



Conceptual Metaphor in Three Selected Song Lyrics by Troye Sivan

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Abstract

This study explores the metaphorical expressions and the intertwined emotional and social dimensions in Troye Sivan's song "Angel Baby, Easy and Talk Me Down." Music, as a form of artistic expression, often employs metaphors to translate complex emotions and lived experiences into relatable imagery that resonates with listeners. Through qualitative content analysis, this research identifies and interprets the metaphors present in the song's lyrics by examining their literal meanings, figurative interpretations, and emotional and social implications. The findings reveal that ontological and structural metaphor dominantly shape the metaphorical themes such as angelic imagery, rebirth, vulnerability, sacrifice, security, fear of loss, and intimacy, which together construct love as a transformative, redemptive, and deeply human experience. These metaphors portray romantic attachment as a source of emotional healing, devotion, and renewal, while also reflecting broader social understandings of intimacy, emotional dependence, and relational values in contemporary culture. Overall, the study concludes that Sivan's strategic use of metaphor not only enhances the lyrical and emotional depth of Angel Baby, Easy and Talk Me Down but also functions as a subtle form of social reflection. By bridging personal emotional experiences with shared cultural meanings, the song shows how metaphor plays a central role in shaping interpretations of love, vulnerability, and human connection within popular music. Further research may investigate how other musicians may construct the meaning of love within their musical sense both comparatively and semiotically as the limitations of this study.

Keywords: metaphor, song lyrics analysis, emotional expression, romantic love

Introduction

Music is a rich medium for expressing complex emotions and social issues through linguistic and artistic devices, particularly metaphors (Lee & Ko, 2023). Songs often function as a bridge between abstract feelings and concrete expression, allowing listeners to connect with experiences they might not otherwise articulate (Fillamenta, 2023). Metaphors in music serve as creative tools that transform everyday language into vivid imagery, providing a deeper understanding of emotions such as love, longing, and heartbreak. In this way, metaphors contribute not only to a song's aesthetic quality but also to its emotional impact (Vinh, 2024).

Troye Sivan, an acclaimed Australian singer-songwriter, is known for integrating profound emotional experiences into his music, often reflecting contemporary social realities. His work frequently explores themes of love, identity, vulnerability, and self-discovery, making his lyrics relatable to a broad audience. Through his songwriting, Sivan presents varied

perspectives on relationships and human connection, allowing listeners to engage with emotional narratives that resonate across different social contexts (Silitonga et al., 2024). This dual function of music as both emotional expression and social commentary underscores the importance of analyzing the metaphorical content embedded in his work.

The song *Angel Baby, Easy and Talk Me Down* exemplifies Sivan's use of metaphor to communicate the intensity of young love and emotional vulnerability (Safira & Zaman, 2024). Through carefully crafted lyrics, the song captures feelings of longing, devotion, and emotional dependence, inviting listeners to experience these sentiments vividly. Metaphorical expressions such as "you're my angel" not only evoke imagery of protection and care but also frame love as transcendent and deeply personal. These lyrical choices demonstrate how metaphors can convey complex psychological states in an accessible and emotionally resonant manner.

Moreover, *Angel Baby, Easy and Talk Me Down* addresses social and identity issues implicitly through its metaphors (Fishman, 2022). By presenting love in an emotionally sincere, the song challenges the love narratives who become mundane in mainstream music (Mercer & Smith, 2025). Listeners are encouraged to empathize with experiences that love has deeper meaning and understanding for each person (Cavett, 2022). In this context, metaphors become a tool for bridging personal emotion with broader cultural and social discourse, highlighting the interplay between artistic expression and social awareness.

This study aims to analyze the metaphorical expressions in *Angel Baby, Easy, and Talk me down* examine the social and emotional issues embedded within them. By identifying and interpreting these metaphors, the research seeks to illuminate how music functions as both an aesthetic and communicative medium. Understanding these elements provides deeper insight into the emotional and cultural dimensions conveyed in the song, offering a framework for appreciating not only Troye Sivan's artistry but also the broader role of metaphor in contemporary music.

