



A Stylistic Analysis of Figurative Language in Contemporary English Song Lyrics: Metaphor and Symbolism in 'Demons' and 'Let It Go'

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Article History

Received
22-05-2025

Accepted
28-06-2025

Published
30-06-2025

Abstract & Indexing

ICI WORLD of JOURNALS



ACADEMIA



Abstract

This paper presents a stylistic analysis of two popular English songs "Demons" by Imagine Dragons and "Let It Go" by Idina Menzel focusing on their use of figurative language, particularly metaphor and symbolism. Using a qualitative descriptive research design, the study explores how figurative devices contribute to the emotional tone, thematic development, and listener engagement within the songs. The analysis reveals that "Demons" employs dark metaphors and reference imagery to dramatize themes of psychological struggle, inner conflict, and moral doubt. In contrast, "Let It Go" utilizes liberating metaphors and open symbolism to express emotional freedom, self-acceptance, and personal empowerment. By juxtaposing these two works, the study highlights how figurative language serves as a powerful tool in constructing contrasting emotional narratives and conveying complex psychological states. The comparative approach underscores the versatility of metaphor and symbolism in shaping the listener's emotional experience and reinforcing thematic contrasts between repression and liberation. Moreover, the study emphasizes the pedagogical value of analyzing song lyrics as authentic literary texts. Incorporating such materials into English language and literature classrooms can enhance learners' understanding of stylistic variation, pragmatic meaning, and cultural awareness. Ultimately, the research contributes to the broader field of stylistics by demonstrating how contemporary music reflects universal human emotions through artistic language, thereby bridging the gap between linguistic creativity and emotional expression in modern popular culture.

Keywords:

Figurative Language, Stylistic Analysis, Metaphor, Symbolism, Song Lyrics, Emotional Tone, Contemporary English Music, Pedagogical Implications, Pragmatic Instruction, Comparative Analysis.

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Background of the Study

Speech, that of an artistic kind, is more than a means of communication--it is a medium of the depths of the emotion, of the symbolic echo, of the creativity. The figurative language is central in the meaning construction and decoding in literary and musical environments. According to the explanation of Keraf (2002), figurative language is a conscious deflection of the conventional grammatical rules so as to bring about stylistic and emotive impact to the texts, making them more stimulating and memorable.

The figurative devices are especially abundant in the song lyrics as a form of a combination of poetry and music. According to Tarigan (2013), figurative language in music makes the appeal emotional more and enables songwriters to find a way to convey complex feelings without being straightforward. The devices which can be metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, imagery, repetition, etc. are not only ornamental devices, they fulfill practical purposes in the creation of tone, mood, and thematic richness. The use of figurative language in music has been investigated in the past.

Yusnitasari et al. (2022) discussed the song *You Are My Sunshine* by Anne Murray, pointing out the repetition and metaphor to create an emotional investment. In their analysis of BTS lyrics, Mustikawati and Agustina (2023) distinguished such features of the texts as personification and stylistic rhythm. Nevertheless, a significant part of this work is devoted to romantic or pop ballads, which is why there is a gap in the stylistic study of modern English songs that have a psychological and existential theme.

This paper will attempt to bridge that gap by examining two internationally known songs, namely: *Demons* by Imagine Dragons and *Let It Go* by Idina Menzel. These songs were chosen due to the lyrical richness and thematic opposition as *Demons* deals with inner conflicts and susceptibility with metaphors and symbols whereas *Let It Go* deals with emotional freedom and empowerment with hyperbole and imagery. The study applies the stylistic approach of research and explores the notion that using figurative language helps to improve the poetical style, sentiments, and the appeal to the audience.

The analysis of the ways in which metaphor and symbolism are employed in these lyrics can add to the stylistics domain, and the research will prove that the figurative language in music is efficient and pleasing to the eye. It displays how common lyrics can use poetic practices to carry profound human emotions.

