

Figurative Language in Taylor Swift Folklore Album

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the application of figurative language in the Folklore album by Taylor Swift and examine its relevance to language and literature education. The objective is to determine the kinds and interpretations of figurative expressions within selected tracks and to analyze how they can be utilized in academic settings. Adopting the descriptive qualitative approach, the researchers examined seven songs from the album: My Tears Ricochet, Cardigan, The 1, Illicit Affairs, Invisible String, Exile, and August. The lyrics were sourced from official lyric websites and assessed according to categories of figurative language, including metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, irony, and allusion. Results indicate that metaphor appears as the most frequently used device. The figurative elements in the songs successfully communicate deep emotions and personal stories, enhancing the emotional and literary engagement of listeners. In addition, the study emphasizes the educational value of incorporating popular song lyrics to foster students critical analysis, emotional awareness, and interpretative abilities. This research also reinforces the use of music as an effective and interactive tool for teaching literary techniques, contributing to the advancement of modern and student-centered educational strategies in language and literature.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a crucial component to communicate with each other. Language is a system where we communicate using sounds or symbols that allow us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences. Language allowing individuals to gain information and understanding about a subject. Additionally, it has a direct connection to culture, representing the traditions, values, and beliefs of a specific group of people. Even though every culture has its own unique language where each region has their own language, they also use a common language that is often used in a certain area. (Gelman et al., 2017) states that language is a tool for society that provides a powerful way to signal one's group networks, such as race, gender, and age, and to convey one's social identity. This proves that language is a very important thing in communicating anywhere and with each other.

In this era, some people express their feelings without say a word. Often, some people choose expressing their feelings in figurative language. Figurative language plays a crucial role in enhancing the emotional impact of song lyrics. The lyrics of a song consists a several line that tell the feelings or experiences of the author. Figurative language that can be used to convey messages with different meanings. The types of figurative language consists of simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, irony. Allusion, symbolism, and many more. In song lyrics, the choice of figurative language style is influenced by the purpose of expression that the songwriter wants to show. Determining the theme of the song also influences the writing of figurative language style to create the feel of the song. The musical genre of the song is also a factor in writing figurative language in the song lyrics.

Figurative language in song lyrics also has role in language and literature education, especially when using popular songs. This type of figurative language is used in this analysis which blend potential

aspects with melodic rhythms to convey difficult concepts in a way that is simple to understand. Additionally, incorporating popular culture into language and literature education, figurative language analysis in contemporary music continues to provide a unique contribution to educational results. Finding educational values that can be used in a contextual, engaging, and significant learning process is anticipated as a result of this research.

Theoretically, from the results of this study has a good potential for learning from studying and understanding the function of figurative language from song lyrics, it is expected to make learning more fun and provide new experiences for students. Furthermore, the researcher hopes that this study can inspire useful knowledge in analyzing figurative language not only in song lyrics but also in poetry, novels, and movies. The purpose of this this research is to examine how figurative language can be used to convey meaning indirectly, create emotional depth, and reflect different perspectives in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. This research also aims to highlight how expressions of reality are represented through figurative language, while demonstrating the researcher's critical ability to analyze and interpret the meaning behind the lyrical content.

The result of this study might the learners can enrich knowledge of figurative language. Pedagogically, this study's findings may suggest that students might enhance their critical skills in understanding figurative language in song lyrics. In addition, learners can improve their ability in writing skills figurative language in good and interesting way. Based on the the study's background, the problem formulations in this study are:

1. What type of figurative language are used in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album?
2. What is the meaning of the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album?
3. What is the contribution of analyzing figurative language in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album to language and literature education?

In line with the research questions stated above, the objectives of the research formulated as follows:

1. To describe the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album
2. To identify the meaning on song lyrics of Taylor Swift's Folklore Album
3. To analyze the contribution of figurative language in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album to the teaching and learning of language and literature

METHODS

Descriptive qualitative methods are qualitative research techniques in which researchers examine data in order to fully, extensively, and deeply explore ideas. Descriptive qualitative studies are characterized by their straightforward, detailed, and unembellished portrayal of the phenomenon being studied. According to (Miles et al., 2019) qualitative research is interpretative and focuses on how meaning is constructed in a text. Therefore, this method is suitable for analyzing language styles in song lyrics that are artistic and symbolic. The qualitative approach allows researchers to understand the deep meaning of the use of figurative language in the lyrics, as well as how the song's overall meaning is enhanced by the use of figurative language (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

The researchers in this study used qualitative research because it was suitable for analyzing the figurative language on Taylor Swift's Folklore album. The researcher carried out this descriptive qualitative research method by collecting data, classifying song lyrics, and writing conclusions from the results of the research. It means this research the content of this research did not calculate data. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, concentrating on textual analysis of song lyrics. The data collection of this research uses several music platforms and song lyrics website to facilitate the analysis process. Because this study is based on textual analysis and do not human participants, problem such as informed consent, confidentiality, and personal data protection do not apply.

