



An Analysis of Figurative Language Popular Song Lyrics By Taylor Swift's

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menyajikan analisis bahasa kiasan pada enam lirik lagu populer yaitu "Anti-Hero", "Lover", "Cruel Summer", "Shake It Off", "Blank Space" dan "Love Story" dari lagu-lagu Taylor Swift. Dalam penelitian ini, analisis difokuskan pada dua jenis antara komparatif (termasuk personifikasi dan metafora) dan kontradiktif (termasuk hiperbola dan paradoks). Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis jenis dan makna bahasa kiasan. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis dan makna bahasa kiasan dalam enam lirik lagu populer. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif deskriptif yang bertujuan untuk membuat deskripsi analisis secara sistematis menggambarkan data untuk mendapatkan hasil yang akurat dan aktual. Data penelitian yang digunakan adalah 6 lirik lagu populer Taylor Swift. Dengan menggunakan bahasa kiasan yang digunakan oleh Taylor Swift yang dapat mengungkapkan lapisan makna yang tersembunyi dalam lirik lagu. Analisis data adalah membaca dan mengidentifikasi data, mengklasifikasikan data, menganalisis data, dan membuat kesimpulan. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa analisis bahasa kiasan lirik lagu populer dalam 6 lagu yang digunakan menemukan 28 lirik lagu yaitu personifikasi dengan 2 lirik, metafora dengan 19 lirik, hiperbola dengan 2 lirik, dan paradoks dengan 5 lirik. Bahasa kiasan yang dominan dalam penelitian ini adalah metafora karena metafora membantu menggambarkan atau mengekspresikan sesuatu dengan cara yang lebih menarik dan imajinatif. Dan peneliti juga menemukan beberapa ekspresi emosional, seperti cinta, ketahanan, introspeksi, dan penceritaan dalam musik Taylor Swift. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi yang signifikan terhadap bidang tersebut. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan pemahaman yang lebih baik kepada pembaca dan peneliti masa depan tentang berbagai jenis bahasa kiasan.

ABSTRACT

This research presents an analysis of figurative language on six popular song lyrics which are "Anti-Hero", "Lover", "Cruel Summer", "Shake It Off", "Blank Space" and "Love Story" from Taylor Swift's songs. In this study, the analysis focuses in two types between comparative (including personification and metaphor) and contradictive (including hyperbole and paradox). The objective of this study is to analyse the types and meanings of figurative language. The aim is to identify the types and meanings of figurative language in six popular song lyrics. This research is descriptive qualitative research which is aimed to make the description of the analyses systematically describe the data to obtain accurate and actual results. The research data used were 6 Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics. By using figurative language used by Taylor Swift's that can reveal the layers of meaning hidden in the song lyrics. The data analysis is reading and identifying data, classifying data, analysing data, and making conclusion. The findings of this research show that the analysis of figurative language

popular song lyrics in 6 songs used found 28 song lyrics there are personification with 2 lyrics, metaphor with 19 lyrics, hyperbole with 2 lyrics, and paradox with 5 lyrics. The dominant figurative language in this research is metaphor because metaphor helps to describe or express something in more interesting and imaginative way. And the researcher also found some emotional expression, such as love, resilience, introspection, and storytelling in Taylor Swift's music. This research is expected to make a significant contribution to the field. The research is expected to provide readers and future researchers with a better understanding of the different types of figurative language.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental instrument of communication serving as a vital tool for conveying thoughts, emotions, and cultural values across the world. Language can be divided into two categories: written and oral. Written language relies on the reader's ability to comprehend messages visually, while oral language depends on the listener's ability to understand through auditory means. Both forms of language facilitate the expression of complex ideas and emotions, thus playing a crucial role in literature and other creative arts. Speaking of languages, English is one of the international languages used by a significant proportion of the global population, particularly in the domains of everyday life. Consequently, the utilisation of English represents the most straightforward method of interaction with individuals hailing from disparate nations in a multitude of domains, including technology, economics, socio-politics, and education. However, it is not the case that everyone is able to use and communicate in English with the same degree of fluency. So, they require the assistance of media in order to facilitate their acquisition of English, such as music, books, novels, television, films, etc.

In the process of acquiring language, humans develop an understanding of the form and meaning of language. There are many methods that individuals use to convey their ideas to others, with the aim of facilitating understanding and retention of the meaning conveyed. One such method is the use of lyrics. Most of the population expresses their ideas and emotions through the medium of lyrics. A song is a composition of sounds performed by a singer or musical instrument.

