



## Original Article

### The Expressive Utterances Found in The Song “Love You Like a Love Song” by Selena Gomez

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#### Abstract:

The study discussed the analysis of expressive utterances found in the lyrics of the song "Love You Like a Love Song" by Selena Gomez and became one of the hits in the music world. This song is known not only for its catchy melody and rhythm, but also for its expressive lyrics full of emotional expressions. The purpose of this study is to examine whether there is a match between song lyrics and the expressive expressions conveyed. The research used descriptive qualitative, namely by analyzing the text and contextual approach to understand the meaning of song lyrics and their effect on listeners. The results of the analysis of expressive utterances in the lyrics show their suitability with the theme of the song and the communicative purpose of conveyed true love. The conclusion of the study is to provide an overview of how the lyrics of the song describe feelings of love expressively through the used of symbolic words and melodies that touch the heart.



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**Keywords:** Expressive Utterances, Song Lyrics, Love You Like a Love Song.

#### Introduction

Pragmatics is a science that studies utterances and their meanings according to their context. In pragmatics, it can relate to conclusions drawn from listeners and readers, or it can also be drawn from when someone speaks or writes, then invites other people to draw these conclusions. The function of pragmatics itself is to use it to understand the meaning of someone's speech and relate it to the context of the speech. As stated by [Yuliana et al., \(2022\)](#). Pragmatics is closely related to the results of speech between speaker and listener or writer and reader. In this case, pragmatics is the skill of using language according to both the speaker and the listener to capture the topic of conversation, purpose, situation and place where the conversation takes place. Pragmatics is also very helpful in communication or interaction activities in certain contexts, and according to the situation or conditions. Meanwhile, based on the opinion of [USO et al., \(2023\)](#). Pragmatics involves understanding how language meaning is influenced by factors such as the communication situation, the relationship between speaker and interlocutor, and shared assumptions that exist in the communication context.

Humans are lived beings who react or respond to something that happened to humans themselves. The respond can be a facial expression or an action. Like when you see a close friend being hit by a disaster, for sure as fellow human beings who are mutually involved and involved in that scope, they will also grieve and offer their condolences by mourning. Based on the opinion of [Castillo-Huitrón et al., \(2020\)](#) People express their feelings and attitudes towards other people. For example, thanking, congratulating, apologizing, condolences, regretting, welcoming, likes, dislikes, pain, joy, happy, sadness, etc. There are also several actions the people can take to express feelings through songs. Which is where musicians communicate thoughts or feelings through song works. For example, the high notes in a melody could represent joy or joy, while the low notes could indicated sadness or sorrow.

Utterance has the same important role as language, namely in communication between humans and one another and has a context that can influence understanding in communication ([Syafii et al., 2023](#)). The meaning of communication will be interpreted according to the context. Interpreting the context of this utterance can help the speaker to convey the message and the listener to understand it. Therefore, the speaker and listener must provide the same information or knowledge in order to minimize the risk of misunderstanding when communicating. Context can help someone to build an understanding of the speaker. According to research conducted [Al Farizi et al., \(2023\)](#). The function of utterance is almost the same as the function of language, namely as a means of communication between humans, which is very closely related to pragmatics, because language is not only used as a means of communication, which is a need for every human being, but is also used as a tool which has the function of giving a message to the listener.

Utterance contain a person's actions in communicating which are carried out directly or indirectly through words, phrases or other things with the aim of providing information about the occurrence of certain events and can also contain illocutions to influence the interlocutor. Utterance are a branch of pragmatics which is related to language in society. Based on the opinion of [Safitri & Mulyani \(2021\)](#). Utterance that contain illocutionary intent or force and influence the interlocutor or listener and can be in the form of sounds, words, phrases, sentences or utterances that have a specific intent and influence the listener. Utterance are also units of analysis in the study of pragmatics, such as phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses and sentences in structural linguistics. Apart from that, speech acts are not only carried out in one direction, but there are also responses by the listener. As expressed by [Budiman & Sumarlam \(2021\)](#). Utterance are communication between speakers and speech partners representing various kinds of social activities using language in a discourse. This, of course, does not only stop at one-way communication, but also at two-way communication, there is the original utterance and the following response or response to the utterance.

