

Personification Found In Taylor Swift's Album

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Meaning, Personification, Taylor Swift	Personification is a figure of speech utilized in both scholarly and casual writing. Personification is utilized in the song lyrics to amplify their significance. Taylor Swift's album, <i>Midnightss</i> , is a renowned collection of songs that employs figurative language, most particularly personification. Personification can be utilized to engage the album's audience. The aim of this study is to examine the forms and meaning of personification in the <i>Midnightss</i> album. This study employs Zhu's (1991) framework to categorize types of personification. This research is a descriptive qualitative study. All tracks from the <i>Midnightss</i> album constitute the data source for this analysis. Data analysis involves the reduction, evaluation, and interpretation of figurative language through personification. The results revealed that the personification style utilized in this album predominantly features non-living things and abstractions, with non-living creature personification being the most frequent type in this study.

INTRODUCTION

Poetry can be seen as a creative manifestation of the author's expression and contemplation. "Poetry is a form of ancient verse characterized by rhythm" (Wahyuni, 2014). Poetry typically conveys extensive themes, such as narratives, advice, or romantic tales, originating from the author's imagination, structured in rhythmic phrases. Poetry is an ancient literary form characterized by specific compositional guidelines. Poetry possesses four traits. Each stanza comprises four lines with an a-a-a-a rhyme scheme. Secondly, each line possesses a significance closely associated with the preceding lines. Third, the majority of poems provide narratives that include counsel or guidance. Fourth, each line comprises 8-12 syllables.

The author's thoughts can be transformed into song lyrics, which are then given a unique tone to facilitate their acceptance and enjoyment by music enthusiasts. The aesthetics of the song lyrics will be enhanced by the use of specific language. A literary work's value can be improved by its language style, as readers can compare the content of the work based on its beauty. "Style of language is a beautiful language used to enhance the effect by introducing and distinguishing a particular object or thing from other objects or things that are more common" (Tarigan, 2013). Literary works can be rendered more impressive to their viewers through the utilization of attractive words.

The author's personality, character, and creativity are reflected in the language style, which utilizes a unique language to convey emotions and concepts, thereby achieving an aesthetic effect. The three components of the beauty effect are the aesthetic effect (style), the poetic effect, and the effect of creating meaning. The unique characteristics of sentence structure distinguish the aesthetic element, the use of cohesion, the figurative language forms, and the two word choices. (Pradopo, 2012) stated that poetry is a form of musical cognition. The poet envisions a melodic sound similar to music during the poetry composition. The words are arranged to produce a series of rhythmic sounds, such as music, as the dominant sound. Song lyrics are the result of the fusion of the art of music and the language of poetry during its development. (Widiанти & Febrianty, 2021) define personification as a language style that relates an object that is not human to a

human, but the poet envisions it as a human. Personification is a linguistic style that portrays an inanimate object as if it possesses human characteristics.

(Zhu, 1991) categorized personification into three categories: Abstraction Personification, Non-living creature personification, and living creature personification. Living Creature personification personified plants or animals are as living creatures, and they are attributed human actions, behaviors, qualities, thoughts, emotions, and so forth. It is beneficial to enhance the atmosphere and provide readers with the sensation of being present in the scene. Non-living Creature Personification encompasses a variety of natural phenomena, including the earth, constellations, the moon, the sun, rivers, lakes, and mountains. It also encompasses artificial products, including ships, vehicles, and residences. This form of personification involves the transfer of human subjective consciousness or emotions to non-living entities. Abstraction personification assigns human speech, actions, and behaviors to abstract objects, including time, opinion, disease, hunger, and conflict. In this manner, the authors' thoughts and emotions have been conveyed, which enhances the linguistic forms with a sense of humor and wit.

This study aims to analyze the personification found in Taylor Swift's Album, *Midnights*. This topic is interesting because this album has much figurative language, especially regarding personification. There are seven songs have personification. There are two types of personification that found in the data, namely abstraction personification and non-living thing personification.

