

The Portrayal of Mood System and Love Language in Taylor Swift's Lover Album

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the interpersonal meaning in Taylor Swift's song lyrics in the Lover album, focusing on the mood system from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory and Gary Chapman's love language theory. A qualitative approach was used in this study, with discourse analysis of the song lyrics. Data collection techniques were conducted through documentation and literature study methods, in which the writer analyzed five selected song lyrics from Taylor Swift's Lover album. The data analysis technique used is the data analysis model of Miles and Huberman which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of the analysis show that declarative clauses dominate the song lyrics, which are used to convey personal feelings and experiences clearly and directly, thus strengthening the emotional message in the song. In the analysis of love language, Quality Time is the most dominant type of love language, followed by Words of Affirmation, Physical Touch, Acts of Service, and Receiving Gifts. The conclusion of this study shows that the combination of mood system and different types of love language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics creates complex and deep interpersonal meanings. The dominant declarative clauses clarify the expression of love and strengthen the emotional connection in the song, building a strong connection with the listener. These results show how Taylor Swift uses song lyrics to express feelings and build meaningful interpersonal relationships.

Keywords: Mood System, Love language, Taylor Swift's Songs

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INTRODUCTION

In postmodern era, the role of language not only serves to convey information, but can also be used to express identity, social relationships, and feelings with specific intentions and purposes. In this case, artists, including writers, musicians, and poets, often use language to infuse and convey complex, deep emotions from themselves to build emotional and personal connections with listeners or viewers (Abdoulaye, 2022) (Ismi, 2023). For example, musicians use songs as a medium to convey their feelings, ideas and thoughts. The lyrics chosen, the tone set, and the performance style are all part of an artistic expression that contains deep meanings about life, love, sadness, or even about their personal identity (Salsabila, 2021). One famous musician who often writes songs

based on personal experiences in her social relationships is Taylor Swift. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing how a musician, especially Taylor Swift, conveys messages with a language system in the songs they write, which certainly causes a variety of interpretations for the listeners(Azzahra & Rukmini, 2023).

In this study the writer focus on examining 5 song lyrics in Taylor Swift's Lover album. The five songs are Lover, Paper Ring, Cruel Summer, Daylight, and London Boy. These songs were chosen because they have the same theme of the songwriter's depiction of beautiful and happy love with his partner. Lover is the seventh album written by Taylor Swift in collaboration with several other musicians. The album consists of 18 songs which makes it one of the albums with the longest track list ever released. The album carries a theme with a romantic feel, and a different spirit. The titles of the songs in the album include Lover: This song depicts romantic feelings and deep love. Paper Rings: This song expresses happiness in a relationship and a willingness to take it to a more serious level. Daylight: This song reflects personal growth and maturity, as well as reflections on personal relationships. On London Boy lyrics it highlights Swift's romantic relationships and personal experiences during her time in London. For Cruel Summer: This song depicts emotional conflict in relationships and complicated feelings.

From the explanation above about every song's meaning, it can be concluded that song lyrics often use a unique word selection and phrase structure, which collectively forms a system that emits a specific meaning. When words are arranged in the lyrics, there is a deeper and more complex meaning that can be expressed, creating a world of meaning unique to the listener. Thus, the language in the lyrics of songs is not only a tool for expressing emotions and identities, but also a meaning-making system that enriches the listener's experience and allows artists to communicate their message in a more profound and emotional way. To analyze such implicit meanings in linguistics there is a study of language as a meaning-making system proposed by Michael Halliday (1985), the study of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), one of the reason to know how the songwriter tells the interaction of her relationship with her partner and identifies what the songwriter wants to convey in the song lyrics she wrote using the mood system.

