

UNPACKING EMOTIONS THROUGH LYRICS: A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE EXPRESSIONS IN ARIANA GRANDE'S *ETERNAL SUNSHINE: BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD* IN ELT CONTEXT

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Keywords

Abstract

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Penelitian ini menganalisis penggunaan bahasa kiasan dalam lagu-lagu dari album Ariana Grande berjudul **Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)**. Metafora, perbandingan, personifikasi, onomatopoeia, ironi, aliterasi, idiom, dan hiperbola diidentifikasi dan dikategorikan dalam penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bahasa kiasan memainkan peran penting dalam memperdalam emosi, memperkaya tema, dan memperkuat ekspresi lirik dalam lagu-lagu tersebut. Lirik 'I'll be your dandelion' dan 'I bloom at night' menunjukkan bahwa metafora merupakan bentuk yang paling umum dan mampu menyampaikan perasaan yang kompleks. Ironi memanusiakan konflik batin, sedangkan personifikasi memanusiakan emosi. Idiom membantu membangun nuansa dalam percakapan yang lebih mendalam, sementara hiperbola meningkatkan intensitas perasaan. Perbandingan dan aliterasi memiliki efek musikal dan emosional yang besar, meskipun penggunaannya relatif jarang. Tidak banyak onomatopoeia dalam album ini, yang menandakan suasana yang kontemplatif. Secara keseluruhan, bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam album ini memainkan peran penting dalam membangun sebuah cerita yang penuh emosi. Ariana Grande menciptakan ruang ekspresi yang menggambarkan kekuatan dan kerentanan melalui perpaduan gaya ini, menjadikan lagu-lagunya sebagai narasi puitis yang menyentuh pengalaman emosional setiap orang.

Ariana Grande, brighter days ahead, eternal sunshine album, figurative language This study analyses the use of figurative language in songs from Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*. Metaphors, similes, personification, onomatopoeia, irony, alliteration, idioms, and hyperbole are identified and categorised in this research. The results show that figurative language plays an important role in deepening emotions, enriching themes, and strengthening lyrical expression in these songs. The lyrics 'I'll be your dandelion' and 'I bloom at night' show that metaphors are the most common form and can convey complex feelings. Irony humanises inner conflict and personification humanises emotions. Idioms help build nuance in deeper conversations, while hyperbole increases the intensity of feelings. Similes and alliteration have a great musical and emotional effect, although they are used less frequently. There is not much onomatopoeia in this album, indicating a contemplative mood. Overall, the figurative language used in this album plays an important role in building a story full of emotion. Ariana Grande creates a space for expression that depicts strength and vulnerability through this blend of styles, making her songs poetic narratives that touch on everyone's emotional experiences.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the richest and most complex medium of human expression. Within language, there are various ways to express ideas, feelings, and experiences, one of which is through the use of figurative language. Figurative expression, or figurative language, has become an integral part of everyday communication, literary works, and popular media, including music. Song lyrics, as a form of contemporary poetry, often contain figurative expressions rich in emotional meaning and linguistic aesthetics.

In linguistics, semantics is a branch of science that specifically studies meaning in language, including the meaning hidden behind non-literal expressions. Leech (1981) distinguishes between conceptual meaning and connotative meaning, both of which can be found in song lyrics. Semantic analysis of song lyrics provides in-depth insights into how emotions are constructed and conveyed through word choice and language style.

Lyrics in the contemporary music industry serve as a tool for conveying feelings, experiences, and stories in addition to complementing the melody. Songwriters can

communicate meaning through lyrics, which can describe feelings, relationships, and events that occur in life (Fadila et al., 2023). Many songwriters use figurative language to convey these meanings effectively. Figurative language refers to expressions that convey ideas indirectly through comparison or symbolic representation. Metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and irony are common examples. Utilising these allows writers to convey complex concepts and feelings in a more vivid and expressive way (Perrine, 1974).

Figurative language in contemporary popular music is crucial in determining the emotional depth of song lyrics. Ariana Grande is one musician who frequently uses this technique in her work. Personal experiences and interpersonal relationships are often depicted in her lyrical narratives. Previous studies have shown that Grande's songwriters often use symbolic expressions and figurative elements to convey meanings beyond literal interpretations (Riadil et al., 2019). One of her latest albums, *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*, demonstrates the lyrical style she employs. Themes such as emotional introspection, relationship dynamics, and personal transformation appear in this album. This album is suitable for linguistic and literary analysis due to its themes.

In addition, the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)* has received much praise from listeners and critics for its introspective themes and complex storytelling. While this fact is acknowledged, there is still a lack of comprehensive linguistic analysis looking at how figurative language contributes to the formation of emotional meaning in the album. The absence of such comprehensive analysis indicates that current research on figurative language in contemporary pop music is very limited.

The development of international popular music has also contributed significantly to the spread of figurative language. One artist widely known for her lyrical prowess is American singer-songwriter Ariana Grande. Her latest album, *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (2024)*, is a musical work rich in figurative expression including metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and symbolism reflecting a profound emotional journey of love, loss, hope, and self-healing.

Previous studies have examined the figurative language found in song lyrics. For example, Arifah (2016) analysed five songs sung by John Legend and found that hyperbole was the most frequently used form of figurative language. According to Marliani (2018), personification and metaphor dominate the lyrics of Harry Styles' songs.

This study emphasises that figurative language can strengthen the emotional message in music, but there has not been much research specifically looking at the use of figurative language in Ariana Grande's music, especially in her album *Eternal Sunshine*, which is known for its introspective and symbolic meanings. This study shows that figurative language is an important stylistic tool that enhances the emotional meaning and narrative depth in music.

However, most current research concentrates on identifying and categorising the types of figurative language found in song lyrics. Very little attention is paid to the functional role of this language in constructing a broader emotional narrative in musical works. Furthermore, although Ariana Grande has had a significant influence on modern popular music and the use of symbolic and expressive lyrics, research specifically examining figurative language in her lyrics remains scarce (Riadil et al., 2019).

The uniqueness of this research lies in its in-depth analysis of the types of figurative language found in the song *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead*, as well as its functional interpretation of how each type of figurative language contributes to the emotional narrative contained within the song. This research not only determines the form, but also examines the role of figurative language in conveying internal conflict, personal growth, and relationship dynamics. This distinguishes it from previous research, which has typically been classificatory in nature.

Due to her significant influence on the pop music industry worldwide and her consistency in presenting poetic and reflective lyrics, Ariana Grande was chosen as the subject of this study. She was also chosen because Grande's latest album, *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead*, marks a new phase in her musical career, one that is more complex narratively and emotionally. This album is also considered a popular cultural phenomenon and a valuable literary work, and has received much praise from both critics and the market.

