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METAPHOR OF LOVE AND RELATIONSHIP IN *WAVE TO EARTH'S* SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

This research aims to describe about love and relationship conveyed in *Wave to Earth's* song lyrics entitled *Sunny Days*, *Light*, and *Peach Eyes* by using the theory of metaphor from Lakoff & Johnson. Lakoff & Johnson implied that metaphor as the domain of experience can be associated with the other expression to explain another one and distributed into three main type name structural, ontological and orientation metaphor. After doing the study, this research finds out eleven lyrics from those three songs by *Wave to Earth* categorized as metaphor and have the intention to demonstrate how love and relationship showed within the lyrics. From the analysis, the lyrics contain the deep and emotional expression related to love and relationship told in uncommon expression to express how the feeling of the song lyrics.

Keywords: *metaphors, song lyrics, wave to earth*

INTRODUCTION

Wave to Earth is an indie band from South Korea consisting of Kim Daniel (vocals, guitar), Shin Dongkyu (drums), and John Cha (bass). They debuted on August 23 2019 with the single *Wave* on August 23, 2019. This band impressed listener from their ability to blend jazz with lo-fi tones to produce a distinctive sound lies at the core of what makes them who they are. *Wave to Earth* has 14 song album which based on Korea yet most of their songs are written in English, three of them are *Sunny Days*, *Light*, and *Peach Eyes*.

Song lyric is a series of words arranged in a tone and have a deep meaning (Lawolyo, 2023). It supports the music of a song and becomes the medium to express idea verbally as well as to convey feelings, attitudes, self-reflections, complaints, and so

on. Song lyrics are not just ordinary written works, but have a certain meaning that gives an extra dimension to the work key.

The words in song lyric sometimes has multi-interpretation to understand. It can no be understood literally but need to be interpreted deeply. One of the ways to understand the words in song lyric is by analysing it semantically. One of the studies in the field of semantics is metaphor. Metaphors are often applied to decorate literary works to make them more beautiful.

In line with it, metaphor is something that has another meaning, and its main function is to understand. Metaphor is not only in literary works but also in the conceptual system. Lakoff & Johnson (1980) called it Conceptual Metaphor. Conceptual Metaphor is one domain of experience (typically abstract) that is explained in terms of another (generally concrete). Metaphor can be found easily in our daily lives, not only in language, but also in think and act. They categorize three sorts of metaphors as orientation metaphors, structural metaphors, and ontological metaphors. Orientational metaphor is a metaphor that involves spatial relationships, such as up/down, in/out, on/off, or front/back. Ontological metaphor is a metaphor in which something concrete is projected to something abstract. Structural metaphor is a system of metaphors in which one complex (usually abstract) concept is represented in several other (usually more concrete) concepts.

The object of this research is song lyrics from *Wave to Earth*, namely *Sunny Days*, *Light*, and *Peach Eyes*. Those three songs will be analysed using metaphors from Lakoff & Johnson. Metaphor is something that has another meaning, and its main function is to understand. Lakoff & Johnson called it Conceptual Metaphor. Conceptual Metaphor is one domain of experience (typically abstract) that is explained in terms of another (generally concrete). Metaphor can be found easily in our daily lives, not only in language, but also in think and act. Lakoff and Johnson categorize three sorts of metaphors as structural metaphors, ontological metaphors, and orientational metaphors.

This research would discuss metaphors in three songs by *Wave to Earth* band: *Sunny Days*, *Light*, and *Peach Eyes*. The first song is *Sunny Days*. Since these three songs are assumed deal with love story, this research intends to describe about how love and also relationship are described in them.

This research used a descriptive qualitative method. In qualitative research, direct observation of the source of the data, and the information gathered is in the form of words (Creswell, 2018). Qualitative approach is employed to offer the meaning as the problem approaches (Burns and Grove, 2009) which characterized by its aims within relating to understanding some of social life, and its methods which generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis (Patton and Cochran, 2002). In collecting the data, the researchers will: first, reading the song lyric; second, coding the lyrics, line per line and stanza per stanza; third, identifying the categorized as love and relationship lyrics from the song lyrics. In analysing the data, these four steps are conducted: presenting, describing, interpreting and analysing, and the last one is concluding.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Love is the main factor to maintain the good relationship particularly for couple of love. The ideal love is a feeling constructed by intimacy, commitment and passion (Sternberg in Laksono: 2022; Sofian, N. I., & Ibrahim, I. (2022). In a relationship, love emerged to strengthen the feeling and to raise the powerful emotion of two people involved. Love is expressed in various ways, one of them is from verbal expression in song lyric. This research will demonstrate how love and relationship present in song lyrics as seen in *Wave to Earth* song lyrics.

