

Representation of Unrequited Love: Barthes' Semiotics Study in the Selected Songs of *The Secret of Us* Album by Gracie Abrams

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ABSTRACT

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This research is important because it examines how unrequited love, a common emotional phenomenon experienced by many people, is represented in the lyrics of popular songs and can affect the emotional understanding of listeners. The purpose of this study is to analyze the representation of unrequited love in three selected songs from Gracie Abrams' *The Secret of Us* album using Roland Barthes' semiotic approach. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. Data were collected through documentation of song lyrics and analyzed using Barthes' semiotic approach, which are denotation, connotation and myth. The results are based on Bringle's theory that *Close to You* and *Felt Good About You* belong to the category of unequal love, while *Let It Happen* belongs to the category of pursuing the love object.

I. Introduction

Unrequited love is a common phenomenon experienced by many people. Being social creatures, humans basically want to establish relationships with other people, including in terms of romance. However, not all love that is felt will be reciprocated with the same feelings. Sometimes, a relationship with another person is favorable, but the feeling is not received or reciprocated. This is called unrequited love when love only comes from one side. Although this happens often, the feelings that arise can be very disturbing, such as sadness, disappointment, or feeling undervalued.

As stated above that unrequited love is a fairly common phenomenon, some studies show that almost 95% of men and women have experienced it [1]. It indicates that unrequited love is an almost universal experience that can happen to anyone, regardless of their gender or background. Despite being common, it can still have a profound emotional impact on the individual experiencing it. Further information according to [2] unrequited love is characterized by a one-sided attraction. This phenomenon shows that in a relationship, feelings of love do not always lead to a mutual relationship. This phenomenon is interesting to study because according to [3] someone who is liked generally tends to respond to the feelings given to them. However, in the case of unrequited love, individuals who reject love do not show reciprocation of feelings towards the person who likes them. Logically, a romantic relationship will not form if both parties have no interest in each other, as there is no initiative to initiate the relationship. However, in situations of unrequited love, the would-be lover may take steps to approach the rejector even though their feelings are not reciprocated [3]. Based on the quote above, this shows that strong hope and attraction can encourage individuals to continue to seek attention or closeness despite the signs of rejection.

In the face this phenomenon of unrequited love, music has long been a medium of expression for people. According to [4], music has the unique ability to articulate feelings that are difficult to express through ordinary words, providing space for listeners to represent their personal experiences. This makes music an effective tool in processing and interpreting complex emotional experiences. In addition, there are also lyrics in music, music and lyrics are two complementary elements, where beautiful and memorable lyrics can effectively convey messages to listeners. According to Suryono in [5] Language in song lyrics has a crucial role in conveying social criticism, reflecting society's

anxiety, and providing entertainment. With the power of language, song lyrics are able to build awareness, influence perceptions, and arouse the feelings of listeners, making it an effective form of communication in conveying messages and deeper meanings. This is reinforced by the statement from [6] who said song lyrics are written based on the personal experience or anxiety of the creator, which is then arranged in such a way that it can be enjoyed by a wide audience.

In line with the paragraph above, currently, one of the musicians, Gracie Abrams, born on September 7, 1999, in Los Angeles, is known as a singer-songwriter with an introspective style and emotionally laden lyrics. Since releasing her debut *Mean It* in 2019, she has built a reputation as one of the contemporary pop musicians who are able to convey personal narratives in an authentic way [7]. Her popularity further increased after she opened for Taylor Swift's *The Eras Tour* in 2023 and 2024, as well as Olivia Rodrigo's *Sour Tour* in 2022. In 2024, Abrams earned a Grammy nomination in the Best New Artist category, confirming her position as one of the most influential young musicians today [8]. This shows that her work is not only widely appreciated, but also recognized in the music industry.

The album *The Secret of Us*, released in June 2024, received much critical acclaim and was included in Billboard's list of The 50 Best Albums of 2024 [9]. In addition, her song *Us*, a collaboration with Taylor Swift, was also nominated for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance at the 2025 Grammy Awards [10]. Through her songs, Abrams describes the experience of unrequited love. These themes are relevant to how individuals process emotional experiences in real life, making this album a reflection of the inner struggles of many of its listeners.

