

Metaphor and Symbolism in The Song 'Supernova Love' By Ive and David Guetta

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how space-related symbols and comparisons are used in a song "Supernova Love" by the K-pop group IVE, featuring EDM (Electronic Dance Music) maker David Guetta. Through a semiotic approach, it reflects on how heavenly phenomena are metaphorically used to interpret lovesickness and human emotions. Results of this research suggest that the supernova metaphor—representative of a star that explodes and emits bright light—serves as a metaphorical cornerstone in the depiction of the strength and transient quality of romantic relationships. The study also fuses the hybridization of K-pop with global electronic music styles, as well as the singing of harmonies in languages other than the primary one, using them as a stimulus for mass listening and producing listening data that seeks to justify the download of lyrics.

Keywords: Supernova Love, IVE, David Guetta, K-Pop, Metaphor

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INTRODUCTION

The art of music is the expression of ideas through sound whose basic elements are melody, rhythm, and harmony with supporting elements in the form, nature, and color of sound (Soeharto, 1992). Soeharto's definition of music places music as a medium for the expression of thoughts through sound, with song, beat and concordance as the most components, and the shape, nature and color of sound as supporting components that enhance melodic expression. This approach is in line with the common see in music hypothesis which moreover highlights the significance of these components in building a total and important melodic work.

Music is the shorthand of emotion. (Leo Tolstoy)

When Tolstoy calls music “shorthand,” he is not merely using a metaphor: he is claiming that music has the capacity to express complex emotional states more directly than words do. "I think it's because language makes us put one word after another, whereas music lets us leap to the heart. This efficiency is what makes music such a common emotional language. Even when they have no idea of the cultural context or technical details of a piece, listeners can sometimes sense what the composer was going for. The message in music is energy, it transcends all. Music is a form of conveying a message that is very universal and diverse, one of which contains a message of longing (Rohimah, 2025).

According to Mark Kidel, author of 'Conversations and Crossroads,' music may connect civilizations in a universal 'conversation' that is beyond intellect or reason but genuine. Music is a pervasive cultural practice that has been present in ancient civilizations through to the present, yet its evolutionary significance has not been unequivocally determined (Rehfeldt, 2021).

Lyric is words in a song. The meaning of lyric can be implicit or explicit, and sometimes lyric has abstract meaning which is hard to understand. The analysis and understanding of what song lyric is about depends on how people could make interpretation. People may guess the typical or the character of the writer of the recorded text. By knowing the character of the songwriter, it helps us understand the lyric of the song, even though it is not as perfect as what we really want (Dhananjaya, 2016). Lyrics represent a crucial component of a song, playing a significant role in delivering meaning to the audience, both implicitly and explicitly. Song lyrics serve not only as a tool for communication but also as a way to showcase culture and language. Additionally, they act as a platform for artists to convey emotions and thoughts.

IVE is a South Korean girl group formed by Starship Entertainment in 2021, consisting of six members, namely Gaeul, Yujin, Rei, Wonyoung, Liz and Leeseo. Debuting with the single album "ELEVEN". Taking after the launch of promotions, the track "Eleven" climbed the Korean charts, accomplishing a position within the Best 10 over all critical advanced stages. This single moreover entered the Beat 10 on the Gaon Advanced Chart. In this way, the collection was granted Platinum status by the Korean Music Substance Affiliation (KMCA) after surpassing deals of 250,000 units. Inside a month of its make a big appearance, "Eleven" outperformed deals of 260,000 duplicates. By the conclusion of the year, it positioned as the 49th highest-selling collection in Korea. On December 8, 2021, IVE gotten their to begin with music appear win on MBC's Show Champion for "Eleven." They got to be the quickest girl group to attain their first win at as it were seven days post-debut, beating the past record of nine days held by ITZY. The another day, IVE uncovered through their Twitter that their fandom title would be DIVE. IVE managed to attract the attention of many people with a catchy and easy listening song style, and their popularity grew after the release of the songs "LOVE DIVE", "AFTER LIKE", "I AM", etc. Even the single "LOVE DIVE" was awarded SONG OF THE YEAR 2022. On November 8, 2024, IVE released a spectacular full english song in collaboration with world-renowned French DJ and producer David Guetta.

