

A STUDY OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S *EVERMORE* ALBUM

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Abstract

This research focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language and the meaning found in the song lyrics in *Evermore* Album by Taylor Swift. The researchers use qualitative method to conduct data from song lyrics. The researchers use Leech (1969) theory to find types of figurative language and the theory types of meaning by Leech (1981). The result of this research shows that there are five types of figurative language found in *Evermore* Album by Taylor Swift. They are Personifications, Simile, Metaphors, Hyperbole, and Irony. This research also finds two types of meanings, Connotative Meaning and Affective Meaning. Comments: abstract should be typed in single space – how many words?

Keywords : *Figurative Language, Song Lyrics.*

A.INTRODUCTION

Manser (1995: 395) defines song as poetry put to music intended to be sung. The song is one of the media to express a feeling and message that exists from human experience in life and is sung by a singer. Song genres are usually categorized based on the song's style, form, and content. Some examples of song genres include pop, rock, country, indie, ballad, k-pop, and others. Some songs are created sad, emotional, energetic, and upbeat it depending on genre. Not only that, some songs are meant to tell a story or convey a message too. The variety of songs is virtually endless, and songs suit every mood and occasion. The song lyrics in music are also like poetry. Song and poetry are both literary works created based on a person's imagination to express what is in their heart and to tell about their experiences. So many ways people use with language to deliver, share, or express their ideas for example, song lyrics in music. Song lyrics are written as the embodiment of the poet's voice which expresses attitudes, feelings, and personal aspirations towards various events and other experiences that are very varied and complex in human life. Song lyrics are a form of artistic expression that has the power to captivate and inspire listeners. They are an integral part of music, conveying messages, emotions, and stories through the use of words and melody.

The song usually has a contain lot of types of figurative language. The figurative languages used in lyric songs always have a different meaning in each sentence because the

figurative language in the lyrics used in the music has a specific purpose depending on the songwriter. So, this is a function of figurative language is a powerful tool for songwriters to express emotions, thoughts, and ideas imaginatively. It adds depth and meaning to lyrics, making them more impactful and memorable. For example, a songwriter might use a metaphor to describe a broken heart as a shattered mirror or personify the rain as a cruel reminder of a lost love. These comparisons and representations add depth and emotion to the lyrics and can help the listener better connect with the song's message. People usually listen to songs to listen and enjoy the beautiful and pleasant tones without knowing the intent or meaning of the lyrics of the songs they hear.

People need to learn semantics in order to understand the meaning of language because language is one of the primary means by which we communicate with one another. Semantics is concerned with the relationships between words and how they are used to express meaning in a language. For example, words can have multiple meanings depending on the context in which they are used, and it is important to understand these different meanings in order to communicate effectively. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010:343), they defined that linguistics is the study of language as a system of human communication. Lyons (1977:1) defined semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning; and that is the definition that will provisionally adopt: what is to be understood by 'meaning' in the context. From the statement that, it can be concluded semantics studies will focus on dealing with the meaning in language.

In this research, the researcher uses the *Evermore* album song by Taylor Swift because Taylor Swift is widely regarded as one of the most talented and creative songwriters of her generation. Her ability to craft memorable and engaging lyrics has earned her countless fans and accolades. One of the defining features of Taylor's songwriting style is her use of figurative language. This research will be focused on the analysis of figurative language uses in *Evermore* album song by Taylor Swift and the meaning of song lyrics.

B.RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers use the qualitative research. This method can be applied for this study to analyze, describe, and classify the types of figurative language and the types of meaning in song selected in *Evermore* album by Taylor Swift. The source of data are taken from eleven (11) songs selected in *Evermore* album song by Taylor Swift.

C.FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

a.Types of Figurative Language

There are five types of figurative languages found in Evermore Album by Taylor Swift such as Personifications, Similes, Metaphors, Hyperboles, and Irony.

1. Personification

The type of personification was found in *Champagne Problems* song and *Ivy* song.

a) Champagne Problems

“Your sister splashed out on the bottle” (Stanza 3, Line 3)

The underlined words above included the types of personification because in this phrase "splashed out" is being used as a figure of speech called personification, in which the speaker attributes human characteristics or behavior to an inanimate object.

