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## ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN TAYLOR SWIFT SELECTED SONGS IN “MIDNIGHT” ALBUM AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ENGLISH TEACHING AT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**Dodi Widia Nanda<sup>1</sup>, Martiya Nurni Khairita<sup>2</sup>, Silvi Revina<sup>3</sup>**

English Language Education Study Program Faculty of Teaching and Education  
Sciences Dharmas Indonesia University

e-mail: [dodiwidiananda@undhari.ac.id](mailto:dodiwidiananda@undhari.ac.id)<sup>1</sup>, [tiyakhairita@gmail.com](mailto:tiyakhairita@gmail.com)<sup>2</sup>,  
[silvirevina602@gmail.com](mailto:silvirevina602@gmail.com)<sup>3</sup>

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis Bahasa Kiasan yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Taylor Swift yang dipilih dalam album Midnight dan Kontribusinya terhadap Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris di Sekolah Menengah Atas". Bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lagu-lagu Taylor Swift dianalisis ke dalam tiga jenis, makna, dan kontribusinya terhadap pengajaran bahasa Inggris. Penulis menggunakan teori Abrams (1999) sebagai indikator dalam penelitian ini dan teori SLA digunakan sebagai teori kedua dalam penelitian ini terkait dengan manfaat dan kontribusi lirik lagu dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penulis memfokuskan pada lima jenis analisis bahasa kiasan, yaitu hiperbola, metafora, simile, ironi, dan personifikasi. Data penelitian diperoleh dari lima lagu dalam album "midnight" milik Taylor Swift. Lagu-lagu tersebut adalah "snow on the beach", "anti hero", "you're on your own kid", "bigger than the whole sky", "high infidelity". Setelah menganalisis data, penulis menemukan dua puluh delapan ekspresi bahasa kiasan, termasuk tiga belas hiperbola, delapan metafora, tiga simile, dua ironi, dan dua personifikasi. Hiperbola merupakan bahasa kiasan yang paling banyak digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Taylor Swift yang terpilih dalam album Midnight. Selain itu, penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada pengajaran bahasa Inggris. Data yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi terhadap pengajaran bahasa Inggris.

**Kata kunci:** Bahasa Kiasan, Selena Gomez, Lirik Lagu, Analisis

### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to analyzed of Figurative Language Used in selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album and its Contribution to English Teaching in Senior High School". The figurative language found in Taylor Swift's songs is analyzed into three types, meanings, and their contribution to English teaching. The writer used Abrams' theory (1999) as an indicator in this study and SLA theory applied as the second theoretical for this study regarding to the beneficial and contribution of song lyrics for English teaching in teaching English as foreign language. In this study, the writer used a qualitative method. The author focuses on five types of figurative language analysis, namely hyperbole, metaphor, simile, irony, and personification. The research data were obtained from five songs in Taylor Swift's "midnight" album. The songs are "snow on the beach", "anti hero", "you're on your own kid", "bigger than the whole sky", "high infidelity". After analyzing the data, the writer found twenty-eight figurative language expressions, including thirteen hyperboles, eight metaphors, three similes, two ironies, and two personifications. Hyperbole is the most used figurative language in in selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album. In addition, this research contributes to the teaching of English. The data found that this research contributes to the teaching of English.*

**Keyword:** Figurative Languages, Selena Gomez, Song Lyric, Analysis

## INTRODUCTION

According to (Goldberg, 2021), "Language is a system of symbols that enables humans to understand and produce complex information, including abstract concepts such as thoughts, feelings, and beliefs." So that why, language also has many functions including communication, identity expression, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release. Communication has always been the most significant part of human expression and interaction. In the understanding language, people do not only understand the form of language, but also the meaning in it. There are many ways people do in delivering their idea to other people so that people can understand and catch the meaning of idea up. Language is related to literary works because literary works are produced through the use of language as a medium of expression. Language is used in literary works to express ideas, thoughts, feelings, and stories that the author wants to convey.

Just as in music, music is also a literary work in which there are songs and in songs there are lyrics that contain deeper meanings and moral values, written in the form of beautiful and memorable language. According to (Kramer, 2016), music is a human action that involves the arrangement and organisation of sounds and voices in order to create experiences that affect feelings, mind and body. Song is a short musical composition which is sung by human voice, and has a certain lyric. People often use lyric to express their feeling and ideas because a lyric has very strong emotion of someone's soul. The musicians can tell their ideas, feeling, protests, stories, and moral values in beautiful and emotional language. Lyrics can be categorized as

part of discourse, because it consists of words or sentences which have different grammatical functions. To understand the meaning of a song, in linguistics we must learn about meaning, which in linguistics is called semantics.

According to (Maros, 2018), figurative language in English lyrics can have a strong emotional impact on the listener. Maros stated that the right figurative language can express emotions, experience and situation in lyrics more deeply and meaningfully. The use of figurative language in song lyrics can also make song more interesting. Figurative language can make listener feel more connected to the song and understand the meaning more easily. Figurative language is sometimes difficult to interpret for general listeners, especially Indonesian listeners, because they have different capability to interpret the figurative language which is included in those songs. Since English become a world's tool communication Indonesian learners' realize how important English language is. Whereas, English as foreign language (FL) in Indonesia, sometimes to learn foreign language is more complicated than second language.

