



Metaphorical Expressions in Ariana Grande's Eternal Sunshine Album

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Abstrak

This article examines metaphorical expressions in selected song lyrics from Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine* album. Although the topic is related to a broader thesis on the album, this manuscript is written as an independent journal article by narrowing the discussion to conceptual metaphor mappings and their emotional functions in the lyrics. The study applies a descriptive qualitative method. The data are taken from five selected songs, namely *Eternal Sunshine*, *Don't Wanna Break Up Again*, *We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)*, *True Story*, and *Imperfect for You*. The analysis is based on Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory, which classifies metaphor into structural, ontological, and orientational types. The findings reveal fifteen metaphorical patterns. Ontological metaphor is the most dominant type because the lyrics frequently represent abstract feelings as concrete entities, such as objects, wounds, burdens, traces, and spaces. Structural metaphor frames romantic relationships as cycles, stories, struggles, performances, and waiting, while orientational metaphor represents emotional separation as distance and vulnerability as openness. The article concludes that metaphor in popular song lyrics functions not merely as an aesthetic ornament, but also as a cognitive and literary device that organizes emotional experiences of heartbreak, memory, distance, imperfection, and healing.

Keywords: Conceptual Metaphor, Song Lyrics, Ariana Grande, *Eternal Sunshine*, Emotional Experience

1. Introduction

Song lyrics are often approached as a part of music entertainment, yet they can also be read as literary texts. Like lyric poetry, song lyrics use compressed language, rhythm, image, and figurative expression to communicate personal and emotional experience. The language of popular songs is usually short and memorable, but it can carry complex meanings because the words are selected to work with sound, repetition, and affective delivery. For this reason, lyrics are relevant objects of literary and linguistic study, especially when the analysis focuses on how language produces emotional meaning (Frith, 1996; Fadzillah et al., 2022).

One important element in lyric interpretation is metaphor. Metaphor is not limited to decorative comparison; it is also a way of conceptualizing one experience through another. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) argue that people understand abstract concepts through more concrete domains. In daily language, emotions are often understood through objects, movement, space, physical pain, and journeys. In song lyrics, this cognitive function becomes particularly visible because feelings such as love, grief, longing, anger, and healing are difficult to express literally. Metaphor helps listeners imagine those abstract feelings in more concrete forms. Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine* album is a relevant object for this discussion because it foregrounds emotional themes such as heartbreak, memory, relational conflict, vulnerability, and self-recovery. The album is not treated in this article as a biographical document, but as a set of textual materials that contain figurative and metaphorical patterns. The lyrics selected for this study show how romantic experience is repeatedly represented through images of distance, repetition, pain, truth, imperfection, and healing. These patterns indicate that the album constructs emotional experience through conceptual mappings rather than through literal statements alone.

The theoretical framework of this study relies on Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) as developed by Lakoff and Johnson, which shifts the understanding of metaphor from a purely linguistic device to a fundamental cognitive process. In this view, metaphor involves a cross-domain mapping where a source domain, typically rooted in concrete physical experiences, is mapped onto a target domain, which represents an abstract concept or internal state. In the context of popular music, this cognitive mapping allows complex and fleeting emotional states to be grounded in tangible realities that the audience can easily grasp. By examining how structural, orientational, and ontological metaphors operate within the text, this study uncovers the underlying conceptual systems that organize the lyrical narrative.

Emotions within literary and linguistic texts are rarely expressed through unmediated or purely literal vocabulary. Instead, the expression of intense psychological states—such as the residue of trauma, existential confusion, or the ambivalence of healing—demands a metaphorical structure to bridge the gap between felt experience and verbal communication. In contemporary pop music, songwriters frequently utilize conventional cognitive schemas to express these internal struggles, transforming subjective individual pain into a shared cultural discourse. Therefore,

analyzing the choice of specific source domains provides deep insights into how contemporary artists and their audiences collectively conceptualize romantic vulnerability and relational dissolution.

The decision to focus specifically on Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine* album stems from its distinctive textual architecture, which heavily favors conceptual ambiguity over explicit, literal declarations. The lyrical landscape of the album acts as a psychological theater where the boundaries between memory, forgetting, and emotional survival are constantly negotiated through figurative language. By employing metaphors of cosmic phenomena, physical architecture, and sensory distortion, the text constructs a cohesive narrative of a psyche attempting to restructure its reality post-heartbreak. Consequently, the album offers an exceptionally rich repository for exploring how modern pop lyrics utilize complex metaphorical mappings to deliberate on the fragility of human connections.

