

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: A KEY TO UNDERSTANDING IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S "ENCHANTED" LYRICS.

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### ABSTRACT

One of the best literary forms is a song. Another crucial fact to be aware of is that a song is a small piece of rhyming music that contains the songwriter's fantasies, ideas, illusions, and messages for the listener. Figurative language is used in song lyrics to help the reader understand the messages being conveyed. Additionally, the purpose of the current study is to identify the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted" lyrics. The authors employed a descriptive qualitative study approach that included metaphors (33,39%) and other literary devices such as alliteration (19,0%), hyperbole (14,3%), personification (11,9% ), simile (4,8%) and irony (4,8%). The use of figurative language as a non-literal or idiomatic form of expression could increase learners' vocabulary and improve their language's expressiveness and proximity to their feelings.

**Keywords:** *Figurative Language, Qualitative, Song Lyric, Students, Message.*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of sound symbols that emerges from human speech. Since humans are social beings, they require means of interacting with other members of society. People use some techniques to convey their ideas so that others can understand and get the meaning. One of them is singing a song.

Songs are a common way for people to express themselves (Rentfrow, P. J., McDonald, J. A., & Oldmeadow, J. A., 2009). Various emotions, including grief, joy, rage, etc., can be present. Most frequently, it addresses someone's opinions and sentiments on particular subjects. A song is a brief piece of rhyming music that contains the songwriter's fantasies, ideas, illusions, and messages to other people in the form of words or song lyrics (Dewi, E. N. F., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek, A., 2020). It consists of a series of prepared words that a

chosen singer recites. Often, a songwriter will have a certain group of listeners in mind.

Not everyone will comprehend the song's true meaning (Rahmawati, R., & Supri, I. Z., 2022), although a composer frequently leaves the meaning open to interpretation (Taylor, A., 2020). To try to understand the composer's objectives when writing the song, a deeper comprehension is necessary (Governor, D., Hall, J., & Jackson, D., 2013).

Figurative language is one strategy (Herianah, H., & Asis, A., 2021) for clarifying meaning and avoiding conflicting interpretations. Figurative language is thought to be more effective (Kosimov, A., 2022) at communicating the writer's meaning because it first gives readers a sense of imaginative pleasure (Ketaren, S. V., Sipahutar, S. R., Marpaung, E. M., & Saragih, E., 2021) from reading literary works, and second, it adds more imagery (Aryawan, L. K. F., Suarnajaya, I. W., & Swandana, I. W., 2019) to verse, making the abstract concrete and enhancing the sensual quality of literary works (Sa'adah, H., & Rohana, Y., 2023), and third, it adds emotional intensity to statements that would otherwise be merely informative and communicate attitudes along with information (Swarniti, N. W., 2022).

"Enchanted" is a song written and recorded by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift for her third studio album, *Speak Now* (2010). Produced by Swift and Nathan Chapman, the song is a power ballad combining pop, rock and country. She re-recorded the song as "Enchanted (Taylor's Version)" and released it as part of her third re-recorded album *Speak Now (Taylor Version)* on 7, 2023 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enchanted\\_\(Taylor\\_Swift\\_song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enchanted_(Taylor_Swift_song))). The lyrics to the song *Enchanted* describe the emotions of a person who falls in love at first sight and questions whether his feelings would be returned in the future.

Dewi, Hidayat, and Alek (2020) conducted the first study titled "Investigating Figurative Language in *Lose You to Love Me* Song Lyric." Hyperbole, irony, paradox, personification, repetition, and simile were all used in this study's stringent application of structuralism using the descriptive qualitative paradigm, with hyperbole emerging as the most common figurative expression.

"The Analysis of Figurative Language Used In The Lyric of Awaken By Maher Zain" is the title of the second study conducted by Nuraeni, Ismail, and Kareviati (2020). The result are hyperbole, rhetoric, repetition, and personification ware used in Maher Zain's song Awaken. The similarities and differences between both studies include metaphorical language, with the writer's study utilizing the Taylor Swift song "Enchanted" as a case in point. Additionally, the purpose of the current study is to identify the figurative language used in Taylor's song "Enchanted" lyrics.

