

THE ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR IN WESTLIFE'S SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

Metaphors are usually used by Westlife in their lyrics to express what they mean in order to transfer the message they want to send to the listeners in expressing their feeling. But most of people who is interested to listen and sing the Westlife's song lyrics do not understand the metaphor that exist in Westlife's song lyrics. Therefore, the focus of the research is how is the metaphor used in Westlife's song lyrics? This research was designed in qualitative research. The technique of descriptive analysis was applied to analyze data by reading the data and identify the types of metaphor used in the lyric of songs based on Goatly's book. Based on research finding, the researcher found 19 of metaphor used in the Westlife's song lyrics. And each metaphors were found in the lyric of Westlife's songstry to tell us about human social life which contained about love, sadness, happiness, spirit and others. In line with conclusion, the researcher suggests that readers could develops their knowledge of metaphors. This result hopefully would help English teacher to use metaphor in teaching process, and use the metaphor in the classroom can be an effective way of expanding students' vocabulary.

Key words: Metaphor and Westlife's song lyrics.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Study is to analyze of metaphor in Westlife's song lyrics. Metaphors are devices usually used in poetry, novels, movies, and books, to make a comparison between two things. In music, the comparison often connects with the themes, popular gossip of the time, or connects to other songs. If the singers or writers are comparing or portaying a person, action, feeling, place, or things as being something else, then they are utilizing a metaphor.

The songs that will be collected by the researcher as source of data is the song lyrics of Westlife. The researcher is interested in analyzing the song lyrics of Westlife because the researcher found that Westlife has a unique style in writing their lyrics in which they (Westlife group band) use a lot of figurative language in it. And metaphors are usually used by Westlife in their lyrics to express what they mean in order to transfer the message they want to send to the listeners in expressing their feeling. In addition, it has more emotive and poetic communication within the music, so that their listeners do not only listen to their music but also what they say in their lyrics.

Although metaphors is used frequently by Westlife. Most of people who is interested to listen and sing the Westlife's song lyrics do not understand the meaning of metaphors found in the song lyrics which is sung by singers. Besides that singing and listening song is enjoyable activity, but the listeners and singers can not get the pleasure, if they do not understand the metaphor that commonly found in the song. It becomes a significant problem in this study.

Besides that, based on latest research conducted by Ningrum (2009) she conducted the research entitled: "A Semantic Study on Figurative Language Used in the Westlife's Album". She said that the figurative languages used in One of the aspect of the linguistics which is discussed here is semantics. According to Hurford, Heasley, and Smith (2007:1) "semantics is the study of meaning in language." That is, semantics is study of meaning of the language.

1.1. The problem of the study

This focus of the analysis of metaphor in Westlife's song lyrics based on Goatly's book (1997:136) which is explained six types of metaphor. Therefore, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: How is metaphor used in Westlife's song lyrics?

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Semantic is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning. Bauer (2007:12) says "Semantics deals with the meaning of the language which is divided into two part, lexical semantics and sentence semantics." Perrine (1982:20) said "figures of speech as a way of saying one thing and meaning another." The statement is figures of speech has different meaning from the ordinary words. She argued that figures of speech should not be taken literally only and that they serve function of giving extended meani. Besides that, McArthur (1996:402) explained that figurative language is that language in which figures of speech such as metaphor and similes freely occur. A metaphor is defined as an indirect comparison between two or more seemingly unrelated subjects that typically uses "is a" to join the subjects, a metaphor is also

sometimes confused with a *simile* which compares two subjects using “like” or “as”.

Lakoff and Johnson (1980:3) says “Metaphor is for most people a device of the poetic, imagination and the rhetorical flourish a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language.” That is, metaphor is used by people to express idea through language by using extraordinary language. For example. “Jhon is a bear when he’s mad”, “Bear” is refer to viciousness.

