

# METAPHOR IN CHRISTINA PERRI'S SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRAK

Penelitian bertujuan untuk menentukan jenis metafora yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Christina Perri, menentukan jenis metafora yang paling dominan digunakan, dan alasan penggunaan jenis metafora yang paling dominan dalam lirik lagu Christina Perri. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Dalam mengumpulkan data, penulis memfokuskan pada mengidentifikasi kata-kata, frase atau kata benda. Bagian kalimat yang diidentifikasi sebagai metafora dianalisis berdasarkan teori Lakoff mengenai tenor dan sumber. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa lirik dalam lagu Christina Perri dapat dikategorikan sebagai structural metafora, orientasional metafora dan ontological metafora. Jenis metafora yang paling dominan adalah structural metafora. Alasannya structural metafora adalah jenis yang paling dominan karena jenis tersebut memiliki persentase frekuensi yang paling tinggi, yaitu 50%, sementara orientasional metafora 30% dan ontological metafora 20%.

**Keywords: Makna, Metafora, Struktural, Orientasional, Ontological**

## ABSTRACT

*The study aims at finding out the types of metaphor used in Christina Perri song lyrics, finding out the most dominant type of metaphor used in Christina Perri song lyrics and findings out the reasons of the most type of metaphor used in Christina Perri song lyrics. The method which is used in this research is descriptive method. In collecting data, the writer focused on identifying the words, phrases or noun. The parts of sentences identified as metaphors are analyzed based on Lakoff are theory about tenor and source. The result shows in terms of the identified metaphors, the writer found that the lyrics of the songs can be categorized as structural metaphor, orientation metaphor, and ontological metaphor. In this analysis, the author finds the dominant metaphor, namely structural metaphors. The reason is because based on the percentage obtained by the author has a high value from other metaphors: structural metaphors get a percentage of 50%, orientational metaphors 30% and ontological metaphors 20%.*

**Keywords: Meaning, Metaphor, Structural, Orientational, Ontological**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a sound communication system, which uses sound symbols that have meaning based on agreement (Widyamartaya,1989:280). The study of language is done through a scientific study called linguistics. In the science of language, linguistics is divided into two

major parts, namely internal and external linguistics. Internal linguistics consists of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, while external linguistics includes sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, ethnolinguistics, (Alwasilah, 1987:87). In semantics discuss about the meaning in language, including literal meaning and

non-literal meaning. One of the topics in non-literal meaning is figurative language, and one of the topics in figurative language that will be discussed is metaphor.

According to Tarigan in Lukmana 2019:203, Metaphors are figure of speech that is used to compare two things indirectly without showing the words that indicate the similarity. It is supported by Searle 1982 in Khairuddin 2015, Metaphor is an indirect speech act of word, expression or sentence whose meaning is what a speaker might utter it to mean, in a way that departs from what the word, the expression or the sentence actually means. In other words, a metaphorical meaning is made up of the speaker's meaning and the word or sentence meaning. Metaphors are not only found in everyday speech or in literary works, but also in songs.

Song is part of art and art is part of life (Sukyawaty, 2008:3). It was also realized that song has become an inseparable part of every aspect of human life. Song lyrics are a pitched arrangement/sequence of words (Awe, 2003:12). In this study, the writer chooses the song as object of the research. Song is a short musical composition which is sung by human voice, and has a certain lyric. Lyric is expressing the writer's emotions, usually briefly and in stanzas or recognized forms. The meaning of a lyric can either be explicit or implicit. Some of lyrics are composed in poetical composition which makes it similar with poetries that there are many words written using metaphors. Most of the authors express their ideas of reality, social life in their point of view, and their experiences through their own imaginative and intense perception of their own world. The authors purpose to makes a good response from the listeners. Therefore, the song can make the listeners more interest in hearing it such as in Christina perri's song. Metaphors used in song lyrics aim to give an aesthetic impression, so that the song is beautiful, can make listeners feel what the songwriter feels, and can help listeners more easily understand the meaning of a

song. This is what then makes the writer choose the metaphors contained in song lyrics as research objects.

Language used in the songs lyric is language that is not according to the real meaning, because the words which are in the song very exaggerated and imaginative, and the language used in it is metaphor. Metaphor is figurative language that can be used to make words to be nice in order the others that hear songs, easily comprehend and excite and also can taste the meaning of the songs lyric. Since metaphor is one of language styles, it causes people to be interested.

