AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRICS OF THE ALBUM "MIDNIGHTS" BY TAYLOR SWIFT

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to discover the figurative language and its meaning in the song lyrics used in the "Midnights" album. The data included the lyrics of all songs (13 songs) from Taylor Swift's "Midnights" album. This study employed a descriptive qualitative method as well as a content analysis design to describe types of figurative language and its meaning in song lyrics. The findings revealed that eight types of figurative language were used in the "Midnights" album's song lyrics: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron. Personification with 12 data (12.5%), simile with 21 data (21.9%), metaphor with 25 data (26.0%), hyperbole with 15 data (15.6%), irony with 2 data (2.1%), litotes with 2 data (2.1%), metonymy with 17 data (17.7%), and oxymoron with 2 data (2.1%).It was found that metaphor is the most frequent type of figurative language used in the song lyrics of the "Midnights" album. It indicated that Taylor Swift used a lot of metaphor to create her songs in the "Midnights" album because figurative language can make a song more aesthetic, artistic, and meaningful, as well as the song lyrics in the "Midnights" album can be effective material for students to learn figurative language.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium of human communication and message transmission. According to Fajrin (2021), language allows people to connect with each other and express their thoughts and feelings. Language, whether spoken or written, can be used to communicate or convey ideas. In various situations, language can be implemented in literal and non-literal ways based on the use of its language. Figurative language is a non-literal language that is crucial to use in conveying the ideas in literary works. Purba et al. (2021) stated that figurative language is applied in many forms of literary works, including poems, short stories, song lyrics, and so on. Various authors used figurative language in their literary works to create a special effect by making a creative comparison and to draw the reader's imagination to interpret the meaning of the literary works.

Additionally, figurative language may be used to maximize a literary work's beauty and meaning (Taufik & Cahyati, 2022).

The song lyrics are a short literary work written by a writer to convey a simple message to the readers. Many songwriters write song lyrics using figurative language to make the song lyrics more interesting, unique, and aesthetic. It concerns that an author transfers his or her feelings through figurative language in the song lyrics that may have various meanings depending on the audience's thinking. They also produce a song to illustrate and present the message of the regular lifestyle, such as in songs by Taylor Swift. Her songs are literary works that describe feelings through beautiful lyrics and figures of speech based on her life experiences.

In education, figurative language can be taught through song lyrics in high school and university. It is very useful for the students in order to improve their comprehension ability. An English lecturer can use songs as media because songs are more commonly used as interesting material in order to make students learn English and enjoy the lesson. In addition, using figurative language through songs helps students understand the lesson by motivating them to study, enriching their knowledge of language and culture, mentoring students to think critically, and providing feedback to enhance students' comprehension skills (Fatimah et al., 2020).

Previously, Nainggolan et al. (2021) conducted research about types of figurative language in Joe Biden's victory speech. From 86 data, they found metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, and litotes, of which metaphor appeared frequently. Furthermore, Karimah et al. (2022) analyzed the figurative language in "Tale-Tell Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. The results presented 9 data for four figurative languages: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification. The difference between the previous studies and this present study is the source chosen by the writers. The previous studies used a speech and a short story, while the present study chose all song lyrics in an album of "Midnights" by Taylor Swift and interpreted their meaning, which has not been analyzed previously. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify types of figurative language and its meaning in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Midnights" album.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Figurative language is one in which the meaning of words, phrases, or utterances differs from their actual meaning. Figurative language affects language that is expected to be followed or standard, and it has had a major influence on how humans believe about something and their perceptions of the world (Amalia et al., 2021).

In relation to the term definition, McKenzie (2016) viewed that figurative language involves to the language which informs the ideas beyond the factual meanings of the word, phrases or sentences. Figurative language imparts a sensation of beauty while focusing on the importance of what is being conveyed. In certain word, figurative language is indeed a various word or phrase with such a hidden message.

Figurative language is achieved by using words that are out of context. When a researcher employs literal language, he or she is conveying the actual information as it is. In comparison, figurative language uses overstatements or word replacements to communicate a particular linguistic meaning. Figurative

language is used to describe something by contrasting it with something else. This type of description is typically used to convey a sense of beauty and to emphasize important elements (Karimah et al., 2022).

