

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS: TIKTOK HITS “DEATH BED” AND “END OF BEGINNING”

ANALISIS BAHASA KIASAN: TIKTOK HITS " DEATH BED " DAN " END OF BEGINNING "

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### Abstract

TikTok, a platform for short videos, has significantly impacted the music industry by allowing songs to go viral and reach a global audience quickly. In this context, TikTok has emerged as a powerful tool for promoting songs and artists. Figurative language analysis has become an important method to understand the emotional depth of song lyrics in literary studies. This study aims to compare the figurative language used in two viral TikTok songs: "Death Bed" by Powfu (2020) and "End of Beginning" by Djo (2024). This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the lyrics identify and compare instances of figurative language. The research revealed that "Death Bed" contains 14 instances of figurative language, mostly metaphors and symbols, while "End of Beginning" contains 12, mostly metaphors and symbols. Each song shows a unique preference for certain types of figurative language, with "Death Bed" using irony more often and "End of Beginning" favoring metaphors and symbols. This comparative analysis highlights how both songs effectively use figurative language to convey deep emotional and thematic content.

**Keywords:** figurative language, comparative analysis, tiktok, metaphor.

### Abstrak

TikTok merupakan sebuah platform untuk video pendek, yang secara signifikan berdampak pada industri musik dengan memungkinkan lagu-lagu menjadi viral dan menjangkau audiens global dengan cepat. Dalam konteks ini, TikTok telah muncul sebagai alat yang ampuh untuk mempromosikan lagu dan artis. Analisis bahasa kiasan menjadi metode penting untuk memahami kedalaman emosional lirik lagu dalam studi sastra. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam dua lagu TikTok yang sedang viral: "Death Bed" oleh Powfu (2020) dan "End of Beginning" oleh Djo (2024). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk menganalisis lirik lagu dan membandingkan contoh-contoh bahasa kiasan. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa "Death Bed" berisi 14 contoh bahasa kiasan, sebagian besar metafora dan simbol, sedangkan "End of Beginning" berisi 12 contoh, sebagian besar metafora dan simbol. Setiap lagu menunjukkan preferensi unik untuk jenis bahasa kiasan tertentu, dengan "Death Bed" yang lebih sering menggunakan ironi dan "End of Beginning" yang lebih menyukai metafora dan simbol. Analisis komparatif ini menyoroti bagaimana kedua lagu tersebut secara efektif menggunakan bahasa kiasan untuk menyampaikan konten emosional dan tematik yang mendalam.

**Kata kunci:** bahasa kiasan, analisis komparatif, tiktok, metafora.

## INTRODUCTION

Language, whether spoken or written, is a key tool for communication between people (Sabata. Y., 2018). Keraf (2007) notes that oral and written languages use different techniques to express ideas. Oral language allows us to communicate through speaking, while written language relies on specific forms of expression. Language is crucial for sharing ideas and information, and figurative language, which uses figures of speech, plays an important role in this process.

Many people don't realize how important language is in daily conversations (Bonvillain, 2019). Figurative language, which includes words or expressions used in a non-literal way to create vivid images or convey abstract ideas, is especially powerful in literature and music. Songs often use figurative language to convey messages effectively. According to Rashid Mahmood (2014), different figures of speech help to build and explain concepts clearly. Therefore, songs can be a powerful way to express emotions or messages, especially for those who find it hard to express their thoughts directly (James, 1960).

This study focuses on figurative language in two emo rap songs, a genre that blends hip-hop and emo elements to explore deep emotional themes. Powfu, known for his hit "Death Bed (Coffee for Your Head)," combines emo and indie pop. Djo, another key artist in this genre, mixes emo and indie rock elements in his music. Powfu's "Death Bed" expresses deep feelings of love and longing, reflecting on past relationships and the desire to keep memories alive (Khosravian, no date). On the other hand, Djo's "End of Beginning," performed by Joe Keery, talks about personal growth, nostalgia, and accepting change, marking a transition towards a new phase in life.

This study uses Kennedy's theory, which identifies eight types of figurative language, namely:

1. Personification

Personification assigns human traits to nonhuman things, helping to create more relatable and vivid imagery. For instance, in the song "Fireflies" by Owl City, the line "I would like to make myself believe that planet Earth turns slowly" personifies the Earth, enhancing the emotional depth of the lyrics (Dorst, 2011).

2. Metaphor

Metaphor directly compares two, unlike things without using "like" or "as," allowing for a more implicit and powerful connection between concepts. An example can be found in Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You," where the lyric "I am in love with the shape of you" equates love with physical attraction, creating a strong visual image (Cameron & Maslen, 2010).

