



## Figurative Language in the Album “The Tortured Poets Department” by Taylor Swift

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the meaning of each figurative language used in song lyrics of “The Tortured Poets Department” album by Taylor Swift. The data include the lyrics of 16 songs in Taylor Swift’s album “The Tortured Poets Department”. This study employed content analysis method where the data is gathered by gathering all the lyrics of Taylor Swift’s songs in “The Tortured Poets Department” album. The findings revealed that eleven from thirteen figurative language from Perrine’s theory was used in this album: simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, irony, and allusion. Simile had 14%, metaphor had 4,3%, personification had 4,3%, synecdoche had 3,2%, metonymy had 20,4%, symbol had 11,8%, allegory had 1,0%, paradox had 2,1%, hyperbole had 15,0%, irony had 18,0%, and allusion had 5,3%. Metonymy is a figurative language that most used in the “The Tortured Poets Department” song lyrics.

**Keyword:** Figurative language, Song lyrics, The Tortured Poets Department, Taylor Swift, Meaning

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### ABSTRAK

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis makna setiap bahasa figuratif yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu dari album “The Tortured Poets Department” oleh Taylor Swift. Data tersebut termasuk lirik 16 lagu dari album Taylor Swift “The Tortured Poets Department”. Studi ini menggunakan metode analisis konten di mana data dikumpulkan dengan mengumpulkan semua lirik lagu Taylor Swift di album “The Tortured Poets Department”. Temuan itu mengungkapkan bahwa sebelas dari tiga belas bahasa figuratif dari teori Perrine digunakan dalam album ini: serupa, metafora, personifikasi, synecdoche, metonymy, simbol, allegory, paradoks, hyperbole, ironi, dan alusi. Simil memiliki 14%, metafora memiliki 4,3%, personifikasi memiliki 4,3, synecdoche memiliki 3,2%, metonymy memiliki 20,4%, simbol memiliki 11,8%, alegori memiliki 1,0%, paradoks memiliki 2,1%, hyperbole memiliki 15,0%, ironi memiliki 18,0%, dan alusi memiliki 5,3%. Metonymy adalah bahasa figuratif yang paling banyak digunakan dalam lirik lagu “The Tortured Poets Department”.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa figurative, Lirik lagu, The Tortured Poets Department, Taylor Swift, Makna



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## 1. Introduction

Figurative language is a piece of writing to denote conceptual entities that contribute to shaping our understanding of the world. Different types of linguistic expressions (metaphors, idioms, proverbs, etc.) form figurative language (Cacciari, 2002). From the figurative language comes in many types, such as

personification, similes, metaphors, exaggeration, and idioms. Think and act is a very automatic manner in the majority of the small tasks we perform on every single day. Lakoff & Johnson (2003) put forward that one way to find out is by looking at language. Since communication is based on the same conceptual system that we use in thinking and acting, language is an important source of evidence for what that system is like. Furthermore, according to Arp & Perrine (2005), a simile employs a term or phrase 'like', 'as', 'than', 'comparable to', 'resembles', or 'seems to indicate' 'the comparison when comparing two essentially distinct objects'. A symbol can be used to convey meaning beyond what is directly stated. For example, in the chorus line 5 of Down Bad, "Wakin' up in blood" is a symbol. A symbol, in the words of Arp & Perrine (2005), is something that represents more than it truly is.

In this study, the underlying reasons for carrying out the research on the figurative language in the song Taylor Swift's album "The Tortured Poets Department" are due to the lyrics contain a lot of figurative language. Taylor Swift is an American singer and song-writer. With 200 million recordings sold globally, she is among the best-selling musicians in the world. She is the highest-grossing female touring act, the second-most-streamed musician on Spotify, and the first billionaire using music as her primary source of income. Taylor Swift frequently employs figurative language in her songs, which can make some of songs difficult to understand for listeners who are not familiar with implicit and metaphorical language.

