

DECLARATIVE SENTENCES AS EMOTIONAL NARRATIVES: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF AUGUST LYRICS BY TAYLOR SWIFT

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Abstract

Declarative sentences are a type of sentence that gives information in constructing emotional narratives. This study exploits a descriptive qualitative methodology with a discourse analysis approach to inspect the implication of declarative structures in showing profound emotional themes such as longing, loss, regret, and unrequited love, transcending their grammatical function. Unlike interrogative or imperative forms, declarative sentences within the song express personal veracity and emotional reflections, allowing listeners to connect with the narrative as an array of introspective memories. This study classifies declarative sentences into five functional categories: descriptive, reflective, situational, conclusive, and existential, each enhancing dissimilar aspects of narrative and emotional resonance. The results expose that declarative sentences present as appliances for transmitting information and as rhetorical tools that enhance emotional closeness between the narrator and the audience. Taylor Swift's lyrics design a poetic monologue that captivates listeners, intertwining personal narrative with universal emotional depth. The research prior discourse analysis, stylistics, and popular music studies by illustrating how grammatical structure can impart huge emotional and narrative meaning in contemporary songwriting.

Keywords: *Declarative Sentence; Emotional Narrative; Discourse analysis; Taylor Swift; August; Popular Music; Stylistics*

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INTRODUCTION

Discourse analysis is employed to comprehend how language generates meaning and possesses interpretations beyond its literal definition (Fitra et al., 2022). Several studies indicate that the function of discourse analysis influences linguistic directionality, which interacts with others, ultimately manifesting in usage (Fitra & Nirmawati, 2022), as language serves not merely as a conduit for information but is

also molded by individual preferences and the social milieu; thus, the paramount aspect is the capacity for comprehension. This study examines song lyrics as narratives and emotional expressions, analyzing how the language within the lyrics serves both to narrate a story and to communicate the songwriter's emotional experiences (Sihura & Daniela, 2024). A song expresses an individual's emotions through its lyrics (Siahaan et al., 2024). The lyrics of the song are regarded as personal introspection and as a form of artistic emotions that merges literary styles, empowering listeners to connect with the narrative framework and emotional profundity because the lyrics have semantic figure significance (Rahyono, 2009). This study seeks to elucidate how the intricate emotions from the song like longing, regret and nostalgia are conveyed by declarative sentences, while simultaneously crafting a relatable and engaging narrative by analyzing linguistic choices (Hao, 2023). This study intends to examine the utilization of declarative sentences in the lyrics of the song "August" by Taylor Swift. This song, from the album *Folklore*, depicts a summer romance imbued with nostalgia and melancholy, rendering it a compelling subject for discourse analysis.

Declarative sentences are a type of sentence that gives information or makes a claim. It is a very flexible type of clause in terms of its practical use (Krifka, 2024). It means that it expresses thoughts or opinions and can be used in a lot of different ways in real life. Listeners can understand the opinion expressed in the song's lyrics by understanding the declarative sentence (Kasriyati & Rosidah, 2020). Declarative sentences often create a connection between the singer and the audience in musical discourse. Depending on how they are used, they can also have subtle meanings or convey emotional weight. Declarative sentences, which are used to make statements or facts, are often used by Taylor Swift to express feelings and tell interesting stories. Leech and Short (2007) said that "literary stylistics has, both directly and indirectly, the goal of explaining the relationship between language and artistic function." (Rangkuti & Hafifah, 2022). This article analyzes the utilization of declarative

sentences as a mechanism for expressing emotional experiences within the realm of popular music discourse.

Frith (1996) asserted that “popular music frequently integrates personal narratives that establish an emotional bond with the audience” (Wennerstrom, 2002). Taylor Swift employs this technique to construct relatable narratives. Smith (2020) conducted prior research pertinent to this study, emphasizing Taylor Swift's utilization of lyrics as a narrative device centered on personal experiences. A study by Johnson and Miller (2018) examines the utilization of sentence structure in pop music lyrics to establish an emotional connection. Brown's (2015) analysis of popular music showed that declarative sentences often show how people really feel.

