



A Discourse Analysis of Hip Hop Song:
Case Study of Marshall Bruce Mathers III's Songs
การวิเคราะห์การใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์ ในเพลงฮิปฮอป:
กรณีศึกษาเพลงของมาร์แชลล์บรูซ มาเทอร์ที่สาม

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Abstract

The objective of this research was to examine the types of figurative language which are found in lyrics of Marshall Bruce Mathers III (Eminem)'s songs. Data analysis: this research applied linguistic theories to analyze and sort out figurative language in lyrics of Eminem's songs that were systematically analyzed by percentage. All figurative languages were compared. The analyzed data was categorized into groups and then described in narrative style, summarized and reported. The findings of the study were as follows.

Stat 6 types of figurative language were totally found with 1073 items. The highest figurative language found was slang (506) 47.2%. Simile was found (226) with 21.1%. Hyperbole and Irony were found (127) 11.8% and (121) 11.3% respectively.



The findings of this study would help readers as a guideline in analyzing other language study in linguistics. People interested in this field could use this study as a key to unlock the door to studying song and culture. The readers could interpret the figurative languages and apply their results for reading novels or song lyric. The important findings, it should be used for further study in this field. At the same time, this study provided insight into culture, ideas of the author's thinking, and new experiences for readers considering when analyzing songs.

Keywords : Hip Hop Culture, Marshall Bruce Mathers III (Eminem), Figurative Language, Cultural Meaning, Lifestyle

บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยครั้งนี้เป็นการวิเคราะห์การใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์ ซึ่งปรากฏอยู่ในเพลงฮิพฮอป ร้องโดยมาร์แชลล์บรูซ มาเทอร์ที่สาม โดยวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษารูปแบบการใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์เป็นการวิจัยเอกสารเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลจากเอกสาร วิวิธีวิเคราะห์ข้อมูล แยกแยะประเภท สำหรับเครื่องมือที่ใช้ในการวิจัยเป็นแบบตารางการวิเคราะห์ การใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์ คำนวณโดยใช้สถิติค่าร้อยละในการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูล จากนั้นอธิบายลักษณะที่มีต่อบริบทหรือเนื้อเรื่อง แล้วนำมาสรุปและรายงานผล

ผลการวิจัยพบว่า มีภาษาภาพพจน์ปรากฏอยู่ในหนังสือเล่มนี้ 6 ประเภท และสามารถแบ่งออกเป็นระดับตามลำดับของความถี่ของการปรากฏดังนี้ พบมากที่สุด ได้แก่ Slang คิดเป็นร้อยละ 47.2 รองลงมา Simile คิดเป็นร้อยละ 8.40 Complex Metaphor คิดเป็นร้อยละ 6.72 Compound Metaphor คิดเป็นร้อยละ 22.1 ขณะที่ Hyperbole และ Irony มีความถี่ใกล้เคียงกัน คือ ร้อยละ 11.8 และ 11.3 การศึกษาดังที่ได้กล่าวมานี้ช่วยให้เข้าใจในการใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์ เพื่อศึกษาเกี่ยวกับเพลงและวัฒนธรรม นอกจากนี้ยังสามารถนำเอาความรู้ที่ได้ไปขยายผลในการทำความเข้าใจในการวิเคราะห์บทเพลง และท้ายที่สุดยังสามารถนำไปประยุกต์ในการทำงานวิจัยต่อไปได้ในภายภาคหน้าอีก ด้วย

คำสำคัญ : ฮิพฮอป เอ็มมีเน็ม ภาษาภาพพจน์ ความหมายเชิงสังคม วิธีชีวิต



Introduction

"Without music, life would be a mistake." Twilight of the Idols, Or, How to Philosophize With the Hammer.

