

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Metaphor is one of the figurative language forms. Lakoff and Johnson defined metaphors as understanding and experiencing one concept in terms of another (2003, p. 5). They also explained that every experience occurs against the vast backdrop of cultural assumptions (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003, p. 57). Using metaphors in daily conversation, poems, songs, public speech, and many others will make the language more elegant and the meaning more beautiful. Yob (2003) also stated that metaphor is employed when one seeks to comprehend something abstract. It can be described as an implied analogy when conceptualizing one entity with another. Consequently, significance can be derived from this analogy.

Songs have been top-rated at any age for a long time, especially pop songs. Many people love to listen to pop songs due to their music, lyrics, or even the artists as their idols. It commonly happens because some popular songs relate to daily lives, experiences, or stories. It is also because pop songs reflect the prevailing cultural trends of the era. Coolin in Andina (2022) assesses that pop songs commonly embody the condition of society during their period of release. Pop songs use universal language in their lyrics; consequently, they are accessible, relate to any age, and emotionally affect the listeners. Sometimes, we do not know who the artist is beyond a particular song, but because the lyrics are so touchable, we fall in love with that song. By that, the

power of lyrics, which include linguistic features, one of the figurative languages is metaphor, is strongly affected.

One of the purposes of the song is to convey the meaning of the author's intention, feeling, or experience. Using metaphor makes the lyric elegant and gives an emotional effect that the singer or speaker wants to show the listener about something that cannot be expressed through common language or daily language. Therefore, she or he expresses something through language, which is the song (read: lyrics). Furthermore, the use of metaphors in song lyrics allows singers to effectively convey meaning to listeners and enhance the lyrical beauty of a song. Metaphors permit songwriters to express themselves through implicit comparisons that can engagingly capture complex ideas and emotions. By utilizing metaphorical language, lyrics may communicate their intended themes in a subtle yet impactful way that resonates with listeners. The inclusion of metaphors in songs can thus optimize the lyrical experience for listeners through suggestive descriptions crafted to generate a profound esthetic effect.

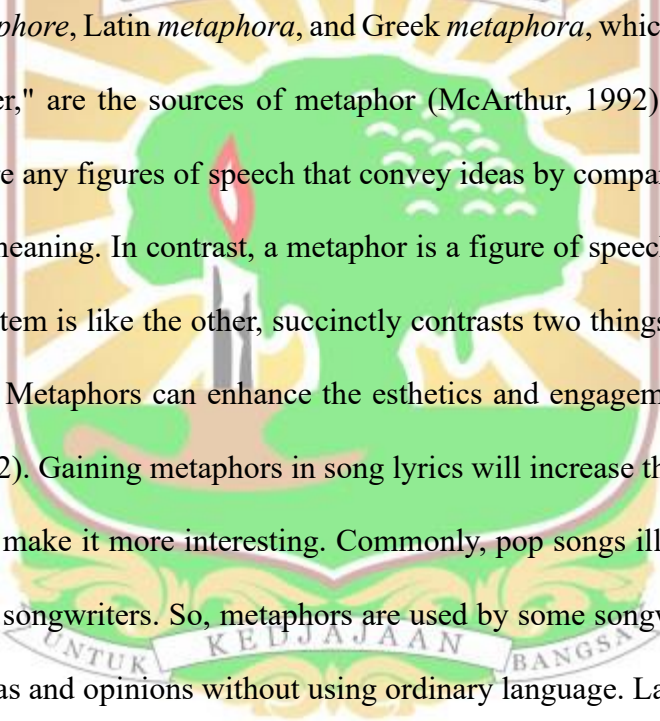
This investigation aims to seek how metaphors are used in pop songs. One of the well-known pop singers is Taylor Alison Swift. She is commonly called Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift is an international pop singer. She is known as an American singer-songwriter. She started her journey as a country singer when she was nine and is now continuing her international pop diva career. Taylor Swift has dramatically impacted many aspects of people's lives, not only in the music industry but also in trends, fashion, economics, and education. In education, Taylor Swift earned a Doctor's degree from New York University due to her success in producing and selling songs. Some universities have

