

## An Analysis of Language Style in the Song "Youth"

Hernalia Citra Dewi<sup>1</sup>

Indraprasta University of PGRI

Email: [hernaliacitradewi18@gmail.com](mailto:hernaliacitradewi18@gmail.com)

Dwinesa Anggraeni<sup>2</sup>

Indraprasta University of PGRI

Email: [dwinesaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dwinesaa@yahoo.com)

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Submitted: April 30, 2024

Accepted: May 27, 2024

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze and describe the language style contained in the lyrics of the song "youth" sung by Troye Sivan in the *Blue Neighbourhood* Album. With this research, the author hopes that readers will increase their knowledge about the study of stylistics. In addition, this research is expected to be useful to add to the study of discourse in the field of literature, especially about language styles and types of language styles. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis, and the research technique used is literature study. After conducting research, the author can conclude that there are 5 types of language styles from a total of 12 types of language styles proposed by Arp and Johnson in his book *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry* (2002). The following are the details of the data that have been found in this study, namely: (a) hyperbole as much as 2 data (16.7%), (b) personification as much as 1 data (8.3%), (c) synecdoche as much as 2 data (16.7%), (d) paradox as much as 3 data (25%), (e) symbol as much as 1 data (8.3%). The most dominating use of language style is paradoxical language style as much as 3 data with a percentage of 25%, and the least is hyperbole and symbol language style as much as 1 data each with a percentage of 8.3%. Paradoxical language style is the most dominant language style found in the lyrics of the song "Youth". The use of this language style aims to give a deep meaning and give a poetic effect to the lyrics sung by Troye Sivan.

**Keywords:** *stylistics, language styles, song lyrics*

### INTRODUCTION

The discussion of language styles used in a literary work is always very interesting to study. This is because the possibilities presented in literary works are unlimited, as well as because of the diversity and beauty contained therein. Language style can be interpreted as a way to show one's ability to express something such as in dressing, writing, singing and so on. Meanwhile, the language style proposed by Keraf (2004: 113) is a way of expressing thoughts through language in a distinctive way that shows the soul and personality of the author. In other words, language style is the use of language by the author to show the character contained in him so that it has a difference with other people. The discussion of language style will not be separated from the study of stylistics. Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the analysis of language style. Verdonk (2002: 4) views stylistics as the

analysis of typical expressions in language to describe specific purposes and effects. Language in literary works is distinctive and thus different from language in non-literary works. For this reason, the analysis of literary language also requires special analysis. In this case, stylistics is needed as a discipline that specifically analyzes the language of literary texts.

The literary works in question are: poetry (including song lyrics), drama, and prose. These three types of literary works use a choice of language varieties that contain very high aesthetic elements because the writing uses a choice of words that are full of meaning. Song lyrics, which are included in poetry literature, are written works that contain an outpouring of personal feelings and sung words. So, lyrics can be interpreted almost the same as poetry but presented in an imaginative literary genre. This is in accordance with (Moeliono, 2003: 678) which states "Song lyrics belong to the *genre of poetry* literary works that contain an outpouring of personal feelings, the wording of a song". Lyrics are generally understood as verses that are usually sung with musical instruments. Kennedy and Gioia (2009: 10) describe the definition of lyrics quite clearly, that:

*"Originally, it's a Greek name suggests, a lyric was a poem sung to the music of a lyre. This earlier meaning, a poem made for singing, is still current today, when we use lyrics to mean the words of a popular song."*

Furthermore, they also added details about lyrics, namely lyrics are often defined as short poems that tell the thoughts or feelings of the author. Usually, the author will write the lyrics in the first person. Contemporary poets usually write poems or short verses to express their feelings and opinions about something. According to Kennedy and Gioia (2009: 166), words combined with music have a different effect than words without music or other instruments. It also adds to the meaning of the words. Nowadays, many song lyrics can be easily understood because of the lack of majas or poetic elements used by the author. However, the true meaning of the lyrics is not necessarily the same as what we can capture explicitly. Despite its simplicity, a song lyric, just like a poem, can have many different interpretations.

