

Figurative Language Implemented in Eminem's Songs Lyrics

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Abstrak – Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis bahasa kiasan yang diterapkan dalam lirik lagu Eminem “Mockingbird”, “When I’m Gone”, “Hailie’s Song”. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini mengumpulkan data melalui mendengarkan dan membaca secara cermat lirik lagu. Proses ini melibatkan identifikasi, kategorisasi, dan analisis lirik, sehingga menghasilkan kesimpulan tentang penjelasan dan interpretasi lagu tema tersebut. Kerangka teorinya didasarkan pada teori semantik Hurford dan Heasley (1983), dengan pendekatan makna yang dikemukakan oleh Geoffrey N. Leech. Temuan ini mengungkapkan bagaimana bahasa kiasan secara rumit menggambarkan tema ketenaran, masalah keluarga, dan pengorbanan seorang ayah, sehingga menawarkan wawasan yang lebih mendalam tentang penggambaran emosional sang artis.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Kiasan, Analisis Lagu, lagu Eminem

Abstract - This paper aims to identify and analyze the figurative language implemented in Eminem's songs “Mockingbird,” “When I’m Gone”, and “Hailie’s Song”. Using a descriptive qualitative research method, this study collected data through careful listening and reading of the song's lyrics. This process involved identification, categorization, and analysis of the lyrics, leading to conclusions about the theme song's explanation and interpretation. The theoretical framework is based on Hurford and Heasley's (1983) semantic theory, with the meaning approach presented by Geoffrey N. Leech. The findings reveal how figurative language intricately depicts themes of fame, family issues, and father's sacrifice, offering deeper insights into the artist's emotional landscape.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Song Analysis, Eminem's song

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INTRODUCTION

Literature encompasses works that engage with language in innovative and transformative ways, challenging conventional modes of representation and interpretation (Hossain, 2024). This definition implies that literature is not confined to traditional forms but includes any work that uses language creatively to push boundaries, explore new modes of expression, and invite readers to view the world from different perspectives. Literature spans various forms and genres, such as experimental fiction, poetry, avant-garde plays, metafiction, films, postmodern novels, music, and other innovative storytelling methods (Iftitah & Wibowo, 2024). These forms challenge readers and viewers to engage with language and narrative in unexpected ways.

Language plays a crucial role in human communication, as stated by Hornby in (Ni Wayan Swarniti, 2022) that language is a human and non-intensive method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires utilizing a system of sounds and sound symbols (Hariyanto, 2017). Music is one of the tools to communicate (Izen et al., 2023). Not only can it express someone's feelings, but music also can connect the listeners who can relate to the emotions conveyed in it. It can give inspiration, and motivation, to the point that it can impact people's views of the world (Dimitriadis et al., 2024). As a universal language, the presence of music as a powerful tool can make it easier for a lot of musicians to talk about societal issues freely and creatively. This idea is in line with what was expressed by Wardhaugh in (Budiyono et al., 2021) language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

There are two kinds of language; literature language and figurative language. Figurative language is a language that is used in ways that differ from the literal connotations and definitions of individual words or phrases. Figurative language is used to imply concepts and meanings that are more complicated than those that can be conveyed with literal language. Figurative language is one kind of language style to make the expression and the message of the speaker or writer (Iqbal et al., 2022). It is used in a way that does not conform to the literal



implications and definitions of a particular word or phrase. To denote complex concepts and meanings that cannot be expressed by simple language, figurative language plays a role here. Figurative language can be employed in a variety of ways, known as figurative or literary techniques (Azmi et al., 2023). This is often seen in literature, and recognizing figurative language is an important aspect of the study of literature. Furthermore, understanding figurative language and methods is beneficial for both writing and reading. Based on (Arp & Johnson, 2008), there are eleven elements of figurative language. The eleven elements of figurative language are simile, metaphor, personification, overstatement, symbol, allegory, apostrophe, metonymy, paradox, understatement, and irony (Padillah et al., 2016). Apart from the 11 types of figurative language, there are still other types of figurative language, namely onomatopoeia (Sulistiyowati et al., 2021).

Eminem, one of the most influential rappers of the 20th century, has talked about many issues in his entire career. He is a rapper in the American Industry who has been loud at conveying the challenges he experienced as a musician in a big industry, and one of the issues is about his daughter and how her existence changed him as a person and changed the trajectory of his career. Eminem's songwriting is always personal and sentimental, it resonates with a global audience all over the globe through its emotional depth and authenticity. *Mockingbird*, *When I'm Gone*, and *Hailie's Song* are talking about the same thing which is Hailie, Eminem's one and only biological child.