made Taylor Swift an available subject. For example, at Clive Davis Institute, one of the New York University, Taylor Swift becomes one of the subjects available (Kartikayuni, 2022). At Texas University, this class discusses Taylor's expansion as a productive music entrepreneur, a wealthy pop and country songwriter, female and youth analysis, and race politics in contemporary popular music (Purwanti, 2023). An economic aspect, since March 2023, Taylor Swift has started a famous music concert named The Eras Tour. A survey done by Question Pro (2023) stated that an estimated \$5 billion in economic impact—more than the GDP of fifty countries—will have been created by the Eras tour. This music concert has highly impacted the economic situation. Taylor Swift is called a royal crown, a net promoter score, and an economist. Due to the phenomena and reasons above, it is interesting to investigate the metaphors used in pop songs by Taylor Swift. This investigation is entitled "METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS IN SELECTED SONG LYRICS BY TAYLOR SWIFT.". In this research, I will investigate six songs. They are *You Need to Calm Down*, *Shake it Off*, *Anti-Hero*, and *22*, *The Man*, *The Archer*. I chose those six songs because they contain plenty of metaphors from several sources I have read. In these six songs, I assume that Taylor Swift tries to campaign about insecurities, women's power, and securing ourselves as we are. Moreover, the songs are trendy today and have entered the Billboard Hot 100. This research on Taylor Swift's song lyrics employs metaphor analysis.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

This chapter will discuss the theories used by writers to analyze metaphors in Taylor Swift's songs. There are three theories that I will use to study this research: Metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson (2003), Types of Metaphor by Ullman (2004), and Functions of Metaphorical Expression by Leech (1982).

1.2.1 Metaphor



Old French *metaphore*, Latin *metaphora*, and Greek *metaphora*, which meant "carrying over" or "transfer," are the sources of metaphor (McArthur, 1992). Metaphors, in a broader sense, are any figures of speech that convey ideas by comparison, connection, or similarity in meaning. In contrast, a metaphor is a figure of speech that, rather than stating that one item is like the other, succinctly contrasts two things by claiming that one is the other. Metaphors can enhance the esthetics and engagement of a sentence (Zbikowski, 2002). Gaining metaphors in song lyrics will increase the sense of beauty of that song and make it more interesting. Commonly, pop songs illustrate the reality of society of the songwriters. So, metaphors are used by some songwriters in order to express their ideas and opinions without using ordinary language. Lakoff and Johnson (2003) stated that metaphor is one of the fundamental human needs in language. By aligning abstract concepts onto more concrete or tangible domains, metaphor allows for complex ideas to be communicated and understood in simpler terms. Precisely, songwriters can convey problems or issues that may otherwise be difficult to grasp by employing metaphors that leverage concepts with which the listener is generally

familiar. In this way, metaphor makes the complex more comprehensible by relating it to something already within the listener's frame of reference.

There are three approaches to understanding a metaphor, according to Miller (in Ortony, 1979: 227–240): (1) recognition, (2) reconstruction, and (3) interpretation. By recognizing the concept of metaphor and then knowing that it is different facts from the real world. So, re-checking is needed on this view. After recognizing the concept, then we come to the crucial concept which is reconstruction. Reconstruction can be gotten from two ways: (1) by replacement, (2) by nominalizing the initial sentence. And last way is interpreting. If the comparison's grounds are obscure, interpretation is crucial. Metaphor is defined as using phrases or words with a meaning different from the literal definition (Cruse, 2004). For example, *He is a night owl*. The readers will understand that some things related to Night Owl are referred to that "He". As commonly known, an owl is an active animal at night. That sentence portrays that he prefers to work late at night. Someone is active at night like an owl. This expression is usually used by workaholics or people who like staying late out of sleeping hours, which ordinary people should have. Therefore, it is necessary to search the text and context for the author's grounds and this research process is one of interpretation.

