

## AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND ON THE ALBUM ENTITLED “WONDER” BY SHAWN MENDES

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### Abstract

The objective of this study is to find the types of figurative language in the song lyrics on the album *Wonder* by Shawn Mendes. This study used descriptive qualitative methods to represent the data. The results of the figurative language analysis in the song lyrics on the album *Wonder* by Shawn Mendes indicated that there are seven types of figurative language found in the song lyrics. The types of figurative language are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, repetition, and imagery. The most common figurative language found is hyperbole as many as 18 data and the fewest type of figurative language found is personification, there is only 1 data. Other types of figurative language are 2 data of simile, 11 data of metaphor, 4 data of alliteration, 4 data of repetition, and 3 data of imagery. The most figurative language was found in the song “Monster” namely simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and repetition. The song that found the fewest figurative language is the song “Wonder”, there is one type, it is repetition.

**Keyword** - *figurative language, song, type*

### Introduction

Song is one of many ways for an artist or people in particular to how they would like to express their feelings. Back in the day it may seem as simple as that, but these days it slightly better than ever. With the idea of not so many people good on singing, becoming a singer is a solid path for a job because it helps people to get those essence of singing which in this context is to expressing feelings. Many people become a singer with the hope of something they want to achieve by becoming so. It could be money, as an actual job or it could also be fame for those self-centre people out there which elaborate pretty well on how huge the demand for the need for a song. Either way, song has been massively produced ever since it was commercialize at the very first time and become an entire entertainment industry that is very commonly found on our daily basis as a human to the point where people cannot really imagine on living a life in a world without music. Well since song itself were based on some sentence that may had several meaning depending on the interpretation, we would likely to bring up the discussion into the perspective of linguistic. In linguistics, Semantics is the study of meaning in language. It can be applied to entire text or single words. It concerns with the relation of linguistics forms to non-linguistics concepts and representation in order to explain how sentence are understood by the speaker of a language.

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Many experts have provided an understanding of semantics. According to Kambartel (in Baurek, 1979:195) semantics assumes that language consists of structures that display meaning when related to objects in the experience of the human world. Pursuant to Lehrer (1974:1) semantics is a very broad fields of study. Because it also alludes to aspects of the structure and function of language so that it can be linked to psychology, philosophy and anthropology. Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics (palmer, 1981:1).

Just like what being mentioned earlier, the one of the central issues with semantics is the figurative language. Figurative of words or phrase used not with their basic meaning but with a more imaginative meaning, in order to create a special effect. Language is a system of communication consisting of sounds, words, and grammar. So, figurative language means utilizes similes and metaphors to represent meaning and convey greater. Based on our own understanding, figurative language can be noticed when a writer describes something by comparing it with something else. It is the idea of writing that goes from the actual meaning words at face value to get special meaning. As stated by Giroux and Williston (1974:10) figurative language is a language which departs from the straight forward use of the word. It makes writing more interesting and colourful. Each language has its own idiomatic way of expressing meaning through lexical item such as idioms, metaphor, and figurative meaning. Since as mentioned before we talked about how music influenced human on this day, it is also necessary to understand the factual origin of song itself. The history of the development of music cannot be separated from the development of human culture. This is because music is one of the results of human culture in addition to science, architecture, language and literature, and so on. According to Banoe (2003:288), music comes from the word muse, which is one of the gods in ancient Greek mythology for the arts and sciences; god of arts and sciences. In addition, he also argues that music is a branch of art that discusses and assigns various sounds into patterns that can be understood and understood by humans. Meanwhile, according to Jamalus (1988:1), music is a work of art in the form of sound in the form of a song or composition that expresses the thoughts and feelings of the creator through the main elements of music, namely rhythm, melody, harmony, and the form or structure of the song and expression as a unit. Furthermore, Sylado (1983:12) says that music is a time to be heard. Music is a living form of time, which is a collection of illusions and sounds. Music that contains a series of soulful tones will be able to move the hearts of the listeners.

Now, let's talk about the main data that will be extracted as the result for this paper. So, we are very interested on Shawn Mendes and choose to analyse his work. But before that we should know who he is to give the idea of familiarity and relevancy toward the reader. Shawn Peter Raul Mendes born on August 8, 1998. He is a Canadian singer and songwriter. He gained a following in 2013, posting song covers on the video-sharing application called Vine. He caught the attention of artist manager Andrew Gertler and island records A&R Ziggy Chareton to record label. Mendes's self titled debut EP was released in 2014. The single 'Stitches' reached number one in the UK and the top 10 in the US and Canada. His second album *Illuminate* (2016) also debuted at number one in the US, with singles "Treat You Better" and "There's Nothing Holdin Me Back". His fourth studio album, *wonder* (2020) made Mendes the youngest male artist ever to top the Billboard 200 with four studio albums.