Based on this gap, an important question arises about how figurative language functions in the lyrical structure of the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* (Deluxe). Therefore, the topic of this research is how figurative language is used and how it functions to create emotional meaning in the lyrics of Ariana Grande's album. By systematically identifying the types of figurative language and examining their

interpretative functions, this study seeks to provide a clearer understanding of how lyrical language shapes emotional narratives in contemporary popular music.

This study aims to examine the use of figurative language in selected songs from Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*. Specifically, the study seeks to identify the types of figurative language present in the lyrics and to determine which forms appear most frequently. Through this analysis, the research provides a clearer understanding of how figurative language is used to construct meaning and express emotional narratives within the songs.

Due to her significant influence and prominence in modern popular music, Ariana Grande was chosen as the subject of this study. As a musician renowned for her lyrical depth and expressive vocal style, Grande often employs rich figurative language and poetic devices in her songwriting, according to Sutrisno & Putri (2017). Nurhaida (2017) states that her work always demonstrates a blend of commercial appeal and artistic nuance, making her an interesting subject for linguistic and literary analysis. Furthermore, her worldwide fan base and cultural relevance increase the research's accessibility and impact, ensuring the results are accessible to a wide audience.

Because the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* marks a significant development in Ariana Grande's artistic expression and lyrical maturity, it was selected for analysis. Introspective themes, emotional depth, and the use of complex figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, personification, and symbolism, define this work. For research on how language conveys narrative storytelling, emotional complexity, and personal growth, this album provides a rich resource. Furthermore, its recent release ensures its relevance and contemporary value, placing the research within the context of contemporary culture and music.

Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead has received widespread critical and commercial acclaim since its release. The album reached the top of international charts, including the Billboard 200, thanks to high sales and streaming activity. Critics praised the album for its cohesive production, lyrical depth, and vocal performances. They also highlighted its artistic sophistication and emotional resonance. Additionally, the album features numerous songs praised for their creative use of figurative language. This underscores the album's significance as a subject for scholarly analysis. These

achievements demonstrate the album's influence on the music industry and its value as a work of literature and linguistics.

In the context of English Language Teaching (ELT), the use of song lyrics as teaching materials has received widespread attention from researchers and educational practitioners. Various studies have shown that song lyrics can increase learning motivation, expand vocabulary, and introduce the use of figurative language in authentic and relevant contexts (Morphey, 1992; Lems, 2018). Integrating semantic analysis of song lyrics into ELT learning enables learners to understand not only the textual meaning but also the contextual and emotional meanings underlying a work.

Although considerable research has been conducted on the semantic analysis of song lyrics, no study specifically linking figurative language analysis to the ELT context—particularly Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead*—has been conducted. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the types of figurative expressions found in the album's lyrics, examining their emotional content, and exploring their relevance as a creative and contextual English language learning resource.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Figurative Semantics Theory

Figurative expressions encompass various forms of non-literal language that aim to convey meaning more vividly and imaginatively. According to Steen et al. (2021), figurative expressions—especially metaphors—are not merely stylistic decorations, but rather cognitive tools that reflect how humans understand the world. In a recent study, Kövecses (2020) in his book, *Extended Conceptual Metaphor Theory*, asserts that conceptual metaphors are not static but can be expanded and modified by the speaker's cultural and emotional context. This theory is relevant to analyzing how Ariana Grande uses metaphors to express complex emotional experiences in her lyrics.

Song Lyrics Discourse Analysis

Song lyrics are a unique form of discourse because they combine linguistic, musical, and emotional dimensions. In their study on the semantic analysis of pop song lyrics, Camaclang and Natividad (2022) emphasized that song lyrics function as texts rich in hidden meanings, where figurative expressions act as a bridge between the author's personal experiences and the listener's emotional responses. Meanwhile, Aryani et al.

(2023) found that the emotional intensity of a lyric is significantly influenced by the density of figurative language, particularly metaphor and personification.

Emotional Semantics

Emotional semantics examines how language represents and communicates affective experiences. Tissari (2021) argues that emotions in language are not only expressed explicitly but are often encoded implicitly through figurative lexical choices. In the context of music lyrics, Eerola and Vuoskoski (2020) demonstrate that figurative language is a primary mechanism for establishing emotional resonance between creator and audience. This theory serves as an important foundation for analyzing how figurative expressions in the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* construct emotions such as sadness, love, relief, and hope.

Types of Figurative Expressions

This research refers to the taxonomy of figurative expressions developed by Perrine (as cited in Fromkin et al., 2021) and updated by Semino (2022), which includes:

- a. Metaphor: An implicit comparison between two dissimilar things without using a comparative word.
- b. Simile: An explicit comparison using the words 'like' or 'as'.
- c. Personification: The attribution of human qualities to non-human objects, concepts, or entities.
- d. Hyperbole: An exaggeration to emphasize meaning or emotion.
- e. Synecdoche and Metonymy: The use of a part to represent the whole or the mention of an attribute to represent an entity.
- f. Symbolism: The use of concrete objects, colors, or actions to represent abstract concepts or emotions.

Song Lyrics in English Language Teaching (ELT)

The use of song lyrics as an ELT teaching material has strong theoretical support from contemporary research. Haidara (2021) asserts that song lyrics from popular international artists offer authentic, expressive, and culturally relevant language input for learners. Chanprasert (2023), in his study on the integration of pop music into vocabulary learning, found that exposure to figurative language through song lyrics significantly improved learners' semantic comprehension and ability to use idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, Rokni and Ataee (2022) emphasized that analyzing song lyrics

in ELT classes can foster critical thinking and cultural awareness, essential competencies in 21st-century language learning.

Analytical Approach: Cognitive Linguistics and Content Analysis

This research utilizes the cognitive linguistics framework as developed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and expanded by Kövecses (2020), which views metaphors and figurative expressions as reflections of the conceptual structure of the human mind. Additionally, a qualitative content analysis approach is used to identify and interpret figurative patterns in the lyrics, following the procedure proposed by Krippendorff (2018) and applied in the context of lyric analysis by Suliman and Yunus (2022).

3. METHODS

Qualitative research focuses on understanding the meaning that individuals or groups attach to social or humanitarian issues, emphasising words rather than numbers, and the data studied takes the form of text or song lyrics (Patton and Cochran, 2002). Considering song lyrics as textual documents, this study's research design uses document analysis with a content analysis orientation. This design is particularly suitable for examining linguistic features comprehensively and explaining how certain linguistic types function in the text. According to Marliani (2018), document analysis is used in this study to (1) determine the types of figurative language and (2) interpret the role of language in shaping meaning and emotional narratives in lyrics.

