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**THE ANALYSIS OF ABSTRACTION PERSONIFICATION IN SKILLET'S  
SELECTED SONG**

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**Abstract**

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**Introduction:** Personification abstraction is a valuable and important type of language because it can be found in everyday life and plays a major role in human communication. **Purpose:** The purpose of this research is to find and analyze the abstraction of personification and meaning in Skillet's selected songs. This study uses the personification theory of Zhu (1991) and the meaning theory of Leech (1981) to identify and classify the data in the lyrics taken from the selected songs, such as: Terrify the Dark, Vapor, and Stars. **Methods:** This study uses literature and qualitative methods in collecting and analyzing data. **Results:** After collecting and analyzing the data, it was found that there were ten lyrics containing the personification of abstraction in this study. **Conclusion:** this study shows that there is a personification of abstraction based on Zhu's theory (1991) in the selected song, but there are only four types of meaning out of the seven types of meaning found by Leech (1981) in it, namely conceptual, connotative, affective, and thematic.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Communication is one of the most important elements in human social life, as from the beginning of time, human as a social creature is being tied to necessity of communicating with their own kind in order to express their thinking, ideas, feeling, etc. (Maftuhah, 2018) explain that language can be defined as a means of communication of human life. In order to communicate, human need language as the media to transfer the message. (Kreidler, 2013) Justify that language is the media of transferring the message from one individual to the others. It is very important because it can deliver the message and expressing the feeling of the speaker at the same time. Language as the media to deliver the message need to have meaning, (Riemer, 2010) Justify that language need to carry through meaning in order to deliver the message, meaning become the core of language in transferring information.

There are many meaning inside the words from the literal to non-literal one, human use lot of meaning beyond it is literal or logical form in order to evoke imagination, explain complex thing, or to make the comprehension process easier for the listener or reader, this is the definition of figurative language. Figurative language is the use of language in order to cover the real meaning of it by comparing it with another thing, it can simply be defined as the use of word in order to express the meaning by using the meaning beyond its logical explanation.

Figurative language can be found easily in human everyday life. "Figure of speech can evoke emotion and imaginary" (Maula, 2013). One of the most popular literature forms that

contain figurative language is song. Song is the fusion of rhyme, tone, and lyrics that form a harmony. (Rahayu, 2018) justify that song can become a media to transfer the thought, the feeling, or to share what they want. Song contains figurative language because the song writer mostly uses a poetic word that can affect the feeling of the listener and evoke their imagination. Figurative language is hard to be understand because it uses the meaning beyond the logical or conceptual meaning.

Understanding figurative language is important because in human communication, it is one of the forms that commonly be found everywhere, it also cannot be understood or defined literally, make it harder to comprehend, but also help describing a complex thing such as abstract object. "Communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it *refers to*, over and above its purely conceptual content" (Saeed, 2015). The comprehension and understanding of figurative language and the meaning conveyed inside of it can make the transfer of message and information easier for everyone, especially for an individual who attracted with literature. (Arifah, 2016) explain that understanding figure of speech is important in order to avoid misinformation and misconception in life. Ibrahim (2016) describe figurative language as the way to transfer the speaker idea to the listener.

There are many types of figurative language, one of them is personification. (Deyin, 2018) justify that personification put a human characteristic or trait into something inhuman. (Suryanto, 2018) justify that personification focus on imaginative and creative. Personification focuses on imagination because it can force the listener or reader to imagine what the speaker idea. "Personification is a statement attributes human qualities to non-human" (Milana & Ardi, 2021). Personification can be simply defined as implementing a human characteristic, trait, consciousness into non-human thing such as animals, non-living thing, or abstract object.

(Melion & Ramakers, 2016) describe abstraction personification as the act of giving human trait to an abstract object, which would be useful in transfer the message and meaning to the reader or listener. Personification can be found easily in song. "Song as piece of music with words that are sung" (Dewi, 2020). Song is the combination of rhythm, music, and poetic words.

