

CHAPTER III

DATA ANALYSIS

As delineated in the introductory chapter of this study, the primary objective of this research is to uncover the various categories and significance of stylistic devices employed in the lyrical compositions of the Blue Neighbourhood Album by Troye Sivan. This section presents the findings of the study, which can be categorized into two distinct parts. The aforementioned components pertain to the results obtained and subsequent analysis conducted. The present study presents data on the relative frequency of various stylistic devices employed in the lyrics of the Blue Neighbourhood Album by Troye Sivan. The ongoing discourse offers a comprehensive examination of the aforementioned study, which is founded upon its research aims. The present study examines the frequency of various types of figurative language.

3.1 Findings

The data findings of this research are represented in the tables as follows:

NO	Types of Figures of Speech	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Metaphor	5	19%
2.	Simile	4	15%
3.	Personification	5	19%
4.	Synecdoche	2	8%
5.	Metonymy	1	4%
6.	Symbol	2	8%
7.	Paradox	2	8%

8.	Overstatement	3	11%
9.	Understatement	2	8%

Based on the table, there are nine types of figures of speech found in the song lyrics of *Blue Neighbourhood* Album by Troye Sivan. The various types of figures of speech include metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, paradox, overstatement, and understatement. The analysis of the data reveals that metaphor and personification are the predominant figures of speech, whereas metonymy is the least frequently occurring figure of speech.

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 Metaphor

And **my hopes they are high**
I must **keep them small**

This metaphor is from his song *Fools*. As hope is not something visible to have height, this metaphor actually means that Troye has wishful prayers for change in the society, but he should keep it small to avoid the disappointment when his hope is not accepted by majority.

I'm a spark and you're a boom
What am I supposed to do?

Another metaphor was found in Troye's other songs titled *Cool*. In this metaphor, Troye describe himself as a spark and his lover as a boom. A spark is a small fiery particle thrown off from a fire, alight in ashes, or produced by striking together two hard surfaces such as stone or metal, meanwhile a boom is a loud, deep, resonant sound. In this phrase, Troye is comparing himself to his lover. Lowering himself as a spark and praising his lover as a boom; this shows that he is barely nothing compared to his lover, who is 'Cool' as the title the song.

Metaphorical utterance can also be found in the song *Youth*:

my youth is yours

Youth is not something that is visible and could never be handed away to other people. For this lyric, Troye is actually inspired by a fan of his that wrote 'My youth is yours' on her letter to Troye. This phrase just hit him on many different levels. He feels connected as he knows the feelings of giving his youth. He started his Youtube career at the age of 12, it made him realized that he has given his youth to his audience. In a relationship, when you got into a relationship in your young age, you are giving them your years, giving them your youth. To give your youth is to spend your young years for something you eagerly love.

3.2.2 Simile

The truth runs wild
Like a tear down a cheek

In this song *Heaven*, we can notice the appearance of simile right in the second line in the beginning of the song. Troye used the word 'like' to describe the truth that runs wild as a tear that runs down the cheek. Troye use the simile to show that the truth is like crying in the sense that one can only suppress or hide it for so long, before eventually it all escapes. And like a tear running down a cheek, once it was out it was impossible to hide or take back and was open for everyone to see. This line also creates the connotation that some phase in his life was a difficult experience for him, and that it was emotionally taxing in many ways.

Still in the same song, we got to see another simile shown up.

The truth runs wild
Like kids on concrete

For the beginning of the song, Troye describe his truth as a tear running down on a cheek. This time on the next line, Troye compared his truth to kids that loves to run on concrete. The veracity of the matter has been disclosed, potentially exceeding the

individual's original intention. Adults frequently caution children against running on concrete due to the potential hazards involved. This leads us to conclusion that maybe Troye feels like his private life has been too publicized, and he may feel like it is a bit dangerous.

Again, in the verse 2 of the song, Troye once again describe his truth as something else:

The truth runs wild
Like the rain to the sea

Now he describes his truth as the rain that drops down into the ocean. When the rain falls on the sea, it fuses into the widespread ocean and becomes a part of it, you cannot undo. Similarly, once the truth about his private life has been exposed, he couldn't take it back.

And when **the lights start flashing like a photobooth**
And the stars exploding, we'll be fireproof

The lyrics are taken from the song *Youth*, a song that most likely describes the love story of young Troye. The lights that flashing can be defined as the paparazzi that going around and taking a picture of whatever Troye is doing, whether it is with consent or not, and Troye acknowledge them as the photobooth for him and his lover since paparazzi always passing their camera lights on them and really wants to bury their nose on whatever Troye is doing in his life.

3.2.3 Personification

But the truth is **the stars are falling**, ma
And the wolves are out c-calling, ma

The initial instance of personification can be observed in the song titled *Ease*. The lyrical content of this musical composition pertains to the impact of Troye's profession, which necessitates extensive travel and prolonged absences from his domicile, on his personal life. The individual reflects upon a previous period in their life when they had not yet achieved public recognition, but still possessed the companionship of their loved ones.

