An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Jason Mraz in Album Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride

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Article Info	Abstract
Keywords: [Figurative Language, Jason Mraz, Meaning Types] *Article History:* Received : 16-11-2024 Revised : 16-12-2024 Accepted : 08 –02-2025 Published : 24-12-2025	Lyrics and music have always been essential components of art, and their actual meaning can be discovered in the way sounds are arranged over time. The songs' deeper meanings and implications, however, may not be fully understood by many listeners. This thesis investigated the deeper meanings conveyed by figurative language in Jason Mraz's album Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride. The idea was to demonstrate that, in addition to simply appreciating the music, listeners may discover topics like love and life's journey. The songs gained depth and a personal touch from the use of figurative language, which uses literary devices to suggest meanings beyond the literal. In order to determine which figurative language forms were most prevalent in Mraz's lyrics, this study identified a variety of them. A qualitative method was applied, Classifying the data according to Perrine's (1977) theory, analyzing the data, going over the lyrics and their interpretations, and making conclusions are the four processes that follow. Numerous figurative language types, including similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, understatement, and irony, were found in the songs, with metaphors being the most prevalent. These symbolic components expressed several ideas: Social, Connotative, and Conceptual

1. Introduction

Music holds a significant place in life, encompassing various genres such us Classical, pop, rock, and traditional genres, with individuals selecting diverse types of music depending on their emotions. For example, people tend to choose melancholic songs when feeling heartbroken, while more energetic songs are favored during happy moments. Generally, songs combine lyrics with tunes, and contemporary technology enables people to enjoy music anytime and anywhere. Fitria (2018) states that songwriters utilize figurative language to express feelings and enhance the attractiveness of their lyrics. This figurative language adds charm and meaning to a song's words, helping songwriters to more deeply connect with their audience. Hornby (2010) defines a song as a brief piece of music with lyrics, where melody, rhythm, and words come together to form a full musical journey.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010) defines lyrics as a song's words that cover a variety of topics, including friendship, love, heartbreak, and peace. Figurative language, according to Perrine (1977), is a way to convey ideas subtly by employing imaginative language to imply meanings that go beyond the literal. Instead of interpreting the words literally, individuals interpret the meaning more creatively and subtly when figurative language is used. Figurative language, also referred to as figures of speech, includes statements in which the meaning cannot be inferred from the individual words alone. it frequently uses several words to convey a single concept or item. Figurative language is frequently employed in ordinary speech and in a variety of written works, such as books, poems, songs, ads, and newspapers.

Figurative language, according to Maftutah (2018), makes abstract concepts more concrete and increases the writing's emotional effect while allowing readers to interact more fully with literary works. According to Nisak (2022), Jason Mraz became well-known because to his song "Lucky." Known for working with singers like Colbie Caillat, Mraz has collaborated with John Mayer and Jack Johnson and explores a variety of musical genres, including rock, pop, and soul. Mraz, who was born in Mechanicsville, Virginia, on June 23, 1977, is well-known for his wide range of musical styles and many partnerships. According to Ramadhan (2020), who goes into additional depth about his career, Mraz started performing in 1999 and became well-known after the release of his debut album, Waiting for My Rocket to Come, in 2002. The smash song "Make It Mine" won Mraz a Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance, and the album peaked at number four on the U.S. Billboard chart (Amalia, 2020).

Mraz plays a variety of instruments, such as the piano, ukulele, and guitar. Known for its upbeat lyrics, "Make It Mine" was also used on the television program Brothers & Sisters. The researcher decided to analyse the metaphorical language-rich lyrics from Mraz's 2023 album Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride for this study. According to the scholar, the songs' beauty and profundity are enhanced by the use of figurative language. The songs on the album, which frequently use exaggeration and have deep meanings, showcase Mraz's poetic and expressive flair. The goal of this study is to comprehend how Mraz's songs' use of metaphorical language improves their meaning and level of involvement.

The study's objective is to recognize and examine the various forms of figurative language found in Mraz's songs. Numerous research involving various artists have examined figurative language, which is prevalent in literary works like novels, stories, and poetry. For instance, Sari (2021) concentrated on Talk on Corners by The Corrs, while Heriyansyah, Arifin, and Setyowati (2022) examined figurative language in Ed Sheeran's album Divide. Figurative language of Turnover's album Peripheral Vision was examined by Suliyasa and Andiantari (2023). The varieties and meanings of figurative language were recognized in this earlier research, but they did not concentrate on how figurative language emotionally engaged the listener.