This research analyses about figurative language in album *wonder* by Shawn Mendes. There are many types to figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, repetition, and imagery. This is interesting since Shawn Mendes was a very well known as a male singer that really put his own feeling which by some people feels not so match and considered different from any other male singer. We believe that by

choosing Shawn Mendes’ album we would find many interesting lyrics that we could breakdown and analyse as a perfect sample for this paperwork.

Based on the background of the study above, the study has two problems:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the songs from the album *Wonder*?
2. How is the process of analysing figurative language in the song lyrics?

## Methods

The data source is taken from the album entitled *Wonder* by Shawn Mendes. The album was released through Island Records on December 4, 2021, and there are fourteen songs on this album. The writers used ten of fourteen songs, they are *Wonder*, *Higher*, *24 Hours*, *Teach Me How to Love*, *Call My Friends*, *Dream*, *Song for No One*, *Monster*, *305* and *Always Been You*.

The study used descriptive qualitative methods to represent the data. The researchers chose this method because it helps the researchers explain, analyse, and classify the type of figurative language found in Shawn Mendes' newest album entitled “Wonder”.

In analysing the data in this study, the researchers does three steps as follow: (1) the researchers searched for the lyrics on Google then transcript it, (2) the researchers then read the song lyrics repeatedly and intensively in order to find figurative language used in the album, after that the researchers mark the line or words that classified as figurative language, (3) last the researchers group the data based on their types of figurative language to be analysed using the theory applied in this study.

## Finding and Discussion

### Finding

Based on the analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics on the album “Wonder” by Shawn Mendes, there are seven types of figurative language found. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, repetition, and imagery. Table 1 Figurative Language Found in The Album *Wonder* by Shawn Mendes.

Figurative Language	S.1	S.2	S.3	S.4	S.5	S.6	S.7	S.8	S.9	S.10	Total Data
Simile				1				1			2
Metaphor			2					1	7	1	11
Hyperbole		2	3	2		1		2	2	6	18
Personification								1			1
Alliteration					2	1	1				4
Repetition	2	3		2	1	2	2	3		1	16
Imagery		1			1		1				3
<b>TOTAL</b>											<b>55</b>

Based on the table above, it indicates that the total of figurative language found in the song lyrics on the album “Wonder” by Shawn Mendes are 55 data. There are 2 data for simile, 11 data for metaphor, 18 data for hyperbole, 1 data for personification, 4 data for alliteration,

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16 data for repetition, and 3 data for imagery. The most data found is hyperbole and the fewest data found is personification. The song that found the most figurative language is the song "Monster", there are five types. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and repetition. The song that found the fewest figurative language is the song "Wonder", there is one type. It is repetition.

## Discussion

### A. Simile

**Data 1:** (Song 4: Teach Me How to Love)

Ooh, your body's like an ocean<sup>1</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *your body's like an ocean* includes simile because it equates someone's body with the ocean and there is the word *like* is used for the parable of the two objects. Body and the ocean are two different things. Body is the physical structure of a person including the bones, flesh, and organs. Meanwhile, the ocean is a huge expanse of sea that is beautiful and looks natural. The singer wants to express that the body of the person loves is beautiful and natural.

**Data 2:** (Song 8: Monster) I'll take responsibility for everything I've done<sup>19</sup>

Holdin' it against me like you're the holy one<sup>20</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *holdin' it against me like you're the holy one* above is simile because it equates the behaviour of people who blame the singer excessively when he makes a mistake as if they were most righteous people like saints. Saint is a very virtuous, kind, or patient person. There is the word *like* as a parable.

### B. Metaphor

**Data 3:** (Song 3: 24 Hours) I'll bet it all, **you're bulletproof**<sup>7</sup>

**Analysis:** In line 7, the sentence *you're bulletproof* above is metaphor because it compares two things, *you* and *bulletproof* which are two different things. Bulletproof designed to withstand bullet penetration which means the object is very strong. The singer used the word *bulletproof* because he wants to tell someone he loves that she can withhold utterance from other people who may not approve of their wedding plans.

**Data 4:** (Song 3: 24 Hours)

But I want to come home to you<sup>4</sup>

**Analysis:** The lyric above is metaphor. The expression is classified as a metaphor because it describes the parable between *home* and *you*. Home is the place where one lives permanently. The singer used the word *home* for *you*, someone he loves, because he wants to express that when he is with her, he feels comfortable, calm, happy, safe, and feels warm too.

