

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED SONGS OF ARIANA GRANDE'S ALBUM : ETERNAL SUNSHINE

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### **Abstract**

*This research examines the use of figurative language in selected songs from Ariana Grande's "Eternal Sunshine" album. The primary objective is to analyze the figurative expressions through a detailed lyrical analysis. The analysis categorizes the figurative language into four main types: simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. The findings indicate that metaphors are the most prevalent, with 18 occurrences, followed by hyperboles with 9 occurrences, personifications with 4 occurrences, and similes with 3 occurrences, totaling 34 instances of figurative language. These literary devices enhance the emotional and thematic depth of the music, fostering a deeper connection between the listeners and the material. This study contributes to understanding the role of figurative language in contemporary music and highlights the artistic intricacies in Ariana Grande compositions. Employing a descriptive qualitative methodology, the research focuses on five specific tracks from the album, underscoring the significance of figurative language in songwriting.*

**Keywords :** Figurative Language, Ariana Grande, "Eternal Sunshine"

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In modern music discussions, artists utilize a range of methods to convey emotions, stories, and feelings through their songs. Among these artists is Ariana Grande, recognized for her unique vocal talent and heartfelt songwriting. With the release of each new album, Grande extends an invitation to listeners to explore her inner world, where personal experiences and emotions are shared through the medium of music. One recent example of this is Grande's album "Eternal Sunshine." Beyond its surface appeal, "Eternal Sunshine" delves into deep lyricism, offering nuanced portrayals of emotions and themes. Grande skillfully employs language that paints vivid images and conveys complex feelings, enhancing the listening experience.

This research aims to systematically explore the use of expressive language within "Eternal Sunshine." Through this academic inquiry, author's hope to deepen understanding of Grande's artistic expression and the impact of her music on its audience.

The previous study which was related to the present research, firstly (Arifah, 2016, pp.43-53) analyzed the figurative language in five John Legend Songs. As a result, it was found that hiperbole is the type of figurative language that is used the most in total. A study conducted by (Marliani, 2018), which analyzed the figurative language in Harri' song. It was found that figurative language predominantly used metaphor and personification.

Therefore, this study's purpose generally is to find out types of the figurative language used in selected songs of Ariana Grande's album: Eternal Sunshine. This study also intended to find out which type of figurative language more dominant used in the lyrics and some of the implications. Findings in this study were categorized into four main types of figurative language: (1) Simile, (2) Metaphor, (3) Personification, and (4) Hyperbole.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

According to (Creswell, 2003) qualitative research is research that uses more words than numbers. In other words, quantitative research is research that cannot be counted. Qualitative research is used as a tool to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups that can be social or human problems. This study utilized a descriptive qualitative approach as the data consisted of text and lyrics from Ariana Grande's songs containing various forms of figurative language. Data collection was conducted through document analysis, focusing on analyzing figurative language in five songs: "intro (end of the new world)", "supernatural", "the boy is mine", "we can't be friends (wait for your love)", and "i wish i hated you" from Grande's "Eternal Sunshine"

album. Following data collection, the researcher classified and coded the figurative language types. Data analysis involved reading and observing figurative language usage in the songs, with the researcher listing and analyzing the data found in the album. The figurative meanings were then analyzed to provide clear definitions.

## FINDING

1. Figurative language in *intro (end of the new world)* song

No.	Types	Lyrics
1.	Metaphor	If the sun refused to shine Baby, would I still be your lover?
		If the moon went dark tonight And if it all ended tomorrow
		Felt in your bones
2.	Hyperbole	Then I had this interaction I've been thinking 'bout for like five weeks
3.	Simile	Judging me like I am right now
4.	Personification	If the sun refused to shine

This song is the opening track to Ariana Grande's eternal sunshine album. The song introduces the album with questions about romantic relationships. The singer asks deep questions about whether their partner would still think about them if things got tough. Through these questions, they show how important it is to talk openly and seek reassurance in relationships. Overall, the song explores themes of love, trust, and uncertainty, giving us a peek into what makes relationships work. In the song Intro: "End of the New World," various figurative language techniques are employed.

In table 1, data shows that hyperbole is present in the exaggerated notion of feeling something "in your bones" to signify certainty and the hypothetical scenario where "the sun refused to shine," representing an impossible event. A simile can be identified in "judging me like I am right now," where the comparison highlights the parallel nature of judgment without using "as." Personification is used when the sun and

moon are attributed to human-like actions, with the sun refusing to shine. Lastly, the metaphor of the world ending tomorrow illustrates the depth of questioning the stability and future of the relationship.

## 2. Figurative language in Supernatural song

No	Types	Lyrics
1.	Simile	Need your hands all up on my body Like the moon needs the stars.
2.	Metaphor	It's like supernatural.
3.	Personification	This love's possessing me.
4.	Hyperbole	Don't wanna fight the fall

This song Supernatural is a song about a serious and charming adore, coming about in an overpowering and enchanted feeling. In her lyrics, Ariana Grande depicts how sentiments for an accomplice make her feel like something supernatural or beyond the natural. She depicts a solid want to be with that accomplice, as well as how their adoration encompasses an overwhelming control and influences her as an entirement.