In the study of Systemic Functional Linguistic theory, there are 3 types of metafunctions introduced by Halliday and Matthiessen namely ideational metafunctions, interpersonal metafunctions, and textual multifunctions(Halliday, 1985). Ideational meaning is a study of meaning that represents a phenomenon or experience that has been experienced by a person in his life. This ideational meaning can be identified through the transitivity system. While the interpersonal meaning of language is considered as an exchange system in the process of a person's interaction

to communicate his experience. In this case the interaction activities can be studied through the mood system and speech function(Widyaiswara, 2022a). Then in the study of textual meaning, language functions as a messenger and is conveyed through a clause arrangement. In textual meaning using theme and rheme as a system used to study a text. In this study, the writer uses the interpersonal meaning theory approach introduced by Michael Halliday(1985) in analyzing how the songwriter tells the interaction of her relationship with her partner and identifies what the songwriter wants to convey in the song lyrics she wrote using the mood system(Halliday, M.A.K., & Matthiessen, 2013).

Apart from that, because the five songs have the same theme of love and the songwriter's depiction of his romantic relationship with his partner, in this study the writer also wants to know how Taylor Swift expresses her love for her partner in these songs. In analyzing this, the writer uses the concept of Five Love Language by Gary Chapman as a supporting theory in this study. This theory explains the types of love communication styles between couples which consist of five types, namely, Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch. Every human being has a primary love language (Chapman, 1992).

In this case, love language is one approach that can help a person improve interpersonal relationships with their partner. This theory will help the writer to understand more deeply how the relationship between the songwriter and her partner is reflected in the lyrics of the song she wrote. Previously there had been several similar studies that studied interpersonal meaning in songs, such as that carried out by Renaepi (2021), in his research tried to describe the mood system contained in 4 popular English songs. other research was conducted by Andika and his team (2022), they described the mood types used in the song lyrics of The Weeknd album After Hours, found the actualization of the interpersonal meaning in the song lyrics of The Weeknd album After Hours, and analyzed the contribution of interpersonal meaning used in the song lyrics of The Weeknd album After Hours. The same research was also conducted by Ariska and team (2019) to describe the meaning of Adele's song based on interpersonal meaning by analyzing the mood system of Adele's song.

It can be seen that although there have been many studies analyzing interpersonal meaning in song lyrics, very few of them use a combination of SFL theory and the five love languages theory(Widyaiswara, 2022b). Most of the previous studies still focus on the application of one theory or use traditional linguistic approaches without considering the psychological aspects of love expressions and interpersonal relationships. Considering these reasons, this study was conducted to offer a broader and more comprehensive analytical approach across disciplines. More

relevant and interesting learning materials are urgently needed in the application of language teaching to students. This research focuses on up-to-date analyses of song lyrics, which can help teachers develop more effective and contextualized language teaching strategies. This study shows how SFL and love language theories can be applied in the analysis of song lyrics, by providing real and relevant examples of how modern linguistic theories can be used in language teaching, by making learning more contextual and meaningful.

METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This study uses qualitative research with the descriptive approach to find out the system of mood and the use of song lyrics in Taylor Swift's album *Lover*. The writer also uses a discourse analysis approach in this study. Discourse analysis is often defined as the study of language in which sentences are combined to construct meaning and achieve purposes (Handford, M., & Gee, 2012). Discourse analysis methods focus on the use of language in texts and how language is used to influence the construction of meaning in social contexts.

2.2 Research Instrument

The main instrument in this study is the researcher himself, who plays a role in the process of data collection, analysis, and interpretation of results. The researcher acts as an observer and analyst who actively applies theoretical and methodological knowledge to gain a deep understanding of the interpersonal meaning in Taylor Swift's song lyrics.

2.3 Data Collection

This study uses documentation and literature methods based on John W. Creswell's (2013) theory to collect data (Creswell, J. W., & Poth, 2016). The writer collects data by taking the following steps:

- 1) First, the writer listened to all the songs from the Taylor Swift *Lover* album to understand the themes and meanings of the songs in detail.
- 2) Second, the writer selected five song lyrics that were relevant to the focus of the research.
- 3) Third, the writer transcribed all the lyrics of the selected songs from the Spotify music platform for analysis.
- 4) Fourth, the writer identifies clauses that contain mood elements and aspects of love language in the five lyrics based on the previously understood theory.
- 5) Fifth, the writer organized and entered the identified data into a table.
- 6) Sixth, the writer collected some literature relevant to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory and love language theory to further explore and understand the theory to be used

in the analysis process.