However, this study focuses on Jason Mraz's lyrics and investigates how his use of figurative language in his songs encourages stronger emotional bonds. Mraz has a sizable fan base because of his ability to compose and deliver emotionally charged songs. He is praised for his guitar prowess and passionate performances. His songs' use of figurative language is crucial to evoking this emotional response. This study sets itself apart from other research that concentrated on more general album evaluations by providing a thorough analysis of Mraz's particular usage of metaphorical language.

The research will concentrate on the several forms of figurative language that are used in Mraz's Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride album, including personification, metonymy, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. Using Perrine's (1977) framework for classifying figurative language, songs such as "Getting Started," "I Feel Like Dance," "Feel Good To," "Pancakes and Butter," "Disco Sun," "Irony of Loneliness," "Little Time," "You Might Like It," "Lovesick Romeo," and "If You Think You've Seen It All" will be examined. The researcher will use Leech's (1981) theory which encompasses Conceptual, Connotative, Social, Affective, Reflected, Collocative, and Thematic meanings to interpret the songs' meanings.

The results are intended to advance the study of linguistics by shedding light on the many forms of figurative language employed in Mraz's songs and their meanings. With a particular focus on Mraz's lyrical style and how figurative language enhances the emotional and thematic depth of his music, this study provides a distinctive and in-depth viewpoint. This research focuses on individual songs, revealing how figurative language functions across various tracks, in contrast to previous studies that examined full albums. In the end, this research seeks to shed light on the function of figurative language in song lyrics by advancing our knowledge of how it affects the emotional resonance and thematic progression of Mraz's songs.

2. Methods

The study's goals, procedures for gathering and analyzing data, and presentation of the findings are all described in the research design. Through language analysis, this study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to investigate the meanings people attach to various concepts (Creswell, 2014, p. 19). It specifically looks into the metaphorical language that Jason Mraz uses in the lyrics of his album Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride. The analysis is based on the ideas of Leech (1981) and Perrine (1977), which discuss several kinds of meanings, like as Thematic, reflective, social, affective, conceptual,

connotative, and collocative. "Getting Started," "I Feel Like Dancing," "Feel Good To," "Pancakes and Butter," "Disco Sun," "Irony of Loneliness," "Little Time," "You Might Like It," "Lovesick Romeo," and "If You Think You've Seen It All" are the ten tracks on the album that are the subject of the study.

As the main instrument for gathering data, the researcher collected the lyrics from YouTube and Google. To find different kinds of metaphorical language, they chose, read, heard, and examined the lyrics. Downloading the lyrics, checking the songs for accuracy, going over the lyrics, looking for instances of metaphorical language, categorizing the data, and coding each item (e.g., S1D1 for song 1, data point 1) were all steps in the data collection process. Perrine's and Leech's frameworks were used to categorize, evaluate, and confirm the accuracy of the data during the analysis process. Using Spradley's (1980) domain analysis, the data was categorized into broad groups and subgroups. While componential analysis was used to deconstruct and gain a deeper understanding of the individual types, taxonomic analysis looked at the connections between these categories using figurative language and the songs' interpretations of it.

3. **Result**
3.1   **Figurative Language and Meaning**

3.1.1 *Metaphor*
   Datum 2 (S1D2)
   "The beginning is such an ideal setting."

There is a metaphor in this sentence. In this instance, "the beginning" is figuratively associated with a "perfect place," implying that it represents the best or most ideal place to start. Though it is not intended to be taken literally, the parallel emphasizes how starting something new like a project, relationship, or journey is viewed as having a special or ideal character. The "beginning" is contrasted with the idea of a "perfect place" in order to highlight its advantages.

The phrase, "The beginning is such a perfect place," has connotative meaning. It suggests that beginning something fresh is seen as a worthwhile and optimistic endeavor. The word "perfect" suggests that fresh starts are brimming with possibilities and promise. This gives the idea of a "perfect start," implying hope and faith in the wealth of prospects that await, a deeper, more emotional dimension.

3.1.2 *Simile*
   Datum 2 (S1D2)
   "Like a soul train line in the hallway, a small gesture goes a long way."

"Like a soul train line in the hallway, a small gesture goes a long way." include a simile. Because it uses the word "like" to make a comparison between a modest action and a vibrant hallway dance line. Just as a soul train line may make a significant effect in a tiny space, it implies that even a modest action can have a big influence.

"Like a soul train line in the hallway, a small gesture goes a long way." Meaning via Connotation. Because it illustrates how minor actions may have a significant influence

through the use of a comparison. The term implies that even a small effort can have a big impact, just like a vibrant dance line can create a big impression in a small area. This meaning highlight how small actions can have a big impact.