The figurative language analyzed in this study includes metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, irony, idiom, onomatopoeia, and alliteration. The data were obtained from six selected songs in Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*, namely *Intro (End of the World) – Extended*, *Twilight Zone*, *Warm*, *Dandelion*, *Past Life*, and *Hampstead*. These songs were selected because they represent the central themes of the album, including emotional reflection, relationship dynamics, and personal transformation. In addition, the selected songs provide sufficient and varied lyrical content to support the identification and analysis of different forms of figurative language.

Research Instrument

Researchers (human instruments) are the main subjects of this study, due to its qualitative nature. Researchers must understand and study song lyrics in order to collect,

classify, and analyse data. The main tool in qualitative research is the researcher (human instrument). Researchers read carefully, select appropriate terms as figurative language, code the data, and interpret its meaning using relevant theory. Researchers use consistent analysis for each lyric and use predefined definitions from literary and linguistic references to reduce subjectivity.

Data Collection Technique

Data were collected through a documentation method and organized using a systematic procedure. First, the official lyrics of the six selected songs were obtained from reliable sources, including verified lyric providers and official music platforms, to ensure authenticity. Next, the collected lyrics were cross-checked across multiple sources to minimize transcription errors and confirm textual accuracy. After verification, the lyrics were compiled into a single dataset for analysis. Each song was clearly labelled and segmented by line or stanza to support consistent and systematic coding during the analysis process.

Data Analysis Technique

The analysis in this study follows a systematic process. First, the researcher conducts familiarization by reading each lyric repeatedly to understand the overall theme, tone, and narrative of the songs. Second, the researcher identifies words, phrases, or lines that indicate the presence of figurative language. Third, each identified expression is classified into specific categories of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, and other relevant types, based on established literary theory. Fourth, the researcher interprets the meaning of each figurative expression by comparing its literal meaning with its implied meaning within the context of the lyrics. Fifth, a functional analysis is conducted to explain how each figurative expression contributes to the song's message, emotional tone, and narrative development, including aspects such as conflict, longing, regret, or transformation. Finally, the researcher synthesizes the findings by identifying patterns across the songs and drawing conclusions about the dominant types of figurative language and their functions in the selected lyrics.

Data Validity

To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, this study applies both theory triangulation and source triangulation. Theory triangulation is conducted by comparing the interpretation of figurative language with established theoretical frameworks and

relevant prior studies discussed in the Introduction section, particularly the works of Arifah (2016) and Marliani (2018). Arifah (2016) examined the dominance of hyperbole in song lyrics, while Marliani (2018) identified metaphor and personification as key devices in expressing emotional meaning. These studies provide a comparative basis for validating the classification and interpretation of figurative language in the present research. In addition, the analysis is guided by established concepts of figurative language as outlined in literary theory (Perrine, 1974), ensuring consistency between theoretical definitions and analytical findings.

Source triangulation is applied by verifying the song lyrics using official and reliable sources, such as authorized lyric platforms and official music releases. This process ensures that the data used in the analysis accurately represent the original texts and reduces the risk of transcription errors. Furthermore, the coding process is carefully documented, including the identification, classification, and interpretation of figurative language. This documentation allows the analytical procedure to remain transparent and enables systematic review of the findings.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	"Jump into your skin" "I broke your heart" "I'd already grieved you" "The sun refused to shine / The moon went dark"
Personifications	"If the sun refused to shine" "If the moon went dark tonight"
Irony	"I broke your heart because you broke mine / So me, I am the bad guy"
Hyperbole	"Been thinkin' 'bout [it] for like five weeks" "Jump into your skin"
Alliteration	"Would I be the one on your mind, your mind, your mind?"

Idiom	"Feel it in your bones" "Pay me no mind" "On your mind"
Simile	None
Onomatopoeia	None

**Table 1. Analysis of Figurative language on intro (end of the new world)
extended song**

The song 'Intro (End of the World)' from the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* by Ariana Grande uses various figurative languages to convey deep emotions, especially doubt, uncertainty, and thoughts about complex relationships. The lyrics contain existential questions about love and commitment in the face of all possible adversity. The song depicts the difficulties in relationships, particularly the anxiety of loss and the longing for emotional security. Metaphors, personification, irony, hyperbole, alliteration, idioms, similes, and onomatopoeia are some of the new types of figurative language that have been studied and included in the general category. The most commonly used form in this song is metaphor. For example, the line 'Jump into your skin and change your eyes' metaphorically describes the desire to understand or unite another person's perspective. Lines such as "I broke your heart because you broke mine" and "I'd already grieved you" show emotional suffering that is not physically tangible, but is expressed as if it were real. In addition, metaphors such as "The sun refused to shine / The moon went dark" signify emotional emptiness and devastation, not actual natural phenomena, but metaphors of deep loss.

Additionally, natural elements such as the sun and moon are personified as if they possess their own will. For example, 'If the sun refuses to shine' and 'The moon is dark tonight' use celestial symbols to depict profound sadness. Ironically, the singer's actions stem from wounds inflicted by others, yet he calls himself 'the villain' as a way of seeking revenge for the pain he has experienced. This creates a sarcastic tone and a story of internal conflict.

An example is the phrase ‘I’ve been thinking about it for about five weeks,’ which may be hyperbole to show how heavily the thought weighs on him. The feeling of ‘jumping into your skin’ is another hyperbole that describes an extraordinary desire to know how other people feel.

Although alliteration is not particularly prominent, the repetition of phrases such as ‘your thoughts, your thoughts, your thoughts’ adds rhythm and enhances the poetic feel of the song. Idioms also become everyday expressions that cannot be translated literally. For example, ‘Feel it in your bones’ means a strong feeling or intuition, and ‘Don’t mind me’ means ‘ignore me.’

Although similes are rarely found, lyrics such as ‘Judge me as I am now’ show a clear comparison between actions and decisions taken. While onomatopoeia is almost non-existent in this song, this shows that the lyrics focus on emotions rather than sound effects.

Overall, this song uses figurative language to emphasise the themes of love, trust, and uncertainty in an ongoing relationship. The moon and sun are used as primary symbols to depict feelings of destruction and loss. This not only shows fear, but also indicates that we need to talk and seek clarity about our relationships. Ariana Grande opens her album with a strong reflective tone with these poetic lyrics, which describe love as something big, beautiful, but also fragile.