Problem Statement

Figurative language is prominent in the creation of emotional and aesthetic content in the lyrics of the song. Though its application in different kinds of music has been discussed before (especially pop and ballads), the stylistic analysis of contemporary English songs, which deal with more profound psychological and existential issues, is still missing. The use of metaphor, repetition, and imagery has been found to be prevalent in romantic and inspirational lyrics (Yusnitasari et al., 2022; Mustikawati and Agustina, 2023), but the role of figurative devices in the songs depicting inner conflict, frailty, or emotional liberation is understudied.

Furthermore, a lot of the available literature is devoted to defining the typologies of figurative language but does not explore their stylistic intent or contribution to the theme. Figurative language is not a decoration as Keraf (2002) and McArthur (1992) underline that it is used to create mood, identity, and make the listener think more intensively. Nevertheless, the practical and symbolic functions of metaphor and symbolism in the mainstream English music have not yet been heavily examined.

This paper fills this gap by providing the stylistic analysis of two internationally popular songs *Demons* by Imagine Dragons and *Let It Go* by Idina Menzel. They have been chosen due to the richness of their lyrics and contrast of the theme: *Demons* explores emotional struggle using metaphor and symbolism, whereas *Let It Go* reveals personal freedom with the help of hyperbole and imagery. Through examination of the way that the figurative language

functions in these songs, the research will identify the poetic techniques that turn the average songs into strong works of art.

Research Questions

1. Which forms of figurative language do you find to be the most commonly employed in the lyrics of Demons and Let It Go?
2. What role does metaphor and symbolism play stylistically to convey emotional message of inner conflict and personal liberation in these songs?
3. How do the figurative techniques such as hyperbole, image and repetition help in the tone, mood, and depth of interpretation of the lyrics?

Literature Review

The use of figurative language is a key factor in enhancing the works of art, especially in the lyrics of song, through the process of converting literal phrases into emotionally tinged and symbolically overlaid messages. Much like in stylistic analysis, figurative devices like metaphor and symbolism are studied and analyzed not due to their aesthetic value but to their functional value in the process of meaning-making. According to Keraf (2002), figurative language is an intentional violation of the accepted linguistic standards that are meant to create an image and a sense of emotional appeal. Abrams and Harpham (2012) also add that stylistics concerns the way the linguistic selection, in particular, the figurative expression, influences the tone, mood, and depth of the theme. Within the framework of modern English music, these devices provide lyricists with an opportunity to express the complex psychological conditions and the human experience as a whole, and the lyrics of songs can be a good subject of the stylistic question.

1. Definition and Scope of Figurative Language

Figure of speech is a style technique which enables the authors and the lyricists to convey the abstractions, feelings and figurative meanings using non-literary expressions. Figurative language according to Keraf (2002) refers to the intentional subversion of the normal linguistic patterns in order to produce aesthetic and emotional values. It consists of metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, imagery, and repetition- all of which add to the enrichment of a text with its emotional tones and interpretive richness. According to McArthur (1992), figurative language is not limited to poetry and literature but it is in the common language used in everyday speech, advertisements and more so in music. These devices have two purposes in the lyrics of songs: to make the text sound beautiful, and to enhance its emotional appeal. As an example, through metaphor the lyricist can compare internal states of the emotions to external objects or events, whereas symbolism entraps cultural or psychological significance within physical objects or behavior. Tarigan (2013) goes on to reason that figurative language in music makes the music more emotional and indirect but powerful. It turns mere lyrics into stratified statements of identity, struggle and change and so is a crucial element of style analysis in musical writing.

2. Stylistics and Poetic Function in Song Lyrics

Stylistics is the study of linguistics that explores the use of language in literature and art to create certain effects. According to Abrams and Harpham (2012), stylistics refers to the examination of the manner in which linguistic options, including diction, syntax, and figurative language, create the tone, mood, and level of interpretation involved in a text. With regard to the lyrics of the song, stylistic analysis shows the role of poetic devices in creating emotion and developing the theme.