In table 2, the simile "Need your hands all up on my body like the moon needs the stars" illustrates a deep yearning for physical touch by comparing it to the interdependent relationship between the moon and stars, emphasizing the necessity and intimacy of the connection. The metaphor "It's like supernatural" conveys that the described experience transcends ordinary reality, entering an extraordinary realm, thereby highlighting its intense and rare nature, evoking wonder and awe. Personification is evident in the phrase "This love's possessing me," where love is given human-like qualities of possession, underscoring the overwhelming and dominating influence of the emotion, as if it were an entity with its own power and intentions. Lastly, the hyperbole "don't wanna fight the fall" exaggerates the inevitability and intensity of falling in love, likening it to an uncontrollable descent, thus emphasizing the overwhelming force of love and the futility of resisting it.

3. Figurative language in *the boy is mine* song

No.	Types	Lyrics
1.	Metaphor	I can't wait to try him
		But I don't wanna 'cause no scene
		The boy is divine
2.	Hyperbole	I can't believe my mind
		But I can't ignore my heart, boy

In table 3, metaphors in the song "The Boy Is Mine" highlight various aspects of attraction and emotional conflict. The metaphor "I can't wait to try him" suggests a sense of anticipation and desire, comparing the potential relationship to something that can be sampled or experienced. "But I don't wanna 'cause no scene" metaphorically indicates a wish to avoid causing a disturbance or confrontation, emphasizing the desire for a smooth and drama-free approach. Additionally, "The boy is divine" elevates the object of affection to a god-like status, suggesting exceptional qualities and near-perfection. Hyperbole is evident in phrases such as "I can't believe my mind," which exaggerates the speaker's disbelief and surprise at their own thoughts or perceptions, indicating a profound internal conflict. Similarly, "But I can't ignore my heart, boy" underscores the overpowering nature of emotions, suggesting that the speaker's heart exerts such a strong influence that it cannot be disregarded, emphasizing the intensity of their feelings. Notably, there are no instances of simile or personification in the analyzed lyrics.

4. Figurative language in *we can't be friends (wait for your love)* song

No	Types	Lyrics
1.	Metaphor	We can't be friends
		I don't wanna tiptoe, but I don't wanna

		hide
		But I don't wanna feed this monstrous fire
		You cling to your papers and pens
		Cause I don't wanna argue, but I don't wanna bite
		I don't like how you paint me, yet I'm still here hanging
		But I feel so seen in the night
		Me and my truth, we sit in silence
2..	Personification	Just wanna let this story die, and I'll be alright
3.	Hyperbole	My tongue, yeah, I think I'd rather die
4.	Simile	It's something like a daydream

In table 4, the song "We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)" employs various forms of figurative language to convey complex emotions and situations. Metaphors such as "We can't be friends" and "I don't wanna tiptoe, but I don't wanna hide" articulate the tension and impossibility of a platonic relationship while expressing a desire to avoid secrecy and pretenses. The metaphor "But I don't wanna feed this monstrous fire" depicts the relationship's escalating conflicts as a monstrous fire, indicating the potential for destruction. "You cling to your papers and pens" symbolizes a reliance on writing as a means of coping or expression, while "I don't like how you paint me, yet I'm still here hanging" criticizes a misrepresented portrayal by the other person, yet signifies persistence despite the negative depiction. Additionally, "But I feel so seen in the night" metaphorically conveys a sense of vulnerability and visibility during private moments, and "Me and my truth, we sit in silence" personifies truth as a companion in silent reflection.

Personification appears in "Just wanna let this story die, and I'll be alright," where the act of allowing a story to die gives it life-like qualities, emphasizing the speaker's

need to move on. Hyperbole is found in "My tongue, yeah, I think I'd rather die," exaggerating the reluctance to speak or confront issues to the point of preferring death over discourse. Lastly, the simile "It's something like a daydream" likens the experience to a daydream, suggesting a sense of unreality or escapism.

5. Figurative language in *i wish i hated you* song

No	Types	Lyrics
1.	Metaphor	Hoping life brings you no new pain
		I try to rewrite our life
		So close and yet so far
2.	Personification	Our shadows dance in a parallel plane
3.	Hyperbole	I wish you were worse to me
		I wish I hated you
		I wish that weren't true
		Wish there was worse to you

In table 5, the song employs a variety of figurative language to convey complex emotions and scenarios. Metaphors such as "Hoping life brings you no new pain" and "I try to rewrite our life" depict life and relationships as something that can inflict pain or be rewritten, suggesting an attempt to alter or mitigate past experiences. "So close and yet so far" is another metaphor that captures the paradoxical feeling of proximity and distance in a relationship, highlighting the emotional gap despite physical closeness.

Personification is used effectively in the line "Our shadows dance in a parallel plane," attributing the human action of dancing to shadows, which emphasizes the connection and interaction between the two individuals on a metaphorical level, suggesting an ethereal or intangible bond.

