

## METAPHOR ANALYSIS IN LENKA'S SONGS

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### ABSTRACT

Metaphor is a linguistic expression that had an indirect meaning by comparing one thing with another thing that had the same characteristics without using connecting words, such as, and so on. The purpose of this research are to discuss the types of metaphor and what their meanings. The theory used in this research was the theory of metaphor (Ullman, 2009, p. 266-270). The writer used descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected by searching the lyrics on websites, listening the songs, and noting the lyrics containing the metaphorical elements. The data were also analyzed by classifying the data, analyzing the data, deciding the research findings, and drawing the conclusion. As a result, anthropomorphic metaphor 16, abstract to concrete metaphor 11, synesthetic metaphor and animal metaphor 2. Anthropomorphic metaphor appear as the most frequently used in the lyrics. On the other hand, synesthetic metaphor and animal metaphor are the least types of metaphor found in song lyrics. It can be easily concluded that the dominant metaphor in Lenka's song lyrics is the anthropomorphic metaphor. This metaphor is more dominant than the abstract to concrete metaphor. This is because the songwriter is attempting to depict her feelings, herself, or other things by replacing an object with another well-known object. Lenka's songs have their own meaning and uniqueness. *Lucky* and *Sweet Time* are two of her songs about happiness. She uses common word choices which make it easy to interpret the meaning. While, *The Show*, *Sad Song*, and *Trouble Is a Friend* are three of her songs that indicate sadness. In *The Show* and *Sad Song*, Lenka uses words synonymous with unpleasant situations. On the contrary to *Trouble Is a Friend*, she uses wise words so that listeners who are basically feeling down, they are motivated.

Keywords: *figurative language, metaphor, Lenka's songs*

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is an organized communication tool in the form of units, such as words, word groups, clauses, and sentences that are expressed both orally and in writing. The main function of language is as a tool for communicating and interacting

with others. It can also be used to express feelings, ideas, and opinions. In order to maintain social relationships, everyone is in touch with the environment. This can be done by asking about their condition or just greeting others.

The study of language is called Linguistics. Linguistics does not only study a language, such as Javanese or Arabic, but also examines the intricacies of language in general. Linguistics is often also called general linguistics (Chaer, 2018, p. 3). Linguistics studies include Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Pragmatics, and especially Semantics. Semantics is an equally important branch of linguistics. Semantics is the study of the meaning of language. Semantics assumes that language consists of structures that make sense when associated with objects in the human world experience. Semantically, omitting or changing a word in a sentence can change the whole meaning of the sentence. Therefore, when a sentence contains literal or figurative meaning, it is important to clarify the meaning of the sentence (Kvapil & Siposova, 2020).

There are two meanings discussed in semantics. They are literal language and figurative language. Figurative language is part of a language that uses words to mean something different from their ordinary meaning to emphasize an idea. It is very important to understand when analyzing the writing to get meaning inside. Figurative language can strengthen social communication used by experts to change the listener's or reader's perception of something by representing it to another (Dewi et al., 2020). In writing lyrics, songwriters or composers tend to use figurative use to make their songs more aesthetic and deeper. The keyword to get an idea of figurative language is taking a basic meaning that uses figurative words to derive multiple meanings (Norton et al., 2012). Figurative language can be used to depict a song's meaning (Norton et al., 2013). Songs are often made up of figurative language because it is used in well-written lyrics. The descriptive words of figurative language have meaning, and they even have proper meanings. However, it can be seen that there are more English characteristics available in songs, such as figurative language. Figurative language is part of literary means defined as idiomatic expressions containing non-literal or pretentious meanings involving comparisons, and other non-literal meanings (Harya, 2016). Figurative language has many categories of simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, etc.

Metaphor is one part of figurative language. A metaphor is an imaginative use of a word or phrase to describe something as another object. Metaphors describe things

that are the same or have the same value but are different (Bashir, 2017). It can be concluded that metaphor is used to describe words to find out the other or hidden meaning and help others to understand or enjoy the message within. In the book entitled "Introducing Metaphor" written by Knowles & Moon (2005), there are lots of reasons why metaphors are used in song lyrics. Metaphors are important because of their function to explain, describe, express, and evaluate in speaking or writing and metaphors use concrete meanings to express something abstract and are more helpful in communicating what is difficult to explain. Songwriters and book authors choose metaphors to describe what they think and feel. Metaphors help us to better understand abstract scientific concepts, trigger emotions, and enrich our everyday language.