This study has a number of new features that set it apart from other research; 1) Focus on Declarative Sentences in Music Lyrics: Most of the research on discourse analysis in popular music focuses on metaphors, repetitions, or big story structures. This study specifically investigates the function of declarative sentences in constructing emotions and narratives within August's song lyrics; 2) Discourse Analysis Approach to August's Song: August is frequently analyzed through the lens of musicology or predominant themes in Folklore; however, there is a paucity of research investigating how sentence structures, particularly declarative forms, enhance the expression of emotions and personal experiences within this song. 3) Diverse Narrative Contexts in Popular Music: Taylor Swift is recognized for her storytelling in music; however, this study demonstrates that it is not solely the overarching narrative that forges a connection with the listener, but also the selection of direct and emotive sentence structures. 4) What this means for linguistics and popular music studies: The results of this study may give us new ideas about linguistics and popular music studies, especially when it comes to how certain grammatical structures (like declarative sentences) can make the emotional connection between musicians and their fans stronger.

This study confirms that Taylor Swift's lyrics tell stories and helps people understand declarative sentences as a rhetorical and emotional element in popular music. The

author wants to learn more about the topic by setting research goals: to find declarative sentences in the lyrics of the song “August,” to look at how these sentences affect the story and the emotions of the song, and to explain how using declarative sentences affects the story appeal of Taylor Swift's songs. The research will only look at three stanzas up to the first chorus.

METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and discourse analysis to look into how declarative sentences in the lyrics of Taylor Swift’s song “August” create an emotional story. The researchers chose discourse analysis because it helps us understand how language structure, meaning, and the right social and cultural context all work together (Frida & Zuraida, 2022). This study is a textual case study that uses a single song as its main source of data. The researchers look at the structure and purpose of declarative sentences in the song lyrics from an emotional and narrative point of view. The research method is shown in Figure 1 below.

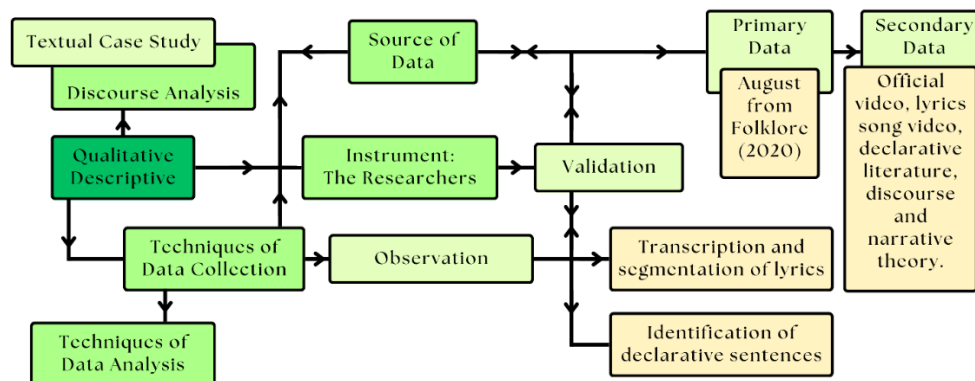


Figure 1. Research Method Flowchart

The researcher serves as the instrument for this study, conducting validation via self-evaluation by analyzing the song lyrics line by line and verse by verse (Creswell & Creswell, 2023). The researcher employs two data sources: primary data and secondary data. The principal data pertains to the lyrics of the song “August” from the album "Folklore" (2020), while the secondary data includes the Official Video, the Lyrics Video, literature concerning declarative sentences, discourse theory,

narrative theory in popular music, and prior research on Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Observation and listening are the methodologies employed in data collection (Zulaikha & Purwaningsih, 2021), wherein researchers analyze the song lyrics and video from August utilizing two techniques: 1) Transcription and segmentation of lyrics, which involves deconstructing the lyrics of the song August into clauses and sentences. One possibility is that the researchers find it simpler to comprehend those units (Jaya, 2020); 2) Identification of declarative sentences, wherein each sentence is syntactically analyzed according to its type, subsequently concentrating by determining the formulation of the existing meaning (Karàj, 2021).