3. Simile

On the other hand, a simile compares two different things using "like" or "as," providing a more explicit comparison. For example, Bruno Mars' "Grenade" includes the line "I would catch a grenade for ya, throw my hand on a blade for ya," illustrating loyalty and sacrifice vividly (Israel et al., 2004).

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole involves deliberate exaggeration for emphasis or effect, commonly used to convey strong emotions or create a dramatic effect. OneRepublic's "Counting Stars"

uses the line "I have been losing sleep, dreaming about the things that we could be" to emphasize the intensity and passion behind the dreams (Claridge, 2011).

5. Paradox

A paradox is a statement that seems contradictory but reveals a deeper truth, often used to highlight complexities and provoke thought. Green Day's "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" features the line "I walk a lonely road, the only one that I have ever known," emphasizing loneliness in the context of familiarity (Jeffries, 2014).

6. Irony

Irony denotes a discrepancy between what is expected and what occurs, creating humor or emphasizing unpredictability. Alanis Morissette's "Ironic" features the line "It is like rain on your wedding day," showing irony through unexpected and contradictory situations (Gibbs, 2000).

7. Symbol

A symbol represents something beyond its literal meaning, adding deeper layers of meaning to a text. In Snow Patrol's "Chasing Cars," the lyric "If I lay here if I just lay here, would you lie with me and just forget the world?" uses lying down as a symbol for escape and detachment from reality (Turner, 1996).

8. Synecdoche

Synecdoche uses a part to represent the whole or vice versa, providing a detailed view of a larger concept. For instance, Kendrick Lamar and SZA's "All the Stars" include the line "This may be the night that my dreams might let me know," using "night" to signify a pivotal moment in time (Warren, 2006).

For example, in Powfu's "Death Bed," the line "I will make a cup of coffee for your head" uses synecdoche, where "head" represents the whole person. This study aims to explore how these types of figurative language are used in these songs to provide a deeper understanding of their lyrics and emotional impact.

Previous research has looked at the use of figurative language in song lyrics. Swarniti (2022) used metaphor and hyperbole to classify and analyze figurative language, while Ibrahim et al. (2019) used structuralism to understand different types of figurative language. Aryawan et al. (2019) emphasized the importance of reading and note-taking in understanding figurative language, and Ratna (2017) discussed how metaphorical language in songs can convey complex ideas concisely. However, there is still a gap in comparing the use of figurative language in emo rap songs, especially those by Powfu and Djo. This study aims to fill that gap by examining the figurative language in "Death Bed" and "End of Beginning." The objectives are to categorize and analyze the figurative language in these songs to see how they communicate deep emotions and ideas.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze figurative language. Cresswell (2012), the descriptive method aims to find a detailed explanation and description of the object. This research belongs to qualitative research because the data does not represent the number and focuses on a deeper analysis of lyric songs. The object of this research is figurative

language in the "End Beginning" song by Djo and the song by Powfu with the title "Death Bed." The research data is the sentence and sometimes phrase that contains figurative language in these two songs above. Data analysis of this research used lyrical content analysis because this type of analysis fits into the data examining the lyrics of songs to uncover deeper meanings, themes, emotions, and literary devices, such as metaphor, symbolism, and narrative structure. This analysis considers the historical and cultural context, the interplay between words and music, and the emotional tone conveyed through the lyrics.

The data were collected using documentation techniques and analyzed by deploying content analysis by referring to the theory of figurative language by Knickerbocker Reninger (1985). The steps the writer uses to collect the data are as follows: watching and understanding "Death Bed & End of Beginning," finding out all the words and sentences with figurative language as the data, and collecting data selected with figurative language in "Death bed and End beginning song" noting down the data based on their classification. The last one compares the result based on the classification and makes it into a diagram as the final analysis.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers classify the data in this chapter based on types of figurative language. Researchers found several types and types of figurative language that are the most dominant. Researchers analyzed data using X.J.'s theory. Kennedy. To clarify the data, the researcher presents the figurative language results in a table:

**Table 1. Types of Figurative Language In "Death Bed by Powfu" and "End of Beginning" by Djo**

Category	Death Bed		End of Beginning	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Personification	2	14,2%	1	8,3%
Metaphor	2	14,2%	3	25%
Simile	0	0%	0	0%
Hyperbole	2	14,2%	1	8,3%
Paradox	2	14,2%	2	16,6%
Irony	3	21,4%	1	8,3%
Symbol	2	14,2%	3	25%
Synecdoche	1	7,1%	1	8,3%

<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>
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## **Types of Figurative Language In Death Bed by Powfu**

### ***Personification***

"I'll make a cup of coffee for your head."