Lyrics can convey a variety of messages. Through the instrument of song, an artist is able to spread his or her voice to a large audience, thus enabling them to communicate their feelings and ideas to a wider audience. In the present day, individuals can engage in discourse with each other through the means of music. This means that songs can be used as a tool for the expression of ideas and emotions, making it easier to understand the intentions of the creators.

Song lyrics are regarded as a form of literature, especially poetry. [1] said:

“In the original Greek, “lyric” signified a song rendered to the accompaniment of a lyre. In some current usages, lyrics still retain the sense of a poem written to be set to music; the *hymn*, for example, is a lyric on religious subject that is intended to be sung.”

It can be argued that song lyrics can be considered literature insofar as they share similarities with poems. Both songs and poems are forms of art. Both songs and poems exhibit rhythmic and rhyming

structures. One of the fundamental elements of both songs and poems is rhythm. Furthermore, there is a specific type of poem that is transformed into music, known as the lyric poem. Such compositions can be employed in songs to convey the thoughts and emotions of the author. The relationship between lyrics and melody is analogous. These elements are inextricably linked. They are all fundamentally the same. The mere existence of alternative avenues of expression.

Songwriters and composers create narratives about individuals or entities, enriching their language with figurative expressions to sustain the listener's engagement. By employing various figures of speech, songwriters can enhance the emotional and thematic depth of their lyrics, capturing and maintaining the listener's interest throughout the song.

Cuddon, J.[2], defines figurative language as a language that uses figures of speech; for example, metaphor, simile, and alliteration. Meanwhile, Abrams [3] gives keywords to get an understanding of figurative language that is apprehending the standard meaning to achieve some special meaning of effect. Furthermore, figurative language is employed by authors to achieve specific effects. Consequently, the writer posits that figurative language is symbolic or metaphorical in nature, and that it is employed to create a specific effect. Moreover, figurative language plays a pivotal role in communication.

In this research, the focus is on analysing the song lyrics of Taylor Swift. Many of her lyrics are noted for their eloquent lines, effective diction, and rich use of figurative language. For example, in the song *"The Archer"* Swift employs metaphorical language to compare herself to both an archer and prey:

"I've been the archer

I've been the prey

Who could ever leave me, darling?

But who could stay?"

In these lyrics, Swift uses metaphorical language to compare herself to both an archer and prey. This metaphor highlights the duality of her experiences and emotions, emphasising vulnerability and self-reflection. The diction is introspective and poignant, with phrases like "the archer" and "the prey" creating a powerful contrast. The rhetorical questions further accentuate the themes of self-doubt and relational uncertainty, reflecting the emotional complexity present in the song.

In analysing the lyrics, the author employed a descriptive approach to analyse the figurative language in Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics. Descriptive research involves observing and measuring variables without manipulating them. This type of research encompasses methods such as surveys, observational studies, and case studies. Case study research designs typically use qualitative methods, although quantitative methods can also be utilized. Case studies are effective for describing, comparing, evaluating, and understanding various aspects of a research problem.

Six songs were selected for analysis, there are *Anti-Hero*, *Lover*, *Cruel Summer*, *Shake It Off*, *Blank Space*, and *Love Story*. These Taylor Swift's songs are a highly relevant subject for analysing figurative language for several in-depth reasons. First, Taylor Swift is a leading contemporary artist who has significantly impacted the global music landscape with her innovative and emotionally charged works. Her lyrics often become topics of public and academic discussion due to her ability to convey personal and social narratives through rich and metaphorical language.

Second, those six songs talk about themes of love, relationship, empowerment, and self-expression, but they are written differently with the different in tone, rhythm, diction, and figurative languages, they all reflect Taylor Swift's signature style of music and song writing. The use of figurative language in Taylor Swift's lyrics, such as metaphors and personification, serves as a tool for communicating complex themes like love, identity, and empowerment in a more profound and resonant manner. For example, songs like *"Anti-Hero"* and *"Blank Space"* not only utilise figurative language to enrich the narrative but also to create a deep emotional experience for listeners.

