

**A STUDY OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN *BRUNO MARS'*
*SELECTED SONGS***

A PAPER

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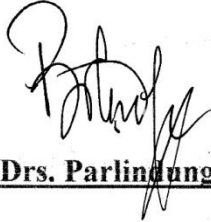
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ABSTRAK

Paper ini berjudul “**A Study of Figurative Language Found in *Bruno Mars’ Selected Songs***”. Bahasa kiasan merupakan salah satu gaya bahasa yang cara menyampaikannya berbeda dari makna sebenarnya. Bahasa kiasan sangat umum di dalam lagu atau puisi. Ini sangat bermanfaat bagi penulis karena dapat membuat bahasa mereka lebih indah dan menarik untuk di dengarkan. Kiasan menyampaikan bayangan dari suatu makna yang tidak begitu bisa di ekspresikan dengan cara lain. Penulis akan menjelaskan kiasan dan arti dari lirik lagu yang mengandung kiasan. Metode yang digunakan penulis dalam kertas karya ini adalah metode penelitian kepustakaan dimana penulis mengumpulkan beberapa buku yang berhubungan dengan topik ini. Dalam kertas karya ini penulis akan fokus dengan empat tipe kiasan yaitu asosiasi (simili), metafora, hiperbola, dan personifikasi. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengetahui bahasa kiasan yang digunakan di lagu milik Bruno Mars dan menggambarkan arti lirik tersebut.

Kata kunci : *Bahasa kiasan, Lagu, Lirik*

ABSTRACT

The title of this paper is “**A Study of Figurative Language Found in Bruno Mars’ Selected Songs**”. Figurative language is one of style of language that the way to convey it is different from the real meaning. Figurative language is very common in song or poetry. This is very useful to writer because it can make their language more beautiful and interesting to listen. Figurative convey shades of meaning that can’t be expressed exactly any other way. Author will describe about figurative and the meaning for the lyrics that contain figurative. The method that the author used in this paper is qualitative-library research where the author collects some book that relevant with this topic. In this paper, author will focus on four types of figurative which are simile, metaphor, hyperbole and, personification. The aim was to know the figurative language used in Bruno Mars’ songs and to portray the meanings found in the lyrics.

Key words: *Figurative Language, Song, Lyric*

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Medan, 2018

The Writer,

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system of conventional spoken, manual, or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. The functions of language include communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release.

According to Sapir (1921:8) , language is as purely human and non instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotion and desire by means of system of voluntarily produced symbol.

Henry Sweet (1870), an English phonetician and language scholar, stated: “Language is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts.”

Language is foremost a means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context. This is why effective communication requires an understanding and recognition of the connections between a language and the people who use it.

When we study about linguistic, we will know about semantics which study of meaning. In English we know that meaning have important position to study because it will give influence to someone to understand about speaker’s mean or how far some information can receive by listeners.

Many people like to listen music, especially western ones. Most of them would like to download the western songs which are popular right now, In order to memorize it and improve English mastery through western songs.

We know that lyrics in westerns music not only use denotative meaning to express message from singer but also connotative meaning. Connotative meaning happens because the singer wish to make agreement, disagree, happy, unhappy, etc, for the listeners. Many kinds of literature give us so much information in which they use non literal meaning of words. For example, some lyric on the songs uses figurative language to make it more interesting and imaginative.

Figurative language is language using figures of speech (a way of saying one thing and another meaning), It is associated with the lyric of the song uses figurative language. There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbola, irony, etc.

In this study, writer wants to concerns about the meaning of figurative language in the song, because there are many expression from the singer that are imagine about condition or situation inserted in the lyrics that used figurative language to express the emotion from the singer. The ideas and feelings become difficult to understand because the composer has adopted figurative expression to the lyrics. Therefore, this paper will discuss figurative language that found in the song lyrics and try to classify and describe them.

