



# An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in *Disney Songs' Lyrics* by Naomi Scott and John Legend Featuring Ariana Grande

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**Abstract:** The research delves into the fascinating world of Disney songs and their use of figurative language, exploring how this impacts children's language skills and creativity. With the aim of closely analyzing three specific Disney songs, the study seeks to uncover how these beloved tunes effectively utilize different forms of figurative language to communicate important moral values. Through careful examination, the study identifies five key types of figurative language present in these songs: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and paradox. By taking a closer look at how Disney songs employ these various forms of figurative language to convey deeper messages that resonate with audiences, educators can gain valuable insights into using music as a powerful tool for facilitating language development and promoting moral understanding in young children. The study emphasizes the potential role that beloved Disney songs can play as effective educational tools for fostering greater comprehension of language and encouraging strong moral values among young audiences. Overall, this research serves as a valuable reminder of the importance of creative expression in education - demonstrating how even something as seemingly simple as a catchy tune can have profound impacts on children's cognitive and emotional development.

**Keywords:** figurative language, song lyrics

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human life because language is the main means of communication. As a communication tool, language includes words, clauses and sentences expressed verbally and in writing. Language is a conventional system of spoken or written symbols that people use as a medium for communicating with each other. In the process of conveying and receiving information, humans use language as a medium for communication, and also to establish relationships in daily social life. In receiving information, a person must understand the meaning expressed. According to Carroll (1953), language is a structured system of changing sounds and a series of language sounds, which can be used in communication between individuals by a group of humans and which completely gives names to objects, events and processes in the human environment.

Literature is a written art form that employs beautiful language and a deep message to represent human thoughts and feelings (Wellek & Warren, 1949). Literature is one of the ways that people communicate their emotions, thoughts, and experiences. Literature is a way for people to express what they perceive in the world, as well as a writer's written work that has aesthetic value and is regarded as aesthetic art. Literature is a creative work that uses imagination to explain social life in accordance with the author's understanding, experience, and interpretation.

There is a strong correlation between Figurative language and literature. Figurative language is a kind of language through the sense that phrases and words function to express a meaning that differs from the literal meaning of the words. Literature, on the other hand, refers to either written or spoken works of art including poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fiction. According to Perrine (1969), figurative language refers to any technique used to express a certain meaning in a manner other than the ordinary. Figurative language is a technique to give ideas in a language more aesthetic and

meaningful. According to Nuriadi (2016), these methods include music, imagery, rhythm, syntax, rhyme, narrative strategies, figurative language, and more. Some Disney songs are very popular nowadays because people generally like to listen to them. Many people like Disney songs because the rhythm and lyrics of the song provide a deep understanding of the message conveyed in the song.

Figurative language can improve the ability to understand the meaning of phrases or sentences. Figurative language is language that uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive, and impactful, by John Peck and Martin Coyle (2002). Figurative language can be found in all types of writing. Students who understand figurative language can interpret texts better and can analyze the meaning of the text more deeply. Farmasari (2022) stated that, as prospective teachers, we must be able to utilize information technology systems in learning. They can understand the author's choices and the overall purpose of a story or song lyrics. This is useful in everyday life, in the classroom, and in standardized assessments.

English is full of figurative language, and those people who are not familiar with it, especially children, find it difficult to understand (Blachowicz and Fisher 2006). In this study, researchers will select three songs from Disney films to be analyzed. among them, are Speechless and A Whole New World the song from the movie "Aladdin", and the song Beauty and The Beast from the movie "Belle".

The academic reasons why researcher selected this research is because Disney songs are synonymous with the use of various types of figures of speech or language devices. Analysis of these songs can provide a better understanding of how figure of speech is used in real contexts and how this use of figurative languages influences children's understanding of language and the development of creativity. By learning figurative language through songs, they like, children may be more interested in and more easily understand complex

language concepts. Disney songs often convey morals and positive values. Through analysis of Figurative Languages in Disney songs, we can identify how figure of speech is used to communicate these values to students. this study can assist educators in teaching and guiding children in developing an understanding of moral values.