To ensure analytical precision, this study categorizes the identified metaphorical expressions into three distinct classifications based on CMT: structural, orientational, and ontological metaphors. Structural metaphors allow one complex concept to be understood in terms of another structured, sharp concept, such as treating a relationship as a physical journey or a commercial transaction. Orientational metaphors organize a whole system of concepts with respect to spatial relations, such as up-down, in-out, or central-peripheral, which are deeply tied to our physical and cultural experiences of well-being. Meanwhile, ontological metaphors involve treating abstract experiences—like human emotions or psychological states—as physical entities, substances, or containers, thereby allowing them to be quantified, located, and causally linked.

By mapping these specific categories against the emotional progression found across the selected tracks, this article demonstrates how abstract romantic conflicts are rendered systematically coherent. The analysis specifically looks at how the tension between holding on to memories and pursuing emotional erasure is linguistically managed through these cognitive schemas. This approach shifts the analytical focus away from a superficial identification of stylistic devices toward a deeper understanding of how the human mind linguistically processes interpersonal crises. It highlights that pop music does not merely mirror cultural trends but actively shapes the cognitive frameworks through which modern listeners interpret their own emotional realities.

Ultimately, this article aims to bridge the gap between popular culture and formal text analysis by reinforcing the validity of contemporary song lyrics as sophisticated literary artifacts. Through a rigorous application of cognitive linguistics, this study provides a clear methodological path for decoding the intricate layers of meaning embedded within mainstream media. The insights generated from this focused discussion are expected to enrich the existing body of literature on pop music analysis and offer a fresh perspective on how conceptual metaphors function as essential tools for emotional organization in 21st-century lyricism.

Several studies have examined metaphor and figurative language in popular song lyrics. Inayah and Amalia (2024) analyze metaphor in Taylor Swift's *Folklore* and show that metaphor can express emotional depth and personal reflection. Rahmat and Dianita (2024) examine metaphors in Lana Del Rey's *Born to Die* and identify structural, orientational, and ontological patterns. More specifically, Kewa and Prafitri (2025) study metaphor in Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine*, while Sholiyah, Budiarti, and Arrazzak (2024) discuss figurative language in the same album. These studies show that metaphor is an important feature of contemporary pop lyrics, but there is still room for a focused article that explains how metaphorical mappings organize emotional experience in selected songs from the album. This article is therefore written as a focused manuscript rather than a full reproduction of a thesis. The article narrows the object to selected song lyrics and limits the analysis to conceptual metaphor and emotional meaning. The research questions are: what types of conceptual metaphors appear in the selected lyrics of *Eternal Sunshine*, and how do those metaphors construct emotional experiences in romantic relationships? By answering these questions, the article aims to show that popular song lyrics can be analyzed systematically as literary and linguistic texts. The novelty of this article lies in its emphasis on metaphorical mapping as a mechanism for organizing emotion. Instead of merely listing figurative expressions, the article classifies the metaphors and explains the function of each pattern in relation to emotional experience. The analysis avoids long quotation of copyrighted lyrics and uses paraphrased evidence to keep the discussion focused on conceptual meaning. This strategy also makes the article different from a thesis chapter because the argument is condensed, selective, and directly oriented toward journal-style discussion.

Research Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. The qualitative approach is suitable because the research does not aim to measure lyric meaning statistically, but to interpret metaphorical forms and their functions in the construction of emotional experience. The object of the study is the text of selected song lyrics from Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine* album. The lyrics are treated as textual data, while musical elements such as melody, vocal technique, arrangement, and music video visuals are not included in the analysis. The primary data consist of selected lyrics from five songs: *Eternal Sunshine*, *Don't Wanna Break Up Again*, *We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)*, *True Story*, and *Imperfect for You*. These songs are selected purposively because they strongly represent the album's emotional themes, especially memory, heartbreak, distance, repeated conflict, self-

representation, imperfection, and healing. The selection also helps the article remain focused and concise. The secondary data consist of books and journal articles related to metaphor, song lyrics, figurative language, and conceptual metaphor theory.

