

An Analysis Figurative Language Used In The Song Lyrics Album “Evermore” by Taylor Swift

¹Lutfi Afndol Hasanah, ²Siti Nur’Aini, ³Ajeng Setyorini

¹Universitas PGRI Semarang, Indonesia

² Universitas PGRI Semarang, Indonesia

³ Universitas PGRI Semarang, Indonesia

*Lutfiafndol125@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research was to ascertain the figurative language employed in Taylor Swift's song lyrics album evermore. And the purpose of this study is to 1) identify the types of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's album evermore's song lyrics, 2) determine the most prevalent types of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's album evermore's song lyrics, and 3) determine the contribution of using Taylor Swift's album evermore's song lyrics to teaching poetry. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this study. This study discovered figurative language utilized in Taylor Swift's song lyrics album evermore, including simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, synecdoche, symbolism, paradox, alliteration, metonymy, and antithesis. The most prevalent sort of figurative language in Taylor Swift's 10 song lyrics album evermore is hyperbole, which appears in 36 song lyrics and accounts for 40% of the lyrics. The researcher demonstrates that the poet writer wishes to transmit a message about love, and the songs' contents mostly express the author's feelings about marriages that do not end pleasantly due to adultery, and relationships that do not tolerate one another, all the way up to murder. The song's metaphorical language conveys her most profound emotion. The song's usage of figurative language is extensive, allowing the reader to discern the type of figurative language.

Keywords: figurative language, song lyrics, types of figurative language, album evermore by Taylor Swift

Introduction

English is a foreign language that is used in the global world. The English language is one of the essential things to have relationships and communication with one another, so it has a significant role in our lives. People require language to interact, share ideas, communicate, and get information from others. People understand the form used in the language and its meaning. There are many methods to communicate with others, comprehending and catching the sense of a thought, there are many methods to share with others. One of the methods is by songs. The song lyrics usually contain figurative language. Figurative language uses language or word expression that deviates from the meaning different from the literal interpretation. According to Abrams (1999:96), figurative language employs language that is striking to language users and understood as the usual meaning of words in order to accomplish a certain goal or effect. According to Perrine in Arp (2020:68), figurative language is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally) and expresses something different

than the usual or a manner of stating one thing while implying something else. According to Peron's perception, figurative language was expressed in an unexpected manner and has a different meaning than usual. Occasionally, metaphorical language becomes the easiest approach to convey an inferred message to others. Someone uses it to communicate their emotions and thoughts in a unique way. The researcher is aware of how some people resolve conflicts through the use of figurative language in song lyrics.

Additionally, the objective of figurative language is to capture the reader's attention and convey the idea and creativity in a unique and amusing manner that conveys a great deal of meaning. Additionally, figurative language comprises numerous languages that can be used to express a perspective when composing poetry. The important point is that figurative language is the bedrock of literal language's literariness, or ornamental quality. It enables the researcher to utilize and manipulate language's latent potential in a variety of ways to achieve desired aesthetic results (Yeibo, 2012). It makes an attempt to pique interest in literary works. The primary objective is to compel readers to infer meaning from the author's statements or phrasing. The use of figurative language is a technique for effectively communicating concepts that are difficult to comprehend due to their complexity.

According to the preceding remark, the researcher chose figurative language from Taylor Swift's album "evermore" because song lyrics are literary works. As is the case today, pupils are more interested in music than in books. The study's context and the survey's stated flaws are as follows: 1) What types of metaphorical language are employed in Taylor Swift's album "evermore"? 2) What are the most prevalent sorts of metaphorical language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics album "evermore"? 3) How can using Taylor Swift's song lyrics album "evermore" contribute to the teaching of poetry?

As a result, the writers devised an effective approach for analyzing the song lyrics. The reader is supposed to comprehend and comprehend the meaning of poetry. The writers wish to analyze the poetry of Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift's song lyrics are about love, marriages that do not end pleasantly due to infidelity, and relationships that do not tolerate one another, all the way up to murder. The objective of this research is to broaden the reader's knowledge of literature, specifically in song lyrics, and to provide correct information, particularly about the meaning of figurative language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics.