The reason the writer chose this topic of discussion, because it is the best from the writer's life experience about the song, because the song really touches the writer's heart and the writer often hears this song at work. The author chose Christina Perri as the object because Christina Perri's song is one of the world's most famous songs. You could say that this song is a favorite song, including customers who come to the author's work. so the writer is interested in analyzing this topic and curiosity arises what metaphors are used in the lyrics of the song. the writer also wants to know about various types of metaphors, especially those used in the lyrics of Christina Perri's songs.

Based on the explanation above, the writer focuses on the metaphor in the song lyrics by Christina Perri. The ten songs by Christina Perri are as follows: A Thousand Years, Jar of Hearts, Human, Arms, Distance, The Lonely, Be My Forever, Burning Gold, The Words, and Sea of Lovers.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS**

Several concepts of meaning shift and change have been noted with a historical perspective. Meaning change is an indication of expansion, narrowing, connotation, synesthesia, and association of a word's meaning that still exists. In meaning shift, the initial meaning of reference does not change or is replaced,

but undergoes an expansion of the reference from the same sound symbol. This means, there is a change of reference that is different from the original reference. Metaphors are not merely decorative additions to beautify everyday language, but they exist in our everyday language, also in thinking and acting, so in their view basically, both in thinking and acting, our conceptualizing system is a natural metaphor.

According to Black and Bredsdley (1981: 63) in Oktariyani (2018:26) Metaphor is understood as a process of comparing meanings by referring to an object, and comparison of objects that are meant with other objects. While according to Richard (1981: 64) in Oktariyani (2018:26) Metaphor is the product of an interaction between vehicle and tenor, in which the tension affected by their discrepancies may be no less important than the feature and associations which are common to both. The understanding of the concept of metaphor based on Richard's definition above is that, if one uses a metaphor, he uses two different ideas, whose overall meaning is a composite of the interaction of the two elements (vehicle and tenor). The tenor is the subject to be discussed, while the vehicle is its image. Metaphor includes equations or transfers between two distinct but equally traits. Meanwhile, to understand a concept of meaning metaphor needs to be identified through, vehicle and tenor. A vehicle is a metaphor form of words or phrases. While the tenor is a word or clause metaphorically. Based on some opinions above the writer concluded that the metaphor is the expression of language to express a thing by using the symbol of something else. The language used by the author will be beautiful and elusive if wrapped in beautiful languages, meaning the beauty of a literary work lies in the style of language used by the author in his work.

## A. Metaphor

Lakoff and Johnson (2003: 3) stated that metaphor permeates our daily lives, it reflects how we feel, what we think about, and we experience in everyday life. Lakoff and Johnson (in Schnadwinkel, 2002: 12) Give examples of sentences that are often heard in everyday life, as follows:  
*Du vergeudest/verschwendest meine Zeit.*  
*Dies wird Ihnen viel Zeit ersparen.*  
*Ich habe keine Zeit zu verlieren.*  
*Danke, daß Sie sich für uns Zeit genommen haben.*

According to Lakoff and Johnson, these sentences do not sound poetic, but in an expression everyday sounds that are often heard when talking regarding time. But written using language to express understanding and everyday experiences related to money, as the words *vergeudest/verschwendest*, *ersparen*, *verlieren*, and *genome*.

Kovecses (2010: 103) states that no all aspects or elements of the source domain are mapped to target realm. In a conceptual metaphor, mapping selectively characterize the source domain to the target domain is called highlighting, and other features that don't show up are called masking. Lakoff and Johnson (2003: 14) state that the structure/relationships between conceptual domains are only partial, not the whole. If this relationship is total, then a concept becomes another concept, not structured/understood in terms of the other concept.

Metaphor is found in everyday life, Lakoff (2003:4) say that metaphor penetrates in our daily life, not only in language but also in mind and act. Lakoff (2003) divides metaphor into three parts. They are: structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor.

## B. Type of Metaphor

### 1. Structural Metaphor

Structural metaphor is when one concept is metaphorically structured in another concept. Michael Reddy in Lakoff (2003:10) says that "conduit metaphor" is ideas object, linguistic expressions are

containers, and communication is sending. It means that the speaker give an idea into word and send it to the hearer who takes the idea out of the word. Kovecses (2010) says that the cognitive function of structural metaphor is to enable the speaker to understand the target by means of the structure of source. The example of structural metaphor is argument is war. In this case, argument and war has different concept. Argument is indicated as oral speech concept and war is indicated as clash of weapon.

## 2. **Oriental Metaphor**

Oriental metaphor deals with a spatial orientation that are derived from our physical or cultural experiences involved up and down, in and out, high and low, front and back, and other (Lakoff, 2003). Kovecses (2010) also says that the name orientational metaphor derives from the fact that most metaphors that serve this function have to do with basic human spatial orientations such as up-down, center-periphery, and the like. For example, his income fell last year. Word fell is categorized as orientational metaphor. The word fell show downwards concept.

