

## Figurative Language In Harris J's Selected Song Lyrics

Bayu Purnama<sup>1</sup>, Hilma Safitri<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Faculty of Letters, Universitas Pamulang, Pamulang, Indonesia

### Article Info

#### Article history:

Received Mei 27, 2026

Revised Mei 28, 2026

Accepted Mei 31, 2026

#### Kata Kunci:

Bahasa Kiasan,  
Lirik Lagu,  
Harris J,  
Metafora,  
Makna Tersirat,  
Analisis Kualitatif

#### Keywords:

*Figurative Language, Song  
Lyrics,  
Harris J,  
Metaphor,  
Reason For Using Figurative  
Language,*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu-lagu pilihan Harris J dengan tujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan serta memahami makna tersirat di dalamnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, dengan data yang diperoleh melalui analisis lirik beberapa lagu populer Harris J, seperti *You Are My Life*, *Good Life*, dan *I Promise*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat enam jenis bahasa kiasan yang dominan dalam lirik lagu-lagu tersebut, yaitu metafora, simile, personifikasi, hiperbola, sinekdoke, dan simbolisme. Penggunaan bahasa kiasan berperan penting dalam memperkaya makna lirik serta memperdalam pemahaman pendengar terhadap pesan yang disampaikan. Salah satu temuan utama adalah bagaimana metafora digunakan untuk menggambarkan hubungan emosional dan spiritual antara individu dan Penciptanya, sehingga menambah kedalaman dan nuansa dalam setiap lagu. Selain itu, penelitian ini menyoroti bagaimana konteks sosial dan budaya memengaruhi interpretasi bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu. Dengan memahami penggunaan bahasa kiasan, pendengar diharapkan dapat lebih mengapresiasi keindahan serta makna mendalam yang terkandung dalam lirik lagu-lagu Harris J.

### ABSTRACT

*This study examined the use of figurative language in selected song lyrics by Harris J, aiming to identify the types of figurative language used and to identify the reason for using figurative language implied. The research employed a qualitative approach, with data obtained through an analysis of the lyrics of several popular songs by Harris J, such as *You Are My Life*, *Good Life*, and *I Promise*. The findings revealed that six dominant figurative language types appeared in these song lyrics: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, and symbolism. The use of figurative language played a significant role in enriching the meaning of the lyrics and deepening the listeners' and readers' understanding of the messages conveyed. One key finding was how metaphors depicted the emotional and spiritual relationship between individuals and their Creator, adding depth and nuance to each song. Furthermore, this study highlighted how social and cultural contexts influenced the interpretation of figurative language in song lyrics. By understanding the use of figurative language, listeners and readers were expected to appreciate the beauty and profound meanings embedded in Harris J's songs.*

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### Corresponding Author:

Bayu Purnama  
Faculty of Letters, Universitas Pamulang,  
Pamulang, Indonesia

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Language is one of the most essential aspects of human life. It is a communication tool among individuals and societies. Language expresses ideas, feelings, thoughts, information, and emotions. According to Chomsky (2002), language is a natural object, a component of the human mind, physically represented in the brain and part of the biological endowment of the species. Additionally, language shapes the world's reception, influences culture, and facilitates learning and development. In essence, it is the cornerstone of human interaction and civilisation. Perrine (2016) distinguishes between literal language, which uses words in their ordinary sense, and figurative language, which employs non-literal ways to create deeper meaning.

He identifies twelve types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, and personification. He explains that figurative language is the art of language that provides meaning beyond just the literal meaning. Non-literal language is called figurative language. Figurative language is a word or phrase that does not have a normal or literal meaning. In literature, it is a form of language used by the writer or speaker to convey something other than the literal meaning. Furthermore, it is used to create further meaning in writing and speech. Figurative language is classified into twelve types: metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, allusion, paradox, allegory, apostrophe, and symbol. Each type of figurative language has a different role in illustrating the meaning. Figurative language is often seen as a tool that is only used in creative writing. However, figurative language is essential in all types of writing. It is useful in many ways. Besides, in social life, figurative language is used to enhance communication and convey meaning more expressively and creatively. It is employed in various forms such as idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, and alliteration. Moreover, it is also used to give an effect to the word, whether to sound artistic, make a joke, or communicate more clearly and engagingly

## **2. METHOD**

### **2.1 Approach of Study**

This study employed a qualitative research approach to analyze figurative language in Harris J's selected song lyrics. A qualitative approach was chosen because the data of this study are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences rather than numerical data. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research focuses on understanding meaning, interpretation, and description of phenomena in their natural context. This approach is appropriate for literary analysis, particularly in examining implied meanings in figurative language.

The qualitative approach allowed the writer to identify, classify, and interpret types of figurative language based on Perrine's theory (2016). Through this approach, the writer was able to explore how figurative expressions such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, and symbol function in conveying emotional and spiritual messages in song lyrics.