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	“Stuck in the twilight zone” “Our nest was a masquerade” “Hope you win for best actor”
Simile	“And it's not like I'm still not over you”
Personifications	“Sometimes, I just can't believe you happened”
Irony	“Not that I miss you, I don't” “It's not like I'm still not over you”
Alliteration	“Sometimes, I just can't believe / You happened”
Idiom	“Give her a call” “You're not who you say you are”

	"I'm right here where I'm meant to be"
Hyperbole	"I just can't believe you happened"
	"Completely wrong"

Table 2. Analysis of Figurative language in Twilight Zone song

The song 'Twilight Zone' from the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* uses various types of figurative language to reinforce the emotional story of confusion, regret, and betrayal that occurs during a relationship. The most frequently used form of figurative language in this song is metaphor, which is used to describe the uncertain feelings experienced by someone after a relationship ends. For example, the phrase 'Trapped in the twilight zone' compares a confusing and surreal state of mind to the famous television series *Twilight Zone*, which is known for its strange and disturbing storylines. This illustrates how a person feels trapped in a confusing emotional state. Additionally, the lyric 'Our nest is a mask' serves as a powerful metaphor comparing home, or nest, to a mask, suggesting that their relationship is full of lies and deceit. Additionally, "Hope you win for best actor" is a metaphorical dig at the couple who act as if they are acting, reflecting the emotional dishonesty in their relationship. Similes, or direct comparisons using the words "like" or "like," do not appear much in the song. Although phrases such as "And it's not like I'm still not over you" are used here more colloquially and ironically than in pure simile.

Subtle personification also occurs. 'Sometimes, I don't believe you ever existed' describes a person's presence as an extraordinary event, as if that person were an unimaginable and extraordinary occurrence. This shows the deep emotional impact that the individual's presence has had on the singer's life. The song does not use words that mimic sounds, or onomatopoeia, indicating that the main focus of the lyrics is emotional experience rather than sound effects.

Irony is also an important device in this song. 'It's not that I miss you, I don't' contains obvious irony, suggesting repeated denial that indicates feelings that have not completely disappeared. Conversely, the phrase 'It's not that I still haven't forgotten you' uses two negatives, creating subtle irony that suggests feelings that are still being held back.

Alliteration, or the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words, is not very common. For example, in the line ‘Sometimes, I don’t believe / You happen,’ there is a slight repetition of the sounds “s” and ‘c’ that adds rhythm, but this is not very prominent overall.

This song also uses idioms, such as ‘Contact him’, which means ‘to get in touch with someone’, ‘You’re not who you say you are’, which means accusing someone of pretending, and ‘I’m here, where I’m supposed to be’, which means accepting the current situation as fate.

However, hyperbole, or exaggeration, is used to emphasise the intensity of the emotions. For example, the phrase ‘I can’t believe you happened’ is used to show disbelief in someone’s presence or influence. The line ‘Totally wrong’ shows how deeply the singer experiences misunderstanding.

Overall, the music in ‘Twilight Zone’ is full of metaphors, irony, and emotional hyperbole. Ariana Grande cleverly depicts the confusion and disappointment that arise after a relationship ends by using surreal images such as ‘twilight zone’ and ‘masquerade’. Feelings of disorientation, betrayal, and acceptance are reinforced by the use of figurative language, and emotional rejection is conveyed in an ironic style. This figurative language enhances the emotional narrative of the song, making it highly relevant to listeners who have experienced confusing relationships that made them question who they really are.

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	“I’ll be higher than the exosphere” “It’s warmer in your arms” “Tears, how they travel” “Hold the space I require” “Am I just on your to-do list?”
Simile	“Will you love me like it’s true?”
Hyperbole	“I’ll be higher than the exosphere” “So good, so close, I can taste it”
Irony	“I’m cool on my own / But it’s warmer in your arms”
Personification	“Tears, how they travel”

Alliteration	"So good, so close, I can taste it"
Idiom	"Turn the page"
	"On your to-do list"
	"Taste it on my lips"

Table 3. Analysis of Figurative language on Warm Song

The song 'Warm' from the album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* is a deep and emotional analysis of the difference between independence and the need for emotional friendship. Ariana Grande uses a lot of figurative language to describe the tension between intimacy and self-empowerment as well as longing. The most prominent element in the lyrics of this song is metaphor. For example, the line 'I'll be higher than the exosphere' compares her confident emotional state to the exosphere, the outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere, reflecting feelings of independence and floating. 'Warmer in your embrace' shows that a warm embrace is not just physical touch; it is also a symbol of love, comfort, and security. The phrase "Tears, how they travel" depicts tears like travellers on an emotional journey, especially when referred to as "happy ones tonight," which signifies the transformation from sadness to happiness. Additionally, the phrase "Hold the space I require" uses "space" metaphorically as an emotional space, indicating the need for inner care and support. The line "Am I just on your to-do list?" likening herself to a task that must be completed, implying a fear that she is being treated as an obligation rather than a genuine priority.

Additionally, metaphors appear in simpler forms, as seen in the lyrics 'Will you love me that sincerely?', which compares the love given with true love. This metaphor heightens the hope for truly sincere love.

In the poem 'Tears, how they flow', feelings are treated as if they have their own emotional drive and path, adding a dimension of feeling to passive physical reactions. However, there is no onomatopoeia or words that mimic sounds in this song, indicating that the lyrics focus on inner experiences rather than sound effects.

In the line, 'I am comfortable alone / But warmer in your embrace,' there is implied irony. Although she claims to be independent, the warmer embrace indicates an unacknowledged emotional dependence, creating a significant emotional difference. In

terms of alliteration, the lyrics ‘So nice, so close, I can feel it’ have a repetition of the ‘s’ sound that makes the pronunciation softer and smoother, in line with the theme of longing and intimacy in the song.

Idioms enhance the meaning of the lyrics. ‘Turn the page’ is a popular phrase that means starting a new chapter in a relationship or life. The feeling of being left out is described with the idiomatic phrase ‘On your to-do list.’ Although ‘Feel it on my lips’ indicates a longing for something that has not yet happened, it is not a literal feeling but an eagerly awaited emotional sensation.

Finally, hyperbole is used to heighten feelings and desires. Lines such as ‘I will be taller than the exosphere’ are exaggerated statements used to show a very high level of emotion or conviction. In the same way, the statement ‘So delicious, so close, I can feel it’ shows a strong desire for something desirable.

Overall, ‘Warm’ explores the dynamics between self-confidence and emotional attraction towards a partner through metaphors, idioms, irony, and emotional hyperbole. The vulnerability hidden behind independence is depicted by the comparison between the warmth of an embrace and the coldness of solitude. Ariana Grande brings the emotional complexity of this song to life with heavenly imagery such as ‘exosphere’ and sensory imagery such as ‘feel it on my lips’, making it a reflection of strength, passion, and the choice to love.