Here, coffee is more than just a beverage. It's being personified as something that interacts specifically with the listener's head, implying that it can influence their mental state, wakefulness, and alertness. Using personification in song lyrics can create a deeper emotional connection between the listener and the music, making the experience more relatable and impactful. This literary device allows for a more vivid and imaginative portrayal of themes and emotions within the music, resonating with audiences on a deeper level.

### ***Metaphor***

"Life was kinda short, but I got so many blessings,"

In the line "Life was kinda short, but I got so many blessings," the metaphor "life was kinda short" suggests not only the literal brevity of the speaker's life but also a feeling of unfulfilled potential and unfinished experiences. Despite this, the speaker finds solace in "so many blessings," where "blessings" metaphorically represent the valuable and positive experiences, relationships, and moments they cherished. This contrast highlights a bittersweet reflection on a life that, while cut short, was rich in meaningful and joyful moments.

### ***Hyperbole***

"You would jump into my arms every time you heard a bark."

The line "You would jump into my arms every time you heard a bark" employs hyperbole to emphasize the playful and affectionate nature of the relationship. The exaggerated claim that the listener would leap into the speaker's arms at every dog bark heightens the sense of protectiveness and closeness they shared. This overstatement evokes a nostalgic and emotional response, highlighting the joyful and exaggerated moments of their past together, making their bond seem even more special and memorable.

### ***Paradox***

"I've been praying for forgiveness, you've been praying for my health"

The lyrics present a paradox wherein the speaker seeks forgiveness while the listener prays for their well-being. This paradox encapsulates the complex emotional landscape of the speaker's situation, juxtaposing feelings of remorse and guilt with the listener's unwavering care and concern. It illustrates the intertwining of conflicting emotions during a challenging time,

highlighting the depth of their relationship and the complexities of human experience within the context of love and loss.

### ***Irony***

"Happy you were mine, it sucks that it's all ending."

Here, the speaker expresses happiness for having had the listener in their life, juxtaposed with the sorrow of their impending separation due to the speaker's approaching death. The irony lies in the contrast between the joy of past memories and the sadness of their inevitable conclusion, highlighting the unpredictable and often contradictory nature of life's experiences. This irony serves to deepen the emotional resonance of the song, underscoring the complexities of love and loss.

### ***Symbol***

"I'll make a cup of coffee for your head."

Here, the cup of coffee symbolizes comfort, care, and routine in the face of adversity. It represents the small gestures of love and support that the speaker offers to the listener during their difficult time, serving as a source of warmth and solace amidst the challenges they are facing. Additionally, coffee may symbolize the passage of time, as it is often associated with mornings and the start of a new day, reinforcing the themes of life's fleeting nature and the importance of cherishing meaningful moments. Overall, the cup of coffee serves as a powerful symbol of love, comfort, and resilience throughout the song.

### ***Synecdoche***

"I'll make a cup of coffee for your head,"

The "cup of coffee" represents the larger act of care and support that the speaker provides to the listener. By focusing on the tangible object of coffee, the lyric encapsulates the broader gesture of nurturing and comforting the listener during a challenging time. The synecdoche underscores the intimacy and familiarity of the relationship, as well as the importance of small, everyday acts of kindness in moments of hardship. The song's synecdoche imbues the narrative with depth and resonance, allowing specific details to evoke broader themes of love, loss, and resilience.

## **Types of Figurative Language in End of Beginning by Djo**

### ***Personification***

"Enter, Troubadour."

Here, "Troubadour" is personified as if it is a character or entity entering the scene. This personification imbues the Troubadour with a sense of presence and significance within the

narrative, as if it holds a symbolic role or represents a particular aspect of the speaker's experience. By personifying the Troubadour, the song adds depth and intrigue, inviting listeners to interpret its meaning within the context of the lyrics and the speaker's journey.

### ***Metaphor***

"I wave goodbye to the end of beginning."

Here, the phrase "the end of beginning" is metaphorical, representing a transitional phase or moment of change in the speaker's life. The metaphor suggests that the speaker is bidding farewell to the initial stages or beginnings of something, implying a sense of closure or completion. This metaphorical expression captures the complex emotions associated with endings and new beginnings, inviting listeners to reflect on the cyclical nature of life and personal growth.

### ***Hyperbole***

"Just one more tear to cry, one teardrop from my eye."