The expression of emotions through metaphorical language in song lyrics can mean different things to different people based on how they interpret it. Taylor Swift's songs demonstrate and convey the concept of the daily life. Moreover, the songs use poetic language and figures of speech inspired by her personal experiences to convey emotions. Taylor Swift is renowned for her potent lyrics, which frequently use metaphorical language to tell intricate tales and evoke deep feelings. With her album "The Tortured Poets Department", it enhances the listening experience with a variety of literary techniques. Swift is able to convey a deeper meaning by drawing a comparison between two seemingly unrelated objects via metaphor. In "Echoes of Yesterday," for instance, Swift sings,

Swift's lyrics are appealing, original, and fascinating, based on previous study. Metaphor, personification, exaggeration, and simile are some of the most often used forms of figurative language (Arp & Perrine, 2005; Fatikha & Masykuroh, 2022; Santika & Syafryadin, 2023). For example, "Midnights" is the album that uses metaphor the most (Santika & Syafryadin, 2023a), whilst other albums (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018; Fatikha & Masykuroh, 2022) mostly embrace hyperbole. The persona of the simile used in "The Tortured Poets Department" is provided by Shalehah, (2024). In the song "So long, London," a simile is the comparison of two things, and the hyperbole describes a wave of extreme anger, frustration, or outrage Shalehah (2024). Swift draws attention to the people's unsettling nature. But the current study draws a comparison based on a fact that was not covered in the earlier research.

The previous studies used Taylor Swift's album "Midnights" (2022) and "Fearless" (2008 and re-recorded in 2021), and one of Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted". (Felisia Elsawati et al., 2022) analysed the figurative language used in the song Taylor Swift's album "Fearless", and found simile, metaphor, hyperbole, synecdoche, paradox, metonymy, and allusion, of which hyperbole appeared frequently. Furthermore, ((Santika & Syafryadin, 2023b) identified the figurative language used in the lyrics of selected songs in Taylor Swift's album, "Midnights". The personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron. (Rohmiyati et al., 2023) also identified the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's song "Enchanted". From 42 data, they found metaphor, alliteration, hyperbole, personification, repetition, simile, and irony. The difference between previous studies and this present study is the data that used by the writer. While this present study used all the songs in Taylor Swift's new album "The Tortured Poets Department" (2024). Thus, the goal of this research is to classify different forms of figurative language and their meanings in Taylor Swift's song lyrics of "The Tortured Poets Department" album.

## **2. Methods**

### **2.1. Research Designs**

In this study, the use of qualitative research plays a crucial role in data investigation as well. Miles et al. (2014) has been used in the interactive analysis of the filtered and gathered data to uncover figurative interpretations. There are numerous approaches to this process. As articulated by Anselm Strauss (A. Strauss & J. Corbin, Basics of Qualitative Research: Grounded Theory Procedures and Techniques. Sorting the data and inductively creating categories—what they called "open coding"—is only the first step in the process.

### **2.2. Data and data source**

This data source was song lyrics of "The Tortured Poets Department" album by Taylor Swift and the figurative language is used as the underlying theoretical concept. Since the data analysis was categorized as qualitative research, it uses everyday language sentences to describe social symptoms or phenomena found in the data (Miles et al., 2014).

Sorting data into categories is simply referred to as "content analysis". The purposes as a means of expressing one meaning while implying another, and there are only 26 data that contained figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, irony, allusion.

### **2.3. Data collection Methods**

The data is collected by gathering all the lyrics of Taylor swift's songs in "The Tortured Poets Department" album. The researcher used documenting to gather data; to do this, she downloaded and printed the song lyrics from the "The Tortured Poets Department" album, which can be accessed on the following website: <https://genius.com/a/read-all-the-lyrics-to-taylor-swifts-new-album-the-tortured-poets-department>.