Tarigan (2013) reiterates the importance of the figurative language in music in that it gives the lyrics an extra expressive force since it enables music artists to express themselves in an indirect, yet vivid, manner. The indirectness of it allows lyricists to create complex emotional conditions without exposing them. In the example of Let It Go, metaphor and

imagery are used in such a way that it creates an emotional release and change whereas the symbolic referencing in *Demons* gives the impression of internal conflict and vulnerability. Understanding of how language works in a way other than its literal meaning can therefore be given to us by stylistic analysis. The poetic means is revealed by it and with the listeners to communicate, it is applied by the artists to build up identity, and delivered subtle emotional experiences. That is why, stylistics is an essential model of investigating artistic and communicative importance of figurative language in modern music.

3. Metaphor and Symbolism as Expressive Sources

The emotional understanding and psychological refinement are importantly helped to show the figurative language style out of the multitude when composing a music. Metaphor enables lyricists to compare intangible feelings with tangible visuals, and form images that are very associative and memorable by the listeners. According to McArthur (1992), metaphor is a language device that allows one to articulate some complicated concepts in the simplified form of comparisons, which can cut across the abstract and concrete worlds.

Symbolism, in its turn, introduces a more cultural or psychological meaning to objects, actions or settings. According to Keraf (2002) a symbolic language in an artistic piece of writing would express internal conditions or social values unexplicitly. The repetitive visual representation of demons in *Demons* (conflict, guilt and vulnerability) and the metaphoric imagery of frozen fractals and storm (release and change) in *Let It Go* illustrate the issue of conflict, guilt and vulnerability and transformation respectively.

Such devices are not just beautifying the lyrics but serve as an emotional conveyor that informs the interpretation of the listeners and gives them a greater thematic consistency. In the stylistic analysis, as Zahara et al. (2024) clarify in the review of the *GUTS* album by Olivia Rodrigo, metaphor and symbolism are core in building the identity and emotion story in modern music.

4. Empirical Studies on Figurative Language in Music

The recent empirical studies have pointed out the functionality and the frequency of figurative language in the lyrics of the songs of different genres. A stylistic study of *You Are My Sunshine* by Anne Murray by Yusnitasari et al. (2022) has found that metaphor, repetitions, and idiomatic expressions were the key to the emotional appeal. The empathy of listeners and strengthen a thematic aspect like love and desire can be increased by the figurative language, according to the findings.

The lyrics of BTS songs used personification and rhythmic repetition frequently in an attempt to convey vulnerability and resilience is analyzed by Mustikawati and Agustina (2023). on the role of figurative devices in the emotional coloring of lyrics and their narration structure is focused by their analysis. Similarly, presented the analysis of the Olivia Rodrigo *GUTS* album and found that metaphor and symbolism played a main role in showing the identity conflicts and emotional development is presented by Zahara et al. (2024).

All these studies have been testified to the fact that figurative language in music is not merely attractive. It is a communicative expedient, which improves thematic importance and emotional demand. However, the majority of this work concerns the poem on the romantic or motivational motive, and the darker emotional motives and mental imagery are underexplored.

5. Comparative Stylistic Analysis in Music Research

A comparative stylistic analysis enables the researcher to study the use of figurative language in different songs expressing contrasting emotional and thematic meanings. The given approach specifically comes in handy when examining such unlike in tones as *Demons* and *Let It Go*, as one of them is emancipatory and uplifting, and the other, in its turn, is introspective and melancholy.

Comparative analysis of an album by Sabrina Carpenter called *Short n Sweet* conducted by Gea, Pasaribu and Sinambela (2025) showed that the symbolism and metaphor of each song

were different based on the plot and emotional context. Their results proved that although stylistic devices are not always implemented in the same manner, they are strategically designed and applied to suit the moods and the message of the song.

Aras, Bozkurt, and Onen (2024) also emphasized the educational and analytical value of the metaphorical language comparison in a musical text. They mentioned that such comparison reveals how artists could address a broad audience and cultural situation as well as demonstrate the diversity of stylistic expression.

Through this comparative prism, the current study will attempt to demonstrate the differences in the use of metaphor and symbolism to present ideas of inner struggle versus emotional freedom on the works of Demons and Let It Go. This will eventually lead to a greater appreciation of the difference in styles of contemporary English music

6. Pedagogical and Cultural Implications of Figurative Language

The figurative language in music is not only an artistic form, but also pedagogical and cultural; especially in the language education and identity construction. Aras, Bozkurt, and Önen (2024) maintain that the analysis of figurative language in song lyrics will contribute to improving the knowledge base of learners regarding the idiomatic expressions, cultural allusions, and emotional context. They highlight that songs offer genuine linguistic contribution hence they are good in teaching stylistic variation and pragmatic meaning.

