

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, formulation of the research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definition of key terms, and the organization of the study.

A. Background of the study

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on how language choices create meaning, emotional effects, and aesthetic value in texts. According to Leech and Short, stylistics investigates the relationship between linguistic form and literary function, explaining how particular language choices contribute to artistic expression in a text.¹ Similarly, Verdonk explains that stylistics analyzes the linguistic characteristics of texts to understand how language is used creatively in literary and non-literary discourse.² In addition, Simpson argues that stylistics provides tools for examining how linguistic patterns such as vocabulary selection and grammatical structures generate stylistic effects and interpretative meanings.³ These perspectives show that stylistics is not only concerned

¹ Geoffrey N. Leech and Mick Short, *Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose*, 2nd ed. (Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2007), 9–11

² Peter Verdonk, *Stylistics*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 3–7.

³ Paul Simpson, *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students* (London: Routledge, 2004), 2–5.

with describing language structures but also with understanding how linguistic forms produce artistic and communicative meanings.

Within stylistic studies, lexical and grammatical features play an important role in shaping artistic meaning in texts. Halliday and Matthiessen explain that grammar is a system of meaning-making in which grammatical patterns organize ideas and interpersonal relationships in discourse.⁴ Meanwhile, Leech and Short emphasize that lexical choices such as word selection, connotation, and semantic associations contribute to the stylistic tone and emotional atmosphere of a text.⁵ In a similar vein, Verdonk notes that stylistic interpretation emerges from the interaction between lexical patterns and grammatical organization, which together influence how readers or listeners perceive meaning.⁶ Therefore, lexical and grammatical elements do not function independently; instead, they work together to produce expressive and aesthetic effects in a text.

Artistic meaning in literary discourse emerges when linguistic features are used creatively to evoke emotional and aesthetic responses. Simpson explains that stylistic meaning often arises from patterned language choices that foreground certain ideas or feelings within a text.⁷ Likewise, Leech and Short state that literary texts achieve artistic effect

⁴ M. A. K. Halliday and Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar*, 4th ed. (London: Routledge, 2014), 30–35.

⁵ Geoffrey N. Leech and Mick Short, *Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose*, 2nd ed. (Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2007), 39–42.

⁶ Peter Verdonk, *Stylistics*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 75–78.

⁷ Paul Simpson, *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students* (London: Routledge, 2004), 67–69.

through the manipulation of linguistic features such as diction, sentence structure, and rhetorical patterns.⁸ In this sense, artistic meaning is not only derived from figurative language but also from how lexical items and grammatical constructions interact within the overall structure of a text. From these theoretical perspectives, stylistic analysis becomes a powerful approach for revealing how language creates aesthetic and interpretive effects in literary and media texts.

Based on these theoretical perspectives, the researcher views stylistics as a framework that enables the systematic analysis of how linguistic choices generate artistic meaning in song lyrics. In particular, examining lexical and grammatical features allows the researcher to understand how songwriters construct emotional expression and narrative meaning through language. Rather than focusing solely on figurative language, this study considers how patterns of word choice and grammatical structure contribute to the stylistic impact of the lyrics. By integrating lexical and grammatical analysis within a stylistic framework, the researcher aims to reveal how linguistic elements function together to create artistic meaning in contemporary musical texts.

One literary medium that clearly reflects stylistic features is song lyrics. Songs combine poetic language with musical composition, allowing words to carry emotional depth and symbolic meaning. Abrams and

⁸ Geoffrey N. Leech and Mick Short, *Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose*, 2nd ed. (Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2007), 45-48.

Harpham state that lyrical texts share characteristics with poetry because they employ rhythm, imagery, and expressive diction to influence the listener's interpretation.⁹ As a result, song lyrics are not only forms of entertainment but also meaningful literary expressions that communicate feelings, values, and experiences through carefully selected linguistic patterns.

