

**A SEMANTICS STUDY OF METAPHORS FOUND IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S  
SELECTED SONGS FROM 'MIDNIGHTS' ALBUM**



**A THESIS**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Universitas Hasanuddin in  
Partial Fulfilment for The Requirement to Obtain Bachelor's Degree  
in English Department*

**BY**

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN  
MAKASSAR  
2024**



## LEGITIMATION

### THESIS

#### A SEMANTICS STUDY OF METAPHORS FOUND IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S SELECTED SONGS FROM 'MIDNIGHTS' ALBUM

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On 26 April 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Mega Arroyo Mappallawa (F041201077) entitled *A Semantics Study of Metaphors Found in Taylor Swift's Selected Songs From 'Midnights' Album* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 26 April 2024

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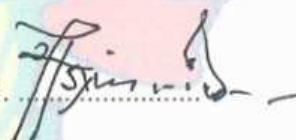
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Makassar, 26 April 2024

A 10,000 Indonesian Rupiah postage stamp (METERAI TEMPEL) with a signature over it. The stamp features the Garuda Pancasila emblem and the serial number B566CAJX004231378.

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know when she'll be able to say the fighting is over. Even in the worst time of the night, in the weirdest circumstances in her life that makes her question her tomorrow, she will always be able to stand on her feet. To the brighter future; more laughs, more movies to watch, more cafes to visit, more vlogs to take, more people to meet, more risks to try, more love to feel, and more desserts to taste. Once she believes that she's worthy of having more, she'll realize that she has the power within her to bring those to life. She's on her own, and she'll always be. And long story short, she's survived this far.

Finally, the writer realizes this thesis is imperfect and needs much improvement. Therefore, the author is open to all criticism and suggestions from readers. The author hopes this thesis can be a reference and provide useful significance for readers.

Makassar, May 2024

Best Regards,

Mega Arroyo Mappallawa



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## ABSTRACT

MEGA ARROYO MAPPALLAWA. *A Semantics Study of Metaphors Found in Taylor Swift's Selected Songs from 'Midnights' Album* (supervised by Sukmawaty and Simon Sitoto).

This study aims to (1) find out the types of metaphors that appear as lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album and (2) to describe the hidden meaning of the metaphors that appear as lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album.

This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The data sources consist of nine selected songs by Taylor Swift from the album 'Midnights' that use metaphorical forms. The writer collected the data by listening and reading the lyrics of the selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album through Spotify digital music platform. The writer then identifies the metaphors found in the selected songs of the 'Midnights' Album and classifies them based on their types. Then, the writer interprets the real meaning behind each metaphor and categorizes them through their type of meaning.

The findings of this research show that there are metaphorical expressions found in the nine selected songs of the 'Midnights' Album. There are 35 metaphorical expressions found in the nine selected songs, including structural metaphors, ontological metaphors, and an orientational metaphor. Ontological metaphors dominate the types of metaphors, indicating that this type of metaphor Swift often used in her selected songs. The writer also found that almost half of the metaphors used by Swift are dominated by the association with her feelings and beliefs. This phenomenon implied the emotional sides and beliefs she had.

**Keywords:** *metaphors; 'Midnights' Album, Taylor Swift*



## ABSTRAK

MEGA ARROYO MAPPALLAWA. *A Semantics Study of Metaphors Found in Taylor Swift's Selected Songs from 'Midnights' Album* (dibimbing oleh Sukmawaty dan Simon Sitoto).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk (1) mengetahui jenis-jenis metafora yang muncul sebagai lirik pada lagu-lagu pilihan Taylor Swift dari album 'Midnights' dan (2) mendeskripsikan makna tersembunyi dari metafora yang muncul sebagai lirik pada lagu-lagu pilihan Taylor Swift dari album 'Midnights'.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber datanya terdiri dari sembilan lagu pilihan Taylor Swift dari album 'Midnights' yang menggunakan bentuk metafora. Penulis mengumpulkan data dengan mendengarkan dan membaca lirik lagu-lagu pilihan dari album 'Midnights' melalui platform musik digital Spotify. Penulis kemudian mengidentifikasi metafora yang terdapat pada lagu-lagu terpilih di album 'Midnights' dan mengklasifikasikannya berdasarkan tipe metaforanya. Kemudian penulis menafsirkan makna sebenarnya di balik setiap metafora dan mengkategorikannya berdasarkan jenis makna.

Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat ekspresi metaforis yang ditemukan dalam sembilan lagu pilihan album 'Midnights'. Penulis menemukan terdapat meliputi metafora struktural, metafora ontologis, dan metafora orientasional. Metafora ontologis mendominasi jenis-jenis metafora yang ditemukan, menandakan bahwa jenis metafora ini sering digunakan Swift dalam lagu-lagu pilihannya. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa hampir setengah dari metafora yang digunakan Swift didominasi dengan hasil asosiasi dari perasaan dan keyakinannya. Fenomena ini menyiratkan sisi emosional dan keyakinan yang dimilikinya.

**Kata kunci:** *metafora, album 'Midnights', Taylor Swift*



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Language is an essential component of human connection and communication. The human communication system enables people to exchange their ideas, emotions, and feelings with others. According to Tseng (2018), language is a systematic technique for communicating thoughts or emotions using agreed-on signs, sounds, gestures, or signals with intelligible meanings. Based on this definition, language includes all the things that are used as verbal and non-verbal signs of communication. Thus, language is meaningful to humans since it allows people to express themselves across diverse cultures and communities. The complex system includes grammar, syntax, lexicon, and semantics.

Furthermore, language is defined as a system that people use to collaborate, interact with one another, and identify themselves in their community. There is a scientific study of language complex systems called Linguistics. Linguistics has some branches, and semantics is one of them. According to Lyons (1997), semantics is the study of language that is concerned with meaning. In semantics, meaning can be divided into two parts, namely literal and non-literal. The literal meaning is based on the actual words. On the other hand, non-literal meaning shows a difference between the exact words and the real meaning. A sentence or phrase can mean something different or has a different intention from what is being





written or said. Thus, the listeners may find it challenging to understand what the speaker wants to convey if speaking non-literally. There are some ways to express ideas that deviate from semantic conventions, such as idioms and figurative language.

Metaphor is one of the parts of figurative language commonly used in songs. Metaphors can be seen as a form of creativity performed by artists as they compare something to something else. Ideas, objects, events, and even complex and abstract characteristics can be described with metaphors. This shows that metaphor exists as something that can overcome limitations in using vocabulary. Unique and beautiful metaphors, combined with imagination and melody, can bring listeners to deep emotional feelings. In other words, metaphor lyrics can influence and invite listeners to try to understand every meaning of the song lyrics.

In this study, Taylor Swift's selected songs from her latest album, released in 2022 titled *Midnight*, are chosen as a data source. Taylor's 'Midnights' Album achieved great success from the first day of its release, marked by songs that managed to occupy the world charts and Billboard for quite a long time during the promotion phase. The listeners come from the fandom of fans and the public who take part in building up the album's trend. These songs include *Karma*, *Maroon*, *Lavender Haze*, *Midnight Rain*, *Bejeweled*, *Question...?*, *Would've*, *Could've*, *Should've*, *You're on Your Own*, and *Anti-Hero*. Behind the success of *Midnight* and its lyrics, which are own to be beautiful with metaphors, the writer finds that there is a



possibility that the listeners have misunderstandings and even have the potential to see that each of the lyrics sounds ambiguous. Based on the reason above, the writer is interested in writing the topic titled “A Semantics Study of Metaphors Found in Taylor Swift’s Selected Songs from ‘Midnights’ Album.”

## 1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer sums up these problems as follows:

1. There is a possibility that the listeners can’t understand the meaning of the metaphors used by Taylor Swift in her selected songs from the ‘Midnights’ Album.
2. The listeners of the ‘Midnights’ Album by Taylor Swift may have a lack of knowledge to understand and divide each type of metaphor.
3. The vocabulary and phrases used in the song may have ambiguous meanings that are difficult to understand by the listeners of the selected songs of the ‘Midnights’ Album.

