FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S SONGLYRICS

IN *THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT* ALBUM

THESIS

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WIJAYA KUSUMA SURABAYA UNIVERSITY

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APPROVAL SHEET I

This thesis entitled **"Figurative language found in Taylor Swift's songlyrics in *The Tortured Poets Department Album"***, written by Carline Adinda Shalma, (NPM) 21620003, has been examined and approved by the thesis advisor(s) for further approval by examining committee.

Surabaya, 23 June 2025

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APPROVAL SHEET II

This thesis is to clarify that Sarjana Thesis of Carline Adinda Shalma, had been approved by the examiner committee as a partial requirement for the Sarjana Degree in the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education.

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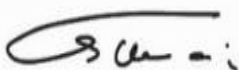
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Demikian surat pertanyaan ini saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya.

Surabaya, 7 Juli 2025

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Carline Adinda Shalma

MOTTO

It's fine to *fake it 'til you make it*
'Til you do, 'til it's true

Taylor Swift

ABSTRACT

Shalma, Carline Adinda 21620003. *Figurative Language Found in Taylor Swift's songlyrics in The Tortured Poets Department Album*. Thesis, Department of English Education, Faculty of Teaching and Education, Wijaya Kusuma University, 2025.

This research explores the use of figurative language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics from The Tortured Poets Department album. Figurative language is a crucial literary element that allows writers and artists to express ideas in imaginative and impactful ways. The objective of this study is to identify the types of figurative language employed in the lyrics and to analyze how these figures of speech contribute to overall meaning and emotional depth of songs. This study focuses on understanding how language is used not only to convey literal messages but also to create layers of symbolic and emotional resonance.

The researcher adopts a qualitative descriptive approach. The data were collected from sixteen selected song lyrics in the album and analyzed using Laurence Perrine's theory of figurative language, which includes metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, paradox, irony, and symbol. Each type found in the lyrics was identified, classified, and interpreted based on function and context in the song. The findings show that metaphor is the most dominant type of figurative language used, followed by symbol and simile. These figurative expressions are often used to express deep emotional experiences such as heartbreak, longing, introspection, self-empowerment, and identity crisis.

Though her lyrics, Taylor Swift masterfully uses figurative language to build vivid imagery and deliver complex emotional narratives, making her songs rich in literary value. The study concludes that the use of figurative language in this album not only enhances the aesthetic quality of the lyrics but also allows listeners to engage with the songs on a more profound emotional and psychological level. This research contributes to literary studies by showing how popular music can serve as a meaningful medium for literary and linguistic analysis. It may also be useful as a learning resource for students and educators in the field of English literature and language education.

Keyword: figurative language, literary analysis, Tyalor Swift, The Tortured Poets Department, Song lyrics, Perrine's theory.

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