

**DECODING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE : A LINGUISTIC
ANALYSIS OF THE ADDITIONAL TRACKS IN TAYLOR
SWIFT'S "THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT : THE
ANTHOLOGY" ALBUM**

A PAPER

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for getting *Sarjana Pendidikan* Degree



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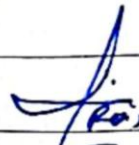
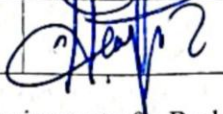
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The paper entitled: **DECODING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ADDITIONAL TRACKS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S "THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY" ALBUM** by **Rafika Nazatullumah**, Student Number **20210410015**, has been established through examination hold at English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Universitas Kuningan on **18th June 2025**, based on The Dean's Decision Letter number: **600/FKIP-UNIKU/PP/2025** about committee and examiners nomination of Research Seminar 2 as follows :

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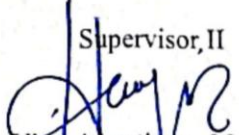
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Submitted as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for getting a Bachelor Degree

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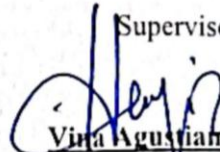
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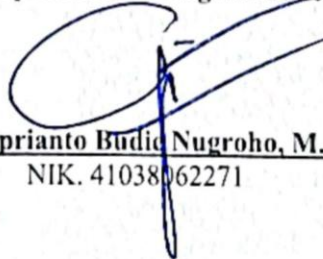
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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

The writer states that this paper entitled **"DECODING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ADDITIONAL TRACKS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S 'THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY' ALBUM"** is my own writing with some quotation from some sources by using the accepted scientific method.

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MOTTO

“Hell was the journey, but it brought me heaven.”

Taylor Swift

ABSTRACT

DECODING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ADDITIONAL TRACKS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S "THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY" ALBUM

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Abstract: Figurative language is widely used to express ideas creatively, but many people still find it hard to understand. This study aims to analyze the meaning of each figurative language used in the additional tracks of The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology album by Taylor Swift. A qualitative method with a case study design was employed, and data were collected through document analysis of the song lyrics. This study uses Johnson's approach based on Perrine's theory to identify and analyze the types of figurative language used in the album. As a result, the researcher found twelve types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, and irony. Simile appeared 23 times (12.78%), metaphor 42 times (23.33%), personification 15 times (8.33%), apostrophe 5 times (2.78%), synecdoche 1 time (0.56%), metonymy 6 times (3.33%), symbol 33 times (18.33%), allegory 2 times (1.11%), paradox 14 times (7.78%), overstatement 23 times (12.78%), understatement 1 time (0.56%), and irony 15 times (8.33%). Metaphor was the most frequently used type of figurative language in the album, while synecdoche and understatement were the least. The meanings were explored using Johnson's framework, supported by Genius and Vogue Australia. The results show that Taylor Swift uses figurative language to express emotions, comment on society, and explore themes like love, heartbreak, and identity. This study contributes to literary studies by showing how figurative language shapes storytelling and emotional meaning in song lyrics.

Keywords: *Figurative language, Semantics, Song lyrics, Taylor Swift, The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*

PREFACE

Praise comes to Allah SWT, The God Almighty and The Most Merciful who has granted his blessing for each human being. May Allah bless the prophet, Muhammad SAW as the last of messenger, his households, his companions, and those who follow him until the day of Judgement. The researcher really wants to thanks God for giving her strength and health that because of Allah's blessings she could finish her paper.

This paper, entitled **“Decoding Figurative Language: A Linguistic Analysis of The Additional Tracks in Taylor Swift’s ‘The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology’ Album”**, is written as a part of requirements for completing the Bachelor Degree in English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Universitas Kuningan. This paper is aimed to identify the types of figurative language the meanings of each figurative language used in the Additional Tracks of Taylor Swift’s The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology album.

This paper hopefully can give contributions for all readers and become inspire for other researchers who will undertake further research in a related field. The researcher realizes this paper is still far from being perfect. Therefore, critical comments and suggestions from those who are deeply concerned with such topic are welcomed.

Kuningan, June 2025

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Praise be to Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, for His endless blessings and strength that enabled the researcher to complete this paper. She sincerely acknowledges that this paper would not have been possible without the support, encouragement, and guidance from those around her. Therefore, she would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the completion of this paper. To the honorable individuals who have played an important role in her journey, the researcher can offer nothing but her sincere gratitude.

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5. My beloved parents, Mamah and Bapak, for their constant prayers, unwavering support, and for always prioritizing my education above all else. Their endless love from the very beginning of my life has guided and brought me to where I am today.
6. My brother, who has always stood by me, supporting my education and believing in me even when no one else did. Your love and support have meant the world to me, thank you from the bottom of my heart.
7. The Chairman of The Tortured Poets Department, Taylor Alison Swift, thank you for creating this poetic and beautiful album, *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*. It has inspired the researcher to explore and be

mesmerized by the poetic, tortured, and beautiful eulogies, timeless stories, and the rich layers meaning within them. Thank you for make the researcher to write again after such a long time, the quill now dances across the papyrus once more, and poems bloom anew because of you. Through your elegies that feel like they eulogize her own journey, the researcher has found strength and inspiration. Thank you for leading her onto a radiant path she once feared to walk alone.

8. Last but not least, I want to thank myself for always trying hard and for choosing to say "yes" to opportunities instead of "no" throughout these meaningful years. All of the pressures I faced while preparing this paper were no joke, but I did it. Long story short, I survived, and that is something to be proud of.

In the end, the researcher realizes that this paper has some weaknesses and is far from perfect. That's why she welcomes any suggestions, comments, and constructive criticism from those who concerned about this research. The researcher hopes that this paper will be helpful and give useful insights to the readers, especially for future researchers who want to explore this topic more deeply.

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