

**A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR FOUND IN SELECTED LYRICS
OF “THE SCRIPT”, “KATY PERRY”, AND “MICHAEL BUBLÉ”**



**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
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A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR FOUND IN SELECTED LYRICS OF “THE SCRIPT”, “KATY PERRY”, AND “MICHAEL BUBLÉ”

ABSTRAK

Semantik adalah kajian makna didalam bahasa. Semantik dapat diimplementasikan untuk menganalisa karya sastra maupun non karya sastra. Untuk memahami makna sebuah lirik lagu, penulis fokus pada ungkapan metafora didalam lagu. Penelitian ini menganalisis tentang analisa semantic pada metafora yang ditemukan didalam lirik lagu dari “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, dan “Michael Bublé”. Itu akan dianalisa menggunakan teori dari Crystal, Beckson, dan Ganz tentang klasifikasi metafora. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah (1) Mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe metafora yang ditemukan dilirik “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, dan “Michael Bublé”, (2) Mendeskripsikan unsur-unsur yang dibandingkan di dalam metafora pada lirik “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, dan “Michael Bublé”, dan (3) Menjelaskan fungsi makna metafora pada lirik “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, dan untuk mendeskripsikan implikasi dalam penggunaan majas metafora di dalam pendidikan.

Penelitian ini dianalisa dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif karena penulis menggunakan deskripsi berdasarkan kualitas pemahaman di analisis. Di dalam menganalisa data, penulis menggunakan teori klasifikasi metafora dari Crystal, Beckson & Ganz (1999) dan teori *tenor* dan *vehicle* dari Richards dan Leech (1969). Kemudian penulis mendeskripsikan fungsi makna metafora dan implikasinya untuk memahami keseluruhan makna secara kontekstual. Terdapat 30 lirik lagu dari “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, dan “Michael Bublé” sebagai data di penelitian ini.

Berdasarkan klasifikasi metafora dari Crystal, Beckson, & Ganz (1999) terdapat tiga tipe majas metafora, yaitu *conceptual metaphor*, *mixed metaphor*, dan *poetic metaphor*. Di dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan 194 data *conceptual metaphor*, 60 data *mixed metaphor*, dan 5 data *poetic metaphor*. *Conceptual metaphor* adalah metafora yang paling dominan yang ditemukan didalam lirik lagu sedangkan *poetic metaphor* adalah yang paling sedikit dan *mixed metaphor* hanya seperempat dari semua persentase data. Penulis kemudian mendeskripsikan fungsi makna metafora adalah untuk membuat ide pada lirik lebih bermakna sedangkan implikasi metafora di dalam pendidikan adalah untuk memperkaya ide kreatif para siswa dalam kemampuan menulis.

Kata kunci: Semantik, Metafora, Makna, Lirik Lagu

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR FOUND IN SELECTED LYRICS OF “THE SCRIPT”, “KATY PERRY”, AND “MICHAEL BUBLÉ”

ABSTRACT

Semantics is the study of meaning in language. It can be implemented to analyze the literary work or nonliterary work. To understand the meaning of lyric songs, the writer focuses on the metaphor expression in the song. This research analyzes about semantic analysis of metaphor found in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”. It will be analyzed by theory of Crystal, Beckson and Ganz about metaphor classification. The purposes of this research are (1) Identifying the types of metaphor which are found in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, (2) Describing the elements which are being compared in such metaphors of selected lyrics from “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, and (3) Explaining the functional meaning of the metaphor in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, and to describe the implication in the use of metaphor in education.

This research is analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method because the writer uses description based on the quality comprehensive in the analysis. In analyzing data, the writer uses the theory of metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz (1999) and the theory of tenor and vehicle from Richards and Leech (1969). Then the writer describes the functional meaning of metaphor and its implication to comprehend the whole meaning contextually. There are 30 selected lyrics from “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé” as the data in this research.

