

ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE STYLE AND MEANING OF THE SONG "IMAGINE" BY JOHN LENNON

Dwi Andriani¹, Nia Kurniati², Sintania³, Anistya Pratama⁴
dwiandriani@unuha.ac.id¹, niakurniati@unuha.ac.id², Shintampa02@gmail.com³, anistya84@gmail.com⁴

Universitas Nurul Huda^{1,2,3,4}

Abstract. The song "Imagine," released by John Lennon in 1971, is one of the most famous and significant songs in contemporary music history. This song is considered a symbol of hope, peace, and unity. Using the literature review method, this research analyzes the language style and meaning of the word "Dream." The messages in this song are easily understood by various people due to its simple and open language style. By using repetition and anaphora, Lennon creates a calming effect that encourages listeners to contemplate a world without borders, conflict, and materialism. His lyrics challenge listeners to rethink the social constructs that cause inequality and conflict. Additionally, this analysis examines the sociopolitical context of the early 1970s, such as the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War. This provides important background for the message. Studies show that "Imagine" is not just a musical work it is a social critique and a utopian vision for a better future. The message of peace and hope in this song has inspired generation after generation.

Keywords: Language Style, Song Meaning, John Lennon Imagine

INTRODUCTION

Dialect fashion speaks to a person's character and identity. Usually since in utilizing dialect, each person has the opportunity to select words or lingual authority that contain certain implications, so that the purposeful of utilizing the dialect can be caught on by others (Hartini & Astuti, 2021). Literature is a human creation aimed at conveying emotions and concepts through writing and conversation. (Habibansyah, 2024). With an understanding of this literary work, we can delve deeper into the analysis of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon as a literary piece, exploring how the language style and themes in this song create a powerful message.

The song "Imagine" by John Lennon is one of the most symbolic songs related to peace and hope in modern music. Written in 1971, amidst social and political turmoil, the song has influenced several generations and continues to inspire people around the world. The melody and lyrics of the song "Simplicity" complement the philosophical and socio-political ideas expressed clearly and concisely. The purpose of this introduction is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the language and lyrics of the song, explaining how Lennon's artistic contributions have been reflected in its enduring relevance.

"Imagine" emerged during a tumultuous period marked by the Vietnam War, civil rights movements, and disillusionment that affected political organizations. The song "Imagine" is a work of art that continually inspires and provokes thought, with its lyrics about unity, peace, and the dismantling of materialism having gained worldwide recognition.

The style of "Imagine" is renowned for its clarity, honesty, and accessibility. The word "imagine," used in several lines at the beginning, serves as a rhetorical device, creating a hypnotic and meditative effect that encourages people to be open to the conceptual scenarios presented in the text. Another important theme in "Imagine" is the critique of materialism. In the lyrics "Imagine no Treasures / I wonder if you can," Lennon analyzes the value of material wealth and says that a world without possessions would bring greater equality and satisfaction. This theme aligns with the broader demands for peace and unity, which suggest that many societal conflicts are caused by the desire for material gain. (Liniswanti, 2021). It is very important to consider the socio-political context of the early 1970s if we want to truly appreciate "Dream." This song was released during the Vietnam War, civil rights protests, and protests against government policies. Deeply embedded in Lennon's lyrics is his campaign for peace and social transformation. "Imagine" reflects a response to the chaos of

that time and presents an optimistic vision of the future, conveying a message of unity amidst widespread disappointment (Uzer et al., 2023). The main idea, "imagine," explores philosophical and existential themes. Various hypothetical scenarios, each beginning with a request to "pay." These scenarios depict a world without the traditional separators of religious sources, national wealth, and conscience. Through these actions, Lennon invites his listeners to continue the social construction that reduces conflict and inequality. Lennon encourages listeners to continue the social construction that reduces conflict and inequality. the highlight of this song is the collective consciousness that creates a more harmonious and peaceful world.

