

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Metaphor is known as a form of figurative language by most people. A metaphor is figure of speech that makes a comparison between two distinct things by saying one is another to make the language more artistic and to give the language a sense of deep emotion (Kovecses, 2010). Humans' way of delivering messages does not conform to what they actually say because they might tend to include figurative language. According to Perrine's 1969 study (as cited in Khairunnisa & Iskandar, 2022), figurative language refers to expressions that should not be interpreted in their literal sense, which means it is not an ordinary language used by humans in daily conversation. It is more like an unusual figure of speech we barely find in our everyday conversation, and it can commonly appear in prepared speeches or literature.

However, Lakoff and Johnson, in their conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) proposed that metaphor extends beyond mere figurative language but it is inherent in our conceptual framework how we perceive, think, behave, and experience things, such as the ways we navigate through the world and interact with others, that could be seen in our language (1980). They define conceptual metaphor as something that becomes absorbed in our everyday conversation, which means it will also be seen in song lyrics that we listen to and sing every day.

Songs have become an undivided part of human life nowadays. People love to listen to and sing their favorite songs, especially pop songs. Pop songs are not only for entertainment but also a medium for the author to express a lot of things. Nowadays, most of them are about relationships and self-identity that involve abstract elements like emotions. There are always meaningful messages that need to be conveyed through the lyrics. Pop song lyrics often use conceptual metaphors to convey emotions such as love, happiness, sadness, struggle, and hope. Steen (2011) stated that conceptual metaphor functions as a mapping system in connecting abstract concepts with concrete experience, thus allowing a richer understanding of a text. In song lyrics, conceptual metaphor can create greater emotional involvement because it helps listeners understand the song's meaning through a more familiar experience. Apparently, conceptual metaphor in song lyrics helps the author to communicate the message to their listeners.

This study aims to look at how metaphors are used to express abstract ideas to wide audiences through pop songs. Sia Kate Isobelle Fuller, better known as Sia, is a well-known pop singer. She is an Australian artist, songwriter, and producer who built her career in the United States. Sia is known for the distinctiveness of her vocal style and unique appearance. She is a talented singer and songwriter, and she has such a big popularity. In 2014, Sia's sixth studio album, *1000 Forms of Fear*, made its debut at No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard 200 as a solo recording artist and created the single *Chandelier* which earned her four out of nine Grammy nominations she received. *This is Acting*, her seventh studio album, has entered the Billboard Hot 100 as the number 1 single with *Cheap Thrills*. In some of her songs,

she wrote her story related to mental health issues, things that are being talked about a lot nowadays.

I am interested in analyzing eight pop songs by Sia. I chose these songs because of the similarities in their themes, which are personal struggles, emotional resilience, and human relations. The songs represent various forms of emotional experience, such as past trauma, painful love, and the self-healing process. These themes are widely presented through the employment of metaphor in the song lyrics. Therefore, it is relevant to examine the song through the lens of Conceptual Metaphor Theory proposed by Lakoff & Johnson (1980), which outlines the mapping between a source domain, the concrete concept that serves as the basis of the mapping, and a target domain, the abstract idea that is clarified through the use of the source domain in understanding the meaning behind metaphorical expressions.

I assume that Sia uses different types of conceptual metaphors in her song lyrics and tries to use conceptual metaphors to convey abstract elements such as emotion. For example, in the lyrics “*I’ve got thick skin and an elastic heart*” (Sia, 2013) from the song *Elastic Heart*, there is a conceptual metaphor that compares physical characteristics of the body (thick skin and elastic heart) as the source domain with emotional resilience as the target domain. In this case, *thick skin* represents the strength to face pressure, while *elastic heart* represents the ability to recover from an emotional wound.

The title of this research is *Conceptual Metaphor Analysis in Sia’s Selected Song Lyrics*. There are many previous works that have been carried out on metaphors in song lyrics. However, there are not many studies that analyze

conceptual metaphors in song lyrics, especially in Sia's songs. I hope this research can help the readers and the listeners know how conceptual metaphors are applied in her song lyrics.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, in song lyrics, the use of language most of the time is more than just a direct message delivery. Song lyrics can be a medium that uses a lot of metaphors to express emotional and social experiences. This research studies conceptual metaphors that connect two concept domains, the source domain and the target domain, to demonstrate how abstract ideas are conveyed through more concrete things present in eight selected song lyrics by Sia from the album entitled *1000 Forms of Fear*. Therefore, there are two research questions that will be answered by this research as follows:

1. What are the types and the meanings of conceptual metaphors found in Sia's selected song lyrics?
2. How are the conceptual metaphors applied in Sia's selected song lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the problem that has been explained before, Sia's songs, known for her emotional writing style, which is full of deep meaning, offer many examples of conceptual metaphor. Therefore, by conducting conceptual metaphor analysis in eight selected song lyrics by Sia, there are two goals I want to achieve from this research, which are:

1. To identify the types and to know the meanings of the conceptual metaphors used by Sia in her song through the mapping of the source domain and the target domain.
2. To acknowledge how the conceptual metaphors are applied in Sia's selected song.