**Data 5:** (Song 8: Monster)

Then am I the monster?<sup>8</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence above is metaphor because the singer compares himself to the monster where he and the monster are two different things. Monster is imaginary creatures that are usually big, evil, and scary. The singer uses the word *monster* because he thinks that he is evil. The sentence *then am I the monster?* In the form of a question because the singer has doubts about his thought therefore, he wants to ask someone to ensure if he is the monster.

**Data 6:** (Song 9: 305) Baby, **you're the key**<sup>34</sup>

**Analysis:** The lyric above belongs the figurative language of metaphor because the singer compares *you* and *key*. *You* and *key* are two different things. *You* is the person the singer loves, meanwhile the *key* is a small piece of shaped metal with incisions lock, which is inserted into a lock and turned to open or close it. The singer used this word because he believes that someone, he loves is his problem solver that being symbolise as a key.

**Data 7:** (Song 10: Always Been You)

The boy who's really underneath<sup>12</sup>

All the scars and insecurities, baby<sup>13</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *The boy who's really underneath* when it comes to a context, the word underneath that combined with the following emotion from the sentence *All the scars and insecurities* which are scars or trauma and insecurities is supporting underneath as some sort of metaphor that indicating the singer's feeling out of the blue as his mind issue.

### C. Hyperbole

**Data 8:** (Song 2: Higher)

I'll kiss you every night<sup>18</sup>

**Analysis:** Line 18 in Higher song lyric by Shawn is classified as figurative language, hyperbole. Because the line *I'll kiss you every night* gives an exaggerated impression of the singer's desire to kiss someone he loves. The singer wants to show that he really loves that someone, therefore he wants to kiss her always.

**Data 9:** (Song 4: Teach Me How To Love)

I'm devoted to explore you<sup>2</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *I'm devoted to explore you* is the figurative language of hyperbole because based on the oxford learners the meaning of word *explore* travel through a country to learn about it. Therefore, it would be nonsensical because, it would be nonsensical because *you* is referring to a person or human which is not a place to explore. The singer used the word *explore* because he wants to know more about someone he loves.

**Data 10:** (Song 6: Dream)

All the separation<sup>28</sup>

Feeling suffocated<sup>29</sup>

**Analysis:** The lyric above is the figurative language of hyperbole. It is a hyperbole because it gives an exaggerated impression of what the singer feels when he is separated from someone he loves. It can be seen from line 28, *All the separation*. In the lyric of this song dream, the singer wants to show that he cannot live without someone he loves because he feels like he is lost his life.

**Data 11: (Song 9: 305)** Would take my heart with you<sup>7</sup> If you walked away<sup>8</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *Would take my heart with you* above is the figurative language of hyperbole because it does not make sense, how can someone carry a heart because it is an internal organ and when it separates from the body that means the person will die. Therefore, the sentence is hyperbole. The singer used this sentence because he wants to

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tell someone he loves that he really loves her and has given all his life to her, and when that someone leaves him then he will lose his life or feels very sad.

**Data 12:** (Song 10: Always Been You)

**Full of words** I don't know how to say<sup>2</sup>

**Analysis:** The moment where the singer feels that he has so many information that it made he felt full on his mouth leaving him with no ability to speak indicating a glorification on his own silence which means when it comes to something extra we would classified this as a **hyperbole**.

#### D. Personification

**Data 13:** (Song 8: Monster)

I was fifteen **when the world put me on a pedestal** <sup>14</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence in line 14 contains personification. Based on the oxford learners the meaning of word *world* is the earth, its countries and people. Therefore, the word *world* cannot put human on a pedestal because it has no hands. The singer wanted to show about how people are very quickly put him on a pedestal because of his success.

#### E. Alliteration

**Data 14:** (Song 5: Call My Friends)

I wanna go, nobody knows me better **than them**<sup>10</sup>

**Analysis:** Line in the lyric 10 have belongs the figurative language of Alliteration because its repeats the consonant **t** at the beginning of the words.

**Data 15:** (Song 5: Call My Friends)

I miss how it **was when we wished we were** older<sup>16</sup>

**Analysis:** Line 16 in Call My Friends by Shawn Mendes lyric by Shawn Mendes is classified as alliteration. Because the first sounds in words repeat consonant **w**.

**Data 16:** (Song 6: Dream)

I don't **wanna wake up without** you lying next to me<sup>25</sup>

**Analysis:** The lyric above has belonged the figurative language of Alliteration because its repeats the consonant **w** at the beginning of words.

**Data 17:** (Song 7: Song for No One)

**Said some** things that I **shouldn't** have <sup>19</sup>

**Analysis:** Line 19, the sentence *said some things I shouldn't have* belongs the figurative language of alliteration because it repeats the consonant **S** at the beginning of the words.