Studying these uses of figurative language allows for a better understanding of how linguistic elements contribute to the expressive power of the lyrics and how they affect interpretation and listener experience. By analysing these techniques in detail, this research can provide new insights into the relationship between language, music, and emotional response within the context of popular culture, offering a broader perspective on the role of figurative language in contemporary art. In this research, the writer focused on analysing two types of figurative language, comparative (*personification and metaphor*) and contradictory (*hyperbole and paradox*).

There are some previous studies done by Siti Samrotul Azizah [4] related to this study. The first research is "Figurative Language" on John Mayer's Song "You're Gonna Live in Me". The researcher's finding of her study identifies the kinds and messages found in the song lyrics by John Mayer. The researcher found there were four figurative languages. There are hyperbole, personification, symbol, and paradox. It can be that the dominant type of figurative language in the song lyrics is hyperbole.

Another previous study by Khadijah Arifah [5] studied "Figurative Language in Five John Legend's Song". The researcher identified the figurative language found in the song lyric by John Legend. The researcher found some kinds of figurative language. There is personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and paradox. Moreover, the researcher found other figurative language such as similes, oxymoron's, litotes, allusion, repetition, enumeration, and symbolism. However, hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language used. The thing that makes it different from previous studies is the data source. The difference between the previous research and this research lies in the data source from which the data is collected. In this research, the data source is songs from Taylor Swift. While the data researcher has the same topic about studying figurative language, the data is different. Because the data is different the research has different results and interpretations

2. METHOD

3.1. Research Design

The research design employed a descriptive research method, which is intended to characterise phenomena and identify associations among selected variables. Based on Cresswell [6], Qualitative research is an understanding of the research procedure based on different methodological investigation traditions that study a social or human topic. Nevertheless, research is a systematic investigation process, whereby various materials and sources are studied in order to obtain and reach new conclusions.

The researcher used a descriptive research method, which systematically described the data to obtain accurate and actual results. Nassaji [7] states that the purpose of descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. This research aims to describe and analyse the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics. This research is conducted by formulating the problem, collecting data, classifying data, and analysing data.

3.2. Research Object (Data and Data Source)

The data for this study are the lyrics of Taylor Swift's song, which serves as the source of data. The researcher focused on analysing the popular song lyrics of Taylor Swift that used figurative language, with the figurative language being directly related to the literature study. The researcher identified the source of the popular song data by accessing a leading entertainment webpage entitled "Taylor Swift's 13 most popular songs, ranked by streaming numbers" by *Business Insider*. It is a fast-growing business site with deep financial, media, tech, finance, lifestyle, economy, and other industry verticals in America. The site is now the largest business news site on the web. The researcher selected only the top five songs from the thirteen available for analysis, there are: "Anti-Hero" from her tenth album, 'Midnights' released in 2022. Then, "Lover" and "Cruel Summer" from her seventh album, 'Lover' released in 2019 and 2023, and "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space" from her fifth album, '1989' released in 2014. In addition, the researcher also deliberately added one song with the title "Love Story"

from his second album 'Fearless' which was released in 2008. The researcher sourced the lyrics from the Genius.com website. The website offers a comprehensive collection of lyrics, allowing users to search for specific content.

3.3. Research Instrument

The instruments commonly used in qualitative research are human, observation, and document analysis. Ary et al., (2010) A research instrument is defined as a tool that defines the variable and is applied to collect data through research. The most commonly employed instruments in qualitative research are human interviews, observation, and document analysis. In this study, the researcher employed two instruments: the first was the researcher herself, and the second was document analysis, which entailed analysing song lyrics. Bogdan & Biklen [8] stated that in qualitative research, the human investigator is the primary instrument for gathering and analysing data.

Additionally, in a book entitled "The Mixing Engineer's Handbook" by Owsinki [9], valuable insights are provided into techniques for audio mixing, including the analysis of instrumental data within the context of music production. The survey was therefore considered the main instrument, as it was collected by listening to the song of Taylor Swift. The data set comprised lyrics from three albums: "Midnights," "Lover," "1989," and "Fearless."

The instrument employed for the collection and analysis of data is the table, which is used to identify figurative languages. In order to facilitate the collection and analysis of data, the writer provided an illustrative example of a table 3.1. as follows:

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language

No.	Song title	The lyric of the song	Comparative		Contradictory	
			Personification	Metaphor	Hyperbole	Paradox

3.4. Data Collection Procedure

In this study, the researcher used qualitative methods in which the data exist in utterances. Moreover, the researcher developed several guidelines to direct the data collection process. The method is the development of Tucker & Masuri research method. Some of the steps for collecting data are as follows:

- a. Listen to the song and read the lyrics carefully.
- b. Try to find out the words, verses, and sentences that contain figurative language and grasp the meaning of each figurative language.
- c. Note the figurative language used.
- d. Classification of song lyrics that use figurative language and analysis of the data obtained.