The purpose of figurative language is to force readers to imagine or intuit what an author means with an expression or statement, we can say what we want to say more patently by figures than we can by saying it directly. Figures of speech offer another way of adding extra dimension to language.

In this study, the writer chooses Bruno Mars' songs to be analyzed. Many figurative languages can be found in this songs. Besides, Bruno Mars is a popular singer in the world. There are many people who know his song lyrics. The writer is interesting to analysis lyrics of Bruno Mars' songs because in lyrics many expression from singer that are imagine about condition or situation which singer got. So, the writer found figurative language in lyrics to express the emotion from singer to more interesting. Nowadays figurative can be considered as a big part in a song, which can make a song feels more weighty and attract listener.

1.2 Problem of the Study

- 1) What are the types of figurative language used in Bruno Mars selected songs?
- 2) What are the meanings of figurative language in Bruno Mars selected songs?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The writer has some focus on 4 figures of speech Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole and Personification and their contextual meaning. This paper will answer the questions in the problems.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

- 1) To find out what the types of figurative language used in Bruno Mars selected songs.
- 2) To describe the meaning of figurative language in Bruno Mars selected songs.

1.5 The Method of the Study

In this paper the writer used library research by collecting some references such as textbook with Knickerbocker theory, information about the topic, and internet to collecting part of the lyrics that use figurative language, identifying the meaning and concluding the result of the data.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW AND RELATED OF LITERATURE

2.1 Definitions of Figurative Language

This chapter covers definitions and theories which are related to support the subject. The writer has done some literature review in many sources such as books, journal and internet websites.

Figurative language is language using figures of speech (a way of saying one thing and another meaning), It is associated with the lyric of the song uses figurative language. There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbola, irony, etc.

Figurative language is a language that contains figures of speech, such as metaphor, simile, personification and hyperbole, namely expressions that make comparisons or associations which are meant to be interpreted imaginatively rather than literally (Morner and Rausch – 1991:83).

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) stated that figurative language will sometimes be called metaphorical language or simply metaphor. In General Knickerbocker and Reninger proposed some kinds of figurative languages like simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor and allusion.

Glucksberg (2001) identifies figurative language as language where the meaning does not coincide with literal language's meaning and points at metaphors and idioms as examples of it. (preface) He further discusses the topic of understanding the meaning of figurative language as depending on context.

2.2 Types of Figurative Language

There are kinds of figurative language's type, in this chapter, writer only explain types that are used for the study.

1. Simile

A simile uses the words "like" or "as" to compare one object or idea with another to suggest they are alike.

Example : *Resha runs as fast as the wind.*

Meaning : as wind as is an equalizing, he isn't really run like a wind, but he runs so fast.

2. Personification

Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. This is used in children's books, poetry, and fictional literature.

Example : *That piece of chocolate cake is calling my name.*

Meaning : Chocolate cake doesn't have the ability to call after someone, but this cliché uses personification to express the feeling of desire and hunger.

3. Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech in which two "essentially unlike things" are shown to have a type of resemblance or create a new image.

The similarities between the objects being compared may be implied rather than directly stated.

Example : *He broke my heart.*”

Meaning : Your heart isn't literally broken; you're just feeling hurt and sad.

4. Hyperbole

Hyperboles are a type of figurative language that use extreme exaggeration, things that happen in a hyperbole could never really happen.

Example : *I'm hungry I could eat a horse.*

Meaning : The person in this sentence isn't really eat a horse, but he feel so hungry and want to eat a lot.

2.3 Lyrics

Lyrics are words that make up a song. The song writer is a lyricist or lyricist. The meaning of lyrics can either be explicit or implicit. Some lyrics are abstract, almost unintelligible, and, in such cases, their explication emphasizes form, articulation, meter, and symmetry of expression.(Wikipedia,2011)

Moreover, people like to express their feeling, emotion, ideas or thought through some ways like poetry, short stories, novels, or even songs. Song is one of the works that can be found easily in everyday life which contains flowery words.