The researcher's personal reason for conducting this research is because all the songs in Disney films are pleasant to listen to and appeal to various groups, another reason for the researcher in choosing this topic is because most people outside still don't understand figurative language, and this song is also in great demand by Disney fans because this song is very pleasant to listen to and easy to understand, especially children and teenagers. Many of the characters' expressions in Disney films imagine the conditions or situations that the characters find themselves in. So, researchers found figurative language in the lyrics to express the singer's emotions. In analyzing this research, researchers found 5 types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and paradox.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The study employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the figurative language used in Disney song lyrics and how it aids in language learning. According to Sugiyono (2013), qualitative research methods are those employed to investigate the status of items or natural environments. The research design describes the methods used and the specific focus of the study on analyzing the lyrics of three Disney songs: "Beauty and The Beast," "Speechless," and "A Whole New World." The sources of data are categorized into primary and secondary sources, while the methods of collecting data involve browsing, downloading, reading the song lyrics, and taking notes. The analysis method of the research follows the formalism theory and includes steps such as identification, classification, description, explanation, and conclusion. The research design of the study utilizes a descriptive qualitative method, which involves describing the procedures related to the research methods. This method doesn't involve detailed arithmetic calculations but focuses on describing and analyzing the type and meaning of the figurative language used in Disney song lyrics. The primary sources of data consist of the lyrics from the selected Disney songs, while secondary sources include linguistic learning books, articles in encyclopedias, and research reviews related to figurative language. The data collection method involves browsing for the songs, downloading them, reading the lyrics, and taking notes on the figurative language found in each song. The research employs a descriptive method based on the formalism theory in analyzing the data. It involves the steps of identification, classification, description, explanation, and conclusion. These steps focus on identifying and classifying the figurative language used in the songs, describing the meaning and reasons behind the language choices, explaining the implied messages, and finally concluding the dominant types of figurative language used in the Disney songs' lyrics. The goal of the research is to provide a detailed analysis of the figurative language in the selected Disney songs and how it contributes to language learning.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The results of this research are outlined in this section. The findings are categorized into two sections to address the study's two research questions. The first part examines the diverse forms of figurative language within Disney songs, while the second part delves into the interpretation of the figurative language present in Disney songs. Potter (1967:145) that allusion is figurative language that show indirectly forwards a person or even that people have known together.

This chapter focuses on the analysis of three songs included in this research: A Whole New World, Speechless, and Beauty and The Beast. In each song, the researcher identified five types of figurative language. The study provides a detailed analysis of the figurative language utilized in Disney song lyrics, with particular attention given to Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole, Personification, and Paradox.

The study revealed a total of 18 instances of figurative language in the Disney songs A Whole New World, Speechless, and Beauty and The Beast. In the lyrics of A Whole New World, three Metaphors, two hyperboles, and one personification were identified. The song Speechless featured one metaphor, six hyperboles, and one personification. In the song Beauty and The Beast, three similes and one paradox were discovered.

### Types of Figurative Language

Figurative language is the use of language in a non-literal way to create a specific effect or feeling, McGuigan (2007). The researcher presents the answer to the first research question, which focuses on the types of figurative language in Disney songs. The researcher identifies 5 types of figurative language in the songs "Beauty and The Beast," "Speechless," and "A Whole New World."

**Table 1** Types of Figurative Language

Song Title	Lyrics	Line	Figurative Language
A Whole New World	A whole new world	11, 20	Metaphor
A Whole New World	It's crystal clear	14	Metaphor
A Whole New World	Through an endless diamond sky	19	Metaphor
Speechless	I will take this broken wing	37	Metaphor
A Whole New World	I'm like a shooting star	22	Simile
Beauty and the Beast	Tale as old as time, True as it can be	1-2	Simile
Beauty and the Beast	Ever as before, and ever just as sure	13-14	Simile
Beauty and the Beast	Certain as the sun, Rising in the east	26-27	Simile
A Whole New World	I can show you the world : Shining, Shimmering, Splendid	1	Hyperbole
A Whole New World	A hundred thousand things to see	21	Hyperbole
Speechless	My voice drowned out in the thunder	38	Hyperbole
Speechless	I won't start to crumble	4	Hyperbole

Song Title	Lyrics	Line	Figurative Language
Speechless	To shut me or cut me down	6	Hyperbole
Speechless	When they try to suffocate me	8	Hyperbole
Speechless	Centuries old and unbending	14	Hyperbole
Speechless	And watch me burn across the sky	19	Hyperbole
A Whole New World	With new horizon to pursue	24	Personification
Speechless	Swallowing sand, left with nothing to say	3	Personification
Beauty and the Beast	Ever just the same, ever a surprise	11-12	Paradox

In the first section, the researcher presents the findings related to the first research question, which focuses on identifying the various types of figurative language employed in three Disney songs: "A Whole New World," "Speechless," and "Beauty and The Beast". The research is conducted using Lawrence Perrine's theory, which categorizes figurative language into five types including metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, and paradox.

