

## SYNONYM OF CONVEYING EMOTIONS IN ALL TOO WELL'S LYRIC BY TAYLOR SWIFT

Oleh:

Atsiilah Najwaa Zalianty

STBA JIA

[atsiilahnajwaazalianty19@gmail.com](mailto:atsiilahnajwaazalianty19@gmail.com)

Abstrak

The purpose of this study is to find synonyms in the song "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift. Released on October 22, 2012, as part of the album Red, the song is famous for its emotional lyrics and deep loss. This research utilizes Cruse's (2000) theory from his book "*Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*". The writer uses a qualitative method to look for word similarities in the lyrics of "All Too Well." Through a detailed analysis, the author identified seven data that relate to synonymy. Near synonym is found in datum 1, datum 2, datum 3

Keywords : Synonym, All Too Well, Taylor Swift

### A. INTRODUCTION

Synonymy in lexical relation is the relationship between two or more words that have very similar or the same meaning. Saeed (2016, p.61) states different phonetic words with identical or very similar meanings are called synonyms, the following pairs could serve as some examples:

- couch/sofa
- boy/lad
- lawyer/attorney
- toilet/lavatory
- large/big

Analyzing synonyms in song lyrics helps us better understand how similar words can produce different meanings depending on how they are used and how the singer conveys messages and emotions in the song lyrics. Synonyms are often found in various forms of communication, such as speech and song lyrics. One example of a lyrical work that uses synonyms is the song "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift. This song was released on the album Red which has a pop and folk genre on October 22, 2012. The song is very popular

because of its poetic and emotional lyrics, describing feelings of nostalgia and deep heartbreak. With a long duration, the lyrics of this song convey a story full of emotions through its word choice. This research focuses on analyzing the lexical relationship of synonyms in the lyrics of the song "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift. Cruse (2000 pp. 157-160) divides synonyms into several types, namely:

### 1. Absolute synonymy

because the absolute synonymy refers to total identity of meaning, we must decide what is to be called meaning in order for the concept to have any content. Here, a method based on context will be used, where meaning is defined as anything that influences the contextual routine of lexical items in sentential contexts that are grammatically sound. In light of this, absolute synonyms are items that are equinormal in every situation. In other words, if two lexical items, X and Y, are to be considered absolute synonyms, then Y

is also fully normal in any situation where X is, and in any situation where X is slightly odd, Y is also slightly odd, and the same is true for Y in any situation when X is completely out of the ordinary. There are a few, if any, couples that meet this difficult condition. The difficulties of identifying obvious pairings of absolute synonyms—where "+" indicates "relatively more normal" and "-" indicates "relatively less normal"—will be illustrated by the following:

- Brave : courageous  
Little Billy was so brave at the dentist's this morning. (+)  
Little Billy was so courageous at the dentist's this morning. (-)
- calm:placid  
She was quite calm just a few minutes ago. (+)  
She was quite placid just a few minutes ago. (-)
- big:large  
He's a big baby, isn't he? (+)

He's a large baby, isn't he? (-)

- almost:nearly

She looks almost Chinese. (+)

She looks nearly Chinese. (-)

- die:kick the bucket

Apparently he died in considerable pain. (+)

Apparently he kicked the bucket in considerable pain. (-)

Items that are occasionally proposed as candidates for absolute synonymy and for which it is difficult to discover different contexts include sofa/settee and sweater/pullover. But even with these things, in a normal class, a good deal of students will encounter situations that they see as discriminatory. One thing is clear from this description: absolute synonyms are extremely uncommon and do not constitute a substantial aspect of natural vocabularies. The concept's special utility comes from its position as a reference point on an unreal

synonymy scale. As you can see, according to the criteria above, a pair of terms can be eliminated as absolute synonyms with just one differentiating situation. Only one of these situations would be suspicious, though, as one could easily question if the effect was a true semantic one unless there were at least one class of such contexts. Additionally, take note of the issue—which is not addressed here—of making sure that the same meaning unit is applied in each of the argument's contexts. And in addition the example and explanation took from Syahputri and Lubis (2021 ; as cited in Lisa Kusumawardani, 2024, p.115) in the sentence **"Orchid grasshoppers are useful for humans to eradicate pests in the form of insects."** Because they are completely synonymous or have the same meaning, useful terms can be substituted for one another. "Useful" means

"profitable," and "useful" implies "having a use." If the sentence's "useful" word is transformed to "useful," it turns into **"Orchid grasshoppers are useful for humans to eradicate pests in the form of insects"** without eliminating or modifying the sentence's meaning.