Furthermore, this approach enabled in-depth interpretation of figurative meanings by considering semantic aspects and contextual usage within the lyrics. Since figurative language often conveys meanings beyond literal interpretation, qualitative analysis was necessary to uncover the deeper meanings embedded in Harris J's songs. Therefore, the qualitative approach was considered the most suitable method to achieve the objectives of this study.

## 2.2 Data Analysis

In analysing the data, the writer used Creswell's (2014) theory. After collecting and listening to the songs that were analysed, the writer first identified the types of figurative language based on Perrine's theory (2016 ). Second, the writer classified the data based on its type. Third, the writer analysed the reason for using figurative language in the song lyrics. After all steps were completed, the writer rechecked the data and its analysis. The process ended with drawing a conclusion based on the data found. The data were analysed as follows:

### a. Metaphor

According to Perrine (2016 ), a *Metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to compare one object or situation to another similar object or situation without using the words 'like' or 'as'.* Using a metaphor, a writer can explain a situation through comparison, thereby making understanding more direct without the need for a detailed explanation.

Datum 1 (I Promise. 2015)

Line 8: **You're my circle of life**

The words **You're my circle of life** depict an individual who holds a central and important role in the writer's life. This portrayal indicates that the person provides support, warmth, and stability, creating a strong emotional bond. The term **circle** symbolises wholeness, continuity, and the journey of life, encompassing all experiences, both joy and sorrow. Therefore, this metaphor not only conveys the writer's affection and commitment but also invites listeners and readers to reflect on meaningful relationships in their own lives, enriching the meaning and depth of the lyrics.

## 2.3 Findings

This research aims to determine the type of and the reasons for figurative language applied in Harris J's selected song lyrics, including *Rasool Allah (2014)*, *You Are My Life (2015)*, *I Promise (2015)*, *My Hero (2015)*, *Love Who You Are (2015)*, *Save Me from Myself (2015)*, *Dream Big (2015)*, *O Allah (2015)*, *Worth it (2015)*, and *Good Life (2015)*. Based on the analysis, the result of the study indicates that there are 6 (six) out of 12 types of figurative languages used in Harris J's selected song lyrics. In addition, this study also finds out 4 reasons for using figurative languages as proposed by Perrine (2016). The following table presents the type of figurative languages in details.

Table 1. *Type of figurative language found in Harris J's selected song lyrics*

| No. | Type of figurative language | Frequency |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | Metaphor                    | 9         |
| 2.  | Simile                      | 3         |
| 3.  | Hyperbole                   | 5         |
| 4.  | Personification             | 6         |
| 5.  | Synecdoche                  | 4         |
| 6   | Symbol                      | 7         |
| 7.  | Apostrophe                  | 0         |
| 8.  | Paradox                     | 0         |
| 9.  | Allegory                    | 0         |
| 10. | Understatement              | 0         |
| 11. | Metonymy                    | 0         |

| No. | Type of figurative language | Frequency |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 12. | Irony                       | 0         |
|     | Total Data                  | 34        |

Moreover, dealing with the reasons for using figurative language, this study showed that all the reasons suggested by Perrine (2016) are found in Harris' selected song lyrics, including providing imaginative pleasure, bringing additional imagery, adding emotional intensity, and increasing concentration. The details of each occurrence are tabularized in the following table.

Table 2. *Reasons for using figurative language found in Harris' selected song lyrics*

| No | Reason For Using Figurative Language | Frequency |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Imaginative Pleasure                 | 2         |
| 2. | Bringing Additional Imagery          | 9         |
| 3. | Adding Emotional Intensity           | 15        |
| 4. | Increasing Concentration             | 8         |
|    | Total Data                           | 34        |

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study focuses on the types of figurative language found in Harris J's selected song lyrics and the reasons for using those figurative expressions. Each of the data found will then be described in the following subsections.

#### 3.1 Types of Figurative Language in Harris J's selected song lyrics

As discussed in the previous section, this study showed that there were 8 (eight) out of 12 types of figurative languages found in Harris J's selected song lyrics. Thus, the following subsections provide the analysis of each piece of data found.

##### 3.1.1 Metaphor

According to Perrine (2016), a metaphor is a type of figurative language that makes a comparison between two essentially unlike things without using comparison words such as like or as (p. 774). In a metaphor, one thing is directly identified as another, so the meaning is created through substitution rather than explicit comparison. Perrine (2016) explains that a metaphor can appear in several forms. In the first form, both the literal term and the figurative term are clearly stated. In the second form, the literal term is mentioned while the figurative term is implied. In the third form, the figurative term is stated, but the literal term is implied. In the fourth form, both the literal and figurative terms are implied, making the meaning more indirect and sometimes more complex. Therefore, metaphor functions as an important device in literature because it helps express ideas in a more imaginative, meaningful, and powerful way.