This line exaggerates the emotional intensity of the speaker's experience by suggesting that only one more tear remains to be shed. The hyperbolic language amplifies the feeling of sorrow and suggests that the speaker has already shed numerous tears, emphasizing the depth of their emotional turmoil. This exaggeration serves to heighten the emotional impact of the song and underscore the speaker's sense of sadness and longing.

### ***Paradox***

"You take the man out of the city, not the city out the man."

This statement presents a paradoxical idea that challenges conventional wisdom. Typically, the phrase "you can take the man out of the city, but you can't take the city out of the man" suggests that a person's upbringing or environment shapes their identity and behavior, and it is difficult to change fundamental aspects of who they are. However, the line in the song flips this concept on its head by implying that while a person may physically leave the city, the essence or influence of the city remains ingrained within them. This paradoxical statement invites reflection on the complexities of identity and the enduring impact of one's past experiences, even as circumstances change.

### ***Irony***

"You're just finding out, now isn't that a laugh?"

This line contains situational irony, where the speaker remarks on the delayed realization of the listener. The speaker finds amusement in the fact that the listener is only now discovering something that the speaker has already experienced or understood. This creates a sense of irony as the speaker's amusement contrasts with the listener's belated awareness,

highlighting the discrepancy between their perspectives and adding a layer of complexity to the song's narrative.

### *Symbol*

“And when I’m back in Chicago”

In "End of Beginning" by Djo, a symbol can be found in the repeated mention of Chicago throughout the song. Chicago serves as a symbol of the speaker's past experiences, memories, and personal growth. It represents a physical location that holds significance and nostalgia for the speaker, evoking emotions and reflections on their journey. The mention of Chicago throughout the song symbolizes a sense of homecoming, self-discovery, and the cyclical nature of life. Additionally, Chicago may symbolize transition and change, as the speaker reflects on returning to the city and feeling a connection to their past selves. Overall, Chicago functions as a powerful symbol that enriches the song's themes of identity, nostalgia, and personal transformation.

### *Synecdoche*

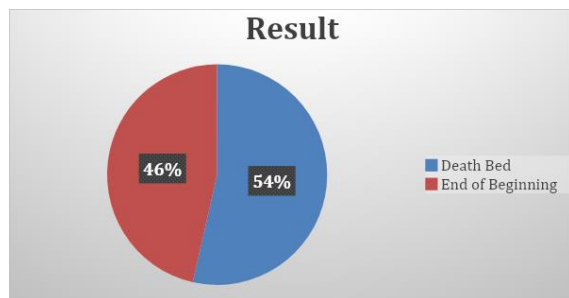
"Enter, Caroline."

Here, the name "Caroline" represents a specific person, but it also symbolizes broader themes and experiences within the song. The use of Caroline's name serves as a synecdoche, where a part (the name) represents the whole (the person). Through this synecdoche, Caroline becomes emblematic of a particular individual who plays a significant role in the speaker's narrative, embodying aspects of relationships, personal connections, and the journey of self-discovery. The invocation of Caroline's name encapsulates the essence of her presence and influence in the speaker's life, allowing listeners to infer deeper meanings and emotional resonance within the song's context.

Upon conducting a comparative analysis between the songs "Death Bed" by Powfu and "End of Beginning" by Djo, it becomes evident that the song "Death Bed," belonging to the Emo Rap genre, employs a greater amount of figurative language in its lyrical composition. This elicits a feeling of sadness and deep self-reflection in the listener, whereas End of Beginning adopts a more direct and uncomplicated approach in its narrative. Although there are variations between the two songs, they both skillfully employ personification to intensify the emotional resonance of their words. Subsequently, it might be exhibited on the chart in the following manner.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results, it can be concluded that "Death Bed" by Powfu and "End of Beginning" by Djo rely on various figurative language to convey their messages and emotions with a total of 26 data. The song Death Bed by Powfu contains 14 figurative languages (53,8%). The most frequently used figurative language is irony, which appears three times (21,4%). Then, personification, metaphor, hyperbole, Paradox, and symbol appear twice (14,2%).



Synecdoche appears once (7,1%), and there is no simile. In the song End of Beginning by Djo, there are 12 figurative languages (46,1%). Metaphors and symbols appear two times each (25%). Personification, hyperbole, irony, and synecdoche appear one time each (8,3%), Paradox appears three times (16,6%), and no similes are found. From both songs, metaphor and symbol is the most commonly found figurative language, which is 19,2% of the total data, while synecdoche is only 7,6%, making it the least found figurative language. This analysis indicates that both artists use more complex and nuanced figurative language to express themes and emotions in their works, with slight differences in their preferences for specific types of figurative language.

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