According to (Arifin, 2018), English songs as teaching media help students expand their vocabulary, improve their listening skills, and understand English grammar. students can also improve their cognitive and emotional abilities through the use of songs as learning media. Learning English can be stressful if a learner does not find an enjoyable way to acquire English. Therefore, a lot of enjoyable way to learn English appeared along with the English as the international language. One of

enjoyable way to learn English is listening to music. Music covers skills in English such as speaking, listening. The fact that music is one of the best way to learn English, the writer interested in doing study of the contribution of figurative language toward English teaching.

The writer know that lyrics in western musics not only use denotative meaning to express message from singer but also connotative meaning. Many kinds of literatures give us so much information in which they use non literal meaning of words. For example, some lyric in the songs uses figurative language to make it more interesting and fancy.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested to analyze figurative language in song because every song has a message. The researcher is interested to conduct this research because generally the readers including the researcher sometimes found some difficulties in understanding the meaning from the song lyrics. The listeners who love the song can be involved within the message of the story that happened in the song. The listeners love songs because they can pick the message of the song lyric and figurative language meaning deeply. In this research, the researcher interested in conducting a research undertitle analysis of figurative language in Taylor Swift selected songs in "Midnight" album.

The researcher uses Abrams theory of figurative language because the theory support the problem of my research. (Abrams, 1999), defined figurative languages a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve

some special meaning or effect. Figures are sometimes described as primarily poetic, but they are integral to the functioning of language and indispensable to all modes of discourse. Also in this research the writer use SLA Theory.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer will use descriptive qualitative of content analysis because the writer seeks to analyze, describe, collect and identify the types of figurative language and meanings contained in selected songs from Taylor Swift's *Midnight* album. Then, the writer will describe the meaning that can be interpreted from the figurative language that will be used in selected songs from Taylor Swift's *Midnight* album. Furthermore, the writer will collect data in the form of words rather than numbers. Qualitative method which will be used to obtain in-depth data, data that contains meaning. Meaning is the real data, definite data and is a value behind the apparent data. value behind the data that appears. Therefore, qualitative research does not emphasis on generalization, but more emphasis on meaning (Saebani, 2012).

In this case, The researcher used Abrams theory (1999) as an indicator in this study, according to Abrams he says that there are many types of figurative language, but he stated that there are 8 figurative languages including; hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, paradox, symbol. And use SLA theory to applied as the second theoretical for this study regarding to the beneficial and contribution of song lyrics for English teaching in teaching English as foreign language. In this research, researcher used content analysis

where the data is taken by taking all the lyrics of Taylor swift's selected songs in the midnight album, The data in this study were collected using the library research.

The procedure starts with reading the lyrics. Secondly, the researcher will try to identify words, phrases, and sentences involving figurative language and the meaning contained in the song lyrics, Third, the researcher will make some notes about figurative language. Finally, the researcher will classify and re-examine the details and analyze

them, The last step is to draw conclusions.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The writer found twentyeight figurative language in selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album, which are 13 hyperbole, 8 metafor, 2 personification, 3 simile, 2 irony. The writer reveals seven contributions of the study toward English teaching at senior high school.

Hasil Tahap Analisis (*Analyze*)

**Table 1. The types of figurative language used in selected Taylor Swift song in the midnight album.**

1. Title of Song	Figurative Languages	
	Types	Lyrics
2. Anti – Hero	Hyperbole	I'll stare directly at the sun but never in the mirror
		I'm a monster on the hill
		she's laughing up at us from hell
	Metaphor	I have this thing where I get older but just never wiser
		Midnights become my afternoon
		When my depression works the graveyard shift
Irony	They come with prices and vices	
3. High infidelity	Metaphor	Rain soaking, blind hoping
		Put on your record and regret me
		Put on your headphones and burn my city
	Hyperbole	Your picket fence is shrap as knives
		Dragged my feet right down the aisle
	Irony	Strom coming, good husband bad omen
4. Snow on the beach	Metaphor	I saw flecks of what could've been light, but it Might just have been you passing by unbeknownst to me
		I've never seen someone lit from within blurring out my periphery
	Simile	And it's like snow on the beach, weird but fucking beautiful
		My smile like I won a contest
		This seen feels like what I once saw on a screen
	Personification	Flying in a dream, star by the pocketful.
But your eyes are flying saucers from another planet		
5. Bigger than the whole sky	Hyperbonle	Salt streams out my eyes and into my ears
		Every single thing I touch becomes sick with sadness
		You were bigger than the whole sky
		You were more than just a short time
6. Your'e on your own, kid	Hyperbole	Summer went away still, the yearning stays
		From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes I waited ages to see you there

		I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this
		I touch my phones as if it's your face