3.5. Data Analysis

Data analysis aims to answer the research questions. The researcher must determine the data results. Strauss & Glaser [10] grounded theory states is that the adequacy of the theory developed depends on the research process used to derive it. The theory derives concepts from the data and develops them by collecting, coding and analysing data concurrently. However, the data analysis method still follows the procedure used by [11].

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Research Finding

3.1.1 The Analysis Types of Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics

The present study examines selected lyrics from Taylor Swift's musical compositions. The researcher identified several instances of figurative language in six songs of Taylor Swift's repertoire, which convey intriguing meanings. The aforementioned songs are Anti-Hero, Lover, Cruel Summer, Shake It Off, Blank Space, and Love Story. The writer focused on analysing two types of figurative language: comparative (*personification and metaphor*) and contradictory (*hyperbole and paradox*). In order to comprehend the significance of each sentence, it is necessary to provide an analysis of the figurative language employed in Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics.

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 Song Analysis

a) Anti-Hero

"Anti-Hero" is a song by the American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, released as the lead single from her tenth studio album, *Midnights* (2022). Swift wrote and produced the song with Jack Antonoff. The song is a synthesis of pop rock and synth-pop, driven by a 1980s-inspired drum loop generated with a Linn Drum and retro synthesizers. This song is about her personal struggle with insecurity and self-doubt. In this song, she explores the theme of not fitting into the public image projected onto her, as well as facing criticism and pressure from within. 'Anti-Hero' expresses feeling vulnerable and trying to understand and accept the parts of herself that are perceived as weaknesses.

b) Lover

"Lover" is a song by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, released on 16th of August 2019, as the third single from her seventh studio album, entitled "Lover". The song is a romantic ballad that celebrates a profound and enduring love, encapsulating the essence of a committed and affectionate relationship. This song tells the story of a relationship full of love and commitment. The song depicts the feeling of happiness and peace in a mature relationship, where both partners support each other and celebrate their togetherness. With romantic lyrics and a warm melody, "Lover" expresses the desire to share life with a loved one, face the future together, and cherish the beautiful moments in their relationship.

c) Cruel Summer

"Cruel Summer" is a song by Taylor Swift from her seventh studio album, "Lover," released in 2019. The song is an up-tempo pop track with catchy hooks and a pulsating beat. "Cruel Summer" is a synth-pop, industrial pop, and electropop song composed of synthesizers, wobbling beats, and vocoder-manipulated vocals. This song tells the story of an intense and passionate love that happens during the summer. The song describes the complex and contradictory feelings experienced by someone involved in a secret relationship. With emotionally charged lyrics, Taylor Swift recounts the joy, and pain of a relationship that cannot be openly expressed. "Cruel Summer" explores the theme of forbidden love and the struggle between personal desires and reality.

d) Shake It Off

"Shake It Off" is a song by Taylor Swift from her fifth studio album, "1989," released in 2014. The song is an upbeat pop song with elements of dance-pop and synth-pop. The song "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift tells a story of positivity and optimism in the face of criticism and negativity. In this song, Taylor conveys the message of not letting negative comments or judgements of others affect us. With energetic and uplifting lyrics, "Shake It Off" encourages listeners to let go of distractions and stay focused on happiness and being yourself, no matter what people say.

e) Blank Space

"Blank Space" is a song by Taylor Swift from her fifth studio album, "1989," released in 2014. The song satirises the public image of Taylor Swift and the media's portrayal of her romantic life. This song is about her reputation and the public perception of her often-dramatic love life. In this song, Taylor Swift cleverly and satirically parodies her image as someone who is often portrayed by the media as an over-the-top, troubled lover. With sharp lyrics and catchy melodies, "Blank Space" explores how relationships can quickly turn from sweet to bitter and how she has a blank space for her next love interest, demonstrating a high level of self-awareness and the ability to mock public narratives about herself.

f) Love Story

"Love Story" is a song by the American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift from her second studio album, "Fearless" released in 2008. The song is about a love story inspired by William Shakespeare's classic Romeo and Juliet. In this song, Taylor describes a love story full of challenges and obstacles, where the two lovers have to face rejection from their families. However, unlike the tragic original story, "Love Story" gives a happy ending, where the couple can finally be together. The song expresses themes of true love, courage, and hope, with a romantic melody and poetic lyrics.