Moreover, song is defined as literary work of musical expression to express human thinking and feeling where it has been the soul of the life that cannot be separated.

Lyrics of the song can be as the description of song's writer expression to devote the feeling, thought, and the willingness. Therefore, lyric can be as the form to convey a message in communication. To understand the lyrics, people have to determine the speaker's intention, which sometimes the composer is using figurative language on the song, therefore the listeners not only be able to enjoy the melody of the song but they can get more knowledge from interpreting the point of view on things in the world revealed through song's lyrics. it is also commonly called as an art form language in which many authors, poet, or even composers use it to create more meaning through language in expressing their ideas and imagination freely by which readers or listeners can gain understanding of and appreciation toward their works. In this case, the reader or listener are

demanding to construct their own mind in obtaining the intended meaning which differ from the actual literal meaning of the words themselves.

CHAPTER III

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer would like to describe about four kind of figurative languages found in Bruno Mars' selected songs and its meaning. Figurative languages use figure of speech a way to explore less known through the known.

3.1 Simile

Based on theory, simile is a stated of comparison of two dissimilar things introduced by "like" or "as".

1. *You can count on me **like** one two three*

I'll be there (Count on me – Line 7)

In this lyric, you cant actually number your friends off. But you can rely on your friends when you need help.

3.2 Personification

Personification is giving human characteristics to an object, animal, or an abstract idea.

1. *And you **smile**(smile, smile)*

*The whole **world stops and stares** for a while (Just the way you are – Line 11)*

The earth cannot stops and stare. The world does not actually stop when she smiles, but her smile is so captivating.

2. *I'll be the **light** to guide you (Count on me – Line 4)*

Your friend will always help you when you need help and light your way for you.

3.3 Metaphor

Metaphor is an implied comparison, or an expression that is used in a new sense, on the basis of similarity between in literal sense and the new thing or situation to which is applied, with “like” or “as” omitted.

1. *Leave some **morphine** at my door*

*Cause it would take a whole **lot of medication** (It will rain –Line 2)*

The man who afraid losing her lover and describe how painful he is if her lover ever leaves him.

2. *Just like the **clouds** my eyes will do the same*

*If you walk away everyday, it'll **rain rain rain** (It will rain – Line 20)*

This word ”clouds” it means that the person is sad and represented of word “rain rain rain” is cry.

3. *To tell the **devil** I said hey*

When you get back to where you're from (Grenade – Line 23)

He was comparing the girl to being evil like a devil. He meant that she was man or tricky.

4. *At night when the stars light up my room i sit by myself **talking to the moon** tryin to get to you (Talking to the moon – Line 9)*

This lyrics I guess about someone who passed away and he is trying to talk to whoever passed and he doesn't know if their answering him or can hear him talking to them.

3.4 Hyperbole

Hyperbole as an exaggeration used for special effect.

1. *Oh her eyes, her eyes*

***Make the stars look like they're not shinin'** (Just the way you are – Line 1)*

The eyes are not actually brighter than the stars but it's resembles for a human that is look very beautiful or kindness.

2. *I'll **pick up these broken pieces** till I'm **bleeding** (It will rain – Line 26)*

If that'll make you mine

This lyric repetition that he want getting love even though you have to feel the pain.

3. *You'll always have me shoulder when **you cry I'll never let go never say goodbye** (Count on me – Line 31)*

Your friend will always be there to help you when you are sad, they will cheer you up and help you to think on the brighter side.

4. *I gave you **all I had** and you **tossed it in the trash** (Grenade – Line 7)*

He gave her everything but she didn't. If he had treated her right then he wouldn't be heartbroken.

5. *I'd **catch a grenade** for you (Grenade – Line 11)*

By the lyrics the songwriter tries to show that he is willing to catch a grenade in order to show his sacrifice "grenade" can be symbolizes a very dangerous tool that is killing and it is impossible for someone to catch. he will do everything can to prove his love.