The expressive speech made by the speaker has the aim of expressing one's own condition regarding the feelings one is experiencing, be it pleasant, anxious or sad feelings that one is experiencing or has experienced. Based on the opinion of [Rohmawati & Diding, \(2021\)](#). Expressive speech can be synthesized into eleven functions, including: apologizing, thanking, congratulating, sympathizing, praising, complaining, sarcasm, criticizing, accusing, blaming, and condolences. Expressing feelings, either directly or indirectly, is a natural action and a natural thing for humans to do. Therefore, as a human being who has the title of being a social creature, it is important to share stories or experiences with each other so that listeners can learn from them in order to become a

better person. There are so many things that the speaker can do to express himself, which can be done directly through communication between two or more people, can be done through written media in the form of a novel or diary, can also be done through song lyrics, or anything else.

Expressive utterances in music and sound arts is a powerful form of communication without used direct words. Through the used of elements such as melody, rhythm, harmony, vocal intonation, and certain vocal techniques, musicians can convey feelings and emotions to listeners. The definition of expressive utterances in the context of music includes the ways in which musicians communicate their thoughts or feelings through their works. For example, the high notes in a melody could represent joy or joy, while the low noted could indicate sadness or sorrow. The role of emotion is also very important in expressing expression through music. The emotions that a singer feels while singing a song can be reflected in his vocal intonation and provide an additional dimension to the interpretation of the lyrics. Vocal technique is also an important factor to increase emotional expression in singing. The use of vibrato, sound waves that occur when singing with certain sound vibrations, legato technique for created a smooth melodic flow, and dynamics or volume differences are some examples of vocal techniques used to reinforce emotional expressions.

Everyone will definitely express themselves verbally or in writing in response to an event that occurs in their life. Started from feelings of sadness, disappointment, anger, happiness, confusion, surprise, and so on. Several explanations of various expressions of a person's expressions according to [Muhajirah et al., \(2021\)](#). Namely the first, an expression of the emotion of love or affection which contains an outpouring of feelings of love or affection for someone, be it a woman or a man, between family, friends or companions, conveyed through speech or writing containing an expression of affection. Second, the emotional expression of admiration which contains feelings of wonder, amazement and astonishment which can be conveyed through writing or expressions or someone's facial expressions. Third, the emotional expression of pride which contains an outpouring of feelings of pride, feeling brave because of having an advantage which is conveyed through writing or expression to someone. Fourth, expressions of happy emotions which contain the outpouring of happy feelings felt by someone which is conveyed through expressions or words that represent those happy feelings. Lastly, the emotional expression of surprise which contains the outpouring of feelings of shock and surprise felt by someone which can be conveyed through facial expressions, expressions or words that represent these feelings of surprise. By expressing the feelings that a person feels, indirectly it is a form of communication that can make other people understand what situation is happening and being experienced.

#### Song

A song consists of a series of song lyrics that are strung together in a continuous manner and then sung to the accompaniment of the song, so that it can produce a literary work that contains a person who is expressing something they are experiencing, it can also contain a person's view of regarding something, etc. Therefore, songs that are usually sung by everyone on every occasion contain a moral message or have a deep meaning contained in them. Based on the opinion of [Hanif \(2023\)](#). As a result of literary works that can express things that have been experienced by someone, thought patterns, emotions, ideas, passions, beliefs that embody the form of real images and create interest in language media. The song contains a deep meaning that the songwriter as a speaker tries to express to his listeners who are called speech partners. To find out the meaning of a song lyric, you

can use linguistics, because language has an important role in conveying the message of a song lyric.

Songs can be interpreted as sound art combined with musical instruments. According to the opinion of [Tamnge et al., \(2021\)](#). A song is an artistic arrangement of sequential tones or sounds, namely combinations and temporal relationships accompanied by musical instruments, to produce a musical composition that has unity and continuity containing rhythm. Songs are not only sung solo. As said by [Putri & Sulanjari \(2021\)](#). The songs can be sung solo, sung in pairs of two people or duets, in pairs of three people or trios, and can also be sung in groups or choruses. Song has an important role as an expressive medium because it is able to convey messages and emotions effectively. Through a combination of lyrics, melody, harmony, and the right used of musical instruments, songs can affect the mood of the listener. The communicative function of music in conveying emotional messages mainly occurs through lyrical texts and vocal intonation. Lyric text contains the meaning of words that can stimulate the imagination and evoke certain feelings in the listener. Singer vocal intonation can also provide additional nuances to the interpretation of lyrics, such as emphasizing or separating important words to increase the power of expression. In addition, songs often use symbolic language in conveying self-expression. The use of metaphors or figures of speech in lyric texts can create strong mental images in the minds of listeners and help them feel the emotion the songwriter wants to convey.