**Table 2. The meanings of figurative languages selected Taylor Swift song in the midnight album.**

No	Song	Lyric	Meaning
1.	Anti - Hero	1. I'll stare directly at the sun but never in the mirror	Someone who chooses to face obstacles rather than give up on their weaknesses
		2. And I'm a monster on the hill	Someone who feels that she is always failing and she feels that she is the troublemaker
		3. she's laughing up at us from hell	About someone who feels like a nightmare and when she needs support from her family, they ignore her
		4. I have this thing where I get older but just never wiser	Someone who feels that as she get older, she cannot be wiser for her age
		5. Midnights become my afternoon	About someone who needs peace she seems to think of herself as being in a crowded place like she needs peace but her mind is chaotic and feels not in a silence but in a crowd
		6. When my depression works the graveyard shift	About a person who always has a lot on his mind and stressed about his life
		7. They come with prices and vices	About a person who thinks her family always makes her depressed
2.	High Infidelity	8. Rain soaking, blind hoping	Her relationship with her partner has gone sour but he keeps hoping it will get better again
		9. Put on your record and regret me	She hoped that her boyfriend would regret the affair and she would continue to think about him
		10. Put on your headphones and burn my city	Her boyfriend ignored her when the relationship broke down
		11. Your picket fence is shrapnel as knives	She realized how difficult it is to build an ideal relationship with her boyfriend
		12. Dragged my feet right down the aisle	She gave up on her relationship
		13. Storm coming, good husband bad omen	She's afraid that her boyfriend will find out that she's cheating on him too
3.		14. I saw flecks of what could've been light, but it might just have been you passing by unknown to me	She hopes that the person she likes will pass in front of her and without realizing it, the person she hopes for actually passes in front of her

	Snow on the Beach	15. I've never seen someone lit from within blurring out my periphery	She didn't expect her crush to be in front of her right now
		16. And it's like snow on the beach, weird but fucking beautiful	She didn't expect the accidental meeting to be so fast, weird but so beautiful and made her fall in love at that moment
		17. My smile like I won a contest	She was very happy because this moment of meeting is very rare
		18. This seen feels like what I once saw on a screen	She felt this kind of meeting was a moment that would never be forgotten because it felt like it was impossible to happen
		19. Flying in a dream, star by the pocketful.	She is hoping for someone who is really hard to get, and she really hopes that her love is not unrequited
		20. But your eyes are flying saucers from another planet	She assumes that the gaze of the man she likes is different, she also assumes that the person she likes also like her
4.	Bigger Than Whole sky	21. Salt streams out my eyes and into my ears	She had lost her loved one and her tears could no longer be held back because of this sadness
		22. Every single thing I touch becomes sick with sadness	She makes me feel helpless because every single thing I do fell sad and crying
		23. You were bigger than the whole sky	You mean a lot to me
		24. You were more than just a short time	Time is so fast and you left me for good
5.	Your'e on your own, kid	25. Summer went away still, the yearning stays	Time has passed but the longing for him has never gone away
		26. From sprinkler splashes to fireplace ashes I waited ages to see you there	From her childhood to her adulthood, she waited a long time just to be with the person she love
		27. I gave my blood, sweat, and tears for this	During her lifetime, she had sacrificed a lot for all this so that she could be with him
		28. I touch my phones as if it's your face	When she misses him she will see all his memories

**Table 3. The contributions of figurative languages used in song lyrics to English teaching.**

No	Contributions
1	Song lyrics are one of the media for learning that can improve and strengthen vocabulary, listening and speaking skills.
2	Song are very easy to obtain, teachers can search for them through various platforms including youtube, spotify and etc. also teachers can choose songs that suit the needs and interests of students.
3	Through music song, teachers can make the classroom more enthusiastic.
4	English songs are one of the good examples of language which can make it easier for students to understand english
5	Songs are one of the most enjoyable activities for students and one of the most effective language learning strategies for most students
6	The use of english songs in learning english in the classroom will make students less boring and will result in the automatic use of the target language
7	Through songs, students can learn and understand a variety of new vocabulary

## CONCLUSION

Figurative language is a tool to beautify literary work, and it's a language which people use to express their thoughts, ideas, and feeling unliterary. There are plenty types of figurative languages started from simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, and so on. Every types of figurative language has it own function to be used to convey a word, phrase, clause, or a sentence. This thesis use Abrams (1999: 90) theories as cited by (Syafitri, Dewi and Marlinton, 2018) to analysing types of figurative language.

The writer elaborates the findings on figurative languages which reveals twenty four figurative languages in selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album. The most figurative language which use in these selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album is hypebole. This study analyze figurative language in terms of meanings and types and also the contribution toward English teaching at SMA by which figurative language within songs to be used as material for teaching English.

The function of figurative languages in in selected Taylor Swift songs in the midnight album are to beautify the lyric and to draws the feeling of love, hatred, broken heart, betray, dilema, sincerity, fighting, and regret in more fancy and interesting way of saying. Through song lyric, human being can feel so many emotion such as love, hatred, fond, even dissampointment. The writer concluded that song lyric is suitable for English learners' related to the constributions in teaching English at SMA.

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