Datum 1 (I Promise, line 3)

**You are my Circle of Life, compass and guide**

According to Perrine (2016), the lyric *You are my circle of life, compass and guide* can be classified as a metaphor, which is a type of figurative language that makes an implicit comparison between two unlike things without using comparative words such as like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this expression, the word you is directly equated with the circle of life, compass, and guide. These terms do not refer to their

literal meanings but symbolically represent the roles and significance of the person being addressed. The phrase circle of life suggests completeness, continuity, and central importance in the speaker's life, while compass and guide indicate direction, support, and guidance. Through this metaphorical construction, the lyric conveys deep emotional dependence and appreciation, highlighting the essential role of the person in shaping the speaker's life. This use of metaphor aligns with Perrine's theory that metaphor enriches meaning and enhances emotional expression by transferring qualities from one concept to another.

Datum 2 (I Promise, line 26)

**You are my heat when I'm cold**

According to Perrine (2016), the lyric *You are my heat when I'm cold* can be classified as a metaphor, as it presents an implicit comparison between two unlike entities without using comparative words such as like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this expression, the word heat does not refer to physical temperature but symbolises emotional warmth, comfort, love, and support, while cold represents feelings of loneliness, sadness, or hardship. Through this metaphor, the speaker equates a person with a source of warmth, suggesting that the individual provides emotional strength and reassurance during difficult times. This figurative expression illustrates Perrine's view that metaphor functions to transfer meaning from concrete physical experiences to abstract emotional states, thereby enriching the depth and expressive quality of language.

Datum 3 (I Promise, line 27)

**The place I call home, and always will be**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *the place I call home, and always will be* can be identified as a metaphor, which is a type of figurative language (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, the word home does not only refer to a physical house or building, but it also represents a deeper meaning, such as comfort, love, safety, or emotional belonging. The speaker uses home to describe a person, place, or feeling that gives a sense of peace and security. This shows that the lyric compares one thing to another without using words like or as, which is the main characteristic of a metaphor according to Perrine (2016). Therefore, this figurative expression helps to create a deeper emotional meaning and allows listeners to understand the strong feeling of attachment expressed in the lyric.

Datum 4 (My hero, line 7)

**You are my hero**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *You are my hero* is an example of a metaphor, which is a type of figurative language that makes a direct comparison between two different things without using words such as like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, the word you is directly compared to hero, even though a person is not literally a hero in the real sense. This means that the speaker sees that person as brave, strong, or important in their life. The comparison is not meant to be taken literally, but it expresses a deeper emotional meaning. Therefore, based on Perrine's theory, this lyric is classified as a metaphor because it transfers the qualities of a hero to another person to show admiration, respect, and a strong emotional connection.

Datum 5 (Good Life, line 29)

**I love living in a brand-new story**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *I love living in a brand-new story* is an example of a metaphor, which is a type of figurative language that makes an implicit comparison between two different things without using words such as like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, life is compared to a *brand-new story*. The word story does not literally mean a written narrative, but it represents a new experience or a new phase in life. This metaphor suggests that the speaker feels excited and happy about starting something new, as if they are beginning a fresh and meaningful journey. According to Perrine (2016), metaphor functions to make abstract ideas easier to understand by relating them to something

more familiar. Therefore, this lyric uses metaphor to express feelings of hope, renewal, and positive change in a simple but meaningful way.

Datum 6 (You are my life, line 1)

**O Allah! You are the light that shines above**

The lyric *O Allah! You are the light that shines above*, which can be analysed using the theory of Laurence Perrine (2016). According to Perrine, a metaphor is a type of figurative language that directly compares two different things without using the words like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, Allah is described as the light, which does not refer to physical light. Instead, it symbolises guidance, hope, and truth. Therefore, this expression is categorised as a metaphor because it compares Allah to light directly. The use of this metaphor helps the listener understand that Allah gives direction and clarity in life, just as light helps people see in darkness. This figurative language makes the meaning of the lyric deeper and more meaningful.

Datum 7 (You are my life, line 3)

**You are the reason I never give up**

The lyric *you are the reason I never give up* can be classified as a metaphor according to Perrine's (2016) theory of figurative language. Perrine explains that a metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two different things without using the words like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, the word you is not literally a reason, but it is described as if it were one. This creates an implicit comparison between a person and a source of motivation. The expression suggests that the person plays an important role in giving strength, encouragement, and purpose to the speaker. Therefore, this lyric is considered a metaphor because it transfers the meaning of reason to a person to express emotional dependence and motivation in a more imaginative and meaningful way.

Datum 8 (You are my life, line 6)

**You are the melody, you're the key**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *you are the melody, you're the key* is classified as a metaphor, which is a type of figurative language that makes a direct comparison between two different things without using words such as like or as (2016, , p. 774). In this lyric, a person is compared to melody and key, which are elements of music. This comparison does not mean the person is literally music, but it shows that the person has an important role in the speaker's life. The word melody suggests beauty, harmony, and emotional expression, while key represents something essential that determines direction or meaning. Therefore, this metaphor expresses that the person brings happiness, balance, and purpose to the speaker's life. Based on Perrine's theory, this figurative expression helps make the meaning deeper and more imaginative by using familiar concepts from music to describe human feelings.