The pupils can grasp or comprehend the meaning of English expressions said by English users thanks to figurative language (Rohani & Arsyad, 2018). Figurative language can also assist EFL students in getting over obstacles to learning more complex vocabulary so they can express themselves in English precisely like native speakers (Doiz & Elizari, 2013). More over, Figurative language can improve social communication skills (Kalandadze, T., Norbury, C., Nærland, T., & Næss, K. A. B. 2018)

The researchers want to examine Figurative Language: A Key to Understanding in Taylor Swift's "Enchanted" Lyrics. By comprehending and utilizing figurative language, EFL students not only increase the sophistication of their vocabulary but also develop their ability to express themselves in English through verbal and nonverbal communication.

## **LITERATUREREVIEW**

### **Figurative Language**

Figurative language describes the application of words, phrases, and expressions beyond their literal sense ( Gibbs Jr, R. W., & Colston, H. L., 2006). Figurative language is a term used to describe idiomatic terms (Franceschi, V., 2013) that have interpretive or non-literal interpretations, such as comparisons, connotations, and other non-literal meanings (Keraf, 2009). In other words, figurative languages are words and word groupings that exaggerate ( Harya, T. D., 2017) or change the meaning of those words in their everyday usage (Palmer, B. C., Bilgili, E. M., Gungor, A., Taylor, S. H., & Leclere, J. T., 2008). Figurative

language can take many different forms, including metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbole, sarcasm, etc. All of these expressions have various purposes, have various connotations, and are used by individuals to convey various intentions.

There are various figurative language ( Karimah, D., Anggraeni, L., Hayuningtias, N. R., & Yunia, R. P., 2022). They are:

a). Metaphor.

Defintion : It is the figurative speech, which compares one thing to another directly (Peter,2002). To convey that two items share the same features, metaphor is a figurative language used in the imaginative description. It serves to make the description more impactful without the usage of signposting.

Example : She is the sunshine of my life.

b). Simile.

Definition : Similes are comparisons that explicitly show similarities between two objects by utilizing the words as, seems, like, then, or other comparable expressions ( Muziatun, M., Malabar, F., & Mitali, E. H., 2022).

Example : His smile was as bright as the sun

c). Personification.

Definition : Personification, or speaking of something that is not human as though it had human powers and human reactions, is one of the most used comparison techniques (Masruri, 2012). Personification is the process of imputing human characteristics to an item, an animal, or an idea.

Example : The wind whispered through the trees, sharing its secrets with the leaves.

d) Hyperbole.

Definition : Exaggeration is all that hyperbole is, yet it is an exaggeration in the context of the truth and is employed for a variety of purposes (Ibrakhimova, D. T., 2019). It could be lighthearted or serious, fanciful or controlled, persuasive or not.

Example : I've told you a million times to clean your room, and it's still a mess.

e) Irony.

Definition : Irony is a form of ambiguous or oblique expression. Humans who are aware of the potential and complexity of life do it naturally. The irony arises from the contrast between a word or statement's intended meaning (Dewi, E. N. F., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek, A., 2020) and the implication of another interpretation. The intended implications frequently make a mockery of what is being said literally.

Example : “What a beautiful day for a picnic!” said the family as the rain started pouring.

f). Alliteration.

Definition : Alliteration as the repetition of the same or similar sounds at the beginning of words( Orwin, M., 2011).

Example: Sally sells seashells by the seashore

g). Repetition.

Definition : It is repetition tone, syllable, word or part of sentence which is considered important to give stress in a appropriate context (Nuraeni, S., Ismail, T., & Kareviati, E., 2020).

Example : I am SO disappointed in you

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

A descriptive qualitative research approach was adopted by the authors. The qualitative technique, according to Moleong (2010: 4), is a research strategy that aims to describe people's observable words and behaviors. Theoretical frameworks like figurative language will be used to apply this strategy, together with references from the relevant literature, journals, and books that support figurative language. The information came from Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted," which has figurative language in the lyrics.

