ANALYSIS OF THE METAPHORS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S SONGS "DEAR JOHN"

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Abstract
Humans use language to communicate and convey their ideas and feelings, which can be expressed as a song. Through its lyrics, a song expresses a concept or a mood. A song may contain many metaphors with contextual significance in order to portray a mood and emotion. Various people may have diverse interpretations of a song. This implies all types of songs, including Taylor Swift's "Dear John". As a result, the metaphors that are employed in the song will be covered in this research. This song's metaphors will be examined via Ullman's metaphor theory. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. This method was selected because it provides the information required to address the research's issues. Regarding the objectives of this study, it was discovered that this song has four metaphors: one synesthetic metaphor, three concrete to abstract metaphors, zero anthropomorphic metaphors, and zero animal metaphors. The purpose of using these metaphors is to help the listeners grasp the depths of emotions the songwriter aimed to portray in the song, in addition to helping the tale in the song be more captivatingly presented.
Keywords: *Metaphors, Figurative language, Songs, Dear John, Taylor Swift*

Introduction

Humans use language to communicate and show their ideas and feelings (Effendi, 1985).This media is frequently employed to communicate a person's emotions, concepts, feelings, and reactions to various situations. According to Soejono (1989 : 01), Language is a necessary way of spiritual communication in everyday life. Language has a critical function in human life. We may not be able to interact if we do not have language, because language is the source of human contact with others. The language in this world varies greatly; on average, every country has a different language, while there are some similarities but not many, and the pronunciation is not entirely the same.

Songs can be used as a way to communicate ideas, sentiments, emotions, or concepts. As a result, various individuals can understand the same music in different ways. Semantic abilities are therefore necessary in order to decipher a song's meaning. Understanding how language contains and communicates meaning is the foundation of the systematic research into semantics (Kreidler, 2022). Humans may learn and comprehend words, phrases, or sentences that speakers express and listeners interpret through the use of semantic analysis. Yule (2010) asserts that semantics is connected to linguistic features of meaning. According to Saeed (2009), meaning can be classified into two categories: true meaning and non-literal meaning. Non-literal words lack the true meaning of the sentences, whereas literal terms do. Words can convey their nonliteral meaning in two ways: first, through idioms, and second, through metaphorical language.

Figurative language can be defined by the use of terms or idioms that have meanings that are not absolutely factual. A person only states facts as they are when he uses direct language. On the other hand, figurative language uses statements that are exaggerated or changed to express certain things in a

language. Metaphors are a type of figurative language; "Time is money" is a common example. The sentence mixes money and time, however it does not imply that your financial resources and your amount of time are equal. However, this demonstrates that time is an expensive commodity that must be spent wisely in order to generate income.

Figurative language includes simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, and so on. Furthermore, metaphor is a metaphorical language that is frequently employed in daily life. The Latin phrase metaphora, which meaning "to transfer," represents the Greek base of the word metaphor. Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 3) assert that metaphor is common in daily life and can be found not only in language but also in cognition and action. This illustrates how metaphorical communication affects people's lives profoundly. Consequently, metaphorical language helps us convey how we understand what is happening around us.

Taylor Swift is one of the most successful musicians right now. This amazing triumph, according to the singer of the hit "Shake It Off," arose from a bitter event he had previously undergone. Taylor Swift's chart-topping songs were primarily inspired by a traumatic event she had. Taylor Swift's song about her former romantic commitment with Harry Styles was one of the most unforgettable. Swift also remarked that her success was inextricably linked to her social milieu. Because she is picky about who he associates with. She does not want to waste her time with people who are simply interested in fame. Taylor Swift's song 'Dear John' contains metaphors. This song is on the Speak Now album, which was released on October 25, 2010.

B. METHOD
1. Reasearch Design
The author employed a qualitative descriptive approach to examine the data in this research with eight categories of metaphors, according to Ullman's (1972) theory. To identify kinds, qualitative descriptive methods are applied. As a research topic, the author attempts to analyze Taylor Swift's song Dear John. Providing a realistic and accurate representation or portrayal of the facts, attributes, and connections between the subjects under investigation is the aim of this description qualitative study.