3.1.3 *Hyperbole*

Datum 12 (S2D12)

"I feel amazing and elastic right now."

Datum states, "I feel elastic and fantastic." Avoid exaggeration. because the speaker's feelings are overstated. The adjectives "elastic" and "fantastic" convey that the speaker is feeling more energized and wonderful than normal.

"I'm feeling elastic and fantastic" is the sentence. Connotative Meaning: The sentence conveys a deeper sense of the speaker's remarkable excellent and energetic feelings by using exaggerated descriptors.

3.1.4 *Personification*

Datum 31 (S5D31)

"Every valuable weed is aware of your identity."

"Every precious weed knows who you are," the statement goes. Keep in mind Personification. because it endows non-human entities with human characteristics. This figure of speech attaches human traits, such as "knows who you are," to a plant called a "precious weed," which is incapable of knowing or identifying humans. This is done to paint a strong or emotional picture, implying that even the tiniest or most insignificant details are aware of or related to the individual "Every precious weed knows who you are" is the statement.

Meaningful Personification is utilized to increase the sentence's emotional effect and connotative meaning by implying that the surroundings are very sensitive to the individual, which heightens the sense of importance and intimacy.

3.1.5 *Irony*

Datum 18 (S3D18)

"F-ing the shoulds, just go enjoy your life. Some people just wish they could do whatever they want."

"F-ing Some people just wish they could do what they want, so they should just go enjoy their lives," the statement reads. Don't be ironic. Since it recognizes that many people feel bound by obligations or societal expectations, the speaker offers an alternative strategy by promoting shirking those responsibilities and just living life. The contrast between the pressure to adhere to norms and the encouragement to break them for one's own enjoyment is where the irony lies. The phrase reads: "Some people just wish they could do what they want, f-ing the should just go enjoy your life". Meaningful In other words, irony serves to emphasize the difference between what society expects and what individuals want. The phrase expresses annoyance with social norms and a wish to focus on one's own happiness instead.

3.1.6 *Understatement*
Datum 3 (S1D3)
"I may make a fool of myself, but that's okay."

"I might embarrass myself, but that's okay" is the sentence. Don't be too modest. Because it minimizes the significance of perhaps embarrassing oneself. It minimizes the potential gravity or discomfort of the issue."I might embarrass myself, but that's okay" is the sentence. Meaningful In other words, understatement might be used to project a more at ease or self-assured attitude regarding the possible shame. The speaker is not very concerned about potential shame, as seen by the sentence's downplaying of its significance.

Table 1: Analysis of Componential Data

various Figurative language types	various meaning types							The sum
	CPM	CTM	SM	ATM	RM	CLM	TM	
Simile		10		1				11
Metaphor	4	22		2				28
Hyperbole	1	5		2				8
Personification		3		2				5
Metonymy								
Understatement				1				1
Irony		2						2
The sum	5	42		8				55

Notes: Conceptual Meaning (CPM)
Connotative Meaning (CTM)
Social Meaning (SM)
Affect meaning (ATM)
Reflective Meaning (RM)
Collocative Meaning (CLM)

4. Discussion

The following conclusions are drawn from the study of figurative language and meaning in the "Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride" album, as shown in the above table: The most prevalent figurative technique is the metaphor, which occurs 28 times, or 50.9% of the total. This high frequency emphasizes their function in expressing intricate and symbolic notions, giving the lyrics more profound meanings and aiding in the

illustration of abstract ideas. Eleven occurrences, or 20% of the data, are similes. They are employed to draw clear and striking parallels that help elucidate particular characteristics and enhance the vividness and relatability of the lyrics' imagery. There are eight instances of hyperbole, or 14.5% of the total. These exaggerations highlight particular characteristics or feelings, strengthening the descriptions' impact and introducing a dramatic.

Personification makes up 9.1% of the metaphorical language and occurs in 5 occurrences. Personification gives non-human aspects human characteristics, which helps listeners relate to abstract ideas on an emotional level. Understatement and metonymy each occur just once, or 1.8% of the total. Irony creates a contrast between literal statements and intended meanings and appears in two cases, accounting for 3.6% of the data. With 42 instances, or 72.3% of the total, connotative meaning is the most prevalent sort of meaning. Connotative meaning gives the lyrics layers of value by incorporating additional implicit meanings beyond the literal sense. Metaphor was the most commonly found figurative language appeared most frequently in the analysis of the study.

