



FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED SONGS “34 NUMBER ONES” ALBUM BY ALAN JACKSON

by:

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Abstract:

Country music is an interesting phenomenon around the world. Country music was feared to disappear since country music fans are mostly adults. Alan Jackson is a country music singer who has enthusiasm for supporting and maintaining the existence of country music. Figurative language is found in many Alan Jackson songs, which makes it difficult for listeners to understand the meaning of the song lyrics. Therefore, understanding the meaning of figurative language in the Alan Jackson songs in order to avoid misunderstanding the meaning is also the aim of this research. Hopefully, this study can provide knowledge of figurative language along with new insights for listeners and be a contribution to further research. In collecting and analyzing data, the researcher used the descriptive-qualitative method, which was considered more suitable to be applied. The result showed 86 data and 13 types of figurative language found in 18 selected love-themed song lyrics in the album “34 Number Ones” by Alan Jackson, dominated by: imagery (19%), hyperbole (16,3%), alliteration (16%), simile (12%), personification (8%), metaphor (8%), allusion (6%), anaphora (5%), irony (5%), metonymy (2%), apostrophe (1,2%), synecdoche (1,2%), and paradox (1%).

Keywords: 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. According to Engur (2020), Music is a form of aesthetics which 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). Country music was first produced commercially through the Victor Records label in 1922 by Eck Robertson. However, many

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historians argue that 1927 was the year that country music was created when Victor Records signed Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family. The modern style of country music is a musical tradition throughout the southern and southwestern United States.

Country music was feared to be disappearing since country music fans are mostly 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. 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.

Alan Jackson, or Alan Eugene Jackson, is an American singer-songwriter. Jackson was born in Newnan, Georgia, on October 17, 1958. In the mid-1980s, Jackson moved to Nashville and worked in a mailroom. Aside from his busy schedule, he also had a side job as a demo singer to improve his songwriting skills. 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 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 (Hall of Fame, 2023). Remz (2010) noted that Alan Jackson has released many songs based on his own compositions. Over the past two decades, he has been voted one of the biggest country artists to present the genre so well that it is widely recognizable. Alan Jackson has over 8 million monthly listeners and 2.3 million followers on Spotify.

Moreover, his vocal style and voice are believable, with a winning southern lilt and twang. "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. There are 37 songs on the album. Most of Alan Jackson's songs on the album "34 Number Ones" tell about love and contain deep rhythms and lyrical meanings that will make listeners feel emotionally carried away. Song lyrics are made to

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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 from within about something that has been seen, 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.

Figurative Language

The use of figurative language in Alan Jackson songs will be explored to determine how it affects the conveying of messages about the theme of love and to avoid misunderstanding the meaning of the song lyrics. 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). Perrine, in Neisya (2010), there are some reasons of effectiveness of saying in figurative language such as: afford as imaginative pleasure, as a way of bringin additional imagery, as a way of adding emotional intensity, and it is a means of concentration. 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). Semantic studies the meaning of words and sentences and is a branch of linguistics. Commonly, figurative language used in literary work such as song lyrics (Syaputri & Leonardo, 2019).

Yuningsih (2019) writes that there are 18 types of figurative language that 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 figurative language. The following 13 common types of figurative language include Hyperbole, Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Imagery, Allusion, Anaphora, Alliteration, Irony, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Paradox, and Apostrophe.

The researchers are interested in conducting this study so that listeners, especially country music fans, can easily understand the meaning of figurative language in the Alan Jackson songs, and to avoid misunderstanding the meaning. Figurative language is found in many Alan Jackson

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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, but there are numerous types of figurative meanings that cannot be found on the internet because no one has discussed them before. However, there rarely previous study specifically categorizing figurative language using love-themed songs in the country music. Additionally, Alan Jackson's songs not very popular to be discussed in a research.