- 7) The last step was to categorize the data by giving codes and labels to the lyrics that had been identified

2.4 Data Analysis

This study used the data analysis technique developed by Miles and Huberman (1994), known as the interactive qualitative data analysis approach (Miles, M., & Huberman, 1989).

1) Data Reduction

At this stage, the data that has been collected through the transcript process of Taylor Swift's song lyrics in the Lover album selected, simplified, and changed according to the research needs. Furthermore, the data categorized based on the elements of systemic functional linguistic theory and love language.

2) Data Presentation

The second stage is data presentation, in this stage the writer organizes and presents the data in the form of tables to facilitate the visualization of patterns and relationships between mood and love language elements in each clause

3) Conclusion Drawing/Verification

The last stage, the writer makes interpretations and conclusions based on the data that has been presented. The writer conclude the research results based on the patterns that have been identified in the data presentation stage.

FINDINGS

The mood system is an important component in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory which consists of mood and residue element structures (Affandy, 2024). The Mood component consists of two elements called Subject and finite, while the residue consists of three elements called Predicator, Compliment, and Adjunct. This system serves to categorize the types of clauses based on their communicative functions, as well as how they are used in interaction to convey the speaker's intentions and purposes (Thompson, 2000). The mood system consists of three main types: declarative mood, interrogative mood, and imperative mood. In the analysis of interpersonal meaning, the mood system helps to identify and understand the social relationship, feelings, and intentions between the speaker and the listener through the language structure used.

1. Mood System realized in the song lyrics on Taylor Swift's Lover album

The classification will be based on the order of mood and residue elements. When the order of

Mood is Subject followed by Finite, the Mood will be declarative. Meanwhile, if the Mood order is Finite first and then Subject, then the mood will be interrogative. If there is only Finite or residue in the mood without Subject, the Mood will be imperative (Martin, J.R., Matthiessen, C. M. & Painter, 1997).

The finding shows that the mood and residue elements can be found in almost all clauses. It can also be seen that all three types of mood declarative, interrogative and imperative can be found in the five songs (Sari.I. P., 2014). With the frequency of declarative clauses found in 227 clauses, interrogative clauses found in 10 clauses and imperative clauses found in 24 clauses. In song 1 cruel summer found 51 declarative clauses, 2 interrogative clauses and 2 imperative clauses. In the second song **'Paper Rings'** only two types of mood are found, namely 51 declarative clauses and 6 imperative clauses. Likewise, in the third song **'London Boy'** the writer only found 2 types of clauses in this song, namely 52 declarative clauses and 7 imperative clauses. The fourth song **'Daylight'** is also not much different from the previous 2 songs. The writer can only find 2 types of mood in this song, namely 50 declarative clauses and 5 imperative clauses. In the last song **'Lover'**, the writer can find all three types of mood, namely 23 declarative clauses, 8 interrogative clauses and also 4 imperative clauses. So of the five songs analyzed, the writer only found interrogative clauses in the first and fifth songs

2. The types of Five Love Language in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's Lover album

Based on the analysis of the lyrics of the five songs from Taylor Swift's Lover album, not all types of love language are found in each song. In the first song **"Cruel Summer"**, only four clauses were identified as containing love language. In this song, two lyrics are found that belong to the word affirmation type, while the remaining two clauses are quality time types. In the second song **"Paper Rings"**, three types of love language were found, namely quality time, physical touch, and receiving gifts. In this song, the quality time type is found eight times, physical touch seven times, and receiving gift four times. In the third song **"London Boy"** only one type of love language was found, namely quality time with a total of twelve clauses. In the fourth song **"Daylight"** the writer found three types of love language, namely quality time, act of service, and word of affirmation. all three were found with the same frequency of one time. The last, in the fifth song **"Lover"** the writer also found the same three types of love language as in the fourth song, which are quality time thirteen times, act of service once, and word of affirmation once.

