

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the Research

Love is widely recognized as one of the most profound and multifaceted human emotions, attracting the attention of scholars, philosophers, and artists for centuries due to its complexity and universality. Sternberg (1986), in his *Triangular Theory of Love*, conceptualizes love as comprising three essential components—intimacy, passion, and commitment. According to him, these components can exist in varying degrees and combinations, giving rise to different forms and experiences of love, ranging from affectionate bonds to fully committed romantic relationships. Fromm (1956) offers a complementary perspective by arguing that love is not merely a spontaneous emotional state but rather an art that must be consciously learned, cultivated, and practiced. He emphasizes that genuine love demands active participation, responsibility, and mutual understanding between individuals. Supporting these views, Maslow (1943) places love within the psychological level of his *Hierarchy of Needs*, highlighting it as a fundamental requirement for human growth and well-being. For Maslow, love encompasses both the ability to give and the openness to receive affection, fostering a sense of belonging and emotional security. Collectively, these perspectives illustrate that love is not simply an emotional impulse; it is a complex interplay of emotional, cognitive, and behavioral dimensions that are deeply rooted in the human need for connection and mutual care.

Understanding the multifaceted nature of love not only requires examining its conceptual foundations but also exploring the ways in which it can be conveyed in everyday life. While theoretical perspectives provide insight into the components and significance of love, its true essence is often realized through actions and expressions that foster emotional closeness and mutual understanding. Expressing love is the act of communicating feelings of affection, care, and appreciation toward another person through both verbal and nonverbal means. It plays an essential role in sustaining and deepening relationships, whether in romantic partnerships, family bonds, or friendships. Spoken expressions, such as offering sincere compliments, expressing gratitude, or openly declaring one's feelings, can strengthen emotional closeness and mutual understanding (Ackerman, 2019). Nonverbal expressions—such as hugging, holding hands, smiling warmly, or maintaining attentive eye contact—often convey emotions in a way that transcends verbal communication (Hertenstein et al., 2006).

Acts of kindness and thoughtful gestures, including providing help, showing support during challenges, or preparing something meaningful, serve as tangible demonstrations of love. Spending quality time together and engaging in shared activities can further enhance connection and foster trust (Ackerman, 2019). The act of giving gifts—whether simple or elaborate—may also symbolize care and consideration, reinforcing the sense of being valued in the relationship (Górnik-Durose, 2020).

Ultimately, expressing love is not limited to a single action but emerges through consistent, intentional behaviors that nurture emotional bonds over time. It reflects a genuine concern for another's well-being and strengthens the sense of belonging within the relationship (Górnik-Durose, 2020).

Literature and music, though distinct in their medium and mode of expression, share a common purpose in articulating the emotional landscape of the human experience. Literature, as Ramrao (2016) asserts, serves as a powerful form of communication that transforms imagination, personal thought, and lived experience into language, thereby creating a deep emotional resonance between writer and reader. Through the use of narrative, symbolism, and figurative language, literature has the capacity to preserve cultural memory, reflect societal values, and offer insight into the complexities of human relationships.

Similarly, music—particularly in the form of song lyrics—operates as an artistic medium that combines verbal content with melody, rhythm, and sound to evoke emotional responses that transcend the boundaries of spoken communication. Song lyrics function not merely as a collection of words but as poetic expressions intricately intertwined with musical composition, designed both to be read for their literary value and to be heard for their auditory and emotive impact. As Griffie (1992) emphasizes, songs possess the unique ability to convey messages, dreams, hopes, and emotional realities, functioning as cultural bridges that connect individual experiences to a broader, shared human

understanding. This dual function of literature and music highlights their enduring relevance as forms of artistic expression capable of shaping, reflecting, and amplifying the emotional truths that define the human condition.

Building upon this understanding of literature and music as complementary vehicles for emotional and cultural expression, it is essential to situate the present study within a specific artistic context. Among contemporary musicians, Joji has emerged as a distinctive voice whose lyrical works blend poetic introspection with evocative musical arrangements. His songs often explore themes of love, loss, and longing, conveyed through emotionally charged imagery and nuanced storytelling. In particular, the tracks *Glimpse of Us* (2022) and *Like You Do* (2020) stand out as poignant examples of how modern songcraft can embody the narrative depth and figurative richness typically associated with literary works, making them suitable and compelling objects for structural and thematic analysis in this research.