The figure above indicates that researchers undertake four steps in the analysis of data collection. 1) Classification of declarative sentences: Categorizing each line and verse of song lyrics according to the types of declarative sentences. 2) Classification of narrative types: Categorizing each line and verse according to sentence types and narrative functions; 3) Analysis of emotional and narrative functions: a) Examine the contextual significance of the declarative statement, b) Relate sentences to the overarching narrative theme of the song (Hunter, 2021); 4) Discourse interpretation: Employing discourse analysis theory to elucidate the function of these sentences in fostering emotional intimacy between the songwriter and the listener; 5) Thematic analysis: Organizing findings according to prevailing emotional thematic categories.

To enhance the trustworthiness, first, triangulation was applied by comparing the original lyrics and the video, which has translations for the deepest meaning implied. Second, draft results were shared with fellow language educators for feedback. Third, an audit trail for coding all decisions and all the analytic steps.

RESULTS

Taylor Swift's song "August" is from the album *Folklore* (2020), which is about nostalgia and longing. This song tells the story of a summer romance that does not last, told from the point of view of a girl who is "the other woman" in a secret relationship. The song, which came out on July 24, 2020, is not the main single, but it is popular with both fans and non-fans. The lyrics "August" illustrate the intricate

emotions of hope and feature introspective lyrics and assertive statements that express nostalgia and grief. Through a gentle and lyrical melody, Swift encapsulates a universal sentiment regarding love's transient nature and the ambivalence.

1. Declarative and Narrative Sentences

Researchers categorize declarative sentence types according to their function, meaning, and structure within song lyrics. The researchers have identified five categories of declarative sentences in the song "August" by Taylor Swift in the realm of linguistics and discourse analysis as illustrated in Figure 2 below:

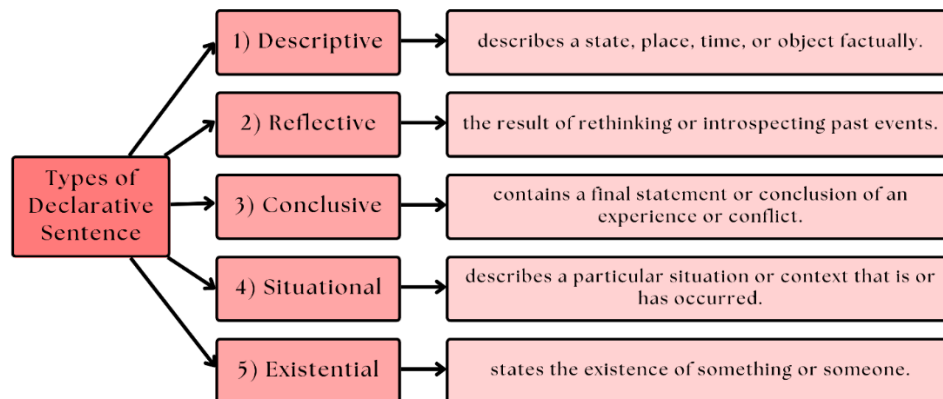


Figure 2. Types of Declarative Sentences

The picture above shows that declarative sentences are not just one type; they can be divided into five different types based on their function and the meaning they have in a given context. The five types of declarative sentences show that they are not just neutral and informative; they can also be introspective, conclusive, or contextual, depending on the purpose of the communication.