The findings of this research focus on figurative language, which encompasses the use of personification, metaphor, simile, and other rhetorical methods that depart from literal interpretation. Artists can express more complex and subtle emotions by using figurative language, which amplifies the emotional and creative effects of songs. Figurative language is crucial in conveying the nuanced feelings of fame, family struggles, and father's sacrifice in the setting of the three songs mentioned above.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive qualitative research approach was employed to meet the research's goals. The data was gathered by attentive listening and reading of the song's lyrics from *Mockingbird When I'm Gone*, *Hailie's Song*. Figurative language occurrences had to be found, and categorized, and their semantic implications had to be examined. The artist's explanations of the songs, give further context and insight into the lyrics' intended meaning of the song. Note-taking techniques are employed to collect the data and reinforce the results obtained from this research. Descriptive analysis is a procedure that is described to portray an area/ location, fact, and feature of the population systematically, factually, and properly (Loeb et al., 2017). This approach is applied to the entire text lyrics of Eminem's song to find the figurative language used.

The primary instrument in this qualitative study is the human researcher to collect and analyze the data. Humans are the main instrument in the qualitative method to understand the meaning of events that humans receive through the people around them. Researchers directly examine the text obtained through the website <https://genius.com/>, because this website has uploaded various song lyrics up to music knowledge globally.

In collecting data, the researcher did the first time quoting the song's lyrics entitled *Mockingbird*, *When I'm Gone*, and *Hailie's Song* via the website <https://genius.com/>. The reason the researcher quoted the song lyrics was that the researcher wanted to find the figurative meaning implied in the song lyrics. Then, the researcher listened to the song and read the entire lyrics. Next, the researcher identifies the types of figurative language found in the song lyrics and then makes specific notes as data. Finally, the researchers conducted data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The objectives of this research were to explain the types of figurative language present in the song's lyrics of *Hailie's Song*, *Mockingbird*, and *When I'm Gone* by Eminem. The results will be presented in the following tables.

Table 1. Total Figurative Language

Song's Title	Kinds of Figurative Language	Total
Hailie's Song	Personification	1
	Simile	3
	Hyperbole	3
	Metaphor	6
	Imagery	1
Mockingbird	Personification	2
	Simile	2
	Metaphor	4
	Imagery	1
	Idiom	1
	Hyperbole	1
	Onomatopoeia	2
	Irony	1
When I'm Gone	Symbol and Personification	1
	Personification	3
	Metaphor	2
	Allegory	1
	Onomatopoeia	3

a. Hailie's Song

The first song is Hailie's Song, produced by himself and released on May 26, 2002, as track 14 on The Eminem Show (Expanded Edition). Eminem's "Hailie's Song" serves as a heartfelt tribute to his daughter, Hailie Jade. In this track, he shares his deep love for her, along with the challenges of fatherhood and his struggles. He conveys his commitment to being a good parent, contrasting his difficulties with the joys of raising her. The song highlights his vulnerability and emotional depth, underscoring the significance of family amid his tumultuous life and career. there are six types of figurative language which are explained in the table below:

Table 1: Hailie's Song (2002) Figurative Language

Lyric	Figurative Language
"Watchin' this world pass me by"	Personification
"Cause sometimes it feels like the world's on my shoulders"	Metaphor
"But then I see my baby, suddenly I'm not crazy"	Hyperbole
"Cause sometimes it feels like the world's almost over"	Hyperbole
"That I'm a pistol-packin' drug addict who bags on his momma"	Metaphor
"starin' out the window ('Dow)"	Imagery
" I act like shit don't faze me "	Hyperbole
" They just don't see my real side"	Metaphor
" I'd blow somethin' as long as my father"	Simile
" This boulder on my shoulder gets heavy and harder to hold"	Metaphor
" And this load is like the weight of the world "	Simile
" But the years that I've wasted is nothin' to the tears that I've tasted"	Metaphor
" And suddenly it seems like my shoulder blades have just shifted"	Metaphor
" It's like the greatest gift you can get, the weight has been lifted"	Simile

Data 1: Personification

1. "Watchin' this world pass me by"

This sentence is categorized as personification because **the world** is given human-like qualities, suggesting it can **pass** by someone. Since the world cannot move or bypass a person, this creates a sense of time and life that feels more relatable and personal. In Eminem's lyric "Watchin' this world pass me by," he conveys a sense of detachment and disconnection from life. It represents a feeling of being a spectator instead of an active participant. This sentiment often mirrors his struggles with personal challenges, mental health, and the pressures of fame, contributing to a sense of isolation. The lyric expresses a desire for deeper connection and understanding, emphasizing the emotional burden of feeling overwhelmed by the world around him.