Abrams' popularity and her impact in the music industry are the main reasons why her album *The Secret of Us* was chosen as the object of study in this research. With a wide listener base and achievements, and the recognition she has received from various music industry parties, her album's lyrics significantly influence the listeners' interpretations and emotions. In this context, representation becomes a relevant key concept to analyze, as stated by [11] that representation is the ability to describe or imagine something. The study of representation is important because human experience, including emotional phenomena such as unrequited love, is inseparable from meaning and language as the main tool to express it. Therefore, an appropriate analysis method is needed to uncover these meanings in song lyrics. This research uses a semiotic approach, in particular Roland Barthes' semiotics, which aims to explore meaning in depth. The essence of his theory lies in the concept of two stages in signification. The first stage in the signification process explains the relationship between the signifier and the signified in a sign, as well as its relation to references in the real world. Barthes calls this stage denotation. Denotation refers to the basic or common meaning of a sign, which is the direct and explicit understanding [12]. In other words, denotation is a meaning that is not influenced by context or subjective interpretation, so it can be universally understood.

The second stage of signification is called connotation. Connotation occurs when a sign acquires additional meanings that are influenced by the feelings, emotions, and cultural values of the individual or group using the sign. In this stage, meaning becomes more subjective or at least inter-subjective. However, connotation is inseparable from denotation, because the signifier and signified in connotation depart from the underlying denotative meaning [13]. This means that connotative meaning always has a basis in denotative meaning, but then develops according to culture, experience, and social context. For example, a picture of an apple can have connotations of health or even a symbol of knowledge, depending on how society interprets it.

In addition, Barthes also introduced the concept of myth. He argues that myths are a culture's way of thinking about something, as well as a system of concepts that shape collective understanding. He emphasized that myths work by naturalizing history, making something historical seem natural and as if it were indisputable [12]. For example, an apple in certain contexts is not just a fruit, but can be a symbol of knowledge or temptation, as in the story of Adam and Eve. From the explanation of the concept of semiotics, especially in Barthes' semiotics. So, to uncover the meaning of the representation of unrequited love, this semiotic concept is very appropriate to use. Therefore, to support this research, the researcher reads several previous studies as references that guide the author with research findings and materials.

First previous research titled "*Analisis Semiotika dalam Lirik Lagu Album Bersamamu Karya Jaz*" conducted by [14] discusses the meaning contained in the lyrics of the songs in Jaz's *Bersamamu* album with a semiotic approach. Using Charles Sanders Peirce's sign theory, this research analyzes icons, indexes, and symbols in the song lyrics to reveal the themes of love, togetherness, and motivation. The correlation technique in semiotic analysis is also applied to identify the relationship between various signs in the lyrics. The results show that the songs in the album *Bersamamu* contain

symbols that reinforce the message of optimism and support in relationships, such as in the phrases "*taklukan dunia*" and "*melangkah bersamaku*". In addition, musical elements such as melody and harmony, as well as visual elements in the music video, also reinforce the meaning to be conveyed, creating a deeper emotional experience for the listener.

Next previous studies titled "*Analisis Semiotika Makna Motivasi pada Lirik Lagu 'Bangun Pemuda Pemudi'*" conducted by [15] examines the motivational meanings contained in the lyrics of the song "*Bangun Pemuda Pemudi*" by Alfred Simanjutak. Using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic approach, this research analyzes the signifier and signified aspects to reveal motivational messages aimed at the young generation of Indonesia. Using descriptive qualitative research method and constructivist paradigm, this research divides the whole song lyrics into several sentences to be analyzed in depth. The results show that this song not only functions as a musical work, but also as a semiotic medium that provides inspiration and encouragement to the younger generation to play an active role in nation building.