6. *To **give all your love** is all I ever ask (Grenade – Line 9)*

He wanted all of her love, he said it in an exaggeration.

7. *I'd **jump in front of a train** for you (Grenade – Line 13)*

A person willing do anything to get attention.

8. *I'd take a **bullet straight** through **my brain** (Grenade – Line 17)*

"Brain" means "the organ of the body in the head that control function, sensation and thought". when a bullet passes the brain, it surely can kill the person. this lyric repetition he will do everything in the name of love.

9. ***Beat me 'till I'm dumb** (Grenade – Line 22)*

The lyrics shows that to be beaten until he is numb can be one of the sacrifice that surely will be done even he gets pain.”beat” and “numb” carry exaggerated meaning of “hurt” and “in pain”.

10. *You’ll smile in my face then **rip the brakes out my car** (Grenade –Line 25)*

The songwriters wants to convey that the meaning of the lyrics is that the women whom he mentions will be kind to him, loves him, or accept him but then will hurt him.

11. *If you ever find yourself **stuck in the middle of the sea***

I sail the world to find you (Count on me – Line 1)

This lyrics repetition a friend i’ll be there when his friend get something terrible.

12. Cause there’ll be **no sunlight**

If I lose you baby (It will rain – *Line 11*)

The lyrics “no sunlight” shows that a person will lost spirit in his life when her lover leave him.

13. There’ll be no **clear skies**

If I lose you, baby (It will rain – *Line 13*)

This lyrics repetition a person who feel mess up when he lose his lover.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When a writer uses literal language, he or she is simply stating the facts as they are. After analyzing the figurative languages found in Bruno Mars' selected songs, the writer concludes that each lyric really presenting the song. We might learn and understanding how the authors try to tell us about the story of a song. The dominant of figurative type that is used in the song lyrics is hyperbole and the least figurative meaning used in the album is simile.

4.2 Suggestion

Figurative language has been a part of conversation or communicating to help conveying messages, ideas can be expressed clearly in economical use of words. Therefore, the writer would like to suggest those who are interest in literature may look at figurative language to be analyzed.

Songs are worth considering being the sources to learn English. The songs can be used as materials in learning English. They help the English students know and understand many types of figurative language, the definitions, and how to interpret them. Besides, readers can learn about critical thinking through the use of the songs since some of the meanings are not delivered from the words written.

The writer hopes that the readers have to learn about figurative also the types, and writer hopes that this paper can be useful for the readers and can enrich the readers knowledge about figurative on a song.

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APPENDICES

BIOGRAPHY OF BRUNO MARS



Peter Gene Hernandez (born October 8, 1985), known professionally as **Bruno Mars**, is an American singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, and dancer. He is known for his stage performances, retro showmanship and for performing in a wide range of musical styles including R&B, funk, pop, soul, reggae, hip hop and rock. Mars is accompanied by his band, The Hooligans, who play a variety of instruments such as electric guitar, bass, piano, keyboards, drums and horns, and also serve as backup singers and dancers.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Mars moved to Los Angeles in 2003 to pursue a musical career. After being dropped by Motown Records, Mars signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records in 2009. In the same year, he co-founded the production team The Smeezingtons, responsible for various successful singles for Mars himself and other artists. Mars rose to fame in 2010 with the release of the successful singles "Nothin' on You" by B.o.B and "Billionaire" by Travie McCoy, both of which featured his vocals on the hooks. His debut studio album *Doo-Wops & Hooligans* (2010) peaked at number three on the US *Billboard* 200 and reached the top in Canada, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and in the United Kingdom albums charts. It spawned the international number-one singles "Just the Way You Are", "Grenade" and "The Lazy Song". The former won a Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance. In 2011, Mars

recorded the thriving single "It Will Rain" for *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1*.

