Analysis of metaphors in katy perry's song lyrics

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Abstract - This study concentrated on examining metaphor in three Katy Perry songs: *Fireworks*, *Hot n Cold*, and *Roar*. The data in this study were analyzed using qualitative research. According to the findings, there were seven different sorts of metaphors utilized in the three Katy Perry songs. Active metaphor, subjective metaphor, mimetic metaphor, phenomenalistic metaphor, precision metaphor, symbolic metaphor, and approximately metaphor were the seven types of metaphor employed and defined. Overall, based on our analysis, Katy Perry did an excellent job of conveying the idea of the song; she compares a condition of affairs to making it more exciting, and her usage of the word is more varied and broader.

Keywords: metaphor; song lyric; Katy Perry's song; memetic; phenomenalistic metaphor

1. Introduction

Humans are multifaceted beings in many ways. Humans differ from one another in both physical and non-physical ways. It is quite difficult for us to establish a norm for something that exists in humans. Man has a multiple nature; he is both an individual and a social creation; he has both a bodily and spiritual body; he has thoughts and feelings; and so on. Humans, with these traits, have different forms and ways of behaving and expressing themselves, including verbal expression. We recognize that, as humans, we must connect with other people in our daily lives, and that language is our primary tool in doing so. The language employed is easily understandable, yet it requires interpretation by the listener or reader to clarify its meaning (Wajdi, 2018). This is generally because the speaker or writer expresses the meaning through linguistic inflection. A phrase that is spoken or read that conveys meaning using this linguistic variety in a particular text or context.

A style of language known as figurative language employs expressions or idioms that have deeper meanings than their literal interpretations. We rarely use figurative language in our regular conversations. According to Dunifa and Mutawakal (2022), metaphorical language is a technique to represent thoughts through language. It usually reflects the author's spirit and individuality. The use of figurative language in a statement frequently has an effect or particular influence. Figurative language is used in all forms of communication, including everyday conversation, newspaper articles, commercials, novels, poems, and music.

Lakoff and Johnson (1980) stated that metaphor is a knowledge and experience of something via something else. So that someone may relate new information to previously known information. Furthermore, Lakoff and Johnson argue that a person's experience has a cultural component. According to Nurgiyantoro (2017) metaphor is an indirect and implicit comparison. Metaphor has a very simple fundamental structure. Two components make up a metaphor: one that is comparable and one that is not.

Simpson (2004) claims that a metaphor is a mind mapping process between two distinct domains; the source domain represents the notion that will be used to produce the metaphorical construction, and the target domain denotes the subject or concept that will be described by the metaphor. Because it is the concept; to describe through metaphor, the target domain understands the concept of rage. According to

Armstrong (2005); cf. Fajriati et al. (2023) a metaphor is an implied comparison that most frequently makes use of imagery. It is defined as a metaphorical language that compares two objects indirectly. Metaphor is most commonly used in creative writing, such as lyrics.

Our legendary celebrity and singer, Katy Perry, is one of the famous people that often uses metaphors in her songs. Many lyrics cannot be directly accepted. The listeners must know the meaning behind the lyrics. So, it's not just about her beautiful voice but it's about the story feeling that can the listeners get from her songs.

In this paper, we discuss our analysis of metaphors that are included in Katy Perry's song's lyrics. This paper can open the listeners' minds to the lyrics in the song, especially Katy Perry's song. Many listeners take the meaning of the lyrics directly, which makes the songs look bad and many misunderstandings. Metaphors are illustrations that make an attractive point by comparing things that wouldn't necessarily pair together. We think that the analysis of metaphors in Katy Perry's song consists of lyrics that form the structural components of metaphorical thinking. Using examples of popular Katy Perry's songs, we show that the lyrics consist of primary metaphors that are often based on our experiences as human beings and expressions. The descriptive method was utilized in this study since the goal was to characterize the metaphor in the selected Katy Perry's song lyrics.