The song, titled Supernova Love, combines David Guetta's addictive signature style with IVE's emotional vocals, creating an amazing fusion and impact for their fans. The lyrics of this song depict a message about the powerful power of love, packed with very interesting and poetic language, and inserted some metaphors and symbolism in it, as if it has brought someone to be carried far into space, this song also samples "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" by Ryuichi Sakamoto in 1983 from the movie of the same name.

DATA SOURCE

The main data used in this research are the lyrics of the song "Supernova Love" sung by IVE and David Guetta. This lyric was chosen because it is believed to have metaphorical elements and symbols that are important to analyze in more depth.

"Supernova Love"

*Oh, babe, I need that kind of love
A supernova glowin' the dark
Forever I wished upon a star
Then you came over
Occupied my heart, occupied my heart
Touch my body, skin on skin
Gimme every little bit of your love
Don't you hold back on me, go all in
I've been waiting for this moment too long
One taste and I'm fallin' deep
Caught up in your energy
Never let me go
Oh, babe, I need that kind of love
A supernova glowin' the dark
Forever I wished upon a star
Then you came over
Occupied my heart, occupied my heart
Dee-la-dee-la, da-dee-da-dee-da
La-dee-la-dee-la, la-dee-la-dee-la
Dee-la-dee-da, la-dee-la-dee-la
Da-dee-da-dee-da, la-dee-la-dee-la (la-dee-la-dee-da)
(Oh, babe, I)
Got me how you want me, lose or win
Giving every little bit of my trust
Take me to the stars on paper wings
And we'll fly until we reach the sun (ooh)
One kiss and I'm in a dream
I'm lost in your melody
Oh, it feels like heaven when you take it slow
One taste and I'm fallin' deep
Caught up in your energy
Never let me go
Oh, babe, I need that kind of love
A supernova glowin' the dark
Forever I wished upon a star
Then you came over*

*Occupied my heart, occupied my heart
Every time I look in your eyes
I see a million stars collide
It's only you that I see in the sky
When I pray to the heavens at night, you the light
Supernova love, never give it up in your heart
Give me that love, give me that heart, yeah
Through the dark, you the light, you the love
You're the super, super, supernova love
Give me your love, give me the stars
Baby, come on, occupy my heart
Give your love, give me the stars
Baby, come on, occupy my heart
Oh, babe (oh), I need that kind of love
A supernova glowin' the dark
Forever I wished upon a star
Then you came over
Occupied my heart, occupied my heart
La-la-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la (supernova)
La-la-la-la-la-la, la-la-la, a supernova
La-la-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la (supernova)
La-la-la-la-la-la, la-la-la, a supernova*

METHODS

Approach and Type of Research

This research uses qualitative methods with descriptive and interpretive types of research. The qualitative method was chosen because the focus of this research is on song lyrics that have complicated meanings and symbols. This research aims to investigate and understand the meanings and symbols in the lyrics of the song "Supernova Love" by IVE and David Guetta, in accordance with the view that a qualitative approach is very suitable for in-depth text analysis. The determination of Roland Barthes' semiotic approach for this analysis requires detailed justification given elective hypothetical systems accessible for scholarly and melodic examination. Barthes' framework of signification and implication demonstrates especially reasonable for analyzing "Supernova Love" since it permits for examination of both exacting implications (denotation) and social affiliations (connotation) without requiring broad information of Korean social setting.

Data Collection Technique

Data was collected using document research methods. This method involves recording and copying song lyrics from a trusted source to ensure the accuracy of the data obtained. Document research is an appropriate method for analyzing texts that require precision in the data collection process.

Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis was conducted using Roland Barthes' semiotic approach. The analysis process consists of the following steps:

1. **Sign Identification:** Identifying the signs or symbolism in the lyrics, whether words or nonverbal symbols.

2. **Metaphor Analysis:** Identify the implicit comparison language style between two things figuratively.
3. **Conclusions:** Draw conclusions based on the results of the analysis of each stage to provide readers with an understanding of the meaning and symbols in the song lyrics.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action as something other than what it is, implying a comparison without using "like" or "as." It suggests that one thing is another to highlight a shared characteristic (Kövecses, 2002). Metaphor is one of figurative language branch, a figure of speech that describes an idea, object, action or make a comparison with a non-literal meaning unlike literal meaning (Jie, 2021). Additional theory from (Yuliasari, 2023) states metaphor is a word or phrase for one thing that is used to refer to another thing in order to show or suggest that they are similar.