1.2.2 Types of Metaphors

According to Ullman (2004), metaphors can be divided into four types. They are anthropomorphic metaphors, animal metaphors, metaphors from concrete to abstract, and synesthetic metaphors.

a. Anthropomorphic Metaphors

This metaphor uses humans (behavior, parts of the body) as the object to describe something, an event, or someone's experience and feeling. For example, *You are the brain of this project*. The brain in the human body is vital and it is the key to all human body activities. The word brain illustrates that something is vital. It means that "you" is the leader of the key to success for that project. So, that sentence means someone is the key to the success of a specific project.

Another example of an anthropomorphic metaphor is *that afternoon, the clouds cried*. Humans commonly exhibit crying to express sadness brought on by interactions with others. On that particular afternoon, the phrase the clouds cried is used metaphorically to describe heavy rainfall, illustrating the downpour through personification of the clouds.

b. Animal Metaphors

This form of metaphor utilizes animals, animal anatomy, or concepts related to animals to represent something different. A basic example is utilizing terminology such as dog, pig, buffalo, and others., to express disapproval or frustration towards someone. An example of an animal metaphor is *when going on a date with Dodi, Rini feels butterflies in her stomach*. Butterflies are one type of animal that can fly and have beautiful wings. Telling Butterflies means that she is so happy spending time with Dodi.

c. Metaphors of Concrete to Abstract

A concrete-to-abstract metaphor refers to taking something abstract or vague and making it tangible (concrete) or vice versa. Specifically, it involves representing an idea, quality, or feeling in a literal way using something physical or sensory. The reverse is also a concrete-to-abstract metaphor, where something concrete or physical represents something intangible. This metaphor helps make the abstract more relatable by giving it physical qualities or representation. It brings clarity and visualization to ideas or concepts that are otherwise difficult to grasp or define literally. An example of this metaphor is that *your smile is like morning dew to me*. The word morning dew is something cool and fresh to breathe in the morning. Besides that, this is also good for health. This sentence describes her smile as calming and charming.

d. Synesthetic Metaphors

Synesthetic metaphors are grounded in human sensory experiences, such as sight or hearing. A synesthetic metaphor is a figurative device that conveys emotions by connecting one human sense perception to another. It leverages the associations between different sensory modalities, like using a word related to one sense to describe an experience of another sense. An example of a synesthetic metaphor is *I can see your lies*. Seeing is a human sense, and lies cannot be seen directly by our eyes; we still need something to prove it. Nevertheless, this sentence illustrates the lies already known.

1.2.3 Functions of Metaphorical Expression

Metaphors serve multiple purposes in song lyrics; each multiple plays an important role. According to research (Leech, 1982), there are four critical functions of metaphor: informational function, expressive function, directive function, and fatigue function. Through metaphor, lyrics can effectively convey information, express emotions and ideas, provide guidance or calls to action, and help maintain audience engagement over time. These functions work together to give lyrics multiple meanings that resonate with listeners on different levels. In summary, metaphor allows lyrics to communicate and connect with audiences purposefully and nuancedly.

The first function is informational. As the name of it, 'information.' It aims to transfer meaning or information to the listener. This function conveys an implied characterization through the message. Characteristic features commonly include notions, convictions, certainty, anger, concern, anxiety, and courage. For example, You are my camera. Whenever I see you, I'm going to smile. This utterance aims to convey the speaker's emotional perspective regarding an individual they deeply care for.

The second function is the expressive function. The expressive function refers to metaphorical language constructs that align with an individual's aspirations and wants. In this process, the metaphorical expression used by the speaker contains the speaker's hope and desire communicated to the listener. An example of this is in metaphorical language: Thank you for showing me what a patient looks like. This metaphor illustrates how much she/he appreciates someone's love due to his/her patience.

