
ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR IN THE LYRICS OF THE ALBUM "Definitely Maybe"

By OASIS : SEMANTIC STUDY

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Abstract

This research is based on the author's interest in Oasis and high curiosity about the language style contained in Oasis' debut album which has made Oasis popular with many people, namely the Definitely Maybe album. The purpose of this research is to identify metaphors contained in the lyrics of the album (Structural Metaphor), (Orientation Metaphor), (Ontological Metaphore), (Personificaion Metapgor), and (Expressive Metaphor). The method used in this research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Based on the research results of the five types of metaphors, there is a message of how important metaphors are in writing song lyrics to convey feelings and emotions in different ways that make them popular with listeners.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini didasari atas ketertarikan penulis dengan Oasis serta rasa ingin tahu yang tinggi terhadap gaya bahasa yang terkandung dalam album debut Oasis yang telah membuat Oasis digemari banyak orang yaitu album Definitely Maybe. Tujuan penelitian ini ialah untuk mengidentifikasi Metafora yang terkandung pada lirik-lirik dalam album tersebut (Structural Metaphor), (Orientation Metaphor), (Ontological Metaphore), (Personificaion Metapgor), serta (Expressive Metaphor). Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan penelitian deskriptif dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Berdasarkan hasil peneliitan dari kelima jenis metafora tersebut terdapat pesan betapa pentingnya metafora dalam penulisan lirik lagu untuk menyampaikan perasaan dan emosi dengan cara yang berbeda yang membuar digemari oleh pendengarnya.

Keywords : *metaphor, music, definitrly maybe, oasis*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language can be easily understood if it is spoken also there is intonation or facial expressions at the same time. It is different if the language is written down as in poetry or song lyrics, it will require a little analysis to get what meaning is contained in it. In this case semantics will play an important role in analyzing the meaning contained in the writing, because semantics is one of the branches of linguistics that discusses meaning.

Nufinuddin in his journal said, According to Chaer (2009: 6-11) Semantics based on the level or part of the language which is the object of investigation can be divided into four, namely (1) lexical semantics which is a type of semantics whose object of research is the lexicon of a language, (2) grammatical semantics which is a type of semantics whose object of research is the grammatical meanings of the morphological level, (3) syntactic semantics which is a type of semantics whose object of investigation focuses on matters relating to syntax, (4) semantics of intent which is a type of semantics that deals with the use of stylistic forms of language, such as metaphor, irony, litotes, and so on.

We will focus on one of the studies that discuss meaning in semantic studies, namely metaphor. A metaphor is the use of a word or group of words not in its true sense, but as a description based on similarity or comparison. Based on Duden's dictionary "Das Bedeutungswörterbuch" (2002: 618), the definition of metaphor is "Sprachlicher Ausdruck, bei dem ein Wort (eine Wortgruppe) aus seinem Bedeutungszusammenhang in einen übertragen, als Bild verwendet wird: >>der Himmel weint<< is eine Metapher für >>es regnet<<; in Metaphern reden". Which means that the language expression used in the expression of another language takes the form of a metaphor. For example, *der Himmel weint* (the sky cries) is a metaphor for *es regnet* (rain). The teardrops released during crying are used to describe rain.

Metaphor was first developed through the book *Metaphor We Live By* which was published in 1980. This book was published by George Lakoff. According to Lakoff and Johnson, metaphor is something that has other meanings and the main function is to understand. All languages used by humans to communicate use metaphors at different levels.

Lakoff and Johnson divide metaphors into 3 types, namely:

1. Structural metaphor: involves one concept being systematically understood and formed based on the structure of another concept. A frequently used example is "*Argument is a*

war", where various elements from the concept of war (attack, defense, win, lose) are used to understand and describe an argument.

2. Orientation metaphor relate to spatial orientation, which is usually derived from physical human experiences that are described using space. Examples include "UP-DOWN", "IN-OUT", "FRONT-BACK", and "CENTRAL-PERIPHERAL". For example, "*I'm feeling up today*", "*He's down in the dumps*". In these examples, happiness is symbolized by 'Up' while 'Down' can mean something bad.
3. Ontological metaphor are metaphors that give another concept of thoughts, feelings, experiences felt by a person into a word that has physical properties. An example of an ontological metaphor is "*The mind is a machine*" which can be interpreted that the mind is like a machine that always works without stopping but can stop or break down.
4. Personification metaphor occur where human traits are given to inanimate objects, animals, or other abstract concepts in order to make the abstract or lifeless object more alive. For example, "*Hello from the other side*" 'Hello' is personified as if coming from the other, abstract side.
5. Expressive metaphor are metaphors that are used to convey a feeling, emotion, or subjective in a more vivid way to influence the reader or listener. For example, "You are my sunshine" means that a person is described as the bearer of happiness and hope contained in the word 'sunshine'.