B.Ivy

“Stop you putting roots in my dreamland” (Stanza 3, Line 5)

The underlined words above included the types of personification because it can be seen that the phrase of “putting roots” has characteristics human in object. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in personification.

2. Simile

The type of simile was found in *Cowboy Like Me* and *Long story short* song.

a. Cowboy Like Me

*“Now I'm waiting by the phone
Like I'm sitting in an airport bar”* (Stanza 3, Line 3 – Line 4)

The underlined words above included the types of simile because that compares a someone's current behavior of waiting by the phone to that sitting in an airport bar. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in simile.

b.Long Story Short

*“Rare as the glimmer of a comet in the sky
And he feels like home”* (Stanza 8, Line 6 – Line 7)

The underlined words above included the types of simile because the comparison it compares the rarity of a glimmer of a comet to the feeling of being like at home. Feeling at home is a subjective emotional experience from person. This is used to convey or express the feeling of

being at home is something that is rare and special for person. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in simile.

3. Metaphor

The type of metaphor was found in *Cowboy Like Me* song

a. Cowboy Like Me

"Eyes full of stars" (Stanza 5, Line 6)

These lyrics above included the types of metaphor because it can be seen that compares the person's eyes to the night sky, full of stars, suggesting that they are seeing something that is beautiful, mesmerizing, or extraordinary. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in metaphor.

4. Hyperbole

The type of hyperbole was found in *Long story short*, and *Ivy* song.

a. Long Story Short

"The stars in your eyes shined brighter in Tupelo" (Stanza 3, Line 2)

These lyrics above included the types of hyperbole because it exaggerates the brightness of the stars in someone's eyes in an unrealistic way, in order to emphasize the strong feelings or emotions the person has towards that person or place mentioned (Tupelo). In conclusion, this lyric can be included in hyperbole.

b. Ivy

"I'd meet you where the spirit meets the bones" (Stanza 1, Line 2)

These lyrics above included the types of hyperbole because it exaggerates the location of where someone would like to meet someone else in somewhere. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in hyperbole.

"Your touch brought forth an incandescent glow"

Tarnished but so grand" (Stanza 1, Line 5 – Line 6)

These lyrics above included the types of hyperbole because it exaggerates the physical effects of the touch of person, it implies that the touch was so powerful that it produced a radiant light, which is not possible in reality. Additionally, the phrase "tarnished but so grand" is another exaggeration as it implies that, despite being tarnished, the touch was grand in scale, which may not be the case. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in hyperbole.

"I'd live and die for moments that we stole" (Stanza 6, Line 8)

These lyrics included the types of hyperbole because it exaggeration. The person is saying that he/she would be willing to give up their life for something that is less significant or important than that. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in hyperbole.

5.Irony

The type of irony was found in *No Body, No Crime* and *Coney Island* song

a.No Body, No Crime

"She says, "I think he did it but I just can't prove it"(Stanza 3, Line 1)

These lyrics included the types of irony because it expresses a contrast between what is expected and what actually happens. Someone is saying that he/she believes someone did something, but she cannot prove it, which is ironic. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in irony.

a.Coney Island

"Lost again with no surprises" (Stanza 3, Line 2)

These lyrics included the types of irony because is expressing disappointment at being lost again and the use of the word "no" before "surprises" means that not be surprised if it happens again. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in irony.

6.The Kinds of Meaning

There are two types of meaning that found in *Evermore* album by Taylor Swift such as connotative meaning and affective meaning

1.Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning was found in lyrics of song entitled *Tolerate It, Cowboy Like Me*, and *Long Story Short* song.

a.Tolerate it

"I greet you with a battle hero's welcome" (Stanza 3, Line 1)

These underlined lyrics included the types of connotative because the phrase "battle hero's welcome" connotes ideas of honor, respect, and admiration, which suggests that the speaker is expressing a strong sense of appreciation or admiration for the person being greeted. In conclusions, this lyrics can be included that connotative meanings.