Many listeners of Katy Perry's songs take the meaning of the lyrics directly, which makes the songs look bad and many misunderstandings. Even though in the lyrics there are many metaphors that can't be interpreted directly. Based on Oxford Learner's Dictionary (2022), A metaphor is a noun that refers to a term or phrase that is used to represent someone/something else in a distinct way from its normal meaning, in order to indicate that the two objects have the same attributes and also to make such a description more strong, such as She has a stone heart; the use of such words and phrases. Metaphor is derived from the Greek words *'meta'* and *'pherein,'* which imply to move. Metaphor is lexically derived from the Greek word 'meta' and 'pherein' meaning to move. Its original meaning referred to carrying a load from one place to another (Banhart, 1973; cf. Piccirilli & Walde, 2022; Hamdi, 2023; Antari, 2022; Dewi, 2023). Metaphors are figurative language devices that are used to contrast two things without really saying the words that suggest the similarity. They are succinct and effective two-idea figures of speech. The first idea is reality, which is meant to be an idea, and the second idea is a comparison with reality (Forgács (2021; Hamdi, 2023). Meanwhile, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (1980); cf. Fritsch-oppermann (2020) have a different opinion, namely that metaphors are broader than just linguistic expressions. Rather than delivery in a conceptual system, metaphors are not confined to literary works or poetic expressions. Metaphor is typically recognized as a literary style element and is typically perceived as a device of poetic imagination, figurative speech, and uncommon language that is frequently and extensively utilized. Metaphor is a language phenomenon that is highly contextualized (Stern, 2000; cf. Lyngdoh (2021); cf. Francesca et al (2020); Sánchez et al., (2023); Wajdi & Asrumi (2024); Wajdi et al (2024).

Goatly (1997) states that there are eight kinds of metaphors, they are:
(1) Active Metaphor

A sort of metaphor known as an active metaphor involves intimate interaction between the main topic and modifier. It depends on how the vehicle (an unconventional referent) and the particular problem (a conventional referent) are interacting, and their relationship to one another will change depending on the situation. For instance: *You are my baby doll*.
(2) Inactive Metaphor

An inactive metaphor is one in which the subject is discussed directly using a standardized phrase with a predetermined meaning, and the vehicle is present but will be wired in parallel during routine processing because the subject concept would otherwise be so predictable. Metaphors that are inactive or well-known usually include information that can provoke either a positive or negative response. Metaphors that are passive are open to agreement, negative questioning, and yes-or-no inquiries. For example, *blue substitutes the sadness and tears*.
(3) Subjective Metaphor

The term "subjective metaphor" describes a metaphor in which the speaker offers the listener a different ideological interpretation of the word than the speaker does themselves, or in which the speaker offers the thoughts or representations of another speaker. For example, *they have made a game of my whole life*.
(4) Mimetic Metaphor

A unique metaphor known as a mimetic metaphor extends beyond linguistics texts to become a visual help in art. Mimetic metaphor asks readers to imagine themselves in a world where the assertions

are literary true. The intriguing characteristic of mimetic metaphor is that it deviates from traditional metaphorical interpretation. For example, *the red carpet had an oriental tree on it.*

(5) Phenomenalistic Metaphor

Phenomenalism is when language is used to describe something that is not a language, in this case, the imaginary world. It is important to recall that the phenomenological interpretation only applies to the subset of fictional works that are aberrant in some way or contain local metaphors. The text will fit into a made-up universe if it is fictional. If the entire book is a tale set in a fictional or made-up universe, it may be a phenomenalistic metaphor. For example, *Lord of the Flies as a reaction to The Coral Island.*

(6) Precision Metaphor

The phrase "precision metaphor" refers to a method or quality that is improved by modification and connection to a particular first-order identification. The modification could take the form of a linguistic unit. For example, *my cry for help was the cry of the rat when a terrier shakes it*.

(7) Symbolism Metaphor

Symbolism A metaphor is a form of interpretive replacement.. For example, *Do not count your chicken before they are hatched*.

(8) Approximately Metaphor

An approximately metaphor is a type of metaphor that employs an approximate number or word to depict an action or event. For example, *He puts in face in the water and half gulped, half eat it*.