Sunny Days Song

*Yeah, I've been waitin' for this day, and, yeah
The way I'm walkin' hand in hand with you, yeah
Just like all the sunlight is watch over me, baby
Yes, my heart it's full of your smile, yeah
I'll give it to you
When I collect even the love in the air, yeah*

*The beautiful scenery of the streets
The chirpin' of birds is nothin' without you
I'm nothin' without you, ooh
Yeah, I'm nothin' without you, oh* (line10)

*We melt this love and recreate it
As we imagine it
That's how we make sunny days, yeah
'Cause you're always mysterious to me*

*You are my golden age
Everything shines so bright
That my eyes go blind
Our youth never ages here*

*We melt this love and recreate it
As we imagine it (line20)
That's how we make sunny days, yeah
'Cause you're always mysterious to me*

*We melt this love and recreate it
As we imagine it
That's how we make sunny days, yeah
'Cause you're always mysterious to me*

Structural Metaphor

Structural metaphors involve combining two structures or concepts that are usually separate, forming a comparison that provides a new or deeper meaning. In the lyrics *The way I walk hand in hand with you, yeah* (line 2). Structural metaphors involve combining two structures or concepts that are usually separate, forming a comparison that provides a new or deeper meaning. In this case, the physical act of walking hand in hand is used as a structure to represent or describe the emotional relationship or closeness between two individuals.

The first structure in this lyric is the concrete physical action of walking hand in hand, while the second structure is the emotional connection or closeness to the person referred to by *you*. The relationship between these two structures creates a picture of togetherness, support, and emotional closeness in the relationship between the two individuals.

By using a physical action as a metaphor, the lyric conveys a deeper meaning about the relationship between two individuals, highlighting the emotional connection they share. Thus, the structural metaphor in this lyric creates a picture of the emotional closeness and support that exists in their relationship, thereby presenting the special nuance and importance of this relationship in the speaker's life.

Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphor is an abstraction, such as an activity, emotion, or idea, is represented as something concrete, such as an object, substance, container, or person. In the lyrics of the song *that's how we make sunny days* (Line 13) there is an interesting

ontological metaphor, where the words *make* and *sunny days* represent two different elements, but the relationship between them describes a structure. The use of the word *make* in this context is a structural element that forms a metaphor, because it shifts the concept of the activity of making or creating from a more concrete domain to a more abstract domain. Meanwhile, the choice of the word *Sunny days* is not intended to literally refer to the weather, but rather as a symbol to convey positive meaning or desired conditions.

Through this metaphor, the sentence implies that the actions or efforts they make can create pleasant or happy circumstances. The use of the word *make* gives the feel of activity or creation, so it doesn't just make *sunny days* a description of the weather, but rather a description of positive conditions resulting from positive efforts and actions.

This metaphor also creates an image that happiness or brightness in life can be created through joint efforts. *Sunny days* here become a symbol of a desired state of affairs, which can be produced through collaboration and joint activities. Therefore, this song does not just refer to literally sunny weather conditions, but rather to the ability to create positive moments in life.

Overall, this analysis highlights how the use of structural metaphor in the sentence provides an additional dimension to the meaning of the lyrics, illustrating that happiness can be created or created through collective action and effort.

Ontological metaphor can be also seen in the line 6; '*When I collect even the love in the air, yeah*' (line 6) In the lyrics of the song *When I collect even the love in the air, yeah* there is a type of ontological metaphor. The word that shows the ontological metaphor in this sentence is the word *collect*. In this context, the use of the word *collect* is a metaphor to describe the physical act of collecting something that is usually concrete or palpable. However, in this sentence, the word *collect* is used metaphorically to refer to the act of collecting something abstract, namely *love in the air* or love that surrounds a particular situation or environment. By using the word *collect* metaphorically, this sentence creates an ontological picture that love is defined as if it has an existence or nature that can be collected like a real object.