Datum 9 (You are my life, line 7)

**All the inspiration I need**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *all the inspiration I need* is categorised as a metaphor. A metaphor is a form of figurative language that compares two different things directly without using comparative words such as like or as (2016, p. 774). In this lyric, the word inspiration is not used in its literal meaning, but refers to emotional support, motivation, or guidance given by someone. This expression shows that the person being addressed is seen as the only source of inspiration for the speaker. In other words, the speaker feels that they do not need anything else because that person already fulfils their emotional needs. Therefore, this lyric is considered a metaphor because it expresses meaning indirectly by comparing a person to an abstract concept in order to create a deeper meaning.

**4.1.1 Simile**

According to Perrine (2016), a simile is a type of figurative language used to compare two things that are essentially different by using specific comparison words such as like, as, than, similar to, or

resembles (2016, p. 774). In Perrine's theory, a simile is different from a metaphor because the comparison is stated clearly and directly through these words. The purpose of a simile is to make an idea easier to understand and more vivid by connecting it to something familiar. For example, when someone says *her smile is like the sun*, the comparison helps the reader imagine brightness and warmth. Therefore, simile is an important device in literature because it helps express ideas, emotions, and descriptions clearly and imaginatively.

Datum 21 (Good Life, verse 1)

**'Cause every day is like a brand-new story**

The lyric *because every day is like a brand new story* is an example of a simile, based on the theory of Laurence Perrine (2016). According to Perrine (2016), a simile is a type of figurative language that compares two different things explicitly by using comparison words such as *like* or *as* (2016, p. 774). In this lyric, the phrase *every day* is compared to *a brand-new story* using the word *like*. This comparison suggests that each day brings new experiences, opportunities, and possibilities, just as a new story contains fresh events and meanings. Therefore, this lyric is categorised as a simile because it creates a clear and direct comparison to make the idea more vivid and meaningful for listeners.

Datum 22 (Worth it, verse 4)

**I'm on the path, now I'm running like a circuit**

According to Laurence Perrine's (2016) theory of figurative language, the lyric *I'm on the path, now I'm running like a circuit* is categorised as a simile. A simile is a type of figurative language that compares two different things using words such as *like* or *as* (2016, p. 774). In this lyric, the speaker compares their movement to a circuit by using the word *like*. A circuit represents continuous movement and energy that flows without stopping. Therefore, this comparison suggests that the speaker is moving forward in life with consistency, determination, and strong motivation. The use of simile in this lyric helps make the meaning clearer and more vivid for listeners and readers, as it creates a strong and easy-to-understand image.

Datum 23 (O Allah, verse 2)

**If I praised You like the angels Until the end of time**

According to Laurence Perrine (2016), the lyric *if I praised you like the angels until the end of time* is an example of a simile. A simile is a type of figurative language that compares two different things using words such as *like* or *as* (2016, p. 774). In this lyric, the speaker compares his way of praising someone to how angels give praise. The use of the word *like* clearly shows that this is a simile. In this context, the comparison suggests that the praise is very pure, sincere, and continuous. Angels are often associated with holiness and endless devotion, so the speaker wants to express that his praise is very strong and will last forever. The phrase *until the end of time* also supports this idea by emphasising the endless duration of the praise. Therefore, based on Perrine's theory, this lyric uses a simile to create a deeper meaning and to make the expression more emotional and meaningful.

#### 4.1.2 Symbol

According to Perrine (2016), a symbol is a figurative expression in which an object, person, or situation represents more than its literal meaning (2016, p. 793). A symbol functions simultaneously at both the literal and figurative levels, allowing it to convey deeper and more abstract meanings. Unlike other figurative devices, a symbol retains its original identity while also suggesting broader interpretations, making it one of the richest and most complex forms of figurative language.

Datum 28 (Chorus / repeated stanza)

**Your light is always showing me the way**

According to Perrine (2016, p. 793), a symbol is something that has a literal meaning while also representing a deeper, more abstract meaning. It functions both literally and figuratively. In this lyric, the word *light* is not merely referring to physical illumination. Instead, it symbolically represents guidance, truth, and spiritual direction. The light associated with the Prophet Muhammad reflects his

role as a guide who leads people from darkness and ignorance toward enlightenment, faith and righteousness.

Datum 29 (Stanza 1)

**You're the light that shines above**

**For you are the light**

According to Perrine (2016, , p. 793), a symbol is something that has a literal meaning while also representing a deeper, more abstract meaning. In this lyric, the word "light" not only refers to physical illumination but also symbolises guidance, hope, truth, and divine presence. The word light functions both literally and figuratively, which is a key characteristic of a symbol. Literally, light illuminates darkness; figuratively, it represents spiritual guidance and direction in life. Here, the lyric refers to Allah as the light, symbolising that He is the source of guidance, strength, and clarity for the speaker.

Datum 30 (Stanza 1)

**Circle of life, compass and guide**

The lyric *circle of life, compass and guide* represents symbolic figurative language. Each element functions not only in its literal sense but also symbolises deeper meanings such as life foundation, direction, and guidance. According to Perrine (2016, p. 793), this dual function indicates the use of symbol, as the expressions simultaneously convey literal and abstract meanings.