Language in song lyrics can be viewed as a creative use of English that combines lexical choices, grammatical structures, and stylistic patterns to create artistic meaning. A recent study by Ellyanda et al. showed that analysis of language style and diction in song lyrics can reveal how lexical choices shape audience interpretation and emotional experience.¹⁰ Another study by emphasized that stylistic features such as repetition, metaphor, and sound patterns are integral to understanding how music lyrics convey emotion and meaning. Additionally, Mariya Ulfah & Pujiati argued that semantic variation in song lyrics directly influences how listeners interpret mood, theme, and expressive intent in popular music.¹¹ Furthermore, a discourse analysis of song lyrics by Cahya Dewi highlighted how lexical and grammatical cohesion contributes to unified and expressive textual

⁹ M. H. Abrams and Geoffrey Galt Harpham, *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, 11th ed. (Boston: Cengage Learning, 2015), 108–110.

¹⁰ Ellyanda, Ibrahim Manda, Syamsu T, and Syahrir L. "Analysis of Language Style And Diction In The Song 'Helena' by My Chemical Romance". *Macca: Journal of Linguistic Applied Research* 2, no. 2 (August 4, 2025). Accessed May 10, 2026. <https://journal.adityarifqisam.org/index.php/macca/article/view/180>.

¹¹ Ulfah, Siti Maria, and Umi Pujiati. "A Semantic Analysis of Meaning Variations in the Song Lyrics by Selena Gomez". *JALILA: Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literary Analysis* 1, no. 2 (December 31, 2025): 67–76. Accessed May 10, 2026. <https://journal.ikmedia.id/index.php/jalila/article/view/772>.

structures that support artistic interpretation.¹² Similarly, Ulya et al. explained that stylistic analysis of song lyrics reveals how language contributes to the aesthetic and communicative impact of musical texts.¹³ According to the study, songwriters select linguistic forms not only for grammatical correctness but also for emotional resonance and artistic expression.

Based on these studies, it can be seen that linguistic analysis of song lyrics provides valuable insights into how language functions as a medium of artistic and emotional expression. However, most previous studies mainly focus on general stylistic devices or figurative language, while fewer studies examine how lexical and grammatical features interact to create artistic meaning in contemporary film soundtracks. Therefore, this study attempts to explore these linguistic features within the context of the Moana 2 movie soundtrack in order to provide a deeper understanding of how language contributes to artistic meaning in modern musical narratives.

In contemporary media, songs are strongly connected to films, particularly animated musical films produced by Disney. Disney movies are widely recognized for integrating storytelling and music, where songs function as emotional narratives that represent characters' struggles, hopes,

¹² Dewi, Ni Made Sinta Cahya. "Lexical and Grammatical Cohesion Analysis of 'nothing Like us' Song Lyrics: Written Discourse Analysis". *Journal of Language and Pragmatics Studies* 2, no. 1 (August 27, 2023): 19–27. Accessed May 10, 2026. <https://jurnal.ympn2.or.id/index.php/JLPS/article/view/9>.

¹³ "AN ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE IN THE SONG LYRICS OF 'MANUSIA KUAT' TULUS: A STYLISTIC STUDY". *Lintang Songo : Jurnal Pendidikan* 4, no. 2 (August 28, 2021): 12–18. Accessed May 10, 2026. <https://journal.unusida.ac.id/index.php/jls/article/view/410>.

and transformations.¹⁴ The language used in Disney soundtracks is typically poetic, symbolic, and expressive, making it suitable for stylistic linguistic analysis. These musical elements help audiences understand the emotional journey of the characters while also conveying moral and cultural messages.

One of Disney's notable animated films is *Moana*, which presents themes of identity, courage, and leadership through strong narrative storytelling and memorable musical numbers. Following the success of the first film, Disney released *Moana 2* in 2024, continuing Moana's journey with new emotional and social challenges as she faces responsibilities beyond her homeland¹⁵. The soundtrack of *Moana 2* contains several songs such as **"Beyond," "Get Lost," "Can I Get a Chee Hoo?," "What Could Be Better Than This,"** and **"We're Back."** Among these songs, **"Beyond"** has gained particular public attention and listener engagement on digital music platforms because it represents Moana's central emotional conflict between personal attachment and collective responsibility¹⁶. These songs display meaningful grammatical constructions and stylistic patterns that shape artistic and emotional meaning, making the *Moana 2* soundtrack an interesting object for stylistic study.

¹⁴ Disney's integration of narrative and music in animated films is widely discussed in film and media studies; see Amy M. Davis, *Handsome Heroes and Vile Villains: Masculinity in Disney's Feature Animation* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 132–135.