Leech (2013) divided figurative language into eight types: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron.

1. Personification is a figurative language style in which inanimate objects are described as if they have human characteristics. It is inanimate objects that act and behave like humans, or human manifestations. (Remakers & Melion, 2016:1) The functions of figurative language style in song lyrics with human characteristics, including actions, emotions, and human manifestations. For example, *the wind whispered in my ears*.

2. Simile is a direct comparison. It means that something is immediately stated to be the same as something else. This necessitates efforts that explicitly demonstrate the similarity, namely the words: *like* or *as* (Leech, 2013:156).For example, *her hair is as smooth as silk.*

3. Metaphor is a shortened analogy that compares two things directly. Unlike similes, metaphor does not use comparative words with *like* or *as*, so the first point is directly related to the second subject (Stack, 2020:4). This metaphor implies that something is the same or valuable as other things that are not the same. For instance, *his eyes are moonlight*.

4. Hyperbole is a figurative language that demonstrates the point by using an exaggerated statement (Ismail et al., 2020). For example, *I traversed the universe to meet him*.

5. Irony is defined as a statement in which the speaker's assumed meaning contrasts dramatically from the ostensibly expressed meaning (Harris, 2017). For instance, *this food is so delicious that I have a stomachache eating it.*

6. Litotes is a figurative language used to describe statements that have been shrunk from their original size (Leech,2013:168). It combines two negative words to form a positive phrase. For example, *the boy's behavior wasn't as bad as it had been in the past.*

7. Metonymy uses the name of something with the name of another that is closely connected (Taufik & Cahyati, 2022). Its purpose is to connect a name in people's heads with something else. For instance, *I wanted to build a bungalow in your life.*

8. Oxymoron is the comparison of two expressions that are semantically incompatible, so that the combination of words has reference to reality (Leech, 2013:140). For instance, *his joke is seriously funny*.

Figurative language can be used in a lot of literary works in order to make literary works more beautiful, alive and attract the audience's interest. One of the most common literary works that employs figurative language is song lyrics. A song lyric is a literary work that is filled with a beautiful combination of lyrics and melodies to create a piece of music that represents meaning and messages that are either directly or indirectly expressed to art connoisseurs, especially those who really appreciate music (Sarumaha et al., 2022).

Abdullah and Rahmawati (2018) stated that a song is a short literary work or perhaps another collection of words written, produced, and designed to be performed. Songwriters use creative abilities and figurative sense to compose song lyrics. Song lyrics are someone's perceptions about something they have seen, heard, or personally encountered.

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Taylor Swift is a well-known American singer who writes and records many songs. Taylor Swift (born December 13, 1989) is a well-known American singer-songwriter who writes and records many songs about her life experiences. She received numerous awards, including Grammys, American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, and Guinness World Records. Her music has been credited with inspiring a new generation of singer-songwriters. She had released ten albums from 2006 until now (Wikipedia, 2022). "Midnights" is her newest or tenth album and consists of 13 songs. Midnights is an album that tells the story of Swift's life during a pivotal evening in her career, such as her insecurity expressed in the lyrics of "Anti-Hero" as well as her relationship with her boyfriend in the past and present.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a descriptive qualitative method. Creswell (2014) said that qualitative research is an investigation process in comprehending the methodology that is different in observing social problems. Descriptive qualitative research employs a case study method or approach (Sugiyono, 2017).The writer identified a word, phrase, or sentence in each line of the song lyrics to get the data completely. Applying content analysis design, the writer identified a word, phrase, or sentence in each line of the song lyrics to get the data regarding various types of figurative language and its meaning completely.

This research used the lyrics of all songs in the "Midnights" album by Taylor Swift. The writer selected "Midnights" album among all of Swift's albums because itis the newest album from Taylor Swift and it contains popular songs that many people listen to, despite the fact that it was only released on October, 2022. This album is comprised of 13 songs, namely Lavender Haze; Maroon; Anti-Hero; Snow on the Beach; You're You Own, Kid; Midnight Rain; Question?; Vigilante Shit; Bejeweled; Labyrinth; Karma; Sweet Nothing; and Mastermind. The writer adopted the theory from Leech (2013) in analyzing of types of figurative language in the song lyrics of the "Midnights" album. Leech (2013) has classified figurative languages into eight types. They are: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron.

