

Original Article

Di Lang Ikaw: A Discourse Analysis

Vincent Manalo Pobre

College of Teacher Education, President Ramon Magsaysay State University, Zamboanga, Philippines.

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**Abstract:** This paper presents a discourse analysis of the Filipino ballad "Di Lang Ikaw" by Julie Iris Valles Fernandez, known by her stage name Juris, a celebrated Filipino singer-songwriter. Written by Juris and arranged by Aiza Seguerra, the song explores themes of love, heartbreak, emotional distance, and mutual suffering. Through an in-depth discourse analysis approach, concentrating on the interpretation of language use within the song, the study identifies key linguistic features including rhetorical questioning, metaphor, repetition, and tone, which together convey the emotional complexity of a relationship in decline. The phrase "Di lang ikaw" ("It's not just you") serves as both a refrain and a central discourse marker, reflecting shared emotional turmoil and a plea for understanding. The analysis reveals how the song avoids assigning blame, instead highlighting empathy, emotional honesty, and mutual accountability. Moreover, the song challenges traditional gender norms by presenting a female narrator initiating the separation, reflecting a shift toward emotional agency and self-awareness in Filipino cultural narratives. Positioned within the context of Filipino values that emphasize relational harmony and emotional depth, "Di Lang Ikaw" offers both personal resonance and broader cultural insight into evolving perceptions of love and selfhood.

**Keywords:** Di Lang Ikaw, Discourse Analysis, Emotional Distance, Filipino Ballad, Heartbreak, Juris, Love, Metaphor, Mutual Suffering, Repetition, Rhetorical Questioning, Traditional Gender Norms, Tone.

I. INTRODUCTION

The song "Di Lang Ikaw" by Julie Iris Valles Fernandez also known by her stage name "Juris", a renowned Filipino singer and songwriter. She was born on March 18, 1978, in Davao City, Philippines. Juris started her recording career as the lead vocalist of the acoustic group MYMP (Make your Mama Proud) after auditioning in 2001. Upon leaving MYMP, Fernandez signed with Star Records with Now Playing serves as her launching album to Star Records which includes two of her original compositions. One of them is the massive hit, "Di Lang Ikaw" which was used as the love theme song of TV series Rubi.

The song is a collaboration between Juris who wrote the lyrics and Aiza Seguerra who arranged the song. The song covers themes of love, longing, and heartbreak, expressing the inner crisis felt by someone caught between past and present relationships. After the release of the song, it gained significant popularity and became a staple song in videoke bars and competitions for its emotive lyrics and haunting melody, resonating with audiences across generations.

Di Lang Ikaw: A Discourse Analysis aims to analyze the song Di Lang Ikaw for the purpose of revealing its linguistic features, discursive strategies, and underlying meanings. By examining how language constructs emotions, relationships, and personal narratives within the song, the analysis seeks to explore its socio-cultural implications and significance.

"Di Lang Ikaw" by Juris

Filipino/ Original Version	English Translation
Pansin mo ba ang pagbabago? 'Di matitigan ang iyong mga mata Tila 'di na nananabik Sa 'yong yakap at halik Sana'y malaman mong hindi sinasadya Kung ang nais ko ay maging Malaya	Have you noticed the changes? I can't even look in your eyes anymore Seems like the excitement is gone For your embrace and kiss I hope you understand That I didn't mean for this to happen But I wish to be free
'Di lang ikaw 'Di lang ikaw ang nahihirapan Damdamin ko rin ay naguguluhan 'Di lang ikaw 'Di lang ikaw ang nababahala Bulong ng isip, 'wag kang pakawalan Ngunit puso ko ay kailangan kang iwan	It's not just you It's not just you who's having a hard time My feelings are also confused It's not just you It's not just you who's troubled My mind says not to let you go



<p>Pansin mo ba at nararamdaman?  'Di na na tayo magkaintindihan  Tila hindi na maibabalik  Tamis ng yakap at halik  Maaring tama ka, lumalamig ang pagsinta  Sana'y malaman mong 'di ko sinasadya</p> <p>'Di lang ikaw  'Di lang ikaw ang nahihirapan  Damdamin ko rin ay naguguluhan  'Di lang ikaw  'Di lang ikaw ang nababahala  Bulong ng isip, 'wag kang pakawalan  Ngunit puso ko ay kailangan kang iwan</p> <p>'Di hahayaang habang-buhay kang saktan  'Di sasayangin ang iyong panahon  Ikaw ay magiging masaya  Sa yakap at sa piling na ng iba</p> <p>'Di lang ikaw  'Di lang ikaw ang nahihirapan  Damdamin ko rin ay naguguluhan  'Di lang ikaw  'Di lang ikaw ang nababahala  Bulong ng isip, 'wag kang pakawalan  Ngunit puso ko ay kailangan kang iwan</p>	<p>But my heart needs to leave you</p> <p>Have you notice these feelings?  We don't get along anymore  Seems like we can't bring back  The sweetness of our embraces and kisses  Maybe you're right; our love's gone cold  I hope you understand that I didn't mean for this to happen</p> <p>It's not just you  It's not just you who's having a hard time  My feelings are also confused  It's not just you  It's not just you who's troubled  My mind says not to let you go  But my heart needs to leave you</p> <p>I won't let you hurt for all of your life  I won't waste your time anymore  You will be happy  Just with the embrace and company of someone else</p> <p>It's not just you  It's not just you who's having a hard time  My feelings are also confused  It's not just you  It's not just you who's troubled  My mind says not to let you go  But my heart needs to leave you</p>
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## II. METHODOLOGY