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	“I’ll be your dandelion”
	“Plant this seed”
	“I bloom at night”
	“These other flowers don’t grow the same”
Simile	“Got me like, ‘What’s your wish list?’”
Personification	“Boy, just don’t blow this”
	“Can’t you see I bloom at night?”
Irony	“This sounds unserious, but baby boy, this is serious”
	“You can get anything you'd like” / “Just don’t blow this”
Alliteration	“Dirty, dirty”

Hyperbole	"You can get anything you'd like"
Idiom	"Plant this seed"
	"What's your wish list?"
	"Don't blow this"
	"Come what may"

Table 4. Analysis of Figurative language on Dandelion Song

Through the use of powerful imagery, the song 'Dandelion' from the album *Eternal Sunshine* conveys the risks of love, longing, and emotional vulnerability with a soft and sensual tone. Ariana Grande consistently depicts the balance between joy and emotional vulnerability by using floral metaphors, idiomatic expressions, and subtle irony. Metaphors direct the comparisons without using the words 'like' or "as" are the most common form. 'I'll be your dandelion' compares her to a dandelion, a delicate flower often associated with hope. This suggests that although she is fragile, she also offers sincere, gentle, and hopeful love. The line 'Plant this seed' is used as a symbol to mark the beginning of a relationship or emotional investment; it represents fertility, growth, or hope for the future. In the line "I bloom at night," Ariana reverses the common meaning of flowers that bloom during the day, and instead implies that she feels most powerful, beautiful, or alive in the silence or darkness, reflecting emotional or sensual awakening. The lyrics "These other flowers don't grow the same" are also metaphors that compare other women to flowers, to emphasize their uniqueness and specialness.

'Making me feel like, "What's on your wish list?"' is one example of a metaphor that appears in a simple yet meaningful form. This metaphor illustrates a situation where he is deeply moved emotionally, as if he would fulfil all his lover's wishes like a genie in a fairy tale. It seems calm, but it is not.

The emotional feel of this song is reinforced by the use of personification. 'Boy, don't you dare ruin this' has two meanings: it literally refers to the tradition of blowing on a dandelion when making a wish, and it is also a symbolic warning to her lover not to ruin their relationship. Furthermore, in the phrase 'Can't you see me bloom at night?', the flower is depicted as a conscious being that can choose when to grow, reflecting the singer's self-awareness in managing her emotions and identity. There are no

onomatopoeia or imitation words in this song, indicating that the main focus remains on inner and emotional experiences.

Lyrics such as ‘This sounds frivolous, but my dear, it's serious’ reveal irony because they acknowledge that although flower metaphors may sound simple, they actually represent deep and profound feelings. Phrases such as ‘You can have anything you want’ and ‘Don't fail’ create tension between the desire to give completely and the fear of being disrespected.

Phrases such as ‘Dirty, dirty’ repeat the initial sound with a teasing rhythm, contrasting with the gentleness of the dandelion metaphor.

Additionally, several idioms are used to enhance the tone of the dialogue in the lyrics. ‘What's on your wish list?’ is a common phrase for asking what someone wants, reinforcing the theme of giving in love, while phrases such as ‘Plant this seed’ signify a meaningful beginning. ‘Don't waste this,’ which literally means ‘don't waste’ or ‘don't ruin,’ has the same meaning as blowing on a dandelion. The phrase ‘Whatever happens’ shows perseverance and tenacity in the face of risk.

Hyperbole, also known as exaggeration, is also used, as shown in the statement ‘You can have anything you want,’ which shows the intensity of the desire to make one's partner completely happy.

Overall, ‘Dandelion’ conveys a powerful and emotional story in an enjoyable way. Ariana Grande uses flowers as the main symbol to represent the magic, hope, and vulnerability that exist in love. In addition to making the lyrics more beautiful, the figurative language adds to the meaning, representing love as something beautiful but easily lost if not appreciated. The song allows listeners to feel the vulnerability and sincerity of love from Ariana's perspective, creating an intimate and poetic atmosphere.

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	“Woke up with a ghost by my side”
	“A moth to a flame”
	“You were just code blue”
	“To leave you in a past life”
Simile	“Phased me just like the moon”

Personification	"Rhythms of the night consume my body" "Let the music confiscate my soul"
Irony	"You think I'm lost, but that's just how you found me"
Onomatopoeia	"Ah, ah" in the outro
Alliteration	"Might f*ck around and elevate my expectations"
Hyperbole	"Let the music confiscate my soul" "Might f*ck around and elevate my expectations"
Idiom	"Elevate my expectations" "In a past life"

Table 5. Analysis of Figurative language on Past Life Song

In the album *Eternal Sunshine*, the song 'Past Life' tells a story of released emotions, self-esteem, and the courage to move on after a relationship ends. The theme of transformation from pain to strength is reinforced by Ariana Grande through the use of various metaphors, making this song more than just about heartbreak. It is a declaration of healing and self-rebirth.

A metaphor, which is a direct comparison without using the words 'like' or 'as,' is the most common form of figurative language. In the sentence 'Waking up with a ghost by my side,' the word 'ghost' does not refer to an actual ghost, but rather to feelings or memories that still linger from a relationship that has ended. He is described as a moth drawn to a flame in the phrase 'a moth drawn to a flame,' a metaphor for an instinctive attraction to something dangerous or burning. 'You're in a state of emergency', which in medical terms means "emergency" or 'death', suggests that the relationship will not heal, but will be destructive. Nevertheless, 'Leaving you in the past life' describes an emotional separation similar to leaving one's past life behind, indicating a complete erasure of the past.

In the line 'Shaping me like the moon,' a metaphor is used to compare the emotional effect he experiences with the changing phases of the moon. This shows that the person's influence reflects gradual, subtle, and consistent changes in feelings over time.

Personification also occurs in the lyrics, which means giving human qualities to something or a concept that is not human. In the phrase 'The rhythm of the night devours

my body,' the rhythm of the night has the power to take over the body, showing how emotions or music can take over. Similarly, in the phrase 'Let the music take my soul,' music can devour the soul that refer to a phrase that underlines the strong emotional connection between art and atmosphere.

In the outro, onomatopoeia is used with the sounds 'Ah, ah', which indicate a deep and gentle release of emotion. This song is full of irony. For example, Ariana transforms the perception of loss into authenticity in the poem 'You think I'm lost, but it's in that state that you find me.' This sentence suggests that she may be considered lost, but she is found in this situation, showing that her vulnerability is her most honest form of identity.

The phrase 'Might f*ck around and elevate my expectations' demonstrates the use of alliteration; the gentle rhythm created by the repetition of the sound 'm' in the words "might" and 'my' adds to the flow of the lyrics, although it is not overly dominant. Idioms are also very important. 'Let you lose me' does not mean physical loss, but rather the decision to let someone go emotionally. 'Elevate my expectations' is an idiomatic expression that means to raise one's standards of living or love in the future. However, 'In a past life' shows a rejection of the past by viewing the relationship as part of a life that has been emotionally abandoned.

