



AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN THE SONG LYRICS 'SATU BULAN' BY BERNADYA

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Abstract

This study analyzes the use of metaphors in the lyrics of the song “Satu Bulan” by Bernadya. Using a qualitative descriptive approach and Ullman's (1962) metaphor theory, this study identifies and classifies metaphors into four main categories: anthropomorphic metaphors, concrete to abstract metaphors, synesthetic metaphors, and animalistic metaphors. The analysis shows that there is 1 anthropomorphic metaphor, 2 concrete to abstract metaphors, and 2 synesthetic metaphors, with no animalistic metaphors found. The metaphors in this song reinforce the emotional and aesthetic dimensions, bringing a profound experience to the listener. This research highlights the important role of metaphors in revealing themes of loss, longing and emotional conflict, and contributes to the understanding of the power of language in music.

Keywords: Semantic, Metaphors, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language is the main means used by humans to communicate and convey feelings. Through language, a person is able to describe and express the inner conditions they experience to others (Cahyani et al., 2021). In the field of art, especially music, language plays an important role as the main tool in conveying messages while building emotional bonds between songwriters and listeners. The ability of language to effectively voice emotions and ideas makes it a very important tool for conveying various meanings and nuances.

The song itself is a form of expression from its creator towards something that has been seen, heard, or experienced (Reinaldo et al., 2024). Izdiyar (2024) explains that to convey these expressions, songs need language as a medium for conveying ideas. Lyrics reflect the expression of personal experiences that are felt, seen, or heard (Tsamarah et al., 2023). In expressing their experiences, songwriters often play with words and utilize language creatively to give their work its own appeal and distinctiveness. Language elements such as style and symbolism add an emotional and aesthetic touch that enriches the experience for the listener.

One of the interesting forms of language use in song lyrics is metaphor. As part of *majas*, metaphors are language devices that store various meanings in certain words (Shafary, N., 2023). The presence of metaphors adds to the beauty of language while helping listeners understand complex emotions and messages more deeply. In lyrics,

metaphors serve as a bridge between the songwriter's experience and the listener's emotions, providing room for interpretation and inviting the imagination to work.

Ullman (1962), as referenced by Subroto (2017), classifies metaphors into four main categories. First, anthropomorphic metaphors, which apply human traits to inanimate things. For example, “time goes very fast” or “this journey of life feels heavy.” Second, animal metaphors, which use animal characteristics to describe people or situations, such as “like a lion” or “eagle-eyed.” Third, concrete-to-abstract metaphors describe abstract ideas in tangible ways, like “life’s path.” Fourth, synaesthesia metaphors involve transferring one sense to another, such as “her smile is sweet” or “the bitterness of life.”

There are many Indonesian songs that use metaphors to appeal to listeners, one of which is “Satu Bulan” by Bernadya. This song not only offers a beautiful melody, but also lyrics that are rich in meaning. The metaphors in this song present a deep emotional picture and imagination, providing a more personal listening experience.

Previous research by Izdiyar (2024) on the lyrics of “Satu Bulan” identified various language styles such as comparison, opposition, and repetition, with rhetorical and anaphora styles being most prominent. Although metaphors were also identified, the discussion was limited and did not explore the types or functions of the metaphors in shaping meaning, creating imagery, or strengthening emotions.

Although many studies have discussed metaphors in song lyrics, most are general and do not explore the variations and functions of metaphors in depth in one specific song. For example, Namira et al. (2022) identified nine types of metaphors in Rasukma’s *Inti Bumi* album, but did not analyze how each type interacted to form themes and emotions in a particular song. Research focusing solely on contemporary songs like Bernadya’s “Satu Bulan” is still rare.

Based on this, the present research aims to fill that gap by analyzing the types of metaphors in the lyrics of “Satu Bulan” by Bernadya. Using Ullman’s (1962) theory, this study will identify, classify, and explain how metaphors function in shaping meaning, creating imagery, and amplifying emotions. The focus on different types of metaphors—anthropomorphic, animalistic, concrete-to-abstract, and synesthesia—is expected to contribute meaningfully to the understanding of metaphor’s role in enriching the language of music.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach to analyze the types of metaphors in the lyrics of Satu Bulan song by Bernadya. In general, the descriptive qualitative approach is a research method that moves in the qualitative realm with an inductive flow, where the research process begins with observations of certain events or phenomena which then produce generalizations as conclusions (Yuliani, W., 2018). This approach was chosen because it is considered appropriate to examine linguistic phenomena in depth without manipulating the data under study. The main data in this research are parts of Satu Bulan song lyrics that contain metaphorical elements. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from various supporting literature, such as books, journal articles, and the results of previous research relevant to the theory of metaphor.