Furthermore, Goatly (1997:8-9) said “Metaphor occurs when a unit of discourse is used to refer unconventionally to an object, process or concept, or colligates in an unconventional way. And when this unconventional act of reference or colligation is understood on the basis of similarity, matching or analogy involving the conventional referent or colligates of the unit and the actual unconventional referent or colligates.”

1. The conventional referent of the unit is the Vehicle-term (V-term)
2. The actual unconventional referent is the Topic-term (T-term)
3. The similarities and/or analogies involved or it is the sense within metaphor. are the Ground-term (G-term)

Types of Metaphor

In Goatly’s book (1997:136) there are six types of metaphor, namely : 1) Active Metaphor, 2) Inactive Metaphor, 3) Asymmetric Metaphor, 4) Subjective Metaphor, 5) Dead Metaphor, and 6) Mimatic Metaphor.

Active Metaphor

An active metaphor has close relationship between the main subject and modifier. It depends on the interaction of the vehicle and the particular topic, which are being referred to, and their grounds will consequently be variable according to the text.

Example : “*You are my sunshine*”

Here, *sunshine* is a special someone who gives light and warmth in your life. Someone who you want to wake up with just like sunshine and know that that is what gives you life, and someone who is really hot and brightens your day and your life.

Active metaphors dissonance or deviance between sentence meaning (literal meaning, etc.) and the speaker’s intended or inferred meaning. Active metaphors for which no second meaning is listable in the dictionary, have to be interpreted via the vehicle concept, or at least this concept has to “switched on”: they can be thought of as being wired “in series”. Active metaphors the referent of the V-term (vehicle term) is entirely unconventional. Besides that, active metaphor are not open agreement or rebuttal. “No it’s not” and “yes it is” appear to be inappropriate responses to metaphor (Sadock in Goatly 1997:37). For example :

“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there”.

(i) *Yes it is.* (ii) *No it isn’t.* (iii) *I see what you mean*

The appropriate response to a metaphor is more likely “(iii) *I see what you mean*” than (i) or (ii).

This metaphor means that things are changing, and that time is going forward, rather than staying where it is. It refers the past to a foreign country and how it is different than where you live. Same with the past. Things are different now then they were then.

Inactive Metaphor

Inactive metaphor is referred to directly through a conventional and fixed meaning of v-term and vehicle is available, but ill wired in parallel under normal processing, otherwise the topic concept so predictable.

For Example : “*Red substitutes the bravery and strength*”

Here, *the bravery* and *strength* modifies the main subject *red*. The topic *red* refers to conventional meaning of the vehicle *the bravery* and *strength*.

Inactive metaphor often gives information which can provoke an affirmative or negative response. This could be different interpretation according to the culture of the user of metaphor. This metaphor has become inactive as they used repeatedly and entered entry in dictionary with the second meaning. Inactive metaphors the metaphorical connections, are in place and may be switched on. In which case the user perceives the word as polysemous (Goatly 1997:34). For example : “*She is a Fox*” this metaphor implies that she is a cunning person, because *Fox* is used to refer to ‘*a cunning person*’. Besides that inactive metaphors are open to agreement, negatives questions and yes-no questions, as for example:

- a. The hours dragged by while we waited for the plane. Yes, they certainly did.
- b. Did not the hours drag by as you waited for the plane?
- c. Did the hours drag by as you waited for the plane

Based on examples above that metaphor of this syntactic kind can be subjected to the following test in the following order to to determine their conventionality: Point (a) is the agreement test, (b) the negative-question test, and (c) the yes-no question test. The more tests they pass the more conventional they are.

Asymmetric Metaphor

Asymmetric metaphor is the type of metaphor where metaphorical intentions or interpretations do not match across the speaker and the hearer. With symmetric metaphors the metaphorical intention of the speaker, that the utterance is not, or not simply, an assertions, must be recognized by the hearer, and it must be

assumed by the speaker that the hearer so recognizes it (Loewenberg in Goatly 1997:127).