The writer's method for gathering the information was as follows: Consider the song lyrics from the "Enchanted" album at Azlyrics.com. Read the song lyrics from Taylor Swift's "Enchanted" album first. Next, look for any figurative language and have the researchers gather information from YouTube

or websites related to the study's subject. Learn the subject matter of each song on Taylor Swift's "Enchanted" album

The methods utilized to examine the data are as follows: naming the seven types of figurative language metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole, repetition, irony, and simile understatement from one of Taylor Swift's songs from the album "Enchanted." Identifying the theme that each song on Taylor Swift's "Enchanted" album represents. Recognizing the seven types of metaphorical language used in Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted". Calculating the proportion of each form of figurative language's frequency before identifying the most common one in the songs. And the final assessment based on the outcomes. It could be interpreted as follows:

$$FK \text{ rel} = FK / (\sum F) \times 100\%$$

FK = Frequency of cumulative

$\sum F$  = Frequency of total

FK rel = Frequency of relative cumulative.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Taylor Swift uses a variety of literary techniques in these lyrics to describe the speaker's feelings and experiences when meeting the person of interest. The metaphors, similes repetition, irony, hyperbole, and alliteration add to the song's vivid and expressive quality and let the listener experience the enchantment, wonder, and longing the singer is experiencing.

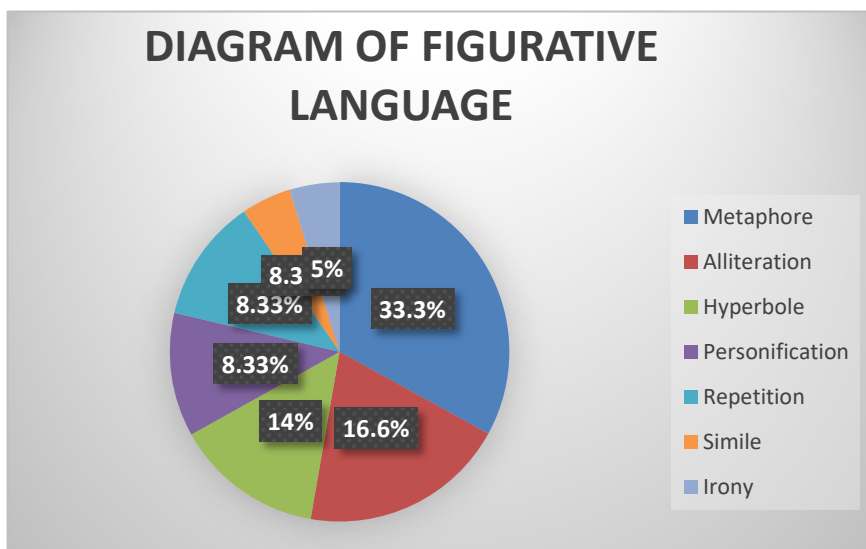
Figurative language in lyric songs was analyzed, which consists of metaphor 14, Alliteration 8, and Hyperbole 6. Personification is 5, Repetition 5, the simile is 2 and Irony is 2. Here are the figurative languages in song lyrics by Taylor Swift.

**Table1: Kind of Figurative Languages found in “Enchanted” song lyrics**

Kinds of figurative Language	Number of Occurrences	Persentage
Metaphore	14	33,3%
Alliteration	8	19,0%

Hyperbole	6	14,3%
Personification	5	11,9%
Repetition	5	11,9%
Simile	2	4,8%
Irony	2	4,8%
Total	42	100%

**Graph1: Percentage Figurative Language found in “Enchanted” Song Lyrics**



Kinds of Figurative Language

***Metaphor***

A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares something to another item in order to describe it.

Data 1 : *Forcing laughter, faking smiles.* This phrase shows that the author is comparing the behaviors of forcing laughing and putting on a phony grin.

Data 2: *Same old tired, lonely place.* The artist refers to their emotional condition as a "tired, lonely place," implying that their emotions are like a specific place.

Data 3: *Your eyes whispered, Have we met?.* This sentence is creating a sense of mystery by treating the eyes as though they might whisper. Represents a discussion between the speaker and the other person that is being had symbolically through their eyes.

Data 4: *Cross the room your silhouette / Starts to make its way to me.* It describes the silhouette's motion as it "making its way," as if it were a live thing.

Data 5: *This night is sparkling, don't you let it go.* This sentence use the image of the night "sparkling" to symbolize its enchantment and uniqueness.