Based on metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz (1999) there are three types of metaphor, namely conceptual metaphor, mixed metaphor, and poetic metaphor. In this research, the writer found 194 data of conceptual metaphor, 60 data of mixed metaphor, and 5 data of poetic metaphor. Conceptual metaphor is the dominant metaphor which is used in the song lyrics while poetic metaphor is the least and mixed metaphor is just one fourth of the whole percentage of the findings. The writer then describes the functional meaning of metaphor is to make the ideas of the lyrics more meaningful while the implication of metaphor in education is to enrich students’ creative idea in writing skills.

Keywords: Semantic, Metaphor, Meaning, Song Lyric

1. INTRODUCTION

The meaning of word, phrase and sentence is very important to be analyzed because it can make something more understandable to be communicated to the others. According to Yule (2006: 112) semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. The study of meaning is in the work of semantic analysis. The definition above highlights that meaning being investigated is in the scope of linguistics. For example, one might make a description of sadness or happiness by using word or sentence, so it needs to be analysed semantically for more understanding.

The writer and the singer of the song try to tell the story of the song by writing a good lyric which is combined by nice music to make a great art. Oxford (2008: 423) defined song as “short piece of music with words that you sing”. Lyric is word of a song (Oxford, 2008: 264). Every single song has different meaning and the writer usually uses an implicit meaning or explicit meaning in the lyric. Understanding the meaning of the song lyric can be grammatically, but sometimes the hearer of the song found lyric that has implicit meaning. Understanding the meaning of metaphor in song lyrics needs to be studied further. For example in the lyric '**Cause baby, you're a firework**, literally firework is a device containing chemicals that can burn or explode with colored flames (Oxford, 2008), we can't say that the person who is purposed in the lyric is a firework, but the meaning of firework is to represent the characteristic of unique person who is capable of doing great things. It is the concept of meaning as related to metaphor.

In this case, meaning is the most significant thing that can be studied for more understanding. This research concerns with the semantic analysis of metaphor. The researcher focuses only on selected lyrics from “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bubl ” which are containing metaphor and will be analyzed by major principle of the theory of Crystal, Beckson & Ganz who classify the types of metaphor, theory of tenor and vehicle by Richards and Leech. The meaning can be studied through Linguistics. Linguistics is the study of language scientifically. The subdivision of Linguistics which is

dealing with meaning is Semantics. According to Riemer in his book entitled *Introducing Semantics* (Ibid), semantics is one of the richest and most fascinating parts of linguistics. Semantics is the study of meaning and this is the definition that we will provisionally adopt (Lyons, 1977: 01). Semantics is one of the richest and most fascinating parts of linguistics. There are some ways in expressing ideas, which deviate from the semantic conventions with figurative language and idiom. Figurative language is used to create a special effect or feeling. It is characterized by figures of speech—language that compares, exaggerates, or means something other than what it first appears to mean (Perrine, 1977: 61). Metaphor is one of figurative language which is the most common and widely used. According to Ortony (1979 :03) says that metaphor as an essential characteristic of the creativity of language; and metaphor as deviant and parasitic upon normal usage – to more a fundamental and pervasive difference of opinion about the relationship between language and the world. Regarding the way metaphor works, there are three constitutes of a metaphor: topic (tenor), vehicle and ground. Topic (tenor) is the subject of metaphor or the intended idea to be expressed; vehicle is another idea by which the tenor is being described; and ground is the similarities and/or analogies involved, or the basis on which topic and vehicle could be thus put together (Goatly, 1997: 09). There are four types of metaphor, namely, decorative metaphor, mixed metaphor, structural metaphor, and dead metaphor (Beckson & Ganz, 1975: 141-142) in Lukman (2009: 02) and also (Crystal, 1999: 215-216) in Lukman (Ibid) categorized metaphor into four types: conceptual metaphor, mixed metaphor, poetic metaphor, and conventional metaphor. Conceptual metaphor (decorative metaphor) is the simplest case of metaphor which normally takes the form: ‘*The first subject is a second subject*’. Mixed metaphor is a combination of more than one metaphor in which the qualities which are intended to suggest is illogical or incongruous (Beckson & Ganz, 1975: 142), (Holman, 2004: 196) in Lukman (2009: 28). Poetic metaphor (extended, functional, organic, structural metaphor) is a sequence of metaphors which forms an extremely

far-fetched parallel among totally dissimilar things or objects (Beckson & Ganz, 1975: 142), (Boulton, 1970: 259) in Lukman (ibid). Both Beckson & Ganz and Crystal defined the same understanding, but they are used different terms of types of metaphor.