## 1.3 Scope of the Problems

The presence of metaphors as lyrics will add beauty and uniqueness to the songs. Based on the problems above, the writer limits the discussion of the types of metaphors and their meanings used by Taylor Swift in her ‘Midnights’ Album. The writer chooses nine songs from the ‘Midnights’ Album. They are *Karma*, *Maroon*, *Lavender Haze*, *Midnight Rain*,



*Bejeweled, Question...?, Would've, Could've, Should've, You're on Your Own Kid, and Anti-Hero.*

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

According to the scope of the problem, the writer formulated the following problems that need to be resolved.

1. What are the types of metaphors that appear as lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album?
2. What are the meanings of the metaphors used in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album?

#### **1.5 Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are summarized as follows:

1. To find out the types of metaphors that appear as lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album.
2. To describe the hidden meaning of the metaphors that appear as lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

The writer believes that this study will provide a valuable contribution to the reader in terms of improving vocabulary, gaining additional benefits from the results in contributing to a deeper exploration of conceptual metaphor theory, and understanding the meaning of each metaphor for each reader.

In addition, for the theoretical benefits, it is believed that this study  
1 contribute to the field of Linguistics by enriching it and supporting



Linguistics students to learn more about the meaning, including figurative language, particularly metaphor.

Furthermore, for the practical advantages, it is believed that this study will improve the ability to listen through the songs, implement the information, and provide any person interested in the music with a more excellent grasp of the song's meaning to begin further research in the same area of study.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Previous Study

In this chapter, the writer will show you several studies that are relevant to this study.

The first related review is a study titled “An Analysis of Metaphors Found in Bring Me The Horizon’s Selected Song Lyrics” by Jati (2020). The writers analyzed Bring Me The Horizon's two selected songs, including “Drown” and “Throne”. In this study, the song is studied in order to find out what types of metaphors are used in the lyrics and the meaning of the song based on Lakoff and Johnson’s (1980) theory. The result of this study is that 22 metaphors were found in the selected songs. They are divided into 11 conventional metaphors, 5 mixed metaphors, and 6 new metaphors. This study has proven Lakoff and Johnson’s theory, which claims that conventional metaphor is a commonly recognized sort of metaphor in common language due to its already organized systems.

The second related review is a study titled “Analysis of The Meaning of The Song Lyrics “Speechless” in The Film “Aladdin,” which has been researched by Frida and Zuraida (2022). Frida and Zuraida used John & Lakoff's theory and divided the metaphors based on the lyrics. There are three types of metaphors identified, consisting of 13 data on structural metaphors (35%), 12 data on orientational metaphors (35%), and 10 data on container





metaphors (27%). They found several forms of meaning in song lyrics: denotative, connotative, and affective.

The third related review is a study titled “Metaphor Analysis and Meaning of The Song “Different World” by Rahmadhanti et al. (2022). The writers took the song "Different World" by Alan Walker as the object of their research to help the audience understand the meaning contained in the song “Different World” by Alan Walker. The result of this study is that there are several forms of metaphor in the song, including sentence metaphor, predicate metaphor, nominative objective metaphor, and nominative subjective metaphor.

The fourth related review is a study titled “Metaphor Analysis in Lost Stars by Adam Levine” by Maoula et al. (2022). This study analyzes the meaning of the metaphors in the song and explains the moral message it gets. According to the study’s findings, several of the lyrics of Adam Levine’s song Lost Stars include untruthful statements and parables. Based on the metaphor, when an arrow begs for its return, it is the same as someone who has been together for a long period, but one of them gives up. As a result, the song Lost Stars is meant to provide significance to one’s life path.

The fifth related review is a study titled “Analysis of the Metaphors in the Song ‘All Too Well’ by Taylor Swift as a Tool for Storytelling” by Sofian and Sawardi (2022). The writers analyze one of the famous songs by Taylor Swift from the ‘Red’ album, “All Too Well”, which was re-released in 2021 as a 10-minute version. In this study, the song is studied to find out



what kinds of metaphors are used in the lyrics of the song based on Stephen Ullman's theory (1972) of the types of metaphors. The result of this study is that there are 27 metaphors found in the song "All Too Well". They are divided into anthropomorphic metaphor, animal metaphor, concrete to abstract metaphor, and synesthetic metaphor.