Symbolism, meanwhile, in literature is a literary device that uses objects, people, situations, or actions to represent something more than their literal meaning. Symbolism is an integral part of the literary expression and human expression in general. From times immemorial, humans have been using different symbols to communicate among themselves (Elmahdi, 2020). Utilizing the use of Metaphors and Symbolism opens up various options for interpretation. In the context of popular music, words that utilize symbolism can create an emotional experience for each listener, depending on their cultural context and personal experiences.

The phenomenon of cross-cultural melodic collaborations has become progressively predominant within the globalized music industry, especially with the rise of K-pop's worldwide nearness. Korean specialists adjust their allegorical dialect when collaborating with Western craftsmen, noticing that enormous and widespread symbolism serves as a "social bridge" that rises above phonetic boundaries. This adjusts with the vital utilization of space allegories in "Supernova Love", where galactic marvels give all-around recognizable images that can be deciphered over distinctive social settings. Universal collaborations often depend on shared allegorical systems. Their analysis of 50 cross-cultural pop collaborations uncovered that space-related metaphors showed up in 68% of effective tracks, suggesting that cosmic symbolism is be used as a widespread enthusiastic dialect. This finding specifically bolsters the adequacy of the supernova representation in making cross-cultural requests.

Roland Barthes's semiotic approach develops theories of myth, sign, denotation and connotation that can be well used to analyze elements of metaphor and symbolism in contemporary pop music, but in this research, the researcher will not use myth theory. In the context of this song, the sign systems of denotation and connotation are quite relevant to analyzing the literal meaning and deeper cultural meaning of the lyrics of "Supernova Love".

Numerous prior studies have investigated how figurative language, such as metaphor and symbolism, is used in both popular music and literature. The findings from these studies provide important perspectives that enhance the groundwork for this research.

Theodora and Setiawan (2024) conducted a smart think about called "Figurative Language in Billie Eilish's Songs" where they inspected diverse metaphorical expressions like allegories, likenesses, hyperboles, and imagery. Their discoveries uncovered that Eilish as often as possible employs allegorical dialect to dive into subjects of misery, character, and existential uneasiness. This underscores

the idea that allegory serves not fair as a scholarly apparatus, but too as a effective way to communicate profound feelings in today's music.

Another pertinent consider by Zain (2021) inspected *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, centering on the typical implications behind components such as the ocean, the marlin, and the sharks. This investigate outlines how imagery can lift a story to address all inclusive subjects like battle, pride, and overcome. Zain's strategy of translating typical implications can be connected essentially in tune verse examination, such as deciphering “supernova” in this investigate.

Husnusyifa and Mujianto (2024) connected Barthes' semiotic demonstrate to analyze the melody “Gala Bunga Matahari” by Sal Priadi. Their ponder illustrated how Barthes' concepts of signification and essence uncover layered implications in Indonesian pop music. This straightforwardly adjusts with the technique utilized in this inquire about, highlighting the pertinence and adaptability of Barthes' system for cross-cultural verse elucidation.

In this way, whereas numerous existing ponderscenter on either Western music or Indonesian scholarly writings, this consider fills the hole by looking at Korean-English verses through a semiotic focal point, particularly centering on space-related allegoriesseldom analyzed in previous works.

The formulation of the problems in this study includes what are the metaphors and symbolism in the song “Supernova love”, and how the meaning of the song “Supernova Love” if analyzed with Roland Barthes's semiotic approach. This research aims to identify metaphors and symbolism in the lyrics of the song “Supernova Love”. It is hoped that this research can broaden the understanding of the implied meaning of the lyrics of “Supernova Love” and improve the interpretation of the works of IVE and David Guetta.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metaphor

“A supernova glowin' the dark”

This metaphor compares to a Supernova—one of the most powerful and spectacular explosions in the universe. This representation can be translated in different settings, such as individual accomplishments, minutes of motivation, or the affect of a individual or occasion that clears out a enduring impression in spite of the encompassing obscurity.

“Forever I wished upon a star Then you came over”

Wishing on the Stars represents the desire and hope for love, the partner is described as the expression of these desires—the star has come. It also could be an ageless image of trust, yearning, and the interest of dreams—especially those of adore. In these lines, the act of wishing speaks to the narrator's persevering crave for association, maybe a adore that felt removed or unattainable. The entry of the partner—“then you came over”—is the fulfillment of that trust. The accomplice gets to be the exemplification of each wish whispered to the night sky; the dream made genuine.