One of the famous singers in this world is Katy Perry. She was born on 25th October 1984, in Santa Barbara, California. Every singer certainly sings a song, be it her song or someone else's song. Katy Perry has a lot of songs that use metaphors. In our daily life, the song is known as a variety of rhythmic sounds, singing, variety of singing (music), and can be expressing an opinion that has been obsolete or has often been said by people. We can enjoy the song by hearing the tune or the music. The lyrics in a song convey a message that the listener can enjoy so that the listener can feel the intention of the song. By the lyrics, people can prefer which song suits their feelings. Griffee (1992) explains that "*the term song refers to pieces of music with words, particularly popular songs like those heard on the radio.*" As a result, the song belongs to both poetry and music. Katy Perry is very well known for her pop genre songs. Pop songs are pieces of music whose melodies are easily digested and easily accepted by the public. The lyrics are simple words, which are easy for people to understand. Sometimes, the lyrics are also adapted to the latest trends that are booming among the people. Generally, the genre of this song is not too complicated and the tempo varies somewhat (it can be fast, it can be slow, it can be loud, but it can also be slow). Usually, the musical instruments used in pop music include guitar, bass, piano, drums, or keyboard. According to Hoffer (1985:13), Popular songs are musical pieces that are frequently composed and performed in an appealing and lively manner.

This study uses Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine Martin Luther's speech, focusing on how language interacts with societal factors like race, social class, and identity. The research analyses the speech at different levels—word, text, social, and discursive—to uncover how Luther's rhetoric reflects and influences the socio-political context of his time (Ali, 2024). Using a descriptive and qualitative methodology, the study draws on historical transcripts to perform a micro-level analysis of lexical features and transitivity, and a macro-level analysis of grammatical, social, ideological, and discursive characteristics. The findings highlight Luther's strategic use of language to challenge dominant ideologies and contribute to the Reformation movement. The study concludes that Luther's speech exemplifies how discourse can both reflect and drive social change.

Listiyapinto and Endraswara (2024) explore the language style used in *Serat Piwulang Hamengkubuwana 1* by employing modern philological techniques and a qualitative descriptive methodology. The study is based on the manuscript and text from the British Library with the reference code MS 12337. Data collection was conducted using philological methods, with semantic validity and interrater reliability ensuring the accuracy of the findings.

The research yields three main outcomes namely the manuscript is generally well-preserved, with most of the text clear and only a few defective parts. The text was transliterated from Javanese script to Latin and translated from Kawi and Javanese into Indonesian to make it more accessible. The study examines the language style used in the text, identifying elements drawn from both Indonesian and Javanese linguistic repertoires. This research contributes to understanding how language style in historical texts can be analysed and preserved through modern techniques.

This study analyses selected poems of Rupi Kaur, focusing on themes of feminism, humour, and irony. Using a qualitative approach, the researchers collected and analysed data consecutively (Lestari &

Alamsyah, 2024). The findings reveal that Kaur's portrayal of feminism is often liberal and radical, using explicit language to critique societal views of women as "male objects." Her use of crude language aims to challenge readers' consciences and highlight societal issues. The study also notes that humour in Kaur's poems addresses the unfairness of societal rules that limit women's roles. Despite some grammatical shortcomings, such as improper subject use, the poems effectively critique how women are often valued only for their physical appearance, neglecting their full human complexity.

The research of Mustafa and Muhammad (2023) examines the role and effectiveness of humour in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes. The study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods, using surveys and questionnaires to collect data, and analyses the results with SPSS software. The findings indicate that incorporating humour is a valuable technique in teaching, particularly in foreign language settings, enhancing the learning experience.

This paper of Hamdi (2023) examines the use of grammatical and lexical cohesion in Ali Douagi's Sleepless Nights and Shirley Jackson's The Lottery. Despite previous studies on cohesion in short stories, none have focused on these specific works. The study employs a qualitative and descriptive approach to identify and compare the cohesive devices used in both stories.

The findings reveal that both stories use grammatical and lexical cohesion to create coherent texts. Sleepless Nights employs all four types of grammatical cohesion: ellipsis, conjunction, reference, and substitution, while The Lottery uses only ellipsis, conjunction, and reference. For lexical cohesion, The Lottery shows ties through repetition, near-synonymy, hyponymy, and antonymy, whereas Sleepless Nights uses repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, and antonymy. The study underscores that cohesion is crucial for maintaining coherence in discourse, including short stories.

Nikiforova and Rozanova (2022) classify sociological survey data related to political metaphors and their impact on the reputational image of political power. The authors analyse how metaphors influence public perception of authority. Camposano et al (2021) explore seven metaphors to explain digital twins of built assets. It discusses how these metaphors help in understanding and conceptualizing digital replicas of physical structures.

AL-Zubaidy (2022) examines the application of the Theory of Grammatical Metaphor to two English short stories, highlighting how grammatical metaphor is used to convey deeper meanings and themes in literature. Çağlayan (2024) investigate the metaphorical views of art educators and students on the concept of an art studio within the context of distance education, shedding light on how metaphors shape their understanding of virtual learning environments.