"Now I'm begging for footnotes in the story of your life"(Stanza 5, Line 4)

These underlined sentences included the types of connotative because the use of the word "begging" implies a strong desire, and the use of the phrase "story of your life" suggests that

someone wants to understand the person's entire life story and how it has led to their current situation. Additionally, the use of "footnotes" implies that the person wants to understand the context of the person's life story. In conclusions, this lyrics can be included that connotative meanings.

a.Cowboy Like Me

“Eyes full of stars” (Stanza 5, Line 7)

These lyrics included the types of connotative because the use of the word "stars" in this phrase is particularly evocative as it often symbolizes something that is distant, rare and beautiful. The phrase is used to express the idea of someone being captivated by something, they are seeing something that is so beautiful it is as if their eyes are full of stars, the phrase is also used in a romantic context to describe a person who is in love and the person they are in love with is the one who makes their eyes full of stars. In conclusions, this lyrics can be included that connotative meanings.

b.Long Story Short

*“Rare as the glimmer of a comet in the sky
And he feels like home”* (Stanza 8, Line 6 – Line 7)

These lyrics included the types of connotative because it uses simile to evoke emotions. The use of the word "home" at the end of the sentence creates a sense of warmth and comfort, suggesting that the person being described brings a sense of belonging and familiarity to the person or also can be suggest that “home” where’s the person lives there. In conclusion, this lyrics can be included that connotative meaning.

2.Affective Meaning

Affective meaning was found in lyrics of song entitled *Champagne Problems*, *Gold Rush*, *Coney Island*, and *Tolerate It* song.

a) Champagne Problems

“So, you could sit there in this hurt” (Stanza 1, Line 2)

These lyrics above included the types of affective because it suggests that the person is experiencing some sort of emotional pain or wound. The underlined word "hurt" implies that the person is suffering and it is suggests that the person feels someone's feelings are hurt emotionally. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in affective meanings.

b.Gold Rush

“I don't like that anyone would die to feel your touch” (Stanza 2, Line 3)

"I don't like that falling feels like flying 'til the bone crush" (Stanza 2, Line 8)

These lyrics included the types of affective because this is actually has two meaning which means the sentence *"I don't like that anyone would die to feel your touch"* includes affective meanings because it means that the person has a strong negative emotion towards the idea of someone sacrificing their life for the sake of physical touch. The use of the word "don't like" implies a sense of disapproval or distaste, while the phrase "anyone would die" implies a level of gravity or seriousness.

The second sentence *"I don't like that falling feels like flying 'til the bone crush"* also includes affective meanings because it means the person has a negative emotion towards the idea of falling. The use of the phrase "feels like flying" implies that there is a sense of exhilaration or freedom, but the phrase "til the bone crush" implies a sense of danger or harm. Both sentences give the sense of negative emotion towards something. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in affective meanings.

c.Coney Island

"Lost again with no surprises" (Stanza 3, Line 2)

These lyrics included the types of affective because the sentence conveys a feeling or emotion, specifically disappointment or frustration, through the use of words such as "lost" and "no surprises." The affective meaning is the emotional or attitudinal content of a word or phrase. In conclusion, this lyric can be included in affective meanings.

d.Tolerate it

"I know my love should be celebrated" (Stanza 2, Line 7)

These lyrics included the types of affective because it expresses a feeling or emotion, in this case, someone belief that their love should be recognized and honored. Additionally, the word "celebrated" suggests a positive or joyful emotion associated with the speaker's love. In conclusion, this lyrics can be included that affective meaning.

D.CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and analysis, there are 2 Personification, 14 Simile, 3 Metaphor, 16 Hyperbole, and 3 Irony and there are two the types of meaning are Connotative Meaning and Affective Meaning. The way of songwriter uses figurative languages usually use to help songwriters create beautiful songs by conveying uncommon words or phrase that have hidden meaning in song lyrics and it will give to take listener to want to listening the song. The use of figurative language can also make listeners can imagine and understand the meanings through figurative language in a song and the meaning contained in the song is more implied and conveyed to the listener.

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