Under the category of metaphor, the study identifies several instances in the Disney songs, with a total of four examples found. Three metaphors are discovered in "A Whole New World" and two in "Speechless". The specific lines where these metaphors occur are detailed in a table provided by the researcher.

Similarly, the analysis uncovers several similes in the Disney songs, with a total of four identified. Three similes are found in "Beauty and The Beast," while one simile is present in "A Whole New World". The exact lines containing these similes are listed in a table within the research findings. The study also highlights the prevalence of hyperbole in the analyzed Disney songs, revealing a total of seven instances. These hyperboles are distributed across the songs "A Whole New World" and "Speechless", as indicated in a table presenting the specific lines where each hyperbole is found.

In addition, the research identifies instances of personification within the analyzed Disney songs, with one instance in "A Whole New World" and one in "Speechless". The specific lines featuring personification in the lyrics are presented in a table for reference.

Lastly, the research uncovers a solitary instance of paradox, found in the song "Beauty and The Beast," with the specific lines containing the paradox listed in a table provided by the researcher. These findings contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the use of figurative language in Disney song lyrics while providing specific examples from the analyzed songs.

### The Meaning of Figurative Languages in The Disney's Song

The researcher discusses the second research question, which examines the figurative language in Disney songs, including metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, and paradox. Hebron stated at Tankaruba (2016) "Metaphor is a figurative form in which a word is used in a different meaning

than usual to represent another idea". Kennedy (1999) emphasizes that simile is figurative language in the form of a comparison between two things marked by a connecting word, such as like, as, than, or verb. According to Shaw (1974), the reader must gain insight than the literal meaning to uncover a deeper, frequently more philosophical interpretation that will explain the apparent absurdity.

The analysis of Disney songs revealed 19 different meanings of figurative language. The researcher presents the data findings in a table.

**Table 2** The Meaning of Figurative Languages in The Disney's Song

No.	Lyrics	Figurative Language	Meaning	Song Title
1	I can show you the world; Shining, Shimmering, Splendid	Hyperbole	Overstatement of the grandeur of the world	A Whole New World
2	A Whole New World (Defined the castle and the outside world)	Metaphor	Comparison of the castle to the outside world	A Whole New World
3	It's crystal clear (Defined the world and crystal clear)	Metaphor	Comparison of the world to crystal clear	A Whole New World
4	Through an endless diamond sky	Metaphor	Comparison of stars to diamonds	A Whole New World
5	A hundred thousand things to see	Hyperbole	Exaggeration of the vastness of things to see	A Whole New World
6	I'm like a shooting star	Simile	Comparison of oneself to a shooting star	A Whole New World
7	Swallowing sand, left with nothing to say	Personification	Humanization of adverse circumstances	Speechless
8	My voice drowned out in the thunder	Hyperbole	Exaggeration of the impact of oppression	Speechless
9	I won't start to crumble	Hyperbole	Exaggeration of inner strength	Speechless
10	To shut me or cut me down	Hyperbole	Dramatization of overcoming obstacles	Speechless
11	When they try to suffocate me	Hyperbole	Exaggerated expression of being stifled	Speechless
12	Centuries old and unbending	Hyperbole	Overstatement of enduring strength	Speechless
13	I will take this broken wing	Metaphor	Metaphorical representation of strength	Speechless
14	And watch me burn across the sky	Hyperbole	Exaggerated expression of facing adversity	Speechless
15	Tale as old as time, True as it can be	Simile	Comparison of romance to time	Beauty and the Beast

No.	Lyrics	Figurative Language	Meaning	Song Title
16	Ever as before, and ever just as sure	Simile	Comparison of surprises to certainty	Beauty and the Beast
17	Ever just the same, ever a surprise	Paradox	Illustration of consistent unpredictability	Beauty and the Beast
18	Certain as the sun, Rising in the east	Simile	Comparison of certainty to the sun	Beauty and the Beast