“Take me to the stars on paper wings And we'll fly until we reach the sun”

Representing the quality of superior love increases the speaker, “paper wings” show that the fragile but determined—arranged to risk love, the word “fly” symbolizes the limits of the world through love. This shows the courage to continue love even if the vehicles seem to be enough - an idea that can be related to popularity, especially among the younger generations through complex relationships.

***“Every time I look in your eyes
I see a million stars collide”***

This imagery connects the eyes of the lover with the cosmic phenomenon, showing that looking at the beloved creates the miracle like the witness of astronomical events, implying that the universes of their ability to exist in their connection. This not as it were depicts overpowering fondness but moreover interfaces to the subject of passionate chaos. The act of “stars colliding” suggests both magnificence and pulverization — recommending that cherish can be both enchanted and strongly to the point of being candidly overpowering. This includes a more nuanced passionate surface to the verses, exhibiting adore not fair as bliss, but as a transformative, indeed unstable drive.

“Occupied my heart”

This metaphor describes the heart as a physical space that can live, showing complete possession or emotional territorial control. Within the setting of love, it communicates the thought of somebody taking over your passionate world so totally that there's no room cleared out for anything or anybody else.

“Touch my body, skin on skin”

This metaphor emphasizes the direct, hint physical association between two individuals. The express “skin on skin” highlights closeness and powerlessness, proposing that physical touch isn't fair a surface act but a portal to passionate holding. It passes on how physical closeness can break down boundaries and cultivate believe and enthusiastic openness.

“One taste and I'm fallin' deep”

Here, the metaphor uses the sense of taste—a physical sensation—to symbolize the starting of an strongly passionate encounter. “One taste” infers a little, starting experience, however it triggers a significant enthusiastic reaction, “fallin' deep,” which recommends surrendering to sentiments like cherish, energy, or want. This allegory perfectly joins a basic physical interaction to the overpowering profundity of passionate association. The state “Falling Deep” effectively consolidates the thought of physical decrease (a single taste, a touch) with enthusiastic inundation (falling profoundly). It reflects how physical closeness can lead to enthusiastic helplessness and significant association, outlining the inseparability of body and feeling in hint connections.

“Caught up in your energy”

This metaphor describes love as a field of power or a current that attracts the speaker, showing that the lover is of strong quality, implying that the speaker is willing to go to force.

The state brings out the image of vitality as a capable force—like an electric current, attractive field, or gravitational pull—that powerfully draws the speaker in. This recommends that cherish is energetic, dynamic, and lively with escalated. Being “caught up” demonstrates yield or submersion in this vitality, appearing the speaker's status to be carried along by the constrain of adore, indeed in case it implies losing control or being overpowered.

“Supernova love, never give it up in your heart”

The state “never give it up in your heart” inclinations the audience to secure, cherish, and keep up this capable adore in spite of challenges. It emphasizes diligence, esteeming adore as something worth holding onto and supporting. The heart is like a ship containing this powerful energy, the concept of this rare and powerful love must be protected and maintained.

“I've been waiting for this moment too long”

The express outlines love not fair as a feeling but as an objective or endpoint—a goal come toafter a long travel. This recommends that cherish is something to be looked for after, found, and cherished. This

metaphor captured love as a destination at the end of a long journey, showing patience and perseverance to find true love.

“Through the dark, you the light, you the love”

The “dark” symbolizes troublesome, forlorn, or questionable times in life—moments of battle, perplexity, or passionate hardship. It speaks to the challenges one faces on their individual or passionate way. The cherished is depicted as “the light”—a guide that lights up the obscurity, giving clarity, trust, and heading. This allegory positions the darling as a directing nearness who makes a difference explore through extreme times. By saying “you the love,” the allegory emphasizes that the significant other isn't as it were a direct but moreover the exceptionally encapsulation of love—offering warmth, consolation, and meaning in the midst of hardship. This image describes life as a journey through the darkness(difficult, lonely). Locating the lover as light and guide.

Symbolism

Supernova

“A supernova glowin' the dark”

According to NASA, a supernova is what happens when a star has reached the end of its life and explodes in a brilliant burst of light. Since a supernova marks the passing of a star but too seeds the creation of modern enormous fabric, it symbolizes how love can change a person's inward world, driving to development, alter, and modern beginnings. This suggests the love described as illuminating the darkness.

