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Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya

SKRIPSI

**A STYLISTICS ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE
LANGUAGE IN BILLIE EILISH'S SONG LYRICS
LUNCH, THE GREATEST AND WISH YOU WERE
GAY**

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**PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS
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2026**

**A STYLISTICS ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE
LANGUAGE IN BILLIE EILISH'S SONG LYRICS
LUNCH, THE GREATEST AND WISH YOU WERE
GAY**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**Presented for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Undergraduate in English Education Department of
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ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF EDUCATION COMMUNICATION AND SCIENCE

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURABAYA

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Motto :

“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today”

(Selena Gomez)

Dedication

I dedicate this thesis as an expression of my deepest gratitude and thanks.

1. To my beloved Mother, thank you for loving and guiding me so firmly. I know now that all your scolding was just your way of caring, worrying, and praying for my future.
2. To my late beloved Father, though I can no longer hold you, your love and memories will always remain in my heart. This thesis is my gift of promise and devotion to you. May you smile with pride in your peaceful rest by the god side.
3. To the extended Soepardi famil, thank you for the warmth, prayers, togetherness, and support that have always served as a sanctuary and strengthened my resolve.
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LEMBAR PERSETUJUAN PEMBIMBING

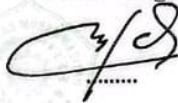
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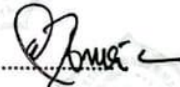
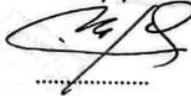
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PERNYATAAN TIDAK MELAKUKAN PLAGIASI

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ABSTRACT

Masruroh, Nurul Ina. (2026). *A Stylistics Analysis of Figurative Language in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics: Lunch, The Greatest, and Wish You Were Gay*. Undergraduated Thesis. English Education Department, Education, Communication, and Science Faculty, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Supervisors:
(1) Dr. Drs. H. Wijayadi, M.Pd., (2) Sri Lestari, S.Pd., M.Hum.

This study identifies the types of figurative language and explains how their distinct stylistic patterns construct themes in three selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish: "*Lunch*," "*The Greatest*," and "*Wish You Were Gay*". Adopting a descriptive qualitative research design grounded in the stylistic frameworks of Leech (1969) and Leech & Short (2007), this research treats popular lyrics as sophisticated literary-linguistic artifacts. The findings reveal that stylistic variation in Eilish's songwriting is highly theme-dependent, selected precisely to match specific psychological and emotional registers. In "*Lunch*," metaphor is the most dominant device, supported by personification, to frame intense physical desire and self-exploration through concrete culinary imagery. In "*The Greatest*," the stylistic pattern shifts to situational irony and hyperbole to convey the heavy mental burden, frustration, and unrewarded sacrifice of a draining, one-sided relationship. In "*Wish You Were Gay*," hyperbole combined with irony and simile serves as a psychological ego-defense mechanism to cope with interpersonal rejection and protect the speaker's self-esteem. Overall, this study demonstrates that Eilish's figurative language is not merely ornamental but functions as a precise linguistic instrument that achieves thematic coherence, emotional intensification, and cognitive resonance. These findings reinforce the validity of contemporary popular music as a legitimate object of rigorous stylistic and applied linguistic inquiry.

Keywords: *Billie Eilish, Figurative Language, Stylistics.*

ABSTRAK

Masruroh, Nurul Ina. (2026). A Stylistics Analysis of Figurative Language in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics: Lunch, The Greatest, and Wish You Were Gay. Skripsi. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Pembimbing: (1) Dr. Drs. H. Wijayadi, M.Pd., (2) Sri Lestari, S.Pd., M.Hum.

Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa figuratif dan menjelaskan bagaimana pola stilistikanya yang khas membangun tema dalam tiga lirik lagu terpilih karya Billie Eilish, yaitu "Lunch," "The Greatest," dan "Wish You Were Gay". Dengan menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif deskriptif yang berlandaskan kerangka stilistika Leech (1969) serta Leech & Short (2007), penelitian ini memperlakukan lirik lagu populer sebagai artefak literer-linguistik yang kompleks. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa variasi stilistika dalam penulisan lagu Eilish sangat bergantung pada tema, dipilih secara cermat untuk menyesuaikan register psikologis dan emosional tertentu. Dalam lagu "Lunch," metafora menjadi gaya bahasa yang paling dominan, didukung oleh personifikasi, untuk menggambarkan hasrat fisik yang intens serta eksplorasi diri melalui citraan kuliner yang konkret. Dalam lagu "The Greatest," pola stilistika beralih pada ironi situasional dan hiperbola untuk menyampaikan beban mental yang berat, rasa frustrasi, serta pengorbanan yang tidak terbalas dalam sebuah hubungan yang melelahkan dan bertepuk sebelah tangan. Dalam lagu "Wish You Were Gay," hiperbola yang dipadukan dengan ironi dan simile berfungsi sebagai mekanisme pertahanan ego secara psikologis untuk menghadapi penolakan interpersonal dan melindungi harga diri sang penutur. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa bahasa figuratif dalam karya Eilish bukan sekadar unsur ornamental, melainkan berfungsi sebagai instrumen linguistik yang presisi untuk mencapai koherensi tematik, intensifikasi emosional, dan resonansi kognitif. Temuan-temuan ini memperkuat validitas musik populer kontemporer sebagai objek kajian stilistika dan linguistik terapan yang layak diteliti secara mendalam.

Kata Kunci: *Billie Eilish, Bahasa Figuratif, Stilistika.*

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The author acknowledges that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly welcomed to facilitate future improvements. Finally, it is hoped that this thesis will prove beneficial to the advancement of knowledge and to readers in general.

Surabaya, August 8th 2026

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Nurul Ina Masruroh
NIM. 20221111012

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