The narrative function is the job or purpose of a linguistic element, like a sentence, phrase, or paragraph, in building, moving forward, and telling a story or narrative in a text, like song lyrics. Researchers in this discourse analysis study found five types of narrative functions, as shown in Figure 3 below:

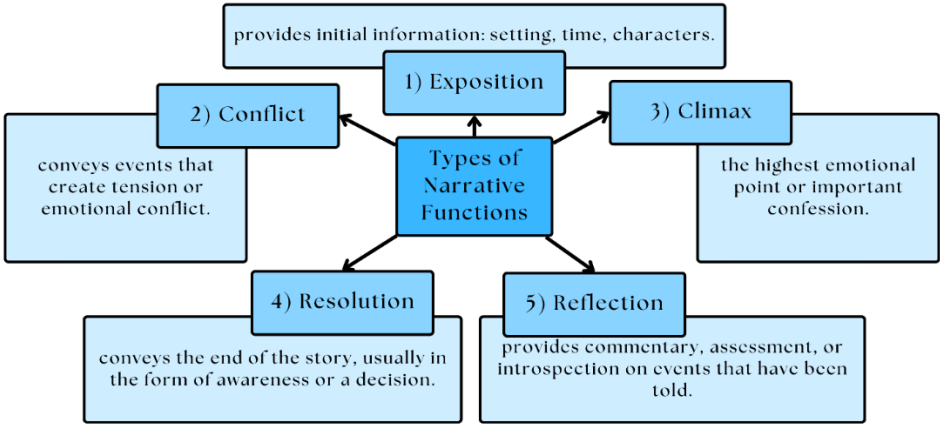


Figure 3. Types of Narrative Functions

This figure shows the five main functions of narrative structure that are usually found in both fiction and non-fiction stories. Each function has its own job in putting the story together and sending emotional or thematic messages to the reader. (Elliott, 2012). The five narrative functions are the main parts that make up a full story. They help the reader understand how things change over time and how the story's emotional depth and meaning change as well (Barnwell & Ravn, 2024). This framework is advantageous for examining narrative discourse across literary works, films, and song lyrics (Fairclough, 2013). The corpus data tables below show the different kinds of declarative sentences in the song "August" and how they work in the story.

There are a lot of declarative sentences in the song, which suggests that the story is told in a direct, clear, and statement-driven way. Declarative sentences are used to clearly share facts, feelings, and experiences without asking questions, giving orders, or making exclamations. It conveys the notion that the singer or narrator is recounting an event as though revisiting memories or past experiences for the listener (Hackett, 2014).

2. Emotional Narrative

The song "August" by Taylor Swift encapsulates several principal emotional themes that constitute the essence of the narrative and the characters' experiences. The song

is included in the album Folklore (2020) and is narrated from the viewpoint of a woman engaged in a fleeting and unreciprocated summer romance.

The song August encapsulates intricate emotions, including unfulfilled love, poignant memories, and sentiments of loss. The researcher articulates these themes through declarative sentences that enhance the narrative and emotional impact of the song. The corpus data tables are presented below:

Table 1. Corpus data

<i>Stanza 1-intro, line one</i>	
Lyric	<i>Salt air, and the rust on your door</i> (Descriptive Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	This line sets the scene for a perfect summer day, full of memories and quiet that make the listener feel like they're there. It is a descriptive declarative sentence that uses direct but emotional language to create mental images and sensations.
<i>Stanza 1-intro, line two</i>	
Lyric	<i>I never needed anything more</i> (Reflective Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics consist of clear, reflective, declarative sentences imbued with profound emotional significance. The lyrics convey that, at that moment, the relationship or experience with that individual was the most precious and fulfilling aspect for the narrator. She desired nothing more; this represents the pinnacle of an emotional need being fulfilled.
<i>Stanza 1-intro, line three</i>	
Lyric	<i>Whispers of 'Are you sure?'</i> (Situational Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics are short but full of meaning. Even though they are broken up, the lyrics can be seen as declarative sentences in the song's poetic framework because they tell us about a specific event or moment. These lyrics talk about the small, indirect doubts that can come up in a relationship. "Whispers" suggests that the question is asked quietly, discreetly, and maybe even with fear.
<i>Stanza 1-intro, line four</i>	
Lyric	<i>Never have I ever before</i> (Conclusive Declarative – Elliptical Structure)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics are short but full of feeling. Even though they look like elliptical sentences, they play an important declarative role in the song's poetic

