

An Analysis of Metaphoric Expression Found in Rihanna's Song Lyrics

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Abstract

The research aimed to find out the types of metaphoric expressions in Rihanna's song lyrics. Language is fundamentally metaphorical. The reason for metaphoric in language because the way we think is metaphorical. Metaphors are used to help us to express our perspective. There were six selected songs chosen randomly by the researcher. This research was designed as a descriptive quantitative and qualitative research. In writing this paper, the researcher was used the documentation method to collect the data. The steps were reading and learning the lyrics of the song, selecting the types of metaphors expression in the song lyrics, classifying the data, making the description, and drawing the conclusion. The technique of data analysis was using David Crystal's theory as the main theory to classify the types of metaphor, namely; conceptual metaphor, poetic metaphor, mixed metaphor, and conventional metaphor. The result of this study showed the type of metaphor that mostly used in the selected song lyrics is a poetic metaphor. The second most typically used is a conventional metaphor. Besides those two metaphors, two metaphors slightly appear in the songs. They are; conceptual metaphor and mixed metaphor. The results show that two metaphors found in all songs and three songs used all types of metaphors.

Keywords: Lyric, metaphor, Metaphoric Expression, Song.

Introduction

Language is a necessary tool to communicate with one another. It can appear as explicit and implicit feelings and thoughts (Syafryadin, 2020; Noermanzah, et al. 2020; Syafryadin, et al. 2020). Language is divided into spoken and written language. Halliday argues that "Language is a resource for making meaning, an indefinitely expandable source of meaning potential" (1994: 16).

Language is fundamentally metaphorical such as Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 3) states metaphor is in our everyday life. The reason for metaphoric in language because the way we think is metaphorical. Metaphors are used to help us to express our perspective. Metaphors add emotion, vivid imagery, and color to a sentence of the language. We can imagine that when people express upset feelings or anger. It happens because the emotion comes automatically to mind and it is out of control. Crystal (1999: 215-216) classified metaphor into four types; they are conceptual metaphor, mixed metaphor, poetic metaphor, and conventional metaphor.

Furthermore, metaphor and song are related. Metaphors covered our language and our thought, express ideas is essentially metaphorical. Whereas, the song is a human communication tool for

interactions and communicate ideas, thought, and expression. In this sense, the songwriter delivery their mind, idea, and feeling through songs lyric as a medium to deliver the message of lyrics to the listener. Moreover, the song also uses to gives information and opinion on social problems. Goatly (1997: 14-15) argued that the hearers distinguish the utterance or text, decode it, and interpret the meaning by guessing the thought that the speaker wants to convey. To interpret the meaning of the rules related to the metaphorical rule, it is needed special forms of metaphorical interpretation from listeners or readers.

Several previous studies discuss metaphor. First, Sholichati (2013) studied an Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions on Everlasting Love Songs. Second, Rettob (2015) analyzed The Metaphor Analysis of Selected Eminem's Rap Song Lyrics. Third, Mahmudah (2015) studied An Analysis of Metaphor in The Jakarta Post Business Articles On May 5, 2014, Edition.

From the previous studies above, this research uses crystal's theory to explore more about the meaning of words through the songs especially for linguistic in the English field. In the end, this study arrived to explain results that answer the research questions. The result of this research will give new knowledge to the writer and reader.

The study attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What are the dominant metaphors found in Rihanna's songs lyric?
2. How are metaphors used in Rihanna's songs lyric?

Methodology

Research designs which are applied in this research were both quantitative and qualitative method. Quantitative was used to calculate the frequency and percentage of the occurrence and qualitative was used to analyze metaphor in the songs. In line with the design, this study will gain the data by discussing metaphor in song lyrics. Ary et.al (1985: 21) stated that research may be defined as the application of the scientific approach to the study of a problem. The main objective of the metaphor's analysis has a purpose to understand the lyrics of the song more deeply.

The subjects of this study were Rihanna's song lyrics. The writer has chosen six songs of Rihanna to analyze the ideas. The researcher selected the subject based on the subjects' knowledge which able to answer the question. The subjects are Cry, Diamond, and Love the Way You Lie, Love on the Brain, Umbrella, and Unfaithfulness

According to Arikunto (2006:126), the device is used by the researcher to collect the data is called instruments. In this case, the writer used the documentation as the research instrument. In collecting the data, the researcher was followed several steps as listed below:

1. Search the songs' file of Rihanna in mp3 format
2. Download the songs' file.

3. Listen to songs' lyrics one by one.
4. Write down songs' lyrics and compares them to the lyrics which are provided by reliable sites on the internet.
5. Analyze the data.

Data analysis in this research was a difficult process. Moleong (2001: 103) defined that data analysis was the process of arranging data sequences, organizing in a pattern, category, and enormous description units. After the data have been collected, the writer identified the data which focus in identify the metaphors as the subject matter of this content analysis. Moreover, the researcher was identifying the data of metaphor based on Crystal's (1999) theory. To make sure data were reliable the researcher used triangulation.

There were some procedures in this research as follow;

1. Read lyrics of Rihanna's song carefully, the researcher will read lyrics song by song.
2. Underline the sentence or phrases which contain metaphors in Rihanna's Song lyrics.
3. Selecting and classifying the sentence and phrase.
4. Classify the sentences or phrases to every type of metaphor.
5. Making the description of types and meaning of metaphors in Rihanna's song.
6. Concluding according to the results.