The researcher provides insights into the second research question in this section, focusing on the meaning of figurative language within Disney songs. The figurative language studied encompasses metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, and paradox. The data analysis of Disney songs leads to the discovery of 19 instances of figurative language, which are detailed in a table provided by the researcher. The table presents the specific lyrics of the songs, the corresponding figurative language used, the meaning of the language, and the song title where it is found. Each instance is examined and categorized based on the type of figurative language employed, followed by a detailed explanation of its meaning and interpretation within the song's context. Examples of figurative language found in the analysis include metaphors, where certain lyrics compare elements within the songs to convey deeper meanings or emotional states. Similes are also identified, demonstrating comparisons that enhance understanding and evoke imagery.

Additionally, hyperboles are highlighted, characterized by their use of exaggeration to emphasize certain emotions or situations within the songs' narratives. Moreover, personification is observed, where inanimate objects or abstractions are given human-like qualities, adding depth to the lyrical content. Finally, paradoxes are identified, depicting contradictory elements within the songs' themes, to create thought-provoking and impact imagery. The thorough analysis and categorization of these instances of figurative language provide a deeper understanding of the nuanced meanings and emotions conveyed within the Disney songs. This breakdown contributes to a comprehensive interpretation of the figurative language used in the lyrics, offering valuable insights into the rich storytelling and emotional depth present in the Disney songs.

The researcher analyzed the song lyrics line by line to identify different types of figurative language, focusing on six specific types. They categorized the figurative language found in Disney songs into these six types for the study.

The findings of this study address two research questions and categorize the figurative language in Disney songs "A Whole New World," "Speechless," and "Beauty and The Beast". The study focuses on the elucidation of figurative language types including Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole, Personification, and Paradox. The analysis reveals various examples of figurative language in the song lyrics, and the researcher found that these elements enrich the overall language used in the Disney songs. The researcher identified several instances of figurative language types in the Disney songs. For example, in the song "A Whole New World," there are three instances of Metaphor, one instance of Simile, and

two instances of Hyperbole. Meanwhile, the song "Speechless" contains one instance of Metaphor, six instances of Hyperbole, and one instance of Personification. In "Beauty and The Beast," the study uncovers three instances of Simile and one instance of Paradox. By analyzing the specific lyrics and categorizing the figurative language, the researcher gains insights into how these linguistic devices contribute to the depth and richness of the songs' narratives and emotions.

The researcher provides detailed explanations and interpretations for each instance of figurative language, offering valuable insights into how each element functions within the context of the song lyrics. For instance, the use of Metaphor in the song "A Whole New World" is exemplified in the lyrics "Through an endless diamond sky", which directly compares stars with diamonds to evoke a sense of wonder and brilliance. Similarly, the use of Hyperbole, as seen in the lyrics "I can show you the world" and "A hundred thousand things to see", reveals an exaggerated expression to emphasize the depth of the singer's emotions and experiences. Furthermore, the study highlights the significance of Simile in conveying comparisons and Personification in portraying human characteristics in inanimate objects, adding layers of meaning and connection to the song narratives.

In summary, the detailed analysis and classification of various figurative language types in the Disney songs provide valuable insights into the linguistic richness and emotional depth of the song lyrics. The researcher's thorough examination of the use of figurative language enriches the understanding and appreciation of the storytelling and emotional impact of the Disney songs.

### The Types of Figurative Language in The Disney's Songs

1. **Metaphor:** Bohang (2018) Defines metaphor as a figurative form where a word is used in a different meaning than usual to represent another idea. Metaphors are used to form striking comparisons between two dissimilar things to highlight their similarities. In the song "A Whole New World" uses metaphor by describing the sky as "Endless Diamond Sky," comparing stars to diamonds to convey the image of a sky full of stars sparkling like diamonds.
2. **Simile:** In "Beauty and The Beast," the lyrics "the tale is as old as time, true as it can be" use a simile to compare the love story to something timeless, emphasizing the enduring nature of love through a comparison.
3. **Hyperbole:** The song "Speechless" features hyperbole with the line "I won't start to crumble," where 'crumble' exaggerates the singer's strength in facing obstacles, portraying an exaggerated sense of resilience in challenging situations.
4. **Personification:** In "Speechless," the phrase "Swallowing sand, left with nothing to say" personifies the act of swallowing to depict Princess Jasmine's feeling of being overwhelmed and silenced by threats, creating a sense of danger and pressure.
5. **Paradox:** The song "Beauty and The Beast" presents a paradox with the lyrics "Ever just the same, ever a surprise," capturing the contradictory nature of love, portraying both consistency and unpredictability in a relationship.

