' on love
2.	Oh, if life were l ike the movies, I'd never be blue	4	Here in the Real World
3.	I fall l ike a sparrow, and fly like a dove	10	It must be love
4.	I fall like a sparrow, and f ly l ike a dove	10	It must be love
5.	Not long ago I held her, l ike a fool I went and left her	4	She's got the rhythm
6.	I feel for you l ike a child	15	Ring of fire
7.	I would bet my life, l ike I bet my heart	1	As she's walking away
8.	I can't hold back now l ike I've done before	5	As she's walking away
9.	Darlin' look at me, I've fallen l ike a fool for you	6	As she's walking away
10.	L ike some big, black widow spider	5	There goes

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One of the data found: “*Oh, if life were like the movies, I’d never be blue*” showed a comparison between life and movies. The narrator expected that life’s reality could be similar to a movie, where everything were scripted, resulting in a painless existence. As an impact meaning, the use of similes shows the narrator’s experience of confronting the harsh reality of life after a broken heart. Moreover, another piece of data also found in the “There goes” song: “*like some big, black widow spider*”, the songwriter compared the female narrator in the song to a black widow spider, which has an effective method of catching its prey. The song describes how the female narrator enticed the male narrator into falling in love with her.

Table 1.5. Personification

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	But love can walk through fire without blinkin.’	14	Livin’ on love
2.	We lived and learned, life threw curves	8	Remember when
3.	A stark-naked light bulb hangs over my head	1	Who’s cheatin’ who
4.	There’s one lonely pillow on my double bed	2	Who’s cheatin’ who
5.	And my heart won’t tell my mind to tell my mouth what it should say	8	As she’s walking away
6.	This world can take you by the hand and tempt the soul of any man	1	Between the Devil and Me
7.	The gates of hell swing open wide, inviting me to step inside	7	Between the Devil and Me

In his songs, Alan Jackson uses personification to make an object seem alive, give a clear illustration, and make the sentence not dull. For example, the song lyric Livin’ on love showed “*But love can walk through fire without blinkin’.*” The word ‘walk’ referred to a human act; the statement described a love that means all problems seem resolved through love. As an impact, the researchers discovered that the songwriter used figurative language in this song to convey some messages to the listeners that, with the power of love, a couple no longer needs material things, there are not many things to do for happiness, and everything will be much better if you are always by the side of your partner.

Besides, in the song “Remember When”, Alan Jackson reflected on the ups and downs he and his wife experienced, conveying that time passes quickly. The narrator in the song also conveys his experience of leading a more serious life through the lyric “We lived and learned,

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life threw curves” since it suggests that it describes the twists and turns of life and employs personification, which is evident with the use of the word ‘threw’.

Table 1.6. Metaphor

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	That true love is a treasure	18	Dallas
2.	And love is a sweet dream	3	Here in the Real World
3.	You must be the dream I’ve been dreamin’ of	11	It must be love
4.	Cause I’m lord and master	11	(Who says) you can’t have it all
5.	And she’s got the rhythm , and I got the blues	6	She’s got the rhythm
6.	Love is burning thing	1	Ring of fire
7.	May have lost this battle , live to fight another day	9	As she’s walking away

Metaphor depict something that not literally true but can be used as a comparison. Metaphor is used as a subject of reference for experts. Alan Jackson’s song entitled “Dallas” compared some objects to other objects, such as ‘true love’ and ‘treasure’, which impacted the meaning that true love is something valuable and rarely happens as a treasure. The songwriter conveyed how unique and precious true love is to him, expressing it by comparing it to something unattainable. Through the lyric “*May have lost this battle, live to fight another day*” in the song As She’s Walking Away, the songwriter also Compares the situation that the narrator experienced by calling it a battle, which describes the narrator’s unsuccessful attempt to gain confidence.

Table 1.7. Allusion

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	Cowboys don’t cry, and heroes don’t die	1	Here in the Real world
2.	Cowboys don’t cry, and heroes don’t die	1	Here in the Real World
3.	‘Cause I’m lord and master	11	(Who says) you can’t have it all
4.	And she’s all I see between the Devil and Me	5	Between the Devil and Me
5.	The gates of hell , swing open wide	6	Between the Devil and Me

In general, most literary allusions are introduced to the reader. Some authors, especially modern authors such as Pound, Eliot, or Joyce, included specific allusions taken from the author’s experience and perspective in the songs of Alan Jackson also provided some allusions. Additionally, references that lead to religion are commonly used in allusion, especially in Alan

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Jackson’s songs. One of the religious allusions is the use of the words ‘*devil*’ and ‘*hell*’ in the song “Between the Devil and Me”. The devil is a reference that leads to the beliefs of specific religions. Whereas ‘*hell*’ is believed by most Abrahamic religions (*Islam, Christianity, and Judaism*) and other religions to be a place of punishment. These allusions have an impact meaning as the temptation of an extramarital affair that the narrator experiences in the song.