## 2.4. Data Analysis Techniques

Several techniques were taken in this study, as follows: First, the writer read the printout of each song's lyrics from the "The Tortured Poets Department" album and listened to each official song on Taylor Swift's YouTube channel to make sure there were no mistakes in the song lyrics. Second, the writer identified the data by repeatedly reading and listening to the study's source. Third, the writer marked parts of the lyrics in the printout that contain figurative language and categorized them into types of figurative language based on Perrine's Theory (Arp, Johnson, & Perrine, 2001). Then, the writer presented the findings in the table, giving a code for each data. and lastly, the writer explained the findings, interpreted the meaning of the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of 16 songs on "The Tortured Poets Department" and drew the conclusion.

## 3. Result and Discussions

### 3.1. Result

Through the songs, Swift communicates through language, as a part of a community and participants in its culture. Language is used for play, imaginative expression, emotional release, communication, and identity expression (Robins & Crystal, 2024). The subsequent findings demonstrate how Swift uses a variety of figurative language in the lyrics of her album "The Tortured Poets Department," which ultimately improves her music.

Overall, Taylor Swift's use of rich and vivid figurative language in "The Tortured Poets Department" amplifies the emotional impact of her vocals. The results highlight Swift's dominance of powerful emotions in a way that engages readers by making use of metonymy, irony, hyperbole, similes, symbols, and understatement.

**Table 1.** Types of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of "The Tortured Poets Department" Album

Types of Figurative Language	Number	Percentage
Simile	13	14,0%
Metaphor	4	4,3%
Personification	4	4,3%
Apostrophe	0	0
Synecdoche	3	3,2%
Metonymy	19	20,4%
Symbol	11	11,8%
Allegory	1	1,0%
Paradox	2	2,1%
Hyperbole	14	15,0%
Understatement	0	0
Irony	17	18,0%
Allusion	5	5,3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 1) Simile

Swift's figurative language is essential for expressing the concepts in literary works. (Florman, 2017) stated that figurative language is when a speaker uses phrases that go beyond their literal meaning in order to convey a stronger or more complex message. In this case, simile compares two fundamentally different objects and uses a term or phrase *like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems* to convey the comparison.

Data 1 : *Every breath feels like rarest air* (So Long, London, bridge—line 7)

In data 1 was taken from So Long, London song lyrics, which is talked about the story behind the breakup of the author and her ex-boyfriend. In this line, the author is described as saying that she felt sad or depressed after their breakup until she felt difficult to breath. The author used simile (like) in illustrating her condition when she got difficult to breath even though the oxygen is everywhere by using the phrase “rarest air”.

Data 2 : *Crash the party like a record scratch as I scream* (Who's Afraid of Little Old Me?, chorus—line 2)

Data 2 was taken from Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? song lyrics, which is talked about the author mocks all the rumors that surround her professional and personal life. In this line, the author is described as saying that she destroying the party with her scream like a record scratch which means that she screams over and over again. The author used simile (like, as) in illustrating how she destroys the party with her scream by using the phrase “a record scratch” and “I scream”.

Data 3 : *I'm so obsessed with him, but he avoids me like the plague* (I Can Do It With A Broken Heart, chorus—line 2)

In data 3 from I Can Do It With A Broken Heart song lyrics, the author talks “he avoids me” which she compared to the plague. It was demonstrated that the author or any other people that is in love with someone will become obsessed, but the person that she loves is avoid her like she was the plague, which means he not even want to be near the author.

## 2) Metaphor

"The Tortured Poets Department" is filled with rich and evocative figurative language that enhances the emotional impact of her songs. Through metaphors it can be seen the comparison of things that are fundamentally different from one another; they are not stated explicitly; rather, they are generated when a figurative term is *substituted for* or *identified with* the literal term.

Form 1 both literal and figurative terms are *named*; Form 2 the literal term is *named* and the figurative term is *implied*; Form 3 the literal term is *implied* and the figurative term is *named*; Form 4 both the literal and figurative terms are *implied*.