## 3. **Ontological Metaphor**

Ontological metaphor deals with an event, activity, emotion, and idea which are considered as entities. Lakoff (2003) says that once we can identify our experiences as entities or substances, we can refer to them, categorize them, group them and quantify them and reason about them. Kovecses (2010) says that personification can be considered as a form of ontological metaphor. For example, my mind is not operating today. In this sentence, the speaker conceptualizes his mind into something that definitely has physical properties.

## 3. **RESEARCH DESIGN**

One of important things of scientific studies in analyzing the problems is having

a method of analysis. In this study, the writer used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. Creswell (2016: 3) explains that the research method is a plan and research procedures which include steps in the form of assumptions broad to detailed methods of collection, analysis and interpretation data. In addition Landmand (1988:7) states that descriptive method is done by describing the fact then followed with the further analysis. The descriptive design is a method of research, which makes a description of situation, event, or occurrences, so this method has an intention to accumulate the basic data analysis. Meanwhile, qualitative methods can be used to explore substantive areas about which little is known is or about which most is known to gain understanding. In addition qualitative method can be used to obtain the intricate details about phenomena such as feelings, thought process, and emotions that are difficult to extract or learn about through more conventional research methods Corbin (1998:11).

Based on the explanation above descriptive qualitative research is a method used by describing the fact with further analysis, understanding meaning, know about natural setting and giving explanation. With this point of view the research is enough to conduct based on descriptive method particularly describe metaphor as found in Metaphor in Christina Perri Song Lyric.

The object of this study is Song Lyrics by Christina Perri. The writer analyzed the song's lyric by Christina Perri to find out the types of metaphor and the meaning of each type of metaphor. The ten songs by Christina Perri are as follows: *A Thousand Years, Jar of Hearts, Human, Arms, Distance, The Lonely, Be My Forever, Burning Gold, The Words, and Sea of Lovers.*

## 4. **Discussion**

The writer analyzes ten songs, namely: A Thousand Years, Jar of Hearts,

Human, Arms, Distance, The lonely, Be My Forefer, Burning Gold, and Sea of Lovers, Having analysis Metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics, the writer findings are:

1. There are three types of Metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics; they are Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor. Structural Metaphor is applied in the lyric "til our lives are burning gold" Burning Gold. Literally lives is the life lived, while burning gold is a golden flame. So the point of the metaphor is to lead a happier life. Orientational Metaphor is applied in the lyric, "and lovers losing hope will you let me follow you" Sea of Lovers. Losing hope in the lyrics of this song is that this condition shows the singer has lost his way, there is a question of uncertainty. This orientational metaphor because it contains pain so that it shows the singer's condition is bad or down. Ontological Metaphor is applied in the lyric, "collecting your jar of hearts" Jar of hearts. Hearts associated with humans. In the lyrics of the song jar is associated with the human heart. Jar cannot possibly be a human heart. This means that the Ontological Metaphor is appelled to these lyrics because human qualities are given to inhuman entities.

2. The result of the analysis shows that Structural Metaphor is found in twenty (20) lines of lyrics in ten (10) songs, which is 50% in percentage. Orientational Metaphor is found in twelve (12) lines of Lyrics in eight songs, which is 30% in percentage. Ontological Metaphor is found in eight (8) lines of lyrics in eight (8) songs, which is 20% in percentage. It is clear that Structural Metaphor is dominant type of metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics with the percentage of 50% out of 100%.

3. The reasons of the occurrence of the dominant type of Metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics are to help the listeners of the songs to visualize comparisons and deepen understanding and to provide the listeners the vivid imagery of the things that the singer wants to convey in her

songs. For example the use of Jar of Hearts in the lyric "don't you know I'm not your ghost anymore" makes it easier for the listeners of the song to visualize what the singer wants to convey and they can understand it more easily and to provide the listeners the vivid imagery of the things that the singer wants to convey in her songs. The singer uses gost in the lyric of her song. This lyric makes people understand easily that the singer wants to show that after the wound was almost healed, suddenly the ex came back into Christina Perri's life and asked her to come back.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the process type of transitivity system in Christina perri's song lyrics, the writer draws three conclusions, they are: There are three types of Metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics; they are Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontology Metaphor. The result of the analysis shows that Structural Metaphor is the dominant type of metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics with the percentage of 50% out of 100 %. The reasons of the occurrence of the dominant type of Metaphor in Christina Perri's song lyrics are to help the listeners of the songs to visualize comparisons and deepen understanding and to provide the listeners the vivid imagery of the things that the singer wants to convey in her songs.

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