Literature Review

Perrine (1982) defines figurative language as saying things differently than usual. So figurative language is the way to express something using imagery that can deliver the ordinary people. We know how people can solve their problems by using figurative language. So the listener must be thinking and understand what the speaker said because they better convey opinions with the applied cooperative principle that works together in conversation, which is easy to accept. The figurative language is said to be the language that speaks symbolically, and the figure of speech is expressed more than literal meaning (Kennedy, 2005:118).

There are kinds of figurative language that help express words used in a marvelous way to add beauty and emotional intensity to the language. Kennedy and Gioia (2005) classified figurative language into eleven types: simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, metaphor, symbols, apostrophe, paradox, metonymy, antithesis, and alliteration.

1. Simile
Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 121) say that a simile is comparison of two things, indicated by several ties, usually like, as, rather than, or verbs want to resemble.
For example:
She smiled like an angel
2. Personification
Kennedy and Gioai (2005:128), personification is a figure of speech in which something, animal, or abstract terms (truth, nature) are made by humans.
For example:
Your sister splashed out on the bottle
3. Hyperbole
Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 129) say that hyperbole, also called excessive exaggeration, is used to emphasize a point.
For example:
I guess it's the price I paid for seven years in heaven
4. Synecdoche
Kennedy and Gioia (2005:708), synecdoche is the use of an important part of something to defend the whole or vice versa.
For example:
The word "Coke" refers to a fizzy drink
5. Metaphor
Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 702) say that a metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, is not.
For example:
Children are assets for parents
6. Symbols
Kennedy and Gioia (2005:259) say that symbols are real objects or actions that show further meaning other than themselves.
For example:
He was living his life on a spinning wheel
7. Apostrophe
Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 129) explain that apostrophes are ways of dealing with someone, or something that is not seen is usually not spoken to.
For example:
Blue moon, you saw me standing alone.
8. Paradox (irony)
Kennedy and Gioai (2005), a paradox is a talking figure that conveys two contradictory things, but this figure reveals real facts that make sense even the speaker or writer uses words that don't make sense.
For example:
I can resist anything but temptation

9. Metonymy

Kennedy and Gioia (2005:130) say that metonymy is the name of an object that is substituted for others that are closely related to it.

For example:

We say, "I want to buy a Rotelli," meaning she wants a bag.

10. Antithesis

Kennedy and Gioia (2005:126), antithesis is words, phrases, clauses, or sentences set in deliberate contrast to one another.

For example:

A relationship is an ideal thing; marriage is a real thing.

11. Alliteration

Kennedy and Gioia (2005:693), alliteration is the repetition of two or more consonant sounds in successive words in a line of verse or prose.

For example:

If you go, I will go too

Method

The researchers collected data in this study by descriptive qualitative research, and qualitative researchers examined the material by reading it numerous times and completing analysis each time. Each time you read your database, you gain a better grasp of the material provided by your participants (Creswell, 2012:238); Figurative language is also employed in song lyrics to add interest to the music. The researcher is the primary instrument for directly seeing, collecting, and analyzing data. The researcher collects data by examination of study documents, observation, library research, and internet browsing. Activities include reading, listening to, and evaluating music. The researcher then evaluated and interpreted it. To obtain the data, the researcher uses figurative language in the song lyrics from Taylor Swift's album "evermore." The primary instrument of this research is documentation; the researcher collects data documents and writes several essential lists of notes before serving the data into an analysis table. Thus, according to Creswell (2012:223), the data gathering approach papers are a valuable source of information in qualitative research. The following steps are taken to collect the research data: 1) Download Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album's songs from YouTube. 2) Listening to and reading the words of songs. 3) Determine the song's figurative language. 4) Data analysis. After collecting data, the researcher analyzes it; the data analysis process is as follows:

1. Begin by reading the song's lyrics.

Identifying specific words/phrases/clauses/sentences in each song's lyrics that include figurative language;

2. Emphasizing the words/clauses/phrases that have been identified;

3. Classification/categorization of metaphorical language;

4. Determine the various types of figurative language according to the theory;

5. The researcher identifies the most prevalent figurative language styles in song lyrics;

6. Using the % formula, enter the percentage of the data;
7. Discuss how the many types of metaphorical language in Taylor Swift's album "Evermore" contribute to the teaching of poetry;
8. Forming a conclusion based on the analysis's findings.