Song lyrics are from a band named *The Script* – a famous Irish-based rock boy band. While *Katy Perry* and *Michael Bublé* are the famous singer and their songs have been hearing by people in the world. Some of their songs were used in some text book of senior high school to be a material in listening skill. The writer chooses some lyrics from their songs because the composers of their songs make the lyrics more complicated and colorful by combining some metaphor expressions. Metaphor analysis has been analyzed by some researcher, such as Sholichati (2013), Rahayu (2006), Nordensvard (2013), Qiang (2011), Abbasi and Iravani (2012), Abdel (2015), and Hochmair and Luttich (2010). They found that metaphor analysis has function to give more understanding in the text of literary work and non-literary work, etc.

Contrasting from all the researchers' work and introduction above, the writer presents that the data source are different from the previous researchers. The researcher uses some selected lyrics from "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé" in this research. Different from the researchers above, in this research the researcher uses semantic analysis to find the metaphor meaning, the types of metaphor based on theory from Crystal, Beckson & Ganz about metaphor classification, and topic & vehicle term of metaphor.

Based on the backgrounds and the definition above the researcher is going to analyze the meaning of the lyric song by using semantic analysis entitled *A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR FOUND IN SELECTED LYRICS OF "THE SCRIPT", "KATY PERRY", AND "MICHAEL BUBLÉ"*.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this study is descriptive qualitative study because in this study the researcher is going to describe the meaning and to classify the

types of metaphor. In this research, the object is the analysis of metaphorical expressions found in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”. The data of this research are phrases and sentences which are containing metaphorical expressions. The data are taken from the lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”. There are 30 songs which are selected by the writer. In this research, the method of collecting data is observation and documentation. The researcher collects the data through technique of: downloading the lyrics on the internet, reading all lyrics that have downloaded, selecting the lyrics which are containing metaphor by underline the lyrics and classifying the metaphorical expressions have found in the lyrics. The systematic techniques in conducting the analysis are as follows: identifying the types of metaphor which are found in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, the writer uses the theory of metaphor classification from Crystal, Beckson & Ganz, describing the elements which are being compared in such metaphors of selected lyrics from “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, the writer uses the theory of tenor and vehicle from Richards and Leech, and explaining the functional meaning of the metaphor in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, the writer refers to context in the use of metaphor in education.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data, there are 259 metaphorical expressions found in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”.

Below are the number and the percentage of each type of metaphor:

No.	Types of Metaphor	Data Amount	Percentage
1.	Conceptual Metaphor	194	74, 9%
2.	Mixed Metaphor	60	23, 2%
3.	Poetic Metaphor	5	1, 9%

Here is the way to count the percentage of each metaphor:

1. Conceptual Metaphor

$$\text{Conceptual} = \frac{194}{259} \times 100 = 74,9\%$$

2. Mixed Metaphor

$$\text{Mixed} = \frac{60}{259} \times 100 = 23,2\%$$

3. Poetic Metaphor

$$\text{Poetic} = \frac{5}{259} \times 100 = 1,9\%$$

3.1. Conceptual Metaphor

Datum 5

Love is from above

(Song: *This = Love*, Singer: *The Script*, Line: 27)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Conceptual Metaphor

The concept of **Love** is the topic-term, the concept of from above is the vehicle-term, and the concept of the ground-term is *to believe that the feeling of love comes from God, the one who creates the feeling*. The context of the song is all the things, which people face in doing relationship. The pain will be a part of their love story and make their love stronger. The functional meaning of metaphor "Love is from above" is that people who fall in love with someone else is the destiny from the God.