The sixth related review is a study titled "Metaphors in Selected Blackpink's Song Lyrics" by Bernadetta et al. (2023). The writers analyzed Blackpink's selected songs, including Pink Venom, Lovesick Girl, Kill This Love, How You Like That, and Bet You Wanna. In this study, the song is studied in order to find out what kinds of metaphors are used in the lyrics of the song based on Wahab's (1986) types of metaphors and metaphorical meanings based on Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) source and target theory. The result of this study, there are 46 metaphors found in the selected songs. They are divided into nominative objective metaphor, predicative metaphor, sentence metaphor and nominative subjective metaphor. Moreover, the metaphor in each song's lyrics has the same idea, however presented in different ways. Each array, which includes the metaphor's meaning, conveys a distinct yet comprehensive message. It refers to love's dissatisfaction, life's journey, and the joys of love.

The writer found the differences between the previous studies and the current research. The differences are the research subject, the problem's type, and the way to use the theory. In this study, the writer uses selected songs from the 'Midnights' Album, Taylor Swift's latest album, released in



the middle of 2022. In the sixth previous studies, the writers were more inclined to use only one theory, whereas, in this study, the writer combined three theories. They are Knowles and Moon's (2006) theory and the combination of two theories by John and Lakoff (1980) with Hurford et al. (2007). The writer believes that by combining these theories, understanding the meaning of a metaphor will be more coherent and easier to understand.

## **2.2 Theoretical Background**

### **2.2.1 Linguistics**

According to Gordon & Ladefoged (2001), Linguistics refers to language study. Linguistics can be described as the “science of languages” or the “scientific study of language.” As the scientific study of language, it reveals one of the most fascinating elements of human understanding and behaviour. Linguistics investigates how to capture the structure of various parts of language, logically explain diverse linguistic patterns, and how multiple language components interact.

Linguistics study concerns human language aspects, the first is sounds namely phonetics and phonology. According to Yule (2006, p. 30), phonetics is a study of speech sound characteristics. The areas of it include articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics, and auditory phonetics. Phonology is the study of the organization and structure of spoken sounds in a language. It is essentially founded on the theory of the inherent knowledge t every language speaker has about the sound structures of that language ile, 2006, p. 33-34).



The second aspect of Linguistics is words, which is morphology. Morphology is the study of language's fundamental forms (Yule, 2006, p. 62). Yule (2006, p. 64) stated that morphology refers to the analysis of fundamental aspects of language since the nineteenth century. The things referred to as 'elements' in a linguistic message are termed 'morphemes'.

The third aspect of Linguistics that focuses on sentences is called syntax. According to Yule (2006, p.86), studying the syntax of a language involves focusing on the structure and arrangement of components inside a phrase. It explains the arrangement of words and phrases to create grammatically accurate statements. Syntax enables words to form connections in a certain order, conveying meaning and standing out independently in the appropriate context (Burgess, 1986).

And the fourth aspect, two primary areas in Linguistics that focus on studying meaning are semantics and pragmatics (Fasold et al., 2013, p. 137). Semantics examines the exact meanings of words, phrases, and sentences, and how grammatical processes combine basic meanings to create complex ones. As stated by Fasold et al. (2013, p. 138), it is how a person can understand a speaker's intent to communicate beyond the literal. Pragmatics studies how contextual circumstances influence the interpretation of both literal and nonliteral meanings conveyed through language.

### 2.2.2 Semantics



Semantics is one of the branches of Linguistics that studies meaning language. According to a statement from Palmer (1981, p. 1), semantics is

the study of meaning as a part of language. It is, in particular, studies the lexical, grammatical, and contextual meaning of language. When examining a language, the meaning of the language must also be grasped so that it may be fully understood. This is also supported by Yule (2010) which stated that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. It is also crucial to study semantics since it is essential to have good communication and a great sense of understanding of every meaning of ideas to have a great connection with other people.