However, there are still people who do not understand the meaning of a song. The writer also realizes that whenever the writer listens to the song, there are many figurative languages that can be found in the lyrics. The writer chooses Lenka's songs entitled: *Lucky*; *The Show*; *Sad Song*; *Trouble Is a Friend*; and *Sweet Time*. "My heart is going to pop" and "the apple of my eye" are lyrics of Lenka's songs that contain metaphors. The writer chooses Lenka's songs because they are hits among young people and are frequently heard by the writer. They are used as the object of research so that the writer can better understand the message behind the lyrics of Lenka's songs. It is also for her Indonesian fans. This research focuses on metaphors in Lenka's song lyrics, specifically on the types of metaphors and their meanings. To solve the problem, it can be solved by applying one theory from Ullman (2009), divided metaphors into four types, namely anthropomorphic metaphor, synesthetic metaphor, abstract to concrete metaphor, and animal metaphor.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses descriptive qualitative method because the data is descriptive in the form of textual analysis in literary studies that focuses on metaphors in the text of Lenka's song lyrics by identifying metaphorical words to identify types of metaphorical words by evaluating the choice of words in phrases. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research is concerned with the process, meaning, and understanding of words or pictures. The data were collected by searching the lyrics on

websites, listening the songs, and noting the lyrics containing the metaphorical elements. The data were also analyzed by classifying the data, analyzing the data using metaphorical concept by Ullman (2009), deciding the research findings, and drawing the conclusion.

**DISCUSSION**

In this section, the writer discusses the research result of the analysis by answering the research question of this research, i.e. types of metaphor and what their meanings are in Lenka’s song lyrics. The data were taken from song verses containing metaphors taken from selected songs, namely: *Lucky*; *The Show*; *Sad Song*; *Trouble Is a Friend*; and *Sweet Time*. All selected song lyrics were analyzed and classified according to metaphorical concept by Ullman (2009) based on four types mentioned; anthropomorphic metaphor, synesthetic metaphor, abstract to concrete metaphor, and animal metaphor. The table below shows the frequency of those metaphors found in Lenka’s songs.

**Table 1 The Frequency of Metaphor in Song Lyrics**

No.	Title of the songs	Types of metaphor			
		Anthropomorphic	Synesthetic	Abstract to concrete	Animal
1	Lucky	8	-	1	2
2	The Show	3	-	2	-
3	Sad Song	-	2	3	-
4	Trouble Is a Friend	5	-	2	-
5	Sweet Time	-	-	3	-

After that, the totality of the frequency found in this song is presented in the table below.

**Table 2 The Total Frequency**

No.	Types of metaphor	Frequency
1	Anthropomorphic	16
2	Synesthetic	2
3	Abstract to concrete	11

4	Animal	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

Based on the table above, all types of metaphors proposed by Ullman (2009) are obviously found in Lenka's song lyrics. It can be summarized that anthropomorphic metaphors dominate the data because the frequency of the data occurrence is 16 of the overall data. Subsequently, abstract-to-concrete metaphors appear as the second most frequent occurrence with 11 occurrence frequency. Meanwhile, synesthetic metaphors and animal metaphors have an equal frequency, which is only 2.

**Table 3 The Types of Metaphor in Each Stanza**

Description:

1-11 : *Lucky*

12-16 : *The Show*

17-21 : *Sad Song*

22-28 : *Trouble Is a Friend*

29-31 : *Sweet Time*

AM : Anthropomorphic Metaphor

SM : Synesthetic Metaphor

ACM : Abstract to Concrete Metaphor

ALM : Animal Metaphor

No.	Song Lyrics	AM	SM	ACM	ALM
1	You are that <b>cherry on top</b> .....(stanza 1, line 1)	✓			
2	The <b>apple of my eye</b> .....(stanza 1, line 2)	✓			
3	You're a <b>diamond in the rough</b> .....(stanza 1, line 5)	✓			
4	The <b>moon in my night</b> .....(stanza 1, line 7)	✓			
5	The <b>sun in my day</b> .....(stanza 1, line 8)	✓			
6	If I that <b>cream of the crop</b> .....(stanza 3, line 1)	✓			
7	The <b>flame in my fire</b> .....(stanza 3, line 7)	✓			
8	<b>Stars in my sky</b> .....(stanza 3, line 8)	✓			
9	You're <b>the fish in the sea</b> .....(stanza 3, line 5)				✓
10	The <b>knees on the bees</b> .....(stanza 3, line 6)				✓
11	To have <b>you walk into my life</b> .....(stanza 5, line 2)			✓	
12	<b>Life is a maze</b> , and love is a riddle .....(stanza 1, line 2)	✓			
13	Life is a maze, and <b>love is a riddle</b> .....(stanza 1, line 2)	✓			
14	Or else <b>my heart is going to pop</b> .....(stanza 2, line 2)	✓			
15	Just <b>enjoy the show</b> .....(stanza 12, line 1)			✓	
16	I want <b>my money back</b> .....(stanza 17, line 1)			✓	
17	Sing me a <b>sad song</b> and make me feel better .....(stanza 3, line 1)		✓		