Data 4 : *Florida is one hell of a drug* (Florida!!!, chorus—line 1)

In data 4, the author used metaphor in her song Florida!!!. She used “drug” to illustrate the condition of Florida which is same as her condition after her breakup. As Swift explains in iHeartRadio that Florida is a stereotypical location to which criminals flee to start afresh, she also wants to start afresh her life, be unknown, and escape.

Data 5 : *Beauty is a beast that roars down on all fours* (Clara Bow, bridge—line 1)

In data 5, the author used metaphor in her song Clara Bow. She used “beast that roars down on all fours” to illustrate that we want more and more to get the beauty. We will do everything to get the beauty like an animal when they hungry and started to hunt.

### 3) Personification

Through personification, Swift is able to create vivid imagery and convey complex emotions in a way that resonates with listeners. The personification of giving an animal, an object, or a concept with human characteristics.

Data 6 : *Only your actions talk* (Guilty as Sin? Verse 2—line 4)

In data 6, the author applied personification that gave life to an inanimate thing (your actions) that could talk. It indicates that the action could talk like a human. This line has a meaning that only what we do will give a proof.

Data 7 : *The dopamine races through his brain* (I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can, verse 2—line 1)

In data 7, the author applied personification that give life to an inanimate thing (dopamine) that could races through the brain. It indicates that the dopamine could move like a human. This line means the person that got dopamine races through his brain started to felt happy and have a good mood, because dopamine is a hormone that give you feelings of pleasure, satisfaction, and motivation.

### 4) Apostrophe

The use of an apostrophe means to address a person who died, nonhuman object, or absent person as though they were present, alive, and able to respond to what is being said.

## 5) Synecdoche

Perrine defines synecdoche as using a part for the whole (Arp & Perrine, 2005).

Data 8 : *I laughed in your face* (The Tortured Poets Department, chorus—line 3)

In data 8, the author used synecdoche in The Tortured Poets Department song lyrics because using a part for the whole. In this line the synecdoche is shown by the word “face”, which is an expression of a part for the whole body. When we laughed with someone, we usually laughed in front of their whole body not only face. In the lyric, the author laughed with a person, face to face, but she said that she laughed in his face. Face is used to represent the whole body.

Data 9 : *And I'm just getting color back into my face* (So Long, London, verse 3—line 4)

In data 9, the author used synecdoche in So Long, London song lyrics. It can be seen in the word “my face”, which is an expression of a part for the whole, in this line is her life. The line has a meaning that the author gets her happiness back into her life. “My face” is used to represent her life.

Data 10 : *Softly traces hearts on my face* (I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can), verse 2—line 4)

In data 10, the author uses synecdoche in I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can) song lyrics. It can be seen in the word “my face”, which is an expression of a part for the whole, in this case is her life. The line has a meaning that there was a man who softly and gentle give so much love in the author’s life. “My face” is used to represent her life.

## 6) Metonymy

Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" is also filled with metonymy as the practice of substitute a closely comparable term for the actual term intended.

Data 11 : *Now you're in my backyard, turned into good neighbours* (Fortnight, chorus—line 3)

From the data 11, we can see that the lyrics of Fortnight song used metonymy in the word “backyard” and “neighbours”. As we know that the backyard is of course in the back and close to our house. While, neighbours also have a house near us. In this case, the metonymy is used to represent the author ex-boyfriend live next to her house, so they see each other constantly and running the same circles since they are neighbours.

Data 12 : *I chose this cyclone with you* (The Tortured Poets Department, verse 2—line 8)

In data 12, the author used metonymy in The Tortured Poets Department song lyrics. It can be seen in the word “cyclone”. According to dictionary, cyclone is another term for tropical storm. While, in this line cyclone used as the representative of ups and downs, difficult relationship if the author stays with her boyfriend. But no matter how hard the relationship will be, the author chose to stay with her boyfriend.

Data 13 : *This cage was once just fine* (Guilty as Sin? Verse 1—line 5)

Data 13 used metonymy in Guilty as Sin? song lyrics. It can be seen in the word “cage”. According to dictionary, cage is a structure of wires in which birds or another animal are kept. In this line, cage used to represent the author’s life. Even her life felt like she was on a cage, but everything was fine.

