

Billie Eilish's "Wildflower": A Study of Lexical Meaning and Metaphor

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ABSTRACT

Understanding lexical meaning is essential in analyzing song lyrics, and metaphors often enrich that meaning. Although research such as Suprihatin (2019) has explored lexical and contextual meaning in song lyrics, and Ngailo, Suastini, and Pratiwi (2020) have analyzed figurative language in Billie Eilish's songs, these studies do not specifically discuss how metaphors influence and expand lexical meaning to create emotional depth. Darmawan, Sanditari, and Fauziyah (2024) also focus on semantic meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's songs, and Salsabila (2022) examines conceptual and associative meaning in Tulus lyrics, but does not explore the relationship between lexical meaning and metaphor. This research aims to fill this gap by investigating how metaphor influences lexical meaning in Billie Eilish's "Wildflower". Using a qualitative descriptive method with a semantic approach, this research analyzes the lexical meaning in song lyrics and identifies how metaphors expand the meaning of words. The findings suggest that Eilish uses metaphors to provide additional layers of meaning to her word choices, enriching themes of fragility, growth, and hidden beauty. In conclusion, the strategic use of metaphor enhances the lexical meaning of "Wildflowers", which contributes to the emotional and artistic impact of the song.

Keywords: *Lexical Meaning, Metaphor, Song Lyrics, Billie Eilish, Wildflower.*

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INTRODUCTION

Music is a powerful means of expression that utilizes various elements, including melody and lyrics, to convey deep emotions. Music is an interesting topic because of its ability to influence emotions and form memories. Research shows that music can induce strong emotions, helping remember life experiences. Apart from being a means of expressing feelings, music also improves mood and is used in mental health therapy, making it an integral part of human life. With these benefits, music continues to attract attention as a rich and complex subject of discussion. In popular music, it is the lyrics that play a crucial role in establishing an emotional connection with the listener, not only through direct messages but also through symbolism and carefully considered word choices. In linguistic studies, semantic analysis allows researchers to explore hidden meanings in lyrics, especially through the concept of lexical meaning and its use to convey emotions.

Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell, born on December 18, 2001, in Los Angeles, California, is an American singer and songwriter who gained prominence at a young age. She first garnered attention with her debut single "Ocean Eyes," which became a viral hit. Collaborating closely with her brother, Finneas O'Connell, Billie has developed a distinctive musical style that blends various genres. She has made a huge impact in the music industry with his unique sound and experimental style (Azizah, 2020). Billie Eilish has released three studio albums, *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* (2019), *Happier Than Ever* (2021), *Hit Me Hard and Soft* (2024). Her latest album, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, was released on May

17, 2024, through Darkroom and Interscope Records. This third studio album is described as her most daring body of work to date, offering a diverse yet cohesive collection of songs that blend genres and defy trends. The album shows her artistic maturity with its exploration of themes such as love, loss, and the challenges faced as a young woman in music industry. Despite consisting of only ten songs with a running time of around 44 minutes, each track offers a significant emotional experience and shows improvements in production values (Aditya, 2024).

The object of study in this research is the song "Wildflower" by Billie Eilish, which is one of the most streamed songs on Spotify from her latest album with a total of 793,494,705 streams. The song has attracted significant attention for its uniqueness and emotional depth. This research will focus on analyzing lexical meaning as the main core, considering metaphor as a supporting device to strengthen the lexical meaning. "Wildflower" depicts the complexities of budding love amidst the shadows of past relationships, exploring feelings of guilt, insecurity and the presence of an ex-partner. The honest lyrics capture the struggle to reconcile feelings of love with lingering doubts.

In linguistic studies, semantic analysis allows researchers to explore hidden meanings in lyrics. Semantics is defined as "the study of meaning in language," focusing on how linguistic forms relate to non-linguistic concepts and mental representations. Emphasizes that semantic analyzes the meanings of words and sentences, considering context, word meanings, and meaningful messages effectively. One of the key areas of study within the field of semantic is lexical meaning, which refers to the inherent meaning of words and their relationships to one another. This aspect of semantics explores how individual words convey specific meaning, how these meanings can vary based on context, and how they interact with other words in a language (Bagha, 2011).