18	Sing me a <b>happy song</b> and I might start to cry .....(stanza 3, line 2)		✓		
19	And everyone knows that <b>the world is upside down</b> ....(stanza 3, line 4)			✓	
20	I'm going to <b>color my glasses rose</b> .....(stanza 7, line 1)			✓	
21	And <b>my pot of gold will be waiting</b> .....(stanza 7, line 3)			✓	
22	<b>The eye of the storm</b> and the cry in the morn, oh oh .....(stanza 1, line 3)	✓			
23	<b>He's there in my heart</b> .....(stanza 2, line 2)	✓			
24	<b>He waits in the winds</b> .....(stanza 2, line 3)	✓			
25	<b>Trouble is a friend</b> .....(stanza 2, line 5)	✓			
26	Trouble is a friend but <b>trouble is a foe,</b> .....(stanza 3, line 1)	✓			
27	And no matter what <b>I feed him</b> he .....(stanza 3, line 2)			✓	
28	So don't forget as <b>you ease on down the road</b> .....(stanza 3, line 4)			✓	
29	I strive for the places where <b>time moves slow</b> .....(stanza 1, line 2)			✓	
30	And take <b>my sweet time</b> .....(stanza 1, line 5)			✓	
31	Where <b>time is elastic</b> and tales are told .....(stanza 4, line 2)			✓	

The research findings above show that the total number of metaphorical data found in Lenka's song lyrics is 31 data. Anthropomorphic metaphor appears as the first and most dominant type of metaphor in the songs. Abstract to concrete metaphor is the second most dominant type of metaphor. Meanwhile, synesthetic metaphor and animal metaphor are the least types of metaphor found in the songs. The writer uses Ullman's theory to analyze the types of metaphors and the meaning of metaphors in the song lyrics. The theory states that there are four types of metaphors. They are anthropomorphic metaphor, synesthetic metaphor, abstract to concrete metaphor, and animal metaphor.

In analyzing anthropomorphic metaphors in Lenka's song lyrics, based on this theory, anthropomorphic metaphor is a comparison of metaphor that uses words or other objects related to humans for non-human things. Songwriters use anthropomorphic metaphors to express their feelings through words with different concepts and meanings. Many song lyrics have interpretations based on day-to-day experiences. It is intended to make listeners more easily get the point. For example, in the song *Lucky* in stanza 1. In this data, the songwriter uses the word *the apple of my eye* to describe someone she loves. It is usually described as the apple is the most important part of the eye, which is the pupil. It implies someone is highly valuable in her heart. It is especially interesting for listeners to be able to visualize a word having a deep hidden meaning. All beauty can be described in words.

In the lyrics of this song, the writer also finds a second metaphor, namely the synesthetic metaphor. Based on the theory, synesthetic metaphor is an expression related to the senses used for a particular object or concept, usually associated with other senses. For example, in the song *Sad Song*. In stanza 3, this data shows the synesthetic metaphor contained in the *happy song*. The word happy is an expression that can be felt which is visualized with a song identified with the sense of the listener. This means songs are effective in giving the listener a pleasure effect.

Next, the third type of metaphor is the abstract to concrete metaphor. Based on this theory, abstract to concrete is the opposite of an abstract thing treated as something alive so that it can act concretely or animate. Abstract to concrete metaphors mostly describe experiences, processes that have vague or abstract words such as physical. For example, in the song *Sweet Time*, stanza 1. *Time moves slow* is an abstract to concrete metaphor. In this stanza, the word *time* is seen as a living being because it is able to move with a certain level of motion.

Lastly, the animal metaphor. Based on this theory, the animal metaphor is a word, phrase, or sentence that expresses a resemblance or similarity between someone or something and a particular animal or animal class. For example, in *Lucky*, stanza 3. *You're the fish in the sea* is the animal metaphor because you are likened to fish. This means there are many species of fish in the sea, not just one type. It is just like you. There are many who are better than you. This metaphor is used to express that when she breaks up with someone, there are plenty of others who are much better.

After interpreting the meaning of each metaphor in Lenka's songs, it proves that metaphors in a song contain the feelings of the songwriter she wanted to deliver. In her songs, Lenka expresses various conditions of her heart. Her songs contain happiness and sadness. *Lucky* and *Sweet Time* has the meaning of happiness. Whereas, *The Show*, *Sad Song*, and *Trouble Is a Friend* have sadness.

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis above, it can be summarized that anthropomorphic metaphors dominate the data because the frequency of the data occurrence is 16 of the

overall data. Subsequently, abstract-to-concrete metaphors appear as the second most frequent occurrence with 11 occurrence frequency. Meanwhile, synesthetic metaphors and animal metaphors have an equal frequency, which is only 2. Songwriters use words that contain metaphors to generate curiosity and interest and make listeners visualize when they listening to the song. Lenka's songs have their own meaning and uniqueness. *Lucky* and *Sweet Time* are two of her songs about happiness. She uses common word choices which make it easy to interpret the meaning. While, *The Show*, *Sad Song*, and *Trouble Is a Friend* are three of her songs that indicate sadness. In *The Show* and *Sad Song*, Lenka uses words synonymous with unpleasant situations. On the contrary to *Trouble Is a Friend*, she uses wise words so that listeners who are basically feeling down, they are motivated.

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