This research aims to discover certain figurative language utilized in Taylor Swift's song lyrics album "Evermore" in order to determine the song's dominant figurative language.

Finding and Discussion

The researcher analyzed ten-song lyrics in the album "Evermore." They are: Willow, Champagne Problems, Gold Rush, Tis the Damn Season, Tolerate It, Coney Island, Happiness, Ivy, Cowboy Like Me, and Evermore. The researcher used eleven points to analyze the data. Those eleven points are simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, metaphor, symbols, apostrophe, paradox, metonymy, antithesis, alliteration. The result of the analysis can be seen on the point and table below:

Table 1 Types of figurative language

No	Types of Figurative Language	Total
1.	Simile	14
2.	Personification	5
3.	Hyperbole	36
4.	Metaphor	5
5.	Symbols	15
6.	Paradox	2
7.	Antithesis	2
8.	Alliteration	9
Total		88

The researcher classified and analyzed 88 song lyrics the figurative language by using the theory of Kennedy and Gioia (2005). Eight types of figurative language are applied in ten of the song lyrics album "evermore" by Taylor Swift. The figurative language involved simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, symbols, paradox, antithesis, and alliteration. The researcher analyzed figurative language expressed in the song lyrics in Taylor Swift's "evermore" album. They are as follows:

1. Simile

In this album, the researcher found fourteen expressions of a simile found in *songs Willow, Gold Rush, This the Damn Season, Tolerate It, Coney Island, Happiness, and Cowboy Like Me*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.1a "I'm like the water when your ship rolled in that nigh."

S.5e "I wait by the door like I'm just a kid."

S.6m "Cause we were like the mall before the internet."

Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 121) say that a simile compares two things, indicated by several ties, usually like, as, rather than, or verbs like to resemble. It means simile is a figurative language that compares two words with a hidden meaning. Based on the theory, figurative language in the song lyrics above is a simile because it expresses something indirectly with comparisons such as like and as. It also compared humans and objects. As simile was the figurative language that resembles two things, these songs also reach human and non-human. As mentioned in the data, they are defined to have simile.

2. Personification

In this album, the researcher found five expressions of personification, which are found in songs *Champagne Problems*, *Gold Rush*, *Tolerate It*, and *Ivy*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.2i "Your sister splashed out on the bottle."

S.8h "Stop you putting roots in my dreamland."

S.8a "I'd meet you where the spirit meets the bones."

Kennedy and Gioai (2005:128) personification is a figure of speech in which something, animal, or abstract terms (truth, nature) are made by humans. It means that personification is a kind of figurative language to equate something with humans that express imagery words from the object, animal, and plant. Based on the theory, figurative language in the song lyrics above is a personification. It contains words meaning to humanize inanimate objects and gives adjectives to non-human living things such as animals, plants, or something. It seems to can or can behave like humans. As mentioned in the data, they are defined to have personification.

3. Hyperbole

In this album, the researcher found thirty-six hyperbole expressions in songs *Willow*, *Champagne Problems*, *Gold Rush*, *This the Damn Season*, *Tolerate It*, *Coney Island*, *Happiness*, *Ivy*, *Cowboy Like Me*, and *Evermore*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.2a "So, you could sit there in this hurt."

S.5j "I greet you with a battle hero's welcome."

S.6q "Did I paint your bluest skies the darkest grey?"

Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 129) say that hyperbole, also called excessive exaggeration is used to emphasize a point. It means hyperbole kinds of figurative language that uses exaggerated words, phrases, or sentences with a specific purpose of attracting attention. Based on the theory, figurative language in the song lyrics above is hyperbole; it uses exaggerated meaning to impress the reader, which used the term to describe herself or her feeling. As mentioned in the data, they are defined to have hyperbole.