No	Song	Clause	AOS	QT	WOA	RG	PT
1	Cruel	I'm always waiting for		✓			

	Summer	you to be waiting below					
		"I love you, " ain't that the worst thing you ever heard?			✓		
2	Paper Rings	Now I've read all of the books beside your bed		✓			
		Like the shoulder that I gave you in the street					✓
		Now I wake up in the night and watch you breathe		✓			
		Kiss me once 'cause you know I had a long night					✓
		Kiss me twice 'cause it's gonna be alright					✓
		I like shiny things, but I'd marry you with paper rings				✓	
		To the color that we painted your brother's wall		✓			
		I want to drive away with you		✓			
		I want your dreary Mondays		✓			
		Wrap your arms around me, baby boy					✓
3	London Boy	Took me back to Highgate, met all of his best mates		✓			
		we are watching rugby with his school friends		✓			
		I enjoy nights in Brixton, Shoreditch in the afternoon		✓			
		So please show me Hackney Doesn't have to be		✓			

		Louis V up on Bond Street Just wanna be with you					
4	Daylight	I'll tell you the truth, but never goodbye			✓		
		Threw out our cloaks and our daggers because it's morning now	✓				
		Back and forth from New York (Sneaking in your bed)		✓			
5	Lover	Can I go where you go?		✓			
		And ah, take me out, and take me home		✓			
		And you'll save all your dirtiest jokes for me			✓		
		And at every table, I'll save you a seat, lover	✓				
		We could leave the Christmas lights up 'til January		✓			
		And this is our place, we make the rules	✓				

Table 1. The Analysis of types of Five Love Language
in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's Lover album

AOS : Act of Service

QT : Quality Time

WOA: Word of Affirmation

RG : Receiving Gift

PT : Physical Touch

DISCUSSION

1. The analysis of Mood System realized in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's Lover album

a. Declarative Clause

Cruel Summer (First Song)

"Bad boy, Shiny toy with a price, You know that I bought it"

The subject is 'You', which refers to the person being spoken to. The predicator of this clause is

'know', which shows that the subject knows something. The complement of this clause is the phrase 'that I bought it'. This phrase provides additional information about what the subject knows. The adjunct in this lyric is the phrase 'Bad boy, Shiny toy with a price' which functions as an adverbial clause for the main clause.

The lyrics create an image of a relationship that may be filled with tension or power imbalance. The terms 'bad boy' and 'shiny toy' hint at physical or material attractiveness, but also carry negative connotations and possible problems. 'You know that I bought it' indicates an awareness of the risks or drawbacks in the relationship, but still choosing to get involved. This illustrates how perceptions of material attractiveness or superiority can affect interpersonal dynamics, and how one might choose to engage in a relationship despite being aware of the risks or consequences.

"summer's a knife"

The subject is 'summer'. The finite predicate of this clause is 'is', which shows the relationship or state of the subject. The complement of this clause is the phrase 'a knife', which gives a description or simile of the state or nature of the subject. There are no adverbial clauses that function as adjuncts in the main clause. From the arrangement of these components and features, this clause shows a declarative mood (statement), because it describes a certain state or situation.

The singer gives the lyrics a strong metaphor. Although summer is often thought of as a fun and sunny time, in this context, summer is described by the singer as a 'knife', which suggests that it is something dangerous and can cause hurt or pain.

Paper Rings (Second Song)

*"Now I've read all of the books beside your bed"
"I like shiny things, but I'd marry you with paper rings"*

The subject of this clause is 'I', which refers to the songwriter. The finite and predicator of this clause is 'like', which indicates the action or state that the subject ('I') is performing in the present time. 'like' also serves to express the subject's preference or inclination. The complement of this clause is the phrase 'shiny things', which provides information about objects or things that the subject likes. The adjunct of this clause is the phrase "but, I'd marry you with paper rings" which functions as an adverbial clause that describes the subject's desire which contrasts with the statement in the main clause. From the arrangement of the mood and residue components, this clause shows the characteristics of the declarative mood type.

London Boy (Third Song)

"They say home is where the heart is, But that's not where mine lives"

The subject of this clause is 'They', which is the actor or speaker providing the information or view. This clause has no finite component. The predicator in this clause is 'say', which expresses the action or speech performed by the subject 'They'. The complement of this clause is the phrase 'home is where the heart is', which provides information about the place or concept of 'home'. The adjunct of this clause is the phrase 'But that's not where mine lives', which provides additional information about the view or opinion opposite to what 'They' said. This clause, when viewed as part of a wider sentence, shows a declarative mood.