From the above quote, music is important to humankind. We cannot deny that we listen to music in our everyday life. If one day music no longer existed in our experience, human would go insane or not be human anymore. Music is created for our soul. Music is so much more powerful than words. Johnny Depp mentioned, "Music touches us emotionally, where words alone can't. There are many reasons why music is essential to humankind; at least one of the best ways to relax is to listen to music. When we feel lonely music can be our friend to make us feel that we are not alone. Listen to soft music recharges our energy when exhausted. In the past, we only could hear live music, but nowadays we hear the music from everywhere and every time we want to because of development of technology. The higher evolution of technology, the more often we can hear music. In conclusion, music is a universal language that every nation who listens to music understands what the composer wants to tell.

There are several types of music such as Alternative, Blues, Classical, Country, Jazz, Rock, Pop, Reggae, and Hip-Hop. This study places an interest in studying Hip-Hop lyrics for two main reasons. First, rappers or MCs deliver themselves quite explicitly in their lyrics. Songs in most musical disciplines can contain social comment or autobio elements, but in Hip-Hop, the artists do it blatantly. The second reason is that Hip-Hop is not only song but also culture. Hip-Hop is characterized by four distinct elements, all of which represent the different manifestations of the culture: rap music (oral), turntablism or "DJing" (aural), b-boying (physical) and graffiti art (visual). Marshall Bruce Mathers III well known by his stage name Eminem is one of famous rappers at present. Eminem is the best-selling artist of the 2000s in the United States. Rolling Stone magazine ranked him 83rd on its list of The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Eminem has sold more than 155 million albums and singles.



Many people listen to his Hip-Hop songs. Although some people are native speakers, they did not understand all the song because the development of Hip-Hop linguistics is complex. Dr. Renford mentioned, "Hip hop has a distinctive associated slang." "Due to hip hop's commercial success in the late nineties and early 21st century, many of these words have been assimilated into the cultural discourse of several different dialects across America and the world and even to non-hip hop fans." In this thesis, the researcher used sociolinguistics to understand what Hip-Hop lyrics are talking about.

Before hip-hop or rap gained commercial success, the songs of both genres focused on the community and the lives of the artists. But over time the lyrics of certain rap songs became increasingly violent. , "with big money at stake, lyrics became increasingly violent and personal" (Collins, et al. 2007:25) the subculture created by the music was not restricted solely to listening to the music, but also to adopting its style, slang and ideology. Marcella Runell Hall says, "Hip-Hop is a culture complete with agreed upon elements as well as shared language, dress, style, history, values, and unifying capabilities" (Runnels, 2001 : 89). To make in-depth analysis, qualitative method will be used in the thesis. The methods consist of figurative language and theme of Hip Hop lyrics.

"Figurative language is applied to create a stronger expression in the song lyrics itself and to attract the listeners' attentions... (It) always makes use of a comparison between different things."

Figurative language helps listeners grasp concepts which are difficult to express literally.

Used five themes based on Hip-Hop & Rap: Complete Lyrics for 175 Songs (Spence, 2003) which are: (a) glamorization of tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances, and weapons, (b) ostentatious display of wealth, (c) establishing territory, (d) sexual exploitation and disrespect of women, and



(e) inclusion of derogatory and racially charged terminology. Separate lyrics to five themes by counting the number of times they appeared in the lyrics. All figures were rounded up to the nearest decimal point.

Objective of the study

To examine figurative languages which were found in lyrics of Eminem's songs.

Research Methodology

A mixed method of approach was followed. Creswell, J. (2012) define mixed methods research as a procedure for collecting, analyzing, and "mixing" both quantitative, qualitative research and methods in a single study to understand a research problem. In this study the information was analyzed text, descriptive data, and statistics. Qualitative method is used for analyzed descriptive data, interview data and text. Quantitative method is used for analyzed statistics.

This study collected the data from the song lyrics, which were from the Internet. There are 289 songs of Eminem ranked by www.spin.com, the sample will choose top ranked 50 songs of Eminem. The source data was 50 song lyrics of Eminem that were taken from <http://ohhla.com> and <http://www.allmusic.com>, and <http://www.spin.com/2014/10/eminem-every-song-ranked/>

After collecting 50 song lyrics and the significant supporting information, the researcher has organized by prioritizing all of the data as follow:

1. Collecting the song lyrics of Eminem.
2. Classifying the song's lyrics to analyze according to the framework.
3. Summarizing issues of words and given meaning in each song.