The use of this ontological metaphor creates the image that love can be thought of as if it has a concrete existence, just like physical objects that can be taken and

collected. This gives the nuance that love is not just an abstract feeling or concept, but something that can be felt, collected and presented physically.

Furthermore, this metaphor expresses the idea that love is not just a feeling that travels through the air or an abstract state, but rather something that can be taken and made real. In other words, love is defined as having a dimension or existence that can be accessed or felt in a way similar to collecting physical objects.

Overall, this analysis highlights how the use of ontological metaphors in the lyrics creates an image of love as something that can be physically gathered, giving a concrete dimension to the abstract concept of *love in the air*.

Light Song

You always wanted to see the moonlight
And I, I just wanted to see your smile

There is a light not far away from us
From us
The light will shine with the clouds (line 5)

We're gonna fly up into the blue sky
So slowly
And we held the moon in our arms
You always had me
You're always shining (line10)

I've seen a wonderful sight
With a bright glow
You are my sea, you are my sunshine
The star, the moon

There is a light not far away from us (line 15)
From us
The light will shine with the clouds

We're gonna fly up into the blue sky
So slowly
And we held the moon in our arms (line20)
You always had me
You're always shining

Data 4

You're always shining (line 10)

In the lyrics of *You're always shining* there is the use of structural metaphor. Structural metaphors are two different structures or concepts combined to form a new understanding or meaning. In these lyrics, there is a combination of the concept of *you* with the concept of *shining*. Literally, *shining* refers to shining light. However, in this context, *shining* is used metaphorically to describe the characteristics or traits of a person who shines or shines, perhaps in the context of a positive personality or aura.

By combining the concepts of *you* and *shining* this sentence creates an image of someone who always displays positive traits or shines in certain situations. This indicates that the individual has a prominent charm or quality, similar to a shining light. Thus, a structural metaphor is used here to provide a new understanding of a person's characteristics or traits.

The implied meaning in the lyrics *You're Always Shining* is that the person has a strong aura or charm, which can attract the attention of others and have a positive impact in any situation. Thus, the implied meaning in this sentence is praise for the uniqueness or privileges of the person mentioned.

Oriental Metaphor

An orientational metaphor is one that maps an interface concept onto a spatial concept such as “up”, “down,” “left,” or “right.” Orientational metaphors leverage everyday understanding of spatiality in order to convey useful information, especially concerning navigation, quantification, and priority.

Data 5

There is a light not far away from us (line 3)

In the lyrics of this song, there is an **orientational metaphor** involving the concept of spatial orientation and the relative position of things. The orientational concept contained here is distance or relative position, with the phrase *not far away* emphasizing that the light is not too far from us. Although it does not directly state "inside" or "outside," this phrase indicates the position or existence of something outside or near a certain boundary. Therefore, the meaning of the metaphor contained in this sentence is the potential for hope, inspiration, opportunity, or goodness that can be achieved easily.

The use of the phrase *not far away* creates an image of something that is within reach or close to us, giving a positive and optimistic tone related to the possibility of finding hope, inspiration, opportunity, or goodness. Although it does not specify where the light is, this orientational metaphor creates the idea that something positive or meaningful can be achieved relatively easily and is not too difficult to reach.

Peach Eyes

Peach eyes and blue skies
I'll be with you on your ride
It's on the moonlight
How many songs I write
You'll be my sunlight
How could I not rely on you, peach eyes

You're mine
As soon as I watch your eyes
I couldn't find fear on my damn mind
Oh my, I'm heading into you (line10)
Would you don't mind? (would you don't mind?)
I'm talking to you, oh, I'm talking to you
My life is so jerky, yeah, so would you let me
To hide inside your eyes
Your peach eyes

Peach eyes and blue skies
I'll be with you on your ride
It's on the moonlight
How many songs I write
You'll be my sunlight (line20)
How could I not rely on you, peach eyes

The countless days
I've been without you (you were the one I need)
You know, besides I won't find nobody
To give my a whole life to you, oh you

Peach eyes and blue skies
Oh, It's on the moonlight
You'll be my sunlight
Peach eyes

Peach eyes and blue skies (line30)
I'll be with you on your ride
It's on the moonlight
How many songs I write

You'll be my sunlight
How could I not rely on you, peach eyes

Peach eyes and blue skies
Oh, it's on the moonlight
You will be my sunlight
How could I not rely on you, peach eyes

Data 6

My life is so jerky (line 13)

The lyric *My life is so jerky* is a structural metaphor. In these lyrics, there is a combination of two different concepts *life* and *jerky* (dried bacon). The use of the word *jerky* literally refers to a processed dry food made from meat, which has a rough texture and is often cut into pieces. However, the expression *jerky* can be assumed to be a state that is unstable, volatile, or full of challenges.

