# THE USE OF METAPHOR IN ADELE'S SONG LYRICS ON THE ALBUM ENTITLED 30: A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS



#### **THESIS**

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English Department

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## **AGREEMENT**

On Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Musfirah Hidayat (F041181011) entitled "THE USE OF METAPHOR IN ADELE'S SONG LYRICS ON THE ALBUM 30: A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS" submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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# DECLARATION

The thesis by Musfirah Hidayat (F041181011) entitled THE USE OF METAPHOR IN ADELE'S SONG LYRICS ON THE ALBUM 30: A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS has been revised as advised during the examination on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas expect the quotations and references.

Makassar, 16th August 2022

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Makassar, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Musfirah Hidayat

**ABSTRACT** 

MUSFIRAH HIDAYAT. 2018. The Use of Metaphor in Adele's Song Lyrics on

the Album Entitled 30: A Semantic Analysis (Supervised by Sukmawaty and

Ainun Fatimah).

This research aims to identify the types of metaphors and analyze the

meanings of metaphors found in Adele's song lyrics on the album 30. There are

10 songs selected from the album, including Easy on Me, Cry Your Heart Out, Oh

My God, Can I Get it, I Drink Wine, All Night Parking, Women Like Me, Hold On,

To be Loved, and Love is a Game. These song lyrics are used as the data source of

this research.

This research was a qualitative descriptive research. Therefore, the research

questions would be answered and described descriptively based on the writer's

analysis. The writer made observations by observing the lyrics of the selected

songs from the album and took the sentences that use metaphors.

In answering the first research question, the result of this research shows

that all the types of metaphor: Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and

Ontological Metaphor are found in the research data. All the songs from the

album use Metaphors, and there were 40 data found in total based on the song

lyrics used metaphors. It shows that Orientational Metaphor is the most common

type found in the song lyrics (17 lyrics). Then Structural Metaphor is the second

most common type found (14 lyrics), while the least type found in the song lyrics

is Ontological Metaphor (9 lyrics). Meanwhile, the second question about the

meanings of Metaphor used in song lyrics is also revealed from the analysis

process. It shows that Adele uses a lot of Metaphors in her song lyrics that make

them sound more beautiful and meaningful.

**Keywords:** Metaphor, Lakoff and Johnson Theory, Meaning, Adele's song lyrics

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#### **ABSTRAK**

MUSFIRAH HIDAYAT. The Use of Metaphor in Adele's Song Lyrics on the Album Entitled 30: A Semantic Analysis (Dibimbing oleh Sukmawaty and Ainun Fatimah).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis metafora dan menganalisis makna metafora yang ditemukan pada lirik-lirik lagu Adele dalam album yang berjudul 30. Terdapat sepuluh lagu yang dipilih dalam album tersebut, meliputi Easy on Me, Cry Your Heart Out, Oh My God, Can I Get it, I Drink Wine, All Night Parking, Women Like Me, Hold On, To be Loved, and Love is a Game. Lirik-lirik lagu tersebut digunakan sebagai sumber data dari penelitian ini.

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Oleh karena itu, pertanyaan penelitian akan dijawab dan dijabarkan secara deskriptif berdasarkan analisis penulis. Penulis melakukan observasi dengan mengamati lirik dari lagulagu terpilih dalam album dan mengambil kalimat yang menggunakan metafora.

Dalam menjawab pertanyaan penelitian pertama, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa semua jenis metafora: metafora struktural, metafora orientasi, dan metafora ontologis ditemukan pada data penelitian. Semua lagu dari album menggunakan metafora, dan terdapat 40 data yang ditemukan secara keseluruhan berdasarkan lirik-lirik lagu yang menggunakan metafora. Ditunjukkan bahwa Metafora Orientasi merupakan jenis yang paling banyak ditemukan pada lirik lagu (17 lirik). Lalu Metafora Struktural adalah jenis kedua yang paling banyak ditemukan (14 lirik), sementara jenis yang paling sedikit ditemukan adalah Metafora Ontologi (9 lirik). Sementara itu, pertanyaan penelitian kedua tentang makna metafora yang digunakan pada lirik-lirik lagu juga terungkap dari proses analisis. Itu menunjukkan bahwa Adele menggunakan banyak metafora pada lirik-lirik lagunya yang membuat mereka terdengar lebih indah dan penuh makna.