In this study used text analysis and contextual methods to understand the meaning of the lyrics and their impact on listeners. Analyzing expressive speech in songs contributed to one's understanding of how music functions as an artistic medium to effectively convey complex emotional messages related to psychological aspects related to interpretation and acceptance. Song is an art form that has the power to convey messages and emotions to listeners. In songs, expressive utterances are often used to describe personal feelings and experiences. One example of a song that uses expressive expressions is "Love You Like a Love Song", because the song is popular and the lyrics contain with symbolic words and metaphors to describe love. In songs, musical elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and lyrics are harmoniously combined to create a unique listening experience. Based on the opinion ([Haryandri, 2020](#)). In music can find several elements, including melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo, dynamics and musical form. In composing a piece of music, of course there is a way or pattern for arranging musical elements. Apart from that, based on the idea of creation, the composition of musical works is divided into two types, namely absolute music and program music.

The novelty of this research is that the research object is the song "Love You Like a Love Song" which has never been studied before. The research carried out, namely by analyzing expressive utterances on the meaning of songs, it is to provide knowledge that not all songs have harmony between the lyrics sung and the rhythm. Most people just listen to songs without trying to understand the expressive expressions of various songs. Therefore, sometimes we sing with a happy tone, but with deep expressive expressions of pain. The song chosen in this research is one of Selena Gomez's works entitled "Love You Like A Love Song". This song is a very popular song among young people, because the choice of vocabulary in the song lyrics seems easy to read and remember. Even though this song was released in 2011, in fact it is still popular today and many people still play this song in several cafes or while traveling by car.

## Methods

### 1. Preparatory stage

In this session, start by searched and listened to popular songs from Selena Gomez. The next is try to find out the theme and try to understand what expressive emotions are contained in it. In this research, used pragmatics as a benchmark for searching for more accurate data. Also looked for other sources from existing journals related to the title of the research taken. Like research conducted by [Hutabarat et al., n.d.](#) This preparation stage begins by looked for the title of the topic to be researched, then looked for theories related to the topic to be researched, namely, psycholinguistics, language accompanied by emotions in expressing oneself and looking for sources from journals related to the research title.

### 2. Data Collection Stage

The object of this research is the lyrics of the song "Love You Like A Love Song" by Selena Gomez, which contained figurative language and has the theme of falling in love. Several types of figurative language have different meanings, including hyperbole, metaphor, personification and repetition. The data collection technique is to group expressive emotions in the song lyrics found. Like the data collection taken by [Azis & Yuwita \(2023\)](#). Namely by grouping documents related to the issues discussed, both websites and several sources, journals, books and archives. The steps for data collection that have been carried out are as follows:

- a. Choose the most popular song from Selena Gomez, namely "Love You Like A Love Song"
- b. Read song lyrics from the AZLyrics website because this website only focuses on song lyrics
- c. Choose words or sentences related to expressive speech by reading each lyric carefully with pragmatics studied
- d. Record data related to the meaning of expressive speech by searching for words or sentences in the song lyrics then writing them in Microsoft Word
- e. Arrange data based on classification using tables in Microsoft Word.

