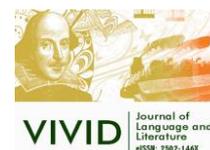


Available online at : <http://jurnalvivid.fib.unand.ac.id>

Vivid: Journal of Language and Literature

| ISSN (Online) 2502-146X |



Linguistics

Ontological Metaphor in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: May 10, 2017

Revised: July 23, 2017

Available online: September 27, 2017

KEYWORDS

Metaphor, meaning, lyric

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A B S T R A C T

This article discusses the ontological metaphor found in Adele's songs. It aims to determine the types of ontological metaphor and their meanings. Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphor is used in analyzing the data. From 21 data collected entity and substance metaphor (11 data) is the type of metaphor mostly used followed by container (6 data), 6 data belong to personification (6 data). And entity and substance metaphor (2). By using metaphor, the writer of those song lyrics wants to give deep impression and deeper meaning rather than to use literal language.

INTRODUCTION

Ontological metaphor may give stronger effect to the reader since metaphor serves a group of ideas about expressed words. Ontological metaphor produces such imagery in people's mind therefore the meaning of an utterance will be easier to be catch.

An utterance is one of the ways by which people express their thought; and when they describe their thought it is not always directly. Sometimes, people use a song to convey their feeling. For a song writer, song is the reflection of what she or he wants to express. But for listener, a song functions to entertain and sometimes they can learn something through the messages that are implied by song writer through the song.

The use of ontological metaphor can also be found in song lyrics. Lyric is a short musical composition with words. According to the free online Dictionary [1] lyric means "an artistic form of auditory communication incorporating instrumental or vocal tones in a structured and continuous manner". From the meaning above, it can be concluded that lyrics is one of literary works since one form of the literary art which uses language as media for expressing someone's feeling or even experience is through the song.

A song consists of words. It means that when people create a song, they play with words. Sometimes, there are metaphorical words there. The writer chooses lyrics because lyrics are one of the popular media which play with words.

In this research, the writer focuses on the song lyrics, where the song expresses thought, feeling or experiences of someone. The writer takes some songs from one of the British famous singer, Adele. The song which is sung by her mostly is being a hits. For example, the songs “Someone Like You”, “Rolling in The Deep”, and “Set The Fire to The Rain” became worldwide number-one hits. Thus, they were covered by other singer.

The theme of Adele’s song is about love. Human emotion is always a very subtle and complicated phenomenon to be expressed by language. On another hand, feelings, especially love, are endless inspiration for any authors. Various rhetoric devices are used to describe love. Among them, the use of ontological metaphor appears to be an effective way.

This research analyzes ontological metaphor that found in Adele’s song lyrics. The writer selects song lyrics of seven Adele’s song lyrics from her two albums ‘19’ and ‘21’, and one ‘single’ song as the sources of data. *Someone Like You*, *Rolling in The Deep*, *Rumour Has It*, *Sky Fall*, *Set Fire to The Rain*, *Chasing Pavements*, and *Make You Feel My Love* are the data in this research. This is because Adele is a famous singer. Then, some of the songs in her albums also had winning some awards such as Grammy Awards, and American Music Awards or at least were nominated in some music award events.

There are several researches about ontological metaphor. The first research was conducted by M. T. H. Chi and J. D. Slotta[2] titled ‘The Impact of Ontology Training On Conceptual Change: Helping Students Understand The Challenging Topics In Science’. In this research, Chi and Slotta build the theory which posits that all entities in the world can be placed into a hierarchy of ontological categories, and apply this theory to science concepts, using matter, processes, and mental states as the primary ontological categories. The result of Chi and Slotta’s analysis is, each physical entity has a correct ontology, and many robust physics misconceptions are the result of attributing an incorrect ontology to a concept.

The second research was done by D. Brookes and E. Etkina [3] from University of Moscow State Pedagogical. In their research entitled ‘Using Conceptual Metaphor and Functional Grammar to Explore How Language Used in Physics Affects Student Learning’. They synthesize the conceptual metaphor framework and the ontological categories framework. The result of the research show that the instances when a grammatical analysis indicates that students and experts invoke other ontologies for a given concept. When these ontologies do not match the lexical ontology, they identify them as a metaphor.