The selection of *Glimpse of Us* and *Like You Do* as the primary objects of this study is based on their profound emotional depth, rich use of figurative language, and narrative qualities that closely resemble literary texts. Both songs articulate themes of love, longing, and emotional vulnerability in ways that resonate universally, allowing listeners to engage with the lyrical content on a deeply personal level. Joji's distinctive style combines minimal yet impactful instrumentation with poetic and often melancholic lyrics, resulting in compositions that are both aesthetically compelling and emotionally evocative.

These characteristics make the songs particularly suitable for a structural analysis, as they offer layered meanings and symbolic elements that invite close reading and interpretation. Furthermore, their popularity and reception in global music culture underscore their relevance as cultural texts worthy of academic examination.

Given the intertwined nature of literature and music as vehicles for expressing complex human emotions, selecting works that encapsulate both lyrical depth and emotional resonance becomes essential. Joji's *Glimpse of Us* and *Like You Do* exemplify this intersection, offering rich narrative layers, evocative imagery, and recurring thematic contrasts that make them particularly suited for literary inquiry. According to their framework, intrinsic elements—such as imagery, figurative language, tone, and character—are essential in understanding a literary text from within, without relying on external contexts. Existing research often isolates one of these aspects, leaving a gap in exploring how all four interact to shape the thematic and emotional depth of Joji's songs.

A.2 Problem of the Research

How do imagery, figurative language, tone, and character viewed as intrinsic elements in Wellek and Warren's structural theory contribute to the overall meaning and emotional expression in Joji's songs *Glimpse of Us* and *Like You Do*?

A.3 Objective of the Research

This study aims to conduct a structural analysis of Joji's song lyrics *Glimpse of Us* and *Like You Do* by examining the intrinsic elements of imagery, figurative language, tone, and character as outlined in Wellek and Warren's literary theory, with the goal of uncovering how these elements contribute to the emotional and artistic impact of the songs.

A.4 Significance of the Research

The results of this research are expected to be beneficial both theoretically and practically, as elaborated in the following section.

1. Theoretically

This study is expected to contribute to the field of literary studies by expanding the application of Wellek and Warren's structural analysis to modern song lyrics, specifically focusing on four literary elements: imagery, figurative language, tone, and character. By doing so, it strengthens the recognition of song lyrics as a legitimate form of literature, offering new perspectives on how these elements function to construct meaning and convey emotional depth in contemporary music.

2. Practically

The findings of this research may provide practical insights for students, educators, and literary enthusiasts who are interested in analyzing modern songs through a literary lens. It can serve as a reference for future studies that aim to integrate literary theory into the analysis of popular music, as well as for songwriters seeking to understand how literary techniques can

enhance emotional expression and narrative depth in their compositions.

A.5 Limitation of the Research

This study focuses solely on analyzing Joji's *Glimpse of Us* and *Like You Do* using Wellek and Warren's structural approach, limited to four literary elements: imagery, figurative language, tone, and character. Other aspects such as historical, cultural, or musical analysis are excluded.

A.6 Definition of key terms

Before processing the research, it is necessary to clarify the terminology used throughout the research to avoid misunderstandings. The researcher has found several terms used in this research.

1. Structural Analysis

Structural analysis is a method of studying text by breaking them down into their underlying structures, systems, and units.

2. Song Lyric

Song lyrics can be classified as a form of literary expression. According to Hornby (1995), a song is essentially a short, rhymed poem designed to be sung and accompanied by music. This definition positions song lyrics as a unique blend of poetry and musicality. However, Klarer (2004) offers a broader perspective on literature, encompassing any written text. While acknowledging this broader definition, it is evident that song lyrics possess distinct literary qualities, characterized by the creative and artful use of language.

A.7 Organization of the Research Report

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction that explains the research background, research questions, research objectives, implications, limitations, definitions of key terms, and research organization. Research paper. The second chapter is a literature review. In this chapter, the researcher examines the theoretical framework used and relevant research reports. The third chapter discusses the research methodology. This chapter describes the types of research, data sources, data collection methods and techniques, and data analysis methods. In the fourth chapter, the researcher will analyze and then explain in detail the theory and methods. The fifth chapter is the last chapter which contains conclusions and suggestions.