Di Lang Ikaw: A Discourse Analysis uses an in-depth discourse analysis approach, concentrating on the interpretation of language use within the song for better understanding its socio-cultural meanings. The discourse data was obtained by constantly listening to the music to understand its lyrics, tone, and emotional nuances. The analysis was mostly based on close reading and analysis of the song lyrics including the analysis of metaphors, repetition, and the overall tone with no specific software or tools were utilized.

## III. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Highlighting the opening lines of the song, where the narrator addresses the lover with questions that serve multiple purposes. Firstly, the question "Pansin mo ba ang pagbabago?" sets the stage for the narrative by introducing the theme of change within the relationship. It suggests that something has shifted, prompting the narrator to seek acknowledgment from the partner. Secondly, the line "Di matitigan ang iyong mga mata" emphasizes a barrier or obstacle in the narrator's attempt to connect with the lover. This inability to make eye contact implies a breakdown in intimacy, further reinforcing the idea of emotional distance within the relationship. Together, these questions establish a tone of uncertainty, hinting at the narrator's internal struggle with the changes happening on the relationship. The questions act as a foreshadowing device, signaling the listener that the song show themes of emotional confusion and longing for connection.

Repetition plays a crucial role, particularly the recurring refrain "Di lang ikaw". The repetition of this phrase throughout the song serves several important functions. The repetition acknowledges the pain and suffering experienced by the lover, validating their emotions and perspective within the relationship. By stating "It's not just you," the narrator acknowledges that both parties are affected by the challenges and struggles within the relationship, emphasizing a sense of mutual understanding and empathy. However, the repetition also highlights the narrator's own emotional confusion and internal conflict. This creates a sense of shared responsibility for the relationship's demise, suggesting that both parties play a role in its breakup. Overall, the repetition of "Di lang ikaw" serves to reinforce that both parties are affected by the challenges they face. It underscores the shared experience of pain and longing, while also highlighting individual emotional journeys within the song.

There are also metaphors within the song lyrics to portray the deterioration of the relationship. Specifically, the lines "Tila hindi na nananabik / Sa 'yong yakap at halik" as an example of metaphorical language. These lines use the metaphor of "excitement" to represent passion, desire, and emotional fulfillment within the relationship. By stating that there is "no excitement anymore" in the lover's embrace and kisses, the lyrics suggest a loss of intimacy and connection between the narrator and their partner. The metaphorical language conveys a sense of emotional distance and disconnection, indicating that the spark that once defined their relationship has faded away. The use of these metaphors enriches the imagery and emotional depth of the lyrics, allowing the listener to visualize and empathize with the narrator's experiences.

The song avoids assigning blame by using the line "Sana'y malaman mong hindi sinasadya" This phrase reflects the narrator's desire for understanding and empathy from their partner, rather than placing blame or fostering resentment. By stating that certain actions or consequences are not intentional, the narrator seeks to convey a sense of sincerity and genuineness in their feelings and experiences. This expression of honesty helps to foster a more compassionate and empathetic response from the listener, encouraging them to view the narrator's struggles with empathy rather than judgment. Moreover, by avoiding assigning blame it acknowledges that misunderstandings and challenges can arise unintentionally, and emphasizes the importance of communication, forgiveness, and empathy in overcoming such difficulties.

The song "Di Lang Ikaw" presents a visible portrayal of heartbreak, acknowledging the pain it inflicts on both partners. The use of "di lang ikaw" normalizes the experience and potentially offers comfort to listeners facing similar situations. The song also challenges traditional gender roles where the narrator, presumably female, initiates the break-up, defying societal expectations of women being passive in relationships. In addition, within the context of Filipino culture, which values close relationships, the song offers a message of self-awareness and prioritizing emotional well-being, even if it means causing temporary pain.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis of song "Di Lang Ikaw" reveals how the song utilizes language and discursive strategies to navigate the complexities of ending a relationship. It portrays a struggle between emotional attachment and the need for personal growth. Examining the song's musical elements, such as tempo and melody, may provide further insight into the emotional landscape. Future research on Filipino ballads like "Di Lang Ikaw" has the potential to provide valuable insights into the evolving societal views on love, relationships, and personal agency, contributing to understanding of cultural dynamics and social change.

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