2. Source of Data
The source data of this research is "Dear John" songs by Taylor Swift 2010. The meaning of the lyrics of 'Dear John' by Taylor Swift is the singer's experience. In this song, the singer expresses his regret and guilt towards a man named John for ruining their relationship which has a large age gap.

3. Data Collecting Procedures
To collect data for this research, researchers used various methods, including:
1. Reading, namely the writer reads the lyrics to understand the entire text, especially lyrics that have metaphors
   2. Apart from identifying metaphors, researchers detected them by marking the songs as containing metaphors when reading the text.
   3. Find out the meaning of each lyric that contains metaphors.

4. Data Analysis Procedures
The first goal of data analysis was to categorize the metaphors found in the lyrics. This was done to clarify the various metaphorical expressions used in the song Dear John. Analysis can begin once classification is complete. The investigation began by

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counting the number of metaphors found in each song. The following steps may be used to check the data:

1. Recognize metaphors in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Researchers carefully read the song lyrics, line by line and verse by verse, looking for phrases or clauses that resemble idioms.

2. Determine the beginning of the metaphor using Ullman's (1972) theory.

3. Explain the meaning of the metaphor contained in the lyrics of the song Dear John. At this stage, the researcher clarifies the meaning of the term

4. Table illustrating the difference between metaphorical statements and actual meaning.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are 4 data identified in the song's lyrics that are appropriate for the research. All of these pieces of information were deemed appropriate because they are metaphor lines from the lyrics. These data were then analyzed using Ullman's (1972) metaphor theory to figure out which category of metaphors they belonged to.

No.	Category of Metaphors	Data
1.	Anthropomorphic	0
2.	Animal	0
3.	Concrete to abstract	3
4.	Synesthetic	1
	Total	4

Anthropomorphic Metaphor
There is no data in the anthropomorphic category. When depicting another thing, this kind of metaphor conveys human traits (behavior, body parts). Personification is another term for this metaphor, and it is also a kind of figurative language in and of itself.

Animal Metaphor
There is no data in animal metaphor category. This kind of metaphor typically describes something using an animal's name, anatomical component, or other animal-related concept.

Concrete to Abstract Metaphor
Out of each of the groups, this one has the most data—three total. It happens when an abstract experience is translated into a physical one, or vice versa, with the intention of enhancing the meaning's emotional resonance as well as comprehension. This kind of metaphor, to put it simply, transforms an abstract idea into a tangible concept by endowing it with properties of a concrete, living thing.
"You paint me a blue sky"
"and come back and turn it into rain"

Figurative language of the concrete to abstract metaphor kind can be found in the lyric fragment. The definition of *"blue sky"* is happiness bestowed onto someone. But the essence of the song's words*, "and go back and turn it to rain,"* is that euphoria fades and is replaced by unhappiness and melancholy.

Additional information about this category contained in the songs is "*I lived in your chess games*" ; "*to be played by your dark, twisted games when I love you so*?".

Synesthetic

There is a piece of lyric in the song Dear John that uses synestic metaphor. This category transfers responses to experiences, or responses to combinations of both. During the transfer, there is a displacement, such as the sensation when listening to the response of eyesight.

"I'm shining like fireworks over your sad empty town"

Which means this girl shines very brightly over a dead, empty, sleeping city.

D. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of this study, four metaphors were employed in Taylor Swift's song "Dear John," which she wrote and sang. Stephen Ullman (1972) advocated categorizing these metaphors into four categories. The most common metaphor categories utilized in songs are tangible to abstract metaphors with three facts presented in the song. Because love, like other sentiments and feelings. is an abstract concept, these metaphors are far more prevalent than others. After conducting the analysis and drawing findings from this research, future researchers have several options for further research on language style, diction, and meaning. The author also suspects that this research will serve as a resource for future writers and provide information on language, particularly in the discipline of linguistics such as language style and diction.

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