Data 2: Metaphor

2. "Cause sometimes it feels like the worlds on my shoulders"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because it equates emotional burdens with the heavy weight of the world, indicating an overwhelming sense of responsibility. The lyric "Cause sometimes it feels like the worlds on my shoulders" conveys a sense of immense pressure and responsibility. It implies that the speaker feels weighed down by their struggles, expectations, and challenges as if they are shouldering the entire world. This feeling often reflects themes of stress and anxiety, emphasizing the emotional impact of dealing with life's hardships and revealing a sense of vulnerability and a longing for relief from that burden. The lyric "Cause sometimes it feels like the world's on my shoulders" expresses a deep sense of pressure and emotional turmoil. It reflects the experience of being overwhelmed by responsibilities, challenges, and personal issues. This line symbolizes the burden of expectations from society, family, or oneself, emphasizing themes of anxiety and isolation. Ultimately, it illustrates the artist's reflective journey through his struggles and his longing for understanding and support during difficult times.

3. "That I'm a pistol-packin' drug addict who bags on his momma"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because **Pistol-packin** metaphorically signifies a tough, aggressive character, suggesting danger and defiance rather than merely referring to the physical act of carrying a gun. The lyric captures themes of personal struggle, emotional conflict, and how a challenging lifestyle affects family relationships. It vividly illustrates the difficulties Eminem encounters, highlighting the complexity of his identity and life experiences.

4. "They just don't see my real side"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because the **real side** signifies the speaker's authentic self or emotions, indicating that there is much more beneath the surface than what others see. It reflects Eminem's frustration at being misinterpreted by others. The line implies that people perceive only a surface-level image or public persona, while his true feelings and challenges are concealed. This emphasizes his yearning for authenticity and the struggle to reveal his genuine self, particularly amidst the pressures of fame. It also underscores his desire for deeper connections and understanding from those around him.

5. "This boulder on my shoulder gets heavy and harder to hold"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because the **boulder** represents a substantial burden, like emotional pain, stress, or responsibility. This figurative language illustrates the concept of bearing a significant weight. The lyric expresses Eminem's sense of immense pressure and emotional burden. The **boulder** represents the weight of his responsibilities, struggles, and challenges, especially regarding fame, family, and personal issues. This line conveys a feeling of exhaustion and highlights the growing difficulty of handling these burdens, illustrating his inner conflict and the impact it has on him. Overall, it underscores the challenge of balancing his personal life with the demands of his career.

6. "But the years that I've wasted is nothin' to the tears that I've tasted"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because **tears that I've tasted** act as a metaphor for emotional pain, implying that the suffering endured is significant and deeply experienced. In this line, Eminem expresses profound regret. He suggests that the time he feels he has wasted is trivial compared to the emotional pain he has felt. Essentially, he highlights that although he may have lost years, the suffering he has gone through likely stemming

from his struggles and his relationship with his daughter has affected him far more deeply. This underscores both his remorse and the depth of his emotions.

7. **“And suddenly it seems like my shoulder blades have just shifted”**

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because the shifting of the shoulder blades can represent a change in perspective or a release of burdens. It implies a sense of lightness or relief as if the speaker has been liberated from some weight. This line **and suddenly it seems like my shoulder blades have just shifted** expresses a sense of relief or a profound emotional change. It implies that the speaker has felt a moment of liberation as if a heavy weight has been lifted from his shoulders.

Data 3: Hyperbole

8. **“But then I see my baby, suddenly I'm not crazy”**

This sentence is categorized as hyperbole. “But then I see my baby, suddenly I'm not crazy” can be interpreted as hyperbole because it exaggerates the **emotional shift caused by seeing the baby**. The phrase **I'm not crazy** suggests that the speaker experiences a significant sense of calm and clarity compared to their earlier feelings, indicating a dramatic change in emotion. This exaggeration highlights the powerful influence that love or connection can have on one's mental state, making the sentiment more vivid and relatable. In the lyric “But then I see my baby, suddenly I'm not crazy,” Eminem conveys the transformative influence of love and connection. The term “my baby” refers to a loved one, probably his child, and implies that their presence offers a sense of calm and clarity. This line juxtaposes feelings of chaos and instability with a quick emotional shift to peace and rationality upon seeing his loved one. It underscores how relationships can provide support and stability during challenging times, highlighting the significance of family in overcoming difficulties.

9. **“Cause sometimes it feels like the world's almost over”**

This sentence is categorized as hyperbole because it **amplifies the speaker's feelings of despair or being overwhelmed**. By implying that the world is **almost over**, it expresses a strong sense of hopelessness or urgency that should not be taken literally. This exaggeration highlights the intensity of the speaker's emotions, illustrating how daunting challenges can feel as if they jeopardize everything. It conveys a dramatic sentiment that makes the emotional experience more relatable and powerful. The lyric “Cause sometimes it feels like the world's almost over” conveys feelings of despair and overwhelming pressure. It reflects a sense of hopelessness and urgency, indicating that the speaker is going through intense emotional turmoil. This line illustrates how life's challenges can feel so overwhelming that it seems like everything is about to collapse. Overall, it encapsulates themes of anxiety and vulnerability, emphasizing the burden of difficult situations and their emotional impact.