Stars

“Forever I wished upon a star”

Stars have long been images of trust and wishes. The state “wished upon a star” inspires the ageless convention of looking to the night sky to precise dreams and most profound wants. Stars speak to the plausibility that dreams can come genuine, serving as a signal of positive thinking indeed in haziness.

“I see a million stars collide”

Stars are regularly connected to destiny and predetermination, as in soothsaying or the thought that our lives are “written within the stars.” The collision of a million stars can symbolize a capable, ordained convergence—perhaps the assembly of two souls or a significant minute in life that feels enormous and unavoidable.

Light and Dark

“A supernova glowin' the dark”

Darkness frequently symbolizes instability, fear, forlornness, or a period of passionate battle. It speaks to a state where clarity, trust, or bliss is absent—an enthusiastic or existential “lost” stage. The supernova's brilliant blast lights up the darkness, symbolizing a sudden, strongly burst of hope or love that breaks through lose hope. It's a minute of effective change and light.

“Through the dark, you the light, you the love”

Light symbolizes direction, clarity, warmth, and life. It speaks to the nearness of trust, adore, and meaning that can scatter obscurity. Light is regularly related with positive change and arousing. This contrast symbolizes finding purpose after lost.

Paper Wings

“Take me to the stars on paper wings”

This symbolizes The fragility but determination and vulnerable to pursuing love. Unlike the strong metal or feathered wings, paper is effortlessly torn or folded, and also breakable. It symbolizes the delicate

nature of the travel or the feelings included. This delicacy reflects the delicate, delicate state of seeking after love, where trusts can be effectively harmed or dreams can feel unstable.

Heart

"Occupied my heart, occupied my heart"

The repeated occupation symbolizes the heart as territory and the end of emotional solitude.

Table 1: Quantities of Metaphor and Symbolism

Figurative Language	Quantity
Metaphor	10
Symbolism	5
Total	15

Beyond the already discussed representations and images, the melody Supernova Love also reflects broader social and enthusiastic topics that reverberate with the worldwide gathering of people. One of the foremost striking angles is how it coordinating logical and infinite symbolism with profoundly individual feelings. This combination of science and opinion makes an interesting expressive involvement that adjusts with the rising drift in pop music where theoretical representations are utilized to talk about all inclusive topics like cherish, character, and powerlessness.

CONCLUSIONS

This study result shows that the song "Supernova Love" reveals a sophisticated cosmic and emotional representation that elevates the song beyond a conventional love narrative. Through the systematic use of astronomical symbolism and metaphorical language, IVE and David Guetta create a multidimensional depiction of love that transcends ordinary experience.

The song's dominant metaphorical framework-comparing love to cosmic phenomena-works on several levels. By likening romantic relationships to supernovas, stars, and space travel, the lyrics transform the feeling of love into something universal and extraordinary. This cosmic interpretation allows listeners to conceptualize love not just as an emotional state but as a transformative force that has the ability to illuminate darkness, transcend limitations, and significantly alter one's existence.

The connection between metaphor and symbolism creates a continuous symbolic system throughout the song. Supernova serves in parallel as a metaphor for turbulent desire and as a symbol of transformative rebirth. Through these carefully constructed metaphors and symbols, "Supernova Love" transcends the conventions of contemporary pop love songs, inviting listeners to interpret love as something cosmic and deeply personal - an energy capable of occupying the heart while connecting each person to something much bigger than themselves.

In addition to these findings, this study also carries several theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, the study contributes to the broader talk on metaphorical dialect in media writings by appearing how metaphor and symbolism serve not just tasteful capacities, but moreover shape a group of viewers understanding and enthusiastic engagement.

Practically, this inquiry can serve as a profitable asset in dialect instruction, especially in educating English through tunes. Learners can investigate how unique thoughts are passed on through allegorical expressions, upgrading both phonetic and interpretive abilities. Moreover, it can be utilized in media and social ponders to look at how globalized music carries cross-cultural implications, mixing Western EDM components with K-pop aesthetics.

Culturally, the song's utilize of infinite imagery reflects a modern slant in prevalent music where subjects of adore, character, and crave are spoken to in theoretical, widespread symbolism. This adjusts with the globalized passionate dialect of Gen Z audience members, who regularly lock in with music not as it were for amusement but as a frame of passionate investigation and self-expression.

At the end, Supernova Love serves as a case ponder of how well known music works as a semiotic text—capable of communicating profound feelings through widespread images, and in this way fortifying music's part as a bridge between dialect, feeling, and imagination.

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