

# The Analysis of Structural Metaphor Found in Agnez Mo's Song Lyrics.

MARIA INDRIWATI

[indrygarut50@gmail.com](mailto:indrygarut50@gmail.com)

RINDRAH KARTININGSIH

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

## Abstract

Language is one of the most important parts of lives and people use every day because language supports human communication. Communication is important because it reduces the level of ambiguity in social interaction. This article aims to explore the use of structural metaphor in songs by Agnez Mo and their meaning. The theory used is from George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, which is used to identify the structural metaphor contained in Agnez Mo's song lyrics. In this article, the method used is a qualitative method to describe the meaning of structural metaphor comprehensively. After analyzing the data, it was found that for each song such as *Overdose*, *Beautiful Mistakes*, *Patience*, *Million \$ Lover*, and *Level Up*, some lyrics contained structural metaphors based on metaphor theory.

Keywords: Semantic, Metaphor, Conceptual Metaphor, Song Lyric.

## A. INTRODUCTION

Humans require interpersonal communication through language, which can be established through understanding words, phrases, and sentences. While tone and facial expressions can help determine a message, understanding the meaning of words is crucial for effective communication.

Semantics is the scientific study of language, focusing on meaning in words, phrases, and sentences. Literal and non-literal interpretations exist, with literal interpretations based on the word and non-literal interpretations based on non-words. Non-literal interpretations can be challenging for non-literal sources, and idioms and figurative language can be used to communicate thoughts that deviate from semantic rules.

Metaphor is an abstract and partly literal aspect of figurative language, involving words, phrases, or sentences. It is essential in daily natural language semantics and is derived from cross-domain mappings. Metaphor, which compares things, infers analogies between them by equating them. The study of literary metaphor is an extension of everyday metaphor, as it involves thousands of cross-domain mappings. Metaphor, unlike literal expressions, is challenging to interpret. Songwriters often use metaphor to convey societal themes, with three

types: ontological, orientational, and structural.

Lakoff and Johnson (1980) introduced conceptual metaphor theory, which suggests that metaphor is prevalent in everyday life and describes how individuals think and behave. It is present in cognition, behavior, and words, and can take various forms. Conceptual metaphor is used both intentionally and unintentionally. Song lyrics, often considered poetic, are a crucial component of poetry and can be considered works of art. Lyrics can have both literal and metaphorical interpretations, and they often include metaphor and figurative language to convey the speaker's message. Selfless lyrics often use metaphor to convey their message.

Some previous studies have discussed metaphor. The first previous study was conducted by (Ika, 2022) entitled “A study of conceptual metaphors in American and Indonesian English song lyrics”. The study is about identifying the types and the use of conceptual metaphor and also investigating the differences in using conceptual metaphor between American and Indonesian English song lyrics. The second previous study is conducted by (Ayu, 2020) titled “Types and Meaning of Metaphor in Song Lyrics By Selena Gomez. The research aims to identify the types of metaphor and the meaning of each metaphor found in Selena Gomez’s song lyrics. The study also identified the most dominant types used in Selena Gomez’s song lyrics. (Rizky, 2018) conducted the third previous study entitled “Conceptual Metaphor in Album *A Head Full of Dream* By Coldplay”. The study aims to identify the types of conceptual metaphor and the meaning of the conceptual metaphor used by Coldplay. The study also conveys the function of metaphorical expression used by Coldplay.

This research has similarities with the three previous studies in analyzing metaphor which is also one of figurative language, and also three of the previous studies used the theory of metaphors by Lakoff and Johnson in analyzing the metaphor of the data. Afterward, the differences from the second previous study with this study are that the previous study used songs from Selena Gomez song lyrics as the data source, then classified the types of metaphor and identified the most dominant data. This data and topic are very interesting to analyze because people nowadays often misunderstand the meaning of the lyrics that the songwriter intends to convey due to the knowledge of less than a structural metaphor that is often seen in lyrics.

## B. RESEARCH METHOD

The qualitative research approach is being used in this study. The main topics of qualitative research include words, pictures, and the subjective. Instead of counting or measuring anything, this form of study relates to meanings, concepts, definitions, traits, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things. A scientific method of observation to acquire non-numerical data is qualitative research. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative approaches use a variety of designs, including special stages for data processing, and rely on text and picture data.

## C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Structural Metaphor

Structural Metaphor was found in the lyrics of the song entitled *Million \$ Lover*, *Overdose*, *Beautiful Mistake*, and *Patience*. The analysis of structural metaphor in Agnez Mo's song lyrics is presented in this section that used the theory of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson. Structural metaphor occurs when one concept is expressed in terms of another defined concept. Lakoff and Johnson justify that structural metaphor is where one concept is metaphorically structured in terms of another.

### *Million \$ Lover*

#### Data 1

*So, don't waste my time* (stanza 1, line 4)

In the lyric above, the word *time* means valuable commodity. It is a limited resource that people use to accomplish the goal. Corresponding to the fact that people act as if time is a valuable commodity a limited resource, even money we conceive of time that way. Thus, time is understood and experienced as the kind of *money* that can be spent, wasted, budgeted, invested, saved, or squandered. The lyric *don't waste my time* means that time is too valuable to be wasted. The conceptual metaphor that fits with that sentence is TIME IS MONEY and the type of metaphor is **Structural** where the concept of Time is structured in terms of Money.

