

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE DREAM THEATER'S
5th ALBUM "METROPOLIS PART.2: SCENES FROM A MEMORY"**

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Abstract

Song is one example of literature. Listening song is enjoyable activity, but the listeners cannot get a pleasure if they don't understand the figurative language that commonly found in the song. Song usually consists of figurative language since the figurative language is used in the lyric that is written well. Based on the reason, it brings the writer of the thesis to analyze. In this research, the writer analyzed figurative language in song lyrics of Dream Theater's Album 5th "Metropolis part.2: Scenes from a memory". The writer used qualitative research and content analysis in order to answer the research problems. Song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung. In its writing, the songwriters or composers usually beautify the language they use by any figurative language, so that the listeners will be more attracted in listening the song. This study is aimed at describing the existence of figurative and moral lesson in the lyrics of Dream Theater's song. The choice of Dream Theater's songs is based on two reasons. The first is writer himself is a big fan of Dream Theater. The second is the Dream Theater's songs does not only talk about love but also about science fiction, fantasy, history, war, and madness. The whole songs from Metropolis Part.2: Scenes from a memory are discussed in this study. Those songs are Regression; Strange Déjà vu; Through My Word; Fatal Tragedy; Beyond this Life; through Her Eyes; One Last Time; The Spirit Carries On; and Finally Free. In analyzing the lyrics, the writer of this thesis uses objective approach. After completing the study, the writer found out that the existing kind of figurative language in the lyrics of Dream Theater's songs were Alliteration (41,36%), Anaphor (7,85%), hyperbole (41,36%), Irony 7,85%()Metaphor (18,85%), Parallelism (3,67%), Personification(7,33%), Repetition(2,09%), Rhetorical Question(0,52%), Simile(3,14%). The first suggestion is to the next writer, using poem or songs as media is important and interesting in poetry subject. The writer could give songs as the example of learning figurative language to next writer and the second suggestion is to the next writer who want to conduct song analysis. They can do further research such as analyzing style, theme or value in the song.

Key words: Figurative language, Lyric and Album

Introduction

Song is a language in a set art of melodies. It is one of human way in expressing their passion. Moreover, song has some genres. One of them is Progressive rock (“prog”), an ambitious, eclectic, and often grandiose style of rock music which arose in the late 1960s principally in England, reaching the peak of its popularity in the early 1970s, but continuing as a musical form to this day. Progressive rock was a great European movement, and drew most of its influences from classical music and jazz fusion, in contrast to American rock, which was influenced by rhythm & blues and country, although there are notable exceptions in the New World such as Kansas and Rush considered by many to be the finest example of the form. Over the years various sub-genres of progressive rock have emerged, such as symphonic rock, art rock and progressive metal.

The writer’s reason why he chooses this genre to this study is because progressive rock has unique composition such as lyrics that convey intricate and sometimes impenetrable narratives, covering such themes as science fiction, fantasy, history, religion, war, love, and madness. Some early 1970s progressive rock bands (especially German ones) featured lyrics concerned with left-wing politics and social issues. Another reason is progressive rock’s concept album, in which a theme or story line is explored throughout an entire album in a manner similar to a film or a play. In the days of vinyl, these were usually two-record sets with strikingly designed gatefold sleeves. Famous examples include *2112* by Rush, *Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall* by Pink Floyd, and the more recent *Metropolis part II: Scenes from a Memory* by Dream Theater.

Based on the background of the study, the kinds of figurative language are used most in lyrics of Dream Theater’s *Metropolis Part II: Scenes from Memory* and the kinds of figurative language in song lyrics reflect the story line of *Metropolis Part II: Scenes from Memory*.

Figurative language enables us to explore language in new and interesting ways. Figurative language is a form of language that uses concrete, literal

images as a base. The concrete image is combined with a startling and seemingly unrelated image to create something new. (David, 2010: 1)

Based on theory above, the lyrics that have had the spaces of the readers' imagination and views as far as they want. Dream Theater members present the song in form of figurative language – language using figures of speech – which is language that cannot be taken literally.