3.2.2 The Meaning of Figurative Language Taylor Swift's Popular Song Lyrics

In this subtopic, the research identified twenty-eight of figurative languages in song lyrics. The researcher has investigated the meaning of figurative language in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics. As one of the most famous songwriters in the music industry, Taylor Swift's often uses figurative language to describe emotions, experiences, and stories in her songs. Through the use of personification, metaphor, hyperbole, and paradox, Taylor Swift manages to create deep and colourful lyrics, allowing listeners to connect emotionally and find deeper meaning behind her words.

By understanding the figurative language used by Taylor Swift, the writer can reveal the layers of meaning hidden in her popular songs. Each type of figurative languages in her lyrics carries a unique and profound message, creating powerful images and bringing the story being told to life. By investigating the meaning of figurative language in her works, emotions, experiences, and thoughts through words, and how it permeates the hearts and minds of her listeners.

a) Personification

Personification is kinds of figurative language that is giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or an idea. This figure of speech personifies inanimate beings as if they can act like human beings.

1. Anti-Hero

1) "Midnights become my afternoons

*When my **depression works** the graveyard shift, all of the people I've ghosted stand there in the room"*

In the verse, "depression" is given the human ability to "work" the night shift. This is how emotions or mental states are given human actions or characteristics. By stating that depression 'works the graveyard shift', the lyrics vividly and dramatically describe the heavy emotional state that often manifests at night. This helps listeners imagine and feel the strength and disturbance of depression as if it were an active entity working while others sleep.

2. Lover

1) "We could leave the **Christmas lights up** 'til January

This is our place, we make the rules"

In the verse "*Christmas lights up*" can be considered an example of personification because the Christmas lights, which are actually inanimate objects, are treated as if they have the ability to switch on or off according to human will. This gives the impression that the Christmas lights have life or the ability to behave like humans.

b) Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of figurative language that is an implicit comparison in which two, unlike objects, are compared by identifying or substituting one with another.

1. Anti-Hero

- 1) "*I have this thing where I get older, but just never wiser **Midnights** become my **afternoon**
When my depression works the graveyard shift, all of the people*"

In this lyric, the verse "*Midnights*" is directly compared to "*afternoons*," which means that midnight time is considered daytime to a person. This implies that a person is used to being awake or active at night, so the midnight time feels like the normally active daytime.

- 2) "*It must be exhausting always rooting for the anti-hero. Sometimes I feel like **everybody is a sexy baby, I'm monster on the hill.**
Too big to hang out, slowly lurching toward your favorite city*".

In this lyric, "*everybody is a sexy baby*" and "*I'm a monster on the hill*" are direct comparisons that describe someone's feelings. "*Everybody is a sexy baby*" might describe that the other person looks attractive, young, or harmless. "*I'm a monster on the hill*" might describe that the speaker feels different, scary, or isolated. The speaker skilfully conveys their ability to persevere and overcome adversity through this evocative visual.

- 3) "*Too big to hang out, slowly lurching toward your favorite city **Pierced through the heart, but never killed**
Did you hear my covert narcissism*"

In this verse, "*pierced through the heart*" does not mean that one's heart is actually pierced, but rather describes the feeling of deep emotional pain. "*But never killed*" means that despite experiencing very deep pain, the person is not emotionally broken or dead. It can be used to describe someone who has faced significant emotional trauma yet continues to survive and perhaps even grow stronger from the experience.

- 4) "*The family gathers 'round and reads it and then someone screams out
She's **laughing up at us from Hell**
It's me, hi*"

In this lyric, "*from hell*" describes a very bad condition or situation, and "*laughing up at us*" suggests someone who may feel smug or mocking despite being in those circumstances. Rather, it uses dramatic imagery to convey that even if someone is in a bad or distant situation, they can still have influence or make others feel mocked or made fun of.

2. Lover

- 1) "*This is our place, we make the rules*

And there's a dazzling haze, a mysterious way about you, dear I know you twenty seconds or twenty years?"