Mars' second album, *Unorthodox Jukebox* (2012), peaked at number one on the US *Billboard* 200, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, and in the UK, winning a Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album. Its singles "Locked Out of Heaven" and "When I Was Your Man" reached number one on the US *Billboard* Hot 100. In 2014, Mars collaborated with Mark Ronson on "Uptown Funk", which topped many music charts worldwide, including the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and UK. It won two Grammys, including Record of the Year. In 2016, Shampoo Press & Curl replaced The Smeezingtons on the composition of Mars' third studio album, the R&B-focused, *24K Magic*. The record debuted at number two in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand and received seven Grammys, in conjunction with major categories Album of the Year, Record of the Year, and Song of the Year. It yielded the successful singles "24K Magic", "That's What I Like" and "Finesse".

Mars has sold over 130 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time. He has released seven number-one singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100 since his career launched in 2010, attaining his first five faster than any male artist since Elvis Presley. Mars has received various awards and nominations, including 11 Grammy Awards, three Brit Awards, three Guinness World Records and nine American Music Awards. He has appeared in *Time*'s 100 most influential people in the world (2011) and *Forbes*' lists of lists of 30 under 30 (2013), the world's most powerful celebrities (2014), and Celebrity 100 (2018).

Count on Me

If you ever find yourself stuck in the middle of the sea,

I'll sail the world to find you

If you ever find yourself lost in the dark and you can't see,

I'll be the light to guide you

Find out what we're made of

When we are called to help our friends in need

You can count on me like one two three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two

You'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah

Whoa, whoa

Oh, oh

Yeah, yeah

If you tossin' and you're turnin' and you just can't fall asleep

I'll sing a song

Beside you

And if you ever forget how much you really mean to me

Everyday I will

Remind you

Ooh

Find out what we're made of

When we are called to help our friends in need

You can count on me like one two three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two

You'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah

Oh, oh

Yeah, yeah

You'll always have my shoulder when you cry

I'll never let go

Never say goodbye

You know you can

Count on me like one two three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it I can count on you like four three two

And you'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah

Oh, oh

You can count on me 'cause I can count on you

It Will Rain

If you ever leave me baby,
Leave some morphine at my door
'Cause it would take a whole lot of medication
To realize what we used to have,
We don't have it anymore.
There's no religion that could save me
No matter how long my knees are on the floor
Ooh so keep in mind all the sacrifices I'm makin'
Will keep you by my side
Will keep you from walkin' out the door.
'Cause there'll be no sunlight
If I lose you, baby
There'll be no clear skies
If I lose you, baby
Just like the clouds
My eyes will do the same, if you walk away
Everyday it will rain
I'll never be your mother's favorite
Your daddy can't even look me in the eye
Ooh if I was in their shoes, I'd be doing the same thing
Sayin there goes my little girl
Walkin' with that troublesome guy

But they're just afraid of something they can't understand

Ooh but little darlin' watch me change their minds

Yea for you I'll try I'll try I'll try I'll try

I'll pick up these broken pieces 'til I'm bleeding

If that'll make you mine

'Cause there'll be no sunlight

If I lose you, baby

There'll be no clear skies

If I lose you, baby

Just like the clouds

My eyes will do the same, if you walk away

Everyday it will rain

Don't you say, goodbye

Don't you say, goodbye

I'll pick up these broken pieces 'til I'm bleeding

If that'll make it right

'Cause there'll be no sunlight

If I lose you, baby

There'll be no clear skies

Grenade

Easy come, easy go

That's just how you live

Oh take, take, take it all but you never give

Should've known you was trouble from the first kiss

Had your eyes wide open

Why were they open

Gave you all I had and you tossed it in the trash

You tossed it in the trash, you did

To give me all your love is all I ever ask

'Cause what you don't understand is

I'd catch a grenade for ya (yeah yeah)

Throw my head on a blade for ya (yeah yeah)

I'd jump in front of a train for ya (yeah yeah)

You know I'd do anything for ya (yeah yeah)