Kata kunci: Metafora, teori Lakoff dan Johnson, Makna, Lirik-Lirik Lagu Adele

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses about the introduction of this research. This chapter is divided into six subchapters. It includes background of the study, identification of the problem, scope of the study, research questions, objective of the research, and theoretical and practical benefit.

#### A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, the phenomenon of Metaphor is often found in everyday life. Metaphor is often used to express a particular meaning by emphasizing the impression that will be generated. The Metaphor is a figurative of speech used to implicitly compare two things that are different or comparable. Perrine (1973: 60) defined Metaphor as means of comparing two things that are essentially unlike without using words *like*, *such*, *as*, and so on. It means that Metaphor as the comparison does not use the words *like*, *as*, *such*, and so on, so the first subject is directly connected to the second principal as means of the comparator. For example, *time is money*. Although the literal meaning of time is not money, it is assumed that every second of time is precious and has value like money in Metaphorical concepts.

Metaphor adds creativity and clarity to everyday speech and writing, allowing people to see things from different angles and in a fresh light. Metaphor offers the means to enrich the language that is used to make it more beautiful and alive. Metaphor is one of the most widely known

figure of speech by people. It is often found in everyday speech, in literary works, and also even in the lyrics of songs. However, Metaphor is one of the language implementations that can be easily misunderstood because the words chosen are in a non-literal sense.

In this research, the writer is interested in analyzing the Metaphor in lyrics of songs. It seems interesting to be analyzed since almost every day people listen to the songs either intentionally or unintentionally. The song itself can be said to has become inseparable part in the lives of many people. It contains two elements, lyrics and music. When people listen to a song, sometimes they do not specialize in the lyrics that utilized in a song. Some people may enjoy a song because they like the writer or the music is sweet to hear even though they do not understand the meaning of the lyrics. However, for some people, understanding the meaning of the lyrics of a song is quite essential so that they can enjoy and explore every meaning of the lyrics of a song more. Especially if the lyrics of the song they listen to relate to their feelings or personal life.

When people specialize in song lyrics, they may have some difficulty understanding the meaning of the lyrics especially when the lyrics use figurative language, such as Metaphors that contain implicit meanings. The Metaphor itself is often found in song lyrics, such as on Adele's album 30. Meanwhile, some hearers get confused about the use of Metaphor in the song lyrics. In addition, the use of Metaphor in song lyrics

allow some hearers to get difficulty in understanding the meaning of lyrics that use Metaphor.

Based on the explanations above, the writer would like to analyze the phenomenon of Metaphor, especially the significant types and the meaning of Metaphors in Adele's song lyrics on the album 30. The album contains fifteen songs, but the writer limits this study by taking ten songs from the album, including Easy on Me, Cry Your Heart Out, Oh My God, Can I Get it, I Drink Wine, All Night Parking, Women Like Me, Hold On, To be Loved, and Love is a Game. They are new songs that just released by Adele in November 2021, and that is Adele's latest comeback after a hiatus about six years from the music field.

The writer chooses Adele's songs because Adele is one of the singers who has a lot of listeners from all over the world. Her songs on the album became popular after its release. She also uses a lot of metaphors in her song lyrics. Undeniably, some hearers have difficulty understanding the meaning of the Metaphors used in the lyrics. Therefore, the writer conducts research entitled *The Use of Metaphors in Adele's Song lyrics on the Album 30: A Semantic Analysis*.

#### **B.** Identification of the Problem

According to the background, the writer indicates two problems below.