Some studies that also discussed the topic of figurative language in a song included Astariani & Bhuana (2021), the study showed that there were five figurative languages in the songs, such as hyperbole, rhetoric, repetition, personification, and paradox. Hyperbole and repetition were the dominant forms used. In another study conducted by Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningih (2020), the figurative languages found in this study were six metaphors, two symbolisms, two imageries, two similes, and one personification. In the Fly song, there were four metaphors and one symbolism. Besides, in the Falling into You song, there were two metaphors, one symbolism, two imageries, two similes, and one personification. Based on these studies, the researchers of these studies also discuss songs about love. The researcher concludes that some of the related studies above have different objects from the figurative language that the researcher analyzes because this study only discusses figurative language in country music, especially in Alan Jackson's songs.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive-qualitative method to answer the problems formulated in the first chapter. From the perspective of Yilmaz (2013), 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 in order to reveal in descriptive terms the meanings that people attach to their experiences of the world". Basically, qualitative research is known as a method that uses descriptive data in its data 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 qualitative method was chosen by the researchers in conducting this study since this method was more suitable than other methods as this study discusses figurative language 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.

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Design

Since the qualitative method was applied in this study, the researchers would like to conduct this study using descriptive data. Furthermore, the object of this study is the 18 selected love-themed Alan Jackson songs on the “34 Number Ones” album. In collecting and analyzing the data, the researchers used some online platforms such as Google, Genius, Spotify, and YouTube. Google is a tool that was useful for the researcher to find related data. Moreover, the researchers used Genius.com to acquire the original lyrics of the songs. Besides, the researchers used Spotify to analyze the data since it provided lyrics. It also helped the researchers easily determine which songs contained love songs in the album and attach the selected songs to a new playlist. Therefore, the researchers can easily analyze them. On the other hand, the researchers also used the music videos of the songs on YouTube to help illustrate or depict the lyrics so that the researchers could easily understand the meaning of the lyrics.

Data Collecting Technique

The figurative language found in the song lyrics was the main source of the data. The researchers collected the data through the following steps: (1) Selecting love-themed songs in the album “34 Number Ones”. (2) Viewing the lyrics of the songs on Spotify while listening to the songs. (3) Finding out the data by viewing all the lyrics of the songs. (4) Reconfirming the data based on the definitions and examples so the data can be trusted. (5) Watching the official videos of the songs on YouTube to illustrate and understand the song lyrics. (6) Collecting and organizing the data that has been collected. (7) Writing down the data in a note.

Data Analysis Technique

According to Tracy (2012), in qualitative data, the process of interpreting is unpredictable because the technique requires being filled with reading the data, reflecting on the literature, thinking, talking, taking notes, writing, and thinking some more. One of the most common analysis approaches is identifying and interpreting the poignant examples that illustrate the full complexity of the data. To analyze the data, there are four steps as follows: (1) Identifying the types of figurative language and describing the impact on the meaning used in the figurative language. (2) Classifying the figurative language types based on the Abrams’ theory (2014). (3) Finding out the meaning and impact of the figurative language. (4) Generating the conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

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

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 %

*Discussion*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

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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 has been classified above, the researchers assumed that the data can be verified based on the theory of Abrams (2014), explained that Imagery can signify all the objects of sense perception that are used in a literature work by literal description. The term "Image" cannot be only defined as a visual reproduction of the object but also includes auditory, tactile (touch), thermal (heat and cold), olfactory (smell), gustatory (taste), and kinesthetic (sensations of movement). Those lyrics are classified as imagery since they used all of the objects of the senses of perception. In Alan Jackson's songs, imagery is used to encourage the listeners to deeply imagine the content of the lyrics. One of the examples of imagery is thermal imagery, which can be found in the beginning of the lyrics of "It Must Be Love": "*First I get cold and hot. Think*". The inclusion of the words 'cold' and 'hot' in the lyrics refer to temperatures. As an impact meaning, the use of imagery is to show the nervousness and hesitation that the narrator in the song experienced when he fell in love. Furthermore, tactile imagery is the most types of imagery that founded. For instance, in the song "Who's cheatin' who": "*You can't stick your nose*". The use of imagery in the lyric supports the idiomatic statements that contain hidden messages in the lyric. The songwriter explains how the female narrator attempts to discover mistakes made by the male narrator. It is proven in lines 5 and 6 that contain idioms: "*You can't stick your nose, into something that you don't understand*".