## 2. Propositional synonymy

As the name indicates, propositional synonymy can be described in terms of implication. Any expression with truth-conditional features can have two lexical items that are propositional synonyms substituted for one another without changing the truth-conditional properties. Stated if not two sentences that are mutually involving are those that differ only in that one contains one of a pair of propositional synonyms, while the other has the other member of the pair: She is going to play a violin concerto, which involves and is implicated by John purchasing a violin;

I heard him playing his violin; John purchased a fiddle; and I heard him playing his violin. She will perform a concerto on the violin. The fact that the violin and violin are not exact synonyms is demonstrated by the fact that the violin is more normal in the last example while the truth conditions remain the same.

## 3. Near-synonymy

Though decisions may be challenging in some cases, the line dividing propositional synonymy from near-synonymy is at least obvious in theory.

However, the distinction between near-synonymy and non-synonymy is significantly less clear-cut and the underlying premise of the distinction is unclear. It is important to make two points right away. First, language users possess the ability to discern between word pairs that are synonyms and those that are not. Even if the vast majority of the synonyms

provided by lexicographers in standard dictionaries do not qualify a propositional, absolute synonyms, nobody is perplexed by the contents of a dictionary of synonyms or by what they present as synonyms. The second argument is that simply saying that there is a semantic distance scale and that synonyms are words with similar meanings is enough. (This would account for the somewhat ambiguous lower limit of near-synonymy, as people seem to be unsure of what, for example, a tall man or an elderly woman is.). This is incorrect because the degree of synonymy and semantic closeness do not simply correlate. Two examples of backgrounded main differences are handsome ("male" presupposed) and pretty ("female" presupposed), both of which can be understood as "good-looking" in their propositional sense. The terms that arise are not synonymous when the

gender distinction is highlighted, as in man: woman. It is therefore challenging to explain why, in a given situation, we receive near-synonyms instead of fully contrasting terms. It's possible that contrastive terms arise in domains like technical and "expert" disciplines where conceptual distinctions have real behaviour consequences. There is still a lot of research to be done in the synonymy subject.

According to Kreidler (1998, p. 96)

- 6a Jack is a seaman.
- 6b Jack is a sailor.

If 6a is true, then 6b is true; if 6b is true, then 6a is true; and if both are wrong, then the other is false, assuming that Jack is referring to the same person in both phrases. This serves as the basis for proving that the terms seaman and sailor are synonymous: they have the same truth value when used in

predictions that rely on the same reference expression. Sentences 6a and 6b are paraphrases of each other, and the terms seaman and sailor are synonyms.

From the explanations of the three experts regarding synonyms, it can be concluded that synonyms are words that have identical or similar meanings, but their identification and classification are not always simple. Synonymy is divided into several types, namely absolute synonymy which is rarely found because it requires total identity of meaning in all contexts, propositional synonymy which can be interchanged without changing the truth of the sentence, and near-synonymy which shows similarity in meaning but with significant contextual differences. The difficulty in determining synonymy, especially in different contexts of use, shows that

word meanings are strongly influenced by context. Therefore, an understanding of synonymy requires an in-depth analysis of the context and usage of the word in the sentence.

## **B. RESEACRH OF METHOD**

### **1. Method of Research**

This research uses a qualitative method. The data in this study will focus on how a word in the lyrics creates a certain meaning and emotion in the lyrics of the song "All Too Well".

### **2. Time and Place of The Research**

This research was conducted at the author's home in North Tambun. With a period of 1 months from December 2024 to January 2025.

### **3. Setting of The Research**

Spotify serves as the research setting. The writer found the English lyrics in the lyrics section on spotify.

### **4. Technique of Data Collection**

The technique used in this research is involving listening and observing the lyrics in the All Too Well's song lyrics. Where the author chooses the object to be studied based on the

author's knowledge to research the data object.

#### 5. **Technique of Data Analysis**

After listening and observing the lyrics, the writer will determine the synonyms which are contained in the song lyrics of All Too Well. The writer intends to use dictionary.com, a dictionary to identify synonym.

#### 6. **Instrument of The Research**

The writer analyzing the data by determining the synonym words and then analyze the meaning of the words.