The study of lexical meaning is essential in understanding how words in lyrics can create emotional effects. For example, words with certain connotations may lead listeners to feel certain emotions, such as joy, sadness, or despair. However, in musical context such as Billie Eilish's song, the meaning of words is often enhanced by the use of metaphor. A study shows that the use of metaphors and symbols in lyrics can strengthen the listener's emotional experience. Metaphors allow singers to connect abstract concepts, such as love or loss, to concrete experiences that are easier to understand (Kearney, 2020).

In addition to expanding lexical meaning, metaphor plays an important role in contemporary song lyrics because of its ability to convey complex emotions and ideas succinctly and creatively. Metaphors allow songwriters to add layers of meaning and emotional resonance that cannot be achieved with literal language alone. In the context of song lyrics, metaphors not only function as linguistic ornaments, but also as cognitive tools that help listeners understand abstract concepts through comparison with something more concrete and familiar. For example, in Harry Styles' lyrics "You're so golden" from the song Golden, a metaphor is used to describe someone as "gold," which connotatively implies privilege and high value (Putra & Winarta, 2022). This kind of metaphor provides emotional depth and allows the listener to feel the same awe or emotion that the songwriter is trying to convey. Additionally, metaphors also make lyrics more interesting, memorable, and artistic, thereby increasing the overall emotional appeal of the song. Thus, the use of metaphor in song lyrics not only enriches the lexical meaning but also creates a deep experience for listeners through emotional and aesthetic associations (Putra & Winarta, 2022).

One of the relevant previous studies is "An Analysis of Lexical and Contextual Meaning of Ed Sheeran's Song Lyrics and Its Relevancy in Upgrading Listening Experiences" by Suprihatin (2019), which examines the lexical and contextual meaning in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics. The study identifies 49 words that exhibit both meanings across four selected songs: "Perfect," "Beautiful People," "Happier," and "Afterglow." The findings indicate a significant correlation between understanding lexical and contextual meanings and enhancing listening experiences, suggesting that frequent listening can enrich vocabulary and improve

comprehension. The research emphasizes the importance of these meanings in facilitating listeners' engagement with the music, thereby upgrading their overall listening experience.

The second paper is entitled "Figurative Language Analysis in Billie Eilish's Selected Songs" by Evantri Ngailo, Ni Wayan Suastini, and Desak Putu Eka Pratiwi (2020). The study analyzes figurative language in selected songs by Billie Eilish, focusing on metaphors, similes, and hyperboles, utilizing Leech's theory of meaning and Knickerbocker and Reninger's theory of figurative language. The findings reveal that hyperbole is the most prevalent type, comprising 48% of the figurative language used, followed by metaphor at 22% and simile at 14%. Specific examples include two similes that express emotions related to love and relationships, three metaphors that highlight deeper meanings—such as comparing a lover to a "shadow" to signify absence—and one hyperbole that conveys intense emotions, like "watch my heart burn," indicating anger and pain. The meanings derived from the lyrics are predominantly connotative (66%) and affective (33%), reflecting the emotional depth and personal experiences conveyed in Eilish's music. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding figurative language in song lyrics for deeper comprehension and appreciation.

The third paper is "A Semantic Analysis On Olivia Rodrigo Songs" by Adam Darmawan, Shelly Sanditari, and Syifa Wasilatul Fauziyah (2024). The study investigates the semantic meanings in Olivia Rodrigo's songs from her album "SOUR," focusing on both lexical meanings (dictionary definitions) and contextual meanings (interpretations based on the song's themes and emotions). The researchers employed a descriptive qualitative method to analyze three selected songs, revealing complex emotions tied to love and heartbreak. The findings indicate significant discrepancies between the literal meanings of words and their intended emotional impact, highlighting romantic themes that resonate with contemporary youth. For instance, the analysis of the lyric "brings out" illustrates how its dictionary definition contrasts with its contextual meaning, suggesting personal growth influenced by a relationship. The study emphasizes the importance of understanding both lexical and contextual meanings to avoid misunderstandings and to appreciate the narrative behind the lyrics, reinforcing the significance of these insights in the context of modern music.

