

An analysis of Ellie Goulding's songs from systemic functional linguistics perspective

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Abstract. This research investigates the linguistic features of Ellie Goulding's song lyrics through Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). By focusing on the interpersonal functions of language as proposed by SFL, this study uncovers the underlying structures and meanings within the lyrics. The analysis identifies various types of clauses: 48 instances are declaratives, 17 are bounds, 2 are imperatives, 5 are temporals, 9 are modals, 44 are positives, 9 are negatives, and 58 are non-tags. These findings highlight a prevalent use of declarative and positive structures in Goulding's lyrics. The dominance of declarative sentences suggests that the lyrics primarily convey information and express the singer's thoughts and emotions directly. The high frequency of positive structures indicates an overall affirmative tone, reflecting optimism or a positive outlook in the thematic content of the songs. By examining these linguistic patterns, the research provides insights into how Ellie Goulding uses language to communicate messages and emotions, offering a deeper understanding of the interpersonal dynamics present in her music. This study demonstrates the applicability of SFL in exploring the complex interplay between language and meaning in song lyrics, contributing to the broader field of linguistic analysis in popular music.

Keywords: Songs, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ellie Goulding



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