

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SOUR ALBUM

BY OLIVIA RODRIGO'S

THESIS



**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI
SYEKH WASIL
KEDIRI**

By:

KI INA RUSULU ANA

22202024

DEPARTEMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUANG EDUCATION

FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHING TRAINING

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KI INA RUSULU ANA

22202024

DEPARTEMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF TARBIYAH AND TEACHING TRAINING

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY (UIN) SYEKH WASIL

2026

DECLARATION OF AUTHENTICITY

Name : Ki Ina Rusulu Ana

NIM : 22202024

Department : English Language Education

Thesis Tittle : AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SOUR ALBUM

BY OLIVIA RODRIGO'S

Declare that:

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Ki Ina Rusulu Ana
NIM. 22202024

APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that the Sarjana's thesis of Ki Ina Rusulu Ana has been approved by the thesis advisors for further approval by the Board of Examiners.

An Analysis of Figurative Language in SOUR Album by Olivia Rodrigo

KI INA RUSUSLU ANA

22202024

Approved by:

Advisor 1

Advisor 2



Chothibul Umam, M.Pd, Ph.D
NIP. 19791022 200912 1 002



Dr. Nurul Aini, M.Pd.
NIDN 2003078801

RATIFICATION SHEET

An Analysis of Figurative Language in SOUR Album by Olivia Rodrigo

KI INA RUSUSLU ANA

NIM. 22202024

Has been examined by the board of examiner of State Islamic University (Uin) Syekh Wasil Kediri on
29th June 2026

1. Main examiner
Dr. Tovvibah, M.Pd
NIP. 19721220 200604 2 003
2. Examiner 1
Chothibul Umam, M.Pd, Ph.D
NIP. 19791022 200912 1 002
3. Examiner 2
Dr. Nurul Aini, M.Pd.
NIDN 2003078801

(.....)

(.....)

(.....)

Kediri 29th June 2026

Acknowledge by Dean of Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teaching Training

University (Uin) Syekh Wasil Kediri



MOTTO

“It’s fine to take things a bit slower, as long as you don’t stop.

After all, every process takes its own time to show results.”

“Don’t forget to pray and give thanks every day;
who knows, your prayers today might bear fruit in the future”

(Ki Ina Rusulu Ana, 2026)

“You Don’t Have To Have A Dream That Anybody Dreams”

(Bangtan Sonyeondan)

DEDICATION

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

This thesis is dedicated to:

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Kediri, June 29th 2026

Ki Ina Rusulu Ana
NIM. 22202024

ABSTRACT

ANA. KI INA RUSULU.2026. "An Analysis of Figurative Language in SOUR Album by Olivia Rodrigo". Thesis. Department of English Language Education. Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training. State Islamic University (UIN) Syekh Wasil Kediri. Advisors: (I) Chothibul Umam, M.Pd, Ph.D, (II) Dr. Nurul Aini, M.Pd.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, SOUR Album

Figurative language is an important aspect of literary and artistic works because it allows authors and songwriters to convey emotions, ideas, and experiences beyond literal meanings. In song lyrics, figurative language enriches aesthetic value and enables listeners to interpret implied messages more deeply. However, previous studies have mostly focused on identifying the types of figurative language without comprehensively interpreting the meanings conveyed by those expressions. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of figurative language and interpret the meanings conveyed in Olivia Rodrigo's sour album.

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method. The data source consisted of eleven selected songs, namely Drivers License, Déjà Vu, Good 4 U, Brutal, Jealousy, Jealousy, Traitor, Favorite Crime, Happier, 1 Step Forward, 3 Steps Back, Enough for You, and Hope Ur OK. The data were collected through several procedures, including reading, identifying, classifying, and interpreting figurative expressions found in the song lyrics. Perrine's (2021) theory was used to classify the types of figurative language, while Leech's (2021) semantic theory was applied to interpret the meanings conveyed in the lyrics.

The findings revealed eight types of figurative language, namely hyperbole, metaphor, irony, paradox, simile, personification, understatement (litotes), and apostrophe. Hyperbole was the most dominant type with 121 data, followed by metaphor 93, irony 25, paradox 13, simile 8, personification 5, and understatement 3. Furthermore, the meanings conveyed through figurative language were predominantly affective meaning and connotative meaning, indicating that the album strongly emphasizes emotional expression and implied interpretations. The figurative expressions mainly represent themes of heartbreak, jealousy, insecurity, disappointment, anger, emotional vulnerability, and adolescent identity struggles. Therefore, figurative language significantly contributes to expressing emotional depth and aesthetic value in contemporary song lyrics and may also serve as authentic learning material to help students understand non-literal meanings in English language learning.

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