## 7) Symbol

Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" is also evocative that enhances the symbol to signify more than it actually is.

Data 14 : *Down bad, wakin' up in blood* (Down Bad, chorus— line 5)

In data 14, the author used symbol in Down Bad song lyrics. It can be seen in the word “blood”. Blood has been associated with opposites, life/death, death/redemption, sickness/therapy, and other. This song talked about a girl who got love bombed, but then he abandons her. So, the word blood is representing the sickness of the girl when she realize she was left or abandons by the man that she thought was her lover.

Data 15 : *I was tame, I was gentle 'til the circus life made me mean* (Who’s Afraid of Little Old Me? chorus—line 4)

In data 15, the author used symbol in Who’s Afraid of Little Old Me? song lyrics. We can see in the word “circus life”. According to the dictionary, circus means an arena that often covered with a tent and used for a variety show that usually include feats or physical skill, wild animal acts, and performance by clowns. For this case, circus life used to represent the unpredictable life of the author, when there is so many thing changes, people, situation, condition, etc. So, the line means that the author was a good person before, but because the changes of her life condition, she become mean.



Data 16 : *Put narcotics into all of my songs* (Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? bridge—line 11)

We can see the symbol used in data 16 in the word “narcotics”. According to the dictionary, narcotics is a drug that affects mood or behavior and can cause addiction. For this line, we can easily know what the meaning. The author not literally put narcotics in her songs, but she made a beautiful song so it makes people addicted to listen to her song.

## 8) Allegory

An allegory is a narrative or descriptions that contains a deeper meaning.

Data 17 : *They just ghosted you* (The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived, verse 1—line 7)

In data 17, the author used allegory in The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived song lyrics. We can see it in the word “ghosted”. In this case, ghosted means when someone who used to be friendly or even romantic with you suddenly cuts off all the communication without explanation. The author used ghosted in the lyrics to explain about her ex-boyfriend who was trusted her friends by buying some pills or narcotics, but then he was left or he got cut off without explanation and without ever got the pills.

## 9) Paradox

A paradox is something that seems contradictory yet is actually true in some way. It could be a statement or a situation.

Data 18 : *If you wanted me dead, you should've just said* (Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? pre-chorus, line 1)

The lyric above is used paradox, they are “wanted me dead” and “just said” which has obvious meaning but seems to be illogical. In this line, the author tried to said that she was not afraid with death, she's even ready to dead than living her life. So, if anybody wanted her to die, just tell her.

Data 19 : *You cinephile in black and white* (loml, chorus—line 5)

In the data 19, the author used paradox by using “black” and “white”. These two words have the opposite meaning. According to (Bredenkamp, 2023), black represent dark and mysterious, while white represent purity, innocence, and goodness. In this line, the word “black and white” means lack

of clarity. The author tried to say that her ex-boyfriend was hard to be understood, she didn't know whether he truly love her or not.

## 10) Hyperbole

Simply said, hyperbole or overstatement is exaggeration done in the sake of the truth. It could be light-hearted or serious, imaginative or controlled, persuasive or not.

Data 20 : *You said I'm the love of your life about a million times* (10ml, chorus—line 8)

The line above used hyperbole. The author wants to explain that her ex-boyfriend once told her that he loves her so much, represented in the word "about million times". He loves her and says it every time like he says it for million times.

Data 21 : *I'd rather burn my whole life down, than listen to one more second of all this bitchin' and moanin'* (But Daddy I Love Him, post-chorus—line 2)

In data 21, the author used hyperbole in But Daddy I Love Him song lyrics. We can see it in the word "I'd rather burn my whole life down", which means the author chose to end her life, than listen to others commenting about her life. It represents how the author fed up with what people say.