#### F. Repetition

**Data 18:** (Song 1: Wonder)

I wonder<sup>7</sup> I wonder <sup>8</sup>

**Analysis:** Lines 7 and 8 in wonder song lyric by Shawn are classified as figurative language, repetition. Because the singer here repeats not only one word but the whole clause twice. The singer repeats the clause *I wonder*, because he wants to emphasize that he is really curious how it feels when he is loved by someone he loves.

**Data 19:** (Song 2: Higher)

As long as we're together, no, I can't get much higher, **high, high**<sup>15</sup>

**Analysis:** Line 15 in Higher song lyric by Shawn is classified as figurative language, repetition. Because the singer here repeats the word *high* twice and the singer wants to emphasize that he is very happy when he is with someone he loves, so he feels that there is nothing greater and nothing higher when he is with her.

**Data 20:** (Song 4: Teach Me How To Love)

**Teach me, teach me, teach me** how to love<sup>15</sup>

**Analysis:** In line 15 includes the figurative language of repetition because there are the words repeated, it is *teach me* three times. The singer repeats these words because he wants to show that he is very ambitious to get someone he loves, he wants to fully study someone he loves, so he can love that someone well as he wants.

**Data 21:** (Song 7: Song for No One) Cause I'm with **someone**<sup>14</sup>

**Someone** I adore<sup>15</sup>

**Analysis:** In lines 14 and 15 contain another type of repetition because the singer repeats the word *someone* in both two lyrics of the song. Even if this may look as two different standalone lyrics, the idea of the word *someone* as the ending and starting word in these lyrics made them connected as a full context. The lyrics itself implies the idea that the singer wants to emphasize the word *someone* as a person that seems special for the singer himself.

**Data 22:** (Song 10: Always Been You)

It's always been you, it's always been you<sup>7</sup>

**Analysis:** In the sentence *It's always been you* is repetition because it repeats twice. The singer repeats the lyrics because he wants to emphasize that someone he loves has known him for a long time and knows a lot about him.

G. Imagery

**Data 23:** (Song 2: Higher)

The drinks are gettin' better, the view is lookin' nice<sup>14</sup>

**Analysis:** Line 14 in Higher song lyric by Shawn is classified as figurative language, imaginary. Because the line here made the listeners daydreaming about the drinks and the view there, that of course can only be feel with human sense, so the listeners need to use their imagination to feel what the singer means.

**Data 24:** (Song 5: Call My Friends)

The music's loud and everybody's dancing<sup>4</sup>

**Analysis:** The sentence *The music's loud and everybody's dancing* includes the figurative language of imagery. In sentence *The music's loud* is the type of auditory imagery because the word *loud* is a sound that can be heard by ear and the singer make the listeners imagine how noisy the music sounds in that place. In the sentence *everybody's dancing* is type of visual imagery because *everybody's dancing* can be seen by the eye and the listeners can image how people dance to the beat of the music.

**Data 25:** (Song 7: Song for No One)

Fly to **the most beautiful place** you've ever been<sup>11</sup>

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**Analysis:** The sentence in line 11 includes visual imagery because the phrase *the most beautiful place* is a location where it can be seen with the eyes and can bring the listeners to imagine on the beautiful places that is only exist in their own imagination. In this line shows that the singer goes to a place that has been visited by someone he loves because the singer thinks that when he goes to that place, he will feel someone he loves is near.

## Conclusion

With that all being said, we thought it safe to say that we would emphasize the idea of making paper work based on what we truly love and enjoy, music is one of many forms for it. By this paper, we really encourage everyone to analyse many other media as data source which not only made it into more modernize media to be paired with academical writing but also to evolve our knowledge as a blank canvas for fresher and more creative topic or ingredients to work with. Anyway, based on the results of the figurative language analysis which we found from the song lyrics on the album *Wonder* by Shawn Mendes, there are seven types of figurative language found in the song lyrics. The types of figurative language are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, repetition, and imagery. The most common figurative language found is hyperbole as many as 18 data and the fewest type of figurative language found is personification, there is only 1 data. Other types of figurative language, such as simile has 2 data, metaphor has 11 data, alliteration has 4 data, repetition has 4 data, and imagery has 3 data. The song that found the most figurative language is the song "Monster", there are five types. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and repetition. The song that found the fewest figurative language is the song "Wonder", there is one type. It is repetition. In the end of the day we felt very grateful as the fact that the modern music still has figurative aspect to it even though the way we listen to the song and the way the song was made has so much upgraded rather than how it used to be on the older era. It means that the essence of the piece of art will still remain forever.

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