For the personification, Troye sang 'the stars are falling' in this song. As we all know, stars cannot fall out there at the space since there is no gravity to pull them down and fall. In this lyric, Troye is trying to describe how messy and scary his life is inside the industry.

Troye also uses personification in *Heaven* track.

The truth runs wild
Like a tear down a cheek

The truth is personified as a person who is crying in the sense that one can only suppress or hide the truth for long, eventually it all escapes. Like a tear running down a cheek, once the truth was out, it was impossible to hide or take aback, the truth was open there for everyone to see. This line also creates the connotation that some phase in his life was a difficult experience for him, and that it was emotionally taxing in many ways.

This voice inside
Has been eating at me

Still from the same song, Troye sang that the voice inside his mind has been eating himself. Voice is an inanimate noun; it clearly cannot eat anything. There are three meanings to this. First, it is either that he is questioning his fate and slowly feels that it's driving him insane. It could be that he wants to open up to people but is too afraid and keeps it inside or that question that lingers in his head about if God still loves him or not as he is considered as a person who is 'lost'.

A truth so loud you can't ignore

his lyric is taken from *Youth*. As we all know, a truth physically cannot make any noises because it is an abstract thing. This truth so loud actually emphasizes the lyrics before; *My youth is yours*. Through this personification, Troye wants the audience to know that he has given his youth years to his lover and it is an important to let everyone knows about it.

The next personification we had is from *Lost boy*.

As the smile fell from your face, I fell with it
Our faces blue

A smile is a thing formed on lips, for it to physically fall down is a terrifying sight to see. Therefore, because a smile is a verb and absolutely cannot do human behavior, this lyrics can be concluded as personification.

The personification implicitly giving out a meaning that the happiness in Troye's lover has gone, and it made Troye gone from him too. The cause of the sadness could be from how society treat them as lovers. There will always be a judgmental look following them, disgusting looks and mocks, and even abuse targeted to them. This is what took the happiness away from Troye's lover, along with Troye too. They have to be separated in order to be free from society's judgement for their relationship.

3.2.4 Synecdoche

There's a heart stain on the carpet
I left it, I left it with you

This was taken from *Lost Boy*, a song that describe how Troye left his lover because he knows society will not let him and his lover to be together. A heart stain in this lyric is represent their love story all these times. All of their memories, happiness, sadness, and everything they have been going through as lovers. All these memories will not be forgotten easily, just like how a dirt stain on a carpet is hard to clean. The next lyrics show how Troye tried to forget these memories and left it to his lovers when he decided to end the relationship. Leaving his lovers to grieve alone with their memories still lingering on his mind.

I don't care much for **locks on the window**
To keep me at bay

Still from the same song, I found another synecdoche. *Locks on the window* can be interpreted as the relationship of Troye and his lover. As the judgment from the society grows, Troye has to decide either to end their relationship or let society hurts them with their abuse. For their own safety in their community, Troye decided to just cut the

relationship to an end. He said he do not care much anymore, as their safety and mental state in the community is more important than their relationship.

3.2.5 Metonymy

White noise in my mind
Won't calm down
You're all I think about

This is from the song 'Wild'. The song tells a story about Troye's growing feeling of love. The 'noise' representing Troye's thoughts about someone he is falling in love with. He always thinks about the particular person to the point that someone is the one and only his brain is thinking about.

White represents pure and genuine thought that Troye had about someone he loves. His feeling for the person is pure and genuine, just like how love should be. There should be nothing wrong with it.

3.2.6 Symbol

Leave this **blue neighbourhood**
Never knew loving could hurt this good

In the lyrics, Troye describe his hometown as a *Blue Neighbourhood*. In an interview with *Superfame*, when asked why he named the album as Blue Neighbourhood, he said that it is about his hometown, the place where he grew up. He came from small Jewish community in Perth, and that is what the context of *Blue Neighbourhood*. His choice of the word 'blue' is to describe how his neighborhood has this sheltered and perfect suburban upbringing.

Jewish community is known to be a religious and strict community. As Sivan grew up in this community surrounding his neighborhood, it is understandable that Sivan felt sheltered with his preference on things. He cannot express himself freely because of the judgement that he would face in his community.

Forget **all the shooting stars and all the silver moons**

Shooting stars and silver moon can be interpreted as luck. In this line, like Troye said before, he hates cheesiness so things like “shooting stars”, that are kind of a cheesy thing when someone is in a relationship, would be out of the picture. That’s why he said to forget about them. He wants his lover to abandon all the cliché ideas of romance and fairytales and what love should be like. Instead, he wants them to focus on creating their own special moments, unique to their relationship.