This kind of asymmetric is often exploited for humor purposes intended as metaphor by the speaker but not understood as such by the hearer, or conversely not intended as metaphor by the speaker but interpreted as such by the hearer. For example: "This is my body, this is my blood." This metaphor was said by Jesus to His disciples in Matthew 26:28-29. "Body" refers to bread, and "blood" refers to fruit of vine (wine). This represents my body and blood 'Given Jesus' bodily presence with the apostles when He uttered those words, and His explanation that the eating and drinking is a memorial of Him. It is highly likely that He intended the bread and wine as symbols of his body and blood.

Subjective Metaphor

Subjective metaphor is the description of metaphor because the speaker has different ideological or physical views of the world from the hearer (Goatly 1997:131). For example.

1ST speaker : I'm not a child and I don't need seducing.

2nd speaker : You are a child to me.

We take some metaphorical position on whether the first speaker is a child or not: we might say that, though strictly speaking she is not young enough to be labelled a child, she sometimes behaves like one. Based on the speaker's perception 'you' act or qualify as being a child, even though they may not think so because there is a distinct physical or psychological view.

Dead Metaphor

Dead metaphor is a metaphor which has lost the original imagery of its meaning due to extensive, repetitive popular usage because dead metaphors have a conventional meaning that differs from the original (Goatly 1997:132-134). Dead metaphors are metaphors that through overuse have lost figurative value.

Example, people say; "falling in love" all the time, but once upon a time. It was used as a metaphor because being in love is like the process of falling: Risky, irreversible, and sometimes resulting in injury. Another example of a dead metaphor is "the light of my life." Which used to refer to someone who gives happiness and joy to the speaker. When you say that you "feel blue." Everyone knows that you feel sad and not literally blue-colored. These metaphors have been so frequently used that people understanding their meanings instantly and they are no longer considered thought-provoking.

Mimetic Metaphor

Mimetic metaphor is the unique metaphor that extends to non-verbal expression, straying beyond linguistic texts into the visual and plastic arts. Mimetic metaphors demand that we imagine a world in which the assertions or descriptions are literally true (Goatly 1997:134).

For example: 'The carpet had an oriental tree on it'. It means that the carpet had a picture of an oriental tree on it, not the real tree on it. Mimetic metaphors where we are not concerned with the local metaphor but with the imagination of an unreal world.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

This research uses a descriptive qualitative research since the data are in the form of words. Fraenkel and Wallen in Creswell (1994:162) said that Qualitative research is the data emerge from qualitative study are descriptive, that is, data are reported in words (primarily the participant's words) or picture rather than in numbers.

Source of Data

The data of this research is script of Westlife's song lyrics will be collected from the internet that can be accessed on the line <http://www.metrolyrics.com/westlife-lyrics.html>

In collecting the data, there are some procedures will be done by the researcher:

Searching the script of Westlife's song lyrics in internet. The script of song lyrics will be accessed on the line <http://www.metrolyrics.com/westlife-lyrics.html>. Writing the script of Westlife's song lyrics. Analysing the metaphor types used in the song lyrics of Westlife

Data Analysis Procedure

According to Miles and Huberman (1994:246), following are the major components of qualitative data analysis. Those are: Data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification

Data Reduction

Data reduction refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that appear in written up field notes or transcriptions. "The mass of data has to be organized and somehow meaningfully reduced or reconfigured. These data are condensed so as to make them more manageable.

Data display provides "an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing..." A display can be an extended piece of text or a diagram, chart or matrix that provides a new way of arranging and thinking about the more textually embedded data. Data displays, permits the researcher to extrapolate from the data enough to begin to identify systematic patterns and interrelationships. At the display stage, additional, higher order categories or themes

Conclusion Drawing and Verification.

Conclusion drawing requires a researcher to begin to decide what things mean. He does this by noting regularities, patterns (differences/similarities), explanations, possible configurations, causal flows, and propositions. This process involves stepping back to consider what the analysed data mean and to assess their implications

for the questions at hand. Verification, integrally linked to conclusion drawing, entails revisiting the data as many times as necessary to cross-check or verify these emergent conclusions.