¹⁵ Walt Disney Animation Studios, *Moana* (2016) and *Moana 2* (2024) production and release information summarized in publicly documented film records; see "Moana 2," *The Walt Disney Company* and related film database entries.

¹⁶ Mark Mancina, Opetaia Foa'i, Abigail Barlow, and Emily Bear, composers of the *Moana 2* soundtrack, documented in official soundtrack credits; see "Moana 2 (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Walt Disney Records, 2024.

However, studies that focus on newly released Disney soundtracks, especially *Moana 2*, are still limited. Many previous studies emphasize figurative language only and rarely explore how lexical and grammatical features interact stylistically to produce artistic meaning. This gap highlights the need for a more focused stylistic investigation of contemporary Disney song lyrics. Therefore, this research, entitled “**A Stylistic Analysis of Lexical and Grammatical Features Creating Artistic Meaning in Selected Songs of the *Moana 2* Movie Soundtrack,**” aims to describe and interpret how language choices in the selected songs contribute to artistic meaning and emotional expression.

B. Research Questions

1. What do lexical features in the selected song lyrics contribute to artistic and emotional meaning?
2. What do grammatical patterns in the lyrics create stylistic effects?
3. How do lexical and grammatical features work together to express artistic meaning in the songs?

C. Research Objectives

There are several objectives of the research to achieve as follows :

1. To identify lexical features that contribute to artistic meaning in the selected song lyrics;
2. To describe grammatical patterns that create stylistic effects in the lyrics;

3. To explain how lexical and grammatical features work together to express artistic and emotional meaning in the songs.

D. Scope and Limitations of The Study

This study focuses on a stylistic analysis of lexical and grammatical features that create artistic meaning in selected songs from the *Moana 2* movie soundtrack. The analysis is limited to five songs, namely **“Beyond,” “Get Lost,” “Can I Get a Chee Hoo?,” “What Could Be Better Than This,”** and **“We’re Back.”** The research examines how specific lexical choices such as expressive words, poetic diction, and emotionally loaded vocabulary contribute to artistic and emotional meaning. In addition, the study investigates grammatical patterns including tense usage, sentence structure, and syntactic variation that produce stylistic effects in the lyrics.

This research is limited to the textual analysis of the official English lyrics and does not include musical elements such as melody, rhythm, or vocal performance. The study also does not explore the songwriter’s personal background or the broader sociopolitical context of the film production. Instead, the focus remains on how language features within the lyrics function stylistically to convey artistic meaning. Therefore, the findings of this study are restricted to linguistic and stylistic interpretation of the selected songs and may not be generalized to all Disney soundtracks or other musical genres.

E. The Significance of Study

. The findings of this study are expected to provide both theoretical and practical contributions as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

- a. This research is expected to enrich the field of linguistics, particularly stylistic studies, by providing an in-depth analysis of lexical and grammatical features that create artistic meaning in contemporary song lyrics.
- b. The study contributes to stylistics by showing how language choices at the lexical and grammatical levels function not only to convey literal meaning but also to express emotion and artistic effect in movie soundtracks. In addition, this research supports the study of language in literary and media texts by highlighting clearly how linguistic features work together to shape meaning in modern musical narratives such as Disney film songs.

2. Practical Significance

Practically, this study is expected to provide useful insights for various parties.

- a. For students of English Education Department, this study may help them understand how lexical choices and grammatical patterns function in authentic language use, particularly in song lyrics. The findings can support the learning of English Grammar and Functional Grammar by showing how grammatical structures create

meaning in real texts. In addition, the analysis of vocabulary and artistic language may assist students in improving inferential and referential reading comprehension, especially when interpreting literary texts such as song lyrics.

- b. For educators, this research provides authentic examples of lexical and grammatical usage taken from contemporary media texts that can be used as supplementary materials in English language teaching. Song lyrics may be integrated into lessons on grammar, stylistics, vocabulary development, and literature-based language learning.
- c. For future researchers, this study may serve as a reference for further research in stylistics and linguistic analysis. The analytical framework used in this study can be applied or expanded to examine language features in other media texts such as films, advertisements, or modern literary works.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding between the researcher and the readers, several key terms used in this study are defined as follows:

1. Stylistic Analysis : Stylistic analysis refers to the study of how language is used in texts to create particular effects and meanings. In this research, stylistic analysis focuses on examining lexical and grammatical features in song lyrics to understand how artistic and emotional meanings are

constructed. This approach emphasizes language choice, structure, and expressive effect in literary texts.