The data collection technique was conducted through documentation and close reading. First, the selected lyrics were read repeatedly to identify expressions that do not only work literally but also suggest metaphorical meaning. Second, the potential metaphorical expressions were paraphrased into conceptual patterns so that the analysis did not depend on long lyric quotation. Third, the patterns were grouped according to their emotional themes. This process follows the basic logic of metaphor identification, where a word or phrase is examined according to its contextual meaning and its relation to a more basic conceptual domain (Steen et al., 2010). The data analysis was carried out in four stages. The first stage was identifying metaphorical expressions related to romantic and emotional experience. The second stage was interpreting the source domain and target domain of each metaphor. The third stage was classifying the metaphors into structural, ontological, and orientational types based on Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory. The final stage was explaining how the metaphors function in constructing emotional meaning in the selected songs. The classification is not used merely as a label; it becomes the basis for explaining how the lyrics make abstract emotions more concrete, structured, and understandable.

2. Result and Discussion

2.1. Selected Lyrics as a Space of Emotional Metaphor

The analysis shows that the selected songs from Eternal Sunshine build a consistent emotional field. Romantic relationships are not represented only as affection or attraction. They are also represented as memory, pain, emotional distance, repetition, performance, imperfection, and recovery. These themes are not always stated directly. They are constructed through metaphorical mappings that connect abstract emotional states with concrete domains such as objects, wounds, burdens, spaces, stories, cycles, and movement. Fifteen metaphorical patterns were identified in the selected songs. These patterns are presented as conceptual mappings rather than long lyric quotations. This is important because the aim of the article is to discuss how metaphor works conceptually, not to reproduce song lyrics. Table 1 summarizes the metaphorical patterns, their types, and their interpretative meanings.

Table 1. Conceptual Metaphor Mapping in Selected Lyrics

No.	Song	Conceptual Metaphor	Type	Meaning
1	Eternal Sunshine	Memory is an object	Ontological	Past experience is treated as something that remains and affects the speaker.
2	Eternal Sunshine	Truth is a physical entity	Ontological	Emotional truth is represented as something real that must be faced.
3	Eternal Sunshine	Past love is a trace	Ontological	A previous relationship leaves emotional marks in the present.
4	Don't Wanna Break Up Again	Relationship is a cycle	Structural	Conflict is represented as a repeated pattern.
5	Don't Wanna Break Up Again	Love is a burden	Ontological	Romantic attachment becomes emotionally heavy.
6	Don't Wanna Break Up Again	Conflict is a struggle	Structural	Relational problems are understood as emotional battles.
7	We Can't Be Friends	Separation is distance	Orientalational	Emotional separation is understood through spatial distance.
8	We Can't Be Friends	Love is waiting	Structural	Love is represented as delay, uncertainty, and expectation.
9	We Can't Be Friends	Heartbreak is physical pain	Ontological	Emotional suffering is understood through bodily pain.
10	True Story	Relationship is a story	Structural	Romantic experience is organized as narrative.
11	True Story	Identity is performance	Structural	The self is represented as a role shaped by conflict and perception.
12	True Story	Emotional conflict is drama	Structural	Inner tension is conceptualized as a staged performance.
13	Imperfect for You	Imperfection is an object	Ontological	Flaws are treated as visible and acceptable entities.

14	Imperfect You	for	Love is a healing space	Ontological	Love is imagined as a space where recovery can occur.
15	Imperfect You	for	Vulnerability is openness	Orientalational	Emotional honesty is understood as opening the self.

Table 1 shows that the lyrics use metaphors to make emotional states more concrete and organized. The metaphors do not stand alone as isolated expressions. They create a network of meaning in which romantic experience is shaped through memory, physical pain, spatial distance, repeated patterns, and healing. This network supports the view that metaphor functions as a cognitive framework rather than a simple ornament of style (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Semino, 2008).

Table 2. Frequency of Conceptual Metaphor Types

No.	Type of Metaphor	Frequency	Percentage
1	Ontological metaphor	7	46.7%
2	Structural metaphor	6	40.0%
3	Orientalational metaphor	2	13.3%
Total		15	100%

The frequency in Table 2 indicates that ontological metaphor is the most dominant type. This dominance suggests that the selected lyrics frequently give concrete form to abstract emotional experiences. Structural metaphor is also significant because it organizes romantic relationships into recognizable patterns such as cycle, story, struggle, and waiting. Orientalational metaphor appears less frequently, but it remains important because it explains emotional distance and vulnerability through spatial orientation.