### *Overdose*

#### Data 2

*You know why I'm going crazy?* ( Stanza 2, Line 1)

The lyric above, it shows *me* as a person who is in *love* and experiences a kind of emotion that

refers to *madness*. The person *I* was in *love* with until he feels *crazy* as we can see in line 1 says *you know why I'm going crazy?* It is followed by a sentence *Because of you, only you, I.* it shows how crazy that person is in loving. The conceptual metaphor that fit is LOVE IS MADNESS. It shows the case of **Structural Metaphor**, the concept of love is structured according to the madness term.

### Data 3

*She's my medication for my heartbreak (Stanza 2, Line 5)*

In the lyric above, the word *medication* means a substance used for medical treatment, especially a medicine or drug. In the lyric, the treatment is done to cure heartbreak which needs '*She*' as a medicine. The word '*She*' in the lyric refers to the songwriter's beloved person who can be a *medicine* for healing a *heartbreak*. Science shows that love can heal physical and mental illnesses such as heartbreak as medicine does for physical pain. So, the conceptual metaphor LOVE IS MEDICINE is fit to describe the healer for a heartbreak which the type of metaphor is **Structural**. This metaphor experienced the concept of Love in terms of Medicine.

### Data 4

*But I'm still addicted (Stanza 2, Line 8)*

In the lyric above, the word *addicted* have meaning physically and mentally dependent on a particular substance and unable to stop taking it without incurring adverse effects. The particular substance which causes an addiction is a *drug*. The drug can affect the sense of mind making the people who consume it feel addicted and in the lyric above drug refers to love. In line 6 there is the lyric *I need her* then followed by the lyric in line 7 *she rehabilitates me* which means that *She* is a person that the songwriter is addicted to and can heal and rehabilitate the songwriter for his addiction to love. *Love* makes a person feel happy and wants to always have that feeling which is referred to *addicted*. In this case, the conceptual metaphor is LOVE IS DRUG and the type is **Structural** which the concept of love is structured in terms of drugs.

### Data 5

*I'm be your painkiller (Stanza 8, Line 6)*

In the lyric above, the word *painkiller* means medicine for relieving pain. In the lyric, the songwriter explains that he can be a medicine for his beloved person. The medicine in this

lyric refers to the songwriter's love which can heal the pain and heartbreak. In this case, the Conceptual Metaphor for the lyric is LOVE IS MEDICINE which is structured and experienced Love in terms of Medicine.

### *Beautiful Mistake*

#### **Data 6**

*Baby, you're just the kind a poison I hate (Stanza 1, Line 1)*

In the lyric above, the word *poison* refers to a harmful thing that can cause pain. The word *baby* is a loving nickname for someone special. The word *baby* show love, where love is strong affection that brings happiness. But love can be compared to poison if the relationship becomes toxic which makes it uncomfortable. In the lyrics above, the songwriter wants to show a toxic relationship with the word *poison* to describe their kind of love. So, LOVE IS POISON fits conceptual metaphor with **Structural** as the type of metaphor in which the concept of love is experienced is structured according to the poison term.

#### **Data 7**

*Up and down then turn me around (Stanza 2, Line 1)*

In the lyric above, the sentence *up and down then turn me around* means the orientation of a love relationship which gets the songwriter confused with the relationship they have. The lyric *up and down then turns me around* mean the relationship just spinning up and down around without any progress and going nowhere. This relationship is compared with Ferris Wheel. Ferris Wheel is an amusement park or fairground ride consisting of a giant vertical revolving wheel with passenger cars suspended on its outer edge. Relationship in the lyric above same as the Ferris Wheel which usually spins up and down without going anywhere. LOVE/RELATIONSHIP IS FERRIS WHEEL is the fit conceptual metaphor with **Structural** as the type of metaphor where the concept of Relationship is structured according to the Ferris Wheel.

### *Patience*

#### **Data 8**

*We are in a good space, same page (Stanza 2, Line 4)*

The lyric *good space, same page* mean an agreement that is a base for a relationship. Love is the feeling that needs the other side's love to develop a relationship. In the lyrics above, the person *I* say that they are just vibing as seen in line 2 which there's no certainty for their relationship. The lyric *We in a good space, same page*, explain that the relationship needs agreement even if they are on the same page to continue to the next level. So, the person *you* were asked by the person *I* to don't rush the conceptual metaphor LOVE IS AGREEMENT is the metaphor that describes that relationship. The type of metaphor is **Structural** which the concept of Love is experienced and structured according to the Agreement.

#### D. CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis shows that the conceptual metaphor is used widely pervasive in everyday life as it occurred in song lyrics as well. The word choice in song lyrics has a certain structure based on everyday experiences, background knowledge, and culture. The whole types of metaphor in Agnez Mo's song lyrics are found through the analysis of conceptual metaphor theory by Lakoff and Johnson. There are structural Metaphor, Ontological metaphor, and Orientational metaphor found in five songs by Agnez Mo. The structural metaphor is the most used by the songwriter in this song's lyrics.

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