Conclusion

This chapter provides results from the research, which examined the figurative languages used in the Hip Hop songs by Eminem.

Table 1 : Types of figurative languages found in Hip Hop songs by Eminem.

Types of figurative language	Found No.	Percentage (%)
1. Slang	506	47.2
2. Simile	226	21.1
3. Hyperbole	127	11.8
4. Irony	121	11.3
5. Metaphor	72	6.7
6. Proverb	21	1.9
Total	1073	100

Table 1 presents the results from the research, which examined the figurative languages used in the Hip Hop songs by Eminem. The total of figurative languages found in the Hip Hop songs is 1073. The highest figurative language found is slang (506) 47.2 percent, Simile (226) 21.1 percent, Hyperbole and Irony found (127)11.8 and (121)11.3 percent.

Discussion

Marshall Bruce Mathers III known professionally as 'Eminem' is an American rapper, songwriter, record producer, and actor from Detroit, Michigan. In addition to his solo career, he is a member of D12 and (with Royce da 5'9") half of the hip-hop duo Bad Meets Evil. Eminem is the best-selling artist of the 2000s in the United States. Rolling Stone ranked him 83rd on its list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time, calling him the King of Hip Hop. The researcher is interested in Hip Hop songs. Eminem is presently one of the best Hip Hop. The researcher would like to know what types of figurative languages were used in Eminem songs. He would like to know the secret why Eminem's Hip Hop songs are so popular.



According to the result of this study, 6 types of figurative languages were found more often than the others, which were arranged in order as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, slang, and proverb. This study shows that slang was the most used in Eminem's songs because Hip Hop songs are roots of slang words nowadays. Based on that analysis the commonly figurative languages that are mostly found in this research were slang. One of the reasons for the appeal of Eminem's songs is the fact that slang is figurative language, the most popular being used by teenagers. In some contexts a speaker's selection of slang words or phrases may convey prestige, indicating group membership or distinguishing group members from those who are not a part of the group. Nowadays, some of slang words are used not only in teenager groups or in Hip Hop culture but worldwide such as the word "bitch"; means female dog but in slang meaning is a woman (often derogatory, but not always).

To sum up, slang is most frequency used in Hip Hop songs. Not only slang makes Hip Hop be Hip Hop but also irony, simile and hyperbole. Rhyme and flow are also important in Hip Hop songs. Nowadays Hip Hop songs have an affect in cultures in every country. In other words, Hip Hop songs are now universal. Hip-Hop is not only a form of song but also a form of culture. Hip-Hop is characterized by four distinct elements, all of which represent the different manifestations of the culture: rap music (oral), turntablism or "DJing" (aural), b-boying (physical) and graffiti art (visual). Eminem is a great rapper who wrote and raps Hip Hop songs. In another meaning Eminem is the most genius rapper in modern times.

Recommendations

1. Recommendations for Application

By investigating figurative languages usage in Hip Hop song by Eminem, this study has examined in term of figurative languages. The implications of this study can explain:



1.1 The framework of the study can be used as guidelines in analysis of other language studies in linguistics.

1.2 People who are interested in this field can use this study as a key to unlock the door in studying song and culture.

2. Recommendations for further study

Based on the conclusions above, there are three suggestions given by the writer to the other researchers in order to do a better research in the future, they are:

2.1 To know the meaning of songs better, cognitive language should be used to analyze songs.

2.2 By making deeper understanding, a new researcher could analyze the specifics of figurative language such as slang, simile, or irony based found out in this study.

2.3 Hip Hop culture is broad. Culture and language used not only in Hip Hop songs but also used in many other types such as movie music. If you have the opportunity, go and interview some famous rapper, such as Eminem.

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