Last previous studies titled "*Makna Kehidupan dalam Lirik Lagu pada Album Manusia Karya Tulus: Kajian Semiotika*" conducted by [16] analyzed the meaning of life in the lyrics of songs on Tulus' *Manusia* album using Ferdinand De Saussure's semiotics approach. With descriptive qualitative method and content analysis technique, this research identifies the meaning of life which is divided into three main aspects, namely through work and deeds (*Satu Kali, Tujuh Belas*), through events and feelings (*Nala, Interaction*), and through attitudes towards suffering (*Hati Hati di Jalan, Diri*). The results show that the song lyrics in this album not only convey emotions, but also reflect human life experiences, ranging from struggle, love, hope, to acceptance. The conclusion of this research confirms that music, especially song lyrics, functions as a medium of communication that is not only aesthetic but also has a deep meaning for the listener.

Although previous studies have examined the meaning in song lyrics using a semiotic approach, this research fills the gap by analyzing the representation of unrequited love in *The Secret of Us* album by Gracie Abrams through Roland Barthes' semiotic perspective. Research by [14] and [15] focused more on semiotic analysis in song lyrics that convey the themes of love, togetherness, motivation, and nationalism values using the Peirce and Saussure approaches. Meanwhile, [16] the study highlighted the meaning of life in the lyrics of Tulus' *Manusia* album, but without an in-depth exploration of the feelings of unrequited love. Therefore, this research offers a new perspective by examining how semiotic elements in Gracie Abrams' song lyrics form an emotional narrative that represents the experience of unrequited love. In addition, Gracie Abrams, a talented young singer with a huge number of listeners, creates a new relevance in understanding the feelings experienced by many people today. Some of her songs in *The Secret of Us* album, such as *Close to You*, *Felt Good About You* and *Let it Happen*, have been played more than 450 million times on the Spotify music platform [17]. This number shows that the lyrics in the songs are able to represent and touch the emotional experiences felt by millions of listeners. With such a wide audience reach, the messages in Abrams' song lyrics are important to research because they can reflect emotional dynamics, such as unrequited love, that are relevant to daily life.

II. Method

This research uses qualitative methods. According to [18] the qualitative approach aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perceptions, and motivations, thoroughly through descriptions in the form of words. This approach is applied in a natural context by utilizing various methods that are in accordance with the natural characteristics of the research. Qualitative research emphasizes social inquiry that focuses on how individuals interpret and understand their experiences and the world around them. This method produces findings that are not obtained through statistical procedures or quantification techniques.

In an attempt to collect relevant data for this study, the researcher followed the basic principles in qualitative research methods. According to [19], when conducting qualitative research, researchers should accurately, completely, and methodically capture any information that may be useful by using field notes, sketches, voice recordings, photographs, and other related techniques. Based on that guideline, the researcher took several steps to collect data. First, the researcher gathered the songs from the album *The Secret of Us* through the Spotify platform. Then, the researcher collected the lyrics of each song in the album. Finally, the researcher obtained secondary data related to previous research on the same object to support the analysis.

In addition, researchers also use documentation studies as a data collection technique. According to [20] Documentation study is a technique that can be utilized to understand the subject's point of view through documents or writings made directly by the subject concerned. This technique is not only useful for exploring the meaning of existing texts or symbols, but also serves as supporting data that complements the results of observations and literature reviews. Documentation includes various sources such as articles, books, song lyrics, and previous research relevant to the topic. Thus, documentation makes an important contribution to enriching findings and strengthening data interpretation in qualitative research.

In analyzing qualitative data, researchers follow systematic steps so that the results obtained can be considered as academically credible. [21] Describe qualitative data analysis as follows: condensing data, which is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, summarizing, and transforming raw data; displaying data that has been condensed into a form to help conclude; and drawing and verifying conclusions. Based on this explanation, the researcher took several steps to analyze the data. First, the researcher categorized the song lyrics into a table containing denotative, connotative, and myth found in the songs. Second, the researcher analyzed the denotation, connotation, and myth in each stanza presented in the table. Third, the researcher used the results of the analysis to draw a conclusion about the representation of unrequited love in the song lyrics

III. Results and Discussion

The following table contains the denotation, connotation, and myth analysis of Gracie Abrams' The Secret of Us album, which is organized to identify the explicit and implicit meanings in these selected songs' lyrics.