Song lyrics, like poetry, are a person's expression in their inner world about something they see, hear and experience. The pouring of expression through song lyrics will then be reinforced with sound, melody and musical notation that is adjusted to the lyrics of the song. The development of literary works has recently accelerated, especially in music. The art of music itself is a work presented in the form of sound. Music is the unity of notation, rhythm and sound arranged in such a

way as to be pleasing to the ear. Music is essentially a part of art that uses sound as its medium of creation. Although from time to time there are various sounds such as horns, motorcycle and car engines, cellphones, radios, televisions, tape recorders, and various other types of tools that make sounds around us, not all of them can be considered music because a piece of music must meet certain conditions. These conditions are a system that is supported by various components such as melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre (sound color), tempo, dynamics, and form, without which a sound cannot be called music.

Like other literary genres, music is also composed with a balanced harmony between lyrics and rhythm. In expressing his experience, the songwriter inserts a play on words to get his own characteristics for the song he created. This depends on what the poet wants to convey to the listener for both emotional and aesthetic reasons. The song he created will be able to influence the listener's emotions, whether in the form of feelings of happiness, sadness, empathy, excitement or other feelings. As for aesthetics, listeners can feel it through the use of implied language, the selection of appropriate diction and appropriate word varieties. This is where the power of language style is needed which aims to perfect the delivery of a song lyric to its listeners. The language style contained in song lyrics adds to the epic of a work of art. In addition to adding beauty, the use of language styles also aims to provide empathy to the listeners. The power of song lyrics can also provide positive or negative stimulus to its listeners, depending on the purpose of the songwriter itself.

The reason the author chose a song from Troye Sivan's album to be used as research material is because according to the author Troye Sivan is a multi-talented singer who can give life to each of his works. Every song on Troye Sivan's album can make the listener feel what he feels, he is able to convey his emotions well to the listeners, as for the reason the author prefers the *Blue Neighbourhood* album compared to Troye's other albums is because this is Troye Sivan's latest album and besides that this is also a turning point in Troye Sivan's career, this is Troye Sivan's first *full album* after Troye previously released 3 *mini albums*, namely *Dare to Dream* (2007), *June Haverly* (2012) and *TRXYE* (2014). The *full album Blue Neighborhood*, which was released in December 2015, contains 10 tracks in the genre of *electropop* and *dream pop*. Some of the mainstay *singles* on this album are "Wild" which is thick with *electro pop* nuances. This *single* will make listeners familiar with music in the mid-1980s. Another *single* is "Youth" which tells the story of Troye Sivan's youth with all its twists and turns. Through this album Troye received more international recognition from both fans and other singers. In addition, the song on this album also has a sad feel that Troye wants to convey to

his listeners. Troye also contributed a lot in making the songs on this album, this also makes the songs on this album more meaningful. In addition, the *genre* used in this song is also very unique and not limited to the *pop* nuances that tend to be widely used by young singers today. So that the songs sung by Troye Sivan do not sound monotonous and boring. In addition, the songs sung by Troye Sivan are also very *easy listening* and have a deep meaning. Based on this background, the author is interested in conducting research with the title Language Style Analysis in The Song "Youth" by Troye Sivan.

Based on this background, the author is interested in conducting research with the title Language Style Analysis in the song "Youth" by Troye Sivan. From the background description above, the author takes the problem formulation as follows: (1) What types of language styles are found in the lyrics of the song "Youth" by Troye Sivan? (2) What is the most dominant language style found in the lyrics of the song "Youth" by Troye Sivan?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### The Definition of Stylistics

One way to enjoy literature is through the study of stylistics. Stylistics is the study of the language style of a literary work. In accordance with the opinion of Endraswara (2003: 72) who says that "Stylistic research is based on the assumption that literary language has a noble task, literary language has a message of beauty and at the same time carries meaning". Without the beauty of language, literary works would be bland. The beauty of literary works is largely influenced by the author's ability to play with language. By definition, stylistics is the science that deals with style and stylistics. But it generally refers more to language style. So, in its broadest sense, stylistics is known as the science of style, encompassing the various ways in which human activities are carried out (Ratna, 2009: 167).