Data Analysis

As stated in the previous chapter, the data were taken from script of "Westlife's Song Lyrics". They are : 1) Flying Without Wings, 2) Tunnel of Love, 3) Queen of My Heart, 4) Unbreakable, and 5) When You Tell Me that You Love Me. In analyzing the data, the first step used was writing the background of the song lyrics. Second step was classifying the metaphor into each type and analyzing the metaphor. Finally, concluding the research finding descriptively.

Data Analysis, Research Finding and Discussion Data Analysis

After classified the types of metaphor then the researcher analyzed the metaphor types used in the song lyrics of Westlife based on Goatly's book. Here are the results of research finding.

"You're flying without wings." This metaphor implies the 'happiness or in complete bliss.' You feel as if you are flying without wings when you are happy. In fact, your life is soaring but you have not physically got any wings.

"We both wanna fly." "Fly" here is 'happy'. Therefore, this metaphor means 'We will be happy.' This metaphor we can apply it in our daily conversations.

"Here comes an angel I know it you." This metaphor implies the statement of likeness. Here, 'an angel' is 'a beautiful girl.' So, this metaphor means 'There is a beautiful girl who loves him.'

"You know you are the queen of my heart." 'Queen of my heart' here is 'my love'. So, this metaphor means 'You are my love.'

"This love is unbreakable." "Unbreakable" here means 'can not be separated by anything.' Therefore, this metaphor means 'Our love can not be separated by anything.'

"This love is untouchable." "Untouchable" here means 'can not be disturbed and tempted.' Therefore, this metaphor means 'Our love can not be disturbed or tempted by anyone.'

"Touched my heart." This metaphor means 'Understand my feeling, please.' You can use this metaphor to your lover (boyfriend or girlfriend) or person who never know your feeling.

"Some find it in the face of their children." Here 'it' is happiness, joy, and dream. Some people can get or find the happiness, joy, and dream in the face of their children. Because 'Children is the source of happiness, joy, and dream.'

"Some find it in their lover's eyes." "It" from the sentence is 'dream and joy'. Lover (boyfriend or girlfriend) is one factor of happiness

and dream.' Therefore, this metaphor means 'some people find their joy or dream in their lover's eyes'.

"Some find it sharing every morning". This metaphor means 'some people find their joy and happiness sharing every morning'. here the word 'it' is joy and happiness.

"Some find in the solitary nights" it is type of subjective metaphor. This metaphor type has different idealogical or physical view of the world from the hearer. This metaphor means 'some people get the joy or happiness in the solitary nights'.

"You'll find it in the deepest friendship" This metaphor means 'you'll find the joy and happiness in the deepest friendship'. Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between two or more people that place of sharing, understanding, compassions, honesty, and sympathy.

"You've got to fight for every dream." This metaphor means 'He has been fighting to reach his dream.' This metaphor is taken from the song lyric of "Flying Without Wings." This song lyric tells about the happiness. The happiness is dream of every body to get it. That's way, to get the happiness you must fighting.

"To watch the sunrise on your face." It is a type of dead metaphor that taken from the lyric of flying without wings. Here 'sunrise' is beautiful. So, This metaphor means 'I see a beautiful face'.

"A Simple line can make you laugh or cry." Here 'a simple line' is something, such as playing game, reading novel, sharing love, and so on. It can make you laugh or cry.

"Light of my life." This metaphor refers to someone who gives happiness, joy, and fun to the speaker. In a relationship when the other person is having a bad day and the other person just light up their life and becomes the light of my life.

"I've been blessed by the power of love." The meaning of metaphor from the lyric is 'The boy had strong love from the girl's love.'

"Everytime you touch me I become a hero." This metaphor means 'he is very happy and has spirit in life when the girl loves him.' In fact, the boy did not become a hero when the girl touched him but he just image it that he likes a hero. Because he had won the girl's love. Here 'touch' means 'Love'.

