

AN ANALYSIS OF CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR IN DECALIUS' SELECTED SONG LYRICS

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Sarjana Humaniora*



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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
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APPROVAL PAGE

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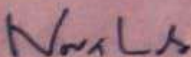
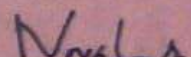
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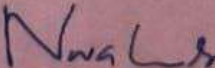
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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "An Analysis of Conceptual Metaphor in Decalious' Selected Song Lyrics" submitted to Universitas Andalas as the result of my work under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Oktavianus, M. Hum. There have not been any forms or ideas written or published by other except those that are referred to in this thesis and mentioned in the bibliography.

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfilment of the Sarjana Humaniora degree requirement. The results embodied in this thesis have not been submitted to any other University or Institute for any degree or diploma.

Padang, 26 Juni 2026



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to everyone who has supported through every stage of this journey.

1. To my beloved parent, Bapak R. Syarifuddin Lumbanraja and Ibu Lena Kasmita, thank you for the endless love and support and always prioritizing my academic needs. I love you both more than words can say.
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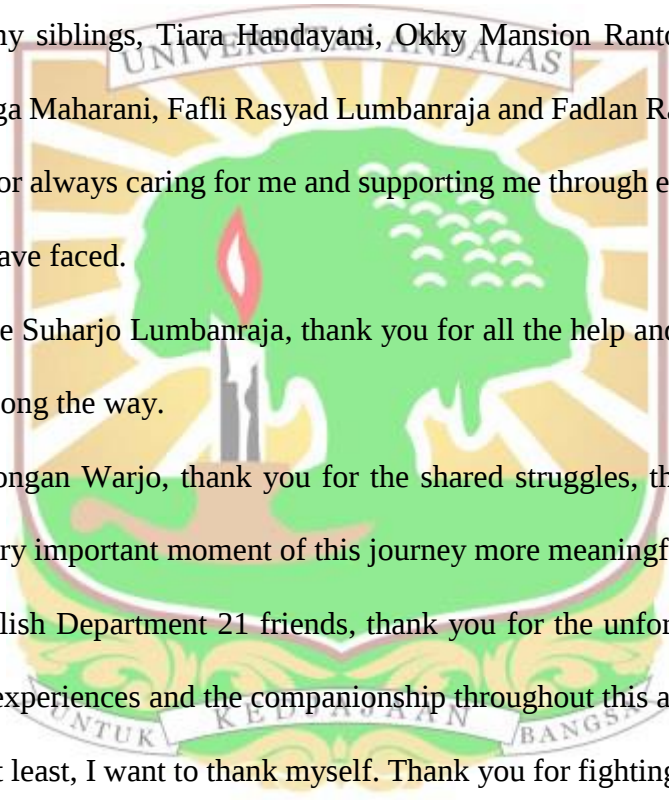


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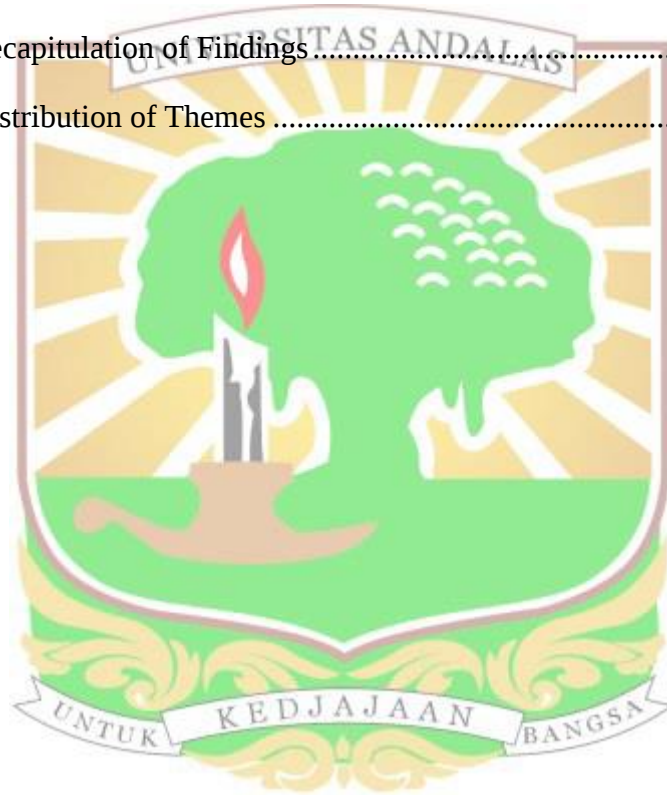
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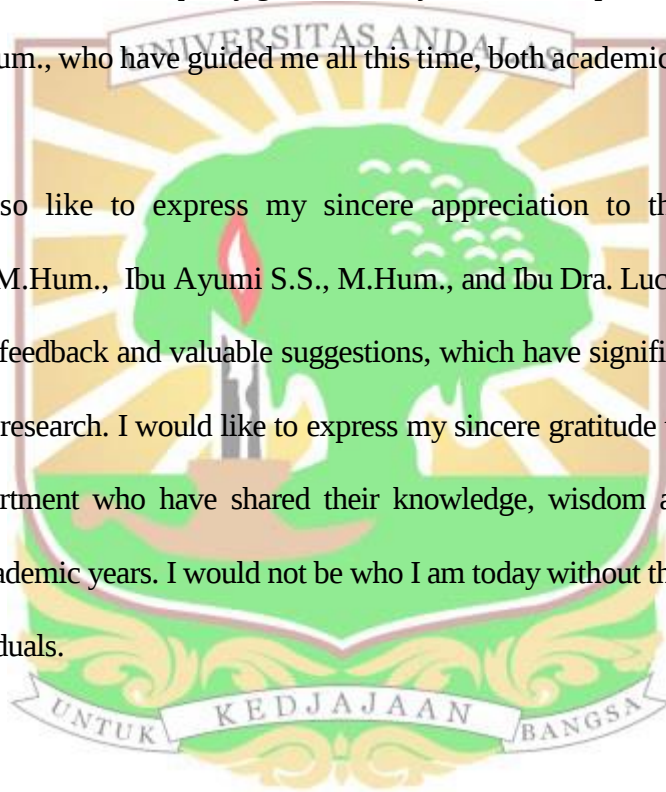