The last study is "Analisis Semantik Leksikal Pada Lirik Lagu Dalam Album "Manusia" Karya Tulus" by Ghina Salsabila (2022). The study analyzes the conceptual meaning and associative meaning in the lyrics of ten songs from the album "Manusia" by Tulus, using a qualitative descriptive method with note-reading and content analysis techniques. Conceptual meaning in this research is divided into three categories: activities/events (examples: "melihat," "bicara," "bertemu"), objects (examples: "radio," "jendela," "baju"), and attitudes/traits (examples: "meriah," "istimewa"). Associative meaning events are classified into four categories: activity/event (example: "membekas"), object (example: "garis," "bunga," "senjata"), attitude/attribute (example: "baru," "magis"), and feelings/emotions. The lyrics in this album describe various human experiences and emotions using words that are rich in meaning, which are easy to understand and appeal to teenagers and adults. This study encourages listeners to understand the meaning of the words in the lyrics in order to better grasp the author's meaning.

Previous research provides valuable insights, but does not specifically explore the relationship between lexical meaning and metaphor in creating emotional depth in song lyrics. This research aims to fill this gap by using a semantic approach that integrates lexical meaning and metaphor. This approach is used to reveal how these two elements work together to build emotional meaning in Billie Eilish's work.

The findings of this research bear significance on both theoretical and practical levels. Theoretically, this study contributes to the broader field of linguistic studies, particularly within semantics, by deepening the understanding of lexical meaning and metaphor as employed in song lyrics. By analyzing the nuanced use of language in "Wildflower," this research offers new insights into how artists craft meaning and evoke emotion through their lyrical choices. Furthermore, this study serves as a valuable resource for readers and scholars interested in the intricate interplay between language and music, providing a detailed

framework for analyzing the semantic dimensions of song lyrics. It also lays the groundwork for future research, acting as a springboard for investigations into the emotional impact of music, the evolution of lyrical styles, or comparative analyses of semantic strategies across different artists and genres. Ultimately, this work seeks to advance the theoretical understanding of how language functions within artistic expression.

Practically, this research is expected to provide an authentic and accessible source of study materials related to the linguistic analysis of song lyrics, with a specific focus on the work of Billie Eilish, an artist of considerable contemporary popularity and influence. By offering a detailed analysis of "Wildflower," this study provides a concrete example of how linguistic theories can be applied to understand and appreciate modern music. Moreover, this research aims to inspire other researchers, educators, and students to develop and conduct studies with a similar scope, potentially extending the analysis to other artists, musical genres, or even different forms of artistic expression. This could include investigating the use of language in poetry, film, or other media, thereby expanding the practical application of linguistic analysis in the broader cultural landscape. By providing a solid methodological foundation and a compelling case study, this research hopes to stimulate further exploration and innovation in the field.

In conclusion, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how the lyrics of the song "Wildflower" by Billie Eilish use lexical meaning and metaphor to convey complex emotions and deep themes. Through systematic analysis of the language used, this research reveals how the lyrics not only reflect the artist's personal experiences, but also resonate with listeners on a universal level. By analyzing the lyrics of "Wildflower" through a lexical and metaphorical meaning approach, this research offers a clearer picture of how language can be used to create emotional depth and convey complex messages in the context of popular music. These findings reveal not only the artistic significance of the song's lyrics, but also broader implications about how language can shape and convey meaning in popular culture.