Metaphor is a fundamental linguistic and cognitive tool that enables abstract concepts to be understood through concrete experience and plays a crucial role in shaping perception and interpretation (Balaban & Wagner, 2025). In music, metaphors translate intangible emotions such as love, longing, and vulnerability into vivid imagery, enhancing emotional resonance and audience engagement, while also reflecting personal experiences and broader social realities related to identity, relationships, and cultural norms (Kantan et al., 2021). Love is one of the most dominant themes expressed metaphorically in songs, often conceptualized as journeys, struggles, or protective forces that help listeners interpret emotional dynamics

(Krebs, 2024). Troye Sivan's *Angel Baby*, *Easy*, and *Talk me down* exemplifies this tendency by employing metaphors that convey intense romantic attachment and emotional dependence, aligning with discussions of love and self-discovery in his music (Irawan et al., 2024). However, these metaphors may also function ideologically by promoting particular romantic ideals that challenge traditional cultural frameworks and frame intense emotional attachment as socially desirable. Since metaphor interpretation is shaped by linguistic choices, cultural context, and audience perception, a critical approach is necessary to examine how such metaphorical structures in *Angel Baby*, *Easy*, and *Talk me down* communicate not only personal emotion but also broader social values and relational norms (Morrison, 2024; Jones et al., 2025).

Review of the Literature

Descriptive metaphor views metaphor as a linguistic or cognitive tool that describes or explains abstract concepts. Studies in this category focus on the identification, types, and functions of metaphors used to represent emotions or experiences. Balaban and Wagner (2025): Metaphor is a conceptual mapping process that shapes the interpretation of emotional reality. This shows how metaphors depict or frame emotions. Zhang (2024): Metaphors reflect shared cultural cognition, enabling emotional meanings to be understood through common experiential schemas. This relates to how metaphors help explain or represent emotions. Fadhila and Juanda (2023): Romantic relationships are generally conceptualized in domains such as travel, distance, and attachment. This is the identification of descriptive patterns in relationship depictions.

Istama et al. (2024) show an exploration of metaphors in song lyrics representing feelings such as love, hope, and vulnerability, enhancing emotional resonance. The focus is on what the metaphors depict. Meiningsih and Simamora (2025): Metaphors contribute to the construction of emotional identity, particularly in themes of healing and intimacy. This remains within the realm of how metaphors depict or shape identity. Kantan et al. (2021) and Layaly et al. (2023): Metaphorical structures reflect relational conflict, memory, and identity formation. These metaphors describe social and cultural phenomena. Nasution et al. (2024): Metaphor interpretation is influenced by sociocultural backgrounds, suggesting that meaning is constructed through the interaction between text and audience. This further explains how metaphors operate descriptively in a social context.

Essentially, these studies tend to view metaphors as mirrors of reality or tools for

describing and conveying experiences, without overly questioning their ideological implications. The texts state that these studies tend to “generalize metaphors as universally interpretable” and “focus primarily on identifying metaphor types.” Interpretive metaphor goes beyond mere description to analyze how metaphors not only describe but also shape, influence, and even reproduce ideologies or social norms. The studies here delve deeper into why certain metaphors are used and the impact they have on audience comprehension.

Morrison (2024) stated that metaphors can function as “ideological tools” that “shape socially understood emotional experiences.” Her research argues that popular music “can reinforce dominant beliefs” about intimacy and emotional fulfillment. This is a powerful interpretive perspective that views metaphors as constructs of understanding. The idea expressed in the conclusion: “further research is needed to examine not only how metaphors depict emotions but also how they construct specific perspectives on romantic relationships and influence listeners’ understanding of emotional norms.” This is clearly a call for interpretive analysis, going beyond description towards the impact and construction of meaning.

The text explicitly criticizes previous descriptive approaches by stating that they “pay little attention to contextual variations of meaning across musical genres and audiences,” “fail to examine how metaphor constructs particular emotional ideologies critically,” and “pay little attention to how it may reproduce cultural norms regarding love, emotional dependence, and relational expectations.” This criticism emphasizes the importance of interpretive or critical analysis. In short, the first group focuses on what metaphors are and how they work to describe or explain concepts. The second group, represented by Morrison and the proposed research direction, focuses on what metaphors do to our understanding, how they shape worldviews, and their ideological implications.

Methodology

This study employed qualitative content analysis to examine metaphorical expressions in the lyrics of “Angel Baby”, “Easy”, and “Talk me down”. by Troye Sivan. Qualitative content analysis was chosen as it allows for an in-depth interpretation of linguistic features and their underlying meanings, especially in exploring figurative language such as metaphor.