1. Metaphor is often found in song lyrics including Adele's song lyrics on the album *30*, while the hearers difficult to understand the types of Metaphor in the song lyrics.

2. The use of Metaphor in Adele's song lyrics on the album 30 makes it difficult for the hearers to understand the meaning of the lyrics that use Metaphor

#### C. Scope of the Problem

In this research, the writer focuses to analyze the types and the meaning of Metaphor that used in selected song lyics. She takes 10 songs by Adele on the album 30 to be analyzed: Easy on Me, Cry Your Heart Out, Oh My God, Can I Get it, I Drink Wine, All Night Parking, Women Like Me, Hold On, To be Loved, and Love is a Game. Then, Lakoff and Johnson's theory is the theory used to analyze the data.

#### **D.** Research Questions

- 1. What are the types of Metaphor found in Adele's song lyrics on the album *30*?
- 2. What are the meanings of Metaphor used in Adele's song lyrics on the album *30*?

# E. Objective of the Research

- To find out the types of Metaphor in Adele's song lyrics on the album
- 2. To analyze the meaning of Metaphor that found in Adele's song lyrics on the album *30*

#### F. Theoretical and Practical Benefits

Theoritically benefits, hopefully this study can enrich research that related to the field of Linguistics, especially in terms of Metaphor as part of Figurative Language. Then, the writer hopes this study can be a reference and provide inspiration to readers to conduct the further research about Metaphor.

Practically benefits, the writer expects this study can give a contribution to the students or further researchers in finding and distinguishing the types of metaphor and understand the meaning of metaphor they found.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer discusses about the literature review of this research. This chapter is divided into two subchapters. It includes previous studies and theoretical background.

#### A. Previous Studies

There are several previous studies about Metaphors that are related to this research. They are as follows.

Firstly, Friska Fricilia (2021) with her thesis: Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of Metaphors in Bruno Mars's Songs. This study aims to classify the types of Metaphor and to analyze the meaning of Metaphor in Bruno Mars's songs. There are seven songs from divide album by Bruno Mars were taken as the object of her research: Grenade, It will Rain, Talking to the Moon, Count on Me, When I was Your Man, Run Away Baby, and The Other Said. Descriptive qualitative research is the research method used by her in collecting the data. Based on the analysiss, the results show that there are three types of Metaphors found in seven songs by Bruno Mars: Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor. There are two theories used here: Lakoff and Johnson theory and Chaer theory. This study is different from the writer's research, because the writer only uses a theory: Lakoff and Johnson theory.

Secondly, Gusti Soraya (2019) with her thesis: *The Metaphorical Meanings of Maroon 5's Selected Song Lyrics*. In this study, the writer

found two problems to be alnalyzed: the types of Metaphors used in nine *Maroon 5's song lyrics*; and the meaning of each Metaphor found in the lyrics. The writer uses Peter Newmar's (1988) theory to answer the first problem and Metaphor theory for the second problem. In conducting his study, she collects the data by applying stratified sampling and analyzes the meaning of Metaphor by using the semantics approach. As a results, the song lyrics are classified into three types; dead Metaphor, standard Metaphor, and original Metaphor. Then, the meaning of Metaphor can be found after comparing the literal meaning and Metaphorical meaning by using semantics property. This also is different from the writer's research, because the writer analyze the types of metaphor based on Lakoff and Johnson theory.

Tirth, Syifa Fauziah R (2018) with her thesis: A Semantic Analysis on Metaphors Found in Coldplay Selected Lyrics. This study aims to find out the Metaphorical aspect and analyze its meaning in Coldplay selected song lyrics. The writer collects the data directly from the song lyrics and analyzes the data using a qualitative descriptive method. To achieve the research objectives, the writer uses two steps; identifying and classifying the meaning of Metaphor based on Keraf's (2006) theory of Metaphor and analyzing the aspect of Metaphor. As a results, the writer found five aspects of Metaphor in research data; cosmological, emotional, material, chemical, and locational aspects. The dominant aspect found in this study is the

cosmological aspect. Then, the song writer uses Metaphor and cosmological aspects to beautify the language and convey messages implicitly in songs.