Simatupang, Jayantini, and Resen (2023) examined figurative language in the lyrics of Ariana Grande, and they made the conclusion that these devices present a larger cultural culture, such as empowerment, vulnerability, and self-expression. According to their findings, the figurative language in music reflects the values and emotional norms in society and therefore is a good source of sociolinguistic investigation.

Besides, Zahara et al. (2024) note that the album GUTS created by Olivia Rodrigo embraces the use of symbolism and metaphor to enable young listeners to shape their identity. These musical tools appeal to the experience of the listeners, and this is the purpose of music to represent the experiences of people in a more emotional and cultural way. In this way, use of metaphorical language in song lyrics can improve beauty of the text in addition to creating linguistic awareness and cultural awareness.

Gap in Research and Rationale for the Current Study

Although the use of figurative language in song lyrics is a topic that has been widely examined especially in romantic, motivational, and pop music, a definite gap in the literature exists in the context of songs, which portray and employ metaphor and symbolism to talk of psychological conflict, emotional vulnerability, and personal transformation. The validity of the majority of the published analyses, including those of Yusnitasari et al. (2022), Mustikawati and Agustina (2023), and Zahara et al. (2024), lies in identifying figurative devices, without much attention paid to their underlying stylistic purposes and thematic effects.

Besides, comparative stylistic analyses comparing songs with opposite emotional colors, i.e., introspection and empowerment, are relatively few. According to Gea et al. and Aras et al. (2025 and 2024), this type of comparison method can provide us with useful information on how language can be used strategically to turn it into a tool to achieve various expressive goals.

This paper fills the given gap with the stylistic analysis of two internationally popular English songs, demons by imagine dragons and Let it go by Idina menzel. These songs have been chosen because of their excessive metaphor and symbolism as well as their contrasting emotional theme inner turmoil versus emotional liberation. It addresses the way figurative language can perform aesthetic and functional roles, which explains why this study adds to the overall study of stylistics and supports the argument that song lyrics can be a very effective tool in expressing emotions and symbols.

Pedagogical Implications and Instructional Pragmatics

The figurative language, stylistic analysis of song lyrics has a good pedagogical value especially in English language teaching and literature appreciation. Songs like Demons and Let It Go are also one of the genuine and emotionally sensitive texts that are capable of enriching the knowledge of learners on metaphor, symbolism, and other poetic elements. According to Aras, Bozkurd, and Onen (2024), the lesson plan that includes music instruction helps stimulate student activity, context-specific acquisition of vocabulary, and their awareness of the stylistic diversity.

Practically, figurative language in music gives the learner an exposure to indirect communication, cultural allusions and emotional subtlety. Simatupang et al. (2023) underline that because an expression of pop lyrics is figurative, akin to the rest of the society, it reflects the values and interpersonal relations that are best used in instruction to learn pragmatic competence. As an example, the use of metaphors like demons in the lyrics by Imagine Dragons or frozen fractals in Let It Go provide the learner with a symbolic view of how emotional states are encoded to provide a way of understanding how the meaning is made beyond the literal meaning.

Additionally, Zahara et al. (2024) note that stylistic approach to song lyrics helps youth listeners to create identities and emotionally become literate. Using metaphor and symbolism, children will be able to become more emphatic and culturally sensitive as well as learning how to use language. Also, it is consistent with the principles of communicative language teaching (CLT), which focuses on the contextualized language application and meaningful communication.

One of the teaching practices that teachers could implement to assist students in finding, identifying, and comparing figurative features in songs is the assignment. These activities make critical thinking, stylistic comprehension and cross-cultural view possible. The comparison of the two stories can be used to show that language may be really enriched with psychological and social facts and thus enhancing literary and linguistic education. This is evidenced by the contrasting emotional undertones and figurative nature of Demons and Let It Go.