1. Data Source

The data for this study comprised the officially published lyrics of “Angel Baby”, “Easy”, and “Talk me down”. The lyrics were treated as a textual corpus and analyzed as a complete unit of significance. The data of this study are 129 clauses in the song lyrics but it has been filtered by the theoretical framework by Kovecses. The filtered data found based on conceptual metaphor theory are 72 clauses.

2. Data Collection Procedure

The data gathering process involved three steps. First, the lyrics were read several times to gain a comprehensive understanding of the overall context and themes. Secondly, the lyrics were segmented into lexical units (words, phrases, and clauses) to facilitate detailed analysis. All potential metaphorical expressions were then highlighted and gathered for further examination.

3. Metaphor Identification

To ensure a systematic and reliable identification process, this study applies three steps of identifying metaphor, using the Conceptual Metaphor Theory by Kovecses (2016). In this theory, it moves beyond what metaphor known literally since conceptual metaphor view metaphor as part of how thought shape the reality inside mind and governing them into particular concept. In doing so, these steps were applied.

(1) defining the potential metaphor based on conceptual metaphor theory;

(2) identify its more basic, literal meaning; and

(3) Identify the source and target domain of the metaphorical expressions

A lexical unit was categorized as metaphorical if its contextual meaning was different from its basic meaning but could be understood through comparison. This procedure minimized subjectivity and guaranteed consistency in identifying metaphorical expressions.

4. Data Analysis

The data analysis was carried out in four stages. First, the identifiable metaphorical expressions were classified based on Conceptual Metaphor Theory, focusing on patterns such as LOVE IS A JOURNEY and LOVE IS PROTECTION. Second, the metaphors were analyzed to reveal their conceptual mappings between source and target domains. Third, the metaphors were interpreted in relationship to emotional and social themes, including vulnerability, longing, and relational intimacy. Lastly, the findings were organized using both

descriptive analysis (to present categories and patterns) and interpretative analysis (to explain meanings and functions).

5. Trustworthiness of the Study

To ensure the credibility and reliability of the findings, several strategies were used. Repeated close readings were influenced to maintain consistency in interpretation. An audit trail documenting the identification and classification process was maintained to increase transparency. Additionally, the use of an established framework, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, helped reduce researcher bias. Although metaphor interpretation involves a degree of subjectivity, the systematic procedures applied in this study reinforce the validity of the analysis

Findings and Discussion

Findings

These three songs represent that once stable relationship is now experiencing complete disintegration, not only emotionally but also in terms of social identity. In terms of emotional and social impacts, love is seen as home, as a symbol of security, is now destroyed, meaning the individual has lost a sense of belonging. This leads to social isolation, where there is no longer a safe space to return to, and the whole “architecture” of social relations has collapsed.

Table 1. Data distribution of metaphorical types based on Kovecses (2010)

Type of Metaphor	Angel Baby	%	Talk Me Down	%	Easy	%
Orientational	5	29%	6	18.2%	0	0%
Ontological	3	17.64%	15	45.4%	9	40.9%
Structural	9	52.9%	12	36.3%	13	59.1%
Total	17	100%	33	100%	22	100%