Data 6: *I'm wonderstruck, blushing all the way home.* "Wonderstruck" is a metaphor that effectively portrays the speaker's intense reaction to the incident.

Data 7: *Walls of insincerity.* The word "Wall" are used as a metaphor for the artificiality of the surroundings, implying its artificiality and sensation of isolation. a sign that the atmosphere is unreal and dishonest.

Data 8: *Vanished when I saw your face.* It means that when the speaker sees the person's face, the unpleasant feelings (loneliness, fatigue) disappear.

Data 9: *The lingering question kept me up.* The idea of a "lingering question" is metaphorically utilized to describe the singer's thoughts of intrigue or doubt.

Data 10. *Counter all your quick remarks.* This sentence means A game of counter remarks is used to describe the conversation. Imagining oneself dancing alone.

Data 11. *Dancing around all alone.* It means that Creating an image of dancing alone.

Data 12. *This is me praying that / This was the very first page.* The lyric show that employing the metaphor of a "page" to compare the start of a relationship to the first chapter of a book.

Data 13. *This was the very first page / Not where the story line ends.* The sentence means that A "page" and a "story line" metaphor are used to represent the start of a relationship and the desire for it to last.

Data 14. *The lingering question kept me up.* The idea of a "lingering question" is metaphorically utilized to describe the singer's thoughts of intrigue or doubt.

The songwriter uses metaphors to create rich and layered imagery, adding depth and emotional resonance to the lyrics. These metaphors convey themes of



hidden emotions, transformation, connection, and the complex interplay of feelings in human interactions.

### ***Alliteration***

Alliteration is when a word's beginning consonant sound appears twice in nearby words.

Data 1: *Counter all your quick remark.* This sentence includes alliteration because the repeated "c" sound in "counter" and "quick" establishes rhythm.

Data 2: *Wonderstruck, blushing all the way home.* It means that the "w" sound is repeated, producing a rhythmic effect.

Data 3: *Forcing laughter, faking smiles.* The sentence repeats the sound "f".

Data 4: *Dancing around all alone.* This phrase has a rhythm since the letter "d" is repeated so many times.

Data 5: *I wonder 'til I'm wide awake.* The "w" sound is repeated, producing a rhythmic effect.

Data 6: *My thoughts will echo your name.* The "t" sound is repeated several times, emphasizing the echoing process.

Data 7: *These are the words I held back as I was leaving too soon.* The sentence is produced by the "w" sound appearing in the syllables "words," "held," and "back" repeatedly.

Data 8: *Walls of insincerity, shifting eyes and vacancy.* The lyric is produced since "shifting" and "vacancy" both repeat the "s" sound.

The songwriter uses alliteration not only to create rhythmic and melodic effects in the lyrics but also to convey specific emotional and thematic nuances. The repetition of consonant sounds serves to emphasize key words and ideas, adding depth and resonance to the song's message.

### ***Hyperbole***

A deliberate exaggeration not intended to be taken literally is known as hyperbole.

Data 1: *This night is sparkling.* The word "sparkling" amplifies the enchanted atmosphere of the night. Perhaps the enchantment and brilliance of the night.

Data 2: *I'll spend forever wondering if you knew.* The speaker's great curiosity and longing are exaggerated.

Data 3: *This night is flawless.* The lyric showed that highlighting how wonderful the night was.

Data 4: *Please don't be in love with someone else* . The sentence is expressions of strong emotions, emphasizing the intensity of the speaker's feelings.

Data 5: *And now I'm pacing back and forth.* The speaker's agitation and worry are heightened by the suggestion of excessive movement.

Data 6: *Wishing you were at my door.* The expression "wishing you were at my door" exaggerates the strong longing for someone's presence.

The songwriter uses hyperbole to intensify and dramatize the emotions and experiences described in the lyrics. These exaggerated expressions serve to make the significance of the moments and the depth of the speaker's feelings.

### ***Personification***

Personification is a figure of speech that gives inanimate objects a sense of life. This song's lyrics give an idea a human face.

Data 1: *Walls of insincerity, shifting eyes and vacancy.* The insincerity and void of human nature are bestowed upon the walls and eyes.

Data 2: *Your eyes whispered, Have we met?* The personification of the eyes as though they could communicate in whispers creates a communication-based metaphor.