### C. **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This research will show how synonyms in words are used to convey emotions and messages that singers want to convey to listeners. Here is the list of data analysis:

#### **Datum 1**

“And you call me up again just to **break** me like a promise”

The word “break” is a **verb** because in this context it describes an action of “breaking” or “shattering” the promise that the person has made. In this part of the lyrics, there is the word “break” which can be analyzed as an example of a *near-synonym* lexical relationship with the word “shatter.” Because they are

similar in the context of damage but have differences in the level of intensity and the result of the damage action, these two words are called near synonyms because they have similar meanings but cannot be used interchangeably in all contexts. The choice of the word “break” in this lyric because it has a deep meaning to convey the emotions that the singer wants to convey. The word “break” was chosen because it has a meaning that explains the broken feelings that support the content of this song which tells of a love relationship that has ended. In the lyrics of this song “break” describes the pain experienced by someone who feels destroyed by their own partner. This word accentuates the feeling of real hurt and describes the condition or state of the person's feelings after being hurt by their partner.

**Break** : [cause] [something] [more] [pieces]

**Shatter** : [cause] [something] [into] [pieces]

#### **Binary features:**

**Break** : [cause +] [something +] [more +] [pieces +]

**Shatter** : [cause +] [something +] [more -] [pieces +]

From the explanation above, the words “break” and “shatter” have a similar meaning of causing something to break, but the differences are in the details. The word “break” is used to represent that something is broken into more than one part or piece. In binary features, this word involves the cause ([cause +]), the object broken ([something +]), the result has more parts ([more +]), and results in pieces ([pieces +]). Meanwhile, the word “shatter” represents something that breaks into small or very small pieces, giving the appearance of more serious damage. In binary features, this word also involves a cause ([cause +]) and a object being broken ([something +]), but does not always have more parts ([more -]) and still creates small pieces ([pieces +]). The word “shatter” is chosen as a synonym for the word “break” because both have the same basic meaning of causing something to break. However, “shatter” has a more serious impact than “break”. In addition, the use of the word “break” is also more relevant when describing feelings than “shatter”. The word “break” is often used in everyday life which is usually used to describe a broken

relationship so that it is more easily accepted by the listener or reader and gives a deeper emotional impression.

## **Datum 2**

“You kept me like a **secret**, but I kept you like an oath”

The word “secret” in these lyrics functions as a **noun** that shows that something is kept secret. In this lyric, there is the word “secret” which can be analyzed as an example of a *near - synonym* type of lexical relationship with the word “private”. because, in spite having different meanings and uses, both terms describe things that are not for other people to know and share a similar core meaning. In this context, the two words have similar meanings but different nuances and applications. The choice of the word “secret” in the lyrics of this song has a very specific meaning in conveying feelings about the relationship described. The word “secret” was chosen to describe the condition of a relationship that is deliberately kept secret by one party, which is inversely proportional to the word “oath” used by the other party to show seriousness.



**Secret** : [cause] [something] [to]  
[be] [hidden] [deliberately]

**Private** : [cause] [something] [to]  
[be] [personal] [and] [not] [shared]  
[with] [others]

### **Binary features:**

**Secret** : [cause+] [something +] [to  
+] [be +] [hidden +] [deliberately +]

**Private**: [cause +] [something +] [to  
+] [be +] [hidden -] [deliberately -]

From the explanations above, the words “secret” and “private” have different meanings even though they have similarities because they are related to things that are not known by the public. The word “secret” indicates something that is purposefully hidden, so in binary features, this word includes a cause ([cause +]), something that is kept secret ([something +]), an act of hiding ([to +] [be +] [hidden +]), and an act that is conducted on purpose ([deliberately +]). “Private”, on the other hand, indicates something that is private or personal, that one does not want to share with other people, but is not explicitly hidden. In terms of binary features, it also includes the cause ([cause +]), and the object ([something +] [to +] [be +]), but not the aspect of being hidden ([hidden -]) or conducted on

purpose ([deliberately -]). In other words, “secret” has a more straightforward way of hiding something, whereas “private” is not as straightforward and only shows that something is personal and not to be shared. The word “private” was chosen as a synonym for the word “secret” because both are related to something that people do not want to know, although there are differences in the way it is hidden. The word “private” itself emphasizes more on the personal nature without deliberately wanting to hide it, while “secret” emphasizes the act of hiding something intentionally with a specific purpose. In this lyric, the use of the word “secret” gives the meaning of the pain felt by someone because he is kept secret which should be proud of to people. The choice of words illustrates the feeling of neglect and lack of equality in the relationship, where one party feels seriously committed and the other party feels the need to hide this relationship.

### **Datum 3**

"I **remember** it all too well"

The word “remember” in this lyric is a **verb** because it is used to indicate the act of recalling

something. In this lyric, there is the word “remember” which can be analyzed as an example of the *near-synonym* type of lexical relationship with the word “recall” because, despite having the same meaning and different usages, both terms share the same intention of recalling something. The word “remember” in the lyrics of this song was chosen because it has an important role in strengthening the theme in the lyrics of this song, which is how this person remembers all the things she has done with her boyfriend in the past even though their relationship has ended. This process requires searching through memories to bring back to life previously experienced events or ideas. And “recall,” which is defined as “to bring back to mind.”