Stylistics is very important for linguistic studies and literary studies. Stylistics can contribute to stylistic research which is the main element to achieve various forms of meaning of literary works, because literary works cannot be separated from the use of language and beauty. Musthafa (2008: 51) argues that "Stylistics is the language style used by a person in expressing ideas through writing". Furthermore, a fairly comprehensive and representative definition of stylistics comes from Tuloli (2000: 6), who says that "Stylistics or the science of language style generally discusses the use of distinctive or special language, which is characteristic of a writer, literary genre or also a deviation from everyday language or from normal or standard language, and so on". Thus, it can be simply concluded that stylistics is a science that specifically reveals the use of distinctive language styles in literary works.

### **The Definition and types of Language Style**

Style can be interpreted as a way to show one's ability to express something as well as in dressing, writing, singing and so on. Meanwhile, the language style proposed by Keraf (2004: 113) is a way of expressing thoughts through language in a distinctive way that shows the soul and personality of the author. In other words, language style is the use of language by the author to show the character contained in him so that it has a difference with other people.

Before discussing the types of language styles or majas, it is necessary to first understand figurative language. According to Abrams (in umami, 2010) "Figurative language is a deviation from what the speaker of a language apprehends as the ordinary, or standard, significant or sequence of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect".

For example, the phrase buah tangan means souvenirs given by someone who has just traveled to their relatives or acquaintances. In English, we often hear the phrase "It's raining cats and dogs" which means it's raining very hard. When read or seen, the phrase "souvenirs" and the expression "It's raining cats and dogs" are very different in meaning. This is what is meant by figurative language.

In this research, the author will use Arp and Johnson's theory to discuss the majas contained in the lyrics of Troye Sivan's Youth. The following are the kinds of language styles or majas quoted from ARP and Johnson (2012: 73-105) in their book entitled *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*, namely: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, litotes, and irony.

### **The Definition of Song Lyrics**

Based on the definition taken from the online Oxford dictionary (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/defenition/song>). A song is "A short poem or other set of words set to music or meant to be sung". In other words, song lyrics are included in literary works in the form of poetry, there are only differences between them by using music media so that they can be sung. Meanwhile, lyrics are defined as the poet's expression poured into the lines of poetry. Similar to poetry, song lyrics also contain typical words written by musicians to convey their intentions, both implicitly and explicitly. Repetition of these distinctive words also sometimes occurs in a lyric or section called a refrain or chorus. The language in song lyrics is usually very dependent on the writer's taste in writing songs so that it is subjective, but things outside the writer sometimes also contribute to the choice of words in a lyric. Writing song lyrics cannot be separated from the use of language, both connotatively and denotatively.

### **Relevant Research**

The research relevant to this study comes from a student named Dania Diniari, a student of the University of Indonesia in 2013. The research entitled "Analysis of Language Style in Muse's Fourth Album entitled *Black Holes and Revelations*". The conclusion of her research is that every song lyric on the album "*Black and Holes Revelations*" has a language style to express the meaning of these lyrics. The author also concludes that by understanding the language style, we can understand the meaning of each lyric. The result of the research is that the eleven lyrics contain majas such as irony, personification, paradox, metaphor, hyperbole, satire, symbol, synecdoke, allegory and sarcasm as a tool to show the songwriter's point of view on global issues as well as the songwriter's criticism of government policies, especially those related to war. The most widely used metaphor in all lyrics is synecdoke after which there is the use of paradox, irony, personification, metaphor and also hyperbole. Another relevant research was conducted by Henny Kartika Sari, Indraprasta PGRI University with the title "Analysis of Language Style in the Novel *Jazz, Perfumes, and The Incident*" by Seno Ajidarma. The research aims to find out the types of language styles contained in the novel "*Jazz, Perfumes, and The Incident*" as well as the most dominant types of language styles in this novel. The method used is descriptive method. The method is done by collecting data, compiling data, clarifying data, and interpreting data. In the results there are various kinds of language styles found in the novel "*Jazz, Perfumes, and The Incident*" namely personification, metaphor, paradox, allegory, simile, metonymia, allusio, synecdoke and hyperbole. Based on the percentage of research results, it turns out that the personification language style is the most dominant, namely 28 pieces or as much as 30%. The equation of Henny Kartika Sari's research with the author is that they both examine the language style in a literary work, the difference is that Henny examines the language style in novels while the researcher examines the language style in song lyrics. The difference between this research and the previous research is the object under study. The current research focuses on five songs contained in one Troye Sivan album, this is to get diverse and significant stylistic data results. Researchers also analyze the language style in song lyrics because songs/music can be enjoyed by many people and can be accessed anywhere and anytime. This is different from novels, which are enjoyed by only a few people.