Data collection techniques were conducted through documentation and literature review. The documentation process includes downloading and reading the entire song

lyrics, followed by identifying the parts that contain metaphors. Meanwhile, literature review was conducted by studying the theory of metaphor from Ullman (1962) and examining various previous studies as a foundation in supporting the analysis process.

Data analysis in this study was conducted through several stages. First, the song lyrics were analyzed to identify metaphors based on the characteristics described in Ullman's theory. Second, the metaphors found were grouped into four main categories, namely anthropomorphic, animalistic, concrete-to-abstract, and synesthesia metaphors. After that, each metaphor is explained in detail to describe its meaning and role in building messages, images and emotions in the song lyrics. In the final stage, the relationship between types of metaphors is analyzed to understand how all the metaphors are interrelated in shaping the theme and atmosphere of the song.

To maintain data validity, this research uses theoretical triangulation by comparing research findings with metaphor theories from various literature sources. The results of the analysis are presented in the form of narrative descriptions equipped with snippets of song lyrics, metaphor classification, and interpretation of meaning, thus providing a clear and in-depth understanding of the use of metaphors in the song. Through this method, this research is expected to provide new insights into the role of metaphors in enriching the meaning and listening experience of Satu Bulan songs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the analysis conducted on the lyrics of the song Satu Bulan by Bernadya, overall this song describes the emotional journey of a person after a breakup. The song reflects the story of loss, longing, and the feeling of difficulty accepting the fact that the ex-partner seems to have continued his life unhindered, while the character in the song is still trapped in memories and unhealed emotional wounds.

From the identification results, several types of metaphors were found in the lyrics of *Satu Bulan*, namely 1 anthropomorphic metaphor, 2 concrete-to-abstract metaphors, 2 synesthesia metaphors, and no animalistic metaphors were found.

Discussion

The classification of metaphor types according to Ullmann (1972) is divided into four main categories, namely anthropomorphic metaphors, synesthesia metaphors, abstraction metaphors (concrete to abstract), and animalistic metaphors. The following is a description and discussion of the types of metaphors found in the lyrics of Satu Bulan by Bernadya.

1. Anthropomorphic Metaphors

Anthropomorphic metaphors are a type of metaphor that assigns human traits or abilities to objects that are actually lifeless or abstract. In the song Satu Bulan by Bernadya, there are examples of the use of this metaphor shown in the following excerpt:

a. Bohongkah tangismu sore itu di pelukku? (Was it a lie when you cried that afternoon in my arms?)

The sentence is categorized as an anthropomorphic metaphor because it assigns a human trait, namely the ability to “lie,” to the word “cry,” which is a form of emotional

expression and not a living being. Naturally, crying does not have the will to tell the truth or lie, but in this context, crying is treated as if it has human-like consciousness and intentions.

The use of this metaphor reflects doubt on the part of the speaker as to the authenticity of the emotions shown by the other person. There is a deep sense of pain and distrust, where the speaker questions whether the crying is truly sincere or a charade. This metaphor illustrates inner conflicts, emotional wounds, and the complexity of human relationships that are difficult to understand directly.

2. Metaphor from Concrete to Abstract

This metaphor arises when physically tangible objects or elements are used to represent abstract concepts or feelings. The use of concrete elements of this kind aims to deepen the emotional meaning of the message conveyed. One example in the song *Satu Bulan* by Bernadya can be seen in the following lyrics:

a. *Atau sudah ada hati yang harus kau jaga* (There is already a heart that you must keep)

The word “hati” (heart) literally refers to a real human organ that has a clear biological form and function. However, in the context of these lyrics, “hati” is figuratively interpreted as a symbol of a person's feelings, affection, or emotions. In other words, the concrete meaning of “hati” turns into an abstract symbol that describes an inner condition or emotional connection.