Understanding the meaning of a language is crucial for gaining a thorough comprehension while studying it. Charles W. Kreidler (1998, p. 3) defines semantics as the systematic examination of meaning, whereas linguistic semantics focuses on how language structures and conveys meanings. Semantics concerns the meaning of words and connection within sentences. It studies the connection between expressions through language and their meaning without considering their context.

Verhaar (1983, p. 124) in Patedabook (1990, p. 16) categorizes meaning into two parts, namely grammatical and lexical meaning. Grammatical meaning is the meaning of a word determined by its function inside a sentence. Furthermore, semantics primarily focuses on the examination of the lexical meaning. This involves examining the definition of certain words and their connection to the ideas they symbolize. Lexical semantics digs into the complexities, variations in meaning, and semantic





functions linked to various words, allowing us to comprehend the complexity and variety of vocabulary in a language.

## 1. Meaning in Language

According to Leech (1981), meaning comprises seven elements. He divides meaning into seven categories. There are:

### a. Denotative Meaning

According to Larson (1984), denotative meaning can be called primary meaning, which refers to its meaning. Denotative meaning is the literal meaning. By this, denotative meaning refers to its own without accompanying images or concepts. This aims to produce an interpretation of a word or sentence the speaker is trying to say without anything ambiguous. For example, the word “dog” denotes a small domesticated carnivorous mammal.

### b. Connotative Meaning

Unlike denotative meaning, connotative meaning uses additional value and meaning that are not generally expressed through dictionary definitions (Leech, 1981, p. 12). This meaning is created when a speaker says something that means something else by associating a specific word with an emotional suggestion. For example, the word “home” might denote emotions such as warmth, comfort, and security.

### c. Social Meaning

Social meaning is the kind of meaning that is conveyed within its cultural context (Leech, 1981, p. 14). Understanding a text depends on



people's knowledge of stylistic elements and other linguistic variances, such as dialectical pronunciations. For example, the word “manager” has social meaning by indicating an individual’s professional authority and knowledge.

d. Affective Meaning

Affective meaning shows the association of emotion and consequences that words provoke in readers and listeners. It expresses personal thoughts and sentiments toward the listener. This type of meaning influences the speaker's feelings, such as their attitude toward the listener and what they say (Leech, 1981, p. 16). For example, the word “love” has emotional or affective meaning since it evokes feelings of fondness, warmth, and connection.

e. Reflected Meaning

Reflected meaning includes connections within the lexical level when one word's meaning is part of the response to another (Leech, 1981, p. 16). It refers to the intention or perspective that drives the use of words. For example, “I believe it is an unpleasant suggestion” conveys the speaker’s personal opinion or judgment.

f. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning is the meaning that implies the relationship of a word to its typical circumstances. It refers to the associations that a word acquires because of the connotations associated with its current situation



(Leech, 1981, p. 17). For example, the term “gorgeous” indicates something good-looking.

g. Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is the meaning that is conveyed regarding the request, concentration, and accentuation (Leech, 1981, p. 19). It refers to the importance or visibility of certain parts in a statement or conversation. For example, in “The cat chased the mouse,” the thematic meaning emphasizes the cat chasing the mouse.

### 2.2.3 Figurative Language

Figurative language is a form of using expressions with words different from their literal meaning. Gorys Keraf (2009, p. 113) points out that figurative language or style is a technique of expressing thoughts using a unique language that reveals the essence and characteristics of the speaker. Figurative language is often used as a variation to express a feeling and the character of a word, which is sometimes unique, unlogic, or even exaggerated. Tarigan (2013) stated that figurative language is a beautiful language utilized to improve the influence of emotions. Thus, this variation makes the language presented more creative, unique, and colorful.

According to Tarigan (1986), there are four types of comprehensive categorization of figurative language. These types encompass a range of creative methods that writers use to enhance the complexity, imagery, and

þ meaning to their expressions.



The first category, referred to as the figure of comparison, includes certain well-known literary tropes including simile, metaphor, personification, and allegory. Similes make direct analogies using "like" or "as," whereas metaphors create indirect parallels by equating two different ideas (Keraf, 1984, p. 138). Personification gives human characteristics to non-human things, making them seem alive, while allegory uses long metaphors to communicate intricate symbolic messages. Kennedy (1979, p. 495) defines personification as a figure of speech when a thing, animal, or abstract concept is given human characteristics.