METHOD

A descriptive qualitative research methodology was implemented in this investigation. This research employed the descriptive qualitative method due to the poetic and subjective nature of song lyrics in terms of meaning expression. This approach enables the researcher to investigate the stylistic decisions made by the song writers by focusing on the qualitative aspects of language, tone, and context. Seven tracks from Taylor Swift's *Midnights* Album serve as the basis for this investigation. *Midnights* is the tenth studio album of the American singer-songwriter, Taylor Swift. This album released on October 21, 2022 by Republic Records. This study examines the personification present in the following seven songs: Lavender, Maroon, Anti-hero, Snow on The Beach, You're on Your Own, Kid, Karma, and Mastermind. The initial phase in data collection is to read the lyrics of the song and classify the data according to Zhu's (1991) classification. The data were subsequently analyzed in accordance with the categories of personification that Zhu (1991) had proposed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (HEADING 1 STYLE)

Based on the analysis of 7 selected songs from Taylor Swift's *Midnightss* album, 15 data were found that contain personification. The occurrences of the personification in Taylor Swift's *Midnights* Album are as follow.

Table 1 Personification in Taylor Swift's *Midnights* Album

Song Title	Number of Personification	Percentage
Lavender Haze	1	6,66%
Maroon	4	26,66%
Anti-Hero	2	13,33%
Snow on The Beach	2	13,33%
You're on Your Own, Kid	1	6,66%
Karma	4	26,66%
Mastermind	1	6,66%

Total

15

100%%

From the results of this study, it was found 15 personifications on the *Midnightss* album. Table 1 showed the occurrences of personification in the Taylor Swift's album. There is 1 Abstraction Personification found in "Lavender Haze" song, 3 Abstraction Personification and 1 Non-Living Creature Personification in "Maroon", 1 Abstraction Personification and 1 Non-Living Creature Personification in "Anti-Hero" song. There are two Abstraction personification in "Snow on The Beach" song, 1 Abstraction personification in "You're on Your Own, Kid". "Karma" song has 3 Abstraction personification and 1 Non-Living Creature Personification while "Mastermind" song has 1 Abstraction personification.

Discussion

Personification is a style of language that compares something that is not human, but the poet visualizes it as being like a human. In other words, personification is a style of language that describes something that is inanimate as if it has human characteristics. The analysis about the types of personification found in the *Midnights* album was represented by 8 data, it can be seen in the following discussion.

Datum 1

The lavender haze creeping up on me. (**Lavender Haze line 10**)

The lyric *lavender haze creeping up on me* can be interpreted in two ways. First, denotatively, based on Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, the noun lavender refers to a pale purple color, while the noun haze means air containing something. Second, figuratively, 'lavender haze' refers to the feeling deeply in love with someone. In this lyric, "lavender haze" is personified like a human who can creeping up. In order to convey her emotions over love, the author employed the abstraction personification in this lyric. The author gave human characteristics to the "lavender haze" as if the feeling of being deeply in love with someone can quietly move closer without being noticed.

Datum 2

When the morning came. (**Maroon line 1**)

The lyric *when the morning came* belong to the Abstraction Personification. The word *morning*, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, means the early part of the day from the time people wake up. In this data, the abstract object of morning denotes human actions, specifically moving toward a particular place. Since, the abstract object denotes the human action, this data belongs to the Abstraction personification.

Datum 3

And how the blood rushed into my cheeks. (**Maroon line 15**)

The lyric *and how the blood rushed into my cheeks* belong to the Abstraction Personification. The word *blood*, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, the red liquid that flows through the bodies of humans, meanwhile, the word *rushed* refers to moving with a great speed. In this data, the object *blood* denotes human actions, precisely the act of moving with a great speed into her cheeks. In this lyric, the author wants to show that she experienced shyness when engaging with others.