The opening lines, "Imagine there's no heaven / It's easy if you try," set the main theme of the song to reshape our world. By proposing the absence of an afterlife, Lennon empowers the focus and rejection of pious authoritarian opinions that can isolate humanity. These values are reiterated in the lines, "Imagine all the people / Living for today." Here, Lennon emphasizes the importance of living in the present and fostering a sense of international community. Lennon also addresses the concept of patriotism with the line, "Imagine there's no countries / It isn't hard to do." By envisioning a world without borders, he advanced the idea of unity and international participation. This vision is skillfully conveyed in the refrain, "You may say I'm a dreamer / But I'm not the only one / I hope someday you'll join us / And the world will live as one." The redundancy of "the world will be one" reinforces Lennon's vision of a world community bound together. Realisme, another source of division, is criticized in the line, "Imagine no possessions / I wonder if you can." Lennon questions the value placed on material wealth and suggests that a world without possession would foster greater uniformity and satisfaction.

The idea aligns with the broader theme of the song about peace and harmony, which suggests that many social conflicts stem from materialistic interests. To fully appreciate "Envision," it is important to consider the socio-political context of its creation. The early 1970s were a period of notable change and activism, with developments supporting civil rights, peace, and social justice. Lennon's activism and his honest views on these issues are deeply embedded in the lyrics of the song. "Imagine" can be seen as a reflection and reaction to the chaos of that era, promoting a vision of hope and solidarity in the face of widespread frustration.

This research uses the literature review method because it allows for an in-depth analysis of various relevant and credible written sources, enabling a deeper understanding of the language style and meaning of John Lennon's song "Imagine". First, this research collects literature. These sources include books, journal articles, and other publications that discuss linguistic styles in music, the sociopolitical context of the early 1970s, and the song "Imagine".

In conclusion, John Lennon's "Imagine" may be an impressive blend of candor and meaning. Its clear dialect and somber structure make it accessible to many, while its themes of peace, solidarity, and rejection of realism challenge viewers to imagine a better world. The enduring legacy of the song may be a testament to its control and relevance, making it a timeless anthem for those who dream of a more peaceful and pleasant world. Through an in-depth investigation of its style and dialectical meaning, we can gain a deeper understanding of why "Envision" continues to resonate and echo in the hearts of people around the world. We can appreciate the depth and complexity of "Imagine" as a work of literary and musical art through this analysis. The lasting impact of this song is due to its linguistic style, theme, and socio-political context. All these factors demonstrate John Lennon's genius as a writer and his commitment to peace and social justice (Fina Hiasa et al., 2023).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the literature review method because it allows for an in-depth analysis of various relevant and credible written sources. The literature review method consists of collecting books and journals from various sources, including national and international journals obtained from the Google Scholar database (Fadhilah et al., 2021). This provides a deeper understanding of the

language style and meaning of John Lennon's song "Imagine." First, this research collects previous literature. These sources include the song "Imagine," musical language styles, the sociopolitical context of the early 1970s, and journal articles. After the literature is collected, the next step is to analyze the text. This involves a thorough reading of the lyrics of the song "Imagine" to identify the elements of language style and literary techniques used by John Lennon. The use of repetition, anaphora, and imagery in the song's lyrics is of particular interest. Additionally, the literature review includes an analysis of published literary and music critiques regarding the song "Imagine." Opinions from various writers and experts about the language style and meaning of this song enhance the analysis and provide a deeper understanding. Finally, data analysis from various sources was conducted to gain a better understanding of the language style and meaning of the song "Imagine." This synthesis not only provides a comprehensive analysis but also suggests further research that could explore specific elements of this song or other works by John Lennon.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1.1. The meaning and signification of song image by john lenon

John Lennon's song "Imagine" is a potent hymn of peace, harmony, and optimism that appeals to listeners of all ages. This song's enduring appeal stems from both its message and its masterful language use, which has a significant effect on listeners. The subject of the research is figurative language from imagine song lyrics by John Lennon . The author uses language from a song by John lennon to imagine the meaning and meaning of each stanza of that song. The writer used the phrase from the lyrics of the song to help lang language. And through it, writing wanted to convey the words stored in the song to describe the feelings of the song's creator(Lennon, 2020).