This analysis is being influenced by three previous study that also deal with a similar topic or data. The first study is An Analysis of Personification Found in John Meyer's Selected Song Lyric by (Wedayanti, 2021). The focus of this study is to find out the types of personification in figurative language and the meaning of the lyric in the song created by John Meyer. The data source for this study is John Meyer song, it uses qualitative descriptive analysis in analysing the data. The result of this study is there are five total of personification and five connotative meaning in the data selected. The second study is Examining personification in songs as one of the English teaching materials by (Fata & Aprilya, 2021). This study focuses on analysing the types of personification in Michael Jackson Thriller and Invincible album. This study uses descriptive qualitative analysis with documentation analysis as methods in collecting the data. The result of the analysis found that there are sixty-five personification expression in the data and there are 4 types of personification in it. The third study that influence this analysis is The Analysis of Figurative Languages used in some of One Direction's Songs' Lyrics by (Khairunnisa, 2016). This study used qualitative method in analysing the types and meaning of the figurative languages found inside the lyrics. The result of this study found out that there are twenty expressions from four types of figures of speech present in the song. This study also found out the meaning inside the lyrics or the data taken for this study.

The similarities between this study and the three previous study stated before is the topic, which is figurative language and the data source also collected from the song as the primary data in analysis. There are also some differences between this study and the three previous one. The difference between this study and the first previous study is this study focuses on analysing the abstraction personification based on the theory of personification from (Melion & Ramakers, 2016), meanwhile the previous study focuses on analysing the personification in general. The differences between this study and the second study lies on the theory used, this study uses three types of personification as the base in analysing the

data, meanwhile the second previous study uses four types. The differences between this study and the third study are on the topic selected, even though both of the study focus on figurative language, but this study analysing the personification specifically rather than all of the types of figurative language like the third previous study.

This study focuses on analysing the abstraction personification and the meaning of the selected song created by Skillet. This study uses the theory of meaning taken from the book *Semantic: The Study of Meaning* (Saeed, 2015) and the Types of Personification taken from the theory of personification from (Melion & Ramakers, 2016) from book entitled *On the Manifestation Means Formation and Appreciation of English Personification* that cited from *CS Canada Journal* by (Deyin, 2018) entitled *Meaning Construction of Personification in Discourse Based on Conceptual Integration Theory*. The lyric selected based on the presence of the abstraction personification in it as abstraction personification is used to convey the real meaning and comparing the things with the others. This study is interesting because lyric as the media in delivering the feeling and the message from the song writer, can also affect the feeling of anyone who listen to the song, song can be used to encourage someone or evoke imagination of the listener. This analysis is going to be useful for anyone who loves song and want to comprehend the meaning in it, especially for anyone who loves the song from Skillet. The benefit of this research is to find out new information and contribute to the topic, support previous theories, and become reference for future research.

## METHODS

This study uses library research in collecting the data. The data taken from selected song created by Skillet, such as: *Terrify the Dark*, *Stars*, and *Vapor*. In Analysing the data, there are several steps need to be taken, first the lyric of the song will be collected from <https://www.azlyrics.com> in order to find out the lyrics that belong to the abstraction personification based on the theory of personification by (Melion & Ramakers, 2016). After that the data are being analysed to find out the meaning inside it. Qualitative methods are going to be applied as the method in analysing the data. Qualitative method is the method of collection non-numerical data in order to find out the idea or understand the description. Qualitative method is relevant for this study because the data are being collected and analysed in the form of words, it can also be used to analyse the data accurately. The data are being analysed using the theory of meaning from (Saeed, 2015) and the theory of personification by (Melion & Ramakers, 2016).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter contain the result of the analysis, it also contains the explanation and the table of classification of the data. The table shows the lyrics or the data that belong to abstraction personification and the types of meaning inside it collected from selected song created by Skillet, there are ten lyrics that contain abstraction personification found inside, four of them were being presented here for discussion.

**Tabel I. Types of Meaning Found Inside the Selected Song by Skillet**

NO.	LYRIC	SONG TITLE	MEANING
1	My doubt will answer to your scars	Terrify the Dark	Thematic
2	No power in hell can steal my peace	Terrify the Dark	Connotative
3	Your love has called my name	Stars	Affective
4	Future's robbing my soul	Vapor	Connotative
TOTAL	4		

The table shows that there are four lyrics that belong to an abstraction personification with variation of meaning collected from selected song created by Skillet, such as: *Terrify the Dark*, *Stars*, and *Vapor*. The data collected by using the theory of personification from

(Melion & Ramakers, 2016). There are also types of meaning that appear in the data, conceptual meaning is not included here simply because every word has conceptual meaning that act as the core of the word, beside conceptual meaning, the analysis also found another type of meaning, they are: thematic, connotative and affective meaning.