2.2. Ontological Metaphor: Emotion as Entity, Wound, Burden, and Space

Ontological metaphor appears when abstract experience is represented as a concrete entity. In the selected lyrics, emotions are often treated as objects that can remain, be carried, be faced, or become visible. This pattern is important because the album deals with feelings that are difficult to explain directly. Memory, heartbreak, truth, imperfection, and love are not physical objects, but the lyrics often describe them as if they had physical form. This makes the emotional content easier to imagine and interpret.

The metaphor memory is an object appears in the way past experience remains active in the present. The speaker does not simply move beyond a relationship as if the past disappears. Instead, memory seems to stay as something that can return and influence emotional perception. This supports the idea that memory in the album is not passive. It becomes a concrete presence that shapes the speaker's understanding of love, pain, and selfhood. In this sense, the metaphor makes memory appear as something carried rather than something merely recalled. The metaphor heartbreak is physical pain also demonstrates the power of ontological mapping. Romantic disappointment is psychological, yet the lyrics make it feel bodily and concrete. When emotional suffering is understood as a wound or pain, listeners can recognize the intensity of heartbreak more directly. This pattern is common in love songs because bodily experience provides a familiar source domain for explaining abstract emotion. Gibbs (1994) notes that figurative thought is grounded in everyday experience; therefore, physical pain becomes a useful source domain for emotional injury.

Love is also represented as a burden in the selected lyrics. This metaphor shows that attachment can become emotionally heavy when a relationship repeatedly produces conflict. The burden metaphor does not deny affection, but it shows that affection may coexist with exhaustion. The speaker experiences love not only as closeness, but also as something difficult to hold. This makes the emotional tone of the album more complex because romantic feeling is not simplified into happiness or sadness alone. Another significant ontological pattern is love as a healing space. In this metaphor, love is not merely a feeling between two people; it becomes a place where recovery, acceptance, and vulnerability can happen. The image of space gives emotional healing a location. It suggests that recovery requires room for honesty, imperfection, and self-acceptance. This metaphor differs from the burden metaphor because it shifts the emotional direction from exhaustion to restoration. The coexistence of these metaphors shows that the album presents romantic experience as ambivalent: love can hurt, but it can also become a context for healing. The dominance of ontological metaphor is consistent with previous studies on metaphor in contemporary song lyrics. Kewa and Prafitri (2025) note that *Eternal Sunshine* contains conceptual metaphors that represent abstract feelings through more concrete concepts. Apriliyanti and Ariyaningsih (2025) also emphasize that concrete-to-abstract metaphors in Ariana Grande's songs express personal emotion. The present article supports those studies by showing that ontological metaphor is central in the selected lyrics because it transforms invisible emotional experience into images of objects, wounds, burdens, traces, and spaces.

2.3. Structural Metaphor: Relationship as Cycle, Story, Waiting, And Performance

Structural metaphor appears when one abstract concept is understood through the structure of another concept. In the selected lyrics, romantic relationship is frequently organized through concepts such as cycle, story, struggle, waiting, and performance. These concepts are not merely decorative. They provide a pattern that helps listeners understand how the relationship develops, repeats, or becomes emotionally unstable. The metaphor relationship is

a cycle is strongly related to repeated conflict. A cycle suggests movement that returns to the same point. When a romantic relationship is understood as a cycle, the emotional experience is not linear. The relationship does not simply begin, develop, and end. Instead, it moves through repetition: conflict, reconciliation, exhaustion, and possible separation. This pattern gives structure to the feeling of being trapped in repeated emotional situations. The metaphor also helps explain why the speaker appears tired of the same relational pattern.

The metaphor conflict is a struggle frames emotional disagreement as a battle. Through this mapping, relational difficulty becomes something that requires effort, resistance, and endurance. The struggle metaphor shows that emotional conflict is not only an internal feeling but also an active process. The speaker must negotiate, resist, or survive the relationship. This metaphor reflects the intensity of the album's emotional world because love is represented as something that demands strength, not merely affection. Another structural pattern is love is waiting. Waiting organizes love through time, delay, and uncertainty. In the selected lyrics, waiting does not simply mean expecting someone. It also suggests emotional suspension, because the speaker cannot fully move forward while still hoping for response or recognition. This metaphor makes longing understandable as a temporal experience. Love becomes a period of delay in which the future remains unclear.