The third function of metaphorical language is directive. A directive function can occur when a metaphorical statement contains elements influencing the recipient's behavior. For example, the statement may imply a directive through an instruction, question, or threat. The language used seeks to guide or affect the actions of those receiving the communication. An example of this function is, *Come on! Do you know you are worth it?* This utterance tries to assure somebody due to their insecurities.

The fourth function of metaphorical language is the fatigue function. The key aspects that compose a metaphor's fatigue function are those that convey the speaker's intended message intending to foster rapport with the listener. Within a metaphor's fatigue function exist elements that communicate an idea to the listener aimed at preserving harmony between both speaker and listener. By transmitting information this way, the metaphor's fatigue function can help transform understanding and maintain a cooperative relationship between the speaker and listener. An example of this metaphorical language is *Good morning, my Miss Independent.* It usually happens in couples where a boyfriend tries to greet his lover with beautiful words to maintain a cooperative relationship.

1.2.4 Context

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, context means something exists or occurs, which can aid understanding and explanation. Based on this definition, to avoid a misunderstanding between speaker and listener, they need to be in the same circumstances, on the same page, in the same glasses for the speaker's intention to be well-delivered. Context is necessary to understand what people say or write

(utterances). According to Holmes (2013), language exhibits variations in its forms and users, contingent upon the context and individuals involved in its usage. The appropriate context surrounding metaphors assists listeners in comprehending the intent and significance of the metaphor when the metaphor must be understood literally and figuratively. The context of this analysis is to help clarify the meaning of the metaphors in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's songs. They need to be interpreted through context because they are based on the author's assumptions.

1.3 Review of Previous Study

I need to seek previous studies and review what has been done previously, similar to the focus and problem of the writer's intention. The first study is an article by Sofian & Sawardi (2022), which examines the Analysis of the Metaphors in the Song 'All Too Well' by Taylor Swift as a Tool for Storytelling'. This article aims to identify the meaning of metaphors applied in the lyrics of All Too Well and the types of metaphors applied in the lyrics. This study applies Ullman's theory and uses a descriptive qualitative method where there will be much more description using words and phrases than numbers. The results of this study show that 26 metaphors are used in All Too Well lyrics. They are three anthropomorphic metaphors, one animal metaphor, 19 concrete to abstract metaphors, and three synesthetic metaphors. Meanwhile, the purpose of using metaphorical language in this song is to make it more captivating and engage the listeners in understanding the emotion of the songwriter. This article's strength is that the authors can describe their findings in a well-understood way. On the other hand, the writer of this article describes the findings using a qualitative method.

Meanwhile, we found tables and numbers that contrast when jumping into the findings. Anyhow, this article has similarities with the current research where one of the data to investigate by her is the All Too Well song. Moreover, the theory that will be applied is about to get the same. What makes this article different is when collecting the data. The current researcher will take the data by reading and copying it from websites instead of capturing it.

The second study is an article by Muslimah & Devita (2023) entitled Metaphor Metaphor Analysis in "Death by a Thousand Cuts" and "False God" Song Lyrics by Taylor Swift. This study uses the Ullman and Leech approach to seek the meaning of the lyric's song of metaphors. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. At the end of this study, it was found that six of those two songs have the same number of metaphors. The song "Death by Thousand Cuts" contains six metaphors within its sixteen lyrics.

Additionally, the song "False God" employs six metaphors across fifteen lines of lyrics. Moreover, concrete to abstract is the highest type of metaphor applied according to the analysis. This article proved that the role of metaphor in song lyrics is constructive for listeners to convey the meaning and feel the emotion. The similarities of this article with this current research are the data obtained from Taylor Swift, plus the method and the approach are also the same: qualitative descriptive with the Ullman-Leech approach. What makes this current research different is the songs. The current researcher takes six songs: You Need to Calm Down, Shake it Off, Anti-Hero, 22, The

Man, and The Archer. Meanwhile, the previous study took two songs, Death by Thousand Cuts and False God, which were totally different.