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

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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

Abrams (2014) mentioned that the Hyperbole is taken from the Greek language which means 'overshooting'. Hyperbole is a statement that contains exaggeration of fact in any amount of size, quality, or even nature. The use of hyperbole is for ironic effect in particular circumstances. Exaggerated statements are also frequently included in some song lyrics in 18 of Alan Jackson's songs. The researchers found 14 pieces of lyrics that contain hyperbole, such as one that says, "I'll buy you tall, tall trees and all the waters in the seas". The lyric is hyperbole since it makes an exaggerated statement. In literal terms, trees and waters in the seas are impossible to purchase. The songwriter used the hyperbolic statement in the lyrics as an expression of 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 about a person who sacrificed everything for her. In addition, the beginning line of the song, "Tonight I climbed the wall" contained an idiomatic hyperbole, "Our room was filled with silence" whereas the phrase illustrates the lack of communication between the couple in the song. In fact, silence cannot occupy space since it possesses no physical properties

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
2.	Remember <u>w</u> hen <u>w</u> e vowed the vows and <u>w</u> alked the <u>w</u> alk	6	Remember when
3.	To <u>w</u> here <u>w</u> e are, <u>w</u> here <u>w</u> e've been	23	Remember when
4.	Remember <u>w</u> hen <u>w</u> e said <u>w</u> hen <u>w</u> e turned gray	26	Remember when
5.	<u>T</u> hat <u>t</u> ru <u>e</u> love is a <u>t</u> reasure	18	Dallas
6.	Give <u>m</u> e one <u>m</u> ore <u>m</u> ove	4	As she's walking away
7.	But <u>t</u> hrough <u>t</u> he smoke I see her <u>t</u> here	10	Between the Devil and Me
8.	I <u>h</u> old <u>h</u> er in my arms tonight	12	Between the Devil and Me

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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 ruth	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

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). 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 in relation to consonants. Alliteration creates 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, in the song “Someday”, in the piece of lyrics in line 8, it says: *I wish that I could take that for the truth*. In the sentence in the lyrics, there are several words that use the same prefix. They are: that, take, that, the, and truth.

Simile

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

In literature, simile has been used since the 15th century and is even used by Shakespeare in his works. Readers can relate the writer’s feelings to their personal experiences with similes. Using similes can encourage imagination and make it easier for readers to understand the main idea of a text that contains difficult-to-understand language. Similes compare two clearly different things, using the connective “like” or “as”. (Abrams, 2014). The data in the song “Here in the Real World”: *“Oh, if life were like the movies, I’d never be blue”* shows a comparison between

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life and movies. The narrator expects that life’s reality could be similar to a movie, where everything is scripted, resulting in a painless existence. As for the impact meaning, the use of simile is to show the narrator’s experience, who is confronting the harsh reality of life after a broken heart. Moreover, in other songs like “There goes”: “*like some big, black widow spider*”, the songwriter compares 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 entices the male narrator into falling in love with her.

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

Language has an aesthetic role as a characteristic for extracting feelings. And personification is related to the language’s function as an aesthetic object. Personification has a complex construction process. Abrams (2014) stated that when speaking of inanimate objects or abstract concepts, it is as if they have life, human qualities, or emotions. Alan Jackson uses personification to make an object seem alive, give a clear illustration, and also make the sentence not feel dull. As an example in the song lyric “Livin’ on love”, “*But love can walk through fire without blinkin’.*” The word ‘walk’ refers to a human act; the statement describes a love that means all problems seem to be 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 reflecting on the ups and downs that he and his wife experienced, conveys that time passes quickly. Through the narrator in the song, he also conveys his experience of leading a more serious life through the lyric “We lived