Exaggeration, also known as hyperbole, is used to emphasise feelings. The emotional power of music is very clear in the line, 'Let the music confiscate my soul.' Likewise, with "Might f*ck around and elevate my expectations", which uses dramatic language as a form of affirmation of the determination to change standards and fight for self-esteem.

Overall, 'Past Life' is a profound reflection on how a person deals with loss and uses it as strength. Ariana Grande uses personification, metaphor, and irony to convey that suffering is not the end, but only the beginning of self-resurrection. Hyperbolic and idiomatic language demonstrates courage and determination to move forward, while imagery such as 'ghosts,' 'code blue,' and 'past life' suggests that the past has been processed and left behind. This song is not just about heartbreak; it also shows that vulnerability is strength, and self-love is the best way to heal oneself.

Types	Lyrics
Metaphor	"I left my heart at a pub in Hampstead" "Misplaced my mind in a good way" "Your seat's nowhere near the table" "My lover's just some lines in some songs" "Swimming with you" vs. "Drowning in a crowded room"
Personification	"You think you've read the book I'm still writing"
Irony	"You're still wrong about everything" / "To be so dumb must be nice" "I'm still the same but only entirely different" "Fear me, stranger / A little bit of sugar, danger"
Alliteration	"Sugar, danger" "Feel everything than nothing every time"
Hyperbole	"You're wrong about everything" "Rather be seen and alive than dying by your point of view"
Idiom	"Read the book I'm still writing" "Leave you at the table" "What's wrong with a little bit of poison?"

Table 6. Analysis of Figurative language on Hampstead Song

The song 'Hampstead' from the album *Eternal Sunshine* is a work full of hidden meaning through the use of sharp, emotional, and subtle figurative language. In this song, Ariana Grande expresses the conflict between deep feelings and misunderstood feelings, as well as the process of breaking free from an unpleasant relationship. Metaphors are the main tool used to show inner strength and vulnerability. Although the phrase 'I left my heart in a pub in Hampstead' is not explicitly stated, it describes a profound emotional experience, such as love, loss, or attachment, that once occurred at that location. Losing one's sanity is compared to an emotional experience that is liberating or exhilarating, according to the line, 'I lost my mind in a good way.' Metaphors such as "Your seat's

nowhere near the table” indicate exclusion, where someone is no longer considered relevant in the singer’s personal life. Then, “My lover’s just some lines in some songs” implies that her ex-lover now only lives in memories or song lyrics, not in real life. The comparison of “Swimming with you” versus “Drowning in a crowded room” shows the contrast between the depth of emotional connection and the tightness of social fakery.

Unlike other songs, Hampstead uses the word ‘like’ for direct comparison, avoiding similes. ‘You think you’ve read the book I’m still writing’ is a strong example of personification. Here, the singer’s life and identity are like an unfinished book; others may not truly know who he is, even though they feel they do. In the lyrics of this song, there is no onomatopoeia or words that imitate sounds.

One of the main strengths of this song is its irony. Lines such as ‘You’re still wrong about everything’ and ‘Being that stupid must be fun’ are full of sarcasm. Ariana conveys her disappointment at someone’s stupidity or ignorance in a sharp yet elegant way. The line ‘I’m still the same but completely different’ is an example of paradoxical irony that reflects personal growth. Although it sounds contradictory, it actually shows emotional change. The lyrics ‘Fear me, stranger / A little sugar, a lot of danger’ combine strength and gentleness in one phrase, conveying the message that even though she appears gentle on the outside, she should not be underestimated.

‘Sugar, danger’ has a lyrical and powerful rhythm, and ‘Feel everything rather than feeling nothing all the time’ has repetitions of the sound’s “f” and “t”, which reinforce the song’s musical rhythm. The implicit meaning of the lyrics is reinforced by several idioms, such as ‘Read the book I’m still writing,’ which suggests that people act as if they already know us completely even though we are still in the process of developing. ‘What’s wrong with a little poison?’ describes emotional risk taking the chance to feel something that might hurt while ‘Leaving you at the table’ refers to exclusion.

Exaggeration, also known as hyperbole, is used to emphasise strong emotions. For example, saying ‘You’re wrong about everything’ is a way of expressing total dissatisfaction. The phrase ‘Better to be seen and live than die by your perspective’ shows how dangerous other people’s perspectives are to him; it is a dramatic but meaningful depiction of the mental pressure he is under.

Overall, the song ‘Hampstead’ depicts the emotional turning point of someone who chooses to avoid toxic relationships. It is a touching and layered song. Ariana Grande

cleverly conveys strength and disappointment by using metaphors, irony, idioms, and hyperbole. The song is not merely an expression of pain but also a powerful statement about self-worth and the courage to avoid toxicity through its poetic yet touching tone.

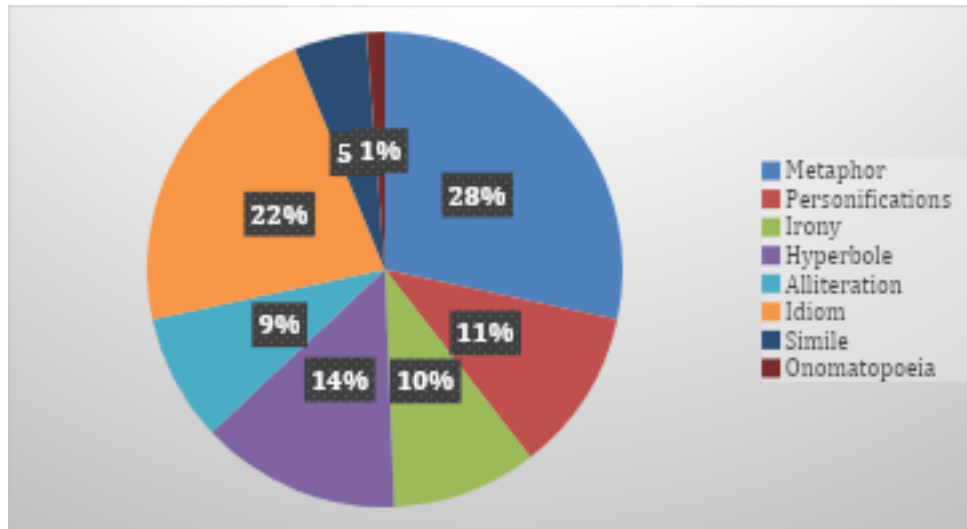


Figure 1. The most dominant Figurative Language used in selected songs on Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead Album by Ariana Grande

Data on the number of uses of various types of figurative language in selected songs from Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* is shown in Figure 1 above. A total of 81 forms of figurative language were found. While, the metaphors were the most frequently used type of figurative language, appearing 23 times. This shows that metaphors are the main tool Ariana uses to express her emotions, describe situations, and create themes in her song lyrics. In addition, idioms were the second most frequently used type, appearing 18 times. This shows that Ariana's lyrics often feel communicative and easy for her listeners to understand because of her everyday expressions that literally have no meaning.