The third study is an article by Santika & Syafryadin (2023), which investigates An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of the Album "Midnights" by Taylor Swift. This study is about finding the figurative language and its meaning in the song lyrics used in the "Midnights" album. The author applies Leech's theory (2013) when analyzing the data. Like previous review studies that the writer has reviewed, this study utilizes the qualitative method and content analysis to identify the types and meanings of figurative language. The findings show that there are eight types of figurative language applied; 12 data of personification (12.5%), 21 data of simile (21.9%), 25 data of metaphor (26.0%), 15 data of hyperbole (15.6%), 2 data of irony (2.1%), 2 data of litotes (2.1%), 17 data of metonymy (17.7%), and 2 data of oxymoron (2.1%). Indicate that metaphor is the dominant type of figurative language in this study.

Moreover, they use metaphors in the song to make it more aesthetic, artistic, and meaningful. This article briefly explains the source of data using a script instead of watching it only. The theoretical frameworks given are clear and help reviewers write their study. However, the author of this article should have given a more precise suggestion about what should be done in future research; it needs to be more specific. The similarity of this article with the current study is that it tries to identify the types and meanings of figurative language. On the other hand, this article focuses on types of figurative language. Meanwhile, the current study focuses on metaphors only and investigates the selected songs as they are the source of data, not an album.

The fourth study is an article by Auliani et al. (2023), which discusses An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected Song Lyrics of Taylor Swift's 1989 Album. This study applies Perrine's theory (1997) to find out the types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language that is applied in Taylor Swift's album. When describing the results, the author used a qualitative method. There are 27 data sets for metaphor, 7 data for hyperbole, 2 for simile, 2 for personification, and 2 for paradox. The other data for figurative language consists of 4 data. This article is interesting because the authors took only some of the songs from the 1989 album, just the selected songs. However, the authors did not have to mention why they just focused on the selected songs. The similarities between this article and current research are its method and aims. Nevertheless, what makes it different is that it focuses on the seven selected songs from the 1989 album by Taylor Swift; meanwhile, the current writer focuses on the four selected songs from different albums.

The last study is an article by Frida and Zuraida (2022) focusing on Metaphor in The Folklore Album by Taylor Swift: A Semantics Study. This study applies the theory of metaphors by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and the meaning by Hurford and Heasley (1983). Like previous literature reviews, describing the findings took a qualitative method. An analysis of 35 metaphors found across eight song lyrics from Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album was conducted. The metaphors were categorized into three types: structural (13 instances, 38%), orientational (12 instances, 35%), and ontological (10 instances, 27%). The lyrics were also evaluated based on their denotative, connotative, and affective meanings. This article is interesting to read as a reference for current

research because it uses two experts to analyze the data and find the results. Not only that, but they also analyzed all songs contained in the "Folklore" album. This article has some similarities with current research: the method of describing the data and the same singer to be analyzed. What makes it different is the songs. The current research would like to identify four selected songs. Meanwhile, this article investigated the album, which consisted of more than four songs.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the phenomena and problems deliberated about the metaphors behind this research, I chose to evolve one problem identification that will be answered in Chapter 3: Findings and Discussions. That one research question is:

1. What are the types and meanings of metaphor found in Taylor Swift's selected song lyrics?
2. What are the functions of metaphor found in Taylor Swift's selected song lyrics?

1.5 Objectives of The Study

Based on the problem identification that has been deliberated above, I would like to achieve the goal as well:

1. Identify the types and meanings of metaphors in Taylor Swift's song.
2. Identify the functions of metaphors in Taylor Swift's song.

1.6 Scope

This research aims to maintain focus on the predetermined subject parameters to ensure the discussion does not deviate from the intended scope. The study is limited to analyzing metaphorical expressions within six Taylor Swift songs: *You Need to Calm Down*, *Shake it Off*, *Anti-Hero*, and *22*, *The Man*, *The Archer*. Specifically, the research will classify the types of metaphorical expressions used and determine the implied meanings within the metaphors.