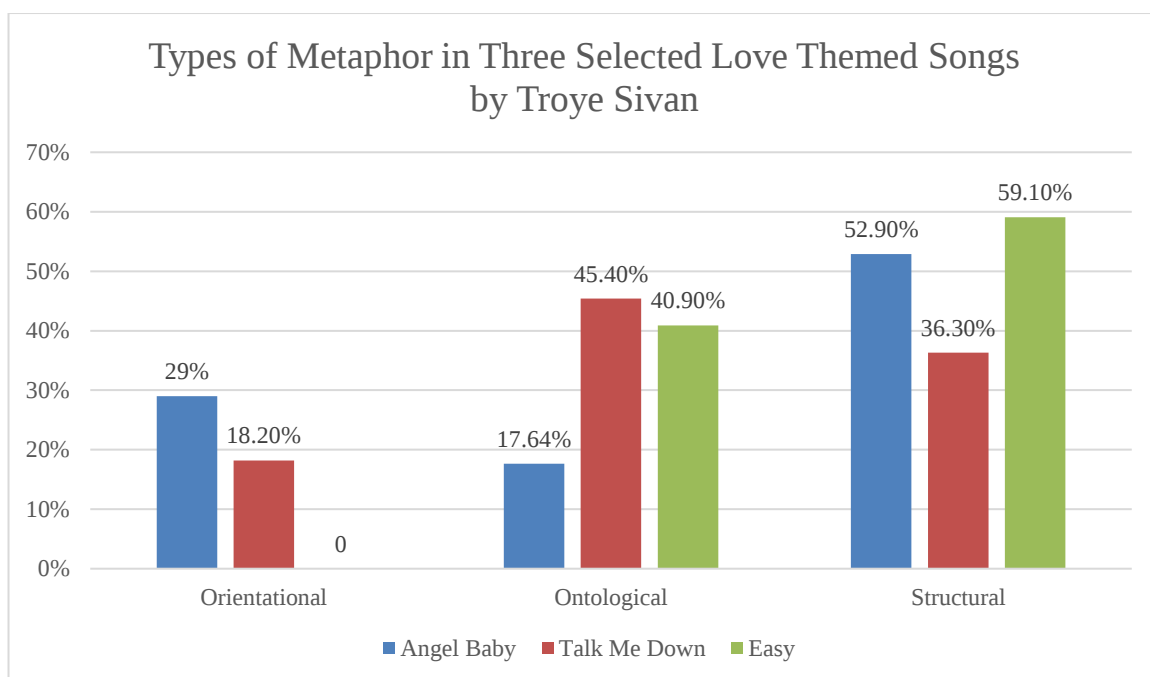


Figure 1. Types of Metaphor based on three selected songs

Table 1 and figure 1 show how the data distribution in three selected songs by Troye Sivan, with the same theme, Love. This shows how structural and ontological metaphor dominated the findings. It means that Love is not only seen as the journey, but in these three selected songs, love is portrayed as home, destination, room and the light. It takes the shape that metaphor is language feature to express the fear of loss, the hope, and the security. Love as a room is the other form of security where someone feels safe from the outside world. Although in some cases it is suffocating, love is the other form of being self after struggling to chase the dream. Therefore, someone is afraid of losing this security.

Table 2. The example of metaphor in three song lyrics Intro Part.

Song Tittle	Lyrics Segment	types of metaphors	Literal meaning	Methaphorical meaning	Emotional/ Social Implication
Angel Baby	I need a lover to keep me sane	ontological	The speaker needs someone to maintain his mental stability.	Love is portrayed as a remedy for emotional instability.	Shows emotional dependence and the healing power of affection.
Talk Me Down	And I wanna come home to you but home is just a room full of my safest sounds	Structural And Ontrological	feel like someone is the most comfortable home to come home to	They long for genuine emotional closeness with someone.	emotionally feel safer with people who are considered home
Easy	You ran away to find something to	ontological	One person withdraws to find clarity; the	This is a picture of how	Depicting a very vulnerable dynamic,

say I went astray to make it okay And he made it easy,	narrator acts out in confusion to cope with the loss;	a relationship ends	where honesty has been replaced by escape strategies
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In the intro to the song "Angel Baby," in the lyrics "I need a lover to keep me there," the metaphor used is an ontological metaphor, where emotions or mental states are treated as something that can be "handled" by a concrete object (in this case, a lover). This sentence literally means that the speaker needs someone to maintain their sanity. But metaphorically, love is positioned as a tool for emotional healing. This is not just a simple romantic need, but a deep psychological need. The emotional implications are quite powerful. It demonstrates emotional dependence, in which their happiness and stability are strongly tied to another person's presence. Socially, this also reflects how romantic relationships are often perceived as "saviors" from loneliness or life's stresses.

In the intro to "Talk Me Down," the lyric "And I want to come home to you, but home is just a room full of my safest sounds" contains two types of metaphors: structural and ontological. In structural metaphor, the concept of "home" is used to represent an emotional connection or sense of safety. Meanwhile, ontological metaphor expresses abstract experiences (loneliness, comfort) are treated as something with a physical form ("room," "sounds"). Literally, the speaker longs to come home to someone, but in reality, he or she is alone in a room, alone with familiar sounds. Metaphorically, "home" is no longer a physical place, but a feeling of security allegedly provided by others.