Hyperbole is used eleven times, indicating that the lyrics emphasise feelings and emotional dramatization. Personification appears nine times, indicating the singer's tendency to add human characteristics to objects or vague ideas to enhance the emotional impact. While, the irony is particularly important, used eight times to convey implied meanings that contradict literal statements and often used to express satire or emotional confusion.

Alliteration appears seven times, adding rhythm and musicality to the lyrics. Although somewhat rare, examples have been found four times as clear direct comparisons. Onomatopoeia is found only once, indicating that the construction of the album's lyrics does not rely heavily on sound effects.

Based on this information, it can be concluded that Ariana Grande uses more conceptual and emotional figurative language, such as hyperbole, metaphors, and idioms, than phonetic or onomatopoeic language. This indicates a more narrative and reflective approach to lyrics, reflecting the maturity of the themes and emotional depth of her work on this album.

Discussion

This study examines figurative language in six songs from Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*: 'Intro (End of the World),' 'Twilight Zone,' 'Warm,' 'Dandelion,' 'Past Life,' and 'Hampstead.' Several types of figurative language, such as metaphors, personification, irony, hyperbole, idioms, similes, alliteration, and several examples of onomatopoeia, were identified in the linguistic analysis. The results show that figurative language is not only a component of lyrical style but also a tool for conveying emotions and narrative meaning. Furthermore, the discussion examines the patterns that emerge and how they relate to Ariana Grande's lyrical style and artistic expression.

Dominance of Metaphor and Narrative Expression

In the songs analysed, metaphors are the most common form of figurative language. Expressions such as 'I'll be your dandelion' (*Dandelion*), 'I bloom at night' (*Warm*), and 'Leaving you in a past life' (*Past Life*) show how metaphors are used to describe emotional states and personal transformations. Ariana Grande's song writing style relies heavily on frequent use of metaphors. The lyrics describe emotions through symbols, such as flowers, natural processes, or life cycles, rather than describing them explicitly. This allows the songwriter to convey complex emotional experiences in an easily understandable and imaginative way.

In Grande's work, metaphors often represent phases of emotional development, such as healing, separation, or self-realisation, which are in line with more general trends in modern pop song writing. Therefore, the dominance of metaphors shows that

figurative language not only enhances aesthetic quality, but also serves as an important tool for generating narrative meaning.

Personification and Emotional Externalization

The lyrics also display personification, another important feature. Expressions such as 'If the sun refuses to shine' (Intro), 'Tears, how they flow' (Warm), and 'Let the music take my soul' (Past Life) are some examples. In this case, natural elements or abstract concepts are given human actions or intentions.

The use of personification helps to transform internal emotions into visible actions. The behaviour of external elements such as sunlight, music, or tears reveals emotional experiences such as sadness, longing, or reflection. Listeners can see emotional situations in a more tangible way thanks to this linguistic strategy.

From an interpretive perspective, personification serves as a link between individual feelings and events occurring in the general environment. Lyrics make subjective feelings easier for listeners to understand and relate to because they present emotions as external events. This suggests that personification is used deliberately to strengthen emotional accessibility within the songs.

Irony and Emotional Contradiction

Some lyrics display irony, expressing emotional contradictions or defensive communication. For example, the line 'It's not that I miss you, I don't' from Twilight Zone shows an attempt to avoid emotional attachment. Similarly, the Hampstead phrase 'Being so stupid must be fun' contains sarcasm that indicates disappointment or frustration.

Lyrics often describe complex emotional situations rather than expressing feelings directly, as demonstrated by the use of irony. Speakers sometimes use ironic language to distance themselves from emotional pain rather than openly expressing their vulnerability. In modern lyric writing, this pattern demonstrates a broader approach to communication. Irony gives songwriters the opportunity to display conflicting emotions, such as anger, regret, or indifference. Irony is used in Ariana Grande's songs to provide emotional protection while revealing the singer's underlying feelings.

Hyperbole and Emotional Intensification

Some lyrics use hyperbole to heighten emotional intensity. Expressions such as 'Let the music take my soul' in 'Past Life' and 'I will be higher than the exosphere' in 'Warm' emphasise the importance of emotional experience.

Because songs often communicate intense emotions, hyperbolic expressions are frequently found in music lyrics. Hyperbole particularly appears in parts of the album that show emotional shifts or releases. Hyperbole is used for two reasons. First, it enhances the power of the emotional experience being described. Second, it reinforces the dramatic structure of the song's narrative. As a result, hyperbole increases the expressive power of the lyrics while maintaining cohesion with the emotional theme of the album.

Idioms and Conversational Accessibility

All of the songs analysed contain idiomatic expressions such as 'feel it in your bones', 'turn the page' and 'it's on your to-do list'. Idioms do not originate from everyday language, unlike metaphors or hyperbole.

Idioms base lyrics on familiar speech patterns, while metaphors and personification provide symbolic imagery. Idioms help balance poetic expression and conversational tone. This combination makes songs more accessible while maintaining artistic expression.

From a stylistic point of view, the use of idioms is characteristic of contemporary pop lyrics. To create a sound that feels expressive and authentic, songwriters often combine poetic language with everyday expressions.

Simile and Alliteration

Similes and alliteration rarely appear in the analysed songs. The phrase 'Phased me just like the moon' (Past Life) is an example of a simile, and phrases such as 'So good, so close' (Warm) use alliteration to create rhythmic emphasis.

This limited use indicates that Ariana Grande's lyrical style prioritises conceptual imagery over sound-based stylistic devices. Alliteration and metaphors contribute to the rhythm and musicality of the songs, but neither contribute significant meaning to these songs. The earlier finding that metaphor is the primary mechanism for conveying emotional narrative in the album is reinforced by this pattern.

Minimal Presence of Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is almost non-existent or only present in small amounts in the six songs. This is in line with the emotional and reflective tone of the album, where personal experiences are more important than sound-driven effects.

Onomatopoeia is rarely seen in the analysed songs, only with small vocal expressions such as 'Ah, ah' from Past Life, where the limited use of sound imitation is in line with the reflective and introspective tone of the album. Onomatopoeia is typically used in songs that emphasise rhythm or physical action. The lyrics of *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead*, on the other hand, focus more on introspection and personal stories. As a result, figurative expressions that convey emotional meaning take precedence over sound-based stylistic devices.

