

**A FIGURATIVE MEANING ANALYSIS OF SADNESS IN
TAYLOR SWIFT'S ALBUM "*THE TORTURED POETS
DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY*" (2024)**

TERM-PAPER



By

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FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
DARMA PERSADA UNIVERSITY
JAKARTA**

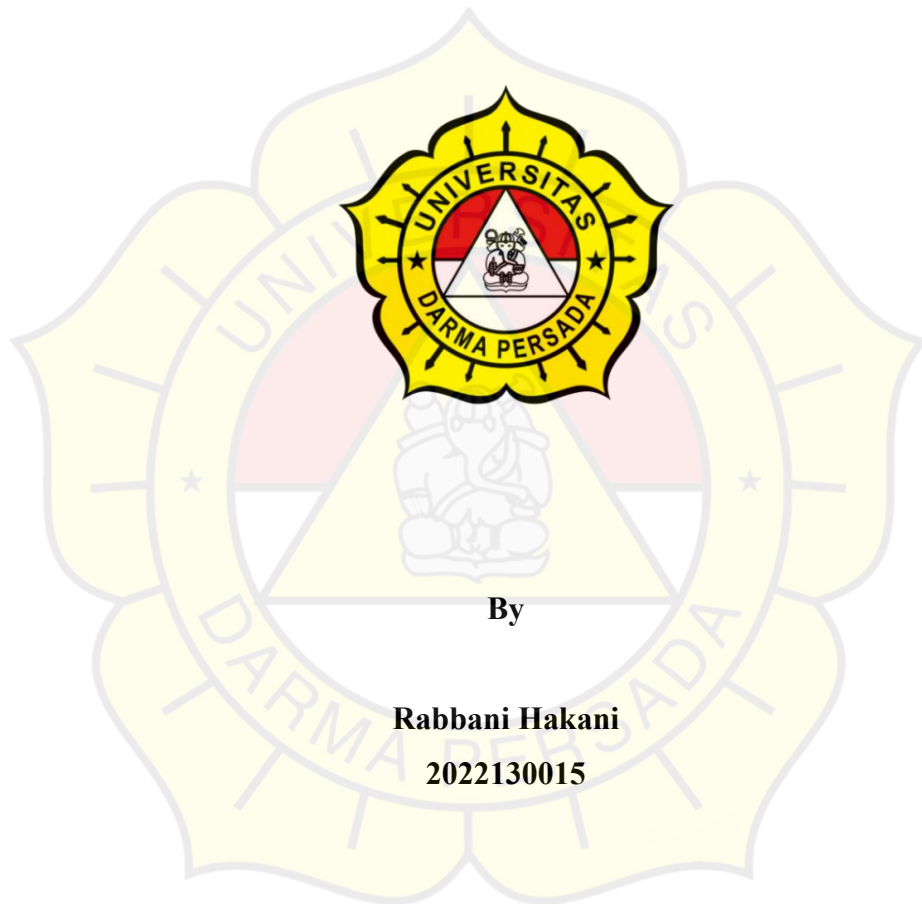
2026

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DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY*" (2024)**

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Submitted in part-fulfillment of requirements for obtaining

Sarjana Linguistik (S.Li.) degree



By

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DARMA PERSADA UNIVERSITY
JAKARTA**

2026

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT

I hereby declare that the term paper is the result of my own work and not plagiarism of another work, the contents have become my responsibility. All the sources of my research and quoted or referenced have been stated correctly.

Jakarta, January 20, 2026



(Rabbani Hakani)



LETTER OF APPROVAL

On recommendation of respective Supervisor, Academic Advisor, and Head of the Department, the term-paper submitted by Rabbani Hakani entitled "A Figurative Meaning Analysis of Sadness in Taylor Swift's Album 'The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology' (2024)" has been approved and forwarded to the English Language and Culture Department, Darma Persada University, for final evaluation before the term-paper defense for obtaining Sarjana Linguistik (S.Li) degree to the respective candidate.

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TERM PAPER VALIDATION

On February 4, 2026, the term paper has been academically tested and defended in front of

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

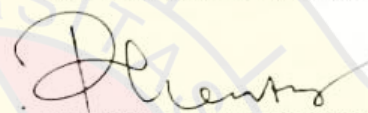
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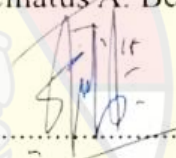
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise the Lord, Allah SWT for His mercy and blessings. Finally, I could complete this term-paper as planned, which entitled *A Figurative Meaning Analysis of Sadness in Taylor Swift's Album "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology" (2024)*. This term-paper is submitted to the English Language and Culture Department, Darma Persada University, as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S-1) degree.

I would like to present my gratitude towards all parties who have guided and supported me in finishing this term-paper. My gratitude is presented to those who have given their contribution in completion of this term-paper, which listed as follow:

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Words have weight and elusive meaning. As Mariah Carey once sang in her song 'Hero': *"Lord knows dreams are hard to follow, but don't let anyone tear them away. Hold on, there will be tomorrow. In time, you'll find the way"*. May these lyrics inspire readers, just as they have strengthened the writer in compiling each page of this term paper.

The writer also realizes that this term paper is far from perfect, therefore constructive suggestions and input are welcome in order to improve this term paper.