	context. It shows feelings of shock, emotional openness, and maybe even respect and a time when the narrator's emotions changed from how they usually are, making the relationship both deep and fragile. It shows how the lyrics hold deep emotional and narrative meaning.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line five</i>	
Lyric	<i>But I can see us lost in the memory</i> (Reflective Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics are very poetic and make you think. These lines are simple, but they have a lot of narrative and emotional power. The lyrics say that the narrator remembers herself and someone going back in time to relive memories. People feel nostalgic, sad, and want to go back to that time. These lines explain how Taylor Swift uses this structure to draw the listener into a personal memory.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line six</i>	
Lyric	<i>August slipped away into a moment in time</i> (Descriptive Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics constitute one of the most iconic lines in Taylor Swift's song. It is simultaneously narrative and poetic. It expresses that August, symbolizing a brief relationship and a warm summer in the song, has passed swiftly, now existing only as a transient memory and indicates that all events from August, emblematic of a brief romantic liaison, have now become merely a fragment of a transient, elusive, and irretrievable memory.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line seven</i>	
Lyric	<i>Cause it was never mine</i> (Conclusive Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The song's lyrics are short but powerful lines that make you feel something. The declarative sentence makes a clear point: the narrator's relationship or love was never really hers. This statement shows that even though the narrator had deep feelings of love, she eventually realized that it was never really hers—the feelings, the person she loved, or the relationship itself. This line is powerful because it marks the song's emotional peak, when everything beautiful has to face a painful truth.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line eight</i>	
Lyric	<i>And I can see us twisted in bedsheets</i> (Situational Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics of the song are a way to show how it makes you feel and see. This is a narrative declarative sentence that shows a flashback to a happy

	memory the narrator and her loved one shared. This line hints at a close, romantic memory or fantasy, which could mean that the narrator and the other person were emotionally and physically close in the past, or it could just be something the narrator made up.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line nine</i>	
Lyric	<i>August sipped away like a bottle of wine</i> (Descriptive Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics use metaphorical language to sum up the song's themes of loss and the passage of time. It is a metaphorical statement that is poetic. There is pleasure, but there is also an unavoidable end. This is one of August's most famous lines, using metaphors of time, pleasure, and loss to create a haunting image. It goes into more detail about the song's main idea, which is that some loves are meant to be temporary rather than permanent.
<i>Stanza 2-chorus, line ten</i>	
Lyric	<i>Cause you were never mine</i> (Conclusive Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The line is the song's most powerful and emotional statement. It emphasizes the idea that the relationship in the song was never really belonged to the narrator. This lyric reveals the pain she felt upon realising that her relationship lacked clear ownership or certainty. This line is particularly important because it encapsulates the song's overall feeling of loss or an agonising, yet candid and poignant admission.
<i>Stanza 3-bridge, line eleven</i>	
Lyric	<i>Your back beneath the sun</i> (Existential Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics are vivid and poetic, and they add to the song's nostalgic and personal feel. It paints a close-up and vivid picture of a summer memory, where the narrator remembers seeing her loved one (specifically their back) lit up by the sun. This line shows a desire for the closeness and warmth of the past, which is now only a memory. Taylor Swift illustrates that love and loss are not solely conveyed through grandiloquent language, but also through modest, intimate details.
<i>Stanza 3-bridge, line twelve</i>	
Lyric	<i>Wishin' I could write my name on it</i> (Reflective Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics have deep symbolic meanings related to longing, emotional ownership, and loss. This line makes it sound like the narrator wants to have full control over a relationship that was either short-lived or never