Lennon's vocabulary is commonplace and his phrases are brief and straightforward. This conscious decision enables the song's message to be deeply resonant by making it easily accessible to a broad audience. The language's simplicity makes it easier for listeners to concentrate on the main idea, which increases the song's effect in communicating all of its meanings that are experienced, understood, and thought of by different people(Syahputra et al., 2022) The lyrical style of this song is the reason the researcher selected it. Despite being published in 1971, John Lennon's song "Imagine" is still well-liked today and is regarded as his greatest single of all time.(Ulya et al., 2021) Through the use of vivid imagery and metaphor, Lennon creates a potent vision of a society devoid of suffering and war. The phrases "no countries" and "nothing to kill or die for" offer a powerful visual depiction of a world free from violence and conflict. Since all people are interconnected, the metaphor "a brotherhood of man" emphasizes a sense of solidarity and shared duty. This song does a great job of depicting the world without any problems, implying that the world is one without any the ras and tribe differences and that the average person's life is filled with peace (Lennon, 2020).

Rhetorical questions are used in this song to directly engage the audience and promote reflection. It challenges listeners to reflect on their own convictions and goals. "You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one" Additionally, the song's wording emphasizes the song's message's aural quality over its content. The music becomes relatable and encourages listeners to actively engage with the message because of its personal appeal. acting as the main theme of the song and the emotional climax. The repetition of "Imagine" in the refrain reinforces the call to action, while the strong imagery of "all the people, living life in peace" evokes a sense of hope and possibility. The simplicity and clarity of the refrain make it easy to remember and contribute to the timeless impact of the song.(Habibansyah, 2024) Many interpretations of "imagine" have been made, reflecting shifts in the political and social climate. The song's central message of harmony and peace hasn't changed, but how it is interpreted has. Some see this song as a cry for social and economic justice, while others see it as a utopian vision of a society free from war. The song's enduring relevance stems from its capacity to inspire action and optimism in a variety of situations.

1.2. The Influence of the Song "Imagine" on the World of Music and Culture

The Influence of the Song "Imagine" on the World of Music and Culture
John Lennon's song "Imagine" has had a profound impact on popular culture and music, going beyond its popularity to become an international hymn for harmony and peace. Among other arts, music has developed its own distinct culture. It is present at all times in a culture wherever that culture evolves. The following are some ways that "Imagine" has changed the world:

1.3. A New Standard for Protest Songs: "Imagine" became a significant milestone in protest songs,

surpassing earlier protest songs, which frequently addressed particular political topics. The writer's intended message is communicated through the lyrics. Listeners of many backgrounds and ideologies can relate to its universal message of peace and harmony, which is encapsulated in a lovely melody and lyrics that are easy to remember. (Ramadhan et al., 2024)

1.4. Influence on Popular Music:

Impact on Popular Music: The song "Imagine" has been covered by a wide range of performers from pop vocalists to rock musicians to even classical musicians. The song "Imagine" frequently captures the societal trends and ways of living that are emerging. This song's lyrics, melody, and music videos can influence language, haircuts, fashion trends, and even conduct. For instance, streetwear fashion trends, eye-catching hairstyles, and unique lingo are frequently linked to hip-hop songs that express themes of freedom and revolt. This demonstrates the song's widespread appeal and impact in the music industry. Through digital channels, music has become an integral component of everyday life in this age of globalization and digitization. Around the world, millions of individuals have access to music. (Ramadhan et al., 2024)

1.5. Peace and optimism Symbol:

"Imagine" has gained international recognition as a symbol of peace and optimism. This song is frequently played on significant occasions including memorial services, nonviolent protests, and charity performances. For some social groups, the song's "image" might serve as a unifying factor. K-Pop fans are one example of a music fandom that frequently creates strong communities based on shared values, interests, and lifestyles. With its upbeat music and poignant lyrics, K-Pop songs have helped their listeners forge a strong sense of cultural identity. (Rita Zahra, 2022) asserts that tolerance is a necessary component of peace and a means of inspiring hope in the audience. "Imagine no religion" advocates for a society free from bloodshed and strife, which are frequently brought on by religious disagreements. This condemns the practice of using religion as a means of social control and manipulation.