In collecting data, the writer used documenting, in which she downloaded and printed the song lyrics from the "Midnights" album that can be accessed on the website https://www.azlyrics.com/t/taylorswift.html#111651. This study followed the framework from Miles et al. (2014)in analyzing the data, in which there are four stages: data reduction, data display, drawing conclusion, and data coding. Several steps were taken in this study, as follows: First, the writer read the printout of each song's lyrics from the "Midnights" album and listened to each official song on Taylor Swift's YouTube channel to ensure there were no mistakes in the song lyrics. Second, the writer identified the data by repeatedly reading and listening to the study's source. Then, the writer marked parts of the lyrics in the printout that contain figurative language and categorized them into types of figurative language based on Leech's theory (2013). After that, the writer presented the findings in the table, giving a code for each data. Lastly, the writer explained the findings, interpreted the meaning of the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of 13 songs on "Midnights," and drew the conclusion.

FINDING AND DICUSSION
Finding
Table. 1 Types of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of "Midnights" Album

Types of Figurative Language	Number	Percentage
Personification	12	12.5%
Simile	21	21.9%
Metaphor	25	26.0%
Hyperbole	15	15.6%
Irony	2	2.1%
Litotes	2	2.1%
Metonymy	17	17.7%
Oxymoron	2	2.1%
Total	**96**	**100%**

1. **Personification**

    Personification is a type of metaphor in which inanimate objects are decorated to act, and speak like humans.

    Data 1   :   *I feel the lavender haze creeping up on me* (Lavender Haze, line. 10)

    In data 1, the author applied personification that gave life to an inanimate thing (lavender haze) that could crawl on Swift's body. It indicated that lavender haze could move like a human. This song's lyrics contained a hidden meaning that could mean that lavender haze is love, and Swift felt that she was in love with someone.

    Data 2   :   *The rust that grew between telephones* (Maroon, line. 18)

    From data 2, the author used personification that could be seen in line 18 of the song lyrics for Maroon. She described an inanimate object (the rust) as if it were alive (grew).This line could be referring to Swift's strong bond and relationship with her ex when he was still her boyfriend.

    Data 3   :   *When my depression works the graveyard shift* (Anti-Hero, line. 3)

    Data 3contained personification, in which the author used works to bring an inanimate thing (my depression) to life. This data showed that Swift mentioned when her depression appeared and disrupted her sleep, making it difficult for her to get a good night's sleep.

    Data 4   :   *Sapphire tears on my face* (Bejeweled, line. 42)

    Data 4 contained personification, in which the author used an inanimate object as if she had given it life. It demonstrated that sapphire could cry, despite the fact that sapphire is a precious gemstone and not an animate object. This data had connotative meaning, meaning that the sapphire could be shown as Swift's tears that fall on her face.

    Data 5   :   *Karma takes all my friends to the summit* (Karma, line. 50)

The author used personification in data 5, she described karma as an inanimate object that came to life by using the verb take. Swift assumed that karma was a good thing and that karma could make people successful, including her friends who do good and kind things.

Data 6 : *The dominoes cascaded in a line* (Mastermind, line. 10)

The author used personification in data 6 by using dominoes and giving the verb cascaded as if the dominoes had human characteristics. The lyrics of this song had the connotative meaning that the dominoes represented the scheming that Swift's plan ran smoothly as she desired.

2. Simile

Simile is comparison figurative language that is used to describe a situation by comparing it to something else by using *like* or *as*.

Data 7 : *Tale as old as time* (Anti-Hero, line. 7)

In data 7 from Anti-Hero's song lyrics, the author talked about "tale," which she compared to being as old as time. It was demonstrated that a tale existed and that it grew old with time, just as everyone, including the author, has their own old story.

Data 8 : *My smile is like I won a contest* (Snow on the Beach, line. 23)

Data 8 was taken from the song lyrics of "Snow on the Beach," which is a story about falling in love. In this line, the author is described as saying that her smile is the expression she uses when she wins a competition, and smile means happy. It indicated that the author used simile (like) in illustrating her smile when she is falling in love by using the phrase "I won a contest."