1.4 Focus of the Research

This research concentrates on examining the conceptual metaphors, particularly how the source and target domains are implied in each conceptual metaphor found in the lyrics of eight selected Sia songs from the one album entitled *1000 Forms of Fear*. They are *Chandelier*, *Big Girls Cry*, *Eye of the Needle*, *Hostage*, *Straight for the Knife*, *Elastic Heart*, *Fire Meet Gasoline*, and *Cellophane*. This research identifies only the types of theme-related conceptual metaphors identified in the chosen songs and analyzes the source and target domains of those conceptual metaphor expressions to know the meaning interpretation of the lyrics.

1.5 Methods of the Research

This research uses a qualitative approach because it focuses on the meaning interpretation contained in song lyrics. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative approach is an approach that emphasizes meaning exploration generated by individuals or groups toward social or cultural phenomena. By using a qualitative approach, I explain how conceptual metaphors are applied and create the meaning in song lyrics. Tenny et al. (2022) stated that rather than gathering numerical data points as in quantitative research, qualitative research investigates and offers a more profound understanding of real-world issues. Therefore, qualitative approach is

suitable to conduct this research. It is used to analyze the conceptual metaphorical expressions and to identify their types.

This research employs a descriptive qualitative method as it aims to describe and understand language phenomena, specifically conceptual metaphors in song lyrics, in depth. According to Lambert and Lambert (2012), qualitative descriptive research is an appropriate design when the goal is to provide a comprehensive summary of events or phenomena in everyday terms. In this study, the method is applied to identify the types of conceptual metaphors in Sia's selected song lyrics and to describe how those metaphors are used to convey meaning. By using this approach, this research not only classifies the types of conceptual metaphors but also examines the connection between the source and the target domains in forming meaning interpretations of the song lyrics.

1.5.1 Data Collection

The primary data for this research is from eight selected song lyrics by Sia. The data is sourced from the website <https://genius.com/> which contains the eight selected song lyrics. The data of this research are phrases that contained conceptual metaphors in the selected song from the album *1000 Forms of Fear*, entitled *Chandelier*, *Big Girls Cry*, *Eye of the Needle*, *Hostage*, *Straight for the Knife*, *Elastic Heart*, *Fire Meet Gasoline*, and *Cellophane*. The information taken from books, journals, documents, dictionaries, and websites related to this research was also used as supporting information for the reading material, comprehension, theoretical framework, and comparison. The researcher herself serves as a human instrument in this research, whereas the researcher is the observer of the other instrument, which is the song lyrics. Researcher as an instrument called Participant-

Observer, according to Sukmawati et al. (2023), is where only human beings serving as instruments can interpret data gathered at a specific time and use that information right away as feedback to gain approval, amendments, improvements, or maintenance. Therefore, I am the instrument that observes the conceptual metaphors expressed in the song lyrics.

The data collection method I use in this research is document analysis. According to Bowen (2009), document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents, both printed and electronic, which involves skimming, reading, and interpreting. Document analysis is appropriate for this study because the data are in the form of written texts rather than spoken interactions or observed behaviors. In this research, I collected the data through some systematic steps to make sure the analysis is accurate and in accordance with the research objectives. The first step is selecting Sia's song that will be analyzed. The songs are selected based on certain criteria, such as relevance to the topic, conceptual metaphor, and similarity of the themes. After the songs are chosen, the second step is to transcribe the song lyrics from a trusted website, which is <https://genius.com>. The transcription is then verified by listening to the lyrics to ensure the accuracy of the text that will be analyzed. The third step is identifying the theme-related conceptual metaphors contained in the song lyrics. In this procedure, each lyric is examined to determine whether there is a shift in meaning that shows the use of conceptual metaphor or not. The lyric that indicates a conceptual metaphor is then noted for further analysis. Later, all the collected and analyzed data are arranged systematically to be presented as the result of the research.

1.5.2 Data Analysis

I use the conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) to analyze the data. I use CMT by Lakoff and Johnson to answer both of the research questions, which are to identify types of conceptual metaphors in Sia's song lyrics, to map the source and target domains, and to create a meaning interpretation behind the lyrics. The analysis started by reading the lyrics of the selected songs entirely to identify the lyric which has the potential to contain a conceptual metaphor. Then I analyze the identified lyrics to discover the connection between the source and target domains. I classified those conceptual metaphors into three types of conceptual metaphor identified by Lakoff and Johnson, which are structural metaphors, ontological metaphors, and orientational metaphors.

Furthermore, to answer the second research question, I used metaphorical mapping by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). I used this theory to examine how conceptual metaphors are applied and form the meaning interpretation in the song lyrics. I mapped the source and target domains and explained how the connection between these two domains forms meaning interpretations of the song lyrics. Thus, Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphor is employed to classify the conceptual metaphor expressions and to explain the connection between the source and target domains that form the meaning interpretations of the song lyrics. I supported every finding with examples from the song lyrics and related them to the conceptual metaphor theory to strengthen each lyric's meaning interpretation.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Conceptual metaphor : As stated by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), conceptual metaphor is a cognitive mechanism that maps one concept domain (source domain) to another concept domain) to understand abstract things through more concrete concepts.

Source domain : A concrete concept that becomes the mapping source in a conceptual metaphor.

Target domain : An abstract concept that is comprehended through the application of source domain in conceptual metaphor.

Song : Song is a composition of music consisting of sung lyrics and melody, usually aimed to convey emotion, story, or certain messages that can be a medium of personal expression, entertainment, or means of cultural communication (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, n.d).