10. **“I act like shit don't faze me “**

This sentence is categorized as hyperbole because the word **shit** acts as an exaggerated expression of difficulties or issues, highlighting the speaker's struggles. The lyric “I act like shit don't faze me” reveals Eminem's effort to display strength and resilience amid hardships. It shows his wish to seem unaffected by challenges, whether they stem from personal issues or the pressures of fame. Beneath this tough exterior, however, the line suggests a deeper vulnerability and emotional struggle, especially concerning his role as a father and the difficulties he encounters. It encapsulates the conflict between putting on a brave face and confronting genuine feelings.

Data 4: Imagery

11. **“starin' out the window ('Dow)”**

This sentence is categorized as imagery because it **paints a picture of someone gazing out a window**, evoking a sense of contemplation or yearning. This imagery can **imply feelings of isolation or introspection**. When Eminem talks about “starin' out the window,” it reflects a moment of introspection and vulnerability. This line conveys a sense of longing or contemplation regarding life, relationships, or his role as a father. It often represents feelings of isolation or a wish to engage with the outside world, alluding to his struggles and emotional state. The song's context highlights his love for Hailie and the challenges he encounters, making this imagery impactful in conveying his thoughts and emotions.

Data 5: Simile

12. **“I'd blow somethin' as long as my father”**

This sentence is categorized as a simile because the phrase **I'd blow somethin' as long as my father** can be viewed as a simile if interpreted comparably, using **as** to link the act of blowing something to the extent of the speaker's commitment to their father. This lyric expresses a strong sense of loyalty and dedication to his father. It suggests that the speaker is willing to make significant sacrifices or take risks for the sake of his father, emphasizing the depth of their bond. The phrase captures the idea of prioritizing family and the lengths one would go to support or honor a loved one. Overall, it reflects themes of commitment and devotion within family relationships.

13. "And this load is like the weight of the world "

This sentence is categorized as a simile because that draws a comparison between two distinct things using "like" or "as." Here, the feeling of burden or responsibility is likened to the overwhelming **weight of the world**, indicating that it feels incredibly heavy and daunting. This highlights the struggle and significant challenges the person faces. The imagery evokes strong emotions, underscoring the intensity of their feelings and the scale of their situation. And this line illustrates the tremendous pressure and responsibility he experiences as a father. It indicates that his concerns and challenges, especially about his role in Hailie's life, feel incredibly overwhelming like an insurmountable burden. This imagery expresses his profound love for Hailie and the difficulties he encounters in supporting and safeguarding her, emphasizing the emotional weight he bears.

14. "It's like the greatest gift you can get; the weight has been lifted"

This sentence is categorized as a simile because the word **like** draws a comparison between the feeling of relief and the experience of receiving a treasured gift, implying that the release of burdens is highly valuable and transformative. In this line from Eminem's song about his daughter Hailie, "It's like the greatest gift you can get, the weight has been lifted" conveys a deep sense of relief and happiness.

b. Mockingbird

The second song is A Mockingbird, produced by Luis Resto and Eminem and released on November, 12, 2004 as track 16 on Encore (Deluxe Version). Possibly the least offensive Eminem song ever, this Encore track is directed and dedicated to his daughters. Eminem acknowledges that growing up with his media image and Kim's drug problem made for a difficult upbringing, not to mention their poverty-stricken beginnings. The lyrics are a personal, undisguised account of his early relationship with his wife and daughters. Critics praised the song for its lyrics. This song mixes an original rap dialogue about Eminem's failed marriage, as he apologizes to his daughters with a straight melodic version of the traditional "Mockingbird" lullaby called "Hush, Little Baby". The second verse is about the difficulties including Kim and Eminem's divorce and the beginning of Eminem's fame.

Table 2: Mockingbird (2004) Figurative Language

Lyric	Figurative Language
“ I can see you're sad, even when you smile, even when you laugh”	Metaphor
“ We're all we got in this world when it spins, when it swirls “	Personification
“ The harder that I try to do that, the more it backfires on me “	Irony
“ Together ever again, like we used to be when we was teenagers”	Simile
“ Now hush , little baby, don't you cry”	Onomatopoeia
“Stiffen that upper lip up, little lady, I told ya,”	Personification
“Now I'm sittin' in this empty house just reminiscin”	Metaphor
“ Lookin' at your baby pictures”	Imagery
“it just trips me out”	Idiom
“ I like the sound of that, yeah, it's got a ring to it, don't it?”	Onomatopoeia
“And if you ask me to, Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird”	Metaphor
“I'ma buy a diamond ring for you, I'ma sing for you”	Hyperbole
“Papa was a rolling stone, Mama developed a habit”	Metaphor
“Cause Daddy felt like a bum—see, Daddy had a job”	Simile

Data 1: Metaphor

1. “I can see you're sad, even when you smile, even when you laugh”

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because the sentence **I can see you sad, even when you smile, even when you laugh** implies a deeper emotional reality that goes beyond its literal meaning. In the following lyric by Eminem entitled **Mockingbird**, he tells his probable daughter Hailie that he can feel her sadness, even in the smile and laughter of times.