Here, expressions like "Love is shining," "Love is illuminating," and "Love is exploding" illustrate the potent and transformational power of love by relating abstract ideas like love to tangible events and experiences. Furthermore, in "Feel Good To," the metaphor "you, you are a wanderer" likens a person to a journey, implying that people seek certainty and comprehension in their life in the same way that a wanderer seeks truth. Similarly, in "Little Time," the line "we're now 7,600 setting sun" adds a dramatic touch to the natural imagery by metaphorically comparing the setting sun to a certain number. The second most popular figurative language was similes.

By drawing clear, vivid similarities that let listeners visualize and feel the emotions, these similes enrich the lyrics. Jason Mraz skillfully combines similes and metaphors to produce dynamic and relevant phrases in his songs. To increase the depth and intensity of the songs on Jason Mraz's album "Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride," a variety of figurative language is employed in the lyrics. Even though the parallels are indirect, similes, such as the one in "just like pancakes and butter," help listeners grasp and relate to the imagery by drawing direct comparisons. The use of hyperbole produces exaggerated effects that give the lyrics a vivid, emotional feel. The exaggerated pace in the line "I pick up the speed 'till I'm deep in it," for instance, highlights immersion in the experience and gives the figurative language a genuine, lively quality. To identify variations and parallels in the use of figurative language, the research findings were contrasted with those of earlier studies.

Metaphor was the most commonly used figurative language in The Corrs' album Talk on Corners, according to Sari's (2021) analysis. Examining Turnover's album Peripheral Vision, Suliyasa and Andantari (2023) determined that simile was the most common figure of speech, concentrating on its multiple purposes. In their analysis of Ed Sheeran's album Talk on Corners, Heriansyah, Arifin, and Setyowati (2022) discovered that metonymy and metaphor were the most prevalent figures of speech, with connotative meaning being the most prevalent kind. According to the study's thematic analysis, many musicians

concentrate on different subjects in their lyrics. The song "What Can I Do" by The Corrs, for instance, examines elements of longing and love, expressing strong feelings and a need to be near those you love. "Dizzy on the Comedown" by Turnover explores emotional decline and introspection, encapsulating sentiments of bewilderment and introspection after a traumatic event.

Ed Sheeran's song "Thinking Out Loud" highlights the idea of eternal love and celebrates how love endures over time. Personification gives non-human entities human characteristics, giving abstract ideas a more concrete form. The song's lyric, "time to be kind to me," for example, lets listeners relate to the idea of time more deeply by associating it with the capacity for kindness. irony adds levels of significance and surprise by creating a contrast between what is meant and what is uttered. As demonstrated in "that's okay" from "Getting Started," where it downplays criticism while expressing self-encouragement, understatement is less common but adds nuance to the lyrics. All things considered, Jason Mraz's usage of metaphors and other figurative language enhances the lyrics. enabling them to successfully communicate nuanced meanings and emotional depth. The music's thematic components are the subject of the last comparison. The song "Pancakes and Butter" by Jason Mraz is a perfect example of themes of openness and freedom in romantic relationships. It exhorts listeners to pursue life with passion and to embrace love without boundaries. The song celebrates a free and happy approach to love and life, and it delivers a good and lighthearted message.

5. Conclusion

Every song on Jason Mraz's album Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride conveys deeper meanings through the use of figurative terms and distinctive language patterns. The following trends emerge from the 10 songs' analysis: With three lyrics and three meanings, "Getting Started" mostly uses metaphor and connotative meaning. With six lyrics and three interpretations, "I Feel Like Dance" relies on metaphor and intellectual meaning. With three lyrics and three meanings, "Feel Good To" also emphasizes metaphor and connotative meaning. With three lyrics and three meanings, "Pancakes and Butter" employs simile and connotative connotation. With six lines and eleven interpretations, "Disco Sun" mostly employs metaphor and connotative meaning. With only one verse and one message, "Irony of Loneliness" combines irony and connotative meaning. "Little Time" uses exaggeration and metaphor and personification, with three connotative meanings and one lyric. The most common figurative devices and meanings throughout the record are, in general, metaphor and connotative meaning.

This thesis examines the use of figurative language in Jason Mraz's Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride, highlighting the importance of studying it in literature and song lyrics in particular. The researcher expects that this study will advance the field of English literature, enhance figurative language instruction, and help listeners better comprehend the hidden meanings of Mraz's songs. Additionally, the researcher hopes to stimulate more research into figurative language, especially metaphors, which were the main focus of this thesis. Along with other figures of speech, these studies could look at the various kinds, purposes, and meanings of metaphors.

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