Finding and Discussion

Findings

a) The Frequency of Metaphors in Rihanna's Song

The first research question in this study is what the dominant metaphors are found in the song of Rihanna. It will be answered through the frequency of metaphor in Rihanna's song. In this study, there are four types of metaphor which has been analyzed. Table.1 below shows the frequency of each metaphor contained in 6 songs of Rihanna. The songs are Cry, Diamond, Love the Way You Lie, Love on the Brain, Umbrella, and Unfaithful.

Table.1: The Frequency of Metaphor Used In the Song

No.	Types of metaphor	F (frequency)	% (Percentage)
1.	Conceptual Metaphor	5	12%
2.	Poetic Metaphor	18	44%
3.	Mixed Metaphor	6	15%
4.	Conventional Metaphor	12	29%
Total		41	100%

Table.1 shows that there are a total of 41 metaphors found in 6 songs. Based on the four types of metaphor there are two most dominant metaphors used in the songs. The most dominant used are

poetic metaphor (18 or 44%) and conventional metaphor (12 or 29%). The two typically dominant used in Rihanna songs are mixed metaphor (6 or 15%) and conceptual metaphor (5 or 12%).

Based on the result above, the researcher found there are poetic metaphors and conventional metaphors which mostly dominant found in the song. Besides those two metaphors, two metaphors slightly appear in the songs. They are conceptual metaphors and mixed metaphors

b) The Distribution of Metaphors in the Songs

The second research question in this study is how metaphors are used in Rihanna’s song. This question will be answered by knowing the distribution of metaphors in the song of Rihanna. The result of the table.2 below shows the distribution of each metaphor within the songs and the song which uses all metaphors.

Table.2: the Distribution of Metaphor Used in songs of Rihanna

No.	Types of metaphor	Songs					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Conceptual Metaphor	2	1	1	-	-	1
2.	Poetic Metaphor	1	2	5	2	5	3
3.	Mixed Metaphor	1	1	2	-	2	-
4.	Conventional Metaphor	4	1	3	1	1	2

Songs:

1. Cry
2. Diamond
3. Love the Way You Lie
4. Love on the Brain
5. Umbrella
6. Unfaithful

Table.2 shows that there are two metaphors (poetic metaphor and conventional metaphor) used in all songs. It probably means that the songwriters use a lot of imagery words and unifies the phrase between thought and feeling to express the concept. So, these songs contain more poetic metaphors.

Likewise, it also shows that there are three songs (Cry, Diamond, and Love the Way You Lie) that use all types of metaphor. It means that there are songs that use four types of metaphor. Metaphor in song lyrics depends on the songwriters who creatively express the idea.

Discussion

The first finding in this research was used to answer the first research question. It is found there are two dominant metaphors mostly used in the song; they are poetic metaphor and conventional metaphor. This means the songs are strongly meaningful in describing ideas, thought, and feelings. These types of metaphors possibly found in the song because the lyrics were dramatic and show emotion. Furthermore, two typical metaphors slightly appear in the songs. They are conceptual

metaphors and mixed metaphors. These types are rarely found in the song because the sentence must contain more than one metaphor to describe a thing and the other is the simplest metaphor. Otherwise, the songs mostly write to describe thought and feeling.

The second finding found to describe the answer of second research question is about metaphor found in all songs. The poetic metaphor and conventional metaphor mostly found in all songs. This probably means that the songwriter use is imagery and vivid words to show their feeling and tell their thought through song. It also could be the language she uses as a form of expression of her hidden feelings but does not want to be said directly because it hurts to say. As Crystal (1999) states that in literature, poetic metaphor uses to express an elaborate thought and feeling precisely in a fairly length and subtle way, often with fuzzy grounds.

The last discussion finding was used to answer the last research question. The researcher found three songs that use all metaphors. It is implied that the songs have deep meaning and thought. It is possible because the songs use all metaphors to tell and express the meaning of songs. It is difficult to show your feeling, ideas and thought through different kinds of words. Metaphor in song lyrics depends on the songwriters who creatively express the idea. Song lyrics have similarities with poetry. The difference, the song delivered with the procurement and musicalization.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion

In the song of Rihanna the researcher found words and phrase which contain metaphors. It means the song of Rihanna used metaphor in her songs. The writer used Crystal's theory to classify the types of metaphors. There are four types of metaphors; conceptual metaphor, poetic metaphor, mixed metaphor, and conventional metaphor. The writer described the meaning and types of metaphors found in the song Rihanna to help the reader easier to understand the implicit meaning of the metaphor.

After analyzing and calculating the data in the song of Rihanna, 41 metaphors are found. Based on this result, it can be concluded; first, there are two most dominant metaphors found in the songs of Rihanna. They are; poetic metaphor and conventional metaphor. It is because the lyrics of the song express more about emotion or feeling and the situation or condition as in reality. Second, two types of metaphors appear in all songs of Rihanna. They are; poetic metaphor and conventional metaphor. The most dominant metaphor that appears in Rihanna's song was a poetic metaphor. Third, three songs use all metaphors. Namely; Cry, Diamond, and Like the Way You Lie.

Suggestion

The paper can be used as reference for others to understand about metaphor and analyze it in other kinds of material such as poetry, novel, drama, and others. The writer suggested the further

studies to analyze metaphor in other objects to get and understand more about metaphor.

Furthermore, this paper can be contributed to English language teaching. First, the teacher can use the song as media in the learning and teaching process, especially on reading and listening lessons. Second, the teacher can use metaphor in teaching to make the class more interesting. Third, metaphor can enhance students' knowledge in literature by applying the song lyrics. Fourth, Metaphors can enhance students' vocabulary and imagination by using words.

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