Datum 31 (Stanza 1)

**Even when there was darkness**

**You broke the shackles and brought light**

The lyric *Even when there was darkness, you broke the shackles and brought light* contains symbolic figurative language. According to Perrine (2016, , p. 793), a symbol is something that functions both literally and figuratively, representing meanings beyond its surface level. In this lyric, the word darkness symbolises ignorance or spiritual misguidance, while shackles represent oppression or the constraints of false beliefs. Meanwhile, light symbolises guidance, truth, and faith. These expressions do not merely describe physical conditions but convey deeper spiritual meanings related to transformation and enlightenment. The lyric reflects the role of Prophet Muhammad as a figure who guides people from ignorance to truth and liberates them from spiritual bondage. Therefore, the use of symbols in this lyric enriches its meaning by expressing complex religious and moral ideas concisely and poetically.

Datum 32 (Stanza: Chorus repeated several times)

**Don't ever forget you shine / Shining like a star**

The lyric *Don't ever forget you shine / Shining like a star* exemplifies the use of symbolic figurative language. As defined by Perrine (2016, , p. 793), a symbol is an expression that retains its literal meaning while simultaneously conveying a deeper, more abstract significance. In this lyric, the term star literally denotes a luminous celestial body; however, it symbolically represents attributes such as beauty, individuality, and self-worth. Similarly, the verb shine extends beyond its literal sense of emitting light and instead signifies inner strength, confidence, and the capacity to stand out positively. Through this symbolic construction, the lyric communicates an encouraging message that urges individuals to acknowledge their inherent value and sustain self-confidence despite external pressures. Thus, the use of symbolism not only deepens the meaning of the lyric but also supports the overarching theme of self-acceptance and personal identity.

Datum 33 (Stanza: Chorus repeated several times)

**Save me from myself**

The lyric *save me from myself* can be interpreted as a symbol in which the term myself extends beyond its literal reference to the speaker and represents inner weaknesses, personal desires, and moral struggles. In line with the theory proposed by Perrine (2016, , p. 793), a symbol functions at both literal and figurative levels simultaneously. In this context, the expression conveys a deeper spiritual meaning, reflecting the speaker's awareness of internal conflict and the need for divine assistance to overcome

negative tendencies. Thus, the lyric symbolically illustrates a struggle for self-control and a reliance on God for guidance and redemption.

Datum 34 (Stanza 5)

### **I leave it all in Your hands**

According to Perrine (2016, , p. 793), a symbol is something that has a literal meaning while also representing a deeper, abstract meaning. In this lyric, the word hands does not merely refer to a physical body part but symbolically represents power, control, protection, and divine authority. Literally, hands are parts of the human body. However, in this context, *your hands* refer to Allah's power and control over human life. The speaker expresses total trust and surrender by stating that everything is placed *in Your hands*. Therefore, the expression functions both literally as hands and figuratively as divine control and guidance at the same time, which is the defining characteristic of a symbol.

## **3.2 Reason for using figurative language in Harris J's selected song lyrics**

According to Perrine (2016), there are 4 four reasons people use figurative language: providing imaginative pleasure, Bringing Additional Imagery, Bringing Additional Imagery, and Increasing Concentration. The current study has shown that all the reasons suggested are found in Harris' selected song lyrics. Each of these reasons is described in the following subsection.

### **3.2.1 Imaginative Pleasure**

According to Perrine (2016), figurative language provides imaginative enjoyment by encouraging the mind to move creatively between ideas. Imagination is the ability to make quick connections and see similarities between different things. People often enjoy this process because it allows them to turn ordinary things into meaningful images, such as seeing shapes in fire or clouds. Even the names of some plants and flowers show this kind of creative thinking, such as jack-in-the-pulpit and Queen Anne's lace. For this reason, figures of speech are enjoyable and satisfying because they attract the imagination and create a sense of creative delight (2016, p. 780).

Datum 1 (Worth it, verse 4)

### **I'm on the path, now I'm running like a circuit**

This lyric uses a simile through the word like, comparing the speaker's movement to a circuit. The comparison is imaginative rather than literal, inviting the listener to think creatively about what running like a circuit means, possibly suggesting continuous motion, repetition, or an energetic flow. According to Perrine, figurative language provides imaginative enjoyment by encouraging the mind to make creative connections between unlike things (2016, p. 780). In this case, the comparison between human movement and an electrical or mechanical circuit stimulates imagination and interpretation rather than simply delivering factual meaning.

Datum 2 (Worth it, verse 4)

### **I'm sitting here thinking about this world that we're living in**

This lyric invites the listener to reflect and imagine the broader condition of the world, which goes beyond a simple literal statement. Although the expression appears straightforward, it functions conceptually by encouraging the audience to mentally explore ideas about life, society, and human experience. According to Perrine, figurative language provides imaginative enjoyment by stimulating the mind to think creatively and make connections between ideas (2016, p. 780). In this lyric, the phrase this world that we're living in prompts listeners to interpret and imagine various meanings, such as social conditions, moral values, or personal experiences, rather than referring only to the physical world.