The last research was conducted by A. Gupta, D. Hammer, and E. Redish [4] entitled ‘The Case For Fynamic Models of Learners’ Ontologies In Physics s’. In their research, they show that both novices and experts can place the same physics entity in multiple ontological categories, and this ontological categorization is context dependent. The result is, that using multiple complementary ontologies for the same concept in different contexts can be productive. They extend this dynamic ontologies model to cases in which multiple ontological categories are used for the same entity within the same episode.

Ontological Metaphors

Ontological metaphors (a figure that provides "ways of viewing events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc., as entities and substances") are one of the three overlapping categories of conceptual metaphors identified by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By* [5]. The other two categories are structural metaphors and orientational metaphors.

An example of an ontological metaphors used in everyday life is, "time is an object", which can be observed when making statements, such as "I don't have enough time" or "thanks for giving me your time". Treating time in this way enables to be easily understood and quantified. Lakoff and Johnson suggest that ontological metaphors serve many purposes, such as referring, quantification, identification of aspects, identification of causes, and helping to set goals and motivate actions [5]. While ontological metaphors might initially seem too fundamental to be used in user-interfaces, this turns out not to be true. In fact, because they are basic, ontological metaphors are to be found everywhere in people's interfaces, so it is imperative that they know they are there, and how they work.

Considering the purposes of ontological metaphors mentioned above, it can be seen that that these are all things to do in making user-interfaces work. Quantification is plainly something the speakers are constantly doing in user-interface design, and this leads to metaphors which present elements of the system as objects, things which can be quantified. The examples of this are plentiful, but consider "the file is an object". This enables the speakers to talk about the size of file, and also to give them location, and various other useful characteristics. In another example, ontological metaphors are frequently used to identify causes in the system. Thus, one might tell the user that "an error prevented the system from opening that file", thus using the metaphor "error is entity" (capable of causing and preventing things).

Lakoff and Johnson claim that ontological metaphors arise when "our experience of physical objects and substances provides a further basis for understanding" [5]. Ontological metaphors, therefore, explain concepts in terms of the very basic categories of our existence, such as object and substance.

Types of Ontological Metaphor

In this research, the writer applies the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson. Here some types of ontological metaphors according to Lakoff and Johnson [5]:

1. Container metaphors

According to Lakoff and Johnson theory, container metaphors are an ontological metaphors in which some concept is represented as having an inside and outside, and capable of holding something else [5]. Basically, container metaphor is a metaphor which views something as a container with an in-out orientation that has inside and outside. Events, actions, activities and states also viewed as containers, such as getting into or out of trouble, being in a race, getting satisfaction out of doing something.

Example : I put a lot of energy into washing the windows.

The above sentence expresses the activity as container metaphors. The phrase "a lot of energy" is put by "I" inside the activity of "washing the windows". The activity is given

the quality of having an inside and an outside part like a container. Therefore, this sentence bears the quality of container metaphor.

By putting “energy” into some activity, it means that the person is doing the activity with vigor, force, or potency. The sentence “I put a lot of energy into washing the windows”, therefore, would mean the person “I” has an intensity or vitality in doing the activity of washing the windows.

2. Entity and substance metaphors

Entity and substance metaphors are an ontological metaphor in which an abstraction is represented as a concrete physical object [5]. Based on that definition, a metaphor which the speakers experienced with physical objects give them the way of viewing event, emotion, action and idea as substances. Viewing something as substances allows them to refer to it.

Example : Time is money

The term “time” here is assumed directly to be a substance “money”. Therefore this sentence is a substance metaphors. In this metaphor, the sentence is cannot be translated word by word to be able to interpret the real meaning. Because any feature of the money is cannot be seen in the concept of time and vice versa.