Data 1 from *Close To You* song

Denotative meaning

The lyrics in line (3) Describes a smoky, dark and crowded room, where the narrator doesn't feel like she needs anything. Next, the lyrics in lines (7,8) Directly state that the Narrator feels a strong attraction towards someone who doesn't even know her name. Moreover the lyric in line (12)

Song Name	Lyric	Line
<i>Close To You</i>	"Smoky, dark, crowded room, I need nothing"	3
	"I burn for you and you don't even know my name"	7,8
	"Pull the trigger on the gun I gave you when we met"	12
	"Break my heart and start a fire, you got me overnight"	14

Describes the act of pulling the trigger of a gun given when narrator first met, which can be interpreted as a form of giving up control or power to another person in a relationship. Last the lyric in line (14) show the experience of heartbreak and burning feelings in a short time after meeting the person that narrator's love.

Connotative Meaning

The lyric in line (3) creates an atmosphere of loneliness despite being in a crowd, signifying the emotional state of someone who feels lost or alienated despite being surrounded by many people. Next in line (7,8), the narrator describes her feelings as being burned, a metaphor to show the intensity of emotion, desire, and suffering that burns inside her. However, the suffering feels meaningless because the person she loves doesn't even realize her existence, doesn't know her name, or even her feelings. Next in the line (12) the narrator seems to realize early on that she has given up something fragile like her heart, her trust, or her ability to be hurt, to the person she loves. "The gun" is a metaphor for the power or potential to hurt that she has willingly given away in that first moment of hopeful meeting. Last in the lyric in line (14) When she says "pull the trigger," the narrator implies that the person is now actually using that power to hurt her. The narrator seems to be saying that in

just a short period of time, the person has completely controlled her feelings-and destroyed her at the same time.

Myth

The lyric in line (3) states that someone is in a crowd but feels empty. This myth developed in a society that often imposes being happy in a crowd as a standard of happiness, while many people hide sadness underneath the crowded situation inline with the research by [22]. The lyric in the lines (7,8) shows how much feeling a person holds. But ironically, they are never considered or even realized by the person they love. This myth grew out of the experiences of many people who felt it was enough to love silently, even though they were actually torturing themselves. In our society, this kind of feeling is commonplace. In the line (12) this lyric is a myth that often occurs in relationships: that giving everything from the beginning is proof of love. This expression shows how someone from the beginning has given up the most delicate side of themselves to their partner, with the hope that those feelings will be taken care of. In the line (14) the lyric creates a common myth that great feelings can arise in an instant. However, what hurts is when those feelings are not reciprocated with the same depth. The lyrics also suggest that in that short moment, love and pain are created.

Representation of Unrequited Love

The song "*Close to You*" represents unrequited love through the form of an unequal love relationship, as stated in the theory of [2]. In the lyrics (7,8) "*I burn for you and you don't even know my name*", there is a clear emotional disparity between the narrator and the object of her love, in which the narrator feels deep desire and pain, while the person she loves is not even aware of her existence. This reflects the most painful form of unrequited love, when great feelings are never noticed, let alone reciprocated. Metaphorical elements in lyrics such as in the line (12) "*pull the trigger on the gun I gave you*" and the lyric in the line (14) "*break my heart and start a fire*" reinforce the idea that love given fully leads to hurt, showing the vulnerability of being offered with no guarantee of reciprocation. from the explanation above, this phenomenon also in line with the concept of "limerence" proposed by [23], which describes a condition in that individuals experience obsession and idealization towards the object of love that does not reciprocate their feelings, often followed by intense emotional suffering. furthermore, research by [24] shows that unrequited love can cause greater obsession compared to equal love.

