

Surawate Tocharoen 2012: A Study of Figurative Language Used in the Composition of National Anthems. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Pataraporn Tapinta, Ph.D. 116 pages.

The study aimed to investigate types of figurative language employed in the national anthems. Also, it described the methods of applying those figurative devices. In other words, it explored how figurative language in the national anthems was employed to convey meanings to the audience.

In this study, the qualitative research approach was employed. The data were obtained through purposively selecting a variety of national anthems. The lyrics of the anthems in English that have been officially established after 1950 were focused on. In relation to types of figurative language in the national anthems found in this study, concepts and approaches of message conveying were analyzed and explained.

The result displayed 11 types of figurative language devices employed in these 24 national anthems. Among those, the most commonly used devices were repetition, alliteration, synecdoche, and metonymy. In relation to the applications of those devices, three major themes that promote nationalism and patriotism were found: the admiration of the institution, the strength of the people, and the pride of the nation. The lyricists employed the figurative language in various fashions. Both a single technique and various patterns of combination of techniques were evidenced in conveying the intended meanings. Possible factors that enhance the meaning construction were also discussed. All in all, the role of figurative language was obviously seen in empowering the social and cultural values of a particular nation among the audience through certain forms of linguistic and musical representations. Finally, related theoretical implications were discussed.

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