

A METAPHORICAL ANALYSIS IN THE SONG LYRICS OF THE GALLAGHER BROTHERS: A SEMANTIC STUDY

Asrul Mustaqim¹, Musa Rifa'i Rahmatulloh², Thomson R. Lingga³

¹Universitas Kebangsaan Republik Indonesia

²Universitas Kebangsaan Republik Indonesia

³Universitas Kebangsaan Republik Indonesia

Abstract

The study, entitled "A Metaphorical Analysis in The Song Lyrics of The Gallagher Brothers" aims to find the most frequent metaphor kinds in the selected song lyrics. The meaning of the metaphor is mostly found in literary works as portraits of human social life. This study therefore aims to identify the types of metaphor used and to find the meaning of metaphor in The Gallagher Brothers song lyrics. The study applied descriptive study accurately and systematically describes phrases and sentences in the song lyrics through the theory of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) about metaphor conceptual to identify kinds of metaphors and to determine the target and source of each datum found. The data sources were taken from the selected songs of the Gallagher brothers. The findings of this study showed that 20 expressions classified into ontological metaphors are mostly found in two others, orientational and structural metaphors. Otherwise, the meaning of data selected in the song lyrics is varied and easier to understand by using the theory to analyse.

Keywords: Metaphoric Meaning; Source Domain; Target Domain; Song Lyrics.

1. Introduction

Lyrics have significant contributions to the music itself although it contributes as the second element of the music. Lyrics give the audience a deep understanding of the message contained in the song; in other words, lyrics clarify the message contained in the song. Every song has its message. The appeal and effectiveness of the word's lyrics to the listener depend on the lyrics. The message contained in a song lyric can be delivered depending on how the writer put the words in the lyrics (Bertoli-Dutra and Bissaco, 2006)

Metaphors include figurative language used to describe something with a different process. Metaphors make language help the writers to explain implied meanings to make them feel stronger. We could find metaphors in poems, books, and also in the lyrics of songs. This study entitled "A Metaphorical Analysis in The Song Lyrics of The Gallagher Brothers" is attempting to analyze the type of metaphor and identify the meaning of reference of Oasis song lyrics. This research explains how many metaphors in Oasis song lyrics.

This study uses a descriptive method in collecting data, the theory used by the writer is Lakoff and Johnson (1980) about the concept of metaphor and classify the type of metaphor. The writer investigated the meaning of deciding target and source based on the Lakoff and Johnson theory (1980) which is classified into three kinds of conceptual metaphor: Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological metaphor. The writer found that there are 8 phases of Structural Metaphor, 3 phrases of Orientational Metaphor, and 9 Ontological

Metaphors in Oasis song lyrics. Every abstract word is transferred to concrete meaning and refers to a certain object of target and source in the Oasis lyric.

Language is a form of communication where someone's thoughts and feelings are symbolized to convey meaning to others. According to Halliday (2003), Language is a system of meaning. A system of meaning is one by which meaning is created and meaning is exchanged. In simple terms, the definition or meaning of language is a tool to convey some things that come to our hearts.

The word metaphor is derived from the Greek μεταφέρω (metapherō) means "to transfer" or "to carry over". Metaphor is an understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003). It is a part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. Metaphor helps speakers or writers to describe two different things and it is not only found in a poem but also in a song. *Metaphor is used in song lyrics to make the songs more beautiful or more aesthetic and to feel good to hear. Not only is it a part that makes the song lyrics more beautiful, metaphor is also the most dominant building element.*

The construction of ideas and thoughts can be found in various forms. to know the meaning illustrated in each sentence, clause, and phrase as portrayed by the writers. The density of the meaning metaphor is hard to understand because it has a special character that literal expression does not. But in the song lyrics, it is commonly used by the composer to inform any social issues, because they assume that it is easier to understand by using metaphor. Song lyrics are media used by composers to express ideas and message listeners or music lovers. Other than that, song lyrics not only entertain but can be used as a medium whether it is for information or opinion on any social issues that happened in the community or country. Moreover, song lyrics are similar to poems and the language used in both poem and song lyrics are similar. Generally, music consists of two elements, sounds as the primary and lyrics as the secondary (Dallin, 1994).

The characterization of conceptual metaphor is a set of mappings, in which a set of mappings is obtained between the basic constituent elements of the source domain and the basic constituent element of the target. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) metaphor there are three types of metaphors. Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor.