Research Design

This work analyses the application of figurative language especially metaphor and symbolism in two modern-day English songs namely Demons by Imagine dragons and Let It Go by Idina Menzel by applying qualitative descriptive design based on the analysis of style. The design is guided by the laws of the literary stylistics, which underline the role of the linguistic choices on the topic's development, emotional colouring, and saturation of the interpretation.

1. Methodological Framework

The study is grounded on the textual analysis which is a method usually used in stylistics to find how language facilitates in artistic texts. Stylistic analysis involves paying close attention to texts in order to identify the patterns of diction and use of figurative language as well as rhetorical structure among others as Abrams and Harpham (2012) observes. This method is appropriate in the study of song lyrics, as they usually draw upon the poetic devices in order to create the complicated emotional and symbolic messages.

2. Selection of Data

This paper has chosen two recent English songs on purpose in the framework of thematic richness, emotionality, and popularity worldwide. The Demons by Imagine Dragons, the first song, was selected due to its introspective and psychological nature, which is expressed with the help of metaphor and symbolism. Let It Go by Idina Menzel was chosen because it is an emotional liberation, empowerment song, which was accomplished through hyperbole, use of vivid imagery, and symbolism. These music pieces reflect the opposite ends of the emotional spectrum one that is based on internal struggle and the other on personal change, and thus are

most suitable to the stylistic analysis. Each of the two songs was based on the validated public databases of the lyrics and processed in the original form to ensure semantic integrity and stylistic delicacy.

3. Analytical Procedure

The methodology of the analysis was systematic and step-wise and based on the qualitative stylistics. To begin with, the lyrics of each song were analyzed to state the presence of different kinds of the figurative language, such as the metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, imagery, and repetition. Every instance was then categorized based on its stylistic role, e.g. its contribution to emotional tone, thematic support or symbolism. Lastly, the figurative devices were decoded in regard to their contribution to the overall meaning of the song and the way they provoked the interest of the audience. The succeeding logical approach was grounded on the typology of figurative language as planned by Keraf (2002) and added by McArthur (1992) and Tarigan (2013), who emphasized the poetic and communicative roles of stylistic device in a piece of literature.

4. Scope and Limitations

This study stresses solely on the lyrics of the particular songs and does not comprise musical composition, performance style, or audience reception. The findings are descriptive and context-specific, directing to notice stylistic patterns rather than generalize across genres or artists.

Data Analysis

Identification of Figurative Language in Selected Lyrics

The analysis of lyrics of two songs, *Demons* by Imagine Dragons and *Let It Go* by Idina Menzel, were read through closely, paying attention to the discovery of the use of figurative language. The lines were examined in order to find metaphors, symbolic allusions, hyperbole and imagery. The words repeated in *Demons*, *It's where my demons hide*, became immediately understood as a metaphor of a kind of internal struggle of emotions, the feeling of guilt, fear, and mental frailty. This metaphor is also supported by the line *"Don't get too close, it's dark inside"* indicating a hidden emotional condition, which is not available and even dangerous to others. These words are not used to show real demons or darkness, but in fact, they are a symbolic depiction of the internal struggle of the speaker.

Let It Go, in its turn, is an emotional landscape with an alternative emotional terrain developed with a figurative language. The imagery in the line, *Let the storm rage on*, is the way the author represents emotional turmoil and how to release the repressed feelings. The physical process of snowflakes is converted into a figurative depiction of the individual change or the clarity of emotions, where the metaphor *Frozen fractals all around* is used. These metaphorical decisions are not accidental, as they are firmly interwoven into the lyrical format so that they create the impression of freedom and empowerment over oneself. The constant commanding phrase, *let it go*, acts as an instruction and a figurative gesture of emotional separation out of old limiting bands.

Classification and Stylistic Function of Figurative Devices

The figurative expressions, after identifying them, were categorized as per their type: metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, imagery, and repetition, and were compared in terms of the stylistic purpose. Metaphor and symbolism are at the forefront of the lyrics used in *Demons*, as they create a mood of introspection and tension. The thematic center of the song is the metaphor of the demons, which symbolizes the dark sides of the self, which is morally dubious or their emotional aspects are painful. Symbolic allusions like *curtain call* are theatrical and imply the masking of real feelings that are concealed under a curtain of pretense. These machines are part of a story of an internal struggle, in which the speaker struggles to find his equilibrium between the difference between look and reality.