### 3.2.2 Adding Emotional Intensity

According to Perrine (2016), figures of speech serve to intensify emotional expression in statements that might otherwise be only factual, and they also show the speaker's attitude. For example, expressions such as *He is a jerk* or *My feet are killing me* do not only give information, but also show strong feelings. Figurative language can also reveal the speaker's character, because the way a thought is expressed may show the speaker's personality and emotional state. In poetry, this type of language makes the meaning stronger and more expressive. For instance, when Wilfred Owen compares a soldier in a gas attack to a person drowning in a green sea, the comparison creates a vivid image and also shows fear, helplessness, panic, and suffocation (2016, p. 781).

Datum 12 (I promise, Stanza 2)

#### **You are my heat when I'm cold**

This lyric is a metaphor, where heat symbolises comfort, love, and emotional support. It does not refer to literal temperature, but to a psychological and emotional state. According to Perrine (2016), one of the main functions of figurative language is to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the speaker does not simply say you comfort me; instead, the metaphor makes the feeling more vivid and emotionally powerful by associating the person with heat, which naturally contrasts with cold.

Datum 13 (I Promise, Stanza 2)

#### **The place I call home, and always will be**

This lyric is a metaphor in which the term home does not simply denote a physical location but represents a sense of comfort, belonging, emotional security, and deep attachment. The use of home reflects the speaker's strong personal and emotional connection. According to Perrine (2016), figurative language functions to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this context, rather than stating the idea in a literal manner, the metaphorical home conveys a more profound meaning, emphasising warmth, identity, and a sense of permanence in a more expressive and poetic form.

Datum 14 (My hero, Stanza 2: Chorus)

#### **You are my hero**

This lyric is categorised as a metaphor in which the term hero is not used in its literal sense to refer to a warrior or saviour, but rather to represent a person who is highly admired, respected, and valued. According to Perrine (2016), one of the primary functions of figurative language is to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this case, instead of conveying the idea through a literal statement such as I admire you or you are important to me, the use of the metaphor hero enhances the emotional depth of the expression. As a result, it communicates a stronger sense of admiration, appreciation, and emotional attachment.

Datum 15 (I promise, Final stanza)

#### **Oh, I know that wherever I'll go**

#### **You'll be forever in my heart**

This expression uses figurative language to convey deep emotional attachment. The lyric in my heart does not literally mean a physical location, but symbolically expresses love, memory, and emotional closeness. According to Perrine (2016, p. 781). One of the key functions of figurative language is to intensify emotional expression. In this lyric, the speaker does not simply say *I will remember you*; instead, the figurative expression strengthens the emotional impact by suggesting permanence and deep affection.

Datum 16 (Rasool' Allah, chorus/refrain)

#### **And in my heart, you'll stay**

These lyrics use metaphor, where the word heart symbolises emotions, love, and memory rather than a literal physical organ. The phrase *you'll stay in my heart* conveys a sense of lasting emotional attachment. According to Perrine (2016, p. 781), figurative language functions to intensify emotional expression. In this lyric, the speaker expresses not just remembrance but a deep and enduring emotional

bond. Compared to a literal statement such as I will remember you, this figurative expression creates a stronger emotional impact.

Datum 17 (Save Me from Myself, verse 2)

**Big lights pull me in every time**

This lyric uses personification, as an inanimate object is described as having the human ability to pull someone. In reality, lights cannot physically pull a person; instead, this suggests attraction, influence, or temptation. According to Perrine, figurative language often functions to intensify emotional expression and convey the speaker's attitude (2016, p. 781).

In this lyric, personification strengthens the sense of being irresistibly drawn or emotionally compelled, making the feeling more vivid and expressive than a literal statement, such as I am attracted to big lights.

Datum 18 (Save Me from Myself, stanza 1)

**And all my patience gets locked out**

This lyric gives a human action to an abstract concept. In reality, patience cannot be physically locked out, so this is a clear case of personification. According to Perrine, figurative language can function to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this case, instead of simply saying *I lose my patience*, the lyric uses personification to create a stronger emotional effect. The phrase gets locked out suggests a sudden, uncontrollable loss of patience, emphasising frustration and emotional tension.

Datum 19 (Save Me from Myself, verse 2)

**Before my sense hit the ground**

This lyric uses personification because an abstract concept is described as if it were a physical object that can *hit the ground*. In reality, sense cannot fall or collide like a human body or object. According to Perrine, figurative language often functions to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the personification emphasises a sudden emotional or mental shock, such as confusion, realisation, or loss of control. Instead of stating it plainly, e.g., before I realised it, the lyric dramatises the experience, making it more vivid and emotionally powerful.

Datum 20 (Rasool' Allah, Stanza 2)

**Eyes that could light up any soul**

This lyric uses personification, as the eyes are described as having the human-like ability to light up a soul, which is not literally possible. The phrase conveys emotional warmth, inspiration, and a strong positive influence on others.

According to Perrine (2016), figurative language functions to intensify emotional expression (p. 780). In this case, instead of simply stating that someone's eyes are beautiful or expressive, the lyric amplifies the emotional effect by suggesting that the eyes can deeply affect a person's inner being and soul.