	really hers. Writing my name on something usually means that I own it. Nonetheless, it remains merely a desire, not an actuality. This lyric unequivocally indicates that the narrator is “the other woman,” an individual engaged in a relationship who cannot be entirely possessed. August is particularly poignant as it encompasses not only loss but also the unrealized potential of what could never have been.
<i>Stanza 3-bridge, line thirteen</i>	
Lyric	<i>Will you call when you're back at school?</i> (Interrogative-Not Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics of the song consist of interrogative phrases that express doubts, aspirations, and emotional ambiguity. The narrator articulates her uncertainties and aspirations regarding the continuation of their ephemeral summer relationship. This line, while not structurally declarative, plays a crucial emotional role in the song by suggesting an unspoken separation.
<i>Stanza 3-bridge, line fourteen</i>	
Lyric	<i>I remember thinkin' I had you</i> (Reflective Declarative)
Emotional Narrative	The lyrics encompass a blend of nostalgia, regret, and illusory hope. This is a poignant element in constructing the narrator’s emotional divide. This lyric conveys a reflective consciousness, as the narrator recalls a time when she believed that the person she loved was reciprocating her feelings. Nonetheless, the term “thinking” indicates that her experience was merely a perception rather than an objective reality. It alters the listener’s perception from a beautiful summer romance to a narrative of love that was never entirely genuine, at least not for the other individual.

DISCUSSIONS

1. The Role of Declarative Sentences in the Narrative of the Song

As the Main Narrative Instrument, in the song August, declarative sentences primarily serve to construct the storyline, forming the essential basis for developing emotional narratives. This sentence makes a calm but important point by stating something directly and factually, without needing anyone else to respond or do anything. In the song “August,” declarative sentences are used to tell the story of the

narrator's past, express her feelings, and accept the harsh truth she has faced. Interrogative sentences usually show doubt, hope, or the search for answers, while imperative sentences show commands or invitations. The declarative sentences in this song, on the other hand, tell a story and make you think. It helps the narrator put together pieces of memories and put events in order both chronologically and emotionally. Declarative sentences invite listeners into the narrator's inner realm, revealing the formation of memories, the experience of loss, and the gradual acceptance of unreciprocated love. The role is to narrate a story while simultaneously enhancing the introspective and contemplative aspects of the conveyed narrative (Barnwell & Ravn, 2024). The phrase "I never needed anything more" serves not merely as a declaration but as an emotional testament to a moment, suggesting the profound nature of the narrator's connection to the experience.

The song "August" conveys emotions through statements, which have declarative sentences that are clear and informative, but they also convey deep feelings in a powerful way. Their simple style makes hidden meanings slowly and powerfully come to light. Taylor Swift uses declarative sentences in this song to give information and show how the narrator feels about longing, loss, unreciprocated love, and feeling alone. These statements may seem flat and unspoken, but they have a huge emotional impact because of the heavy meaning that is hidden in their silence. The phrase "Cause you were never mine" is a simple statement in terms of structure, but it expresses deep emotional pain, especially a confession of unfulfilled love. This kind of statement gives off an air of unfiltered honesty, making it seem like the narrator isn't trying to convince anyone but is instead thinking about themselves (Punnett, 2018). The potency of the declarative sentences in this song resides in their capacity to imply rather than articulate directly, expressing emotions through sincere and poignant whispers rather than through loud exclamations. This demonstrates that a simple form can serve as the most potent medium for emotional complexity in poetry and narrative. For instance, "Cause you were never mine" is a candid assertion that encapsulates the zenith of emotional anguish, serving as the narrative's climax.

On the other hand, the lyrics form a layered narrative structure and function because the research findings indicate that declarative sentences in August are categorized into several types: descriptive, reflective, situational, conclusive, and existential, each significantly contributing to the narrative. a) Descriptive: establishes the mood and setting (e.g., “Salt air, and the rust on your door”); b) Reflective: articulates the narrator’s emotional musings and memories (e.g., “I remember thinking I had you”); c) Conclusive: conveys a bittersweet emotional resolution (e.g., “Cause you were never mine”); d) Situational: depicts a specific circumstance or moment in the relationship (e.g., “I can see us twisted in bedsheets”); e) Existential: asserts the existence and impact of a moment or individual (e.g., “Your back beneath the sun”).