Datum 76

I was June

(Song: *The One That Got Away*, Singer: *Katy Perry*, Line: 12)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Conceptual Metaphor

The concept of **I** is the topic-term, the concept of June is the vehicle-term, and the concept of the ground-term is *being the man's partner in life*. The context of the song is about the memories of someone who had passed away. The functional meaning of metaphor "I was June" is that the girl is someone special for the man in life.

3.2. Mixed Metaphor

Datum 16

I pray to God you don't see the silent hell in I wish you well

(Song: *No Good In Goodbye*, Singer: *The Script*, Line: 22)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Mixed Metaphor

The concept of **I** is the topic-term, the concept of the silent hell and wish you well is the vehicle-term, and the concept of the ground-term is *the man prays all the best for the girl*. The context of the song is being apart from someone they love. It is about farewell. The functional meaning of metaphor "I pray to God you don't see the silent hell in I wish you well" is that even though the man is in pain, he still does a good thing for the girl like praying.

Datum 17

If I could turn back time then I would re-write those lines

(Song: *No Good In Goodbye*, Singer: *The Script*, Line: 36)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Mixed Metaphor

The concept of **I** is the topic-term, the concept of turn back time and re-write those lines is the vehicle-term, and the concept of the ground-term is *the man wishes can be the girl's boyfriend again*. The context of the song is being apart from someone they love. It is about farewell. The functional meaning of metaphor "If I could turn back time then I would re-write those lines" is that people sometimes wish to fix what they have broken in the past.

3.3. Poetic Metaphor

Datum 1

When you've been fighting for it all your life

You've been struggling to make things right

That's how a superhero learns to fly

(Every day, every hour

Turn the pain into power)

(Song: *Superheroes*, Singer: *The Script*, Line: 13-17)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Poetic Metaphor

The concept of **superhero** is the topic-term, the concept of all your life, things, fly, the pain, and power is the vehicle term, and the concept of the ground-term is *an analogy of people's struggle*. The context of the song is about the struggle of people's life. The functional meaning of metaphor "When you've been fighting for it all your life You've been struggling to make things right That's how a superhero learns to fly (Every day, every hour Turn the pain into power)" is that people have to make life better like superhero for example father and mother, they will do anything for the family.

Datum 5

Call me irresponsible

Yes, I'm unreliable

But it's undeniably true

That I'm irresponsibly mad for you

Do my foolish alibis bore you?

Girl, I'm not too clever, I

I just adore you

(Song: *Call Me Irresponsible*, Singer: *Michael Bublé*, Line: 10-16)

Elements Topic, Vehicle, and Explanation:

Types of Metaphor: Poetic Metaphor

The concept of **I** is the topic-term, the concept of unreliable, undeniable true, irresponsibly mad, and my foolish is the vehicle-term, and the concept of the ground-term is *all characteristics of being a secret admirer*. The context of the song is the kinds of the man's characteristics when he likes a girl. The functional meaning of metaphor "Call me irresponsible Yes, I'm unreliable

But it's undeniably true That I'm irresponsibly mad for you Do my foolish alibis bore you? Girl, I'm not too clever, I I just adore you" is that what the man does is just because he loves the girl so much and he just wants to prove that he truly loves her.

The result of findings above shows that data amount for conceptual metaphor is 194. The frequency of using conceptual metaphor is dominant used by composers of the songs of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé". It means that they prefer to describe the emotion of song by using conceptual metaphor. Based on the result above, conceptual metaphor is the most dominant type while poetic metaphor is the least in selected lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé". Conceptual metaphor turns out to be the most dominant type because theoretically based on metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz it is the simplest case of metaphor. For example from the data analysis: **boy, you're an alien** as the conceptual metaphor, here a man is compared with an alien, and it means that the man is someone who the girl meets for the first time as a stranger. In this type, there is only one idea being compared with another idea. Most metaphors which appear in everyday conversation are conceptual metaphor. It also appears in selected lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé" to describe the object being compared more complicated and colorful. In previous study, Sholichati (2013) who studied metaphorical expressions on everlasting love songs just found six categories of human perceptual system by Haley's theory. She just focuses on things, which are being compared on metaphor expressions. The similarities of this research with previous research which was studied by Sholichati (2013) is metaphorical expression on songs while the difference of this research is that there are three types of metaphor which the writer found and it can be divided to give more understanding about kinds of metaphor which used in the songs. The writer of this research explains the functional of each metaphor to give clear definition of metaphor that used in the songs of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé". The writer also explains the implication of metaphor in education by

comparing the material in the learning process using song and just using a textbook.