Metaphors are often used to convey meaning in a more creative and imaginative way. In poetry, song lyrics, and literary works, writers often utilize figurative language to enrich their expression. In a song, of course, the words contained in the lyrics cannot be swallowed raw. Many intentions are not actually conveyed by the author of the song lyrics, so it is necessary to research the meaning that is stored specifically so that the audience can be integrated into the song. Song lyrics, as a form of literature, are often filled with metaphorical expressions. Through song lyrics, songwriters pour out figurative words that are full of meaning. Just as poetry is full of symbolism, song lyrics also use many metaphors to make listeners feel the message that the singer wants to convey. In this way, song lyrics become more lively and colorful, inviting listeners to absorb each verse more deeply.

Of the many songs that exist, one of them is the song lyrics of Oasis. Oasis is a British rock band that was very popular in the 1990s and early 2000s. They are known as one of the most influential bands in the Britpop movement, which revived British rock music in that era.

One of the main factors that made Oasis a big band was the unique combination of strong songwriting, distinctive vocal characteristics, and the right musical influences. Noel Gallagher, as the main songwriter, creates instantly hit songs with strong melodies and profound lyrics. Liam Gallagher's unique vocals and charismatic stage style added to the band's appeal, making it a rock n' roll icon. In addition, Oasis managed to blend influences from legendary bands such as The Beatles and The Rolling Stones with a fresh Britpop style, creating music that resonated with the younger generation and became a symbol of the era.

Oasis proved this with the release of their first album *Definitely Maybe* in 1994, which took the music world by storm and was a huge commercial success, selling over 15 million copies worldwide and debuting on the UK album charts at number one. One of the most popular songs from the album is *Slide Away*. It tells the story of a girl who has been dating Noel Gallagher (the songwriter) for 6 years. Although the lyrics are full of seduction, the song became a fan favorite and became one of the hits of the *Definitely Maybe* album and in 2006 was included in the "Best Of" compilation - *Stop The Clocks*.

This study aims to identify the use and types of metaphors that exist as a tool to convey emotional and philosophical messages contained in the context of song lyrics in Oasis' "Definitely Maybe" album. This album was chosen because Oasis is known for their metaphor-rich lyrical style that often presents complex and meaningful images in human experience. This research will explain in depth about the use of metaphors in the context of song lyrics contained in the *Definitely Maybe* album from Oasis

B. METHODOLOGY

In this study the authors used descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Bogdan and Tailor as quoted by Moeleong, define qualitative methodology as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words or from the form of policy actions (Moeleong, Lexy J. 2002: 112).

Chomsky (1972:100-103) in 'Language and Mind' explains that the most important part of human beings is the ability to produce and understand speech; With limited rules, humans

are able to construct different sentences. This means that humans have the ability and natural creativity based on their experiences to form several different narratives with the same object. Metaphors in the context of literature or music contain theories with important approaches to understanding their role and function. For example, the cognitive linguistic approach emphasizes that metaphors are tools for humans to think and understand the world through analogies and conceptual mapping, namely entities that have the ability to undermine other entities are entities that have the semantic features [+concrete], [+living], [+living], for example: Wolf. If there is an expression that tax prices will increase by 30% starting next month, it can be inferred that there is a deviation in meaning in this expression, namely: 'taxes are increasing' which has the [-concrete] feature of the people becoming prey to the 'wolves' (rulers). Semantic theory also provides important insights by exploring how metaphors can figuratively change the meaning of words or phrases to a deeper level. Collins and Quillian have also explained (in Jay, 2003: 108 in Deli Nirmala, 2014) that humans have not only a mental lexicon but also semantic memory which is activated when humans need it to produce speech.