4. Metaphor

The researcher found five hyperbole expressions in songs *Willow*, *Coney Island*, *Ivy*, and *Cowboy Like Me*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.1i "Life was a willow and it bent right to your wind."

S.6r "The sight that flashed before was your face."

S.8k "Your opal eyes are all I wish to see."

Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 702) say that a metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, is not. It means a metaphor kind of figurative language that compares something to describe the object with the same or almost equal character as another object. Based on this theory, figurative language in the song lyrics above is a metaphor because the word is used to explain or describe something by referring to other things that are considered to have similar characteristics to the thing or a person who wants to be defined. In the sentence, use the word "was or are," which explains something and the object's meaning. As mentioned in the data, it is defined to have Metaphors.

5. Symbols

In this album, the researcher found fifteen hyperbole expressions in songs *Willow*, *Champagne Problems*, *Gold Rush*, *This the Damn Season*, *Tolerate It*, *Coney Island*, *Happiness*, *Ivy*, and *Evermore*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.1k "As if you were a mythical thing."

S.2j "Dom Perignon, you brought it"

S.4g "I parked my car right between the Methodist."

Kennedy and Gioia (2005:259) say that symbols are real objects or actions that show further meaning other than themselves. It means that symbols kind of figurative language which uses symbols to contain the purpose of representative words that want to be delivered. Based on this theory, the figurative language in the song lyrics above is symbols because it uses the word object with other meanings, such as the use of places, names that are different from common and rarely known, where the choice symbols of terms are based on the author's life. As mentioned in the data, it is defined to have symbols.

6. Paradox

The researcher found two hyperbole expressions found in songs *Willow* and *Happiness*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.1j "Head on the pillow, I could feel you sneaking in."

S.7u "Acid rain on the pillow where you used to."

Explanation:

Kennedy and Gioai (2005) paradox is a talking figure that conveys two contradictory things, but this figure reveals real facts that make sense even the speaker or writer uses words that don't make sense. The paradox delivers two contradictory forms that the statements can

prove yet. Based on this theory, the figurative language in the song lyrics above is a paradox because the idea is contradictory and cannot be proven true, which use conjunctions or punctuation marks in the middle of the sentence, such as using the word "comma and where" which serves to find out the meaning in the sentence. As mentioned in the data, it is defined to have a paradox.

7. Antithesis

The researcher found two hyperbola expressions in songs *Champagne Problems* and *Tolerate It*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.2o "November flushed and your flannel cured."

S.5c "I notice everything you do or don't do."

Kennedy and Gioai (2005:126) antithesis is words, phrases, clauses, or sentences set in deliberate contrast to one another. Based on this theory, the figurative language in the song lyrics above is antithesis because it uses the word that opposes or contrasts ideas, such as in the lyrics used the word "and, or" which the purpose to helps the readers define meaning opposite. As mentioned in the data, it is determined to have antithesis.

8. Alliteration

In this album, the researcher found nine hyperbole expressions of hyperbole in songs *This the Damn Season*, *Tolerate It*, *Coney Island*, *Happiness*, *Ivy*, and *Evermore*. For example, the song lyrics in the album evermore by Taylor Swift are as follows:

S.7h "Last the blood and bruise past the curses and cries."

S.8z "And now I'm covered in you, in you."

S.10o "Whether weather be the frost."

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2005:693), alliteration is the repetition of two or more consonant sounds in successive words in a line of verse or prose. Based on this theory, the figurative language in the song lyrics above is an alliteration because there is a repetition phrase or repetition of the consonant sound of a series word in the song lyrics. Such as initial consonant "blood and bruise," initial consonant "whether and weather," and repetition phrase "in you, in you." As mentioned in the data is defined to have alliteration.