On the contrary, Let It Go uses hyperbole and vivid imagery to develop a resilience and revitalization tone. The symbolism of the storm and the metaphor of frozen fractals explain how the protagonist changes his emotional state of repression to freedom. The idea of hyperbole such as using line the past is in the past increases the feeling of closure and emotional discharge. The expression of deliverance is repeated again, "Let it go" which is used as a stylistic anchor as well to enhance heaviness to the theme of deliverance and the purpose of the speaker. Those devices interrelate to create a dissertation of authorization, in which the speaker takes back control and accepts herself.

Interpretive Insights and Comparative Analysis

According to their unequal expressive accounts, the interpretation stage of the examination has brought out that the two songs have significant artistic devices. Emotion is contained in sinister metaphors and symbolic allusions in demons, which is what characterizes an ambivalent self-full of fear and regret. It is also slightly bleak and reflective as the inner world of the speaker is unveiled to the audience in the usage of the metaphorical language. Figure of speech employed by the demons does not simply beautify the lyrics, it expresses feelings, has meaning and makes the song resonate on a thematic level.

On the contrary, Let It Go is a poem, which employs general imagery and lively symbols to spill passion. It is backed with over-the-top wordings and visual analogies that glorify emotional freedom and is quite pushy and free. Let It Go is a strong hymn to self-expression, and the personification in the song is used to underscore how the speaker has grown out of restrictions to liberation. The comparative study reveals the different metaphorical and symbolic aspects that are used to achieve different stylistic effects in the two songs. Let It Go establishes emotional recognition and self-development in the same manner as Demon which applies a figurative language to the description of ethical complexity and psychological profundity.

This is the opposite of the flexibility of the figurative language within the modern music in the English language. It illustrates that metaphor and symbolism are active and can be changed depending on the emotional and thematic requirements of the text. Since it influences listeners perception and attitude towards the music, the research proves that using figurative language in the lyrics of the songs is an aesthetic device and a means of communication.

Findings

The figurative language analysis of Let It Go by Idina Menzel and Demons by Imagine Dragons depicted the apparent stylistic presentation patterns, which corresponded to the thematic and emotional opposites of the two songs. Both of the lyrics extensively used metaphor and symbolism, but they were applied and met with quite different purpose and aim, depending on the tone and purpose of the narrative.

To depict the psychological vulnerability and internal conflict, metaphor was used in Demons. A repetitive metaphor of the term "demons" created a lyrical character, which is reflective and ambivalent in feelings, and proved to be used symbolically as the mark of guilt, fear, and the moral insecurity. The concept of emotion isolation and hiding was supported by such symbolic phrases as dark inside and call of the curtain. These speculations indicate that Demons is written in figurative language to internalize the feeling and the song has a gloomy, introspective tone that pulls the listener inside the troubled head of the speaker.

On the contrary, Let It Go employed the figurative language to dramatize the personal change and project the feeling outside. It was also assumed that the metaphor of the frozen fractals and the symbolic allusion to the storm and cold was the symbolic expression of the feelings and self-empowerment. The stylistic device of the repeating phrase (let it go) and the refrain supported by the same phrase helped to create the sense that the main character is not tied to the past. Exaggeration and imagery heightened the feeling of power and liberation in the speaker, which made him a strong person.

The findings of the comparison indicate that both songs have a common basis of metaphor and symbolism, however, their stylistic presentation differ in the way they are presented in different emotional objectives. Let it go is written in the context of wide and strong image as compared to Deep and melancholy metaphorical speech used in the story of personal turmoil in Demons. Each of these variations proves the flexibility of figurative language in the modern music and its impact on the evolution of the emotional color, integrity of the theme, and connection with the audience.