Table 1.8. Anaphora

No	Song	Verse	Data / Lyric
1.	Tall, tall trees	V1 V2,V5 V3, V6 V3, V6 V4	If you want to drive a big limousine If you want to own a great mansion Well, if it’s lovin’ you want, then I’ve got it If it’s money you want, then I’ll get it And If you want to take a trip across the ocean
2.	She’s got the rhythm	V2 V2, V4 V2, V4, V5 V4 V5	And she’s got the rhythm, and I got the blues And she’s showin’ me how much I had to lose With her every little move she’s tellin’ me I’m over you ‘Cause she’s got the rhythm, and I got the blues She’s got the rhythm, and I got the blues
3.	Remember when	V1 V2 V3 V4 V5 V6	Remember when , I was young and so were you Remember when we vowed the vows and walk the walk Remember when old ones died and new were born Remember when the sound of little feet Remember when 30 seemed so old Remember when we said when we turned gray
4.	There goes	V3, V5, V6 V3,V5, V6 V3, V5 V3, V5 V3,V5 V3,V5, V6	There go your paralizin’ eyes There goes your tantalizin’ smile There goes my act of playin’ it cool And there go the words I meant to say There go the games I wanted to play There goes my heart fallin’ for you

Anaphora clarifies a word by repeating it multiple times, thus conveying the essence of the song’s meaning. Anaphora can also help listeners grasp what the song is about. Four songs feature anaphora based on Abrams’ theory. Certain lyrics were repeated throughout various lines and stanzas, as outlined in the data above. The use of repeated words not only enhances the rhythm of the song but also clarifies the overall meaning of the song. Therefore, the listeners will more easily understand the inference of the song.

Table 1.9. Irony

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No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song	Type of irony
1.	Oh, I'm doin' fine , don't you worry 'bout me	10	(Who says) you can't have it all	Verbal irony
2.	She said; I wish that I could take that for the truth	8	Someday	Sarcasm
3.	She said; I can't wait, cause sometimes someday just never comes	15	Someday	Sarcasm
4.	Both know too well it is not easy together	2	I'll try	Verbal irony

Writers use irony to attract readers and amuse them as it refers to the clash of expectation and reality. In the song “Someday”, there were two phrases that contain irony that showed in data columns number 2 and 3; through these lyric lines, the female narrator in the song relayed a sarcastic statement from his lover, who has grown weary of constantly hearing the same promises and persuasions. Moreover, the phrase “*Both know too well, it's not easy together*” was a satire aimed at their tenuous relationship after the divorce, as conveyed by the phrase.

Table 1.10. Metonymy

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	And Tonight on that silver screen	13	Here in the Real World
2.	Gave our hearts , made the start and it was hard	7	Remember when

The term ‘silver screen’ in the lyric “*And tonight on that silver screen, it'll end like it should*” is associated with a theatre, referring to the movie. The songwriter used metonymy to complement and illustrate the lyrics. As an impact meaning, figurative language motivates the listener to accept everything that has happened, even if it hurts. Besides, in the song “Remember When”, line 7 (verse 2) says, “*Gave our hearts, made the start, and it was hard*”. The term ‘hearts’ is associated with love. The songwriter narrates the journey of their early love, from the time of their vows up to the time they faced hardships together.

Table 1.11. Apostrophe

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	Lord , I hope the gold band on her hand	16	Dallas

From the classified data, the songwriter used the word ‘Lord’ as a direct address, as if the narrator in the song is addressing and asking the lord directly. The use of the apostrophe in the song is a hope of the male narrator for his lover always to remember him.

Table 1.12. Synecdoche

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	Here we are, talking about forever	1	I'll try

The data above is classified as synecdoche since it represents the whole through a part. The term ‘*forever*’ in the lyric represents a whole part of life or precious moments that the narrator has experienced with his spouse. The songwriter used the term to reflect on his time with his spouse. The impact of synecdoche in the meaning of the lyrics can represent the difficulties encountered in relationships and the resolve to overcome them.

Table 1.13. Paradox

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	We've both felt love , we both felt pain	3	I'll try

The data contained contradictory words, in which the words ‘love’ and ‘pain’ have opposite meanings. Love refers to an emotional attraction or pleasure. On the other hand, pain refers to suffering. When used together in a sentence, both words create the debated fact that love comes with eventual pain. The songwriter conveys a message in the lyrics by stating that love is a temporary feeling.