In the intro of the song "Easy," "You ran away to find something to say / I went astray to make it okay / And he made it easy," the metaphor used is an ontological one, because the emotional experience (conflict, confusion, escape) is treated as a physical act such as "running" or "straying." Literally, each party in the relationship requires different actions. The first is that one person walks away to find an apology, the other "gets lost" as a coping mechanism, and then a third person appears who makes matters easier. However, metaphorically, this describes a relationship breakdown that occurs slowly and implicitly. There is no major confrontation—only avoidance, escapism, and unhealthy emotional compromise.

Table 3. The example of metaphor in three song lyrics in Verse 1 Part.

Song title	Lyrics Segment	Types Of Metaphor	Literal meaning	Metaphorical meaning	Emotional/Social Implication
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Angel Baby	Give him my all when I don't even have it	Ontological	Giving everything despite personal emptiness.	Metaphor for self-sacrifice and vulnerability in love.	Reflects unconditional devotion despite emotional exhaustion.
Talk Me Down	Cause you know that I can't trust myself with my 3 AM shadow I'd rather fuel a fantasy than deal with this alone	Structural	A person who is overthinking in the middle of the night chooses to escape into fantasy so that he doesn't have to feel the pain of facing reality alone.	A person feels his mind is unstable when he is alone so he intentionally indulges in imagination to avoid feeling alone.	Emotionally, this is a portrait of an identity crisis and severe loneliness.
Easy	I'm still in love, and I say that because I know how it seems, between you and me	Ontological	I still love you, and I have to say that because I realize how bad or strange our relationship is.	This sentence describes love that persists even though logically it should have ended.	There is a huge sense of vulnerability. He knew he looked weak for still holding on, but he couldn't lie to his feelings.

In verse 1 of the song "Angel Baby," the lyric "Give him all when I don't even have it" employs an ontological metaphor, treating abstract states like emotional energy and personal capacity as if they were "something" to be given. Literally, this sentence suggests that the speaker is giving everything away, even if they have nothing left. However, metaphorically, it illustrates extreme self-sacrifice in love, where one continues to give even when emotionally empty.

The deeper meaning suggests that love is no longer healthy but rather drains one's identity and well-being. Giving "all" is no longer a form of unbalanced affection, but a form of self-loss. Emotional and social impacts: This reflects unconditional devotion mixed with emotional fatigue. Socially, this often occurs in unequal relationships, where one party continues to give without receiving compensation for emotional recovery.

In verse 1 of the song "Talk Me Down," with the lyrics "Cause you know that I can't believe myself with my 3 AM shadow / I'd rather fuel a fantasy than deal with this alone," the metaphor used is a structural metaphor. "3 AM shadow" represents a dark mental state, filled with anxiety and overthinking. "Fuel a fantasy" describes escaping into an imagined world as a coping mechanism. Literally, the speaker feels incapable of trusting himself when alone at night and chooses to imagine rather than face reality. Metaphorically, midnight thoughts are treated as dangerous and unstable, so reality must be "replaced" with fantasy to remain

emotionally afloat.

Verse 1 of Easy Lyric's song, "I'm still in love, and I say that because I know how it seems, between you and me," uses an ontological metaphor, as the feeling of love is treated as something that remains "present" and persists even though the situation is no longer logical. Literally, the speaker admits that they still love someone, even as they realize their relationship seems bad or unreasonable. Metaphorically, love here becomes a form of resistance to reality—something that remains even when the relationship is damaged.

Table 3. The example of metaphor in three song lyrics in Chorus Part.

Song title	Lyrics Segment	Types Of Methaphor	Literal Meaning	Metaphorical Meaning	Emotional/Social Implication
Angel Baby	You came out the blue on a rainy night	Ontological	Someone arrived unexpectedly.	Love appears suddenly during dark times.	Love as an unpredictable yet transformative event.
Talk Me Down	but that's all I wanna do right now so come over now and talk me down (talk me down)	Orientational	the feeling of wanting to be accompanied, therefore asking someone who is considered a safe place to come immediately.	Being lost in feelings of fear and needing someone else to remind you of reality, such as calming someone down (such as persuading).	This indicates that the speaker has lost the ability to self-soothing and is in a state of mental emergency.
Easy	Burning the tears right off my face what the heel did we do? Tell me we'll make it through	Structural and Ontological	emotions so overwhelming that tears poured down my face, asking what terrible mistake I had made.	This is a metaphor for the intensity of pain. Tears are usually cold and symbolize sadness, but "burning" indicates that sadness has turned into anger, destruction, or trauma.	There is a deep sense of shock that suggests rejection mixed with a faint hope that at this time there is a need to hear a comforting lie rather than a devastating truth.