Discussion

The results of the present work indicate that figurative language (metaphor, symbolism, etc) has played a significant role in the development of the emotional coloring, as well as the thematic structure of the contemporary English songs lyric. When analyzing the styles of Demons and Let It Go, it is evident that the elements have been applied in emotional narration, formation of identity as well as appeal to the audience, instead of being decorative.

The movie Demons uses metaphor to internalize emotional turmoil by providing the image of the demons as a symbol of guilt, terror, and moral ambiguity to depict this over and over again. This is in line with the fact that according to Keraf (2002), the figurative language facilitates the concrete actions of abstract psychological states. The symbolic allusions of the song, e.g. dark inside, curtain call, contribute to the song being of an introspective nature. These stylistic devices narrate a story of an insecurity and self-consciousness that becomes relatable to the listeners sympathizing with the inner conflict that the speaker is going through.

Let It Go, on the other hand, dramatizes the subjective change and brings out the emotion by means of metaphor and symbolism. The storm in a metaphorical sense and the image of frozen fractals are the representations of the emotional release and recovering the control. Such a stylistic choice promotes the preservation of empowerment and strength, according to Tarigan (2013) who claims that empowerment and clarity of the theme are improved by using metaphorical language in music. The repetitive tune "Let it go" is also a symbolic gesture and a musical refrain, as it helps the main character to pursue his struggle of self-acceptance.

These differences of the two songs may point out the versatility of figurative language in a song. Let It Go tells a story of freedom through the use of large images, whereas Demons tells a story about the inner self through the use of gloomy metaphors. This difference justifies the argument presented by Abrams and Harpham (2012) that the style problem is about the interaction of linguistic structure and artistic purpose and shows that the stylistic devices are varied to accommodate the emotional and thematic needs of the text.

The implications of these findings as educational discoveries are massive. Analyzing the figurative language in the lyrics of songs can support the learners to widen their knowledge of idiomatic expressions, cultural presentations, and pragmatic meaning, argue Aras et al. (2024). The songs are true linguistic materials, which involve the students both intellectually and emotionally. They can also be used to instruct on the appreciation of literature and stylistic variety.

Besides, the analysis of the comparison between Demons and Let It Go provides an example of teaching activities that promote critical thinking, interpretive skills, and cultural sensitivity and awareness. Everything said and done, the discussion proves the idea that the metaphorical language use in the modern English music is a fertile field in terms of both teaching and fashion. Metaphor and symbolism as an artistic and communicative method of constructing the meaning fill the gap between the analysis of language and the experience of feelings.

Conclusion

This essay has discussed the stylistic application of figurative language (metaphor and symbolism) in two modern English songs, i.e. Demons by Imagine Dragons and Let It Go by

Idina Menzel. The style analysis qualitatively showed that both songs use figurative devices not only to decorate the song but also to be the main method of emotions expressing and building the theme. As it was seen through the analysis of the text, *Demons* pervades the text with emotion, and it conveys mixed personality struggling with fear, remorse, and moral ambiguity through the use of symbolic references and dark metaphors. Its meditative quality is obtained by inviting the audience to the innermost thoughts of the speaker with the help of the metaphorical language. In its turn, *Let It Go* employs the powerful imagery and allows symbols to form a description of emotional power and personal freedom to express the emotion. The repetition of metaphors and exaggeration in the song makes the metamorphosis of the main character more dramatic and proves her independence.

These results justify the poetic and communicative roles of figurative language in the lyrics of songs. It allows performers to depict more subtle emotional conditions, provide them with thematic integrity, and address the audience on an allegoric plane. Another aspect that the comparative analysis unveils is the flexibility of the metaphor and symbolism in the various emotional coloring as well as the plots of the works.

The paper highlights the importance of song lyrics in language acquisition under the pedagogical perspective. The real-world and emotionally expressive character of the information offered through the figurative language use in the music can help students to work on their cultural awareness, the style consciousness, and reading. Such songs as *Demons* and *Let It Go* may give children valuable experience of learning how language serves other purposes besides literal meaning and how to develop their emotional literacy and linguistic competence.

To sum up, the figurative language is an effective style and emotional narration tool to be used in modern English music. Its study does not only promote the literary knowledge but also contributes to the cross-cultural communication and effective language training.

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