**Remember:** [to bring] [to mind] [or think of again]

**Recall:** [to bring] [back] [to mind]

**Binary features:**

**Remember:** : [to bring +] [to mind +] [or think of again +]

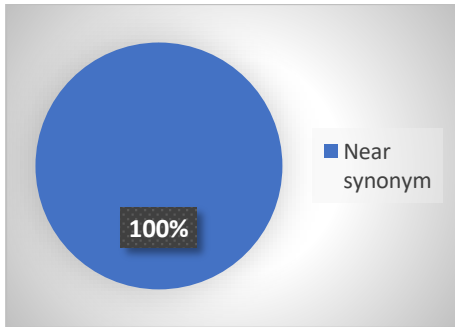
**Recall:** [to bring +] [to mind +] [or think of again -]

From the explanation above, the words “remember” and “recall” have different meanings even

though they both describe the act of bringing something to mind. The word “remember” is used to represent the larger process of bringing something to mind or thinking about it again. In binary features, this includes the action of bringing something to mind ([to bring +]), then thinking about it again ([to mind +]), and it can also be to think about it again ([or think of again +]). On the other hand, the word “recall” means the more specific action of bringing something to mind or memory. In binary features, it includes the action of bringing something back to mind ([to bring +]), prioritizing the return ([to mind +]), but not as widely as “remember” to think about it again ([or think of again -]). In other words, “remember” has a larger and more general usage, while “recall” is more specific and purposeful. The word “recall” was chosen as a synonym for “remember” because both describe the action of bringing something back to mind, but “recall” is purposeful to remember something while “remember” can happen more naturally and widely.

Based on the analysis of the seven data, the result is that seven data are

near synonym type. For proportional synonym type and absolute are not found in this analysis.



#### D. CONCLUSION

This research aims to reveal the deeper meaning of the lyrics of each of the songs, focusing on how the choice of words related to synonyms can explain the meaning of a song. The method used is qualitative, by analyzing data in the form of synonyms found in several pieces of lyrics. This analysis shows that there are seven data that have related emotions in the lyrics of this song have synonyms, and seven data are of the near synonym type.

The analysis also found that synonyms not only have similar meanings, but their meanings can change depending on the context in which they are used. This research provides knowledge about a word having similar words but having differences in the context of use.

#### REFERENCES

- Vocabulary* [Skripsi]. Repository Universitas Islam Negeri Jakarta.
- Saeed, J. I. (2016). *Semantics* (4th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Lisa, K. et al. (2024). *Absolute Synonyms in Indonesian Student Books for Class X and XI (Independent Curriculum)*. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Surabaya.
- Cruse, A. (2000). *Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. Oxford University Press..
- Kreidler (1998). *Introducing English Semantics*.



# Plagiarism Checker X - Report

Originality Assessment

# 12%



**Overall Similarity**

**Date:** Jan 15, 2025

**Matches:** 395 / 3373 words

**Sources:** 18

**Remarks:** Moderate similarity detected, consider enhancing the document if necessary.

**Verify Report:**

Scan this QR Code



# SYNONYM OF CONVEYING EMOTIONS IN ALL TOO WELL'S LYRIC BY TAYLOR SWIFT

Oleh:

Atsiilah Najwaa Zalianty

STBA JIA

atsiilahnajwaazalianty19@gmail.com

## Abstrak

The purpose of this study is to find synonyms in the song "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift. Released on October 22, 2012, as part of the album Red, the song is famous for its emotional lyrics and deep loss. This research utilizes Cruse's (2000) theory from his book "Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics". The writer uses a qualitative method to look for word similarities in the lyrics of "All Too Well." Through a detailed analysis, the author identified seven data that relate to synonymy. Near synonym is found in datum 2 and datum 3, while absolute synonym is found in datum 1.

Keywords : Synonym, All Too Well, Taylor Swift

## A. INTRODUCTION

Synonymy in lexical relation is the relationship between two or more words that have very similar or the same meaning. Saeed (2016, p.61) states different phonetic **13 words with identical or very similar meanings** are called synonyms, the following pairs could serve as some examples:

- couch/sofa
- boy/lad
- lawyer/attorney
- toilet/lavatory
- large/big

Analyzing synonyms in song lyrics helps us better understand how similar words can