Thu (2019) analyses the structural metaphor of love in late 20th-century English songs from both stylistic and cognitive perspectives, revealing how love is conceptualized and expressed in song lyrics. Tianying (2023) discusses the semantic transformation and cultural adaptation of metaphors and multimodal metaphors in multilingual communication, using cognitive linguistics to understand how metaphors shift in different cultural contexts. Mickiewicz (2022) xplores the use of dwelling and clothing as metaphors for the human body in 2 Corinthians 5:1–4, examining how these metaphors convey theological and existential ideas in biblical texts. Wiśniewska-Kin (2023) looks into metaphorical visual imagery from the perspective of children, analysing how children interpret and use metaphors in visual contexts and educational settings.

2. Method

Using qualitative can answer all problems systematically and objectively. According to Arikunto (2006; cf. Mishra & Alok (2017), the name in question is naturalistic qualitative, implying that research is carried out naturally, as it is, in regular scenarios with unmanipulated circumstances and conditions, with an emphasis on natural description Data collection techniques such as literature review and observation. Review the literature related to the references that are used as references in writing. In addition to books, research reports and journals are important references in this writing. Observations were made to analyze the metaphors of the lyrics. From the observation, the characteristic of the metaphors is known. Qualitative research methods were established primarily by educational scholars and other social scientists to investigate the complexities of humans (Wajdi, 2018; cf. Taylor & Bogdan, 1984). (For example, motivation, communication, and comprehension). The descriptive method was utilized in this study since the goal was to characterize the metaphor in the selected Katy Perry song lyrics. According to Gay (2009; cf. Jilcha (2020), descriptive research "identifies and describes how things are." Gay also feels that descriptive research can be used to investigate a variety of educational challenges and issues. The words and phrases in Katy Perry's songs that incorporate metaphor served as the research's data. The data for this

study were derived from Katy Perry's songs based on topics. Katy Perry sings pop song genre. There are many songs by Katy Perry, some of them that we use are *Hot n Cold, Roar,* and *Firework*. We can analyze many metaphors in those songs. Through those songs, we can easily find the eight types of metaphors.

3. Results and Discussion

In Katy Perry's song lyrics found many types of metaphors with different lyrics and of course different meanings too. It is concluded that these three Katy Perry's songs (Firework, Hot N Cold, and Roar) describe something that becomes the main point problem based on the condition and situation of their lyrics. There are seven types of metaphor found in these three selected songs. They are active metaphor, subjective metaphor, mimetic metaphor, phenomenalistic metaphor, precision metaphor, symbolism metaphor, and approximation metaphor. We don't find any inactive metaphor in these three songs. Here's a detailed discussion of each of them:

The lyrics of Katy Perry's Firework song,

Baby, you're a firework is an active metaphor, because the subject states that her boyfriend is like a shining and great firework in her.

'Cause, there's a spark in you is an active metaphor too, because in this sentence the subject states that her boyfriend has a spark.

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag, drifting through the wind is a mimetic metaphor. In this lyric, the sentence states a visual description of the plastic bag drifting through the wind.

Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin, like a house of cards is also a mimetic metaphor. Because the sentence describes the thinness of the paper like a cardboard house. So that visually imagine how a cardboard house is thin and not sturdy.

Like the Fourth of July is a phenomenalistic metaphor because on 4th July 1776 the United States became independent, so every 4th July is commemorated as the Independence Day of the United States. This sentence means the freedom or independence of a person.

Even brighter than the moon, moon, moon is also a phenomenalistic metaphor because the sentence in this lyric refers to the true meaning that the moon is besinar so that it can be imagined to shine more.

You don't have to feel like a waste of space is a precision metaphor. It shows a definite comparison of the feeling of being like a waste of space, which is useless and is in the void.

Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow is also precision of metaphor. Because it shows the feeling of a heart bursting like lightning fast and radiant, shocking.

You cannot be replaced is a symbolism metaphor. Because this lyric signifies the term that her crush or boyfriend is the only one for him.

After a hurricane comes a rainbow is a symbolism metaphor too. This lyric shows the understanding that there will be happiness after a sense of sadness. Have to believe that everything will be beautiful in time even if it has a hard time.