The Gallagher Brothers is an English rock band formed in Manchester in 1991, originally named the Rain, The Gallagher Brothers was formed by Liam Gallagher (lead vocals), Noel Gallagher (lead guitar, vocals), Paul Arthurs (guitar), Paul McGuigan (Bass Guitar), and Tony McCarrol (Drums). During their success, The Gallagher Brothers had various line-ups, though the Gallagher brothers remained as the staple members. The Gallagher Brothers split in 2009 after Liam and Noel Gallagher's antagonistic relationship reached breaking point. To complete the analysis, the data was taken from six songs from several albums of The Gallagher Brothers, namely: *Wonderwall, Stand by Me, Don't Look Back in Anger, Stop Crying Your Heart Out, The River, For What it's Worth.*

In this study, some questions need to be analyzed: the types of metaphors found in the The Gallagher Brothers song lyrics and the meaning of metaphor in The Gallagher Brothers song lyrics. The purpose of the research is to identify what are the types of metaphors found in The Gallagher Brothers' song lyrics and to find the meaning of metaphor in The Gallagher Brothers song lyrics.

2. Theories and Methods

Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphor is an understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another. In other words, metaphor is a part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. They observe that people's everyday language uses metaphor to communicate in defining their everyday realities. This theory is better known as conceptual metaphor. According to Lakoff and Johnson, there are three types of metaphor; Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor (1980).

Structural Metaphor

Structural metaphor is a case where one concept is metaphorically structured in others of another (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Structural metaphors are grounded in systematic correlations within our experience. For example, *Argument Is War*. It is not that arguments are subspecies of war. Arguments and wars are different kinds of things and the actions performed are different kinds of actions. But *the Argument* is partially structured, understood, performed, and talked about in terms of *War*.

Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphor is another kind of metaphorical concept, one that does not structure one concept in terms of another but organizes a whole system of concepts with respect to one another (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Orientational metaphors give a concept a spatial orientation: up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off, deep-shallow, and central-peripheral. For example, *Happy Is Up*. The fact that the concept of *Happy* is oriented *Up* leads to English expressions like "I'm feeling *up* today."

Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphor appears when we see events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc., as entities and substances (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Ontological metaphors serve various purposes and various kinds of metaphors there reflect the kinds of purposes served. Ontological metaphors are necessary for even attempting to deal rationally with our experiences (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980).

Song lyrics

Lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. Most of the time, they carry a message (whatever that might be) to motivate the listeners, at least, to think about it. Such a purpose and form of interaction are embedded in the cultural context of these people, according to their musical preferences, time, etc." Dallin (1994),

METHODS

This study uses a descriptive method. The descriptive method is a method of research that involves data to hypothesize or answer questions concerning the correct status of the subject of the research. Frankel and Wallen (1993), the descriptive method is a method used to explain, analyze, and classify something through various techniques, surveys, interviews, questionnaires, observations, and text. In this research, the analysis uses stages of preparation, data collection, and data analysis. As follows, preparation. First is to read the whole lyrics thoroughly and also read several books about metaphor to find the supported theory about metaphor, all those books can be classified as research, study, etc. Second, to collect data found in seven random songs from every The Gallagher Brothers album or singles randomly and the third is to analyze the meaning of the song on each line by using Lakoff and Johnson's theory about **target** and **source**.

Results and Discussion

The quantity of data found is 20 expressions in the song lyrics chosen. The analysis is classified into structural, orientational, and conceptual metaphors. Those metaphorical expressions are then classified according to the three kinds of conceptual metaphors: structural, orientational, and ontological metaphors and also source and target.

Table 1. Structural Metaphor

No.	Song Verse	Source	Target
1.	You're my Wonderwall	Wonderwall	You
2.	Before my hearts start to burn	My heart	Burn
3.	Her soul - slides away	Slides away	Her soul
4.	May your smile shine on	Your smile	Shine on
5.	Slip inside the eye of your mind	Slip inside	Eye of your mind
6.	My heart will never be your home	My heart	Your home
7.	So I started a revolution from my bed	<i>(Implied)</i>	Revolution
8.	You ain't ever gonna burn - my heart out	Burn	My heart out

Table 2. Orientational Metaphor

No.	Song Verse	Source	Target
1.	All the roads we have to walk are winding	Winding	The roads
2.	The things we find behind the door	Behind the door	The things
3.	Hold up, hold on. Don't be scared.	<i>(Implied)</i>	Hold up, hold on

Table 3. Ontological Metaphor

No.	Song Verse	Source	Target
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1.	Get out of your clouds of weed	Clouds of weed	Get out
2.	Get out of your time machines	Time machines	Get out
3.	The word is in the street that the fire in your heart is out	Fire in your heart is out	The word
4.	It's hard to find sunset in the eye of a storm	Sunset	Eye of a storm
5.	I know it's just a word and word betray	(Implied)	Words betray
6.	And all the light that lead us are blinding	Blinding	The lights
7.	Don't you know that the cold and wind and the rain – don't know	The cold and wind and the rain	Don't know
8.	The brains I had went to my head	The brains	Went to my head
9.	Stop crying your heart out	Crying	Heart out

DATA FOUND IN THE SONG LYRICS

The 1st song Lyrics of Wonderwall

This song consists of nine stanzas, and the stanzas that are analyzed are 3 and 4.