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and learned, 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’

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 is a phrase that without clarifying the comparison can indicate one kind of thing applied to a different kind of thing (Abrams, 2014). Metaphor depicts something that not literally true but can be used as a comparison. Metaphor is used as a subject of reference for experts. In metaphor, Alan Jackson compares some objects to other objects, such as ‘true love’ and ‘treasure’, which is impacted to the meaning that true love is something valuable and rarely happens as a treasure. The songwriter conveys how special 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*”, 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

Allusion

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
1.	Cowboys don’t cry, and heroes don’t die	1	Here in the Real orld
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

Abrams (2014) defined allusion as a passing reference, without explicit identification, to a literary or historical person, place, or event, or to another literary work or passage. In general, most literary allusions are introduced to the reader. Some of the authors, especially modern authors such as Pound, Eliot, or Joyce, include specific allusions taken from the author’s experience and

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perspective. Alan Jackson’s songs use some allusions. Additionally, references that lead to religion are the most commonly used in allusion. One of the religious allusions is the use of the words ‘devil’ and ‘hell’ in the song “Between the Devil and Me”. Devil is a reference that leads to the beliefs of certain religions. Whereas ‘hell’ is believed by most Abrahamic religions (*Islam, Christianity, and Judaism*) and other religion to be a place of punishment. These allusions have an impact meaning as the temptation of an extramarital affair that is experienced by the narrator in the song

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. There were four songs that feature anaphora based on the Abrams’ theory (2014), which is he mentioned Anaphora (Greek for “repetition”) 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.” Certain lyrics were repeated throughout various lines and stanzas, as outlined in the data above. The use of the repeated word

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is not only to enhance the rhythm of the song but also to clarify the overall meaning of the song. Therefore, the listeners will more easily understand the inference of the song.

Irony

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

Abrams (2014) explained that the basic connotation is to disseminate or to conceal what is in fact the case, continues in most present essential uses of the term 'irony,' not to deceive, but to produce specific rhetorical or artistic effects. Irony is used by writers to attract readers and amuse them as it refers to the clash of expectation and reality. Phrases containing satire can be found in one of the lyrics of the song “(Who says) you can't have it all”; “*I've got everything a broken heart needs. Oh, I'm doing fine, don't you worry about me*” The word ‘*I'm doing fine*’ is ironic since it contradicts the previous phrase, which describes the heartbreak the narrator is feeling. The narrator seems to be conveying that sadness is making him feel weak. Furthermore, in the song “Someday” there are two phrases that contain irony that shows in the data column number 2 & 3, through these lyric lines, the female narrator in the song relays 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*” is a satire, which aimed at their tenuous relationship after the divorce, as conveyed by the phrase.

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 metonymy is used to describe a situation in which one object is associated with another as a result of a recurring connection within a common experience. Therefore, “the crown” might represent the monarchy, while “Hollywood” can represent the movie company. (Abrams,

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2014). The term ‘silver screen’ in the lyric “*And tonight on that silver screen, it’ll end like it should*” is associated with a theater, more precisely referring to the movie. The songwriter used metonymy to complement and illustrate the lyric. As an impact meaning, the use of figurative language motivates the listener to come 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.

Apostrophe

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

According to Abrams (2014), Apostrophe known as a direct and unambiguous address of a person who is not present, or of a non-human or abstract being. Frequently, the effect is one of great formality, or of a sudden emotional stimulus. From the data above, 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 as a hope of the male narrator in order for his lover to always remember him.

Synecdoche

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

According to Abrams (2014), Synecdoche is used to refer to a part of a whole in order to signify a part. As an example in “ten hands”, which represent ten workers, or one of the commonly used slang words “wheels”, which means automobile. The data above is classified as synecdoche since it represents the whole through a part. The term ‘forever’ in the lyric represents a life or moments that the narrators have experienced. The lyrics make an impact by representing the emotions of the narrator. The songwriter uses this term to reflect upon the time he spent with his spouse, which now only remains as a lingering memory.