Data 2 from *Felt Good About You* song

Denotative meaning

This lyric in line (1) means that a person feels good or comfortable towards another person at first, but then the feeling turns bad. Next the lyric in the line (9) narrator has fulfilled all the demands and desires of his partner according to the plan set. Next the lyric in the line (13) the narrator conveys that fighting dominated the interactions in the relationship. Moreover, the lyric in the line (15) The intensity of the love feelings initially felt was eventually followed by a loss of interest from the other

Song Name	Lyric	Line
<i>Felt Good About You</i>	"I felt good about you 'til I didn't"	1
	"Got what you demanded, picture perfect like you planned it"	9
	"We were fightin' more than laughin', black and blue"	13
	"Fell hard then I lost your interest"	15
	"Bad nights, new girls, misgivings"	19
	"Got me where you want me, in your palm it's almost funny"	22
	"You felt nice for a bad decision"	35
	"Til I realized I felt fuller without you"	42

party. Next the lyric in line (19) directly refers to bad nights, the presence of new women, as well as the appearance of doubts in the relationship. the lyric in line (22), the narrator feels completely under the control by her partner. The lyric in line (35) States that although the partner's presence felt nice, the relationship was a bad decision. Last in line (42) the narrator feels better in the absence of her partner.

Connotative meaning

The lyrics in line (1) describe a sharp emotional change in a relationship. The phrase "I felt good about you" suggests that initially, the narrator had positive feelings towards the person. However, the addition of "til I didn't" shows the turning point, when those good feelings turn into disappointment. Next, the lyrics in line (9) illustrate in an unequal relationship that the success of a relationship is often measured by the extent to which a person can fulfill their partner's expectations, even if it means sacrificing themselves. The phrase "got what you demanded" describes a situation where one party is constantly adjusting to fulfill their partner's desires, until finally creating a relationship that looks "picture perfect" looks ideal from the outside, but is full of pressure on the inside. Next, the lyrics in line (13) describe a relationship that is full of conflict. The narrator describes how fighting and tension dominate the relationship, more often than laughter or happiness, whereas it should be laughter that dominates the relationship. The phrase "black and blue" refers to the deep sadness experienced by the narrator. Moreover, the lyric in line (15) narrator reveals that she fell in love with great love "fell hard" which indicates a deep and sincere emotional involvement. However, once she opened herself up completely, that's when the partner lost interest. The lyrics in line (19) "Bad nights" are nights of hurt, sadness, or insomnia that the narrator experiences due to the breakdown of the relationship. "New girls" refers to the presence of new women in the life of the man; it used to be a symbol of her replacement coming too soon. Next, the lyric in the line (22) narrator feels trapped in an unequal relationship, where she realizes she is completely in the control of her loved one-and feels weak or helpless because of it. Next, the lyric in line (35) implies that the narrator's lover looks or feels fine even though he has made a bad decision. Last, the lyrics in line (42) imply a moment of realization, where the narrator finally realizes that her life is more complete and meaningful after letting go of the person she used to love so much.

Myth

The lyric in the line (1) illustrates that feelings of affection are not always eternal love that can grow strong at first, giving hope and comfort, but can also fade away over time. In many cases, someone feels the need to constantly adjust and become the idealized version in order to maintain a relationship that appears fine from the outside. Next the lyric in the line (9) reflects the social pressure to be the perfect partner without considering the balance of the relationship. Next the lyrics in the line (13) reflect the myth in many relationships that it is common for a relationship to be filled with more fighting than happiness. The lyrics in the line (15) "fightin' more than laughin'" illustrate how often couples hurt each other instead of getting stronger. When a woman gives her whole heart and opens herself up completely in a relationship, that is when her partner starts to lose interest. This is showing too much love is considered a weakness, not a strength. It reflects the emotional inequality that is often normalized in relationships, where one party is perceived as too intense while the other feels bored. Moreover the lyric in the line (19) emerges that after a breakup, men will quickly move on with a new woman, while women are left with wounds, anxiety, and regret. The myth emphasizes that women are destined to feel deeper and longer, while men are the ones who easily forget and quickly find a replacement. It also reinforces the belief that heartbreak for women is a lonely phase, and that women will always be the ones who are more hurt and slower to recover after love ends. Next the lyrics in line (22) reflect a myth that often occurs in relationship dynamics, that women should accept a weak and powerless position in relationships, as if it's part of their role. The line "got me where you want me" and the metaphor of "in your palm" form an image of power imbalance, where women are considered natural to be submissive, controlled, or even emotionally manipulated.