Moving to the second type, the figure of contradiction, which includes literary techniques such as irony and paralipsis. Irony is the use of words or idioms to communicate a meaning that is opposite to its literal understanding, frequently creating delightful or surprising outcomes (Keraf, 2010, p. 143). Paralipsis is a rhetorical strategy in which the speaker draws attention to something by appearing to overlook or disregard it, generating a feeling of anticipation or fascination.

The third type, referred to as the figure of correlation, examines the connection between various aspects in a text. It includes techniques like metonymy, synecdoche, and allusion. Metonymy is the act of replacing a word or phrase with another similar term. It is to bring to mind a certain connection or characteristic (Tarigan, 1985, p. 139). According to McArthur

196, p. 1014), synecdoche as a figure of speech that deals with parts and wholes. Synecdoche utilizes a notion where a component is used to



symbolize the whole or vice versa. Allusion is the act of making indirect or subtle connections to famous individuals, events, or pieces of literature or art, which enhances the narrative by adding more profound meaning (Keraf, 2010, p. 141).

The figure of repetition enhances a text by introducing rhythm, intensity, and distinctive characteristics. This category includes methods like alliteration and chiasmus. Alliteration is the repeating of consonant sounds in close proximity, adding a melodic character to the writing. Chiasmus is a rhetorical device where words or phrases are arranged such that the second half duplicates the previous half in reverse order, resulting in a balanced and symmetrical structure.

Overall, Tarigan's classification of figurative language includes comparison, contradiction, correlation, and repetition, providing authors and readers with a thorough structure to comprehend and value the diverse range of language and its expressive potential.

#### **2.2.4 Metaphor**

Knowles and Moon (2006, p. 2) state that metaphor is "... the use of language to refer to something other than what is initially applied to, or what it 'literally' means, to suggest a relationship or make a connection between the two things." From the use of words or phrases that are different from the original, it can be seen that metaphor has a crucial role in the use of language.

Metaphors can provide an understanding of a particular matter related to feelings and thoughts to be more exciting and not monotonous. Based on the



theory presented by Knowles and Moon (2006, pp. 9-10), three essential things must be considered in analyzing metaphors. The first is the metaphorical word or phrase, the second is the metaphorical meaning, and the third is the connection or relationship between the two things being compared. So, in analyzing metaphors, three essential elements are needed: vehicle, topic, and grounds.

In this theory, the vehicle is a metaphorical word or phrase that can be found. The metaphorical meaning or the actual meaning the writer wants to convey is referred to as the topic. After determining these two things, then determine the grounds, which are the relationship between the metaphorical meaning and the literal meaning that the writer wants to convey. From here, it can be seen what the actual meaning the writer wants to share.

For example,

*Time is money.*

*Vehicle : money.*

*Topic : something valuable and essential.*

*Grounds : ideas of something valuable that cannot be thrown away for nothing and should not be wasted.*

After coherently analyzing the meaning behind a metaphor, the next step is to divide the types of metaphors, which will be based on two theories.

The first is the theory from Lakoff and Johnson (1980), and the second theory from Hurford et al (2007). According to these two theories, metaphors can be divided into three types:



## 1. Structural Metaphor

A structural metaphor is a metaphor that is used to express a different concept to ease the understanding. This metaphor is based on the relationship between everyday experience and semantic correlation. It can be said that, in this case, a complex mental concept is replaced with a more straightforward and concrete concept that often occurs in everyday life to make it easier to understand (Hurford et al., 2007, p. 333).

Moreover, Lakoff and Johnson's theory has two conceptual domains, namely the source and target domains. The source domain offers the structure or foundation for grasping the target domain. Structural metaphors are based on the idea that specific elements or connections from one domain may be transferred onto another to help people understand it.