Based on the research, here are the result of the dominant figurative language used in the song lyrics album evermore by Taylor Swift:

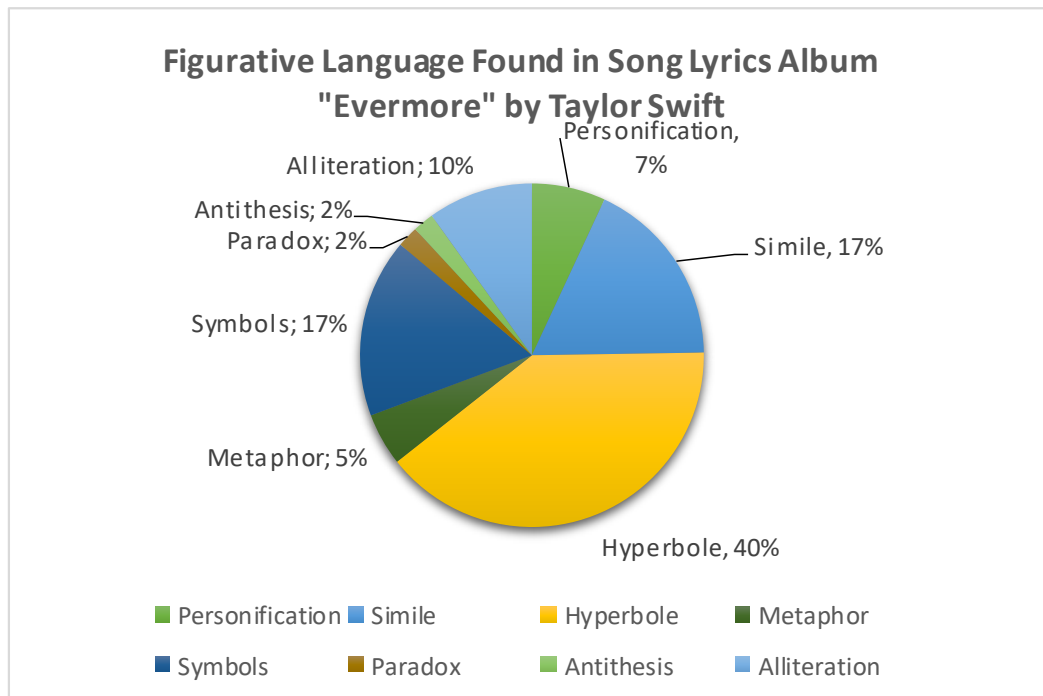


Figure 2: Kinds of figurative language

The picture above used eight kinds of figurative language in ten songs on the "evermore" album by Taylor Swift. The most dominant figurative language to use percentage is hyperbole with 40%, simile with the percentage 17%, symbols with the percentage of 17%, alliteration with the percentage of 10%. Personification with the percentage of 7%, a metaphor with the percentage of 5%, paradox and antithesis have the same percentage of 2%.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis explained before, I can draw points in the conclusion of this research. The researcher found 88 figurative languages by Kennedy and Gioia (2005) used in the song lyrics album "evermore" by Taylor Swift. They are; fourteen expressions of simile, five expressions of personification, thirty-six expressions of hyperbole, five expressions of metaphor, fifteen expressions of symbol, two expressions of paradox, two expressions of antithesis, and nine expressions of alliteration. So, from this analysis, mostly found hyperbole in the song lyrics "evermore" album by Taylor Swift.

The researcher found the most dominant types of figurative language in the song lyrics "evermore" album by Taylor Swift. The most dominant type of figurative language is hyperbole which found 36 song lyrics and represents 40%. The contribution of these songs to poetry teaching is that the researcher suggests the teacher/lecturer apply this song as creative media for poetry learning, so the students are not bored quickly and have fun studying and the task given by their teachers/lecturers.

From the explained conclusion, the researcher gives suggestions related to the analysis to learn the figurative language. They are: for teacher/lectures hopefully can use this song as an interesting media for poetry teaching, for students hopefully understand figurative languages easier, listen to the song not only for loving the lyrics or singing but also more paying attention to catch the meaning, Students also should use the song as a reference in learning

English to make the learning process more accessible, for readers will hopefully get benefit from this final project. The readers can be more comprehended about figurative language and reference anyone doing similar research about figurative language.

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