In the chorus of Angel Baby, the lyrics “You came out of the blue on a rainy night” are categorized as an ontological metaphor, because abstract experiences (falling in love and emotional encounters) are treated as physical entities or events that “appear.” Literally,

someone arrives suddenly. However, metaphorically, phrase “Out of the blue” means unexpectedness and “Rainy night” means a gloomy or sad emotional state. The conceptual meaning is LOVE AS AN EVENT, where love is understood as an event that appears without human control. In terms of emotional and social impacts, love is represented as a transformative event—coming unexpectedly, but capable of transforming a dark emotional state into a hopeful person. This shows how individuals often interpret love as something that “rescues” them in times of vulnerability.

In the chorus of “Talk Me Down,” the lyrics “come over now and talk me down” are an orientational metaphor, as emotional states are understood through spatial orientation (up-down). “Down” represents a peaceful/stable state. The previous state is assumed to be “high” as a state of panic, anxiety, or loss of control. Literally, it is asking for someone to come and quiet him down. Metaphorically, this suggests that emotions are understood as positions in space, and another person is necessary to “lower” the intensity. The deeper meaning of this is that it explains a condition in which an individual has lost the ability to self-regulate, thus requiring external intervention. In terms of emotional and social impacts, this is not simply romanticism, but has entered the realm of mental health support. The relationship has moved from love to a psychological stabilization mechanism. Thus, it emphasizes that the highest form of affection is not passion, but rather the ability to provide a sense of security and reassurance.

In the chorus of “Easy,” the lyric “Burning the tears right off my face, what the hell did we do? Tell me we’ll make it through” contains both structural and ontological metaphors. Ontologically, emotions are treated as physical objects (tears that “burn”). Structurally, relationships are understood as crises or disasters that must “get through.” In literal meaning, this explains intense crying accompanied by regret. Metaphorically, the phrase “Burning tears” has meaning of the transformation of sadness into anger, trauma, or extreme pain. Meanwhile, “What did we do?” means a collective consciousness of destruction and “Making it through” could mean relationships as a crisis-filled journey. In deeper meaning, this is a condition in which individuals are torn between awareness of destruction and a refusal to fully accept reality. In emotional and social impacts, there is intense shock, guilt, and depression. The request “tell me we’ll make it through” demonstrates the need for a comforting illusion—a lie that soothes, because the truth is too painful to face. This reflects a psychological state in which hope is maintained even though reality has collapsed.

Discussion

Love as Loyalty and Emotional Labor

The metaphors presented in the Intro establish the emotional tone of the song by depicting love as both redemptive and psychologically restorative. In Addition, love is personified as an external force that restores mental balance, grounding the song in themes of vulnerability and emotional dependence (Cheng et al., 2024). Within contemporary cultural discourse, such use of spiritual imagery reinforces the notion that intimate relationships can serve as sources of redemption and inner stability, emphasizing love's capacity to heal, sustain, and restore the human emotional condition (Kallio et al., 2024).

Thematically, these metaphors encapsulate both loyalty and emotional labor within romantic bonds. Love is portrayed as an act of giving that may lead to personal depletion, yet such surrender is framed as meaningful and affirming rather than destructive. In a wider social sense, these expressions contribute to the normalization of emotional openness and vulnerability in intimate relationships. By portraying sensitivity and self-giving as integral to affection, the lyrics position emotional honesty as a fundamental component of deep and authentic human connection (Han et al., 2024).

From a psychological perspective, these metaphors reflect universal human experiences of susceptibility, uncertainty, and fear of emotional disconnection. By translating internal turmoil into concrete imagery, the lyrics enable listeners to connect to the process of emotional recovery. Socially, this representation of raw emotional states supports the normalization of emotional openness in contemporary popular music. Through such metaphors, Sivan challenges restrictive norms of emotional restraint by emphasizing that sensitivity and vulnerability are essential components of authentic love and meaningful connection (Kallio et al., 2024).