Money is considered to be a valuable commodity in today's society. It is often said that money is the most important thing in the world. For many people, however, money is as important as air. These are not necessarily overly-materialistic people. Rather, they simply understand the true value of money. Money, in and of itself, is not very spectacular. What money can do for you is what is really important. The phrase “time is money” is said to emphasize that people should not waste time, because they could be using it to earn money. If they waste time, they will also waste money, because time is equal as money, which is very valuable.

3. Personification

Personification is an ontological metaphor in which a thing or abstraction is represented as a person [5]. Personification means giving the attributes of non-human viewed as human. It allows a person to compare the experiences with non-human entities in terms of human characteristics, activities, and motivations.

Example: His religion tells him he can not drink wine.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, the meaning of *religion* is a particular system of faith and worship based on religious belief [6]. The word religion is an abstraction, it is something that cannot be seen but can be felt. In this sentence, the religion is viewed to have the ability to “tell” someone, which is the quality of human. That is why this sentence belongs to personification.

Two Approaches to Ontological Metaphors

According to Levinson [7], approaches of ontological metaphors are divided into two types; semantic and pragmatic approach.

1. Semantic approach

Semantic theories on metaphor is divided into two types; comparison and interaction theory. In the comparison theory, ontological metaphors are similes (like-form) with suppressed predications of similarity. In the interaction theory, Levinson [7] states ‘metaphor is special uses of linguistics expressions where on metaphorical expression (or focus) is embedded in another literal expression (or frame) such that the meaning of the focus interacts with and change the meaning of the frame and vice versa’. The statement from Levinson explain more about ontological metaphors and its useful in a process of changing meaning from literal meaning to metaphorical meaning.

Ullman [8] proposed the definition of meaning as a reciprocal and reversible relationship between name and sense. Meaning is a fundamental concept to the study of language. However, the definition of what exactly to be understood by ‘meaning’ still remains a matter of concern to most scholars. Not only linguists but also philosophers, psychologists, anthropologists and other theoreticians had and have been struggling to offer a plausible explanation of what this ambiguous and controversial term, as Ullmann puts it [8], actually means.

Linguistic meaning is purely the meaning of an expression in some form of languages [9]. One can understand linguistic meaning provided that he or she possesses adequate knowledge about grammatical rules and vocabularies of a language. There are a variety of ways in which language can be seen not simply a matter of providing information. Language experts have classified meanings from many different point of views based on their deliberation. But this research will be more focussed on linguistic meaning as it analyzes the metaphor of song lyrics as a part of linguistic research.

2. Pragmatic approach

Pragmatic is the study of contextual meaning. Pragmatic approach based on assumption that the metaphorical content of utterance(s) will not be derived by semantics [7]. Since semantics only provide a characterization of literal meaning by a set of its semantic features, pragmatics explain the meaning more than what is said. Pragmatics concern is how to catch up the utterance(s) meaning of metaphor that mostly implicit.

In order to fully understand the speaker, the hearer must also understand the context in which it is uttered. In other words, when someone speaks to another, she has to know what she is going to say, and the hearer also has to know what the speaker is trying to say.

Yule [10] argued that context is the physical environment that easily recognized as having powerful impact on how referring expression are to be interpreted. Context of an utterance is everything that one knows about the words or the surroundings which contribute to his or her interpretation of what speaker means.

Malinowski, in his essay published in 1923 as a supplement in Ogden and Richards, “The Meaning of Meaning” titled, “The Problem of Meaning in Primitive Languages”, sets out his arguments for the role of context (of situation and of culture) in the structure of meaning. He says, ‘the meaning of any single word is to a very high degree dependent on its context’ [11]. It means that a statement, spoken in real life, is never removed from the situation in which it

has been uttered. For each verbal statement by a human being has the aim and function of expressing some thought or feeling at the moment and in that situation, and necessary for some reasons or other to be made known to another person or persons, in order either to serve the purposes of common action, or to establish ties of purely social communion, or else to deliver the speaker of violent feelings or passions. Without some imperative stimulus of the moment, there can be no spoken statement [11].