Additionally, the researcher interpreted the data with neutrality and objectivity. In order to reduce individual bias and increase the validity of the results, subjective interpretations were strengthened by relevant theories and previous studies. To guarantee that it implies with institutional research ethics and academic discipline, this study was carried out under the direction and oversight of academic advisers.

The object of this research focused on the use of figurative language in Taylor Swift's Folklore album's lyrics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study on the significance of figurative language in Taylor Swift's Folklore album song lyrics demonstrate that popular music can be valuable and relevant object of literary study in language and literature education. According to (Trim, 2021) in Mapping the Origins of Figurative Language in Comparative Literature, there are six types of figurative language. They are: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, irony, and allusion. In this study, researchers discussed the significance of each songs in Foklore album. The song is: *My Tears Ricochet*, *Cardigan*, *The 1*, *Illicit Affairs*, *Invisible String*, and *August*. The song analyzed by the researcher are seven of the sixteen songs from Folklore album that the researcher feels have a deep and meaningful emotion. In findings the result of the study, researchers analyzed the data objectively and answer the problem in this research. Through the analysis meaning of the Folklore album song lyrics, listeners can found out the hidden messages that the speaker express through the use of figurative language. Additionally, we can utilize the figurative language of Folklore album as an approach of encouraging modern literacy in the field of literature by comprehending its significance. Figurative language analysiz is just as significant in the field of education as other methods of teaching literature and language. Students can develop an appreciation for the beauty of language in literary works by learning how figurative language is creatively employed to tell stories and evoke emotions through figurative language analysis. This study can help students in understanding many types of figurative language through engaging and contextualized media such as song lyrics. The analysis results are shown in the following points and table below:

No.	Song title	Line of the song lyrics	Types of figurative language
1.	My Tears Ricochet	2. And if I'm on fire, you'll be made of ashes too	Metaphor
		7. I didn't have it in myself to go with grace	Metaphor
		9. And if I'm dead to you why are you at the wake?	Metaphor
		11. Look at how my tears ricochet	Personification
		14. You know I didn't want to have to haunt you	Metaphor
		26. But you would still miss me in your bones	Hyperbole
2.	Cardigan	3. When you are young, they assume you know nothing	Irony
		12. And when I felt like I was on old cardigan under someone's bed	Metaphor
		13. You put me on and said I was your favorite	Metaphor
		35. Peter losing Wendy	Allusion
		39. But I knew you'd linger like a tattoo kiss	Simile
3.	The 1	4. I hit the ground running each night	Metaphor
		12. Roaring 20s tossing pennies in the pool	Allusion

		22. You know the greatest loves of all time are over now	Irony
		30. But it woul've been fun if you would've been the one	Irony
4.	Illicit Affairs	12. But it dies, and it dies, and it dies a million little times	Hyperbole
		15. So you leave no trace behind like you don't even exist	Simile
		17. A dwindling mercurial high	Metaphor
		27. Look at this godforsaken mess that you made me	Hyperbole
		30. Look at this idiotic fool that you made me	Hyperbole
5.	Exile	2. Laughin' but the joke's not funny at all	Irony
		5. I think I've seen this fil before	Allusion
		7. You're not my homeland anymore	Metaphor
		9. You were my town. Now I'm exile seein' you out	Metaphor
		11. I can see you starin' honey, like he's just your understudy	Simile
		13. Second, third, and hundredth chances	Hyperbole
		26. You never gave a warning sign (I gave so many sign)	Irony
6.	Invisible String	5. Time curious time Gave me no compasses, gave me no signs	Personification
		9. All along there was some invisible string	Metaphor
		27. Hell was the journey but it brought me heaven	Irony
7.	August	9. August slipped away like a bottle of wine	Simile
		20. Back when we changin' for the better	Metaphor
		23. To live for the hope of it all	Personification
		26. So much for summer love and saying "Us"	Hyperbole