In analysing and discussing the data in this study, it uses the theory of meaning taken from the book *Semantic: The Study of Meaning* (Saeed, 2015) that classified the meaning into seven types, which are conceptual, connotative, affective, associative, reflected, social, and thematic meaning, meanwhile the theory of abstraction is being taken from the theory of personification from (Melion & Ramakers, 2016) from book entitled *On the Manifestation Means Formation and Appreciation of English Personification* that cited from CSCanada Journal by (Deyin, 2018) entitled *Meaning Construction of Personification in Discourse Based on Conceptual Integration Theory*. (Melion & Ramakers, 2016) justify that abstraction personification is the act of giving a human trait, consciousness, or characteristic to an abstract object, abstract object is a real thing but do not tie to any concrete object in the real world such as opinion, idea, war, etc. There are ten lyric that contain abstraction personification found inside the song selected, four of them were taken for discussion and analysis.

#### **Data 1:**

*My doubt will answer to your scars*

(Line 1, Terrify the Dark)

This data is being categorized as an abstraction personification because it personifies an abstract object by giving it a human trait. (Melion & Ramakers, 2016) justify that abstraction personification is the form of personification where it personifies an abstract object by implementing a human characteristic into them. Abstract object is anything real but do not have a concrete form in the real world, such as: idea and opinion. This song is telling about the belief of someone towards his or her creator and how they keep their religions in their heart to fight evil aspect in his or her life, the evil aspect in human life can be bad habit, negative thinking, unhealthy relationship, or others. The data focused on how the character doubt and decrease his or her belief. The data *My doubt* belong to an abstract object category because the conceptual meaning of *doubt* is the feeling of uncertain or lack of conviction, it's a real thing but do not have any concrete form in the real world, hence it is an abstract object. The abstract object is being given a human quality, which is *will answer*, answer is the verb that describe a human action of saying or responding to something or someone. In literal meaning, it would be impossible to give a human-like reaction such as answering to something abstract that did not have concrete form such as *doubt*. Based on the lyric before it, the word *your* in the data refers to God, the lyric that appear before it that strengthen this statement is *Your light will terrify the dark and no power in Hell Is gonna steal my peace*, based on those lyrics, the context is about hell and heaven and related to God, hence the data can be described as how someone lost their belief. in the end the song shows that the lack of conviction to the creator are going to make someone stray away from their belief and morale.

This data has thematic meaning, the data is being categorized as thematic meaning because it reveals the point of focus that emphasize the focus point to the readers. (Saeed, 2015) justify that thematic meaning refers to how the speakers deliver the word; it is usually focused on the stress of words, emphasize and focus of the data. The emphasize of the sentences can be seen from the subject of the sentences. From the thematic meaning of the data, it can be described that the scars are the affect or the cause of the doubt. The focus point also made the readers imagine what happened and how the scars are being connected with the doubt. The real meaning of this data is the feeling of guilty after hurting and not believing someone that in the end have bring disaster and disappointment to the other person.

**Data 2:**

*No power in hell can steal my peace*

(Line 1, Terrify the Dark)

This data belongs to abstraction personification. "Personification transfer human attributes to abstract objects such as time and opinion" (Deyin, 2018). This song is about someone who doubt his or her own belief but in the end realized that it is important in order to fight the negative aspect in human life, the negative aspect can be in the form of bad influence, negative relationship, bad idea or negative way of thinking, etc. The subject of this data is an abstract object because the conceptual meaning of *power* is the ability to do something, power is an abstract object because it is real but do not have any concrete form in the real world. The abstract object is being described as human-like by giving it an ability to *steal* something. *Steal* is a verb that can be defined as a human action of taking something that do not belong to them without permission from the real owner. In literal speaking, it would be impossible for an abstract object that do not have any concrete form to take or steal something. The author of this lyric trying to evoke the imagination of the listener or reader by showing how the negative aspect in human life that being represented as *power in hell* can bring damage and negativity in your life that being represented as *steal my peace*, but the individuals in the song will not let that happen.

This data has connotative meaning, (Saeed, 2015) justify that connotative meaning is the meaning beyond it is literal for, it focus on what It *refers to* rather than the logical conceptual meaning of it. The data *No power in hell can steal my peace* do not mean that the power from hell can take your peace literally, but instead it means that the negative aspect in human life can bring damage to human life. Conceptually, Hell is an abstract place that also become the abode of devil, devil is the symbolism of negativity and evil, hence turning hell as the source of evil. *Steal my peace* means affecting and damaging aspect in human life because peace is the symbol of tranquilities and freedom from disturbance. This real meaning of this lyric is about someone who tried to fight and to avoid the negative influences around them by keep holding on something they belief in, which is their religion and the law of God.