To get accurate data, researchers need to find and collect data in their research materials. In this study the data collected is “In the form of not numbers, but words” (Moleong, 2016: 11 in Masania Hia 2023). The research material is the song lyrics in the Oasis album *Definitely Maybe* and the research tool is the researcher himself. Some steps used for data collection are as follows:

1. Content analysis to identify and classify existing metaphors based on themes or concepts revealed.
2. Semantic analysis to explore the meaning of each data and how the *metaphora* connotes the message to be conveyed.
3. The researcher categorizes the metaphors obtained and then explains the meaning of the metaphors that can affect the overall narrative of the work.

In analyzing the use of metaphors in the lyrics of the album “*Definitely Maybe*” by Oasis, the steps taken include several important stages. First, the lyric data is studied carefully to identify each occurrence of metaphors used. Each metaphor was then coded based on its type, such as visual metaphor, conceptual metaphor, or causal metaphor, to note the variations

and patterns of its use. Next, the interpretation of meaning was done by considering the context of the lyrics and the use of the metaphor. For example, whether the metaphor is used to convey emotional, social or philosophical meaning in the lyrics. Finally, from this analysis, conclusions are drawn to illustrate how Oasis' use of metaphors not only enriches the aesthetics of their lyrics but also deepens the understanding of the themes they explore in this album, such as love, life, or social discontent. These steps provide a solid foundation for understanding the role of metaphors in creating meaning and listening experience in their musical artwork.

The steps used in analyzing metaphors in the lyrics on the Definitely Maybe album by oasis after the data is collected and selected include several steps, namely:

1. The data is studied carefully to identify the metaphors contained. Metaphors are then grouped based on their types: structural metaphors, orientation metaphors, ontology metaphors, persinification metaphors and expressive metaphors in order to note the variations and patterns of their use.
2. Interpreting the meaning by considering the context of the lyrics and whether the metaphors are used to convey emotional and philosophical meanings in the lyrics.
3. Drawing Conclusions from the data found, grouped and interpreted as a depiction of how the use of metaphors in the Definitely Maybe album not only enriches the lyrics but also deepens the understanding of the implied context such as love, life and hope.

These steps provide a solid foundation for the reader to understand the role of metaphor in creating meaning and listening experience in the artwork.

C. RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

After the data is collected and selected, the next necessary step is to explain the interpretation of the tarsirat meaning in the lyrics of the songs in the Definitely Maybe album by Oasis.

1. Structural Metaphor

This metaphor involves mapping a conceptual structure to another conceptual one by relying on analogies from two different domains (source domain) and (target domain) to expand its meaning.

Hey, you! *Up in the sky*

Learning to fly, tell me how high

Do you think you'd go

Before you start falling?

Hey you! Up in the tree

You wanna be me, well, that couldn't be

'Cause the people here

They don't hear you calling

How does it feel

When you're inside me?

From the lyrics above, it can be seen that there are words that contain structural metaphors, namely in the first stanza which contains “Learning to fly, tell me how high”. Learning to fly describes the process of learning to achieve something new, while fly here is used as a means of expressing high goals or freedom. It can be concluded that the author wants to tell about someone who is jealous of his success so that he is very ambitious to become him even with difficulty.

Now that you're mine

We'll find a way

Of chasing the sun

Let me be the one that shines with you

In the morning we don't know what to do

We're two of a kind

We'll find a way

To do what we've done

Oh, let me be the one who shines with you

And we can slide away

In this lyric, the word *Of* chasing the sun clearly shows a structural metaphor with the concept of chasing the sun. The sun itself can represent a source of life, hope or something that is even impossible to achieve. It can be concluded that here the writer wants to express his feelings to his lover and he believes that they will do great things that can even be said to be impossible as long as it is with him.

2. Orientational Metaphor

This metaphor deals with special orientations that are basic in human life experience based on spatial and physical orientation.

Hey, you! *Up in the sky*

Learning to fly, tell me how high

Do you think you'd go

Before you start falling?

Hey you! Up in the tree

You wanna be me, well, that couldn't be

'Cause the people here

They don't hear you calling

How does it feel

When you're inside me?

From the fragment of the lyrics above, it can be seen that there are words that contain Orientational metaphors, namely in the first stanza which contains “Hey, you! Up in the sky”. The word *sky* itself represents a space that has several meanings contained such as freedom, ambition or happiness. *Up in the sky* here can be interpreted as something ambitious if we look

at the next lyrics. It can be concluded that the author wants to tell about someone who is jealous of his success so that he is very ambitious to be him.