This structure demonstrates that declarative sentences not only communicate facts but also actively influence the narrative and evoke emotions in August’s song. In poetic and narrative lyrics, declarative sentences serve not merely as a means of conveying information but as the principal mechanism for developing the plot, establishing the atmosphere, and implicitly yet profoundly expressing emotional experiences (Hogan, 2011). The song arranges declarative sentences sequentially to evoke a gradual yet definitive evolution of emotions, transitioning from fond recollections of unity to uncertainty, grief, and ultimately the harsh acknowledgment of unreciprocated love (Dewi et al., 2025). The narrative constructed through this framework appears organic, as these emotions are implicitly conveyed within straightforward yet meaningful statements (Elliott, 2012). Every declarative sentence possesses intricate psychological and narrative dimensions, enabling the listener to profoundly engage with the narrator’s emotional odyssey. The declarative structure of this song not only establishes narrative continuity but also serves as the basis for the emotional depth that renders August an intimate and contemplative piece.

The song’s declarative sentences resemble fragments of a prose narrative—concise, direct, yet significant—while preserving the poetic essence characteristic of Taylor Swift’s writing style. Each line of lyrics, though delivered, is imbued with a density of emotion and symbolic significance that gradually constructs a narrative mosaic

(Rangkuti & Hafifah, 2022). The lyrics' claims are like an internal monologue in which the narrator is not talking to someone else but to herself, showing how she feels about a past relationship. This style gives the lyrics a sense of quiet and thoughtfulness, making them a poetic but understated way to express deep feelings. Taylor Swift adeptly transforms a personal experience into a universal narrative, allowing numerous listeners to discover reflections of their own stories within each declarative sentence she composes. The phrase "August sipped away like a bottle of wine" is a metaphor in declarative form that encapsulates the themes of time, loss, and pleasure in a single expression.

This song also can increase listener emotional identification by articulating experiences in declarative sentences, listeners are directly immersed in the narrator's consciousness, devoid of any intermediary or emotional filter. These sentences authentically express the narrator's emotions, establishing a distinctive intimacy between the narrator and the audience. These sentences don't make listeners think or act; instead, they let them see into the narrator's mind, which is full of memories, doubts, and feelings that haven't been resolved. As the narrator slowly reveals himself, not through loud declarations but through seemingly simple statements that have deep psychological meaning, this makes the story very intimate, personal, and vulnerable. This type of story makes people feel deeply: they not only understand the story, but they also feel the narrator's pain. August's song has lines like "I remember thinkin' I had you" and "Cause you were never mine" that are intimate confessions. They aren't meant to make people feel sorry for the singer; instead, they are meant to be recognized and accepted as part of the emotional experience. So, declarative sentences work as both narrative tools and emotional connections that bring the narrator and the audience together on a very human level. "Wishin' I could write my name on it" is a phrase that shows a deep desire for recognition and the desire to own something that isn't yours.

2. Impact on Audience: Emotional Resonance and Personal Connectedness

The use of declarative sentences in August's song generates a profound emotional connection between the narrator and the audience. The declarative sentences in this song are constructed to resemble sincere and introspective reflections from the narrator's personal experiences, rather than dialogue or invitations. This establishes an intimate and reflective ambiance that encourages the audience to immerse themselves in the narrator's psyche and engage with the expressed emotions (Dewi et al., 2025).

Numerous lyrics articulate sentiments of loss, unreciprocated affection, unmet aspirations, and yearning, conveyed with simplicity yet profound depth. Furthermore, as the lyrics are neither accusatory nor judgmental, but instead represent a subdued confession and acceptance, the audience is likely to feel moved and connected, rather than daunted by excessively explicit emotions. The declarative lines create a secure environment for the audience to collectively and personally engage with emotions, rendering the song pertinent, poignant, and unforgettable.

Besides the emotional influence, the narrative structure derived from these declarative sentences also impacts the audience cognitively (Serota et al., 2023). The audience is urged to reconstruct the narrative's chronology in their imagination, from the idyllic beginning, through moments of uncertainty, to the climax of emotion, culminating in regret and introspection. The songs of August create an opportunity for the audience to feel, contemplate, and recognize that wounds, akin to love, constitute a legitimate and significant aspect of the human experience (Dewi et al., 2025; Frida & Zuraida, 2022). Moreover, due to the candid, transparent, and unassuming nature of the lyrics, the audience perceives the genuineness of the expressed emotions, rendering August not only memorable but also emotionally resonant.