Data 7

I'll be with you on your ride (line 2)

In the lyrics *I'll be with you on your ride* there is an ontological metaphor. Ontological metaphor is a substantial or essential change in the entity being described. Literally, *ride* refers to physical travel. However, in a metaphorical context, *ride* is used to describe a life journey or experience that involves various changes, challenges, and experiences.

The ontological meaning in it is a life journey that involves transformation, development and new experiences. Thus, the sentence describes a commitment to support and accompany someone through all the changes and challenges in their life journey. This creates a picture of a consistent existence and ready to provide support in facing essential or fundamental changes in life. By saying *I'll be with you* the speaker conveys a promise to remain loyal, consistent, full of support, and ready to share life experiences together, facing all the good and bad things that happen in the journey of life together.

Data 8

Oh my, I'm heading into you (line 10)

In the lyrics *Oh my, I'm heading into you* there is an orientational metaphor that describes the emotional connection between the speaker and the subject. Orientational

metaphors adopt physical or spatial properties or characteristics to describe or understand non-physical or abstract concepts.

The use of the words *heading into you* literally refers to a direction or physical movement toward the subject, but metaphorically, it implies an emotional or psychological state of approaching or connecting with the subject. The word "Oh my" expresses positive admiration for the subject, adding a deeper emotional dimension to the sentence. This sentence also reflects the speaker's courageous and confident attitude in approaching the subject with courage and certainty.

Data 9

You 'll be my sunlight (line 5)

In this sentence, there is a concept that combines the domain concept *sunlight* with the domain concept *you*. The use *you* refers to someone who is the focus of the statement and in this sentence implies a close relationship. The word *sunlight* is associated with brightness and carries a positive meaning. The metaphor in the lyric is categorized as a structural type of metaphor. Where a concept domain is used to understand or explain another concept domain. In this sentence implies that the loved one will be a source of energy, warmth, brightness, and life, like sunlight for the earth. *Sunlight* is usually a symbol of happiness and hope to show how the speakers want to express their feelings of love, dependence, and devotion to their partner.

In the lyrics *To hide inside your eyes* (line 14) there is an example of an orientational metaphor. The use of the phrase *hide inside* creates the image that feelings or existence can enter or reside within something else, in this case, *your eyes*. This phrase can be interpreted as a hidden feeling or presence, thus describing a deep relationship or strong connection. This line conveys a feeling of deep closeness, by illustrating that something valuable or important can be "hidden" within someone's eyes.

The use of this orientational metaphor creates an image of the depth of a relationship or emotional bond. The phrase *hide inside your eyes* implies the idea that deep existence or meaning can be found within a person's eyes. The eyes are often considered the window to the soul, and the use of this metaphor provides a deep emotional dimension, creating the image that a certain essence or importance can be found within a person's gaze.

CONCLUSION

Metaphors of love and relationship in the song *Wave to Earth* is used not only as a language tool, but also as a way to express feelings of love, dedication as a supportive system in a relationship. In likening a loved one to something that gives life to the earth, the songwriter is trying to convey how important that person's presence is in the speaker's life. This impresses that relationship is not just a convenience, but a necessity that gives meaning and purpose to life.

Wave to Earth's lyrical expressions resonate with profound messages about love, happiness, and the complexities of human relationships. Through songs like *Sunny Days* which radiates the joy of discovering enduring love, *Light* which delves into the depth of intimate connections, and *Peach Eyes* a testament to deep affection for a partner. *Wave to Earth* crafts emotional narratives that underscore the significance of human bonds. In essence, the band's lyrics convey not just melodies, but also meaningful reflections on the emotional fabric of life.

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