In this lyric, verses like "dazzling haze" and "mysterious way" are used to describe a person's traits or qualities. The term "dazzling haze" is used to imply that the person in question has an awe-inspiring or mesmerising presence, like light seen through fog. And "mysterious way" might imply that the person has an unusual or elusive way of acting or thinking.

- 2) *"With every guitar string scar on my hand
I take this **magnetic force of a man** to be my lover
My heart's been borrowed and yours has been blue"*

In this lyric, the use of the verse "magnetic force of a man" to describe someone as a potential lover is an example of metaphor. The verse "magnetic force" usually refers to a person's strong attractiveness or charisma. By using these words, the writer creates a strong and attractive image of someone who tugs at her heartstrings or captivates her.

- 3) *"Lover
My heart's **been borrowed and yours has been blue**
All's well that ends well to end up with you"*

In the lyric "yours has been blue" is a metaphor used to describe feelings of sadness or grief. The colour blue is often associated as a symbol of sadness or depression in figurative language and English usage. This metaphor referring to a tradition in weddings where the bride usually wears something borrowed and something blue as part of the "been borrowed, gone blue" tradition. However, in the context of the sentence, the verse "yours has been blue" is used metaphorically to convey a feeling of sadness or grief.

- 4) *"And you'll save all your dirtiest jokes for me
And at **every table**, I'll save you a seat
Lover"*

In the verse "at every table" describes the willingness to always welcome or support someone in their life. In connotative meaning theory, this lyric has a deeper meaning than just words. It shows deep emotional commitment and presence, that one is ready to give support and care to others in every occasion or situation. So, the sentence contains a metaphor because it uses the verse "save you a seat" to convey a message about the willingness to support or welcome someone, rather than just providing a literal seat.

3. Cruel Summer

- 1) *"(Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah)
Fever dream high in the quiet of the night
You know that I caught it (Oh yeah, you're right, I want it)"*

In this lyric, the verse "fever dream" is used to describe an intense experience, perhaps filled with confusion or fear, as is often the case in fever dreams. The writer creates a strong image of an emotional or psychological experience that occurs at night, when it is quiet and calm.

- 2) *"You know that I bought it (Oh yeah, you're right, I want it) **Killing me slow, out the window**
I'm always waiting for you to be waiting below"*

In this lyric "*Killing me slow*" is a metaphor used to describe a very painful or emotionally excruciating feeling. It does not mean that someone is actually being killed slowly, but rather describes the emotional or psychological suffering experienced. "*Out the window*" in this context can be interpreted figuratively, perhaps describing a feeling of loss of control or something slipping out of grasp. This metaphor combines both verses to convey deep feelings in a more imaginative and figurative way.

- 3) *"I'm always waiting for you to be waiting below
Devils roll the dice, angels roll their eyes
What doesn't kill me makes me want you more"*

In this the verse "*devils roll the dice*" and "*angels roll their eyes*" describes well the dynamics expressed. In Ariely, D., (2008) theory of irrational behaviour as outlined in his book "Predictably Irrational", it illustrates how individuals may make risky and irrational choice in relationships as the depicted in the lyric. "*Devils roll the dice*" describes the impulsive decision continue a passionate yet secretive relationship, despite being aware of the possible negative consequences. On the other hand, "*angel roll their eyes*" signifies the moral or social response of those around them who perceive the relationship as foolish or risky. The writer creates a powerful image of the difference between evil and good. This metaphor shows the contrast between the emotional urge to fulfil personal desires and more restrain values that are socially accepted in the context of complex interpersonal relationships.

- 4) *"With you
Hang your head low in the glow of the vending machine
I'm not dying (Oh yeah, you're right, I want it)"*

In this lyric, the verse "*hang your head low*" is used figuratively to describe one's feelings or mood. Whereas, "*the glow of the vending machine*" is used to create a visual image of a place or situation where one feels sad or depressed. The writer creates a strong image of sadness or gloomy feelings in a less pleasant situation.

- 5) *"We're not trying (Oh yeah, you're right, I want it)
So cut the headlights, summer's a knife
I'm always waiting for you just to cut to the bone"*

In this lyric, the verse "*summer's a knife*" is used figuratively to describe the dangerous or painful state or atmosphere of summer. Summer is usually thought of as a fun and cheerful time, but here it is portrayed as something that can cause hurt or harm. The writer creates a strong image of the intensity or potential danger of summer.