Love and Its Paradox of Freedom

Metaphors applied in these three songs, captures the paradox of love as both transient and deeply desired to be enduring (Cheng et al., 2024). From a sociocultural perspective, these metaphors present intimacy as emotionally profound and ethically meaningful, encouraging empathy and emotional resonance by aligning romantic affection with ideals of care, devotion, and spiritual elevation (Cao & Zhang, 2023). These metaphors ground love in daily practices of care and connection, portraying intimacy as something cultivated through consistency, trust, and

emotional openness (Han et al., 2024). From a sociological perspective, these metaphors present romantic intimacy as relatable, domestic, and emotionally authentic. By foregrounding tender gestures, ordinary moments, and mutual trust, the lyrics situate love within a universal framework of human relational experience. This normalization of relational closeness encourages listeners to recognize the shared emotional foundations that underpin intimate relationships across diverse social contexts. In this way, the metaphors expand the cultural imagination of love, emphasizing empathy, care, and emotional reciprocity as central values in contemporary understandings of romance (Cordoba-Silva et al., 2024).

Through this imagery, Sivan combines theological symbolism with human emotion, presenting love as both transcendental and embodied. Such framing aligns romantic intimacy with moral virtue, reinforcing its ethical and spiritual depth within the narrative of the song (Cao & Zhang, 2023). As a result, the song transforms spiritual symbolism into a medium for exploring reconciliation between faith, morality, and human affection, demonstrating how music can serve as a space for ethical reflection and emotional meaning-making in contemporary society (Vytniorgu, 2024). By returning to this imagery, Sivan binds the narrative threads of devotion, transcendence, and emotional salvation introduced earlier in the song, creating a cyclical structure that reflects the continuous nature of emotional renewal. This phrase elevates love to a symbolic exchange in which selflessness and mutual giving represent the highest forms of relationship. As a result, the Outro becomes a moment of reflective closure, marked by serenity and gratitude, signifying acceptance after turmoil and underscoring the idea that emotional trials can lead to healing, redemption, and a sense of inner wholeness that transcends suffering (Vytniorgu, 2024). Overall, Sivan constructs a narrative that emphasizes emotional dependence, commitment, and the pursuit of meaningful connections while engaging with shared human experiences. His songwriting thus functions as both lyrical artistry and cultural reflection, blending emotional authenticity with broader interpretations of intimacy and relational values (Kallio et al., 2024).

In summary, Troye Sivan strategically employs figurative language to convey emotional intensity, vulnerability, and relational intimacy while simultaneously engaging with wider social meanings (Vytniorgu, 2024). The metaphors of angels, rebirth, sacrifice, and attentiveness work collectively to idealize romantic devotion, illuminate complex emotional experiences, and construct a cohesive cultural narrative about love and endurance. This confirms that Sivan's songwriting operates on multiple levels, integrating artistic expression, emotional resonance, and social commentary, and reinforcing the central role of metaphor in forming meaning within contemporary popular music.

CONCLUSION

Troye Sivan skillfully employs metaphors to convey emotional vulnerability, redemption, and relational affirmation, transforming a personal love song into a profound expression of human connection. Through recurring imagery—such as love as a saving force that pulls one from "hell," rebirth through angelic intervention, and sacrificial devotion symbolized by "giving up heaven"—the song portrays affection as a transformative power capable of healing inner turmoil and restoring a sense of purpose. These metaphors illuminate the speaker's journey from despair to emotional renewal while underscoring universal themes of longevity, trust, and the desire for permanence within intimate relationships.

On a social level, Sivan's figurative language reclaims spiritual and domestic imagery to frame love as morally significant, emotionally authentic, and worthy of reverence. By combining psychological depth with symbolic devotion, the song presents vulnerability not as weakness but as a source of strength that enables genuine intimacy. As reflected in the song's structure, it demonstrates how metaphor in contemporary music can bridge personal catharsis with broader cultural reflection.

Finally, Sivan's lyrics affirm that love functions as a redemptive force capable of transcending emotional pain and fostering healing. This analysis highlights the lasting power of metaphor in popular music, not only as a poetic device but also as a means of articulating shared emotional experiences and social values. In doing so, those three songs exemplify how metaphor can function as a catalyst for emotional resonance and cultural understanding within modern musical discourse. For the next research, the analysis of discourse in music can compare how different singers or song writers convey their views of love in their song lyrics. The analysis of the music videos is also valuable in deriving the hidden meanings of songs semiotically as overall discourse which become the limitation of this study.

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