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ABSTRACT

This study examines the conceptual metaphors found in six selected song lyrics by Decalius, a one-man Depressive Suicidal Black Metal (DSBM) project from the United States. The primary aim of this research is to identify the types of conceptual metaphors present in the lyrics and to examine the thematic patterns they construct. This research applies Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) as proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and further developed by Kövecses (2010) as the main analytical framework. A qualitative descriptive method is employed, with data drawn from six songs: *Hated by Life Itself*, *Unfair...*, and *Unknown* from the EP *Hated by Life Itself* (2022), as well as *Shotgun*, *Inside...*, and *A Miserable Life...* from the album *Dehumanizing Loneliness* (2023). Metaphorical expressions were identified using the Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) developed by the Pragglejaz Group (2007). The findings reveal that all three types of conceptual metaphors are present across the selected lyrics: ontological, structural, and orientational, with ontological metaphors appearing most frequently, consistently representing abstract psychological states as physical objects or substances located within the body. Structural metaphors organize complex existential experiences through familiar schemas such as conflict, planning, and identity transformation, while orientational metaphors reinforce emotional states through spatial and directional mappings. In terms of thematic representation, the metaphors identified across the corpus construct a wide range of specific themes that cluster into three interconnected patterns: psychological suffering, social marginalization, and suicidal ideation. These clusters are not predetermined but emerge inductively from the metaphorical patterns found in the data, reflecting a layered system in which internal pain, social exclusion, and existential resolution reinforce one another. The study concludes that metaphor in DSBM lyrics functions not only as a poetic device but as a fundamental cognitive mechanism for structuring and communicating extreme emotional experiences, contributing to a more nuanced linguistic understanding of an understudied musical genre.

Keywords: *conceptual metaphor, Depressive Suicidal Black Metal, song lyrics, Decalius, psychological suffering, social marginalization, suicidal ideation*



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji metafora konseptual yang terdapat dalam enam lirik lagu pilihan milik Decalious, sebuah proyek one-man band dengan genre Depressive Suicidal Black Metal (DSBM) asal Amerika Serikat. Tujuan utama penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis metafora konseptual yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu tersebut serta mengkaji pola tematik yang dikonstruksi melalui metafora tersebut. Penelitian ini menerapkan Teori Metafora Konseptual (CMT) yang dikemukakan oleh Lakoff dan Johnson (1980) dan dikembangkan lebih lanjut oleh Kövecses (2010) sebagai kerangka analisis utama. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini, dengan data yang diambil dari enam lagu: *Hated by Life Itself*, *Unfair...*, dan *Unknown* dari EP *Hated by Life Itself* (2022), serta *Shotgun*, *Inside...*, dan *A Miserable Life...* dari album *Dehumanizing Loneliness* (2023). Ekspresi metaforis diidentifikasi menggunakan Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) yang dikembangkan oleh Pragglejaz Group (2007). Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketiga jenis metafora konseptual hadir dalam lirik yang dipilih, yaitu metafora ontologis, struktural, dan orientasional, dengan metafora ontologis muncul paling dominan, secara konsisten merepresentasikan kondisi psikologis abstrak sebagai objek atau substansi fisik yang berada di dalam tubuh. Metafora struktural mengorganisasikan pengalaman eksistensial yang kompleks melalui skema yang familiar seperti konflik, perencanaan, dan transformasi identitas, sementara metafora orientasional memperkuat kondisi emosional melalui pemetaan spasial dan arah. Dari segi representasi tematis, metafora yang teridentifikasi dalam korpus penelitian ini membentuk berbagai tema spesifik yang mengelompok menjadi tiga pola yang saling terkait, yaitu penderitaan psikologis, marginalisasi sosial, dan ideasi bunuh diri. Ketiga kelompok tema ini tidak ditentukan sejak awal, melainkan muncul secara induktif dari pola metaforis yang ditemukan dalam data, mencerminkan suatu sistem berlapis di mana rasa sakit internal, pengucilan sosial, dan resolusi eksistensial saling memperkuat satu sama lain. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa metafora dalam lirik DSBM berfungsi bukan hanya sebagai perangkat puitis, melainkan sebagai mekanisme kognitif fundamental untuk menstrukturkan dan mengkomunikasikan pengalaman emosional yang ekstrem, sehingga berkontribusi pada pemahaman linguistik yang lebih mendalam terhadap genre musik yang masih kurang diteliti.

Keywords: *conceptual metaphor, Depressive Suicidal Black Metal, DSBM, song lyrics, Decalious, psychological suffering, social marginalization, suicidal ideation*