METHOD

The qualitative descriptive method is used in this study. The analysis focuses on lexical meaning and metaphor in Billie Eilish's song "Wildflower". Lexical meaning is examined through Geoffrey Leech's (1981) semantic theory to explore how specific words and phrases in the lyrics convey different types of meaning. Following Leech's framework, denotative meaning refers to the basic, central meaning of a word, the dictionary definition that identifies its essential properties. Connotative meaning, on the other hand, encompasses the supplementary meanings a word acquires through associations, personal experiences, or cultural contexts. Finally, affective meaning captures the emotional tone or attitude conveyed by a word, reflecting the speaker's feelings or the impact the word is intended to have on the listener. The theory of conceptual metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson (2003) is used to understand how metaphors within the lyrics influence the interpretation of emotional aspects. The selection of the song "Wildflower" was based on the consideration that this song is rich in the use of metaphors that are relevant to the themes of fragility, growth, and hidden beauty, making it suitable for analyzing how metaphors expand lexical meaning and provide a deep emotional impact.

Data collection

The main data in this research are the lyrics of the song "Wildflower" by Billie Eilish. To guarantee the accuracy of the text analyzed, the official lyrics for this song were obtained from trusted platforms such as Spotify and YouTube Music, which are known to have credibility in providing accurate and official song lyrics. The data collection process was carried out carefully by verifying the similarity of lyrics across various sources to ensure there were no errors or differences. After the lyrics are verified, words and phrases are identified and marked which reflect the denotative, connotative, affective meaning and use of metaphor. This tagging process is carried out systematically, using color codes or certain symbols to

distinguish different types of meaning, thus simplifying the further analysis process and ensuring that all important aspects of the lyrics have been considered in this research. In addition, the specific context in which the words and phrases appear in the lyrics is also noted, because this context is very important in understanding the connotative and affective meaning that may appear.

Data analysis

The following section details the data analysis procedures used in this research. First, identifying words, phrases, and metaphors in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's song "Wildflower". Second, categorizing the identified data into denotative, connotative, affective meaning, and conceptual metaphor. Third, analysing lexical meaning and metaphors. Next, interpreting how lexical meaning and conceptual metaphors interact to create emotional depth in the lyrics. Finally, the findings of this analysis are presented below and discussed in relation to the potential for semantic analysis to uncover richer meaning in popular song lyrics.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This section presents the findings of the lexical and metaphorical analysis conducted on the lyrics of Billie Eilish's "Wildflower". Through a systematic examination of the denotative, connotative, and affective meanings embedded within the lyrics, alongside an interpretation of the employed metaphors, this analysis aims to reveal the intricate ways in which language is used to convey complex emotions and thematic elements. Specifically, the analysis focuses on 20 key words and phrases within the song, including terms such as "Girl," "World," "Love," "July," "Crying," "Shoulder," and others, as well as figurative expressions like "Things fall apart," "Time breaks your heart," and "Burning alive". Table 1 provides a detailed overview of the identified lexical meanings and metaphors, illustrating their individual contributions to the overall emotional depth of the song.

Table 1. Lexical and Metaphorical Analysis

No	Word/Phrase in Lyric	Denotative Meaning	Connotative Meaning	Affective Meaning	Metaphor
1	Girl	A young female; a female child.	Romantic partner, someone dependent/cared for	Tenderness, familiarity, vulnerability	
2	World	The earth, together with all of its countries, peoples, and natural features.	Experiences, opportunities, everything life offers, a personal sphere	Awe, enthusiasm, adventure, the scope of someone's influence	<i>You showed her the world:</i> Providing extensive experiences and insights; opening someone's horizons
3	Love	A strong feeling of affection for somebody.	Commitment, intimacy, emotional connection, intense care and devotion	Happiness, warmth, longing, vulnerability, potential for heartbreak	
4	July	The seventh month of the year, between June and	A specific time, a potential memory or turning point	Neutral or emotionally charged depending on the	