Data 9 : *I touch my phone as if it's your face* (You're On Your Own, Kid, line. 10)

According to data 9, the author used simile in these song lyrics. The author compared her phone to a man's face, which could imply that she handles her phone with care, just as she would a man she loves.

Data 10 : *It came like a postcard* (Midnight Rain, line. 28)

From data 10, the author applied simile to the song lyrics of "Midnight Rain," especially in line 28. She used a postcard as a comparison something that she wanted to compare. In the song lyrics, it could be meant as memories that Swift had with his boyfriend in the past, like a card that contained a picture of them.

Data 11 : *Karma's on your scent like a bounty hunter* (Karma, line. 45)

Data 11 showed that the author added simile to her song lyrics. It could be seen that the author used a bounty hunter to illustrate karma. Swift saw karma in this data as a good action with a positive outcome for herself. This data could have meant that karma was a bounty hunter that could chase

someone based on the scent that stuck in their body and return the proper action that people take in their lives, whether it was a good or bad thing.

> Data 12 : *I spy with my little tired eye*
> *Tiny as a firefly* (Sweet Nothing, line. 1-2)

Data 12 contained simile, in which the author used a comparison of the thing that she wanted to compare. In this data, Swift used a firefly to describe her tired eye. A firefly is a small animal that is difficult to see, and this comparison indicated that she needed a rest because she was really tired and her eyes did not focus anymore.

> Data 13 : *So I've been scheming like a criminal ever since*
> (Mastermind, line. 30)

Based on data 13, the author used simile in thirtieth line of Mastermind's song lyrics. She assumed that she was a criminal when she started to make plans. In general, a criminal is someone who does bad things that violate the town or country's policy rules, and Swift is similar to a criminal in that she would do anything, including manipulate a man, to get him.

3. **Metaphor**

Metaphor is used by authors to help them describe things more clearly by comparing one thing to another thing by using *is*.

> Data 14 : *Sometimes I feel like everybody is a sexy baby*
> *And I'm a monster on the hill*(Anti-Hero, line.19-20)

According to data 14, the song lyrics contained two metaphors: she as a monster and the other as sexy babies. It was assumed that the author described herself as a monster, whereas others were sexy babies. It meant that everybody had a beautiful, sexy, and young appearance, while Swift assumed she was not sexy or young enough to compete with them.

> Data 15 : *Life is emotionally abusive* (Snow On The Beach, line. 5)

Based on data 15, the author used metaphor in her song lyrics for "Snow on the Beach." She used "abusive" to illustrate life. In the dictionary, "abusive" meant awfully distasteful and disrespectful. It might be related to her experience when she met people in her life; she thought that life was rough, wild, manipulative, and difficult.

> Data 16 : *He was sunshine* (Midnight Rain, line. 18)

In data 16, the author used metaphor (is) to illustrate the man that had been her boyfriend in her song. Swift presented him as being like sunshine, in which the man is friendly, humble, cheerful, making the days of the people around him pleasant and providing happiness, comfort, and joy to them.

> Data 17 : *But some guy said my aura's moonstone*
> (Bejeweled, line. 44)

Data 17 of the song lyrics entitled "Bejeweled" showed that some people compare Swift to moonstone. Moonstone is one of those expensive gemstones that not everyone can afford. It assumed that Swift was described as a difficult woman who would be difficult for people, especially men, to approach.

> Data 18   :   *'Cause karma is the thunder*
> *Rattling your ground* (Karma, line. 43-44)

According to data 18, the author applied metaphor in the song lyrics of Karma, especially in lines 43–44. She described karma as thunder with meaning; karma was a good or bad action that had an effect on yourself, as well as the fact that it could come from anything and anywhere.

> Data 19   :   *I'm only cryptic and Machiavellian 'cause I care*(Mastermind, line. 34)

In data 19, the author used metaphor by comparing herself to something else. It implied that the true meaning of the song's lyrics was that she was a manipulative woman who had and used any and all strategies to achieve and obtain what she desired.

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figurative language that exaggerates and even contradicts itself.