In *True Story*, romantic experience is structured through narrative and performance. The metaphor relationship is a story suggests that love is remembered and interpreted through a plot, perspective, and role. A story can be retold, revised, or contested. At the same time, the metaphor identity is performance shows that the speaker may feel shaped by roles, expectations, or public perception. This mapping is significant because it connects romance with self-representation. The self in the relationship is not fixed; it may be performed, misunderstood, or reclaimed. Structural metaphors therefore make the album's emotional experience more organized. Without these mappings, the lyrics might appear as separate expressions of sadness or frustration. Through the concepts of cycle, struggle, waiting, story, and performance, the album presents romantic experience as a structured process. This finding supports the claim that metaphor allows people to understand complex emotional situations through more familiar schemas (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Kövecses, 2010).

2.4. Orientational Metaphor: Distance and Openness

Orientational metaphor organizes abstract experience through spatial orientation such as up and down, inside and outside, near and far, or open and closed. In the selected lyrics, orientational metaphor appears mainly in the patterns separation is distance and vulnerability is openness. Although this type appears only twice in the data, it plays an important role because it describes emotional relation through space. The metaphor separation is distance explains how emotional disconnection is conceptualized spatially. In romantic experience, distance is not only physical. Two people may be physically near but emotionally distant. The selected lyrics represent this condition by turning emotional separation into a spatial relation. The speaker creates distance not merely to leave another person, but also to protect the self from further emotional pain. This metaphor allows listeners to imagine separation as movement away from intimacy.

The metaphor vulnerability is openness works in a different direction. Being vulnerable is understood as opening oneself emotionally. Openness suggests exposure, honesty, and the possibility of being seen by another person. However, openness also involves risk. To open the self means to allow another person to encounter one's weakness, flaw, or need. In *Imperfect for You*, this metaphor contributes to the theme of acceptance because imperfection becomes meaningful only when the self is not closed. Although orientational metaphors are fewer than ontological and structural metaphors, they help connect emotion with embodied experience. People often understand emotion through spatial orientation because the body experiences closeness, distance, openness, and protection physically. This supports the idea that metaphor is grounded in bodily experience. The album uses these spatial mappings to represent the movement from emotional attachment toward self-protection and from closedness toward vulnerability.

2.5. Emotional Functions of Metaphor in the Album

The metaphors identified in the selected lyrics serve several emotional functions. The first function is to concretize abstract feelings. Heartbreak, memory, truth, and vulnerability are not directly visible, but metaphors make them imaginable. By representing emotions as objects, wounds, burdens, traces, or spaces, the lyrics allow listeners to feel the weight and shape of emotional experience. This function is important in popular music because listeners often connect with songs through affective recognition rather than through literal explanation. The second function is to organize romantic experience into patterns. Structural metaphors such as relationship is a cycle and relationship is a story give form to emotional events. They show that romantic experience is not a random collection of feelings. It can be understood as repetition, narrative, conflict, waiting, or performance. This organization helps the listener follow the emotional logic of the album. The songs become connected not only by theme but also by repeated conceptual structures.

The third function is to express ambivalence. The album does not present love as purely positive or purely negative. Love becomes a burden, but it can also become a healing space. Memory causes pain, but it also helps the speaker understand emotional truth. Distance protects the self, but openness allows healing. These mixed metaphors create

a complex emotional landscape. They show that romantic relationships may involve affection, injury, self-doubt, longing, and recovery at the same time. The fourth function is to support self-reflection. Metaphors of story, performance, truth, and imperfection encourage the speaker to reinterpret the self after relational conflict. The self is not only a passive receiver of pain. The speaker can narrate experience, recognize roles, face truth, and accept imperfection. This is why the album can be read not only as a collection of heartbreak songs but also as a textual movement toward self-awareness. These functions demonstrate that metaphor is central to the meaning of the album. The lyrics do not merely report what the speaker feels; they shape how the feeling is understood. This agrees with Semino's (2008) view that metaphor in discourse provides a way to organize and evaluate experience. In *Eternal Sunshine*, metaphor becomes a bridge between private emotion and shared listener interpretation.