2. “Now I'm sittin' in this empty house just reminiscin”

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because the **empty house** symbolizes the loss in the emotional container of the time spent with his loved ones, especially his ex-wife Kim and probably his daughter, too, since their family relationship got broken. As opposed to an uninhabited space, physically, Eminem uses this as a metaphor to describe the feeling of emotional loneliness and some sort of emptiness he feels while reflecting on the happenings of the past. The lyric conveys a feeling of loneliness and longing in *Mockingbird* by Eminem. That **empty house** is symbolic of a literal vacant house that represents the emotional void created due to the absence of loved ones.

3. “And if you ask me to, Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird”

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because in this case, Eminem does not mean he will buy his daughter a mockingbird-that actual bird-but rather, it is symbolic of deeper meaning, such as love, protection, or a promise to provide for and make things right with his daughter, Hailie. and in the lyrics, he promised Eminem's daughter, Hailie, to make her as happy and comfortable as possible. He also said that he tries to give her whatever she wants despite all the difficulties in her life. The line **Daddy will buy you a mockingbird** is a metaphor. He does not mean a real bird, but he intends to convey that the bird should bring inner peace - a baby should be aware of nothing else but comfort and security, meaning the promised happiness, safety, and soothing Hailie in all the hubbubs of life.

4. “Papa was a rolling stone, Mama developed a habit”

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because **Papa is a rolling stone**, which means that Eminem as a father is unpredictable, always moves, and perhaps irresponsible just like the stone that rolls and never remains in one place. The word **rolling stone** is usually used to identify someone who refuses to stay in one place or settle down with any kind of commitment and shirks responsibility. Also, the sentence **Mama developed a habit** is a metaphor to describe Eminem's mother when she developed an addiction to substances or behaviors. In this context, the term **habit** serves as a symbol for addiction or problematic behavior, though it is not direct.

Data 2: Personification

5. "We're all we got in this world when it spins, when it swirls "

This sentence is categorized as personification because in the lyric line that can be recognized as personification because human-like characteristics are given to an idea known as **the world**. And in these lyrics, he brings a sense of family and support in case of chaos and difficult scenarios.

6. "Stiffen that upper lip up, little lady, I told ya,"

This sentence is categorized as a personification because by asking Hailie to **stiffen that upper lip**, Eminem attributes human-like qualities of control and resilience to the lip, asking her to be strong and not to let her feelings get the better of her. The phrase in question emanates from the expression "**stiff upper lip**," an expression that serves to describe someone who maintains composure and suppresses emotions during circumstances. This line, **stiffen that upper lip up, little lady, I told ya**, in the song *Mockingbird* by Eminem, is one of those lines whereby he is giving his daughter strength and telling her to be strong in such a situation. The phrase **stiffens that upper lip** means to hold back your tears, not to show your emotions when facing adversity.

Data 3: Irony

7. "The harder that I try to do that, the more it backfires on me "

This sentence is categorized as ironic because it describes a situation where the person's efforts to achieve a positive outcome led to negative consequences. In other words, the more they put into it, the worse things become, which is the opposite of their intended result. The lyric reflects Eminem's internal conflict and frustration with his efforts to do what is best for his daughter, Hailie, and his family, only to encounter unintended negative outcomes. In this case, *that* likely refers to his attempts to create a stable, happy life for his daughter, or to resolve the complex and painful issues in his own life, including his troubled relationships and career struggles. Eminem has long been candid about the challenges of balancing his fame and personal life, and how his public persona impacts his ability to protect and provide for his family.

When he says "The harder I try, the more it backfires on me," he is expressing the sense that no matter how much effort he puts in, things often spiral out of control, making situations worse rather than better. This lyric underscores the frustration of working tirelessly yet seeing everything fall apart, revealing his self-doubt and the sense of inevitable failure despite his best intentions. It is a poignant moment in the song, showing Eminem's vulnerability. Despite his success and determination, he struggles to control or fix the chaos around him particularly when it comes to safeguarding his loved ones from the fallout of his complicated life.