Stanza 3

1. And all the roads we have to walk are winding
2. And all the lights that lead us there are blinding
3. There are many things that I would like to say to you
4. But I don't know how

The context of this stanza is to tell about keep moving on and hope for the best. **“And all the roads we have to walk are winding, and all the lights that lead us are blinding”**, these lyrics are about getting to a better place in life is not easy. There are two metaphors in these lyrics, the first one is *the roads* and *winding* from **the Orientational Metaphor**, and the second one is *the lights* and *blinding* from **the Ontological Metaphor**. The **Orientational Metaphor** is marked by the word *the roads* which show about the road of life, meaning that you can't see what's ahead. The **Ontological Metaphor** is marked by the word *the light* meaning the light that you follow is blinding you, this **Ontological Metaphor** shows **Personification**. Based on the analysis, there are two metaphors in this stanza, **Orientational Metaphor** and **Personification** from **Ontological Metaphor**.

Stanza 4

1. Because maybe
2. You're gonna be the one that saves me
3. And after all
4. You're my Wonderwall

The context of this stanza is to tell about someone or something which can save the songwriter. **“And after all, You're my Wonderwall”**, tells about someone or it could be something or maybe an imaginary friend who saves you from yourself. In this stanza, line four

is one of the **Structural metaphors** which states that *"You"* was meant to be everything or anything, because the word "Wonderwall" is a pseudo term and it could refer to someone or something that could be anything or everything for anybody. Based on the analysis, **Structural Metaphor** is the only metaphor found in this stanza.

The 2nd song lyrics in Stand by Me

This song consists of ten Stanzas, the stanzas that are analyzed are; 2, 3, and 6.

Stanza 2

1. So what's the matter with you?
2. Sing me something new
3. Don't you know the cold and wind and rain don't know
4. They only seem to come and go away

The context of this stanza is about losing interest in someone. The lyric *"Don't you know the cold and wind and rain don't know, They only seem to come and go away"*, tells about the feeling of the songwriter on losing interest in someone else and asking this person to give him something new. *"Don't you know the cold and wind and rain don't know"* was shown as **personification**, one of the categories of **Ontological Metaphor**. In this stanza, the writer only found an **Ontological Metaphor**.

Stanza 3

1. Times are hard when things have got no meaning
2. I've found a key on the floor
3. Maybe you and I will not believe in
4. The things we find behind the door

The context of this stanza is to tell about the difficult times in life that the songwriters had. The lyric *"The things we find behind the door"*, is one of the **Oriental Metaphor**, it means about unexpected things that are already waiting ahead of you in the future. Unfortunately, based on this analysis, **Oriental Metaphor** is the only metaphor found in this stanza.

Stanza 6

1. If you're leaving will you take me with you?
2. I'm tired of talking on my phone
3. There is one thing I can never give you
4. My heart will never be your home

The context of this stanza shows boundaries in friendship. *"My heart will never be your home"*, this line says about the private space, meaning that there are some spaces that can't be reached or known by anyone else even the closest person you know. These lyrics contain **Structural metaphors**, which are the only metaphors found in this stanza. In this song, there are three categories of metaphor found: **Structural Metaphor, Oriental Metaphor, and Personification** from **Ontological Metaphor**.

The 3rd Song Lyrics in *Don't Look Back in Anger*

This consists of 8 stanzas, the stanzas analyzed are 1, 2, and 3

Stanza 1

1. Slip inside the eye of your mind
2. Don't you know you might find
3. A better place to play?
4. You said that you'd never been
5. But all the things that you've seen
6. Slowly fade away

This stanza's context is about being doesn't care about the past. "***Slip inside the eye of your mind***", is a part of **Structural Metaphor**, it means to think again about anything. This lyric is the only metaphor found in this stanza.