Data 3: *I'm wonderstruck, dancing around all alone.* The sentence shows that the wonder struck and dancing behaviors of the speaker.

Data 4: *I'd open up and you would say, Hey.* Inferring that a simple "hey" at the door would offer great happiness and relief, this metaphorically expresses the sense of yearning for connection and engagement.

Data 5: *I wonder 'til I'm wide awake.* In this instance, "wonder" is personified as if it can keep a person awake.

The songwriter employs personification to imbue inanimate objects and emotions with human qualities, adding depth and emotional resonance to the

lyrics. These personified elements serve to humanize the surroundings, emotions, and interactions described in the song, making them more relatable and vivid for the listener. It allows the audience to connect on a deeper level with the emotional experiences conveyed in the lyrics.

### ***Repetition***

Data 1: *Enchanted to meet you.* The sentence repeated multiple times to highlight the speaker's passionate reaction to the meeting.

Data 2: *Please don't be in love with someone else / Please don't have somebody waiting on you.* The phrase "Please don't be in love with someone else / Please don't have somebody waiting on you" is repeated several times to highlight the speaker's request.

Data 3: *And it was enchanting to meet you.* The word "wondering" is used several times, highlighting how persistent and continual the speaker's thoughts are.

Data 4: *I'll spend forever wondering if you knew.* The repetition draws attention to the continuous thought.

Data 5: *This night is flawless, don't you let it go.* Repetition emphasizes the significance of the night and the plea not to forget it.

Repetition is used by the songwriter to emphasize and amplify certain emotions, requests, or experiences within the song. It draws attention to key moments and themes, making them more prominent and memorable for the listener. In these examples, repetition serves to convey the depth of emotions, the lasting impact of the encounter, and the importance of not letting go of precious moments

### ***Simile***

Similes are comparisons that are made in an indirect way by using the words "like" or "as." The term "like" is used in the analogy because it is there; it refers to a person passing notes covertly.

Data 1: *Forcing laughter, faking smiles.* It describes the act of acting as though one is happy even though one is not truly happy.

Data 2: *This night is flawless, don't you let it go.* The lyric is to emphasize

the beauty and importance of the night, the line contrasts it with its immaculate nature.

The songwriter uses similes to add depth and meaning to the lyrics. Similes create connections and associations between different concepts, making the emotions and experiences described in the song more vivid and relatable to the listener. They allow the audience to grasp the nuances of the speaker's emotions and the importance of the moments being conveyed

### ***Irony***

Irony is a form of figurative language in which words are employed in a way that alters their intended meaning from what they actually imply. The conflict between expectation and reality is mentioned.

Data 1: *Same old tired, lonely place*. This sentence is contradiction between the phrase "lonely place" and the idea of meeting an alluring person.

Data 2: *Same old tired, lonely place / Walls of insincerity, shifting eyes and vacancy*. The vocalist refers to their emotional condition as a "tired, lonely place," implying that their feelings are like a specific area.

Irony is employed to add layers of meaning to the lyrics. It creates a sense of complexity and depth by the contrast between expectation and reality

The songwriter employs figurative language to convey emotions, pictures, and engage the listener's imagination. These figurative devices add layers of meaning and depth to the lyrics, allowing the audience to connect with the song on both an emotional and intellectual level.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the descriptions described above, it can be concluded that the figurative language in "Enchanted" Song Lyrics has 7, they are metaphor 14, Alliteration 8, and Hyperbole 6. Personification is 5, Repetition 5, the simile is 2 and Irony is 2.

One of the best types of writing is seen in song lyrics. Another crucial fact to be aware of is that a song is a brief piece of rhyming music that contains the songwriter's message to the listener as well as thoughts, ideas, and illusions.

The meaning of a song cannot be inferred from a single word; rather, the full lyrics must be considered. It is crucial to translate the actual concepts and sentiments represented in the lyric into metaphorical language to understand and comprehend a phrase from a song. Figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. As a result, it can aid in the creation of instructional materials for the learning and teaching process. Teachers and students alike must be capable of exercising critical thought, growing their vocabulary, and improving their linguistics expertise. For future research, the authors recommend to analyze moral message, part of songs and so on.

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