Jakarta, February 2026

Writer

Rabbani Hakani

A FIGURATIVE MEANING ANALYSIS OF SADNESS IN TAYLOR SWIFT’S ALBUM “THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY” (2024)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify and analyze sadness in the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* (2024) by Taylor Swift through the use of figurative meanings with a literary psychology approach. The research focuses on five selected songs, namely *So Long*, *London*, *loml*, *The Black Dog*, *How Did It End?*, and *Peter*, which depict an in-depth illustration of the emotional journey of sadness. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with content text analysis. The data consists of song lyrics collected through content analysis techniques, then analyzed descriptively using Reaske's (1966) theory of figurative meaning, as well as Kövecses' (2000) concept of sadness within the framework and scope of Endraswara's (2008) literary psychology. The results of the study indicate that sadness in this album is depicted through the use of metaphors, personifications, and hyperboles, which serve to concretize abstract emotions into vivid, intense, and beautiful language imagery. Sadness is conceptualized as an emotional burden, a loss of vitality, inner darkness, and weakness related to Taylor Swift's personal experiences as a songwriter. This study concludes that song lyrics function not only as a musical element but also as a literary medium capable of reflecting the psychological condition of its writer. Thus, this study contributes to the field of literary psychology by understanding the relationship between figurative meaning, emotional expression, and human inner experiences in song lyrics.

Keywords: Sadness, Figurative Meaning, Literary Psychology, Song Lyrics, Taylor Swift

ANALISIS MAKNA KIASAN KESEDIHAN DALAM ALBUM TAYLOR SWIFT “THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY” (2024)

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ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis kesedihan dalam album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* (2024) oleh Taylor Swift melalui penggunaan makna kiasan dengan pendekatan psikologi sastra. Penelitian ini berfokus pada lima lagu yang dipilih, yaitu *So Long*, *London, lomi*, *The Black Dog*, *How Did It End?*, dan *Peter*, yang menggambarkan ilustrasi mendalam tentang perjalanan emosional kesedihan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan analisis teks konten. Data terdiri dari lirik lagu yang dikumpulkan melalui teknik analisis konten, kemudian dianalisis secara deskriptif menggunakan teori makna kiasan Reaske (1966), serta konsep kesedihan menurut Kövecses (2000) dalam kerangka dan lingkup psikologi sastra Endraswara (2008). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kesedihan dalam album ini digambarkan melalui penggunaan metafora, personifikasi, dan hiperbola, yang berfungsi untuk mewujudkan emosi abstrak menjadi citraan bahasa yang hidup, intens, dan indah. Kesedihan dikonseptualisasikan sebagai beban emosional, kehilangan vitalitas, kegelapan batin, dan kelemahan yang terkait dengan pengalaman pribadi Taylor Swift sebagai penulis lagu. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa lirik lagu berfungsi tidak hanya sebagai elemen musik tetapi juga sebagai media sastra yang mampu mencerminkan kondisi psikologis penulisnya. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada bidang psikologi sastra dengan memahami hubungan antara makna kiasan, ekspresi emosional, dan pengalaman batin manusia dalam lirik lagu.*

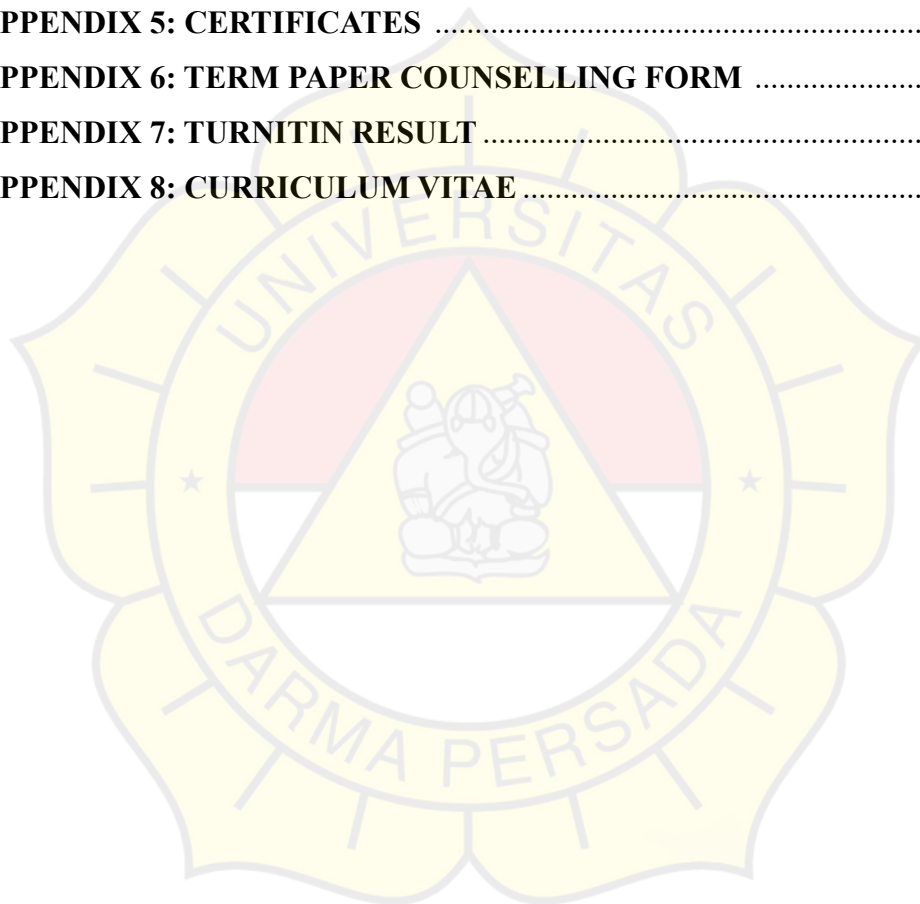
Kata kunci: Kesedihan, Makna Kiasan, Psikologi Sastra, Lirik Lagu, Taylor Swift

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