### 3. Data Analysis

The research used qualitative descriptive research. The research seeks to gain an in-depth understanding of expressive expression in music and sound arts, by observing and listening to song lyrics repeatedly. Data was collected in the form of facial expressions, vocals, physiological changes, emotional actions and body movements in expressing emotions of being in love. Researchers also used of symbolic language, metaphors, or figures of speech in the lyric text which can influence the emotional expression of the song. Based on the opinion of [Ramadan & Azizah \(2023\)](#). The descriptive method used methods of observing and listening to data repeatedly. Meanwhile, the opinion of [Pelata et al., \(2023\)](#). The qualitative descriptive method is a research method based on postpositivism philosophy for researching natural objects and a researcher will be the key technical instrument. In connection with the opinion of [Betari et al., \(2023\)](#). The qualitative descriptive method means that the researcher will explain the data obtained thoroughly. Therefore it can be underlined that this method can produce a coherent description of data and has broad meaning, because it is obtained comprehensively. The case study used in this research is to study certain phenomena in detail through textual and contextual analysis of the selected songs. Contextual analysis is carried out to understand the social, cultural and historical context behind the song.

## Results

### Introduction to the Song and its Context

The song entitled "Love You Like A Love Song" is one of the most popular pop songs by Selena Gomez and The Scene in 2011 as one of the famous singles from Selena Gomez & the Scene's third studio album entitled "When the Sun Goes Down". The song was written by Adam Schmalholz, Antonina Armato, Tim James and Thomas Sturges. Produced by Rock Mafia, the song features a combination of electronic sounds and elements of dance-pop music. The context of this song is about the feelings of someone who really loves their partner and expresses it through music or songs. This song conveys the message that true love can be expressed in creative and expressive ways. This gives the song upbeat energy as well as makes the listener feel emotionally connected. The song gained immense popularity on various international charts after its release.

### Identify Expressive Expressions in the Lyrics

#### (a). Happy Expressive Utterances

Table 1

Song Lyric	Expressive Utterances
Every beautiful thought's been already sung	The speaker feels happy that cannot be separated from the speaker's thoughts about the figure of his lover.
Your melody, will play on and on, with best	The speaker feels happy because can have a very special idol whose presence so dreams of.
You played through my mind like a symphony	The speaker thinking about beautiful moments about his idol because every time.

In the lyrics "Every beautiful thought's already sung," the speaker is expressing feelings of happiness that cannot be separated from his mind which is filled with images of his lover. Here, the speaker feels that all the beautiful thoughts that have ever existed have been sung, reflecting how deeply he feels for his lover so that every beautiful thought is always related to the person he loves. In another part, namely "Your melody, will play on and on, with the best," the speaker feels happiness because he has a very special idol, whose presence is highly coveted and irreplaceable. Meanwhile, in the lyrics "You played through my mind like a symphony," the speaker describes how he is silent and always thinks about the beautiful moments about his idol. Every time he thinks about his idol, the speaker feels deep happiness, as if his mind is filled with a beautiful symphony.

#### (b). Amazed Expressive Utterances

Table 2

Song Lyric	Expressive Utterances
You saved my life again	The speaker feels amazed to feel that his life has been saved and more colorful.
I've been set free There's no way to describe what you do to me	The speaker feels amazed at what his lover did to him and his life has changed drastically, so that the speaker can not longer speak.

In the lyrics "You saved my life again," the speaker feels amazed by his partner because his presence and support alone was enough to make him feel like his life was saved and more meaningful. This shows that his lover has a huge influence in the speaker's life, being able to provide support and love that makes him feel alive.

Meanwhile, in another part, "I've been set free, There's no way to describe what you do to me," the speaker feels freer in living his days and is able to do whatever he wants. This shows that the presence of his partner has freed the speaker from the shackles or limitations that he may have previously experienced.

(c). Proud Expressive Utterances

Table 3

Song Lyric	Expressive Utterances
No one compares, you stand alone	The speaker feels proud of his special lover because he has a strong nature and is able to stand alone.

In the lyrics "No one compares, you stand alone," the speaker feels proud of his lover who is so special and unrivaled because he has a strong nature and is able to stand alone, not dependent on anyone or anything to be measured or compared to. This reflects the speaker's belief in the uniqueness and specialness of his partner.

(d). Love or Affection Expressive Utterances

Table 4

Song Lyric	Expressive Utterances
You are beautiful Like a dream come alive, incredible A centerfold, miracle, lyrical	The speaker feels love and finds everything about his lover to be very beautiful.
I love you like a love song that's what you are A song that goes on and on	The speaker feels love for his lover and likens his lover's presence to a song. The speaker tell us that his mind and heart are only focused on his lover and he doesn't feel bored.