Data 4: Simile

8. "Together ever again, like we used to be when we was teenagers"

This sentence is categorized as a simile because it draws a comparison using the word **like**. Here, the speaker is comparing the present situation to the past, specifically to the time when they were teenagers. The word **like** indicates that this is not a direct comparison, but rather a way of showing how the relationship in the past was different, likely simpler, and more carefree than it is now. The lyric expresses Eminem's deep longing for the past, particularly for a time when his relationships especially with his ex-wife Kim and his daughter Hailie were simpler and more carefree. By referring to being together **like we used to be when we were teenagers**, Eminem is harking back to a time of youth, when life felt less complicated and more innocent. During adolescence, love and relationships are often viewed through an idealistic lens, free from the complexities and challenges that come with adulthood such as the pressures of fame, personal struggles, or raising a child. This line reflects Eminem's nostalgia for that earlier time, conveying a desire to return to a period when his relationships felt more genuine and less troubled, particularly with Kim. It suggests that he wishes things could go back to how they were before the weight of adult responsibilities and emotional turmoil took their toll.

9. “Cause Daddy felt like a bum—see, Daddy had a job”

This sentence is categorized as a simile because **Daddy felt like a bum** weighs Eminem's emotions against those of a **bum**, one who is usually regarded as idle or defeated. He would feel lowly, and useless, even though he had a job, much like one who does not have employment would feel because they are failing. The next line, **Daddy had a job**, contrasts that most negative self-image with the reality that is he employed. This juxtaposition emphasizes the internal conflict he is experiencing in that, despite trying and being responsible, he still feels insufficient or not good enough.

Data 5: Onomatopoeia

10. “Now hush, little baby, don't you cry”

This sentence is categorized as an onomatopoeia because the word **hush** imitates the sound of quieting or soothing someone. The lyrics are a comforting statement and are aimed at his daughter, Hailie. Eminem is trying to calm her down and provide reassurance, most likely during an emotionally difficult time in their lives, such as the turmoil in his relationship with his ex-wife Kim and the challenges that come with living under the public spotlight.

11. “I like the sound of that, yeah, it's got a ring to it, don't it?”

This sentence is categorized as an onomatopoeia because the word **ring to it** is figurative. Said **ring**, it might be the tinkling of a bell or that of something just ringing-clear tone still loudly in the ears long after it has been heard. and within the lyrics, Eminem demonstrates his approval or pleasure with what he has just heard, be it a phrase, an idea, or whatever. The phrase **it's got a ring to it** figuratively describes that it only sounds interesting, good, or memorable. More importantly, the idea or words here are ringing, with resonant qualities just like a clear bell, attracting attention, and impossible to ignore. In this context, Eminem recognizes that the words or situation feels meaningful or appropriate to him.

Data 6: Imagery

12. “Lookin' at your baby pictures”

This sentence is categorized as imagery because of the rich and descriptive language that stirs the senses, making one see, hear, taste, smell, or feel what is being described. In this case, there is an immediate, clear, visual thought of photographs of a young child when the phrase **baby pictures** are used, which generally inspires emotions of innocence and childhood. From **baby pictures**, Eminem is reflecting on Hailie's early years and reminiscing about her innocent, carefree childhood self. Baby pictures stir deep feelings of love and tenderness, often more so for a parent. Tossing them in gains him the attention of how much he truly cares for his daughter and how important she is to him.

Data 7: Idiom

13. “It just trips me out”

This sentence is categorized as an idiom an expression of a given language that, in its value, cannot be deduced by the interpretation of the literal meaning of the words composing the expression. In this case, when Eminem says **it just trips me out**, he indicates that something astonishes him, confuses him, or defeats his expectations since he finds himself dislocated or emotionally touched in some way because it is strange or overwhelming. in the lyrics, Eminem shows his astonishment, disbelief, or confusion towards a situation. Now, **take me by surprise** is an idiomatic expression; its meaning is that something is very unexpected, extraordinary, or absurd, and a person's mental or emotional reaction to this is so strong that it can leave them confused or astonished. In this verse, Eminem reflects on struggles in life, perhaps his family, his daughter Hailie, or complicated relationships, and how these struggles leave him speechless or overwhelmed. The lyrics symbolize his emotional response to the complexity of the situation, coupled with the difficulty of understanding or accepting what is happening.

Data 8: Hyperbole

14. “I'ma buy a diamond ring for you, I'ma sing for you”

This sentence is categorized as hyperbole because here, **I'll buy you a diamond ring** and **I'll sing to you** are hyperbolic promises of the extent to which Eminem is willing to do anything for his daughter, Hailie. The acts of

buying her a diamond ring and singing to her are figurative, used to illustrate that he would do anything in the world to make her happy or just to express his love for her. He does not mean he would do these things; he means deeply, the way he is committed and wants to provide for her both emotionally and materially.

c. When I’m Gone

The last song is When I’m Gone, produced by himself and released on December 6, 2005, as track 16 on Curtain Call: The Hits (Deluxe Edition). In "When I'm Gone," Eminem delivers a deeply personal story about himself and his daughter Hailie, where his absence is affecting her, the family, and himself. Irrespective of the song's nature, this was not Em's last single on his Curtain Call: The Hits compilation album before his 2005-2009 hiatus; "Shake That" was.