Mixed metaphor is ranking second. It constitutes one fourth of the overall percentage. It means that mixed metaphor a little bit difficult to be understood in the songs when the listeners read the lyric of the songs. According to theory of metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz, mixed metaphor is more complicated than conceptual metaphor which just compared one idea. Mixed metaphor mixed metaphor applies more than one metaphor to describe one thing. For example from the data analysis: **love is why we fall down and get back up again**. In the example, love is being compared with why we fall down and get back up again. However many of it appears in selected lyrics of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé”, comparing such phenomena of life as love, analogy, and struggle. Comparing with previous researchers, this research is more understandable because in Sholichati (2013) who studied metaphorical expressions just found several things being compared without knowing the types of metaphor itself and giving the explanation about the functional meaning of each metaphor.

Poetic metaphor appears as the least type. It means that the use of poetic metaphor in the songs of “The Script”, “Katy Perry”, and “Michael Bublé” is very low because it is the most complicated one of metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz. The researcher found that the idea of poetic metaphor must be studied more frequently to get more understanding. The listeners cannot understand the concept of poetic metaphor if they just read one time. It consists of a series of metaphors with one principal subject and one or more subsidiary subjects. There is more than one comparison in a poetic metaphor to describe one thing; each comparison may be either conceptual or mixed metaphor. For example from the data analysis: **When you've been fighting for it all your life, You've been struggling to make things right, That's how a superhero learns to fly, (Every day, every hour, turn the pain into power)**. In the example, one thing is being compared with some ideas of metaphor to make the lyrics more

dramatic and meaningful in describing the idea of the lyric. In the other hand, poetic metaphor is established from one or more conceptual or mixed metaphor. Comparing with previous study by Rahayu (2006) who analyzed metaphorical meaning in the lyrics of Josh Groban's songs, she just found poetic words in the songs. The similarities of this research are metaphorical expressions and the concept of poetic metaphor while the differences are the types of metaphor which have found by the writer in the songs of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé" richer than previous study. The writer found three types of metaphor such as conceptual, mixed, and poetic metaphor.

According to major principal of Haley's theory about Human Perceptual System, there are nine things which usually being compared in metaphor cases. They are abstract concept (such as truth and love), cosmos (such as sun and star), energy (such as thunder and light), substance (such as gas), terrestrial (such as river and mountain), things (such as poison and chair), life (such as flora and fauna), animate (the grass shaking and the stone breaking), and man (such as a hero). Some of them appear in selected lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé".

As some previous researchers who have found metaphor in literary work just focused on one thing that being compared in metaphor expression cases using Haley's theory, and some researcher focused on metaphor expression in non-literary work. In this research the writer is not only focusing on one thing that being compared but also the classification of metaphor based on the theory of metaphor classification by Crystal, Beckson & Ganz.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results above, the writer found that conceptual metaphor is the easiest type in the selected lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Bublé" while poetic lyrics is the most complicated and mixed metaphor is in the middle level of difficulties in metaphor classification to be analyzed. In selected lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael

Bublé” are dominated by metaphor expression. A conclusion can be drawn that metaphor plays its role in these lyrics, not only to deliver and beautify the ideas of the lyrics, but also to arouse listeners’ emotional feelings in listening those song. The writer would like to suggest those who are interested in communication skill to apply metaphor as one of their way to get their ideas over to the audience, because metaphor has been part of daily conversation to help delivering messages. Using metaphor, ideas can be expressed clearly in efficient use of words. The writer also hopes that this research is going to be useful for linguistic students. The readers and the other researchers can also use this research as a reference to another research especially for Semantic and metaphor research.

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