Do you ever feel already buried deep six feet under? is an approximately metaphor, we can see from the word 'six' that shows nominal. This nominal (six feet under) signifies the amount of depth with the term, so the point is that it is so deeply buried that no one hears her.

One blow from caving in? is an approximately metaphor, these lyric mentions 'one' as the nominal. This lyric shows how easy it is to feel destroyed with just one blow. That way, this lyric conveys how fragile his heart is.

So, you could open one is an approximately metaphor, of course, because the word 'one' shows nominal or quantity. This lyric says that her crush or her boyfriend is the only person who makes his heart open. After experiencing many failures and fragility, only you have been able to open my heart. The sign is that he is happy with the current one.

Scream, but no one seems to hear a thing is an approximately metaphor because 'no one' means zero or nobody can understand her or no one can listen to her even she's already screaming.

The lyrics on Katy Perry's Hot N Cold song,

'Cause you're hot then you're cold is an active metaphor. This sentence means that her boyfriend is labile. Her boyfriend is volatile, it's up to her labile mood.

I should know that you're not gonna change is a subjective metaphor. According to him, her boyfriend has not changed. Even though at first he still hoped for her boyfriend that her boyfriend could become better and more stable.

You change your mind like a girl changes clothes is a precision metaphor. This sentence also means that her boyfriend is labil. But this sentence uses an equivalent comparison. Her behavior is like a woman who is easy to change clothes because she is unclear and bored. It's up to which one he wants and always changing.

Stuck on a roller coaster, can't get off this ride is a precision metaphor. She tells us that she is fed up and can't be separated from her obscure and labile boyfriend. She likens herself and her boyfriend to she stuck on a roller coaster.

Yeah you, PMS like a bitch I would know is also a precision metaphor. This lyric means her boyfriend like again emotional premenstrual syndrome (PMS) and her boyfriend as well as a vile bitch. This sentence shows an equivalent comparison between her boyfriend and bitch who are premenstrual syndrome.

The same energy now's a dead battery is a symbolism metaphor. This lyric symbolizes that her spirit is not what it used to be, over time her sense of spirit becomes weak and there is no more enthusiasm for now.

The lyrics on Katy Perry's Roar song,

I got the eye of the tiger the fire is a subjective metaphor. Because the subject thinks about herself. She says that she got the eye of the tiger and the fire, but not necessarily the opinion of others as such either. These lyrics mean she is convinced that she is brave and tough.

I let you push me passed the breaking point is also a subjective metaphor. The subject feels that he is letting others destroy him or bring him down. He felt that others had made him sad and desperate.

Like thunder gonna shake the ground is a phenomenalistic metaphor. It explained that there is a comparison thing to aim at the real moment. It will shake the world like thunder that can shake the ground.

And you're gonna hear me roar louder, louder than a lion is a precision metaphor. She likened her courage to being equal to louder than the lion roars.

Stinging like a bee I earned the stripes is a precision metaphor. She tells that she can make other people instantly shocked and shocked even without stripes.

Now I'm floating like a butterfly is a precision metaphor too. She likened her beauty today to a butterfly in flight. She was tall and looked beautiful.

I went from zero to my own hero is a approximately metaphor because the 'zero' means she was nothing, but now she is awesome. The nominal of zero means she didn't have something special in herself.

4. Conclusion

Having analyzed three selected Katy Perry's song lyrics, it is concluded that songs that apply the eight types of metaphor in expressing ideas, showing, communicating, and representing give certain effects to the listeners to get in the lyrics. Several points that are taken out from the analysis are first, in these three of Katy Perry's songs (Fireworks, Hot N Cold, and Roar) there is no inactive metaphor. Therefore, it means Katy Perry's song does not use inactive metaphors to describe or express their sentence feeling. Second, it turns out that Katy Perry really often uses metaphors in conveying the meaning of each of her lyrics. Because we find almost every lyric of it is one of the types of metaphor. The longer the song or song lyrics, the more metaphors we find as in the song Firework. The third is Katy Perry often use precision metaphor to describe her crush or her boyfriend in her songs. Also, she often describes her feeling by using the precisions metaphor. She explains a procedure or feature that is improved in precision by being connected to a particular first-order identification via modification. According to our research, Katy Perry did a fantastic job of communicating the song's message; she contrasts a state of affairs to make it more captivating and expands the term's usage.

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