Datum 4

The rust that grew between telephones. (**Maroon line 18**)

The lyric *The rust that grew between telephones* belongs to the Non-Living Creature Personification. The word *rust*, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, a red-brown substance that is formed on some metals by the action of water and air meanwhile, the word *grew* refers to the increase in size, number, strength or quality. The object rust in this data represents a human characteristic, precisely the capacity to expand in size. The hidden message conveyed by the author in this lyric is that she has experienced a long-distance relationship that eventually ended due to the distance. This lyric is classified as the Non-Living Creature Personification, as it depicts rust, a non-living object, as the subject that symbolizes human characteristics.

Datum 5

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

The lyric *When my depression works the graveyard shift* belongs to the Abstraction Personification. The word *depression*, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, a medical condition in which a person feels very sad, anxious and without hope meanwhile, the word *work* refers to do something that involves physical or mental effort, especially as part of a job. The song attributes a human trait to the noun "depression," particularly the capacity to engage in activities requiring physical or mental activity, especially in the context of work. This lyric demonstrates abstraction personification, portraying depression, an abstract concept, as an actor performing human actions. This lyric shows how depression affects the author's life during the late hours of night and the early hours of morning.

Datum 6

And time can't stop me quite like you did. (**Snow on The Beach line 6**)

The lyric *And time can't stop me quite like you did* belongs to the Abstraction Personification. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, the word *time* is measured in minutes, hours, days, etc.; meanwhile, the word *stop* refers to to make somebody/something no longer move. In this lyric, the abstract object of time is attributed to human action by the author. In particular, the song attributes a human quality to the abstract noun "time". Time was contrasted with the capacity of another individual to stop the author's actions. This lyric illustrates abstraction personification by depicting time, an abstract concept, as an actor who performs human actions. This lyric shows the feeling of love that is uncontrollable and experienced by two individuals simultaneously.

Datum 7

Summer went away, still, the yearning stays. (**You're On Your Own, Kid, line 1**)

The lyric *Summer went away, still, the yearning stays* belongs to the Abstraction Personification. There are two abstract nouns in this lyric that attributes human actions, namely, *summer* and *yearning*. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's online dictionary, the word *summer* is the warmest season of the year, coming between spring and autumn. The noun *yearning* refers to a strong emotional desire. These two abstract nouns denote human action, namely *went away* and *stay*. The verb *went away* means to leave a person or a place meanwhile, the verb *stay* means to continue to be in a particular place for a period of time without moving away. These two verbs showed opposing action. In this lyric, the abstract noun of summer and yearning are attributed human action by the author. In particular, the song attributes a human quality to the

abstract noun "summer" and "yearning". Summer attributes human action to leave a person. Meanwhile yearning shows the action of remain in a specific location. This lyric represents the feeling of the author experience of summer romance that she continues reliving.

Datum 8

Strategy sets the scene for the tale. (**Mastermind, line 22**)

The lyric *Strategy sets the scene for the tale* belongs to the Abstraction Personification. According to Oxford Advanced Learner Online Dictionary, strategi refers to a plan that is intended to achieve a particular purpose. This abstract concept attributes human action, namely *sets*, which refers to preparing or arranging something to be ready for use or position. *Strategy* attributes human action to organize or set up the scene for the tale. In this lyric the songwriter articulates her approach to managing her romantic relationships.

CONCLUSION

The final result of the data analysis of the personification contained in Taylor Swift's 7 selected songs: "Lavender Haze" contains 1 instance of Abstraction Personification, "Maroon" features 3 instances of Abstraction Personification and 1 instance of Non-Living Creature Personification, while "Anti-Hero" includes 1 instance of Abstraction Personification and 1 instance of Non-Living Creature Personification. There are two instances of abstraction personification in the song "Snow on the Beach" and one instance in "You're on Your Own, Kid." The song "Karma" contains three instances of abstraction personification and one instance of non-living creature personification, whereas the song "Mastermind" features one instance of abstraction personification.

The songwriter articulated his/her emotions by attributing human traits to live entities, inanimate objects, and abstract concepts. It can be regarded as the songwriter's techniques to enhance the aesthetic of the message given through the lyrics. It assists the songwriter in crafting a more memorable and captivating composition. It serves to convey emotion and narrate stories artistically. Figurative language enhances the significance of the message conveyed through the music lyrics.

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