Data 22 : *I died on the altar waitin' for the proof* (So Long, London, verse 2—line 2)

The author used hyperbole in So Long, London song lyrics. We can see it in the word "died" and "waitin'". The word died represents how the author was waiting so long to see the proof from her ex-boyfriend that he loves her. The author tried to say that she was waiting so long for the proof but her ex-boyfriend gives nothing to her, she never saw the proof whether he truly love her or not.

## 11) Understatement

Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" is filled with rich Understatement that enhances the emotional impact of her songs. Through Understatement is saying less than one means or understating anything might occur in one's words or just in the way they are expressed.

## 12) Irony

Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" conveys Irony in a way that is expressing the opposite in a compelling listening experience.

Data 23 : *But I've seen this episode and still loved the show* (The Tortured Poets Department, verse 1—line 7)

In data 23, the author used irony in The Tortured Poets Department. The line was irony because the author has seen the episode, which means she knows the ending, but she still loved the show. It means that the author knows how her relationship with her ex-boyfriend would be because she ever in that situation before, but she still loves him and can't breakup with him.

Data 24 : *I just learned these people try and save you 'cause they hate you* (But Daddy I Love Him, verse 1—line 7)

In data 24, the author used irony for her song lyrics. The line was irony because it tells the real characters of some people near the author that act like a good person but turned out that they hate her. The author tried to tell us that she already knows that people around her who act like they care and tried to protect her was do it because they hate her. It was so much easier to hate people when we close with her, because we became know more about her.

Data 25 : *Then we could all just laugh until I cry* (Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? pre-chorus—line 2)

The data above used irony. According to Health (2016), Dr. Aragon was said that when we laugh and then we cry, it because our body trying to regulate itself for response to the strong emotion. The line was irony because the author tried to explain how she holds her emotions for a long time, she never shows it when she angry, sad, jealous, etc, until one time when she laughs, she cries because she can't handle it anymore. Maybe she can say that she was okay, but her body never lie.

### 13) Allusion

Allusion is a reference to anything from history or earlier literature that suggests far more than it actually says.

Data 26 : *"You look like Clara Bow  
In this light, remarkable  
All your life, did you know  
You'd be picked like a rose?"* (Clara Bow, verse 1)

The data above is categorized as an allusion because the line is a reference to a character. Clara Bow is a famous celebrity and the first Hollywood celebrity who got 35.000 letters in a month. At that time, everyone in the world called her "It Girl" and she become the icon. The line above gives a sense of allusion because it tells the life of Clara Bow that full of light and everyone loved her. The author tried

to explain her life condition where people thought she live her life like Clara Bow, live with so much love, happiness, and get full of attention by her fans.

### 3.2. Discussion

Figurative language is applied when the meanings of words and phrases differ from how they are understood. The results of the study above showed that sixteen tracks from Taylor Swift's album "The Tortured Poets Department" contained eleven different forms of figurative language. Overall, metonymy (19), irony (17), hyperbole (14), simile (13 data), and symbol (11 data), are the most common examples of figurative language that she uses to enhance the emotional impact of her songs. Conversely, allusion (5 data), metaphor (4 data), personification (4 data), synecdoche (3 data), data, paradox (2 data), and allegory (1 data) are less common.

Swift is able to convey complex emotions in a way that resonates with listeners. Ultimately, it is Swift's skillful use of figurative language that elevates her music and makes her album a truly compelling listening experience. Swift used metonymy to convey a name for an object that may be connected to other objects, as in "I chose this cyclone with you" (The Tortured Poets Department, verses 2–8). Metonymy, as defined by Arp, Johnson, and Perrine (2001), is the practice of substituting a term that is nearly comparable to the original term. When anything is overstated, it is called hyperbole (e.g., You said I'm the love of your life about a million times; chorus, line 8). Her exaggeration may be humorous or serious, creative or restrained, convincing or not (Arp, Johnson, & Perrine, 2001). A simile is a comparison between two things that uses the adverb "like." For example, "Every breath feels like the rarest air" (So Long, London, bridge—line 7). As stated by (Arp, Johnson,

Researchers agree that figurative language enhances the aesthetic and artistic value of lyrics, making them more engaging and meaningful (Santika & Syafryadin, 2023b). These devices help convey deep emotions and complex ideas (Rahmani & Nasution, 2019), and can serve as effective material for teaching figurative language (Rohmiyati et al., 2023; Santika & Syafryadin, 2023b).