4. Shake It Off
1) *"I never miss a beat
I'm **lightning on my feet**"*

And that's what they don't see, mmm-mmm "

In this lyric, the verse "*lightning on my feet*" is used figuratively to describe someone who is very fast or agile in their movements. Lightning is usually thought of as a very fast and powerful phenomenon, and by saying that a person is "*lightning on my feet*", the writer is describing that they are very fast in movement or action. The writer creates a strong image of a person's speed and agility.

5. Blank Space

- 1) "*You look like my next mistake*
Love's a game, wanna play?
Ayy"

In this lyric, the verse "*Love's a game*" is used figuratively to imply that love is similar to a game. This metaphor conveys the idea that a love relationship has some similarities to a game, such as the presence of rules, strategies, risks, and the possibility of winning or losing. The writer describes love in a more abstract and vivid context, helping the reader or listener to understand the complexities and challenges involved in a love relationship.

- 2) "*They'll tell you I'm insane*
Cause you know I love the players, and you love the game
'Cause we're young and we're reckless"

In the verse "*I love the players*" is not meant to be like liking athletes or players, but describes the enjoyment or attraction towards people who have interesting personalities, perhaps in the context of a romantic or social relationship. Meanwhile, the verse "*you love the game*" is also like loving a physical game, but refers to one's interest or involvement in a particular situation or dynamic, such as a relationship or the game of life.

- 3) "*Stolen kisses, pretty lies*
You're the King, baby, I'm your Queen
Find out what you want"

In this lyric, the verse "*You're the King*" and "*I'm your Queen*" are used figuratively to describe the relationship between two people. This metaphor implies that one person is regarded as the "*king*" and the other as the "*queen*", perhaps to express the power, or depth of love between them. The writer creates a powerful image of a romantic relationship between two people, conveying the idea of deep appreciation, support, and connection.

6. Love Story

- 1) "*'Cause we're young and we're reckless Oh, oh*
Cause you were Romeo, I was the Scarlet letter
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet.""

In the lyric "*Cause you were Romeo, I was a scarlet letter*" is a metaphor. This metaphor compares the singer and her love interest to Romeo from Shakespeare's "*Romeo and Juliet*" and to the symbol of the *scarlet letter* from Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel. It suggests a forbidden love and the social stigma associated with their relationship. By invoking these literary references, the metaphor conveys

the idea of a romantic but challenging relationship, marked by societal disapproval and the obstacles they face in being together.

- 2) *"I'll be waiting. All there's left to do is run
You'll be the **prince** and I'll be the **princess**
It's a love story. Baby, just say 'Yes'"*

In the lyric *"You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess"* is a metaphor. This metaphor compares the couple to a prince and princess, suggesting a fairy-tale romance with an idealized and magical quality. By likening themselves to royalty, the singer portrays their love story as enchanting and extraordinary, evoking the timeless and charming narratives of fairy tales where true love conquers all obstacles. This metaphor enhances the romantic and whimsical tone of the song.

c) Hyperbole

Hyperbole is simply exaggeration but exaggeration in the service of truth. It is used to express something or a state or condition in a bigger way than its ordinary one.

1. Cruel Summer

- 1) *"I'm drunk in the back of the car
And I **cried like a baby** coming home from the bar (Oh)
Said, "I'm fine," but it wasn't true"*

In the verse *"cried like a baby"* this greatly exaggerates the feeling of sadness or emotion by comparing the cries of an adult to those of a baby. Baby cries are usually very intense and uncontrollable, so using this comparison creates a strong dramatic effect, illustrating how emotional the situation is. It gives a very exaggerated image to emphasise the feeling.

2. Blank Space

- 1) *"Grab your passport and my hand
I can **make the bad guys good for a weekend**
So it's gonna be forever"*

The verse of *"make the bad guys good for a weekend"* reveals that she has the ability to turn people who might be considered bad or unkind into good for a short while, i.e. over a weekend. This lyric exaggerates her ability to influence and improve someone's behaviour in a short period of time, in other words, it is not literally possible. However, this use of hyperbole shows her belief or hope in creating positive change in a relationship or situation.

d) Paradox

A paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true. As a figure of speech, paradox is a statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable, or absurd but that may be true in fact.