In the section "You are beautiful, Like a dream come alive, incredible, A centerfold, miracle, lyrical," the lyrics of this song reveal that the speaker is in love and thinks everything about his lover is very beautiful. This beauty is something that the speaker considers like a dream and looks magical. The speaker describes her lover as extraordinary, preamble-like, miraculous, and poetic. Meanwhile, in another part, "I love you like a love song," in the lyrics of this song, the speaker expresses his love for his lover and compares his lover's presence to a song. Lyrics that will not leave his mind and will continue to reverberate. Then, "that's what you are A song that goes on and on," the speaker tells us that his mind and heart are only focused on his lover. Thinking over and over again without ever getting bored. This shows that the speaker's love is so deep that the presence of his lover is like a song.

(e). Surprised Expressive Utterances

Table 5

Song Lyric	Expressive Utterances
I am hypnotized, by your destiny You are magical, lyrical, beautiful	The speaker feels surprised by all the changes that have occurred in himself and his life. The speaker also feels hypnotized by the charm of the positive aura he has, so that it really influences his life for the better.

First of all, the "I am hypnotized, by your destiny" part can be conveyed with "I'm

entranced by where you're headed" or "Your fate has me spellbound." Meanwhile, the part "You are magical, lyrical, beautiful" can be expressed as "You're enchanting, poetic, exquisite" or "You possess a captivating, poetic, and exquisite charm."

### **Analysis of Symbolic Meanings and Metaphors Contained in the Lyrics**

In Selena Gomez's song entitled "Love You Like A Love Song," there are elements of metaphor in the song lyrics used. Metaphor itself is the use of vocabulary or sentences that have meaning or meaning that is not literal. This was expressed by [Namira \(2023\)](#), who stated that metaphor is the use of words not with their actual meaning, but as a painting based on similarities or comparisons. In the lyrics of this song, there is the use of symbols and metaphors to support expressive expression. For example, the phrase "Like a love song" uses a musical metaphor to express how beautiful love is, as if love itself were a harmonious and touching song. The sentence "No one compares; you stand alone" illustrates that the partner is special and incomparable, using a metaphor to emphasize the uniqueness and specialness of the loved one. Through the use of symbols and metaphors in the lyrics, this song succeeds in expressing love in a creative and interesting way, making listeners feel the intensity and beauty of the love conveyed.

### **The emotional impact on listeners through the use of these expressions**

The use of expressive expressions in the song's lyrics can have a strong emotional impact on the listener. Through the words and metaphors used, this song succeeds in conveying the intensity of feelings of true love to its listeners. Phrases like "I love you like a love song, baby" can make listeners feel the warmth and happiness of love itself. Meanwhile, the sentence "There's no way to describe what you do to me" can evoke feelings of solemnity and appreciation for the uniqueness of the partner you love. Through the use of language full of emotion and symbolism, this song has the potential to create a deep emotional bond between the singer and the listener. This happens because the poetic and expressive lyrics are able to arouse universal feelings of love and happiness, so that every listener can feel and appreciate the meaning of every word sung.

### **Conclusion**

The expressive speech in the lyrics of the song "Love You Like a Love Song" shows that the expressions used are very appropriate to the theme of the song and its communicative purpose, namely conveying true love. This research provides a clear picture of how the song's lyrics describe feelings of love expressively through the use of symbolic words and a heart-touching melody. Phrases like "I, I love you like a love song, baby" successfully convey the intensity of strong and eternal feelings of love. Meanwhile, other expressions such as "And I keep hitting repeat-peat-peat-peat-peat" convey the message of wanting to continue experiencing beautiful moments with your partner. From this analysis, it can be concluded that the expressive speech in the song lyrics is effective in conveying the theme and communicative purpose, namely expressing true love with full feeling and emotional depth. Understanding music can be done through art that is centered on song lyrics which can be a powerful and creative means of expression to convey feelings of love. This can provide inspiration for artists to create works that contain deep emotional expressions. Understanding music can be done through the listener's emotional awareness, namely by using strong expressive and poetic expressions in the lyrics, the listener can feel the emotional impact of the song. Phrases like "I love you like a love song darling" are able to make listeners feel the warmth and happiness of love itself.



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