> Data 20   :   *I waited ages to see you there* (You're On Your Own, Kid, line. 16)

Data 20 used hyperbole in which the author used *ages* to describe how long she waited for her friend. The lyrics of this song indicated that the author in love with her best friend in long period and hoped that one day he would realize it.

> Data 21   :   *A slow motion, love potion*
> *Jumping off things in the ocean*(Midnight Rain, line. 15-16)

In data 21, the author used exaggerated words. She wrote that a love potion could jump in the ocean, but that it was impossible while people couldn't see love itself. This line of lyrics could imply that Swift's boyfriend desired her love and wanted a strong relationship with her.

> Data 22   :   *'Cause I don't remember who I was before you*
> *Painted all my nights*
> *A color I have searched for since* (Question, line. 6-8)

Data 22 had the meaning that this was the author's first time finding someone that she thought suitable and understood her well, but she described it with overstatement, which could be seen when she used a sentence that she did not remember herself before meeting a man and a color that she wanted to find out (love).

> Data 23   :   *They say looks can kill and I might try* (Vigilante Shit, line. 4)

Based on data 23, the author used hyperbole by using overstatement, in which she mentioned that appearance could kill someone. However, the true statement could be that someone's appearance could make people change their attitude or personality toward someone else; it could be a compliment or a mockery. It indicated that using hyperbole made the lyrics more dramatic.

> Data 24 : *When I walk in the room*
> *I can still make the whole place shimmer*
> (Bejeweled, line. 8-9)

Data 24 showed that the author used hyperbole in her song lyrics for "Bejeweled." She presented the idea that when she walked around, all places would glimmer because of her effect. This phrase had a deeper meaning than the literal one, which was that her presence could draw people's attention because she was encrusted with jewels.

> Data 25 : *You would break your back to make me break a smile* (Labyrinth, line. 16)

The song lyrics in tab 25 contained hyperbole. The author described her boyfriend breaking his back to make her smile. It was only an expression that could say but hardly to do even Swift's boyfriend was really love her, but this song lyrics assumed that her boyfriend would do anything that he could to make Swift happy.

5. Irony

Irony is a figurative language that conveys messages that are diametrically opposed to reality.

> Data 26 : *Sometimes I feel like everybody is a sexy baby*
> *And I'm a monster on the hill*
> *Too big to hang out*
> *Slowly lurching toward your favorite city*
> *Pierced through the heart but never killed*
> *Did you hear my covert narcissism*
> *I disguise as altruism like some kind of congressman?*
> *(Tale as old as time)*
> *I wake up screaming from dreaming*
> *One day I'll watch as you're leaving and life will lose all its meaning*
> *(For the last time)* - (Anti-Hero, line.19-29)

Data 26 demonstrated irony in which the author stated that her narcissism (someone who sets high standards for herself and believes she is better than others), despite the fact that this lyric had the opposite meaning in which she was an insecure woman who was afraid that her boyfriend, friends, and other people in her life would abandon her, and she also tried her hardest not to make any mistakes.

> Data 27 : *I broke his heart 'cause he was nice* (Midnight Rain, line. 17)

According to data 27, the seventeenth line of "Midnight Rain" contained irony. It was ironic because it showed how Swift ended his relationship with his ex-boyfriend because he was a good man. It implied that having a caring partner would not guarantee a long-term relationship.

6. Litotes

Litotes is a type of figurative language in which something uses the negative form to make it less than its true description.

> Data 28 : *So make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it*
> *You've got no reason to be afraid* (You're On Your Own, Kid, line. 44-45)

From data 28, the author used litotes to make the description less than reality by using negative words in "You've got no reason to be afraid." The phrase meant that you should be brave and strong, especially in building relationships with others.

> Data 29 : *So I told you none of it was accidental* (Mastermind, line. 35)

Based on data 29, the song lyrics of Mastermind, especially in line 35, contained litotes, in which the author used the negative form that had a polite meaning. Another interpretation of "none of it was accidental" was that all events had happened as planned by the mastermind.

7. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figurative language in which the name of something is used to subtly refer to something else with which it has a relationship.

> Data 30 : *They're bringing up my history* (Lavender Haze, line. 23)

Data 30 contained metonymy that was shown by using "history." History can also be referred to as "past". This data indicated that people around her talked about her bad past to her boyfriend.