Fourth, Regina Rientina (2018) with her thesis *Theme Seen Through the*Use of Metaphors and Similes in Katy Perry's Selected Songs in the Album

Entitled Teenage Dream. The aim of this research is to find the theme of the album through the Metaphors and similes used in the song lyrics. The research data is taken from Katy Perry's album entitled Teenage Dream, which contains three songs with many Metaphors and similes in the lyrics. The writer applies a semantic approach to achieve the research objective. The results of her research can be concluded that there were fourteen Metaphors and eight similes found in three songs entitled Firework, Pearl, and E.T. Then, the theme of each songs is as follows: Encouragement theme for the song Firework, an unhealthy relationship theme for the song Pearl, and falling in love with someone who is unique theme for the song E.T.

Fifth, Wiji Lestari (2017) with her thesis: *Metaphor in the Song Lyrics* of Green Day. This research focuses on the types of Metaphorical expressions and the meaning of the Metaphors used by Green Day. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's theory are used to analyzing the concept of Metaphorical expressions. The research data is taken from four songs by Green Day: *American Idiot, Jesus of Suburbia, Holiday,* and *Boulevard of Broken Dream*. As a results, all the types of Metaphor based on Lakoff and Johnson theory are found in the data, which the Ontological Metaphor being the most frequently used.

These are some of the differences between previous studies above and this current research. The first study used two theories: Lakoff and Johnson theory and Chaer theory, while this research only used one theory: Lakoff and Johnson theory. Then, the second study analyzed the types of metaphor based on Peter Newmar theory, and the third study used Keraf theory. Meanwhile, this research analyzed the types of metaphor based on Lakoff and Johnson theory. Furthermore, the fourth study aimed to find the theme of the album through the Metaphors and Similes used in the song lyrics, while this research only focused on the types of Metaphors and their meanings in the song lyrics. The last, the Ontological Metaphor is the most common type found in the result of the fifth study, while the Orientational Metaphor is the most commonly found in the result of this research.

# **B.** Theoretical Background

#### 1. Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that does empirical research on language meaning. Hornby (1972: 789) stated that studying the meaning of words, phrases or sentences is the focus of the linguistics field of Semantics. The same definition comes from Kreidler (1998: 3) that the study of language organization and meaning expression is known as Semantics. It is concerned with how language is used to convey the meaning or interpretation through words or sentences. It also refers to the field of linguistics research that examines language and how the meaning is understood.

Semantics is all about meaning in language, which is very important to study since meaning is an essential element in communication. In everyday life, a word has many possible meanings that might confuse some people. Therefore, Semantics aims to propose the exact meaning of words or phrases and resolve the confusion. Sometimes, without realizing it, Semantics plays a huge role in daily communication, understanding and language learning. It shows how important it is to know the meaning of each word and why meaning is more complex than words formed in sentences. By understanding semantics, the writers or speakers can easily choose and use words with the exact meaning in conveying information to the readers or hearers. It also affect people's understanding of other people's worlds in everyday conversation.

How meaning is created is an essential part of understanding how language work as a whole. The study of Semantics concerns how meaning works in language. It is all about how meaning is created, how we share meaning with others, and how meaning changes over time. Therefore, Semantics plays an essential role in someone's ability to understand what other people mean, even what decisions are made due to the interpretation. Here are some examples of everyday words of Semantics concerning everyday words: the word *create* can mean build, make, or construct, and the verb *move* can mean change place, push, or carry.

#### 2. Figurative Language

Figurative Language is a language that uses words or expressions that have different meanings from literal ones. In Indonesia, it is commonly known as *Majas* (*bahasa kiasan*). As Kennedy (1979: 187) stated that Figurative Language uses a figure of speech to convey meaning other than the literal sense of the words. Another definition, according to Perrine (1988: 565) is Figurative Language is when something is said in a way that cannot be taken literally, or when something is said in one way but meant to be understood in another.