		August.		events associated with that month; association with summer, warmth
5	Crying	To produce tears from your eyes, usually because you are unhappy or hurt.	Deep sadness, grief, vulnerability, release	Empathy, sympathy, sadness, concern
6	Shoulder	The part of human body between the neck and the top of the arm.	A place to lean on, seek support, feel safe, share burdens	Comfort, security, support, a sense of being cared for
7	Closer	Near in space or time.	Intimacy, connection, trust, increasing vulnerability	Warmth, trust, happiness, heightened, emotion (positive or negative), intensity
8	Remind	To cause somebody to remember something.	To bring up memories (pleasant or painful), to jog the consciousness	Nostalgia, regret, annoyance, obligation,
9	Happy	Feeling or showing pleasure; pleased.	Contentment, well-being, satisfaction with circumstances	Cheerfulness, optimism, relief, a sense of lightness
10	Free	Not under the control of power of someone else; able to do or be what you want.	Independent, unburdened, unrestrained, self-determining	Independence, liberation, joy, a sense of possibility
11	Leather	Animal skin that has been treated in order to preserve it and is used to make shoes, bags, etc.	Style, strength, durability, associations with rebellion or toughness	Confidence, rebellion, toughness, a sense of edge or non-conformity
12	Touch	To put your hands or fingers on someone or something.	Intimacy, connection, vulnerability, invasion if space	Passion, love, comfort, unease, revulsion
13	Valentine's Day	February 14 th , when you give a card or present to someone you	Romance, hope, expectations in relationship, commercialized expression of	Happiness, excitement, anxiety, disappointment, loneliness

		love.	affection		
14	Hotel	A building where people stay, usually for a short time, paying for their rooms.	Privacy, temporary escape, anonymity, a place for transitions	Loneliness, freedom, alienation, anticipation	
15	Hurt	To cause physical injury or pain.	Emotional wounds, betrayal, disappointment, causing distress to another	Heartache, anger, sadness, guilt, remorse	
16	Things fall apart	Objects breaks into pieces, disintegrate.	A deteriorating situation or relationship; a loss of order and control	Anxiety, despair, a sense of impending chaos	A situation or relationship that crumbles due to internal or external pressures.
17	Time breaks your heart	Time causes emotional pain.	Painful experiences caused by the passage of the time; the erosion of hope	Sadness, regret, disappointment, resignation	Time is personified as a destructive force, capable of inflicting emotional wounds.
18	Like a fever	A medical condition in which a person has a high temperature.	An intense and unpleasant condition; a state of agitation and unrest	Discomfort, suffering, anxiety, a sense of being overwhelmed	An intense feeling that consumes the mind and body.
19	Burning alive	To be consumed by fire while still living.	Feeling extremely uncomfortable and tormented; a state of intense suffering	Fear, panic, extreme suffering, a feeling of being trapped and helpless	Feeling tormented by overwhelming emotions, such as jealousy, guilt, or self-doubt.
20	Cross the line	To go beyond what is considered acceptable or appropriate behavior.	Exceeding morally or socially acceptable limits; violating a boundary	Guilt, anxiety, regret, shame, a sense of having transgressed	Doing something inappropriate, violating norms, betraying a trust.

Discussion

Analysis of the lexical meaning and metaphor in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's song "Wildflower" reveals a sophisticated use of language to convey complex emotions around relationships, loss, and self-discovery. Careful word selection, both direct and figurative, contributes to the song's overall emotional depth. This strategic use of Billie Eilish's chosen language creates layers of meaning that resonate with the listener, resulting in an intimate and thought-provoking experience.

Key words and phrases analyzed include: Girl, World, Love, July, Crying, Shoulder, Closer, Remind, Happy, Free, Leather, Touch, Valentine's Day, Hotel, Hurt, Things fall apart, Time breaks your heart, Like a fever, Burning alive, and Wildflower.