Figurative Language as a Consistent Element of Grande's Style

This study found a pattern indicating that figurative language is not a new feature in Ariana Grande's songwriting; it is a consistent stylistic feature. Furthermore, previous research has found symbolic expressions and figurative language in her lyrics (Riadil et al., 2019). The results of this study support this statement.

Compared to her previous albums, *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* emphasises introspective themes and emotional reflection. Figurative language serves as a narrative strategy to discuss issues such as personal growth, emotional closure, and relationship dynamics, as demonstrated by the frequent use of metaphors and personification.

Therefore, the figurative language found in these songs should be considered a structural part of the storytelling rather than mere embellishment. The lyrics create an emotional narrative that takes the listener through the experiences depicted in the songs through symbolic expression.

Previous studies support the findings of this research, which emphasise the importance of figurative language in song lyrics. According to Arifah (2016), hyperbole is the most commonly used figurative language in John Legend's songs, and is used to enhance emotional expression. According to Marliani (2018), personification and metaphor are often used in Harry Styles' lyrics to convey meaning and emotional imagery.

The results of this study are not only partially in line with previous results, but also show differences. This study found that metaphors are the most frequently used figurative language in selected songs from Ariana Grande's album *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead (Deluxe)*, in contrast to Arifah (2016), who found that hyperbole was dominant. This shows that the lyrical style and thematic focus are different.

Metaphors are frequently used in Grande's lyrics to depict emotional shifts, introspection, and relationship dynamics. Furthermore, these findings support Marliani's (2018) findings that personification and metaphor are often used to communicate emotional narratives in contemporary pop lyrics. However, this study includes the types of figurative language and their role in shaping emotional meaning in these songs, expanding on previous work.

Interpretation and Implications

Overall, the results show that Ariana Grande's lyrical style communicates her emotions using poetic symbolism and easily understandable language. Personification, irony, and hyperbole support the expression of complex feelings, while metaphors serve as the dominant tool for describing emotional transformation.

Ariana Grande's figurative language is an essential part of her emotional storytelling, more than just decoration. She combines metaphors, irony, and personification to create lyrical space that balances intimacy, independence, and vulnerability. The thematic diversity is evident in the contrast between her songs, such as 'Warm,' which explores romantic security, and 'Hampstead,' which critiques emotional disparities.

Furthermore, the results show that Grande's lyrics, while personal and expressive, strategically use figurative devices to reflect broader emotional experiences, making them remarkable and widely accessible. This positions her music as a type of poetic storytelling that creates a stronger emotional bond with listeners.

In this pattern, we can see how figurative language contributes to the formation of meaning in modern pop music (Riadil et al., 2024). Lyrics create stories that listeners can understand and relate to by transforming emotions into images. Therefore, figurative language serves as a stylistic feature and narrative strategy of the album.

In Context of ELT

The findings of this study carry meaningful implications for English Language Teaching (ELT), particularly in the use of authentic materials to develop figurative language competence. The diversity of figurative devices identified across the analysed lyrics—metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, idiom, simile, and alliteration—offers ELT practitioners a rich, ready-made corpus for classroom instruction. Activities such as metaphor mapping, in which learners identify source and target domains from

expressions like 'I'll be your dandelion' or 'The sun refused to shine,' can cultivate conceptual understanding of how figurative language constructs emotional meaning, while guided analysis of ironic expressions such as 'Not that I miss you, I don't' develops pragmatic competence by requiring learners to read beyond literal meaning toward speaker intention. Chanprasert (2023) found that figurative expressions encountered in emotionally engaging song lyrics are retained more effectively than those learned through decontextualised vocabulary lists, a finding that underscores the instructional value of incorporating Grande's lyrics into ELT lesson design. Suliman and Yunus (2022) further confirmed that ESL learners who engaged in structured lyric analysis demonstrated measurably richer figurative language use in their own writing, suggesting that exposure to authentic lyrical texts yields tangible and transferable learning outcomes.

Beyond vocabulary and pragmatics, the lyrical content of *Eternal Sunshine: Brighter Days Ahead* also supports the development of critical thinking and cultural awareness—two competencies increasingly foregrounded in contemporary ELT frameworks. When learners are prompted to discuss why a songwriter chose a particular metaphor over a direct statement, or how the cultural associations of images such as dandelions or the exosphere shape emotional meaning, they engage in the kind of higher-order reasoning that comprehensive language education seeks to cultivate. Rokni and Ataee (2022) demonstrated that song-based figurative language activities consistently promoted critical language awareness among EFL learners, enabling them to reflect on how language is used strategically to construct emotion and identity. The album's thematic universality—centred on love, loss, self-discovery, and resilience—further ensures strong affective engagement across diverse learner backgrounds, which Haidara (2021) identifies as a key factor in the effectiveness of music-based ELT materials. Taken together, these qualities position the album as a pedagogically compelling resource that bridges the gap between formal language instruction and authentic, emotionally resonant language use.

5. CONCLUSION

According to this analysis, the figurative language in *Eternal Sunshine* is diverse, rich, and well-integrated into the emotional structure of the song. The strategic use of

irony and personification, as well as the dominance of metaphor, demonstrate Grande's sophisticated lyrical approach. She navigates themes such as love, loss, self-discovery, and emotional truth with the help of these tools, resulting in a deeply sonic and lyrical experience for her listeners.

This study was able to identify and classify various types of metaphorical language used in the lyrics of certain songs from Ariana Grande's album 'Eternal Sunshine' by analysing the album. According to the analysis, the emotional and thematic richness of the album's songs is enhanced by the frequent use of personification, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole throughout the album. The results of the study show how important figurative language is to enhancing lyrical expression and forming a stronger bond with listeners. By using inventive language and creative comparisons, Grande's lyrics evoke complex emotions and vivid imagery. In addition to highlighting the subtle artistic elements in Grande's compositions, this study increases our understanding of the metaphorical language used in modern music.

This study can be expanded in several ways. Future research may examine figurative language across a larger number of songs or compare different albums to identify changes in an artist's lyrical style over time. Comparative studies between different artists or genres can also provide broader insights into how figurative language functions in contemporary music. In addition, future studies may apply other theoretical approaches, such as cognitive metaphor theory or discourse analysis, to explore how listeners interpret figurative expressions and how meaning is constructed in different cultural contexts. The findings of this study can also be used as a reference for research in linguistics, literary studies, and music analysis, particularly in understanding how language is used to communicate emotion in modern popular culture.

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