AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN ALBUM
THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT:
THE ANTHOLOGY
BY TAYLOR SWIFT

THESIS

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By:

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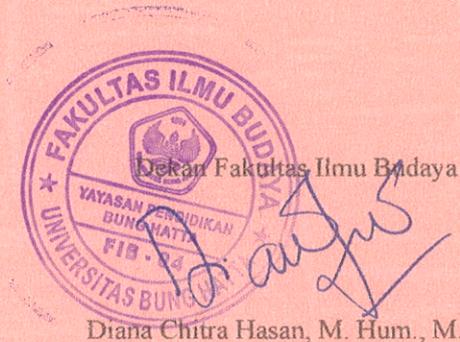Jurusan : Sastra Inggris

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AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN ALBUM THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY BY TAYLOR SWIFT

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzed one of the types of figurative language, which is metaphor, that is found in the album The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology by Taylor Swift. It employed a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze the data based on Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) theory of conceptual metaphor. The purpose of this study was to identify the types and the meanings of metaphors contained in the song lyrics of this album. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980) theory, there were three types of metaphor: structural, orientational, and ontological metaphor. From 50 instances of metaphor identified in the album, the writer founded there were 20 structural metaphors, 8 orientational metaphors, and 22 ontological metaphors. The findings also revealed the presence of connotative meanings in the lyrics in the songs of this album. The use of metaphors in these songs provided emphasis and enhance the aesthetic quality of the lyrics, enabling listeners to appreciate the songs while gaining a deeper understanding of the meanings and messages conveyed in the lyrics, as well as the context and the storytelling that Swift seeks to express through her music.

Keywords: Metaphor, Figurative Language, Taylor Swift, The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology

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CHAPTER I
Introduction

1.1. Background of Research

Linguistics, a discipline focused on structure, history, and uses of language in interpersonal communication. It explores how languages evolve over time, examining changes in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Linguistics also analyze how language varies across different regions, cultures, and also in social groups. Additionally, linguistic looks at how people use language to convey emotions, build relationships, and express identities highlighting the essential role of language in connecting individuals within societies.

When creating a literary work, the writer is often made, found or even difficult to avoid figurative language. Figurative language known as a way of using words and phrases to create a special effect by giving them a more imaginative meaning than their basic meaning, like created words, but that's not the real message or meaning that the writer tried to deliver. Figurative language commonly used in literature object, for example it can be find it in movie, novel, short story, poem, songs, and other literature object, where its meant to create effects, describe the feelings, or add depth to writing, so the works feel more beautiful and become more interesting. Figurative language is very important element in literature, as it greatly helps in building the atmosphere writer and also the mood. In figurative language, there are several types: some common forms of figurative language, first, there are metaphor, then simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, and idiom.

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphor as a way to understand and experience one thing in terms of another, with purpose to help people understand abstract concepts by mapping one domain of experience onto another. They categorize metaphors into three types, there are structural, orientational, and ontological. Metaphor is a form of figurative language that compares two things without using connecting words like "like" or "as", not like simile, because simile just compare two different things and make them seem similar. A metaphor expresses one idea by using

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terms from another idea, creating a relationship between the two, so both, between the words and the meaning are connected.

Ritchie (2013) states that a metaphor can be considered as a simile with the comparative word omitted. A metaphor compares a subject to another object based on the qualities they share. These qualities are often referred to as the 'basis' of the metaphor, which provides the foundation for the comparison. Metaphor is one of the elements that makes literature more unique and increases people's interest in reading it, because metaphors can enrich language and add emotional or aesthetic appeal to writing. In song, the use of figurative language serves more deeper emotions, ideas, or experiences. By drawing comparisons between seemingly unrelated things, metaphors create layers of meaning that resonate on an emotional and intellectual level.