The results of this study found the most common type of figurative language in Taylor Swift's songs from the Folklore album is metaphor, followed by personification, simile, hyperbole, irony, and allusion. For example, lyrics like "You were my town, now I'm exile seein' you out" use metaphors to symbolically describe feelings of separation and loss. This is also related to previous research by (Rahmani et al., 2019) in the type of metaphorical figurative language found in the song lyrics "Losing him was blue like I'd never known" which describes the loss a loved one by describing the speaker sadness with the color blue. The significant difference between this research and previous research is that figurative language is used as a storytelling tool that has literary value equivalent to poetry with

complex and layered emotions and has a connection with language and literature education in developing students literary analysis and literacy skills. The relationship with previous researchers who have found metaphors is that this study enriches the results of previous results and shows that using metaphors as a means of emotional expression. Enriching the results of previous research means that this add new perspectives that have not been discussed in previous studies. They haven't talked about how song lyrics may be analyzed as literary works that can be used to educate literacy and literary appreciation not only identifying varieties of figurative language.

Researchers examine the type of figurative language used in the Folklore album's song lyrics in order to determine its meaning and then explain of each song that has been identified by the type of figurative language. For example, on the Folklore album the lyrics of the song Illicit Affairs "look at this godforsaken mess that you made me" have emotional and dramatic expression that suggest the character's hopeless, awful, and pitiful. The character claims that she in that situations because of someone, which makes the story's character feel guilty. In addition, the meaning of figurative language can also contain the context of culture and history using concrete references. This is also related to previous research by (Suhendar et al., 2023) in the meaning figurative language in song lyrics that they found in their research analysis of figurative language in Bruno Mars selected song lyrics, in the lyrics of the Grenade song "easy come, easy go, that's just how you live" which tells the behaviour of his partner who makes him disappointed because his partner does not understand the problems in their relationship because she does not respect him. This study in order confirms that meanings are influenced by individual cognition and within a socio-cultural framework, while also advancing a broader knowledge of how figurative language serves as a tool for expressing varied human experiences in music. Furthermore, Taylor Swift's metaphorical and symbolic narrative style can serve as a bridge between classic literary texts and popular culture, making learning more relevant and engaging for the current generation.

This is consistent with modern literacy goals, which acknowledge the literary worth of popular media such as songs as well as historic written book. Through contextual interpretation and narrative reading, students can investigate how language is used to convey stories, reflect societal or personal experiences, and express abstract emotions. As a result, figurative language and its uses in expressing complex emotions, stories, and opinions may become more clear. The reason and purpose of the researcher connected this research to the contribution of language and literature education is because the researcher realizes that currently learning language, literature, culture, and identity is less interested in students because it is presented less interestingly. The researcher hoped that it can change students perspectives on language and literature learning and provide new insights for teachers to make learning more interesting.

CONCLUSION

This study offers some dignificant conclusions that can be used as a guide for future research as well as in the development of educational regulations and learning practices. Through the identification and analysis of the different types of figurative language employed in each song, the study demonstrates how Taylor Swift employs metaphorical phrases to express difficult emotions like disappointment, hopelessness, and guilt. This makes Folklore album by Taylor Swift and excellent illustration of how songs and literature can combine to achieve meaningful expression. The researcher also emphasizes the potential of song lyrics, especially those that contain a lot of figurative language, as useful teaching material for language and literature through this study. The lyrics are suitable for literary analysis, critical thinking exercises, and creative writing practices since they contain emotive, storyline, symbolic language, and layered meanings. As a result, this research not only advances out knowledge of figurative language in contemporary songs but also validates Taylor Swift's songwriting's literary value and applicability in research and educational contexts. Overall, the contribution of figurative language analysis to language and literature education is related to previous research that also discusses figurative language in language and literature education.

Based on the research findings, the researcher makes many recommendations for the investigation of figurative language for various interest:

1. For Future Research

In addition to enhance the analysis and make a more varied contribution to the subject of literature and language, future research could also incorporate other literary or linguistic theories, such as stylistics, or cognitive metaphore theory. This research can also be developed by including listener interpretation studies, which allow the audience's emotional response to figurative phrases to be observed.

2. For Teacher and Educators

By examining figurative language in song lyrics, students can improve their interpretative and analytical skills, obtain a better understanding of emotional expression through language, and connect literature to real life situations. To encourage bith understanding and creativity, teachers can create lesson plans that incorporate kyric interpretation, comparative analysis, creative writing, or thematic discussion.

3. For Students and Language Learners

Analyzing figurative language in songs can enhance reading and listening comprehension, increase vocabulary, and find hidden meanings. In addition to the academic advantages, reading song lyric exposes students to expressions to identity, love, loss, and nostalgia, which improves emotional literacy. This can foster a closer relationship with the material and inspire readers to read more literature.

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