3. Discussion in Relation to Previous Studies

The findings of this article are related to previous studies on metaphor in song lyrics, but the focus is different. Inayah and Amalia (2024) show that metaphors in Taylor Swift's *Folklore* express personal memories and emotional depth. Rahmat and Dianita (2024) find that metaphors in Lana Del Rey's *Born to Die* represent emotional conflict and identity. The present article shows a similar function in Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine*, where metaphor constructs emotional experience through memory, pain, distance, cycle, story, and healing.

Compared with Kewa and Prafitri (2025), this article also uses Conceptual Metaphor Theory, but it emphasizes the emotional function of each mapping. The article does not only identify whether a metaphor is ontological, structural, or orientational. It explains how each category contributes to the representation of romantic experience. Ontological metaphor concretizes pain and memory. Structural metaphor organizes relationship patterns. Orientational metaphor represents separation and vulnerability through space. Compared with Sholiyah et al. (2024), this article moves beyond general figurative language classification. Figurative language analysis often lists many devices, such as metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole. This article narrows the discussion to metaphor so that the analysis can be more detailed. This narrower focus also makes the manuscript different from a thesis chapter because the article builds one main argument: metaphors in the album function as conceptual tools for organizing emotional experience.

The article also avoids reducing the lyrics to the singer's personal life. Although pop music is often read biographically by audiences, the present analysis treats the lyrics as textual data. This choice helps maintain the academic focus of the study. The meanings discussed here come from linguistic patterns and conceptual mappings, not from claims about the artist's private experience. This makes the article more suitable for literary and linguistic publication.

3.1. Limitation and Further Research Direction

This article has several limitations. First, it analyzes only five selected songs from *Eternal Sunshine*. The findings therefore do not represent all possible metaphors in the album. Other songs may contain different metaphorical patterns, especially if the analysis includes themes beyond romantic relationships. Second, the study focuses only on textual lyrics. Musical arrangement, vocal delivery, music video imagery, and audience reception are not included. Third, the study uses one main theoretical framework, namely Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

Future research may analyze all songs in the album to obtain a broader map of metaphorical patterns. Researchers may also compare *Eternal Sunshine* with Ariana Grande's previous albums to examine whether metaphors of heartbreak, memory, and healing change over time. Another possible direction is multimodal analysis, which combines lyrics, sound, video, and performance. Reception studies may also be useful for understanding how listeners interpret the album's metaphors in relation to their own emotional experiences.

Despite these limitations, the article shows how a thesis topic can be reshaped into a journal article without copying the entire thesis. The focus is narrowed, the theoretical discussion is condensed, the findings are organized around clear tables, and the discussion is directed toward one central argument. This structure allows the article to remain related to the original research topic while still becoming an independent manuscript.

4. Conclusion

This article concludes that the selected lyrics from Ariana Grande's *Eternal Sunshine* album contain structural, ontological, and orientational metaphors. From fifteen identified metaphorical patterns, ontological metaphor appears most frequently with seven data or 46.7%. Structural metaphor appears in six data or 40.0%, while orientational metaphor appears in two data or 13.3%. These findings show that the album frequently makes abstract emotional experiences concrete by representing memory, heartbreak, love, truth, and imperfection as objects, wounds, burdens, traces, and spaces.

The metaphors also express emotional experiences in romantic relationships. Structural metaphors frame relationships as cycles, stories, struggles, performances, and waiting. Orientational metaphors represent emotional separation as distance and vulnerability as openness. Through these mappings, the album does not present romance as a simple emotional condition. It portrays love as an experience involving attachment, pain, repetition, uncertainty, self-reflection, imperfection, and healing. Therefore, metaphor in *Eternal Sunshine* is not merely an

aesthetic device. It functions as a cognitive and literary tool that organizes emotional meaning in popular song lyrics. The article also demonstrates that song lyrics can be analyzed as literary and linguistic texts because they contain systematic patterns of figurative meaning. Further studies may expand the corpus, apply multimodal analysis, or compare the album with other contemporary pop albums to understand broader patterns of metaphor in popular music.

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