## The Meaning of Figurative Languages in The Disney's Songs

### A. The Meaning of Figurative Languages in "A Whole New World"

1. "I'm like a shooting star" - Simile
  - This lyric compares the singer to a shooting star, indicating a sense of permanence and change.
2. "A whole new world" - Metaphor
  - The phrase "A whole new world" metaphorically represents the unknown and unexplored outside of the castle.
3. "It's crystal clear" - Metaphor
  - The line "It's crystal clear" metaphorically describes the world's clarity and beauty like a crystal.
4. "Through an endless diamond sky" - Metaphor
  - These lyrics compare the stars with diamonds, conveying the image of a sky full of sparkling stars.
5. "I can show you the world" - Hyperbole
  - This lyric expresses an exaggerated statement of the ability to show numerous things.
6. "A hundred thousand things to see" - Hyperbole
  - The phrase "A hundred thousand things to see" uses hyperbole to emphasize numerous things to explore.

### B. The Meaning of Figurative Languages in "Speechless"

1. "Swallowing sand, left with nothing to say" - Personification
  - The line "Swallowing sand, left with nothing to say" personifies the act of swallowing, describing Princess Jasmine's challenging situation.
2. "My voice drowned out in the thunder" – Metaphor
  - This lyric metaphorically depicts the overpowering effect of the situation, comparing it to the drowning of the singer's voice in thunder.
3. "To shut me or cut me down" – Hyperbole
  - The phrase "To shut me or cut me down" uses hyperbole to illustrate the magnitude of the opposition faced.
4. "I will take these broken wings" – Metaphor
  - This line metaphorically represents the singer's determination and resilience despite challenges.
5. "Watch me burn across the sky" – Hyperbole
  - The lyric "Watch me burn across the sky" uses hyperbole to emphasize the singer's desired impact and action.
6. "I won't start to crumble" – Hyperbole
  - The lyrics "I won't start to crumble" use hyperbole to convey the singer's strength and resolve.
7. "When they try to suffocate me" - Hyperbole
  - The line "When they try to suffocate me" expresses the exaggerated attempt to limit the singer's actions.
8. "Centuries old and unbending" – Hyperbole
  - This phrase uses hyperbole to emphasize the unchangeable nature of certain rules or conditions.

### C. The Meaning of Figurative Language in "Beauty and The Beast"

1. "Tale as old as time, True as it can be" – Simile
  - The phrase "Tale as old as time, True as it can be" uses simile to compare the enduring nature of their romance to timelessness.
2. "Ever as before, and ever just as sure" – Simile
  - This lyric uses simile to emphasize the joy and surprise of their tale ending as a love story.
3. "Ever just the same, ever a surprise" – Paradox
  - The lyrics "Ever just the same, ever a surprise" employ paradox to illustrate the consistency and unpredictability of love.
4. "Certain as the sun, Rising in the east" – Simile
  - This phrase uses simile to convey the unwavering belief and conviction in the couple's relationship despite criticisms.

## CONCLUSION

This segment summarizes the findings from the previous chapter, which focuses on the prevalence of various types of figurative language in Disney songs. The study identifies a total of 18 instances of figurative language in the analyzed song lyrics, encompassing metaphors, similes, hyperboles, personification, and paradox. Analysis of the song "A Whole New World" reveals the presence of two metaphors, one simile, two hyperboles, and one instance of personification. Meanwhile, the song "Speechless" contains two metaphors, six hyperboles, and one instance of personification. In "Beauty and The Beast," the study finds three similes and one paradox. The research concludes that hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language found in Disney songs' lyrics. Understanding the significance of figurative language is emphasized, as interpreting language literally may lead to a different meaning. Figurative language often conveys deeper or more complex meanings, and comprehending and utilizing it enables individuals to grasp meanings that may be difficult to express directly. This conclusion underscores the importance of recognizing and interpreting figurative language, given its prevalence and impact on the nuanced meanings conveyed in the lyrics of Disney songs.

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