Discussions

Based on the results, the researchers found 13 types of figurative language used in the 18 selected love-themed song lyrics in the album “34 Number Ones” by Alan Jackson. Moreover, in the impact of figurative language on meaning, the researcher depended on the definition of figurative language according to Abrams (2014), which defined “Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what competent users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect”. The special effect influenced the meaning of a song that described the feelings of the songwriter expressed in a piece of lyrics. This was also explained in Elizabeth & Kate (2012): “Lyric is a short poem that expresses the personal thoughts and feelings of the person who wrote it”. The use of figurative language in Alan Jackson’s love-themed songs was described in depth by the narrator in the song, which represented Alan Jackson’s

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expressions, emotions, and experiences as a songwriter and had special effects that impacted the song's meaning.

Imagery became the most dominant type of figurative language. Five types of imagery were found in the data: Auditory, Tactile, Thermal, Kinesthetic, and Visual. Furthermore, the most dominant imagery was tactile imagery, with six data points. Moreover, an example of the impact of imagery can be found in one of the data in tactile imagery that used the word "*Held*". The songwriter used this phrase to represent the male narrator's disappointment towards the female narrator. The message was that the female narrator's grasp is merely a priority to conceal her mistakes so that there appears to be no problem between them, although the male narrator has already found her affair. Based on the example, the use of imagery in the lyric impacts the feelings of the narrator or songwriter, as Elizabeth Kate (2012) stated in the previous paragraph. In addition, the researchers assumed that the data could be verified based on supporting theory. Abrams (2014) explained that imagery can signify all the objects of sense perception. Besides, in Neisya *et al.* (2023), the study's results explained several types of imagery such as visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, gustatory, feeling and motion.

Hyperbole is a statement that contains exaggeration of fact in any amount of size, quality, or even nature. Hyperbole is taken from Greek, which means 'overshooting' (Abrams, 2014). The researchers found 14 data points on hyperbole based on the theory. One of the data used the word "*blind*" as an exaggerated statement. The data conveyed that his partner's lies cannot deceive the main narrator in the song. The female narrator never admitted to the affair, but she lied and even seemed to blame the protagonist for concealing her mistake. The impact of hyperbole used on the meaning was to depict the protagonist's personal experience while trying to find out who cheated on his partner. Moreover, a study from Arifah (2016) explained the exact definition in one of the data results. The researcher of the study defined hyperbole as something exaggerated.

Alliteration is the repetition of a sound in a sequence of nearby words, with the sound used at the beginning word to make the word emphatic. Usually, the term is applied only to consonants (Abrams, 2014). Furthermore, in a study conducted by Hasanah *et al.* (2021), one of their data contained alliteration using the words: "**h**alf", "**h**appy", and "**h**eaven", which contain the same letter at the beginning of the word. In this study, the researchers also provided alliteration that matches the theory and the previous study. For instance, the researchers found

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that “Breeze” and “blows” are consecutive words with the same letter at the beginning of both words.

Similes compare two things using the connective “like” or “as”. (Abrams, 2014). A study by Syaputri and Leonardo (2019) also confirmed Abram’s theory, in which the study explained the use of the connective word ‘like’ in similes. As a result, the study’s researchers found that Eminem mostly used similes in his songs, as shown by the connective word “Like”.

Personification is used in Alan Jackson’s songs to make an object seem alive, give a clear illustration, and also make the sentence not feel dull. Risalatunni’mah (2015), in her study, explained that personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, natural) is made by a human. Therefore, this matches the theory of Abrams (2014), which stated that when speaking of inanimate objects or abstract concepts, it is as if they have life, human qualities, or emotions as the impact.

A metaphor is a phrase that, without clarifying the comparison, can indicate one thing applied to a different kind of thing (Abrams, 2014). According to Syahrina (2019), in her study, the researcher found similarities in the definition of metaphor in the study with Abram’s theory, namely both as a comparison, as shown in the results of datum 21: “*And I am the pearl!*” This datum was one of the metaphor examples that occurs in Katy Perry’s song lyric since it compared human with the pearl. In this study, the researchers also compared love and sweet dreams in the lyric, “*And love is a sweet dream that always comes true*”.

Allusion in Abrams (2014) is defined as a passing reference, without explicit identification, to a literary or historical person, place, event, or another literary work or passage. The researchers found that the word “*Cowboys*” in the data represented a tough figure or referenced to a history. It is depicted as a misery experienced by the male narrator in the song using the impact meaning of allusion. The allusion also appeared in Swarniti (2022) in her study in one of the data, “*I was still a child*” The word child was classified as an allusion because it referenced something in history or previous literature.