Stanza 2

1. So I start a revolution from my bed
2. 'Cause you said the brains I had went to my head
3. Step outside, summertime's in bloom
4. Stand up beside the fireplace
5. Take that look from off your face
6. You ain't ever gonna burn my heart out

The context in this stanza is about the songwriter's personality which doesn't care anymore about this person. "***So I start a revolution from my bed***", the word *revolution* shows the **Structural Metaphor**, which means the songwriter is starting to change his looks and personality. "***Cause you said the brains I had went to my head***", there is a metaphor *for the brains I had went to my head* in this line which shows **Personification**, from an **Ontological Metaphor**. Meaning that the songwriter was acting too smart, said the person. "***You ain't ever gonna burn my heart out***", Based on this analysis, there are two metaphors in this stanza, **Structural Metaphor** and **Ontological Metaphor**.

Stanza 3

1. And so, Sally can wait
2. She knows it's too late as she's walking on by
3. Her soul slides away
4. But don't look back in anger, I heard you say

The context of this stanza is about not putting any hate on the past. "***Her soul slides away, but don't look back in anger***", means to let go and not put any hate on the past. The **Structural Metaphor** *Her soul slides away* marked, with *Her soul* as a target followed by *slides away* as the source, meaning a brief moment in time in which one is devastated by a painful event. Based on analysis, **Structural Metaphor** is the only metaphor, found in this stanza.

The 4th Song Lyrics in *Stop Crying Your Heart Out*

This song contains six stanzas, the analyzed stanzas are 1 and 2

Stanza 1

1. Hold up
2. Hold on
3. Don't be scared
4. You'll never change what's been and gone
5. May your smile (may your smile)
6. Shine on (shine on)
7. Don't be scared (don't be scared)
8. Your destiny may keep you warm

The context of this stanza is to keep faith in life. ***“Hold up, hold on. Don't be scared, You'll never change what's been and gone. May your smile shine on.”***, this means to keep faith in life, because you can never change what's been through. The **Oriental Metaphor** was found in ***“Hold up, hold on. Don't be scared”*** which means holding on to destiny. The lyrics ***“May your smile shine on”***, means there is still hope in the future. These lyrics were found in **Structural Metaphor**. Based on the analysis, this stanza has two metaphors; **Oriental Metaphor** and **Structural Metaphor**.

Stanza 2.

1. 'Cause all of the stars
2. Are fading away
3. Just try not to worry
4. You'll see them someday
5. Take what you need
6. And be on your way
7. And stop crying your heart out

The context of this stanza is about a simple way of living and moving forward. ***“And stop crying your heart out”***, the lyrics were analyzed as **an Ontological Metaphor**. This means growing up, taking responsibility accepting things as they simply are, and stopping crying about the mistakes that happened in the past. Based on the analysis, the only metaphor found in this stanza is **the Ontological Metaphor**.

The 5th Song Lyrics in *The River*

This song contains six stanzas, the analyzed stanza is the first stanza.

Stanza 1

1. Well, come on, you're weak of knees
2. Afraid of the thought police
3. You who say our generation is forsaken
4. Get out of your clouds of weed
5. Get out of your time machines
6. You can say that the sleeper has awakened

The context of this stanza is about an initiation to wake up and realize what is happening in this world. "***Get out of your clouds of weed. Get out of your time machines***", the lyrics mean we have to wake up from our fantasy and our past. This lyric was found in **Container** as an **Ontological Metaphor**. This metaphor is the only metaphor found in this stanza.

The 6th Song Lyrics in For What It's Worth

This song contains six stanzas, the stanza analyzed is the first stanza.

1. In my defense all my intentions were good
2. And heaven holds a place somewhere for the misunderstood
3. You know I'd give you blood if it'd be enough
4. Devil's on my doorstep since the day I was born
5. It's hard to find a sunset in the eye of a storm
6. But I'm a dreamer by design and I know in time we'll put this behind

The context of this song is about an introspective look at his life which is full of errors. "***It's hard to find sunset in the eye of a storm***", means lost in the mess of life. This lyric was found in **Personification**, part of **Ontological Metaphor**. This is the only metaphor found in this stanza based on the analysis.

Conclusions

Metaphors give us different points of view in analyzing a work to find its true meaning. The metaphor also shows that what the songwriters wrote has another implied meaning. In this study, it can be seen that metaphors have a broad concept of thinking, especially in everyday life.

The metaphor implied in the Gallagher brothers' song explains that the metaphor contained in this song has conceptual metaphor terms classified by Lakoff & Johnson. The type of metaphor found in conceptual metaphor, are: 8 expressions are Structural Metaphor, 3 expressions are Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor. 9 expressions are Ontological Metaphor are mostly used in this song. The meaning of metaphor implied in the Gallagher Brothers' songs, tells more about the emotions of the songwriters. Metaphors also show the perspectives of songwriters regarding the problems they face, as well as surviving the worst situations.

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