1.6. Influence on Popular Culture

Influence on Popular Culture: With its appearances in numerous movies, TV series, ads, and artwork, "Imagine" has become a crucial component of popular culture. Even social movements and political campaigns have made use of this song. The song "Imagine" has infiltrated many nations and cultures, contributing to the legacy of pop music and extending the impact of American pop culture globally. This song in The world portrayed in the song is one in which all people are treated equally, irrespective of their socioeconomic standing, race, or religion. Traditional hierarchical structures that prioritize some groups over others are directly challenged by this.

1.7. A Sustainable Legacy

A Durable Legacy: "Imagine" still serves as an inspiration to activists and artists everywhere. This song is proof of the ability of music to bring people together and inspire constructive change. Many people remember and play the song "Image" over and over again, making it a part of the pop music legacy. This song serves as a reminder of past collective memories and has come to represent a particular era. Pop music and popular culture are significantly influenced by image as well. Inspired by science fiction movies, this song contributed to the synth-pop genre's rise in popularity.

Furthermore, Lennon's song "Imagine" has a lot of messages and meanings, some of which are as follows:

- 1.7.1 *Critique of Materialism:* According to some, "Imagine" is a scathing indictment of the fixation on material belongings as well as a film promoting peace. "No possessions, I

wonder if you can" demonstrates Lennon's belief that genuine happiness is found outside of financial prosperity. This reading is consistent with Lennon's subsequent anti-consumerism crusade.

- 1.7.2 *Thoughts on the Relationship Between John Lennon and Yoko Ono*: "Imagine" was written while Lennon was in love with Ono. According to some, this song captures their common vision of a society devoid of social constraints and the celebration of their unorthodox love. "Imagine" would not have been written without Ono, according to Lennon, who recognized her impact on the song.
- 1.7.3 *An Appeal for Individual Change*: "Imagine" might be read as a call for personal change in addition to the global ideal. By visualizing a world free from the constraints they have placed on themselves, this song challenges listeners to consider their own values and beliefs. This interpretation places a strong emphasis on the power of individual action and personal development. Criticism of Conventional Power systems: It is possible to read the words "No heaven above us, only sky" and "No religion too, I don't need it to believe in love" as a critique of conventional power systems, particularly those associated with religion. Lennon demonstrates that affection and love are more significant than mindless faith and dogma. The phrases "Imagine there's no heaven" and "Imagine no possessions" subtly attack religion and material belongings, which are frequently employed as means of limiting and controlling people. "Imagine no countries" conveys a criticism of nationalism and geographic borders that sow discord and division.

CONCLUSION

John Lennon's song "Imagine" provides proof of the potency of straightforward language and deep concepts. In the meantime, the language style employed can be understood as a word composition that originates from emotions that occur or exist within the author's heart, thereby arousing particular emotions in the listener's heart.(Ramadhan et al., 2024). This song successfully communicates its message of peace, unity, and optimism through the use of rhetorical questions, vivid imagery, repetition, and a powerful refrain. It has enduring appeal because it may speak to listeners on a global and personal level, encouraging them to imagine a better world and strive toward its realization. According to Adhani in the journal Setiawati, Ayu, Wulandari, and Putri stated that songs can be categorized as poetic discourse that has linguistic characteristics like other literary works.(Ramadhan et al., 2024).

Beyond just being a well-known song, "Imagine" has evolved into a universal representation of hope, harmony, and peace. This song is among the most influential pieces of music ever because of its broad influence in both music and popular culture. The song "Imagine" is a potent and significant hymn of peace and harmony that is still relevant today. This song challenges us to envision a better future and motivates us to strive toward making that vision a reality. "Imagine" is still one of the most well-known and cherished songs of all time, despite disagreements and varying interpretations. This is evidence of the ability of music to bring people together and spur constructive change. The song "Imagine" has had a significant impact on pop culture, shaping trends, values, and identities within society. Music has the power to inspire, unite, and even change someone's worldview.

In order to avoid being influenced by the negative messages in music, it is crucial to select songs with positive messages and good values and to enjoy music in moderation. Important to remember "Imagine" is a vision for a better future rather than a clear political program. The song's implied critique of power structures is up to interpretation. Instead of offering specific answers to the issues with power systems, the song focuses more on promoting a change in perspective and motivating listeners to envision a better future. Even though some people may view "Imagine" as naive, the song has had a significant impact and motivated many people to reconsider how power structures function in their lives.

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