It implies that there is a feeling or emotional attachment to someone that needs to be guarded responsibly. The sentence “atau sudah ada hati yang harus kau jaga” does not refer to the protection of an organ, but rather to the moral and emotional obligation to guard one's feelings, such as love, care, or deep commitment. This metaphor shows how concrete elements can be used to describe complex emotional nuances in interpersonal relationships.

b. *Kita tak temukan jalan* (We find no way)

Denotatively, the word “jalan” in Bahasa Indonesia refers to a physical path used to move places, which can be observed in a tangible way. In other word, jalan is a road. In the everyday sense, a road is a concrete means or route traveled to reach a destination. However, in the context of the sentence, the term is used metaphorically. The word “jalan” here describes a solution, decision, or direction in dealing with problems, especially in the context of personal relationships. In other word, jalan is a way.

In other words, “jalan” is not interpreted as a physical route, but as a symbol of efforts to find common ground, a solution, or a direction that can be taken together in the face of conflict. This expression reflects an emotional situation where two individuals feel lost in their relationship, as if there is no path they can take to resolve the problem or continue the relationship.

The metaphorical meaning of “jalan” emphasizes the complexity of the emotions experienced by the characters in the song, suggesting a deep sense of confusion, deadlock and uncertainty. The absence of “jalan” is not just about physically losing

direction, but also losing hope or a way to save a relationship that is at a critical point.

3. Synesthetic Metaphor

Synesthetic metaphor is a type of metaphor that involves the transfer of experience between senses or the transfer of response from one type of sensation to another. In this song, some parts of the lyrics show cross-sensory connections to strengthen the emotional impression.

a. *Bahkan senyummu lebih lepas* (Even your smile is looser)

The sentence “*Bahkan senyummu lebih lepas*” is a synesthetic metaphor because there is a shift in meaning from visual experience to emotional or kinesthetic nuances. A smile is generally associated with something visual, whereas the word “loose” carries connotations of feeling-like lightness, freedom, or unencumbered—that are closer to emotional sensations or gestures.

In this sentence, the quality of “loose” that is usually used to describe an inner state or feeling is applied to a smile, thus creating a synesthetic effect. A “looser” smile not only shows a more open facial expression, but also describes an emotional state that has recovered or feels free from past emotional distress.

The implied meaning of this line is that the figure depicted in the song seems more relieved, no longer burdened by the relationship that has ended. This poses a contrast to the singer's feelings of still being trapped in sadness and memories. As such, this metaphor reinforces the deep emotional atmosphere—between freedom and unfinished emotional attachments.

b. *Nyatanya pergiku pun tak lagi mengganggu* (In fact, my leaving no longer bothers you)

In this sentence, “*mengganggu* (disturbing)” is an action that is usually perceived through mental or emotional perception, but is described as something that “*pergi* (goes)” which means physical travel. In this case, the word “*pergi*” relates to the sense of sight or physical perception of movement or distance, but is used to describe a feeling or emotional impact of separation.

This sentence states that “*pergiku* (my leaving)” is no longer disturbing, which emotionally shifts from the feeling or impact of leaving which is an emotional experience to the physical concept of “leaving” or “loss.” This shows a shift from a physical experience that is leaving to an emotional experience that is disturbing.

This sentence implies that even though the separation or leaving has occurred, the impact disturbance is no longer felt by the addressee. This reflects the feeling that the departure no longer affects or disturbs the other person emotionally, perhaps because there has been an adjustment or acceptance of the change.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the lyrics of the song “Satu Bulan” by Bernadya shows that the use of metaphors in this song not only beautifies its aesthetic aspects, but also becomes an

effective tool to convey complex feelings and emotions. Anthropomorphic metaphors and metaphors from concrete to abstract strengthen the depiction of feelings of sadness, loss, and longing felt by the singer. Meanwhile, synesthetic metaphors provide a deeper emotional sensory dimension, creating a more moving listening experience for the listener.

Although no animalistic metaphors are found in this song, the other types of metaphors are strong enough to shape the themes and emotional atmosphere contained in the lyrics. This finding shows that metaphors in song lyrics have an important role, not only as a language style, but also as a means of meaningful communication. Through metaphors, songwriters can establish emotional closeness with listeners, and invite them to understand and feel the emotions they want to convey in the work.

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