Table 3. When I’m Gone (2005) Figurative Language

Lyric	Figurative Language
“I’ll give you one underdog, then you gotta swing by yourself”	Symbol and Personification.
“the song ain't gon' write itself”	Personification
“They're screamin' so loud,”	Onomatopoeia
“Screamin' your name,”	Onomatopoeia
“Put it to my brain, scream, "Die, Shady!", and pop it”	Onomatopoeia
“The sky darkens, my life flashes”	Metaphor
“there's birds singin”	Personification
“But what happens when karma turns right around to bite you?”	Personification
“ When they know they're your heart and you know you are their armor”	Metaphor
“Sixty-thousand people all jumpin' out their seat. The curtain closes, they're throwin' roses at my feet I take a bow and "Thank you all for comin' out”	Allegory

Data 1: Symbol and Personification

1. “I’ll give you one underdog, then you gotta swing by yourself”

This sentence is categorized as symbol and personification because the term **underdog** conventionally represents someone who is at a disadvantage or faces huge obstacles. In this case, it is indicative of a tiny, perhaps insignificant, advantage or backing. The speaker gives an opportunity or chance to the listener by offering the **underdog**, even if that chance or opportunity is a small or unlikely one. But then the listener would have to **swing by yourself**, with the implication that he would have to rely on his strength and powers from then on. In such a case, the verb **swing** undergoes a sort of personification since it is attributed to the action of fighting or struggling. The idea of "swinging" in general carries the connotation of active motion or conflict: one **swings** a fist or a bat. This gives the action almost human qualities as if **swinging** is something one can consciously engage in to face challenges head-on. In this context, the **underdog** symbolizes some form of support or a small advantage. It is as if Eminem were telling someone who may be a loved one or someone, he cares about that he will encourage him or her even if it's just a simple unexpected opportunity. The **underdog** may also be an opportunity to overcoming a challenge, especially when the tides are overwhelmingly against him. By giving them this **underdog**, she is giving them somewhere to start, some sort of direction, or the ability to overcome adverse situations. Once giving them this initial boost, however, Eminem follows with the message that they need to **swing on their own**, continuing in life. This line brings into view the emphasis on self-reliance. While he can offer a small benefit or helping hand, ultimately, they must face their struggles and take responsibility for their journey. The verb **to swing** here is evocative of a fight or struggle, the image of which suggests life itself is one big battle. This is to say, though it may be supported, one day each must take the reins of his life and fight his battles alone.

Data 2: Personification

2. “The song ain't gon' write itself”

This sentence is categorized as a personification because the **song** is being given the ability to possess human-like qualities. A song cannot be alive; it is a mere compilation of music and lyrics. Eminem refers to it, however, as if it will act or **write itself**, an ability strictly performed by humans. It means, in subtle and easy terms, that creating this song takes conscious effort and intentional action if it were to become a reality or a person would have to willfully decide to write itself. The lyrics of this song are about creation and hard work to make a song. Eminem wants to suggest that no matter how talented or inspired someone is, it takes hard work and effort to write a song. This shows that creativity does not happen by itself or inactivity, but requires active effort, time, and commitment. In the broader perspective of this song, Eminem struggles to balance his career with his personal life, especially his duties as a parent. This line is a call to himself and others, offering care, not just to wait for things to work themselves out, but to strive earnestly to make music that propels his career.

3. “There's birds singin”

This sentence is categorized as personification. Because is when human traits or actions are attributed to non-human entities, animals, or abstract ideas. In this case, **singing** is a human activity typically associated with emotion or musical expression. While birds do not "sing" in the same way humans do, they produce sounds or songs that can be interpreted as singing. The peaceful image of birds singing contrasts sharply with the darker emotions Eminem expresses in the song. It emphasizes how, while nature moves on with its serene patterns, Eminem feels consumed by his struggles, making that moment of peace seem distant or unattainable.

4. “But what happens when karma turns right around to bite you?”

This sentence is categorized as personification because it is an attribute given to a non-human thing or an abstract idea as if it were human or possessed human action. Here, it is used on **karma**, which is not a person but an abstract idea. Hence, if karma is to be called, then to **turn around** and **bite** the action of turning and biting is generally used for living beings like animals or people, not for an abstract concept like **karma**.