> Data 31 : *I searched 'aurora borealis green'* (Snow On The Beach, line. 20)

In data 31, the author used metonymy by using "aurora borealis green." It is also called "Northern lights" in the North pole while it is called "Southern lights" or "Auroro Australis" in the South pole. Green is the most commonly seen color. In relation to the song lyrics, in which this song told about love, aurora could mean love because both finding aurora and true love were difficult.

> Data 32 : *My boy was a montage* (Midnight Rain, line. 14)

Data 32 contained metonymy, in which the author used a term in her song lyrics. She used montage to describe her boyfriend, which could be meant as a traditional man who wanted a serious relationship when he fell in love with her.

> Data 33 : *Driving in your Benz*(Vigilante Shit, line. 18)

Data 33 employed metonymy, in which the author described a vehicle by its label rather than a broad term. In this data, the author used "Benz" (one kind of car) rather than mention that it was a car, and people would know it. Its meaning was clear: the woman had and drove a car (Benz).

Data 34 : *My pennies made your crown* (Karma, line. 23)

The author employed metonymy in data 34, writing "pennies." Money was another name for pennies. Therefore, it could mean that Swift gave her money to someone to make him wealthy and powerful.

8. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a figurative language that describes two opposite words in one phrase or sentence.

Data 35 : *Slowly lurching toward your favorite city* (Anti-Hero, line. 22)

In data 20, the author used oxymoron, in which she presented two contradictory words, "slowly" and "lurching," in one phrase. In the dictionary, "lurching" is when someone makes a sudden movement, either sideways or forward, and it is indicated that someone could not handle his or her stamina when something was lurching. Related to the song lyrics, it could mean that the author could not handle something that was around her.

Data 36 : *Good girl, sad boy* (Question, line. 2)

Data 36 showed that the song lyrics of Question in the second line contained oxymoron, in which the author used the opposite words "good" and "sad." The author depicted a girl as good or happy and a boy as sad in their daily lives.

Discussion

Figurative language is used when words and phrases have different meanings than their interpretation. According to the findings of the study, there were eight types of figurative language in the lyrics of 13 songs of "Midnights" album, namely personification (12 data), simile (21 data), metaphor (25 data), hyperbole (15 data), irony (2 data), litotes (2 data), metonymy (17 data) and oxymoron (2 data).

Personification is used to describe an inanimate object as if alive such as *The rust that grew between telephones* (Maroon, line. 18). According to Tairako's view (2018), personification is a type of figurative language style that depicts inanimate objects as if they have human characteristics. In personification, it indicated that a thing or an object can do the human usually.

Simile is used to compare something to another thing by using *as* or *like* such as *Tale as old as time* (Anti-Hero, line. 7). It is indicated when the author uses figurative language with obvious words and uses similes that have an explicit meaning. Some equations include details about their nature, while others do not. The reader is then expected to deduce the nature of the equation for himself or herself (Natsir et al., 2022).

Metaphor is used to describe two different things by using *is* or something similar to *is*, such as *He was sunshine* (Midnight Rain, line. 18). It is similar to

Valentino's view (2016) who stated that a metaphor is a comparison of two dissimilar things. This metaphor implies that something is the same or valuable as something that is not the same (Pradopo, 2012: 66).

Hyperbole occurs when an author uses words that are exaggerated in comparison to reality such as *I waited ages to see you there* (You're On Your Own, Kid, line. 16).Hyperbole can be used to create a humorous, sad, angry, or convincing an impression(Taufik & Cahyati, 2022).

Irony is when the author makes a statement that is opposite from its true meaning, such as *Did you hear my covert narcissism*(Anti-Hero, line. 24).Generally, irony refers to something by trying to reverse the context of what happened (Tarigan, 2013); this figure of speech can also be said to conceal or hide its true meaning. The sense of irony seems to be opposite to what is being said; it is nuanced, but it may also try to give an unsubtle declaration of sense; this figurative language is classified as humor or contradictory figures (Muhammad et al., 2021). Irony gives a literary work more impactful meaning and pushes readers to use their thoughts and ideas to acknowledge the text's underlying meanings (Abdullah & Rahmawati).