**Data 3:**

*Your love has called my name*

(Line 27, Stars)

This data is categorized as an abstraction personification. (Melion & Ramakers, 2016) justify that abstraction personification personifies an abstract object by giving it a human-like trait, consciousness, or qualities. This song is telling about the affection and love between the human and his or her creator, the creator that loves everything he created. *Your love* is an abstract object because it does not tie to any concrete object. The conceptual meaning of love is a deep and intense affection toward something. The abstract object is being given a human attribute or ability, which is *has called*, which is in literal speaking would be impossible for an abstract object that do not have a concrete form to do. The song writer used this personification in order to explain and describe the affection that being given to someone easier.

This data has affective meaning because it affects and deliver the feelings through the lyric. (Saeed, 2015) justify that affective meaning is how the feeling are being communicated through the language. The data *Your love has called my name* delivering the feeling of affection, joyful, and great interest, it can be seen from the subject *your love*, love as a symbolism of intense feeling of deep affection, it being followed by the line *has called my name* that shows the connection and affection. The real meaning in this lyric is the feeling of deep affection toward someone, or in this case toward the creator.

**Data 4:**

*Future's robbing my soul*

(Line 1, Vapor)

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The data *Future's robbing my soul* is an abstraction personification. ([Melion & Ramakers, 2016](#)) justify that abstraction personification is an act of giving human trait, consciousness, or characteristic to something inhuman, or in this case an abstract object. Abstract object is an object that do not have concrete form, such as time, opinion, or idea. This song is telling about the helplessness of someone toward his or her life and the future. The subject in this data is *Future*, future is an abstract object because it is real but do not tie any concrete object, the conceptual meaning of it is the time progression after the present time. The abstract object is being given a human trait, which is an ability to *robbing, robbing* is a human action that can be defined as an act of taking or stealing an object that do not belong to them, usually with evil intention. In literal speaking it would be impossible for an abstract object to steal other's people properties. The writer trying to use this personification to evoke the imagination and describing how the time or the progression of present to the future can sometimes not only give positive impact, but also a negative one that eventually can cause anxiety and paranoid to the present self.

This data has connotative meaning, ([Saeed, 2015](#)) justify that connotative meaning is the meaning of the word beyond or above its purely conceptual definition. This data is impossible to be described or explained by using a conceptual meaning because it uses the meaning above it is literal one. Connotatively *Future* is a representation of what will happen or have not happen yet, meanwhile *robbing my soul* is the representation of the anticipating for something that not yet to come. The real meaning of this data is the feeling of how someone let himself or his thinking full of negativity by something that has not even come yet.

## CONCLUSION

The abstraction personification data taken from the selected Skillet's song, which are: Vapor, Stars, and Terrify the Dark. This study found out that all of the three songs selected contains an abstraction personification based on the theory of personification by ([Melion & Ramakers, 2016](#)), but only found four types of meaning from seven types of meaning by ([Saeed, 2015](#)), they are: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, affective meaning and thematic meaning, the data had found ten lyrics that contain abstraction personification, but only four were taken for analysis. The analysis has found that abstraction personification is very useful if being used to explain something that need deeper imagination and comprehension, as the nature of abstract thing is something real but do not tie to any concrete object in real life, it would be hard to evoke the listener imagination and give comprehension toward the topic if there are figure of speech being used. Abstraction personification play an important part in attracting the listener because it can evoke an imagination and eventually affect the feeling of the listener.

The data shows that there are four types of meaning based on the classification of meaning by ([Saeed, 2015](#)), such as connotative, affective, conceptual and thematic meaning. All of them play an important part in conveying the meaning in the data and help the reader to imagine and understand an abstract thing, because abstract thing does not have a concrete form, it usually would be harder to be understand or comprehend. The personification implemented in the song lyric helps giving description and evoke imagination of the reader or listener and brings the value and meaning inside the words. Connotative become the most dominant type of meaning that appeared in the analysis because all of the lyric contain connotative meaning even though that is not the focus that the song writer trying to show to the listener, connotative meaning is very important caused by two factors, first is how it act as the imaginary evoker and useful in explaining a complex thing, the other factor is the nature of connotative itself as people tend to implement the attributes of one thing, to the others in order to make a comparable and increase comprehension process easier.

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