

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

The lyrical profundity, emotional connection, and narrative touch of Taylor Swift's music have won her a great deal of praise. Swift's ability to weave stories through her songs has continuously impressed listeners since her release. Her rich themes and poignant lyrics have captured the attention of listeners. After releasing her tenth studio album, "evermore," Swift ushered her audience back into a world of reflection, mythology, and imaginative narrative. The study of Swift's music from a linguistic perspective offers a fascinating avenue for exploration, particularly in understanding how language is used to convey meaning, emotion, and narrative depth. Pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics, focuses on the study of language in use and the context-dependent aspects of meaning. (Levinson, 1983) By applying pragmatic analysis to Swift's lyrics in "evermore," researchers can gain valuable insights into the nuanced ways in which language shapes the album's themes and emotional impact.

Swift's skillful use of words to elicit emotion and communicate nuanced shades of meaning is one of the most distinctive aspects of her songwriting. Swift uses a wide range of literary techniques in "Evermore," including as metaphor, imagery, and narrative viewpoint, to provide her readers vivid and engrossing storytelling experiences. From the eerie balladry of "Champagne Problems" to the nostalgic dream of "Ivy," Swift has a deft understanding of how language choices may affect the emotional reaction of her listeners. Furthermore, Swift frequently combines elements of fiction and reality in her lyrics, pulling influence from literary canon, mythology, and folklore. With songs like "Tolerate It," Swift invites listeners to lose themselves in her lyrical imagination as she crafts complex tales that delve into themes of love, grief, and desire. Scholars can reveal the underlying

rhetorical methods that contribute to the thematic richness and narrative complexity of these songs by analysing the pragmatic functions of language.

In addition to exploring mood and modality, a pragmatic analysis of “Evermore,” can shed light on the interpersonal dynamics embedded within Swift’s lyrics. Through the use of pronouns, mood and modality, and other linguistic markers, Swift constructs a sense of indirect closeness and connection with her audience, inviting them to share in her experiences and emotions. This sense of personal engagement is a hallmark of Swift’s songwriting style and plays a crucial role in shaping the listener's interpretation of her music.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, Taylor Swift's “Evermore,” album presents a compelling subject for linguistic analysis due to its rich lyrical content and narrative complexity. As with much of Swift’s music, “Evermore,” showcases her skillful use of language to conjure up emotion, convey meaning, and construct intricate narratives. There is limited understanding of how grammatical choices in mood (indicative, declarative, interrogative, imperative, subjunctive) and modality (epistemic, deontic, dynamic, bouletic) contribute to the construction of meaning and speaker’s stance within the album.

By examining the linguistic features of the album’s lyrics, researcher can uncover patterns of language use that reveal underlying thematic motifs, narrative structures, and emotional connections. Previous studies on song lyrics tend to focus on thematic interpretation and figurative language, while pragmatic aspects are less explored. Therefore, this study identifies the need to examine how mood and modality are employed in “Evermore,” to construct meaning how these linguistic features support the pragmatic interpretation of the album’s narratives.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Language analysis has its limitations, but it may provide valuable insights about the language used in Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album. The subjective interpretation of lyrics is shaped by Swift's viewpoints and cultural backgrounds. This study is limited to the analysis of the lyrics from Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album as the primary data source. Although additional contextual materials such as interviews or liner notes may provide further interpretive insight, they are not included in this research. The breadth and precision of the linguistic analysis might be limited by the fact that these resources aren't always easily accessible or could be open to interpretation. Swift's vocal delivery, intonation, and emotional expression contribute significantly to the interpretation of her lyrics, but these aspects may not be easily quantifiable or analyzable through linguistic methods alone.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The main issue this research attempts to solve is the necessity of doing a thorough linguistic analysis of Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album in order to comprehend the complex ways in which language influences the themes, feelings, and narrative complexity of the work. Although a great deal of research has been done on the literary and cultural elements of Swift's music, there is still a dearth of studies that explicitly address the language elements of her songwriting.

Based on the background of the study and the identification of the problem described above, this research formulates the following research questions:

1. How are mood and modality expressed in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album?
2. What types of pragmatic meanings do arise from the use of mood and modality in the lyrics, according to Levinson's theory?

3. How do the expressions of mood and modality reflect the speaker's intended meaning and social context, as analyzed through Levinson's pragmatic framework?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The primary objective of this research is to conduct a comprehensive linguistic analysis of Taylor Swift's "evermore," album aiming to uncover the nuanced ways of mood expressed in the lyrics and modality employed throughout the album. Specifically, the research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify and classify the types of mood used in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album and to describe how these mood structures are realized grammatically in the selected songs.
2. To identify and analyze the types of modality employed in the lyrics, including epistemic, deontic, dynamic, and bouletic.
3. To examine how the use of mood and modality contributes to the pragmatic of meaning, particularly in expressing the speaker's emotional positioning and interpersonal relationship within the narrative context of the album.
4. To explain how mood and modality support the overall thematic and communicative purposes conveyed in the selected songs.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

Based on the objectives and scope of this research, this study is expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits in the field of linguistic, which are:

- a. Theoretically

This study contributes to the development of pragmatic analysis, particularly in the examination of mood and modality within song lyrics. By applying the categories of mood and modality to a contemporary music album, this research expands the application of pragmatic and

linguistic theories to song texts. It also provides further insight into how grammatical choices function in constructing meaning, expressing the speaker's emotional stance, and organizing interpersonal meaning in lyrical discourse.

b. Practically

This study may serve as a references for students and future researchers who are interested in conducting pragmatic studies, especially of mood and modality. It may also help readers and music enthusiasts gain a clearer understanding of how linguistic features operate in song lyrics to convey meaning and intention.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

To achieve this goal, the research is organized into five main sections: Introduction, Theoretical Framework, Research Method, Data Analysis and Findings, and Conclusion. Each section serves a distinct purpose in advancing the study's objectives and contributing to our understanding of Swift's music from a linguistic perspective.

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of Taylor Swift's "Evermore," album and its significance within her discography which states the research problem and emphasizing the need for a linguistic analysis of the album's lyrics.

CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter introduces pragmatics as the theoretical framework guiding the study, explaining its relevance to the analysis of language in music.

CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the research approach and methodology employed in the study, such as qualitative analysis. The researcher also explains the process of data collection, including the selection of songs and the compilation of lyrics for analysis.

CHAPTER IV : PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S "EVERMORE" ALBUM (2020) USING MOOD AND MODALITY

This chapter conducts a detailed research of linguistic features in Taylor Swift's "evermore," album, identifying themes, emotions, and narrative components conveyed through the language and provides examples from the lyrics to illustrate key findings, using textual evidence to support analytical interpretations.

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the key findings and contributions of the research, restating the significance of the study within the context of Taylor Swift's "evermore," album and linguistic analysis.