Paradox

No	Data / Lyric	Line	Song
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1.	We've both felt love , we both felt pain	3	I'll try
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A paradox is a statement which appears to be either contradictory or even illogical, yet may be logically interpreted in a meaningful way. Most poets find paradox helpful, and it was an important device in 17th century meta-fictional poetry, both religious and secular. "Death, Be Not Proud" is an example (Abrams, 2014). The data contain 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 lyric by stating that love is a temporary feeling.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

Conclusion

Based on the data analyzed in the previous chapter, the researchers found that imagery is the type of figurative language with the dominant or highest frequency in 18 of Alan Jackson's songs, with a total of 13 frequencies. From the 18 selected Alan Jackson songs in the album "34 Number Ones", the researchers found imagery (19%), hyperbole (16,3%), alliteration (16%), simile (12%), personification (8%), metaphor (8%), allusion (6%), anaphora (5%), irony (5%), metonymy (2%), apostrophe (1,2%), synecdoche (1,2%), and paradox (1%). In imagery, the most dominant imagery is tactile imagery. Furthermore, Alan Jackson's songs entitled "Between the Devil and Me" was the song with the most figurative language used with nine data. The researchers found that there were many pieces of data that contained idiomatic expressions that were difficult to understand while analyzing the data. The researchers also concluded that the use of figurative language impacted the meaning that was explained deeply in the song; as a result, most of Alan Jackson's songs describe his love stories since the researchers selected love-themed songs. Besides, in some songs that were written by Alan Jackson himself, the narrator may describe his life experiences and emotions.

Limitation

One of the greatest albums by Alan Jackson is "34 Number Ones," which contains 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" that were chosen by the researchers as limitations since the theme of these songs

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is love. The songs were: (1) Tall, tall trees, (2) Livin' on love, (3) Dallas, (4) Here in the real world, (5) Remember when, (6) Who's cheatin' who, (7) It must be love, (8) Who says you can't have it all, (9) She's got the rhythm, (10) Tonight I climbed the wall, (11) Ring of fire, (12) As She's Walking Away, (13) Love's got a hold on you, (14) Someday, (15) Look at me, (16) I'll try, (17) Between the Devil and Me, and (18) There Goes.

Implication

While analyzing the data, the researchers gained a new understanding and simultaneously practiced the researcher's English language skills. By conducting this study, hopefully it could have a positive impact on readers' knowledge of the implied meaning and types of figurative language. As a suggestion, readers are expected to understand the meaning of a song lyric. In this context, it is not only applied 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 matching the data with the definition of figurative types in advance so that the results could be more valid.

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ACCEPTANCE LETTER (LoA)

No: PJEE-8687-27133-1-SM

Dear

Ms. Komala Dwi Syaputri

Mr. Wahyudi Saputra

Premise Editorial Teams would like to congratulate you on being accepted for your submitted article entitled " **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED SONGS "34 NUMBER ONES" ALBUM BY ALAN JACKSON**" to get published in the **Premise: Journal of English Education and Applied Linguistics**. The journal is indexed in SINTA 3 and is being proposed to Scopus and WoS in 2022-2024.

After a quick review of your submitted article, we have decided that your article is accepted and is scheduled to be published in Volume 13 No 1, February 2024 edition. However, further review to revise is applicable at least twice by two blind peer reviews. For that reason, the author must check the review program through OJS. The communication and process of manuscripts are full via OJS. <http://www.ojs.fkip.ummetro.ac.id/index.php/english/login>. Urgent messages can be texted through WhatsApp. In addition, ***Mendeley is to use as a referencing tool to meet this journal's essential requirement.***

Should you have further questions, please contact the editor via WA.081385471415

Thank you very much.

Metro, September 1, 2023

Sincerely yours,



Dr. DEDI TURMUDI, S.PD., M.A. TESOL

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