The predominance of words with strong emotions, such as "Love", "Crying", and "Hurt", laid the foundation for the exploration of vulnerability and pain in the lyrics. Although the denotative meaning of these words is straightforward, their contextual application enhances their affective content, drawing the listener into the song's emotional landscape. Furthermore, the inclusion of these words reflects the deep impact of emotional pain and serves as a way to express the emotional impact of bitter experiences. The disposition of these words with words that imply longing ("Remind") or contentment ("Happy," "Free") indicates a state of emotional ambivalence and a struggle to reconcile conflicting feelings. In understanding this lexical meaning, Geoffrey Leech's semantic theory helps us see that meaning does not solely reside in dictionary definitions, but also in how these words interact within a specific context to convey deeper nuances. This mix of emotions allows the singer to explore the experience of being human, capturing the highs and lows of relationships and the highs and lows of emotions.

The essence of the power of the lyrics of "Wildflower" lies in how the straightforward lexical meaning (denotative) is enriched and deepened by the strategic use of metaphor. It's not just about the beautiful use of words, but about how they interact to evoke complex feelings, ideas and images. Metaphors act as lenses that focus and amplify certain emotions. In the lyrics of "Things fall apart", Billie Eilish uses a metaphor to describe a situation or relationship that has deteriorated due to internal or external pressure. The denotative meaning of "fall apart" indicates things broken into pieces or destroyed. However, in the context of the song, this phrase expands to convey a sense of anxiety, despair, and impending chaos. The metaphor suggests a loss of order and control, giving rise to the emotional impact of the collapse of a relationship.

The sentence "Time breaks your heart" symbolizes time as a destructive force capable of causing emotional pain. The lexical meaning of "time" refers to a continuous series of existence, whereas "break" implies causing something to separate into parts. The combination of these words creates a metaphor that communicates sadness, regret, disappointment, and resignation. By associating the act of "destruction" with time, Eilish expands the lexical meaning by suggesting that time is not just a neutral element but also an active agent that can cause emotional suffering and erode hope.

In the "Like a fever" metaphor, Eilish compares the intense feeling to a medical condition characterized by a high temperature. Although "fever" denotatively refers to a medical condition, its use in lyrics serves to express an intense and unpleasant condition or a state of restlessness and unease. The metaphor suggests that feelings burden and consume the mind and body, creating discomfort, suffering, and anxiety. This expansion of lexical meaning allows Eilish to convey the all-consuming nature of emotions.

The phrase "Burning alive" presents a profound metaphor for feeling tormented by overwhelming emotions. The denotative meaning "burned alive" describes the horrific experience of being engulfed in fire while still alive. But in the song, this phrase is used to express feelings of fear, panic, extreme suffering and helplessness. The metaphor expands the lexical meaning of "burning" to represent intense emotional turmoil caused by jealousy, guilt, or self-doubt, creating an image of intense emotional suffering. "Like a fever, like I'm burning alive" denotatively refers to a physical condition, but in the context of the lyrics, this metaphor conveys very intense, disturbing, and excruciating feelings (Krupenko, 2025).

Lastly, the phrase "Cross the line" uses a metaphor to describe going beyond what is considered morally or socially acceptable. The lexical meaning of "crossing the line" refers to going beyond acceptable limits or breaking boundaries. However, in the context of the song, this phrase expands to convey feelings of guilt, anxiety, regret, shame, and a sense of violation. The metaphor suggests doing something inappropriate, breaking a norm, or betraying a trust, thus adding layers of moral and emotional complexity to the meaning.

The lexical meaning of “wildflower” as a wild flower that grows freely provides the basis for its metaphorical interpretation, indicating strength, resilience, and freedom. The interaction between lexical meaning and metaphor often creates ambivalence or contradictory layers of meaning, reflecting the complexity of human emotions. The use of the word “love” has a denotative meaning of affection, but in the context of a song full of doubt and uncertainty, the connotative and affective meaning becomes more complex. Metaphors also tend to carry a stronger emotional charge than literal language, thereby evoking more intense feelings in the listener.