Datum 21 (O Allah, verse 2)

**If I praised You like the angels Until the end of time**

This lyric uses a simile, marked by the word *like*, to compare the speaker's praise to that of angels. The comparison suggests something pure, constant, and sacred, which elevates the intensity of the speaker's feeling. According to Perrine, figurative language serves to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the simile amplifies the depth of admiration and devotion by associating it with angel figures commonly linked with perfection and continuous praise. Additionally, the phrase *until the end of time* strengthens the emotional effect through a sense of eternity, reinforcing the speaker's sincerity and commitment.

Datum 22 (Save me from myself, chorus)

**Save me from myself**

This lyric can be interpreted as a synecdoche, where *myself* represents not just the literal self, but a part or aspect of the speaker, such as inner struggles, negative thoughts, or emotional weakness. According to Perrine, the third function of figurative language is to intensify emotional expression and reveal the speaker's inner state (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the speaker is not literally asking to be saved

from their entire self, but is expressing a deep internal conflict. The phrase conveys feelings of vulnerability, helplessness, and a desire for rescue from one's own emotions or actions.

Datum 23 (You are my life, stanza 1)

**You are the reason I never give up**

This lyric can be interpreted as a metaphor, where the reason does not simply refer to a logical cause, but symbolises a source of motivation, strength, and emotional support. According to Perrine (2016), figurative language functions to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the speaker does not merely state as you motivate me instead, the metaphor you are the reason elevates the emotional meaning by emphasising total dependence and deep personal significance.

Datum 24 (Stanza: Chorus repeated several times)

**Save me from myself**

This lyric uses figurative language because a person cannot literally be separated from themselves. Instead, *myself* symbolically refer to inner struggles such as fear, weakness, doubt, or negative thoughts. According to Perrine (2016), figurative language functions to intensify emotional expression (2016, p. 781). In this lyric, the speaker conveys a deep emotional state of helplessness and a strong need for guidance or protection. Rather than stating help me overcome my problems, the figurative form creates a more powerful and dramatic emotional effect.

Datum 25 (Paradise, verse 2)

**In this world, I dedicate my life to just dream about it**

This lyric expresses a strong emotional commitment and personal devotion (2016, p. 781). The phrase my life represents the speaker's entire existence, emphasising total dedication. This reflects the use of a part/whole relationship typical of synecdoche. Referring to Perrine, figurative language often functions to intensify emotional expression. In this lyric, instead of stating I really want it, the speaker uses dedicate my life to exaggerate and deepen the emotional intensity, showing passion, seriousness, and commitment.

Datum 26 (I Promise, Chorus)

**If you need me closer, I'll be right over**

The lyric *If you need me closer, I'll be right over* can be interpreted as an example of hyperbole because it expresses an exaggerated readiness and immediacy of response. The reason for using figurative language in this hyperbolic expression is to intensify the speaker's commitment, loyalty, and emotional availability (2016, p. 781). Literally, it may not always be possible for someone to arrive immediately whenever they are needed; however, the exaggeration emphasises the depth of dedication and willingness to provide support at any time. Hyperbole functions here to strengthen the emotional impact of the statement, making the promise sound more powerful and sincere than a simple literal assurance. Instead of saying, I will try to come as soon as possible, the speaker uses exaggerated immediacy to convey unconditional support and reliability. Thus, the use of hyperbole enhances emotional intensity, reinforces the promise's seriousness, and makes the expression more persuasive and memorable within the lyrical context.

### 3.2.3 Increasing Concentration

According to Perrine (2016), figures of speech function as a tool of condensation because they allow writers to express complex ideas in a short but meaningful way. A figure of speech can carry more than one meaning at the same time. For example, when Shakespeare compares life to a candle in *Macbeth*, the metaphor shows several similarities between life and a candle. Life begins and ends in darkness, gives light for a while, grows shorter as it is used, and can end suddenly. Through the phrase *brief candle*, Shakespeare expresses deep ideas about human life in a simple expression. This figurative language makes the meaning clearer, helps readers imagine the idea more easily, and creates a stronger emotional effect (2016, p. 781).

### **You are my Circle of Life, compass and guide**

Datum 27 (I promise, Stanza 1)

The lyric *You are my circle of life, compass and guide* primarily reflects the fourth function of figurative language, namely condensation (2016, p. 781). Through the use of metaphor, the speaker conveys multiple complex ideas, such as meaning, direction, and guidance, within a concise expression. Instead of elaborating these ideas in extended literal statements, the figurative language allows them to be communicated efficiently while retaining depth of meaning. This supports Perrine's view that figurative language enables writers to express rich and layered concepts in a brief yet powerful form

Datum 28 (You are my life, stanza 1 in the middle section of the stanza)

### **You are the melody, you're the key**

This lyric is a metaphor, where *melody* and *key* are not used in their literal musical sense, but represent emotional and abstract qualities such as harmony, importance, and meaning in life. According to Perrine (2016), the second function of figurative language is to enrich imagery and make abstract ideas more concrete (2016, p. 780). In this lyric, abstract feelings like love, connection, and importance are expressed through musical imagery. The listener can imagine melody and key, making the idea more vivid and tangible.