Hyperbole is evident in phrases like "I wish you were worse to me," "I wish I hated you," "I wish that weren't true," and "Wish there was worse to you." These expressions

exaggerate the speaker's emotional turmoil and desire for stronger negative feelings to justify their hurt, highlighting the intensity and complexity of their inner conflict. Notably, there are no instances of simile in the analyzed lyrics.

The researchers analyze the chosen song : “intro (end of the new world)”, “supernatural”, “the boy is mine”, “we can’t be friends (wait for your love)”, and “i wish i hated you” from Grande's "Eternal Sunshine" album, by categorize all with the figurative language. The finding shows that the use of figurative language in “Eternal Sunshine” by Ariana Grande is 34 data.

Table 6 : Figurative Language in Ariana’s Song

No.	Figurative Language	Frequency
1.	Simile	3
2.	Metaphor	18
3.	Personification	4
4.	Hyperbole	9
<b>Total Data</b>		34

## DISCUSSION

### **Simile**

*"Judging me like I am right now"* (Intro: End of the New World)

The lyrics above explicitly compares the act of judgment to a current situation, the usage of the term "like" makes it fall within the simile category. This analogy highlights the speaker's instant and perhaps strict supervision. Here, the analogy is used to illustrate the weight of judgment and how it affects the speaker's emotional condition.

*"Need your hands all up on my body like the moon needs the stars"* (Supernatural)

The simile “Need your hands all up on my body like the moon needs the stars” compares the desire for physical contact to the mutually beneficial interaction between the moon and stars, illuminating a profound need for touch. This analogy emphasizes the closeness and necessity of the relationship, highlighting how important and natural the singer perceives this contact to be.

*"It's something like a daydream"* (We Can't Be Friends)

A sensation of unreality or escape is suggested by the simile "It's something like a daydream," which compares the experience to a daydream. Ariana expresses how strange and disconnected the experience feels from the terrible realities they are facing by drawing a comparison between the scenario and a daydream.

### **Metaphor**

*"If the sun refused to shine"* (Intro: End of the New World)

The metaphor "If the sun refused to shine" raises doubts about a relationship's stability by imagining an impossibility. This allegory emphasizes how deeply unclear things are in the relationship and how much assurance is needed. It emphasizes the seriousness and improbability of such an event by drawing a comparison between a failed relationship and the sun not shining.

*"It's like supernatural"* (Supernatural)

This lyrics is a metaphor that suggests the experience being described is outside the realm of conventional reality. The speaker's love is elevated to a level above common experience by this allegory of the supernatural, which highlights how remarkable and intense it is.

*"The boy is divine"* (The Boy Is Mine)

The expression "The boy is divine" is a metaphor that compares the object of one's adoration to a god, implying extraordinary attributes and almost flawlessness. This metaphor emphasizes how highly the speaker regards the boy and serves to express their awe for him.

### **Personification**

*"If the sun refused to shine"* (Intro: End of the New World)

Personification is employed in the sentence "If the sun refused to shine," where the sun is blamed for the human-like behavior of refusing. This heightens the lyric's emotional power by giving the impression that the natural world is capable of deliberate action, which furthers the relationship's sense of ambiguity and doubt.

*"This love's possessing me"* (Supernatural)

Personification *"This love's possessing me"* highlights the tremendous and all-encompassing power of the emotion by giving love the human-like attribute of possession. It highlights the speaker's helplessness and the intensity of love, implying that love has a strong hold on them.

*"Our shadows dance in a parallel plane"* (I Wish I Hated You)

The lyrics *"Our shadows dance in a parallel plane"* ascribes human movement to shadows. This suggests a connection that transcends the material world and gives the relationship a deeper level by evoking an ethereal or intangible bond between the two people.

### **Hyperbole**

*"Then I had this interaction I've been thinking 'bout for like five weeks"* (Intro: End of the New World)

The speaker exaggerates the length and intensity of their thoughts on an interaction by using the hyperbole *"I've been thinking 'bout for like five weeks."* This exaggeration highlights the intensity of the speaker's obsession with the interaction and underscores how important and profound it was.

*Don't wanna fight the fall"* (Supernatural)

The overstatement *"Don't wanna fight the fall"* highlights how intense and inevitable falling in love is. The speaker highlights their total surrender to the emotion by emphasizing the overpowering force of love and the futility of resisting it by comparing it to an uncontrollable descent.

*"I can't believe my mind"* (The Boy Is Mine)

The hyperbole *"I can't believe my mind"* conveys the speaker's shock and bewilderment at their own ideas or observations. This highlights their deep internal turmoil and the depth of their emotions, giving them an almost incredible sense of reality.

### **Conclusion**

Using an analysis of Ariana Grande's album *"Eternal Sunshine,"* this study was able to recognise and classify the many kinds of metaphorical language that were utilized in the lyrics of certain songs. The analysis showed that personifications, similes, metaphors, and exaggerations were frequently used throughout the record, all of which

enhanced the songs' emotional and thematic richness. The results highlight how important figurative language is for improving lyrical expression and developing a stronger connection with listeners. Grande's lyrics enhance the whole listening experience by evoking complex emotions and vivid pictures using inventive language and innovative comparisons. This study advances our knowledge of metaphorical language in modern music while also highlighting the subtle artistic elements of Grande's compositions.

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