3. Theoretical Implications: Declarative Sentences as Emotional Narratives

The analysis of August's song lyrics reveals that declarative sentences cannot be interpreted merely as linguistic constructs that communicate facts or literal information, as suggested by traditional grammar. In narrative and poetic contexts, declarative sentences serve as vessels for emotional expression, rich in meaning, reflective, and narrative in essence (Adiantika, 2020). This challenges structuralist

assumptions that sentence structure exclusively dictates communicative function, thereby reinforcing functional and pragmatic approaches in linguistic studies, particularly in discourse analysis, stylistics, and narrative linguistics.

1) Reinforcement of Narrative Theory in Emotional Discourse

This discovery broadens the scope of narrative theory, particularly the notion of emotional narrative framing, which posits that emotional narratives need not arise from overt conflict or intricate dramatic structures, but can instead be constructed through reflective, chronological, and contemplative sequences of personal experiences (Jääskeläinen et al., 2021). The declarative sentences in August serve as “narrative fragments” that function as narrative nodes which, when organized, create a complete yet retrospective love story plot.

2) Support for Affective Stylistics Theory

August’s song lyrics demonstrate that grammatical selections, specifically the employment of declarative sentences, are not devoid of emotional connotations. This corroborates the affective stylistics approach (Fitra et al., 2024), which says that the way a sentence is written can change how people feel when they read or hear it. Taylor Swift's declarative sentences are complex and thoughtful, but they also bring up emotional memories in the audience. This shows that language structures work in the brain, in the mind, and in the body (Harrison & Ringrow, 2022).

3) Expanding Understanding of the Pragmatic Function of Sentences

In August, declarative sentences demonstrate that the pragmatic function of declarations can extend beyond literal descriptive roles to encompass expressive. This aligns with the theory of speech acts (Fitra et al., 2022), which posits that sentences convey meaning (locutionary), perform actions (illocutionary), and produce specific effects (perlocutionary). In the context of August, phrases like “Cause you were never mine” evoke feelings of sadness or empathy in the listener. This enhances the comprehension of pragmatics.

4) Contribution to the Study of Lyrics as Narrative Emotional Texts

Lyric texts have traditionally been regarded as subordinate to other narrative forms, such as prose or drama. This finding demonstrates that song lyrics can perform narrative, expressive, and reflective functions equally, particularly when examined using suitable linguistic tools such as declarative sentence categories and emotional narrative theory.

CONCLUSION

The declarative sentences in August convey information while serving as a vehicle for emotional expression and robust narrative progression. Taylor Swift uses them not only to tell stories, but also to bring back feelings that have already been felt and share them with the listener through a calm but powerful story. Each sentence has an emotional weight that, while not always obvious, can get into the listener's mind because it is so clear and real. Swift tells a love story that you can hear and feel, moving slowly from beautiful memories to harsh truths, from high hopes to the acceptance of grief. Lines like "Cause you were never mine" or "I remember thinkin' I had you" don't just tell the story; they also show how the narrator's mind is scarred. The declarative sentences in this song turn into pieces of life that used to be real, acting as frames for memories and echoes of unspoken feelings of the heart. August's songs are deeply personal, intimate, and reflective poetic stories full of pain, but they also show the beauty of expressing the most universal human emotion: loving without being able to own someone.

This study significantly contributes to discourse analysis, narrative linguistics, and stylistics by demonstrating that declarative sentences in poetic texts, such as song lyrics, serve a dual role as narrative structures and intricate emotional expressions. This expands the comprehension of the interplay among grammatical structure, pragmatic purpose, and emotional effect in narrative communication, thereby allowing for the acknowledgment of popular music as a text deserving of theoretical and critical examination.

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