Based on journal at <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwartz/engl331/figurative.html> (Dr. Debora B. Schwartz English Department, California Polytechnic State University), figurative language consist of Alliteration, Anaphora, Hyperbole, Irony, Metaphor (figurative expression), Parallelism, Personification, Repetition, Rhetorical Question, Simile. And then, figurative language can be explained as follows.

The data analysis was presented in a set of table. This table had been made in order to sort the analysis and finding as brief as possible.

Scene One: Regression

Regression is the opening song of this album. This song sketches moment when Nicholas tries to find out the beautiful young girl and dresses in 1920es who met him at barely days. This song opened by a song monologue of the hypnotist. Here, Nicholas needs to fall into his trance in order to meet Victoria.

This song is a regression part of scenes one of Metropolis Part II: Scenes from a Memory. It means that in this song, the main character Nicholas helped by the Hypnotist tries to go to his unconscious world to find out the girl that haunted him in his dream. First stanza is the hypnotist's statement in order to guide Nicholas entering his hypnotic trance.

The writer found figurative language in Regression as on the next page.

Table 4.1 Figurative Language In Regression

Stanza	Fragment	Figurative Language									
		Alliteration	Anaphora	Hyperbola	Irony	Metaphor	Parallelism	Personification	Repetition	Rhetorical Question	Simile
1	Close your eyes and begin to relax. Take a deep breath, and let it out slowly. Concentrate on your breathing. With each breath you become more relaxed. Imagine brilliant white light above you, focusing on this light as it flows through your body. Allow yourself to drift off as							1			

	you fall deeper and deeper into a more relaxed state of mind										
	<p>...focusing on this light as it flows <u>through your body</u></p> <p>Allow yourself to <u>drift off as you fall deeper and deeper</u></p>										2
II	<p>1. Safe in the light that surrounds me</p> <p>2. Free of the fear and the pain</p>	2									
III	<p>My subconscious <u>mind</u></p> <p>Starts spinning through time</p> <p>To rejoin the past once <u>again</u></p>	1									
	<p>My subconscious mind</p> <p>Starts</p>					1					

	spinning through time To rejoin the past once again										
	My subconscious mind <u>Starts</u> <u>spinning</u> <u>through time</u> <u>To rejoin the</u> <u>past once</u> <u>again</u>						1				
IV	Nothing seems <u>real</u> I'm starting to <u>feel</u>	1									
	Lost in the haze of a dream					1					
V	And as I draw <u>near</u> The scene becomes <u>clear</u>	1									
VI	Hello Victoria so glad to see you my friend	1									

TOTAL	6				2	1	1			2
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Findings

By analyzing the data and interpreted them, the writer found some results. Some figurative language were used in particular quantity. The writer found that each song contains figurative language. Figurative language which used most identifies the special character of Dream Theater as a progressive metal band viewed from linguistics side.

In regression, as the opening song of this album, the writer found 6 alliterations, 2 metaphor, and 1 for each parallelism, personification, and simile,. He interpreted the lyrics as the chapter when Nicholas began his trance to find out who Victoria was. Then, the second song, Overture 1928, is an instrumental song. But, according to the story line from www.dreamtheater.net , this instrumental is the event when Nicholas trance was in 1928. After Overture 1928 is Strange Deja vu which consist of 10 Alliteration, 2 Anaphora, 2 Hyperbole, 1 Irony, 5 Metaphor, 2 repetition, and 1 Simile. This song is continued by Through Her Eyes which has 1 Alliteration, 1 Anaphora, and 2 Metaphor. Other Figurative Language are found in Fatal Tragedy. There are 3 Alliteration, 2 Anaphora, 1 Irony, 6 Parallelism, and 3 Personifications. The next song, beyond this life consist of 7 Alliterations, 2 anaphora, 2 ironies, and 5

metaphors. Last, Act 1 of Metropolis part 2: Scene from a Memory closed by Through her Eyes which dominated by Alliteration (10 Alliterations)