The basic concept of 'context of situation', originally suggested by Malinowski [11] and later elaborated by Firth in his paper 'Personality and language in society'. Originally what this implies is that language comes to life only when functioning in some environment. The language has always had the relation with a scenario. Aside from scenario, what can derive the meaning of language are some backgrounds of persons and actions and events from which the things which are said. Therefore, one would not recognize it as language if one does not experience it. This is referred to as the 'situation', so language is said to function in 'contexts of situation' and any account of language which fails to build in the situation as an important sources is likely to be artificial and unrewarding in Widdowson [12]

The question then arises is whether context can be defined in more exact abstract terms to mean something more stated than just the same casual utterance. Mey, in his book, states that context is a concrete setting [13]. But Hymes state: "Setting refers to the time and place of a speech act and, in general, to the physical circumstances". However, he acknowledges that these physical circumstances are only part of the story. There is also an abstract and internal location for communication as well as a concrete external one, and what he refers to as the scene is "Scene, which is distinct from setting, designates the 'psychological setting,' or the cultural definition of an occasion as a certain type of scene, say, from formal to informal, serious to festive, or the like" [12].

What Hymes refers as "psychological setting" here is only the location of utterance. But, in the theory of relevance, Sperber and Wilson use "psychological construct" to extend what Hymes explain about "psychological setting". They define context as "a mental state of the speaker" [14] and it plays a role in interpretation.

Looking at the meaning of metaphor, the context cannot be separated from it. According to Halliday and Hasan, context is the words and the sentences before and after the particular sentence that one was looking at [15]. The sentences before and after the metaphor, will bring effect to what we think the metaphor means since every sentence is related with the other sentences

In analyzing the lyrics of the song, the writer applies the theory context from Halliday and Hasan to analyze the data based on the context of the lyric itself. Since the metaphor cannot understand literally, the mental state of the speaker –in this case is the singer- is playing an important part in order to know the context of the song. Because the mental state of the singer affects the choice of words of the lyric itself, and in turn, to interpret the meaning of the lyric. Both of these theories of context help the writer to avoid misunderstanding of the interpretation

1.1. Meaning of Metaphor

Metaphor is language creativity by which people can utter something without directly point to the case. It is a language strategy which is often used to convey an expression by employing other words which have similarities in concept and can also be regarded as the change of meaning process in which the meaning is out of its literal meaning. As Morgan (1979: 137) stated: "... metaphor as a change of meaning is clearly incoherent. Taken literally, a claim that an instance of metaphor involves a change in meaning in this sense can only mean that the meaning is not what it used to be; either the original meaning has been replaced by a new meaning (metaphorical) one or the new meaning has been added beside the old (literal) one."

According to Searle[16], in metaphor, what speakers means differ from what speakers say. It could possibly say that speakers say something to mean something else. In other words, he explained that metaphor concerns the relation between word and sentence meaning on the one hand, and the speaker's meaning, on the other.

Based on explanation above, it can be concluded that the meaning of metaphor is always speaker's utterance meaning, not word or sentence meaning. Metaphorical meaning is different from its literal meaning; in which it can be in form of additional meaning or even a new different meaning.

METHOD

In conducting the research, the writer follows several steps, they are: collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the result of analysis.

In collecting data, the writer uses observational method proposed by Sudaryanto [17]. Observational method is a method of collecting data by doing an observation of the language that is taken from internet. The writer also uses not-taking technique, which is a technique by taking note for all the data is found [17].

Firstly, the writer finds all Adele's song lyrics in her album '19', '21', and her 'single' song. Then, the writer selects the song were nominated and had winning awards and read the song lyrics, and the data containing ontological metaphor are identified and classified based on its type of ontological metaphor, and then written in the notebook. From all of the data that are found, the writer takes 21 data to be analyzed.

In analyzing data, the writer applies referential identity method [17]. Referential identity method is a method to analyze data which sees the language not only from the internal aspects of language but also from external aspects such as sociological, historical, and psychological. In this research, the writer analyzes the data using following steps. First, the writer gathers all data that are related to the topic, and read them intensively. After that, the writer identifies the data containing ontological metaphor and finds out the types and the meaning of the data.