The irony in “it's almost funny” reinforces the myth that pain or loss of control in relationships is something to be laughed at rather than confronted. The lyrics in the line (35) reflect the myth that men can feel secure even after making decisions that hurt others, especially in the context of relationships. the myth is that in relationship dynamics, men are often portrayed as less burdened by the emotional or moral consequences of their bad decisions, as if they are emotionally free. Last the lyrics in the line (42) this myth reinforces the narrative that losing a partner can be a turning point towards emotional recovery, as if happiness can only be achieved after suffering. The word “fuller” symbolizes a woman who no longer defines herself through her partner, but through self-love.

Representation of Unrequited Love

The song “*Felt Good About You*” represents a form of unrequited love that belongs to the category of unequal love relationships in the theory proposed by [2]. In this category, unrequited love occurs in the context of a real relationship where one party loves much more deeply than the other party. This is reflected by the lyrics of the song that show emotional inequality and affection, such as in the lyrics “*Got what you demanded, picture perfect like you planned it*” and “*Got me where you want me, in your palm it's almost funny*”, which indicate that the narrator is in a position of being emotionally controlled. The phrase “*Fell hard then I lost your interest*” makes it clear that the loving party is slowly experiencing unequal love, as their partner's attention fades.

Data 3 from *Let it Happen* song

Denotative meaning

The lyrics in line (4) narrator states one day she was alone in that place. Next, the lyrics in lines (7,8) convey that the narrator is waiting for someone to call, and if that person is ready, they can go together. Next, the lyrics in lines (9,10) state that the narrator has never wanted so much attention

Song Name	Lyric	Line
<i>Let it Happen</i>	“I'm aware that I could end up here alone”	4
	“Now I stay up and I wait here by the phone, If you're ready, all I mean is we could go”	7,8
	“And I've never craved someone's attention,As much as yours, thought I should mention that”	9,10
	“I bet all my money that I will, Lose to you and hand you my life”	11,12
	“Turn me into something tragic, Just for you, I let it happen”	16,17
	“Get my shit together, it's whatever, but I could die, Knowing that you're probably out somewhere”	41,42
	“If you would still have me, I'll be waiting all my life”	47

from others as from the person she is talking to, and she feels has to convey that. Moreover, the lyrics in lines (11,12) state that the narrator is fully convinced (willing to bet all her money) that she will lose to this person and give up everything, including her life. Then in the next the lyrics in lines (16,17) convey that the narrator allows herself to turn into something tragic for the sake of others. Furthermore, the lyrics in lines (41,42) state that the narrator is trying to improve her life, but is devastated by the realization that the person she is thinking about is somewhere else. Last, the lyrics in line (47) state that the narrator is willing to wait her whole life if the person she is aiming for is still willing to be with her.