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research method used by the author is descriptive analysis. The descriptive analysis method can be interpreted as a problem-solving procedure investigated by describing or describing the state of the subject or object of research

of a person, institution, society at the present time based on the facts that appear or as they are. The research technique used by the author is in the form of literature study techniques. The literature study technique is an observation technique and listening technique by reading carefully to obtain, collect and classify theoretical information related to research problems, both songs being researched, books, materials from the internet and other materials related to research. In writing this article the author uses three stages, namely:

1. Collecting and reading the lyrics of the song "youth". The author got the lyrics of the song from the internet. Then the writer reads the song lyrics repeatedly in order to understand the meaning and get an idea of the language style contained therein.
2. The next stage is that the writer will record the language styles found in each lyric. After recording the language style, the writer then describes the lines in the lyrics that show a certain language style and explains about the language style.
3. The author describes the existing language style in accordance with the theory that the author uses which has been described in chapter two, namely the theory of Arp and Johnson.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the results of the data findings will be described. The data used is data taken from the lyrics of the song "youth" by Troye Sivan in his album entitled *Blue Neighborhood*.

### 1. Data Findings

<b>Song Title</b>	<b>Song lyrics</b>	<b>Langage style</b>
<i>Youth</i>	<i>What if we lost our minds</i>	<i>Hyperbole</i>
	<i>When the lights start flashing like a photobooth</i>	<i>Synechdoche</i>
	<i>My youth, my youth is yours</i>	<i>Hyperbole</i>
	<i>A truth so loud you can't ignore</i>	<i>Personification</i>
	<i>What if we start to drive, what if we close our eyes</i>	<i>Paradox</i>

<i>What if we're speeding through red lights into paradise?</i>	<i>Paradox</i>
<i>What if we're speeding through red lights into paradise?</i>	<i>Synechdoche</i>
<i>Mortal body, timeless souls</i>	<i>Paradox</i>
<i>Cross your finger, here we go</i>	<i>Symbol</i>

## 2. Data Analysis

**Table 2.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
1.	<i>What if we lost our minds</i>	<i>Hyperbole</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above contain *hyperbole* language style, hyperbole language style according to Arp and Johnson (2012) is "*Hyperbole is just simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the term of truth*". An indication of the use of hyperbole is found in the lyrics "*Lost our minds*", these lyrics describe two people in love who always want to be together, but the use of the phrase "*Lost our minds*" is considered very excessive.

**Table 3.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
2.	<i>And when the light start flashing like a photobooth</i>	<i>Synechdoche</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above use *synecdoche*, quoting from Arp and Johnson (2012) "*Synechdoche is a literary device in which a part of something represents the whole*". There are two types of synecdoche, namely mentioning part to state the whole and mentioning the whole to state part, the lyrics above use the second



type of synecdoche language style, seen in the mention of the *photobooth* to explain the camera. This is evidenced by the phrase "*light started flashing*" which also refers to the camera.

**Table 4.**

No	Song lyrics	Language Style
3.	<i>My youth, my youth is yours</i>	<i>Hyperbole</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above use *hyperbole* language style, the main characteristic of hyperbole language style is *exaggeration*, correlating with the theory of Arp and Johnson (2012), namely "*Hyperbole is just simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the term of truth*". this sentence is considered very excessive because two people can love each other but it is impossible to give up our youth to someone.

**Table 5.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
4.	<i>A truth so loud you can't ignore</i>	<i>Personification</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above contain a personification language style which "*Is a term to give the attributes of a human being to an animal, object, or a concept*" (Arp and Johnson, 2012). Troye uses the word *truth* which is an abstract idea likened to have human abilities as it is said that *truth* can speak loudly in the phrase "*A truth so loud you can't ignore*", so it cannot be ignored like a living being.