The writer analyzes the data semantically to classify them into which ontological metaphor they are belong to and finds out the metaphorical meaning. The writer also uses pragmatic approach to finds out the meaning based on the context. In analyzing data, the writer uses theory of conceptual metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson. They state: "Once we can identify our experiences as entities or substances, we can refer back to them, categorize, group, and quantify them and

by this means, reason about them". It means the identification of an ontological metaphor is closely related to comparison of two items which convey the same meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this research include the types and the meaning of metaphor. After analyzing 21 data taken from those songs, the writer finds out that *entity and substance metaphor* (11 data) is the type of metaphor mostly used in this analysis. Then, the writer finds out *container* (6 data), and 6 data belong to *personification*. There are 2 data belong to *entity and substance metaphor* which is also belong to *container metaphor*..

The meaning of metaphor can be interpreted in two ways. They are semantically and pragmatically. By using semantic approach, the writer finds out the meaning of each metaphor semantically without including the context. Then, by using pragmatic approach, the writer analyzes the meaning of metaphor based on the context of the song itself and any sources, such as magazine and music video of song to help the writer get the right interpretation.

The data are categorized based on its types and meaning of metaphor. In analyzing data, the writer uses the theory of conceptual metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson [5] and focusses on ontological metaphor as it is discussed in the previous chapter. Firstly, the types of ontological metaphor are identified, and then the writer explains the meaning of ontological metaphor.

Overall, the writer concludes that metaphor does exist in Adele's selected song. By using metaphor, the writer of those song lyrics wants to give deep impression and deeper meaning rather than to use literal language. The following are the example of the analysis of each type of the ontological metaphor.

...Bless your soul, you got your *head in the clouds*...

(Second Stanza, Rumour Has It, 21 Album)

In the first line of second stanza, the metaphor is *head in the clouds*. The word *clouds*, is having the quality of a container which has the inside and outside part. It is described that the *head* has a position inside the *clouds*. Since the position of the *head* inside the *clouds*, it means that there is outside part. As it is mentioned in preceding chapter, container metaphor is a kind of ontological metaphor which views something as a container with an in-out orientation that have an inside and an outside part. Therefore, based on that concept, the metaphor *head in the clouds* belongs to container metaphor.

Semantically, the meaning of *head* is the uppermost part of the body [6]. Then, according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, the meaning of *clouds* is a mass particles or droplets, as of a dust, smoke, or steam, suspended in the atmosphere or existing in outer space [6]. But, metaphorically, *head* is a representation of person's mind, and *clouds* could be interpreted as a state or cause of sadness.

Pragmatically, if those two metaphorical meanings are combined, the meaning of *head in the clouds* is the mind is in the state of sadness. Therefore, related to the context, the person who is represented by “you” is in sad mind and it makes him cannot thinking clearly.

My hands, they're strong

But my knees were far too weak...

(Second stanza, Set Fire to The Rain, 21 Album)

The next metaphor is found in the first and second lines in second stanza of the song “Set Fire to The Rain”. The metaphors are *My hands, they're strong, but my knees were far too weak*. The words *hands* and *knees* are immaterial objects which are viewed as physical object. This kind of metaphor belong to entity and substance metaphors

Semantically, to directly excerpt from Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English, *hand* is used figuratively for activity; operation; work; —from the head, which implies thought. From this figurative definition it can be interpreted that the *hands* in this song is the “rationality of the person”. The hands that are strong would mean that the rationality of a person is tough and powerful. As for the next line *knees* that were too weak could be easily taken from the idiom “weak at the knees” that means losing your strength and feeling you are going to fall over, usually because of seeing or talking about either someone you are very attracted to or because of something unpleasant or frightening [6]. The meaning of fall over here is to lose balance and collapse to the ground due to the failing of the strength because the person concedes to nervousness or fear.

Pragmatically, based on the context of the song, the *hand* represents the logical thinking and the *knees* is a representation of the singer’s feeling in her heart. Combining both of these lines, they would mean that the person knew that her head was thinking rationally that she has to move on from her previous relationship, but then she feels that her heart still wants to stay. In other words, her thought says yes, but her heart says no.

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