It can be said that Figurative Language is a way of expressing language whose meaning does not refer to the literal meaning of the words that compose it but rather to the implied meaning. Figurative language usually requires the reader or listener to understand some additional context or figures of speech in order to understand the implied meaning. It is often used in literary works such as poetry, drama, theater, song lyrics, and even speech. It is beneficial because using it makes a language more beautiful to read or hear.

By Figurative Language, the writer or speaker can engage the readers or hearers in their writing or speeches with a more creative tone. It allows people to gain new insight into their works. They have to think about the words a little more, which means they actively participate. In addition, using Figurative Language can help explain an abstract concept by comparing it to something else that can understand better. It

can turn the seemingly ordinary into something significant. According to Perrine, there are twelve kinds of Figurative Language as follows.

#### a. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that frequently used in everyday speech to compare two dissimilar objects using the comparison words: *like* or *as*. For example: *My sister is tall as a giraffe*. It means someone who is very tall.

#### b. Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of figurative language used to make an implied comparison between two distinct objects. For example: *You are my sunshine*. It means someone who is important or special.

#### c. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is excessive and sometimes outrageous overstatements, which is not intended to be taken literally. For example: *The shoes are killing me*. It means that the shoes she/he was wearing had a lot of discomfort or pain.

#### d. Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which a nonhuman is given human behaviors. For example: *Lightning danced across the sky*. It means the sun is moving in the sky.

# e. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech when a part of anything is used in place of the whole, or less frequently, a whole is used in place of a part. For example: *Head can refer to counting cattle of people*.

# f. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is used to refer to absent people or nonhuman objects as though they were there and able to respond to what is being spoken. For example: *Oh Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?* The example is a sentence from Juliet's soliloquy that goes like that. She can be seen in the scene standing on the balcony and daydreaming about Romeo, who is not present at the time.

#### g. Metonymy

Metonymy is a kind of figurative language that refers to an object or notion by the name of something that is closely related to it rather that by its own name. For example: the word *heart* can be used to mean *love*.

# h. Symbol

Symbol is something that stands for other things and frequently represents an abstract concept. For example: *Black color* is often used to represent death or evil.

#### i. Allegory

Allegory is a story or visual with an hidden meaning or message, usually a moral. For example: from Fadhilah (2004: 50) he threw a pine cones at a jovial squirrel and he ran with chattering

*fear*. It means that a man does not feel bad about quitting his regiment in order to find his own salvation based on the context.

#### j. Paradox

Paradox is figure of speech which an seeming contradiction between two statements. For example: *I am not lying*. It implies that one cannot claim to be telling the truth while saying she/he is not lying.

#### k. Irony

Irony is a figure of speech where the intended meaning and what is actually expressed conflict with each other. For example: Delivering bad news by saying *the good news is*.

#### l. Understatement

Understatement is figure of speech which a writer or speaker who purposefully makes a matter seem less important or serious that it is. For example: Winning something and saying *it is not a big deal* when it really was a big deal.

#### 3. Metaphor

A Metaphor is a figure of speech used to implicitly compare two things that are different or comparable. Perrine (1973: 60) defined Metaphor as means of comparing two things that are essentially unlike without using words *like*, *such*, *as*, and so on. It means that Metaphor as the comparison does not use the words *like*, *as*, *such*, and so on, so the first subject is directly connected to the second principal as means of

the comparator. Kennedy (1979: 490) also defined, "Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which it is not in a literal sense." It means that the Metaphor only makes sense when the similarities between two different things become apparent, or someone understands the connection.

Metaphor occurs when a word or phrase is used in a way that contradicts its literal meaning, so some of its meaning is applied to a different semantics domain. Even though a Metaphor is a figure of speech that is not true in literal way, it is not a lie or a mistake because it is not mean to be taken literally. It is a type of figurative language meant to convey a different meaning from the literal meaning of the word or phrase used. According Lakoff and Johnson (1980), Metaphors are divided into three types, namely structural Metaphors, orientational Metaphors, and ontological Metaphors.