Slide away and give it all you've got

*My today **fell in from the top***

I dream of you and all the things you say

I wonder where you are now

It can be clearly seen that the words “fell in from the top” contain an orientational metaphor due to the combination of the concept of time or day with a special orientation from the top. It can be illustrated that the author wants to convey his experience that was originally fine and full of hope for someone but something difficult about it came.

3. Ontological Metaphor

These metaphors are useful for understanding abstract concepts by using metaphors that refer to more concrete and tangible physical structures or existences.

Bring it on down

Bring it down for me

Your head's in a fish tank

Your body and your mind can't breathe

In the lyric fragment, it can be seen that the words “Your head's in a fish tank” are an ontological metaphor due to the concept of existence contained in the word “fish tank”. It can be interpreted that Your head's in a fish tank is an explanation from the author to convey the image of someone who is trapped in a very narrow and very limited view.

'Cause my friend said he'd take you home

He sits in a corner all alone

*He lives **under a waterfall***

Nobody can see him

Nobody can ever hear him call

Nobody can ever hear him call

The second example of Ontological metaphor is found in the second lyric fragment which is contained in “*He lives under a waterfall*” with the word “*under a waterfall*” to describe the state of one's life, describing a concrete quality to an abstract and even emotional situation. The author uses the image to tell the story of someone who is constantly under pressure and flowing so that he does not have the courage and confidence to come out and show who he is.

4. Personification Metaphor

This metaphor has a system of assigning human traits to inanimate, abstract, or animal objects to create a more vivid image.

*Hold me down, **all the world's asleep***

Need you now you've knocked me off my feet

I dream of you and we talk of growing old

But you said, "Please don't"

It can be clearly seen that the lyrics “*all the world's asleep*” are part of the personification metaphor by analogizing “world” with “asleep” where the world has no eyes and can fall asleep like humans. The message that the author wants to convey in the lyrics is that in reality many people in this world do not care about someone who is even in the worst state, which is reinforced in the lyrics *But you said, “Please don't”*.

Bring it on down

Bring it down for me

Your head's in a fish tank

Your body and your mind can't breathe

An example of personification metaphor in the second lyric reads “Your body and your mind can't breathe” where the abstract concept of 'your body and your mind' is brought to life

with the concept of 'can't breathe' where the concept cannot be done by body and mind. The meaning contained in the metaphor is a confusion and alienation that a person gets which is analogous to the body and mind can't breathe or cannot function properly.

5. Expressive Metaphor

These metaphors are useful for conveying emotions, feelings, and subjective experiences in a more vivid and expressive way to create powerful images to influence the listener's feelings.

Now that you're mine

We'll find a way of chasing the Sun

Let me be the one who shines with you

In the morning we don't know what to do

Two of a kind

We'll find a way to do what we've done

Let me be the one who shines with you

And we can slide away

The sentence "Let me be the one who shines with you" in the lyric fragment above contains an expressive metaphor of the author's request to shine with someone he wants. The author wants to convey his intention to invite someone to strive to pursue a dream that is very big and so high and succeed together in the end.

I need to be myself

I can't be no-one else

I'm feeling supersonic, give me gin and tonic

You can have it all, but how much do you want it?

You make me laugh

Give me your autograph

The words “I'm feeling supersonic” in the series above contain expressive metaphors that express the writer's feelings with 'supersonic' or something that moves faster than the speed of sound. The writer is expressing his feelings of being very energetic, burning passion and very confident to show the world without the slightest doubt who he really is.

D. CONCLUSION

The results obtained in this study are that Oasis tries to reveal the richness of language use in the lyrics of the songs on the Definitely Maybe album with metaphors to strengthen the meaning and emotions to reach not only the ears but also the taste of the listeners.

Metaphor contained in this album include Structural metaphor, Orientational metaphor, Ontological metaphor, Personification metaphor and Expressive metaphor. These metaphors are used as tools by the author to convey the feelings, journey and search for identity, love and the mental and emotional state of the author.

This research can be concluded how important metaphors are in writing literary works including writing song lyrics as a means of expression and conveying feelings and emotions in different ways to the listener or reader. The metaphors contained in this song are not too many but Oasis managed to include and combine them into the lyrics so that the songs on the Definitely Maybe album are loved by their listeners.

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