We've been making **shades of purple out of red and blue**

Blue and red are commonly used to represent different personalities. According to the Hartman Color Code Personality Test, individuals with blue personalities exhibit a strong desire for affection, companionship, and moral uprightness, but may experience feelings of inadequacy and uncertainty. Individuals with red personalities exhibit traits that are often characterized by confidence and strong leadership abilities. However, they may also display tendencies towards criticism and possessiveness.

While red-blue relationships are difficult and require relentless effort, it seems to be working for Troye and his lover, as they have combined their personalities to bring the best out of each other: purple.

3.2.7 Paradox

The first paradox I have found is from the song titled ‘WIild’.

Leave this blue neighbourhood
Never knew **loving could hurt this good**

From this line, we could see the paradox delivery from Troye. Loving has a positive energy that should not cause any harm. It is the most wonderful feelings in the whole world, and love should not hurt. Hurt can also not be a good emotion to feel, it is a harm causing the receiver an uneasy feeling. For this line, we can see that Troye is going through the relationship that has both good and bad side, and he mixes those things to make the paradox.

The hurt feeling Troye feel is not actually from loving his lover, but from the society that is judging their relationship. Both of them are pressured by how the community treats them. Regardless of the judgmental society, Troye is feeling good because he finally has the chance to love who he wants to love, he is not afraid anymore.

Sickeningly sweet like honey, don't need money

All I need is you

The next paradox I have found is from the song titled for him. The adjective "sweet" is frequently used to describe delicious foods like chocolate and candies. It is also frequently used to describe the language used when people complement one another. Sick signifies illness and sweet means anything that makes people happy, therefore the phrase "sickeningly sweet" actually has a paradoxical meaning.

In this delivery, Sivan tried to explain that although his relationship with his lover was wonderful and made him happy, it also made him feel wrong because it seems that the rest of society did not approve the kind of love and relationship that they had.

3.2.8 Overstatement

The first overstatement I found was in a song titled Wild.

Cause there's still too long to the weekend
Too long till I **drown in your hands**

It is clear from the lyric above that Sivan exaggerated when he wrote, "drown in your hands." As we all know, the word "drown" refers to our inability to survive in water. It is obviously exaggerated for Sivan to claim that his lover's hands caused him to drown; due to their limited surface area, hands could never have Sivan is expressing his love for his partner through this lyric. He longs for his lover's hands to touch him again. Sivan could as well drown in the hands of his boyfriend because the sense of missing is so overwhelming.

I see quiet nights poured over ice and Tanqueray

But everything is shattering and it's my mistake

This overstatement was found in the song titled 'Fools'. In this line, Troye was exaggerating things by saying that he caused everything to shatter. Troye feels like he is the one who ruins everything in his relationship with his lover. The guilt he feels for ruining everything and his high expectations only make it harder to accept that the relationship is over.

Troye had not necessarily done something wrong in the relationship but his mistake, rather, was falling in love with this person and thinking their differences were so minor that they could work. Troye has stated in a video of his that 'Fools' is about having feelings for a guy who is straight and knowing he cannot have them, so this lyric conveys the shattering of the image he has in his head of being with this guy which he knows will never be able to happen. He does not admit fault, he admits because he was naive his heart is now broken.

The next overstatement I have found is from the song titled 'Ease'.

I'm down to my skin and bone

And my mommy, she can't put down the phone

Here in this line, Troye said that he feels so thin and his skin and bone is his only body parts that is left. The song is about how Troye's career had brought him away from his home and family, and it makes Troye feelings anxious to the point his mother always calling him on the phone to check on his condition. His mother also always checking up if Troye is eating well or not, it is her biggest worry and that is why he put this lyric one after another.

The next overstatement is from 'Youth'.

And when the lights start flashing like a photobooth

And the stars exploding we'll be fireproof

In this line Troye stated that even though the stars are exploding, his relationship with his lover will not be affected. No matter what craziness is happening around them, they're

only focused on each other. It's typical during the first stages of young love to feel as though nothing else matters. They feel almost invincible, as though nothing can destroy their relationship.

3.2.9 Understatement

This understatement was found in the song titled 'Lost Boy'.

I'm just some dumb kid
Trying to kid myself

This song is basically about how Troye is not ready for a serious relationship with his lover. He is still young and not ready for a settlement. In this line, Troye lowering himself as a dumb kid when actually he is a grown teenager. He did this because he feels like he become a fool in his relationship with his lover to the point he acts like a child.

I'm just a lost boy
Not ready to be found

If Troye is calling his own self a kid in the previous understatement, in this one he is calling himself as 'just a lost boy'. It is to represent how he is still clueless about anything that is happening in his youth life. This is also the reason why he is calling himself as a kid in the previous line, because most of kids somehow do not know anything about things. He doesn't have his shit together and want to live his life up while he's young, keeping being a lost boy not ready to be found.