Connotative meaning

The lyrics in line (4) could reflect the narrator's fear of isolation or not being loved. Although denotatively, it means that she is alone in that place. Next, the lyric in lines (7,8) implies that the narrator is in a hopeful position to wait for a response from the person she loves. She doesn't force, but opens the door wide, which means that if the person is ready, she is also ready to start something together. Next, the lyrics in lines (9,10) imply that the narrator feels an unusual craving for attention that she has never experienced before. This suggests that the relationship or the man is so special, she feels it necessary to confess that she needs his attention. Moreover, the lyrics in lines (11,12) imply that the narrator is willing to sacrifice everything, including her pride and control over her life, for love of that person. "Lose to you" can be interpreted as a form of submission by love. Whereas "hand you my life" describes the level of trust as if she is handing over the direction of her life to that person because her love is so great. Then in the next lyrics in lines (16,17) Describes the narrator's her self-sacrifice to be with the person she loves. The lyrics "turn me into something tragic" imply that the person she loves makes her turn into a sad figure. However, he is willing to let it happen. The lyrics in line (41,42) "get my shit together" show the narrator's attempt to move on. But the phrase "I could die, knowing that you're probably out somewhere" expresses the real pain, that even though she tries to seem okay, the fact that the person she loves is no longer with her. Last, the lyrics in line (47) show the hope of the narrator, she is willing to wait her whole life for a chance or acceptance from her lover. the narrator feels that if the people she loves are still willing to accept her, then she will wait indefinitely, even if it means waiting her whole life.

Myth

The lyrics in line (4) bring up the myth of loneliness as a failure that has made many people afraid of the choice to be alone. This myth arises from the assumption that happiness in life, especially for women, is measured by the presence of a partner. As a result, many people stay in unhealthy relationships for fear of ending up alone. It's a match as to what [25] said in their research. Next, the lyrics in lines (7,8). The myth grows from the gender stereotype that places women as passive, full of ego, and must wait to be chosen, not choose. this is in line with research from [26]. As a result, many women hold back their feelings, keep their hopes in silence, and continue to wait for someone who may not come. The myth in lines (9,10) is that when we truly love someone, it is natural to crave their attention. In a social context, this is often attributed to the role of women who are taught to seek recognition through male affection, making them feel that being cared for is the truest sign of love. This myth in lines (11,12) is widely spread, where true love is described as being willing for the sake of the lover. Especially for women, this myth is reinforced by a culture that praises devotion as the purest sign of love. This myth is in line with research from [27]. The myth in lines (16,17) has long been established, especially among women, that true love is when you stand your ground even if you are hurt, when you give even if you are harmed. Next, in the lines (41,42) behind the desire to move on, there is a bitter reality that the person we love the most cannot be owned anymore. This myth describes that in love, loss is not just about not being together anymore, but about having to watch that person exist even without us by their side. This is in line with the research by [28]

Representation of Unrequited Love

The song "*Let It Happen*" represents a form of unrequited love that falls into the category of pursuing the love object according to [2] theory, which is when someone tries to start a romantic relationship but does not get a clear response. This can be seen in the lyrics in line (7,8) "*Now I stay up and I wait here by the phone, if you're ready, all I mean is we could go*" which shows a passive approach, as well as in the lyrics in line (47) "*If you would still have me, I'll be waiting all my life*" which allows hope to persist even though it is not certain. Other lyrics such as in lines (11,12) "*I bet all my money that I will, lose to you and hand you my life*" and the lyrics in lines (16,17) "*Turn me into something tragic, just for you, I let it happen*" emphasize the sacrifices made by the narrator to keep loving the person he loves even though it hurts. research by [29] showed that individuals who experienced love rejection still exhibited activity in brain systems related to reward and motivation,

which suggests that feelings of love remain strong even after rejection. This could explain why individuals often remain attached to the object of their love despite suffering emotional grief. In addition, [30] showed that they usually try to maintain friendship relationships with loved ones, even though this makes the pain and uncertainty continue.

IV. Conclusion

The results of the analysis in Results and Discussion show that all the songs analyzed represent a form of unrequited love that is categorized as an unequal love relationship and pursuing the love object, as described by Bringle et al. in the theory of unrequited love. In this unequal relationship, there is one party that has greater and more intense feelings, while the other party does not reciprocate these feelings equally, either in the form of emotions, attention, or commitment. While pursuing the love object is when someone tries to start a romantic relationship but does not get a clear response. The prospect of developing the results of this research is wide open, both for further literary-music studies with different objects and genres, as well as for exploration in the context of cultural psychology, gender representation in love relationships, and its application in educational media to train critical analysis skills of popular texts.

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