Daylight (Forth Song)

"It's golden like daylight"

The subject of this clause is 'It', which refers to something mentioned earlier in the context of the conversation or in a broader sentence, 'love'. The predicate and finite in this clause is 'is', which shows the existence or nature of the subject. The Complement of this clause is the phrase 'golden', which describes the nature or characteristics of the subject 'It'. The Adjunct of this clause is the phrase 'like daylight', which provides a comparison or illustration of how 'golden' is similar to or has the same qualities as 'daylight'. This clause is included as a declarative mood type (statement), because it states a state or trait.

Lover (Fifth Song)

"I've loved you three summers now, honey, but I want 'em all"

The subject of this clause is 'I', referring to the person speaking. The finite in this clause is 'have', indicating the perfect aspect of the action. The predicator in this clause is 'loved', indicating the act of loving that has already happened. The complement in this clause is 'you three summers now', describing the object of the act of loving and the duration of time. The adjuncts in this clause are 'honey' as a greeting word and 'but I want "em all" which shows contrast or additional information. This clause belongs to the declarative mood because it states a fact or feeling of the subject ('I'), namely the act of loving that has occurred. In this lyric, the songwriter shows a specific period of time where his relationship with her partner has developed and lasted for three summers

2. The analysis of Love Language Types used in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's Lover album

Act of Service

Paper Rings

"In the winter, in the icy outdoor pool, When you jumped in first, I went in too"

The lyrics describe the act of jumping into a cold swimming pool after a partner has done it first. This is a genuine form of support and shows that the singer is willing to take action even if it feels dangerous to accompany and provide emotional support to her partner. Doing something difficult or uncomfortable for the sake of the partner is an example of the love language type Acts of Service, where the act shows that the partner is ready to make extra efforts for the happiness and comfort of the loved one. The act of jumping into a cold pool with her partner is symbolic of the commitment to always be by her partner's side, especially in challenging situations.

Daylight

"Threw out our cloaks and our daggers because it's morning now"

The act of removing the symbols of defense and protection (cloaks and daggers) because the day has turned into morning. This action shows that the singer and her partner already feel safe and no longer need to hide or prepare to face something bad. This could be interpreted as an attempt to create a safe and open environment for the couple, showing that the act of protecting

Lover

"And at every table, I'll save you a seat, lover"

The lyrics show a real and specific action where the singer makes sure that her partner always has a place saved for them at every meal or meeting occasion. Saving a seat is an act of care that shows that the singer is thinking of their partner's needs and comfort. It is not just about the physical place, but also a symbol of commitment to ensuring that the partner feels valued and prioritized. This act reflects a desire to serve and support the partner in small but meaningful ways. By performing this act, the singer wants to show affection and care through tangible efforts that make her partner feel cared for and loved

CONCLUSION

From the analysis the writer identified 242 clauses in 5 selected song lyrics in Taylor Swift's Lover album. The five songs are Cruel Summer, Paper Rings, London Boy, Daylight and Lover.

The writer finds 3 types of mood in the song based on the analysis of the structure of the mood element and its residue. The three types of mood are declarative mood, interrogative mood, and imperative mood. it can be concluded that the mood system in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Lover" album is dominated by declarative clauses. Declarative clauses are chosen by the songwriter to convey her personal feelings and experiences directly and clearly to the listeners. Declarative clauses also serve to help build a strong and structured narrative, as well as strengthen the expression of emotions in the lyrics.

This study also analyzes the types of love language depicted in the five lyrics of Taylor Swift's songs in the Lover album. The total data that the writer managed to find where Quality time type was found 37 times, word of affirmation 3 times, physical touch 7 times, act of service 3 times and receiving gift 4 times. In total, it was found that Quality Time is the most dominant love language in all song lyrics in this album. This shows that the songwriter highly emphasizes the importance of spending time with her partner in the relationship as the main way to express love and strengthen emotional bonds.

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