Apart from the exploration of pain and loss, the analysis also reveals themes of resilience and self-discovery. The “Wildflower” metaphor itself serves as a central symbol of independence, strength, and the ability to thrive in challenging circumstances. This imagery provides a counterpoint to the more negative emotions expressed elsewhere in the lyrics, pointing the way to healing and self-acceptance. As Lakoff and Johnson assert, the “Wildflower” metaphor doesn’t simply decorate the language; it shapes how we perceive the subject of the song – as a strong, free entity capable of overcoming adversity. By embracing their identity as “Wildflowers,” the song’s subjects affirm their ability to overcome adversity, thrive in the face of adversity, and rise stronger than ever. This message of hope and empowerment adds a layer of meaning to the song, giving listeners a sense of comfort and inspiration amidst their own struggles.

It is important to recognize that the interpretation of lexical meaning and metaphor can be influenced by individual experiences and cultural context. The specific associations and connotations attached to terms such as “Valentine’s Day”, “Hotel”, or even “Leather” can vary depending on the listener’s personal background and history. Moreover, as Leech emphasizes, our understanding of lexical meaning is also influenced by factors such as tone of voice, social context, and cultural norms. Further research could explore how these contextual factors shape individual interpretations of song meanings. Additionally, analyzing how different audiences interpret the song’s imagery and symbolism can provide valuable insight into its enduring appeal and cultural relevance.

In conclusion, the interaction of lexical meaning and metaphor in “Wildflower” shows Billie Eilish’s skill in composing emotionally evocative and conceptually rich lyrics. With the support of Leech’s theory of semantics and Lakoff and Johnson’s theory of conceptual metaphors, we can better appreciate how these song lyrics not only convey emotions but also shape how we think and feel. Through the intentional selection and deployment of language, the song explores complex themes of love, loss, resilience, and self-discovery, inviting listeners to connect with the artist’s personal experiences and to reflect on their own emotional journeys. This analysis underscores the power of language to shape and convey deep emotional truths, which contributes to the enduring appeal of “Wildflower.” Furthermore, she highlights the importance of thoughtful lyrics in shaping listeners’ emotional responses, affirming music’s ability to transcend boundaries and connect people on a deep level.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of lexical meaning and metaphor in Billie Eilish’s song “Wildflower” reveals her exceptional artistry in crafting lyrics that are both emotionally resonant and conceptually rich. Through strategic language use, Eilish explores complex themes such as love, loss, resilience, and self-discovery, creating a personal connection with listeners. Her deliberate word choices and evocative metaphors—like “things fall apart,” “time breaks your heart,” “like a fever,” “burning alive,” and “cross the line”—extend beyond literal meanings, eliciting deep emotional responses. Grounded in Leech’s semantic theory and Lakoff and Johnson’s theory of conceptual metaphor, this study demonstrates how figurative language adds layers of meaning, emphasizing the interaction between denotative, connotative, and affective aspects of words. Linguistically, it underscores the power of language in music, illustrating how lyrics shape emotional perception and listener engagement. From a musical

analysis standpoint, Eilish's poetic techniques enhance the song's emotional depth and artistic value, showing that well-crafted lyrics can transcend mere entertainment to become vehicles for introspection and emotional exploration. Her use of metaphor not only conveys feeling but invites listeners to reflect on their own experiences, reinforcing the idea that language is integral to music's lasting impact. Ultimately, "Wildflower" exemplifies how intentional and artful use of language in songwriting fosters a profound listener experience. This research contributes to a broader understanding of how meaning is constructed in music and encourages future studies to further investigate the dynamic interplay between language, culture, and personal interpretation in shaping the emotional resonance of song lyrics..

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Finally, I hope that this journal can provide benefits for the development of science, especially in the fields of linguistics and music studies. Hopefully this research can inspire other researchers to develop research on similar topics, and can provide a deeper understanding of the use of language in creating meaning and emotion in song lyrics.

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