The opening song in Act 2 of Metropolis Part 2: Scene From A Memory is Home. It is dominated by 16 Alliteration and 7 metaphors. The quantity of those styles is the most in this album. Next song, The Dance of Eternity, is Instrumental song which is the interpretation of love in sort of arranged melodies, not lyric. After that, the writer found 4 Alliteration and 3 metaphors in One Last Time. He also found 13 Alliteration and 8 rhetorical question in the Spirit Carries On. Last, the album Metropolis Part 2: Scene From A Memory closed by Finally Free which is dominated by 8 Alliteration and 4 metaphors. The writer also presented his finding in tables and charts in appendices.

In this study, the writer found that alliteration is used most. The reason is the song will be more interesting when alliteration is used in lyrics. Then, the rhymes become more attractive. Thus, it catches deep impression of music lover. Besides, the writer found the relation between figurative language in lyric and album storyline. For instance, he found such kind of parallelism and irony. Those styles sketch the characters and their life story. Although Dream Theater made a novel in sort of lyrics and used very limited sentences, they still able to present it well and clearly through figurative language.

Conclusion

As the study of stylistic devices in Dream Theater's Metropolis Part2: Scene from a Memory done, the writer concludes that he found some cases. Song is similar to poem but, song is presented in sort kind of musical notation. Some language styles

are also used in song, which are mainly formed from a lyric. He quoted an argument of a Britain rock musician, Paul McCartney, who mentioned that lyric is similar to poem. The writer studied the song lyrics as poetry study. The writer summarized his study as follows, journal in <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~dschwartz/engl331/figurative.html> (Dr. [Deborah B. Schwartz](#) English Department, [California Polytechnic State University](#)), Both sources explain figurative language. Sound and sense explain stylistic devices as figurative language. It is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. It is a way of saying one thing and meaning another. Thus, figurative language is based on a set interpretative assumption of the value. The writer used only ten figurative language which are possible used most.

Anaphora and alliteration are the figures of speech which are used most in poem and lyric. Those give more beautiful art of language and it pursues the reader enjoy the masterpiece. Another style that used in Hyperbole. Some lyricists tend to used exaggeration in order to draw attention in the message that she/he wants to emphasize.

Then, because Metropolis Part 2: Scene from a Memory has story in love, murder, and infidelity, the writer thinks that there must be irony in this album.

Metaphor, a figurative expression, and simile are also used in lyric most. Those style are similar. Metaphor compares two different things without “like” as in simile. The comparison in metaphor is implied, the figurative term is substitute for or identified with the literal term. Meanwhile, simile is a direct comparison. This study also studied some other stylistic devices such as parallelism, personification, repetition, and rhetorical question.

The result of the study is the finding of figurative language used in entire songs of *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes from a Memory*. The finding is that this album uses 41% of alliteration and 21% of metaphor (the detail of the finding is presented in Appendix). This finding proves the special character of Dream Theater as the progressive metal band viewed from linguistics.

Dream Theater in *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes from a Memory* tends to give special attention in alliteration. The writer found 41% alliteration in this album. It means that Dream Theater may consider to make song more beautiful through alliteration. It is able to catch the music lover's attention and make the song easy to remember. The writer also found 21% metaphor. Through metaphor, Dream Theater may be able to put several meanings by limited sentences. Moreover, metaphor is able to rise up the beauty of lyrics. *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes from a Memory* also consists of irony. An album which contains the story of murder, irony must be occurred. In short, the writer found that Dream Theater as progressive metal band, has special characteristics viewed from linguistics. This band mostly uses alliteration, anaphora, metaphor, and irony in its album storyline. This finding proves that song lyrics use stylistic.

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