Litotes is when the author uses a phrase or sentence to make the expression seem less than it really is by using negative form such as *I'm only cryptic and Machiavellian 'cause I care* (Mastermind, line. 34). This is supported by Harris (2017), who stated that litotes illustrate the contradictory idea in the author's mind by using understatement expressions rather than its reality. Litotes is using ironic understatement to demonstrate an idea or expectation instead of reducing its significance (Abdullah & Rahmawati, 2018).

Metonymy is when the author uses the words or name of something that can be related to another thing, such as *My pennies made your crown* (Karma, line. 23). As said by Glucksberg (2001: 6), metonymic statements can function as comparisons when they concern transmission by reconciling or modeling the abstract and the concrete.

Oxymoron occurs when an author uses two opposing words in the same phrase or sentence, such as *Slowly lurching toward your favorite city* (Anti-Hero, line. 22). Oxymoron is a figurative language that combines two contradictory opinions that show up in a phrase or sentence, as well as unintentional errors that expose an incompatibility. An adjective-noun combination of two words is the most common form of oxymoron (Maulidia, 2022).

Furthermore, it was found that metaphor is the most dominant type of figurative language used in the song lyrics of the "Midnights" album. It could be seen in the song lyrics of "Karma" (8 data) and "Midnight Rain" (5 data), in which the writer found a lot of metaphor. It is indicated that Taylor Swift uses a lot of comparison in her song lyrics to describe something in relation to another thing. The comparison that Swift used in her album could have an implicit meaning based on people's interpretation. It is supported by Sumarsono (2012: 265-266), who stated that the fundamental structure of metaphor is composed of only two components: something being explained (compared) and something being employed as a comparison. If indeed two things are close to each other, the metaphor exists but lacks an expressive performance. In contrast, if the distance between these two things is relatively wide, the more effective the metaphor becomes. A metaphor is a message that is communicated indirectly by an author or audience, and the representation or phrase employed by the author or audience

to deliver information may not always define their denotative meaning (Sarwadi, et al., 2015).

Overall, these findings showed that all types of figurative language adopted from Leech's theory (2013) were covered in the album entitled "Midnights." It is assumed that Taylor Swift used various figurative languages in writing her songs in her newest album, "Midnights." It portrayed that using figurative language makes a song more aesthetic, artistic, and meaningful. It showed that the song lyrics in "Midnights" album can be an effective material for students in learning the figurative language because these song lyrics had various figurative languages. It is also to help students enrich their vocabulary, learn about figurative language more deeply, understand it, and interpret the meaning based on the context of the figurative language found in the song lyrics. It is supported by Putri et al (2022), who stated that the importance of the song lyrics as authentic materials in figurative language in conveying the feeling and meaning that need higher level of comprehension. Therefore, it is significant for the students to study figurative language and elaborate on its meaning through song lyrics.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The writer conducted this research to find out types of figurative language used in the song lyrics of "Midnights" album from Taylor Swift. The writer found that all types (eight types) of figurative languages identified by Leech's theory (2013). They were personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron. Personification with 12 data, simile with 21 data, metaphor with 25 data, hyperbole with 15 data, irony with 2 data, litotes with 2 data, metonymy with 17 data, and oxymoron with 2 data. The percentage showed that metaphor had 26.0%, simile had21.9%, metonymy had 17.7%, hyperbole had 15.6%, personification had 12.5%, irony had2.1%, litotes had2.1%, and oxymoron also had2.1%.Based on the findings, it was found that metaphor is the most prevalent type of figurative language used in the song lyrics of the "Midnights" album. It indicated that Taylor Swift used a lot of metaphor to create the "Midnights" album. It showed that using figurative language makes a song more aesthetic, artistic, and meaningful. In relation to education, the song lyrics in the "Midnights" album can be effective material for students to learn figurative language because these song lyrics have various figurative languages. It is also to enrich their vocabulary, to learn and understand figurative language more deeply, and to interpret the meaning based on the context of the figurative language found in the song lyrics. The writer expected that this research could be a reference for the next researcher who wants to do research, especially in a similar study. However, this research only focused on types of figurative language and its meaning in song lyrics and it will be better for the next researcher to do research in a wider area.

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