2. Lexical Features : Lexical features refer to selected words or expressions in the song lyrics that contribute to artistic and emotional meaning. In this study, lexical features are not all words in the lyrics, but specific words or phrases that carry poetic, expressive, or symbolic value, such as emotionally loaded vocabulary, figurative expressions, and words that enhance aesthetic meaning.
3. Grammatical Features: Grammatical features refer to the patterns and structures of language used in the lyrics, including sentence structure, tense usage, clause patterns, and syntactic variation. In this research, grammatical features are analyzed to see how they create stylistic effects and support the artistic meaning of the song lyrics.
4. Artistic Meaning : Artistic meaning refers to the aesthetic and expressive meaning created through the use of language in song lyrics. It is not limited to literal meaning but includes emotional depth, imagery, and stylistic impression that emerge from lexical and grammatical choices.
5. Song Lyrics: Song lyrics are written texts that form the verbal component of songs. In this study, song lyrics are treated as literary texts that contain artistic language and stylistic elements used to express emotions, ideas, and themes within the movie soundtrack.
6. Moana 2 Movie Soundtrack: The *Moana 2 movie soundtrack* refers to the collection of songs featured in the animated musical film *Moana 2*

released in 2024 by Walt Disney Animation Studios. In this study, the researcher focuses on five selected songs: “Beyond,” “Get Lost,” “Can I Get a Chee Hoo?,” “What Could Be Better Than This,” and “We’re Back.” These songs are selected because they represent important moments in the storyline and contain expressive language that reflects the characters’ emotions, conflicts, and motivations. In addition, the lyrics of these songs show various lexical choices and grammatical patterns that contribute to the creation of artistic meaning, making them suitable for stylistic analysis.

G. Organization of The Study

This thesis is organized into six chapters to present the discussion in a systematic and coherent manner. Each chapter is structured as follows:

1. Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, research questions, research objectives, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. This chapter provides the basic foundation and rationale for conducting the research.

2. Chapter II: Review of Related Literature

This chapter discusses theories and previous studies related to stylistic analysis, lexical features, grammatical features, and artistic meaning in song lyrics. It also reviews relevant studies on stylistics and linguistic

analysis of songs and movie soundtracks in order to identify the research gap and highlight the novelty of the present study.

3. Chapter III: Research Method

This chapter explains the research design, subject of the study, subject selection, data and data sources, research instruments, data collection method, data analysis procedures, and trustworthiness of the data. The research employs a qualitative descriptive method focusing on stylistic analysis of lexical and grammatical features found in the selected songs from the Moana 2 movie soundtrack.

4. Chapter IV: Findings

This chapter presents the findings of the analysis of lexical and grammatical features that create artistic meaning in the selected songs, namely “Beyond,” “Get Lost,” “Can I Get a Chee Hoo?,” “What Could Be Better Than This,” and “We’re Back.” The findings are classified and described according to the categories of lexical and grammatical features. This chapter also provides examples from the song lyrics to illustrate how these linguistic features are used to convey artistic meaning.

5. Chapter V : Discussions

This chapter discusses and interprets the findings presented in the previous chapter. The identified lexical and grammatical features are analyzed in relation to stylistic theories and relevant previous studies. The discussion focuses on how these linguistic features contribute to the

creation of artistic meaning, emotional expression, and thematic representation in the selected songs from the Moana 2 movie soundtrack. The chapter also highlights the significance of the findings in understanding the stylistic characteristics of song lyrics.

6. Chapter VI : Conclusion and Suggestions

This chapter presents the conclusions of the study based on the research findings and discussion. It summarizes the major findings regarding the lexical and grammatical features and their contribution to artistic meaning in the selected songs. In addition, this chapter provides suggestions for students, educators, and future researchers who are interested in conducting further studies in stylistics, linguistic analysis, song lyrics, and movie soundtracks as research objects or educational materials.