The fewer when comparing two distinct objects, metaphor is utilized to use is or something comparable to it. Florida, for instance, is a really powerful drug (Florida!!!, chorus—line 1). The same is true of what Arp & Perrine (2005) described: metaphors are generated when a figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term, and they are used to compare things that are fundamentally different from one another. They are not stated explicitly. Personification is the process of imbuing an animal or item with human qualities, like in the lyric "I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can, verse 2—line 1)," when dopamine surges through the animal's brain. Arp & Perrine (2005) define personification as imparting human characteristics to something. Synecdoche is a figurative language that use a part for whole such as *I laughed in your face* (Partridge (2024), The Tortured Poets Department, chorus—line 3). Perrine defines synecdoche as using a part for the whole (Arp & Perrine, 2005). Allegory is used to give a deeper meaning than what is literal, such as *They just ghosted you* (The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived, verse 1—line 7). An allegory is a narrative or descriptions that contains a deeper meaning (Arp, Johnson, & Perrine, 2001).

Moreover, Paradox is used to state a word that seems contradicting but it is true, such as *If you wanted me dead, you should've just said* (Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? pre-chorus, line 1). According to Arp & Perrine, (2005), paradox could be a statement or a situation. Irony is used to express the opposite thing of what is intended, such as *But I've seen this episode and still loved the show* (The Tortured Poets Department, verse 1—line 7). Allusion is used to refers to something related to the history, such as *"You look like Clara Bow. In this light, remarkable. All your life, did you know. You'd be picked like a rose?"* (Clara Bow, verse 1). According to (Arp, Johnson, & Perrine, 2001), allusion is a reference to anything from history or earlier literature that suggests far more than it actually says.

From all that find, it shows that there were eleven from thirteen figurative language from Perrine's theory (Arp & Perrine (2005) were covered in "The Tortured Poets Department" by Taylor Swift. It can be assumed that Taylor Swift use various figurative language in her song lyrics to make her song more aesthetic and meaningful. It gives a prove that song lyrics of Taylor Swift album "The Tortured Poets Department" can be used as a material for us to learn figurative language. It also helps us to improve our vocabulary and our skill in understand or interpret the meaning of the song lyrics.

#### 4. Conclusion

The researcher did this research to find the type of figurative language used in "The Tortured Poets Department" album by Taylor Swift. The researcher found eleven from thirteen figurative language identified by Perrine's theory (Arp & Perrine, 2005). They were simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, irony, and allusion. Simile with 13 data, metaphor with 4 data, personification with 4 data, synecdoche with 3 data, metonymy with 19 data, symbol with 11 data, allegory with 1 data, paradox with 2 data, hyperbole with 14 data, irony with 17 data, and allusion with 5 data. The percentage showed that simile had 14%, metaphor had 4,3%, personification had 4,3%, synecdoche had 3,2%, metonymy had 20,4%, symbol had 11,8%, allegory had 1,0%, paradox had 2,1%, hyperbole had 15,0%, irony had 18,0%, and allusion had 5,3%.

Based on the finding, metonymy is a figurative language that most used in the "The Tortured Poets Department" song lyrics. By using figurative language makes the song more aesthetic and meaningful. If we connect this research to the education, the song lyrics from "The Tortured Poets Department" by Taylor Swift can be used as an effective material to study figurative language, because there were so many types of figurative language found in the album. It also helps us to improve our skill in understand a song meaning and increase our vocabulary. The writer expected that this research can be used as a reference for the next researcher who want to do the same research in similar study. However, this research only focuses in the type of figurative language and the meaning behind it and it will be better for the next researcher to do the research in the wider area.

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