#### a. Structural Metaphor

Structural Metaphor is a concept that is Metaphorically structured using another concept. This type is based on two demains: the source domain and the target domain. The source domain explains the origin of the Metaphorical expression formed, while the target domain explains the application of the Metaphorical expression meaning. It is also based on systematic correlations in everyday experience. For example, *time is money*. The literal meaning of time is not money, and they are two different things.

However, in the Metaphorical concept, it is assumed that every second of time is precious and has value like money.

#### b. Orientational Metaphor

Orientational Metaphor is Metaphor concepts related to a spatial orientation such as *up-down*, *in-out*, *on-off*, *front-back*, *deep-shallow*, etc. This type is also oriented towards human physical experience with spatial orientation. Lakoff and Johnson argue that most of our experience is organized spatially. For example, *happy is up*, *sad is down*. The physical basis of this space is a drooping posture accompanied by sadness and depression and an upright posture with a positive emotional state. In the expression, someone is in high spirits, his spirit is up, while someone is feeling down, feeling into a depression.

# c. Ontological Metaphor

Ontological Metaphor is a Metaphor that conceptualizes abstract things such as thoughts, processes, experiences, and others into something that has a physical appearance. It is made from our experience with pyshical objects. This type is not a comparison of two things but a transfer of the nature of the source domain to the target domain. This Metaphor understands human experiences through the objects of the substances drawn from certain aspects based on the experience to make a different entity. For example, *life has cheated me, the computer went dead on me*, and *inflation is an* 

entity. Life, computer, and inflation are not human, but are given human qualities.

# 4. Meaning

In linguistic semantic, meaning is the message conveyed in words, sentences, or symbols exchanged by people when communicating through language. It is about what the writer or speaker expresses, communicates, or conveys in their messages to the reader or hearer. It might be something we can emulate or be a lesson for us. Meaning has a significant role in communication because there would be no language without meaning. Many words have very similar meanings, and many have more than one meaning (homonyms). Therefore, it is important to distinguish subtle differences between them.

Lyons (1979) examines that the meaning of a word or to give meaning to a word is to understand the study of the word related to the meaning relationships that make the word different from other words. Meaning is always contained in the uttersnce of words or sentences, either directly or implicitly. It is likely to be understood as conveyance when interpreted by people who know the language, are aware of the context, and have any background knowledge related to the words. Here are some examples of meaning: *he is a tall as a giraffe* is a Simile that means someone who is very tall, and *the shoes are killing me* is a hyperbole that used to be more dramatic and emphasized their

opinion that the shoes she/he was wearing had a lot of discomfort or pain.

# 5. Song Lyrics

The song is a short musical composition consisting of lyrics and music. A song is meant to be sung to produce a feeling or emotion that is proportionate concerning a particular matter. The song is a result of the relationship between the art of sound and the art of language that involves melody and the color of the singer's voice. It can be said that song has become inseparable part in the lives of many people since almost every day, people listen to the songs either intentionally or unintentionally. In everyday life, many people listen to a song because it might be their hobby, to calm their mind, or because it relates to their situation or feelings, etc.

Then, the lyrics of a song are the main element of the song itself. They are a collection of words that make up a song. Song lyrics can be said as an expression of someone's feeling about something that has been seen, felt, heard, or experienced that is communicated through language. There are several people who find it difficult to express their feelings directly and write them into words that form the song lyrics. In expressing the experience, songwriter usually plays a game of words and language to create attraction and uniqueness in song lyrics. The use of Metaphor in song lyrics is one of the attraction made by the writer to make the lyrics more beautiful. Here are some examples of

Metaphors in song lyrics: *cause baby you're a firework* (Katty Perry-Firework), and *handsome, you're a mansion with a view* (Taylor Swift-Delicate).