Data 3: Onomatopoeia

5. “They're screamin' so loud,”

This sentence is categorized as an onomatopoeia because the word **screamin'** imitates the sound of someone yelling, reflecting the intense, high-pitched vocalization often linked to loud, emotional outbursts. This makes it a clear example of onomatopoeia. The screaming here might be for hysteria and an overwhelming reaction of the people around him-fans or the public in general. These screams could be interpreted as excitement, lots of admiration, and at times as the pressure put on him as a celebrity. The reaction's loudness would make them aware of the constant attention and high expectations regarding his fame.

6. “Screamin' your name,”

This sentence is categorized as an onomatopoeia because the word **scream** mimics the sound of a loud emotional outburst, usually a sharp, high-pitched sound made when someone is excited, upset, or trying to get attention. This word directly represents the sound of screaming, making it a clear example of onomatopoeia. **Screamin' your name** can symbolize the admiration and devotion of fans, who may call out or shout Eminem's name as a form of excitement and appreciation for his music. Alternatively, the phrase can convey a more personal emotion, which relates to the theme of *When I'm Gone*. In this context, the phrase could represent the emotional longing of someone close to him, such as his daughter asking for his attention. It could also reflect the pressure and emotional baggage Eminem feels as a father and artist, realizing that while fans are **chanting his name** in praise, he is grappling with his internal struggles and the impact of his fame on his relationships.

7. “Put it to my brain, scream, "Die, Shady!", and pop it”

This sentence is categorized as an onomatopoeia because the word **pop** gives off a staccato, swift sound, like a gunshot, a popping balloon, or a breaking of something with extreme pressure. Here, given the sentences that precede it, **put it in my brain** and **Die, Shady!**, it more than likely represents the sound of a bullet being fired. It reflects intense emotional pain and an inner conflict, showing a dark moment where Eminem or the persona that he portrays decides on a drastic, destructive act. This has, often, been interpreted as a metaphor for being overwhelmed by the pressures of fame, struggles with mental health, and personal turmoil.

Data 4: Metaphor

8. "The sky darkens, my life flashes"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because **the sky darkened** it does not refer to an actual change in the sky, but rather symbolizes a shift in the speaker's emotional or mental state. The darkened sky symbolizes feelings of despair, sadness, or a sense of impending danger and hopelessness. It is not about the physical sky, but about the emotional burden and inner turmoil the speaker is experiencing. Similarly, **my life flashed** is another metaphor. The phrase **my life flashed** is often used to describe the sensation of reflecting on one's entire life, usually at particularly stressful or dangerous moments, such as near-death experiences. Here, the phrase suggests that the speaker is overwhelmed by a rush of memories, emotions, or consciousness. It is not meant to be taken, as if the speaker is physically seeing their life play out in front of them, but rather conveys the feeling that things are becoming clear or rapidly flashing through their mind in an emotional or psychological sense.

9. "When they know they're your heart and you know you are their armor"

This sentence is categorized as a metaphor because **you are their heart** it does not mean someone is a heart. Instead, it symbolizes that the person is essential, emotionally significant, or central to the speaker's feelings, much like how the heart is crucial to life. It conveys a deep emotional connection and love. When they know that they are your heart means that the other person (likely his daughter or a loved one) understands how important they are to the speaker. The phrase **you are my heart** metaphorically suggests that this person is the core of the speaker's emotional life that is vital to her well-being, just as the heart is vital to survival. It symbolizes deep love, attachment, and emotional meaning. **You know that you are their armor** indicates that the speaker sees themselves as a protector, offering strength and security to others. Just as armor protects a warrior in battle, the speaker feels that it provides emotional or physical protection, offering guidance and support.

Data 5: Allegory

10. "Sixty-thousand people all jumpin' out their seat. The curtain closes, they're throwin' roses at my feet I take a bow and "Thank you all for comin' out"

This sentence is categorized as allegory because **Sixty-thousand people all jumpin' out their seat** the crowd is supposed to personify the external confirmation, adoration, and accolades of a celebrity. The imagery of people **jumping out of their seats** reflects the excitement, adoration, and enthusiasm Eminem receives from his fans. **The curtain closes** this can be a symbol for the close of one chapter or performance. In Eminem's career, this can be representative of the close of a show, or metaphorically the "final act" in his life or professional journey.

CONCLUSION

The figurative language in Eminem's songs can be found in "Hailie's Song," "Mockingbird," and "When I'm Gone." In "Hailie's Song," there are fourteen instances of figurative language, including one personification, three similes, three hyperboles, six metaphors, and one instance of imagery. In "Mockingbird," the song contains fourteen figurative language elements: two instances of personification, two similes, four metaphors, one instance of imagery, one idiom, one hyperbole, two onomatopoeias, and one irony. Finally, in "When I'm Gone," the song features ten figurative language elements: one symbol, three instances of personification, two metaphors, one allegory, and three onomatopoeias.

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