"Let's walk through the tunnel of love." As literal meaning "Tunnel of Love" is a fairground amusement for couples involving a train or boat ride through a darkened tunnel. This metaphor is taken from the Tunnel of Love's lyric. It tells about a man who loves his girlfriend very much, so do his girlfriend. Based on the lyrics, the meaning of the metaphor above is 'let's love one another.'

In conclusion, in analyze lyrics besides find metaphor in lyrics, we can also understand the meaning of song that contain figurative language and message of the song.

Research Finding

Finding of the research discusses the answer of the research. Based on the analysis of the researcher, it can be concluded that :

- 1) Total numbers of metaphors used in “Westlife’s song lyrics” is 15 metaphors. The meaning of each metaphor have been explained in the previous part.
- 2) There are nineteen (19) types of metaphors which were applied, they are :
 1. Active Metaphor : 2
 2. Inactive Metaphor : 2
 3. Asymmetric Metaphor : 3
 4. Subjective Metaphor : 6
 5. Dead Metaphor : 5
 6. Mimatic Metaphor : 1
- 3) Each metaphor were found in Westlife’s song lyrics try to tell us about human social life which contained about love, sadness, happiness, and spirit.

Research Finding Versus Theory

In this part objective was to discuss whether or not the previous theory was in line with the present research finding. The basic theory applied in this research based on the theory proposed by Goatly (1997:8-9) said “Metaphor occurs when a unit of discourse is used to refer unconventionally to an object, process or concept, or colligates in an unconventional way. And when this unconventional act of reference or colligation is understood on the basis of similarity, matching or analogy involving the conventional referent or colligates of the unit and the actual unconventional referent or colligates.”

From the research finding referred to the metaphor usage in Westlife’s song lyrics are figure of speech which compares two disparate things that has implicit meaning. It was in line with (McArthur, 1996:653).Proposed that metaphor is a figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that the one is the other.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that metaphor is a kind of figurative language which compares two disparate things that has implicit meaning without using words “like” or “as”, it uses a form of the verb “ to be” the verb can be in the present tense (am, is, are), the past tense (was, were), or future tense (will be).

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the metaphors in the “Westlife’s Song Lyrics” the writer can concluded that song is a kind of literary work applied many metaphors in conveying, representing ideas, and communicating to give certain effects to the taste of the song in order to attract the readers to read and listen the song. Even though the metaphors are more difficult to construe the meaning, but many

authors used in their writing or in any publication to make it more attractive and enjoyable.

Based on the results of the data, the total number of metaphor that the researcher found in the script of Westlife’s song lyrics are eighteen metaphors, as follow :

1. Song lyric of *Flying Without Wings* consists of 9 metaphors.
2. Song lyric of *Tunnel of Love* consists of 3 metaphors.
3. Song lyric of *Queen of My Heart* consists of 2 metaphors.
4. Song lyric of *Unbreakable* consists of 4 metaphors.
5. Song lyric of *When You Tell Me That You Love Me* consists of 1 metaphor.

SUGGESTIONS

It is suggested that understanding metaphor and conducting investigation in regard of metaphor need a clear understanding of the concept of metaphor including the common understanding and the comprehension of semantics field to enable to differ the literal meaning and metaphorical meaning. Metaphor can be socialized and be used contextually and communicatively. Therefore, the suggestions are addressed to the students, the teachers, and the next researchers.

1. Firstly, to the students of English to apply a similar analysis on other text. Because analyzing a song based on metaphor can improve the students ability in understanding of metaphor.
2. Secondly, it is suggested to the teacher, as follow:
 - a. Related to the contribution to the English teacher, it is hoped that this study can be a complement for other literary studies especially about figurative languages, when teaching listening, writing and reading.
 - b. The teacher should use the metaphor in the classroom can be an effective way of expanding students’ vocabulary.
3. The thirdly is addressed to the next researcher who will conduct the researcher in reference with this present research. The findings in this research are expected to be useful as a guidance to conduct the next research.

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