



**ATTACHMENT STYLES REFLECTED IN TAYLOR
SWIFT'S *BACK TO DECEMBER* AND *LAST KISS***

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring American Studies in the English
Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 24th August 2025

Rhea Mutiara Anjani

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

If there's a will, there's a way.

George Hebert

*This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved family, friends, and
those I cherish most.*

APPROVAL

**THE FEELING OF LONGING THROUGH THE ELEMENTS OF LYRIC
POETRY OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S *BACK TO DECEMBER***

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Even though I have done my best for this thesis, it is still far from perfection. Thus, any recommendation and constructive suggestion would always be welcomed

and appreciated. Finally, I hope that this thesis would be helpful for those who want to learn about the depiction of attachment styles in songs.

Semarang, 24th August 2025

Rhea Mutiara Anjani

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ABSTRACT

This research thesis is concerned with the attachment styles reflected in Taylor Swift's songs "Back to December" and "Last Kiss". This research study seeks to analyze the diction and metaphor, to identify the attachment styles, and to compare the difference of longing as emotional responses to separation in "Back to December" and "Last Kiss". In order to identify the attachment style, the writer uses psychological approach and adopts Owen Barfield's theory in analyzing the intrinsic aspects, which include metaphor and diction, as well as John Bowlby, Mary Ainsworth, and Bartholomew and Horowitz's attachment theory for the extrinsic aspects of the songs. The writer also uses qualitative research in analyzing the songs. The result of the analysis shows that the choice of words in "Back to December" show emotional distance and suppression, while in "Last Kiss" show obsession, longing, and weakness. Furthermore, those choice of words are analyzed to identify the attachment styles of each speaker. "Back to December" reflects fearful-avoidant attachment, while "Last Kiss" reflects anxious attachment. In individuals characterized by fearful-avoidant tendencies, the experience of longing manifests late and is often moderated by a sense of resignation; conversely, in those with anxious dispositions, longing arises promptly and escalates into a strong clinging.

Keywords: attachment styles, diction, metaphor, emotional responses