Anaphora in Abrams (2014) is the deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of each one of a sequence of sentences, paragraphs, lines of verse, or stanzas. In a study by Hasanah et al. (2021), anaphora also appeared as repetition at the beginning of each stanza, on data line 39, which repeated the word “my” before all the phrases. In this study, one of the data also repeated the phrase “*remember when*” at the beginning of the sentence in each

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verse. As mentioned in the findings section, the use of repeated words clarifies the overall meaning of the song and makes it easy to understand the inference of the song.

In Irony, Abrams (2014) explained that the primary connotation is to disseminate or conceal what is, in fact, the case, which continues in most present essential uses of the term ‘irony,’ not to deceive but to produce specific rhetorical or artistic effects. According to Rochman’s (2014) study, the term irony was commonly used to describe both a linguistic phenomenon (verbal irony) and other phenomena, including situational irony, the irony of facts and things dissociated from their linguistic expression. Based on the data classified, two types of irony found in the current study included Verbal irony and Sarcasm. One of example was the data categorized as verbal irony can be found in data. The word ‘*I’m doing fine*’ is ironic since the meaning that a speaker implies differs sharply from the meaning ostensibly expressed (Abrams, 2014) and contradicts the previous phrase, which described the heartbreak the narrator experienced. The narrator seems to be conveying that sadness is making him feel weak due to the use of irony.

Metonymy is used to describe a situation in which one object is associated with another due to a recurring connection within a common experience (Abrams, 2014). Besides, Swarniti (2022) also provided metonymy in one of her data with the word “*Gold*” as a metonymy for the concept of the previous thing. The researchers found metonymy with the word “*Heart*” in the lyric “*Gave our hearts, made the start, and it was hard*” since it referred to an object intimately associated with another object. The lyric represents the journey of the early love experienced by the narrator in the song.

According to Abrams (2014), an apostrophe is a direct and unambiguous address of a person who is not present or of a non-human or abstract being. Frequently, the effect was one of great formality or a sudden emotional stimulus. In his study, Rochman (2014) states that apostrophe has the same definition as Abram’s theory, namely as a direct address to a non-human entity. His data findings showed that “*my love*” was an apostrophe since it was apostrophizing his departed sweetheart. In this study, the songwriter used the word ‘*Lord*’ in the data as a direct address, as if the narrator in the song is addressing and asking the lord directly.

Synecdoche is used to refer to a part of a whole in order to signify a part (Abrams, 2014). Synecdoche was also found in the resulting study by Khairunnisa & Iskandar (2022), in which the researcher concluded that synecdoche was saying some parts but representing all parts

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(pars pro toto) or vice versa. In the sentence “*look at the world,*” there was synecdoche pars pro toto, where it says some part, which was the view that he looked at when he saw the scenery at the top of the hill but represented that he saw the world.

A paradox is a statement that appears contradictory or illogical yet may be logically interpreted meaningfully (Abrams, 2014). Syahrina (2019), in her study, concluded that a paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true. It can be either a situation or a statement. Furthermore, the example showed ‘*honey*’ and ‘*bitter*’ in the phrase “Truth is honey, which is bitter” as a paradox. This study's data contained contradictory words, such as ‘*love*’ and ‘*pain*’. Love refers to an emotional attraction or pleasure. On the other hand, pain refers to suffering. Both words create the debated fact that love comes with eventual pain.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

Conclusion

After analyzing the data, this study found that the types of figurative language in the 18 selected Alan Jackson songs appeared as additional words or created a word picture to convey something in a hidden way. Moreover, it helped establish a consistent rhythm in the songs, which was proven in most of the data, especially in alliteration and anaphora. Furthermore, the researchers also concluded that figurative language impacted the meaning explained deeply in the songs; as a result, most of Alan Jackson’s songs described his love stories through the narrator in the songs. Besides, in some songs written by Alan Jackson, the narrator described his life experiences and emotions.

Limitation

One of the greatest albums by Alan Jackson was “34 Number Ones,” which contained 37 songs. Based on the title, the researchers limited this study by choosing selected love songs that contain figurative language in the album. In addition, there were 18 songs in the album “34 Number Ones” chosen by the researchers as limitations since the theme of these songs was love.

Implication

While analyzing the data, the researchers gained a new understanding and simultaneously practised the researcher’s English language skills. Hopefully, conducting this study could positively impact readers’ knowledge of the implied meaning and types of figurative language. As a suggestion, readers are expected to understand the meaning of a song

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lyric. In this context, it is not only applied to country music but is also intended for every type of song the readers listen to since every song lyric contains many implied meanings that could be a suggestion for conducting further research. Moreover, further researchers might be better off considering the object in advance before conducting similar research, ensuring that the object contains many types of figurative Language or meanings so that it will enrich the content of the research and also match the data with the definition of figurative types in advance so that the results could be more valid.

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