Datum 29 (You are my life, stanza 1 in the middle to late part of the stanza)

### **All the inspiration I need**

This lyric can be interpreted as a metaphor, where a person is equated with *all the inspiration* the speaker needs. Instead of explaining in detail how that person motivates, supports, and influences the speaker, the lyric condenses all those meanings into a single, compact phrase. According to Perrine (2016), figurative language can function as a tool of condensation, enabling complex ideas to be expressed briefly yet meaningfully (2016 p. 781). In this case, the metaphor summarises multiple layers of meaning, such as motivation, emotional support, admiration, and purpose, into one concise expression.

Datum 30 (Rasool' Allah, Stanza 1)

### **Everything you risked to change life**

This lyric reflects how figurative language is used to compress complex ideas into a brief and meaningful form. The phrase *everything you risked* suggests sacrifice, struggle, courage, and possibly loss, while to change life implies transformation, improvement, or a significant turning point. Instead of explaining these ideas in a long description, the lyric condenses them into a short yet powerful statement. According to Perrine (2016), figurative language functions as a tool of condensation, enabling writers to express rich and layered meanings compactly (p. 781). In this lyric, multiple experiences and emotions such as effort, sacrifice, and hope are implied within a single line.

Datum 31 (Good Life, Chorus)

### **'Cause I've got all that I need**

### **Right here in my, in my life**

The lyric *'cause I've got all that I need, right here in my life* represents the fourth function of figurative language, which is condensation (2016, p. 781). According to Perrine (2016), figurative language can express complex ideas in a short and meaningful way. In this lyric, the word *life* is a form of synecdoche because it represents many important things, such as family, love, and support. Instead of mentioning all these elements one by one, the songwriter uses the word *life* to include everything. Therefore, this expression shows how figurative language can make meaning more efficient, clear, and powerful in a simple sentence.

Datum 32 (I Promise, Chorus)

### **If you need me closer, I'll be right over**

The lyric *If you need me closer, I'll be right over* can be interpreted as an example of hyperbole because it expresses an exaggerated readiness and immediacy of response. The reason for using figurative language in this hyperbolic expression is to intensify the speaker's commitment, loyalty, and emotional

availability. Literally, it may not always be possible for someone to arrive immediately whenever they are needed; however, the exaggeration emphasises the depth of dedication and willingness to provide support at any time. Hyperbole functions here to strengthen the emotional impact of the statement, making the promise sound more powerful and sincere than a simple literal assurance. Instead of saying, I will try to come as soon as possible, the speaker uses exaggerated immediacy to convey unconditional support and reliability. Thus, the use of hyperbole enhances emotional intensity, reinforces the seriousness of the promise, and makes the expression more persuasive and memorable within the lyrical context.

Datum 33 (Stanza 1)

#### **Circle of life, compass and guide**

The lyric *Circle of Life, compass and guide* represents the fourth function of figurative language, namely condensation (2016, p. 781). Through symbolic expressions, it conveys complex ideas about life, direction, and guidance in a brief yet meaningful way, allowing multiple interpretations within a single line.

Datum 34 (Stanza 5)

#### **I leave it all in Your hands**

The lyric *I leave it all in Your hands* reflects the fourth function of figurative language, namely, condensation (2016, p. 781). The word hands operates as a symbol representing divine power, control, and protection. Through this symbolic expression, the speaker conveys complex spiritual concepts such as trust in God, surrender, and acceptance of fate in a concise yet meaningful way. Instead of elaborating these ideas in a lengthy explanation, the figurative expression compresses multiple layers of meaning into a single phrase, making it both efficient and profound

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis of Harris J's selected songs, several conclusions can be drawn as Harris J uses six types of figurative language in his lyrics: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, and symbolism. Among these, hyperbole and metaphor are the most common, followed by symbolism, personification, synecdoche, and simile. Other forms, such as irony, paradox, allegory, apostrophe, metonymy, and understatement, are not present. The prominence of these six types underscores the songwriter's tendency to rely on figurative language to enrich his lyrics, improve poetic expression, and deepen meaning.

The figurative language in Harris J's songs performs essential functions that extend beyond mere artistic decoration. It beautifies the lyrics, making them more engaging and memorable, while also serving as a medium for conveying complex emotions and spiritual messages, such as faith, love, gratitude, and devotion. Moreover, it allows the lyrics to communicate moral and religious values in ways that resonate deeply with listeners, encouraging reflection and self-awareness. In this respect, figurative language not only enriches the aesthetic dimension of the songs but also strengthens their communicative and spiritual impact. In conclusion, Harris J's use of figurative language highlights its dual role as both a literary device and a communicative tool. His songs demonstrate how figurative expressions can bridge artistic creativity with spiritual and moral messages, enabling listeners to engage with the lyrics on both emotional and intellectual levels.

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