For example, the metaphor “argument is war.” The metaphor utilizes the framework of battle to comprehend the realm of disagreements. The metaphor may be analyzed in terms of its essential components, such as assaults, protection, tactics, triumph, and even failure. By using the structural framework of conflict, people illustrate the dynamics of an argument when they use phrases such as, “They attacked our position” or “He defended her viewpoint.” This metaphor allows people to see debates as conflict and use military terminology to discuss them. From the example, it can be seen that structural metaphor enables people to understand abstract things through the use of more concrete or familiar ones. Using a familiar framework, people





can better comprehend and communicate about the target topic (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 61).

## 2. Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphor is a metaphor that conceptualizes an abstract process into something that has a physical form. This abstract concept can be taken from a process or activity of experience, thought, or emotion (Hurford et al., 2007, p. 336). The word “ontological” refers to the examination of existence and being. This metaphor helps people to make sense of abstract ideas by associating them with the features, characteristics, or behaviors of material things. In other words, this type of metaphor allows people to understand ethereal or complicated issues by relating them to more concrete and familiar ones. Thus, this metaphor is often used to describe and express behaviour, circumstances, and character to the properties possessed by a person in the real world.

Furthermore, ontological metaphor is an essential cognitive tool that will help conceptualize and understand human surroundings. It impacts people’s thinking, affects people’s perceptions, and influences how people communicate abstract ideas. For example, the concept that “time is a resource.” Time is metaphorically shown as a finite and precious asset, similar to physical resources like money. Time is often spoken in terms of “spending,” “saving,” or “wasting,” as if it were a limited resource that people can control.

Ontological Metaphor



Orientational metaphor is a type of metaphor that uses the concept of spatial orientation (Hurford et al., 2007, p. 335). This type of metaphor depends on human embodied experiences and spatial cognition since the human sense of space and physical orientation significantly impact their understanding of the world. It describes relationships with spaces or places humans can identify through their spatial thinking skills, such as up-down, in-out, and front-back.

In addition, associating verticality with value is a recognized example of an orientational metaphor. The metaphor “up is good, down is bad” is a universally acknowledged example of the orientational metaphor widespread across many languages and cultures. This figurative representation implies that humans have a tendency to link favourable attributes, such as achievement or joy, with objects positioned higher in physical space. On the other hand, unfavourable attributes or lack of success are linked to lower positions. For example, the phrase “I’m feeling down” conveys a sense of despair, whereas the expression “She’s at the top of her career” indicates a high level of accomplishment. Thus, this figurative framework enables people to use spatial orientation to discuss intangible notions such as emotions, social status in society, and accomplishment.

### **2.2.5 Taylor Swift’s Selected Songs**

A song is a vocal composition performed either by singing alone or accompanied by musical instruments. A song is a musical composition that combines words and music to evoke a certain mood or expression related to



a particular subject. Therefore, it may be concluded that a song is a musically composed item with linguistically meaningful lyrics performed by a singer.

Captivating and meaningful lyrics are powerful tools for songwriters to express their feelings deeply and emotionally. In making meaningful lyrics, these lyrical forms allow songwriters to effectively express complicated emotions and situations by combining the beauty of imagination, language, symbolism, and deep feelings. Songwriters may establish a deeper emotional connection with their audience by using figurative language such as metaphors, similes, imagery, and other literary devices. This is what happened to one of the most successful soloists today, Taylor Swift.

Taylor Swift released an album entitled 'Midnights' as her tenth album, which was released on October 21, 2022. As the title suggests, this album contains stories about her feelings and experiences when experiencing insomnia at night. Swift brilliantly wrote thirteen songs for the album 'Midnights', which happens to be her favourite and fortunate number. Taylor released thirteen songs on her 'Midnights' Album: *Lavender Haze*, *Maroon*, *Anti-Hero*, *Snow on The Beach (with Lana Del Rey)*, *You're on Your Own, Kid*, *Midnight Rain*, *Question...?*, *Vigilante Shit*, *Bejeweled*, *Labyrinth*, *Karma*, *Sweet Nothing*, and *Mastermind*. These songs express deep love, revenge, and even mental illness through metaphors that have been

searched by the writer.



## 2.3 Conceptual Framework

**Figure 1.** Conceptual Framework