There are so many artists in the world who create their songs by incorporating various types of figurative language, Taylor Swift is no exception. Throughout her career, she has released 11 studio albums, and her latest album that she released is The Tortured Poets Department or can know as "TTPD" on April 19, 2024. The album title is a play on the name of her ex-boyfriend, Joe Alwyn's group chat "The Tortured Man Club." TTPD has two different albums. The first, the original one; The Tortured Poets Department, contains 16 songs; (1) Fortnight (featuring Post Malone), (2) The Tortured Poets Department, (3) My Boy Only Breaks His Favorite Toy, (4) Down Bad, (5) So Long, London, (6) But Daddy I Love Him, (7) Fresh Out the Slammer, (8) Florida!!! (featuring Florence and the Machine), (9) Guilty as Sin? (10) Who's Afraid of Little Old Me? (11) I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can), (12) lolm, (13) I Can Do It with a Broken Heart, (14) The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived, (15) The Alchemy, dan (16) Clara Bow. The second version is The Tortured Poets Department: Anthology, has 31 songs, including the 16 previous plus an additional 15 songs, and they are are; (17) The Black Dog, (18) imgonnagetyouback, (19) The Albatross, (20) Chloe or Sam or Sophia, or Marcus, (21) How Did It End? (22) So High School, (23) I hate It Here, (24) thanK you aIMee, (25) I Look in People's Windows, (26) The Prophecy, (27) Cassandra, (28) Peter, (29) The Bolter, (30) Robin, and (31) The Manuscript.

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1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background, the research questions of the study are:

1.2.1. What types of metaphors are used in each song in the album TTPD?

1.2.2. What are the meanings of metaphors found in TTPD?

1.3. Purpose of Research

This study aims to provide an understanding of the importance of metaphors that Swift used in the TTPD album, to enhance literary appreciation and emotional connection with listeners. Therefore, the research aims are:

1.3.1. To identify the types of metaphors used in album TTPD.

1.3.2. To understand the meanings from of the metaphors founded in this album.

1.4. Limitation of the Research

This research focuses on metaphors found in the TTPD: The Anthology. Other types of figurative language, such as hyperbole, personification, idiom, simile, onomatopoeia, allusion, litotes, and irony, are not analyzed in this study. Therefore, this limitation leaves a gap for future researchers who wish to examine the same object of study. Although all types figurative language are mentioned, they are only discussed briefly, as this research concentrates solely on metaphors.

TTPD comes in two version, first, there are The Tortured Poets Department, was the initial release and contains only 16 songs. The second version is The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology, which includes the original songs previous, plus 15 new songs, making a total of 31 tracks in TTPD: The Anthology, so there still huge gap that can be dig in.

1.5. Significance of the Research

This study holds significant value in literature. By focusing on the use of metaphorical language used in TTPD: The Anthology, the study offers a deeper understanding of how figurative language enhances emotional depth, storytelling, and audience engagement in contemporary songwriting, as demonstrated in this album. As one of the most influential contemporary artists, Swift provides an ideal case study for exploring how metaphors can effectively convey complex emotions and themes. By analyzing the metaphors in her lyrics, this study aims to contribute:

1.5.1. Literary studies

This research aims to broaden the literary perspective by exploring the role of metaphors within the context of modern popular music. Traditionally, metaphors have been extensively studied in classic forms of literature, such as poetry and prose. However, this study seeks to highlight how these literary devices are equally powerful and relevant the lyrics of contemporary songs. By analyzing the metaphors in the album, the study bridges the divide between traditional literary analysis and popular culture, emphasizing how poetic techniques are evolving and thriving in modern musical expressions.

1.5.2. Cultural and Musical Impact

Offering insight into how Swift's use of metaphor shapes her connection with listeners, creating a resonant emotional experience. As Swift's music has a wide-reaching cultural influence, this analysis can shed light on how figurative language contributes to the commercial and critical success of modern pop music.

1.5.3. Educational Relevance

The outcomes of this research have practical implications for education, particularly in the fields of language and literature. By demonstrating how metaphorical language operates within popular music lyrics, the study can serve as a useful tool for educators in engaging students with literary concepts in a more relatable and accessible manner. It can help foster a deeper appreciation of figurative language by connecting classroom learning with real-world cultural texts that students are already familiar with. In turn, this can promote critical thinking and analytical skill through the study of contemporary music as a valid form of literary expression.

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