1. Anti-Hero

- 1) *"I have this thing where **I get older, but just never wiser** Midnights become my afternoons"*

In the lyric, the verse *"I get older"* indicates the natural process of aging. *"But just never wiser"* seems to contradict the notion that as one ages, one usually becomes wiser. The combination of these two statements creates a paradox because although

logically age should bring wisdom, the author states that she gets older without becoming wiser.

- 2) *“At teatime, everybody agrees
I’ll stare directly at the sun, but never in the mirror
It must be exhausting always rooting for the anti-hero”*

In this lyric, there is an obvious contradiction, a person claims that they can do something very difficult “*stare directly at the sun*”, but cannot do something that should be easier “*but never in the mirror*”. This contradiction reveals a truth about human nature in that is sometimes easier for us to face big external challenges than to face the truth about ourselves.

2. Cruel Summer

- 1) *“Devils roll the dice, angels roll their eyes
What doesn’t kill me makes me want you more
And it’s new, the shape of your body”*

In this lyric “*What doesn't kill me*” This refers to the idea that facing adversity or suffering can make one mentally or emotionally stronger. “*Makes me want you more*” goes against the expectation that hardship or suffering will reduce one's desire or attraction. However, this sentence implies that going through challenges or suffering actually deepens feelings or desire for someone, which provides a deeper insight into the relationship between struggle and love.

3. Blank Space

- 1) *“And I’ll write your name
Boys only want love if it’s torture
Don’t say I didn’t, say I didn’t warn ya”*

The verse “Boys only want love if it's torture” is paradoxical because it combines two contradictory concepts of “*love*”, which is usually considered positive and blissful, with “*torture*”, which is negative and painful. This conflation challenges the perceived notion that love is the source of happiness and comfort, while torture is the source of suffering. By stating that one only wants love if it is accompanied by torment, this verse implies that for them, pain or conflict is a necessary component of love, thus creating a paradox.

4. Love Story

- 1) *“Little did I know
That you were Romeo, you were throwing pebbles
And my daddy said, “Stay away from Juliet.””*

The lyrics “*That you were Romeo, you were throwing pebbles*” can be considered paradoxical as it presents two seemingly contradictory elements. Romeo, in the context of the original story by William Shakespeare, is a tragic and romantic lover, often associated with dramatic and emotionally charged actions. However, in this lyric, he is depicted performing a simple and almost childish act of “*throwing pebbles*”. This paradox creates a sharp contrast between the romantic and heroic image of “*Romeo*” and a very ordinary and unheroic action. This could underline how simple yet powerful the love they feel is, or show the difference between romantic expectations and everyday realities

4. CONCLUSION

After analysing the data, the writer can be concluded that the lyrics of Taylor Swift popular song got some conclusions. Firstly, the writer found two types between comparative (including personification and metaphor) and contradictive (including hyperbole and paradox) figurative languages in 6 songs. There are 28 song lyrics of 6 song that used figurative language in the popular song that are personification with 2 lyrics, metaphor with 19 lyrics, hyperbole with 2 lyrics, and paradox with 5 lyrics. Secondly, the author accidentally found that the dominant figurative language in the six lyrics of Taylor Swift's popular songs is metaphor because metaphor can help to describe and express something in more interesting and imaginative way. In identifying figurative language, an understanding of the meaning of the song lyrics is also needed because the meaning of language also varies when viewed from different perspectives. Therefore, the writer must know what the researcher says to determine the meaning of the song lyrics. Thirdly, based on the meanings of Taylor Swift's popular song lyrics, the writer found that some emotional expression meanings portrait in the songs. "Lover" and "Love Story" depict the romantic and sweet side of love, while "Blank Space" comments on stereotypes and misunderstandings in relationships. "Anti-Hero" and "Shake It Off" discuss how to deal with criticism and self-perception, emphasising the importance of accepting oneself despite flaws and mistakes. Overall, these songs highlight common themes such as love, relationships, identity, and self-acceptance, all wrapped up in Taylor Swift's signature narrative style, using her music to honestly express her experiences and emotions. Such as the song "Cruel Summer", the lyric 'Boys only want love if it's torture'. Love usually provides a sense of support, trust, and happiness. The author uses figurative language to show that love is not always peaceful and happy, but can be complex and emotionally challenging.

From the analysis, it can be concluded that the figurative language has important roles in this song lyrics. That is why the writer used sentences that have figurative language to make the song more interesting and also help the readers to imagine more about the meaning.

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