**Table 6.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
5.	<i>What if we start to drive, what if we close our eyes</i>	<i>Paradox</i>

### Discussions

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2009) who say that, "*Paradox is an apparent contradiction in a statement that is nevertheless somehow true*". The indication of the use of paradoxical language style in the song lyrics above can be seen from the phrase "*Start to drive*" and continued with "*Close our eyes*", which in reality we will not be able to drive if our eyes are closed.

**Table 7.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
6.	<i>What if we're speeding through red lights into paradise</i>	<i>Paradox</i>

### Discussions

The language style used in the lyrics above is paradoxical, quoting from Arp and Johnson (2012) that "*Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true, it may be either a situation or a statement*". This sentence states the contradiction with "*Speeding through red light*" where if there is a *red light* then we should stop, not speed up the speed of the vehicle, and can only walk if there is a *green light*.

**Table 8.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
7.	<i>What if we're speeding through red lights into paradise</i>	<i>Synechdoche</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above use the synecdoche language style, the synecdoche language style is "*A literary device in which uses a part of something to represent the whole*". The phrase *red light* above only mentions one part of the traffic lights, *red light* refers to traffic lights that are not only red, but also green and yellow.

**Table 9.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
8.	<i>Mortal body, timeless soul</i>	<i>Paradox</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above use a paradoxical language style, because there is a very real contradiction in the use of the word "mortal" which can experience death juxtaposed with the word "timeless" which means eternal or timeless. This is in accordance with the statement of Arp and Johnson (2012) regarding the definition of paradoxical language style, namely "*Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true*".

**Table 10.**

No	Song Lyrics	Language Style
9.	<i>Cross your finger, here we go</i>	<i>Symbol</i>

### Discussions

The song lyrics above use the symbol language style, it is said that the symbol is "*Something that means more than what it is said*" (Arp and Johnson, 2012). The sentence above does not mean cross your fingers, but there is a deeper meaning than that, the sentence *cross your finger* has a meaning as a hope for something so that something works.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### A. Conclusion

After analyzing the language style contained in the lyrics of the song "Youth" sung by Troye Sivan, the researcher concludes: The research on the language style contained in the lyrics of the song "Youth" by Troye Sivan in the *BlueNeighbourhood* album uses Arp and Johnson's theory as the main theory. Based on the theory, the researcher obtained 9 words/sentences/phrases containing stylistics which are grouped into 5 types of stylistics: symbol,

paradox, personification, hyperbole, and synecdoches. While 7 other language styles were not found, namely allegory, apostrophe, simile, metonymy, metaphor, litotes, and irony. The following are the details of the data that have been found in this study, namely: (a) hyperbole as much as 2 data (16.7%), (b) personification as much as 1 data (8.3%), (c) synecdoche as much as 2 data (16.7%), (d) sparadox as much as 3 data (25%), (e) symbol as much as 1 data (8.3%). The most dominating use of language style is paradoxical language style as much as 3 data with a percentage of 25%, and the least is hyperbole and symbol language style as much as 1 data each with a percentage of 8.3%. Paradoxical language style is the most dominant language style found in the lyrics of the song "Youth". The use of this language style aims to give a deep meaning and give a poetic effect to the lyrics sung by Troye Sivan.

### **B. Suggestions**

After analyzing and writing this research, the author can provide several suggestions:

#### 1. Suggestions for readers

In enjoying a piece of music, we should also know the meanings contained in the lyrics, so that we can become listeners who can appreciate music as it should be.

#### 2. Suggestions for future researchers

Analyzing the language style in the lyrics of a song is not an easy thing because a person's interpretation of a lyric is different, so it is better if the researcher wants to do an analysis of language style in a literary work, it is better to deepen his knowledge first about language style so that it is not wrong in interpreting the poet's intention.

#### 3. Suggestions for teachers or educators

Language style is one of the most important elements in written works of art, therefore educators should be able to teach about language style well to students or students, besides that educators can also use song media to make language style learning more fun.

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