

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis conducted on five selected songs namely ‘So Long, London’, ‘loml’, ‘The Black Dog’, ‘How Did It End?’, and ‘Peter’ from the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*, this study concludes that poetic elements, particularly figurative meaning and imagery, play a crucial role in reflecting Taylor Swift's sadness. Among the various styles of language found, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole emerged as the most prominent due to their ability to give physical weight to abstract emotions. The use of metaphor, personification, and hyperbole not only serves as lyrical embellishments but also as poetic tools that transform abstract personal experiences into concrete and emotional literary narratives. Through this intrinsic analysis, it was found that the sadness in this album is deeply constructed through word choices that consistently depict devastation and loss.

From the perspective of literary psychology, the five songs analyzed (So Long, London; loml; The Black Dog; How Did It End?; and Peter) demonstrate how Taylor Swift copes with her sadness through the processes of intellectualization and catharsis. Swift not only mourns her grief but also dissects it clinically, like an emotional "autopsy." She deals with her sadness by mapping it onto tangible objects—such as a failed CPR procedure or a window light being turned off—as a form of emotional release. This process shows that for Swift, writing lyrics is a process of to deal with her sadness and to transform trauma into a work of art that gives her control over her own life narrative.

This study also revealed that the sadness in this album is conceptualized into three major themes: “Sadness as the Lack of Vitality”, “Sadness is a Physical Force”, and “Sadness is darkness” The reason these themes stand out so prominently is because they reflect the stages of sadness, starting from feeling overwhelmed and attacked by the sadness that act like physical force, losing direction in uncertainty, to reaching the point where the relationship is considered

to have "died" clinically. This pattern demonstrates that Swift uses figurative meaning to communicate that sadness is not merely an ordinary feeling of sadness, but a debilitating physical and mental condition.

An important lesson that can be learned from these five songs and albums is the importance of emotional honesty and acceptance of vulnerability. Through her lyrics, Swift teaches that ending something that has been long pursued, even though painful, is a necessary step for personal growth. This album provides the understanding that sadness has complex and non-linear phases, where a person is allowed to feel shattered before eventually finding the strength to “turn off the lights” on the past and move forward. Academically, this album serves as evidence that popular music can possess literary depth comparable to classic literary works in exploring the human condition.

Overall, this study affirms that *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* expresses Swift's aesthetic achievement in combining psychology and literature. This analysis contributes to the understanding of how song lyrics can serve as data for exploring the relationship between language and emotion. The sadness illustrated through these figurative meaning expressions ultimately functions not only as an outlet for the writer's feelings but also as a psychological reflection that can resonate with readers' universal experiences of loss, waiting, and the courage to let go.

Based on the results of this study, I recommend that future researchers broaden the scope of analysis by exploring other types of figurative language that have not been thoroughly discussed, such as irony or paradox, in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the complexity of Swift's lyrics. In addition, future research could consider using different literary psychology approaches to further dissect the psychological aspects behind repetitive metaphors. For literature students and enthusiasts of song lyric studies, it is recommended to view music not only as entertainment but as a literary text that has depth of meaning and poetic structure worthy of critical analysis to understand the dynamics of human emotions.