Oh whoa oh

I would go through all this pain

Take a bullet straight through my brain

Yes I would die for you baby

But you won't do the same

No no no no

Black, black, black and blue

Beat me {til I'm numb

Tell the devil I said hey when you get back to where you're from
Mad woman, bad woman that's just what you are
Yeah you'll smile in my face then rip the breaks out my car
Gave you all I had and you tossed it in the trash
You tossed it in the trash, you did
To give me all your love is all I ever ask
'Cause what you don't understand is
I'd catch a grenade for ya (yeah yeah)
Throw my head on a blade for ya (yeah yeah)
I'd jump in front of a train for ya (yeah yeah)
You know I'd do anything for ya (yeah yeah)
Oh whoa oh
I would go through all this pain
Take a bullet straight through my brain
Yes I would die for you baby
But you won't do the same
If my body was on fire
Ooh you'd watch me burn down in flames
You said you love me, you're a liar
'Cause you never ever, ever did
But darling I'd still catch a grenade for ya (yeah yeah)
Throw my head on a blade for ya (yeah yeah)
I'd jump in front of a train for ya (yeah yeah)
You know I'd do anything for ya (yeah yeah)

Oh whoa oh

I would go through all this pain

Take a bullet straight through my brain

Yes I would die for you, baby

But you won't do the same

No no no no no

Talking to the Moon

I know you're somewhere out there

Somewhere far away

I want you back

I want you back

My neighbors think I'm crazy

But they don't understand

You're all I have

You're all I have

At night when the stars

Light up my room

I sit by myself

Talking to the moon

Tryin' to get to you

In hopes you're on

The other side

Talking to me too

Or am I a fool

Who sits alone

Talking to the moon

Oh

I'm feeling like I'm famous
The talk of the town
They say I've gone mad
Yeah I've gone mad
But they don't know what I know
'Cause when the sun goes down
Someone's talking back
Yeah they're talking back
At night when the stars
Light up my room
I sit by myself
Talking to the moon
Tryin' to get to you
In hopes you're on
The other side
Talking to me too
Or am I a fool
Who sits alone
Talking to the moon
Do you ever hear me calling?
(Ah) oh oh oh
(Ah) oh oh oh
'Cause every night

I'm talking to the moon
Still trying to get to you
In hopes you're on
The other side
Talking to me too
Or am I a fool
Who sits alone
Talking to the moon
I know you're somewhere out there
Somewhere far away
I know you're somewhere out there
Somewhere far away
I want you back
I want you back
My neighbors think I'm crazy
But they don't understand
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You're all I have
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Or am I a fool
Who sits alone
Talking to the moon
I know you're somewhere out there
Somewhere far away

Just The Way You Are

Ohhhhhh ohhhhhh ohhhhhh ohhhhhh

Oh, her eyes, her eyes
Make the stars look like they're not shinin'
Her hair, her hair
Falls perfectly without her trying
She's so beautiful
And I tell her everyday
Yeah

I know, I know
When I compliment her she won't believe me
And it's so, it's so
Sad to think that she don't see what I see
But every time she asks me, "Do I look okay?"
I say,

When I see your face (face, face...)
There's not a thing that I would change
'Cause you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are)
And when you smile (smile, smile...)
The whole world stops and stares for a while
'Cause, girl, you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are).
Yeah

Her lips, her lips
I could kiss them all day if she'd let me
Her laugh, her laugh
She hates but I think it's so sexy
She's so beautiful
And I tell her everyday,

Oh you know, you know, you know
I'd never ask you to change
If perfect's what you're searching for
Then just stay the same
So don't even bother asking if you look okay
You know I'll say,

When I see your face (face, face...)

There's not a thing that I would change
'Cause you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are)
And when you smile (smile, smile...)
The whole world stops and stares for a while
'Cause, girl, you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are)

The way you are
The way you are
Girl, you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are)

When I see your face
There's not a thing that I would change
'Cause you're amazing (amazing)
Just the way you are (are)
And when you smile
The whole world stops and stares for a while
'Cause, girl, you're amazing
Just the way you are

Yeah