Metaphor Depicted in Taylor Swift's Songs

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Abstract

A metaphor is a figure of speech or figurative language used to make an indirect comparison between two different things. Metaphors can be found in various media, including song lyrics. This research aims to determine the types of metaphors and their meanings in Taylor Swift's album "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology." A qualitative descriptive method with data tabulation as the main instrument was employed. The research steps included downloading the song lyrics, listing all the lyrics in sequence, reading them thoroughly, and then identifying and classifying the metaphors using codes before inserting the metaphors into the instruments. The research object contained all the songs on Taylor Swift's latest album, "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology." This study utilized the theory of Lakoff and Johnson (2003), which categorizes metaphors into three types: structural metaphors, orientational metaphors, and ontological metaphors. The research found 135 data on structural metaphors, 65 data on orientational metaphors, and 280 data on ontological metaphors. The research concluded that ontological metaphors were the most frequently found, while orientational metaphors were the least frequently found.

Keywords: *Metaphor, Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, Ontological Metaphor, Song Lyrics, Taylor Swift*

Introduction

Metaphors are commonly employed in language communication, including daily conversation, articles, newspapers, advertisements, scientific writing, philosophy, and novels or poems. According to (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003), for most people, metaphor is an instrument of the poetic imagination and rhetorical flourish—an indication of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Metaphor is also often seen as a feature of language alone, rather than mind or action. In line with the initial explanation, there are recognizable techniques that exist outside the few places where the aforementioned metaphors are frequently seen, such as in music and songs.

According to Glucksberg (2008), the word song refers to pieces of music that have words. It could be concluded, apart from needing a beautiful tune, songs also need good lyrics, and that is where metaphors appear. According to Pattison (2009), metaphors support lyrics like bones. Like a living creature that has a skeleton, lyrics are like bones in the framework of a song, because metaphor plays an important role in supporting the music or the song. The importance of good lyrics in a song cannot be emphasized, especially in a genre that stresses narration and emotional expression. Good lyrics can transform a song from a mere melody to a meaningful narrative that engages listeners and invites them to share a common experience or journey. Metaphors can help to make the lyrics more unique and impactful. Metaphors are a mainstay of good lyric writing — indeed, of most creative writing (Pattison, 1991).

Many musicians employ metaphors in their lyrics of the songs, which span from the past to the present. One of the legendary musicians, Joni Mitchell, mentioned how she uses metaphors and similes in her work to better portray emotions and stories. There are plenty of other musicians who use metaphors in their lyrics. The use of metaphor in music is a strong tool for songwriters to increase the expressiveness, depth, and universality of their songs, allowing them to connect with listeners on a deeper level and leave a lasting impression (Benczes et al., 2010). One of the successful musicians who uses metaphors beautifully in her lyrics is Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift, as a musician who is predicted to be the best musician of this century, is a singer-songwriter who has written all the lyrics for all her songs from her first album to her eleventh album as a complement to her discography.

Taylor Swift is a master at writing song lyrics, marked by her deep storytelling ability, emotional intelligence, and sharp observational skills, who transforms complex emotions and personal experiences into universally relatable, emotionally rich narratives filled with vivid

imagery and metaphors. Taylor Swift's music has developed substantially over the course of her albums, exploring themes that appeal to a wide range of listeners. Beginning with her early work, she concentrated on young love and heartbreak, expressing them through catchy, story-driven songs. As she grew older, her music delved deeper into themes such as overcoming obstacles, discovering one's true self, and coping with fame. Her most recent album, The Tortured Poets Department, explores these themes, focusing on the strains and emotional agony that she faces, as well as the heartbreak she experienced and how it shattered her. Not only did she express her heartbreak, but she also reflected on how she gained faith in falling in love again after the misery she experienced previously.

Several prior researchers used metaphor as the primary focus of the investigation they were conducting. There are previous studies that examine metaphor, such as (Yasmina Frida & Zuraida, 2022) in their journal "Metaphor in The Folklore Album by Taylor Swift: A Semantics Study" which tried to identify and analyze metaphors in Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album lyrics. Then in 2022, (Zulfadhlina et al., 2022) with her thesis titled "Ontological Metaphor in Taylor Swift's Song lyric in Folklore Album" in which she investigated only one kind of metaphor, ontological, and its denotative and connotative meaning. Also, there is another previous study conducted by (Fauziah, 2023), outlined in her thesis titled "An Investigation on Linguistic Metaphors in Taylor Swift's Song Lyrics" In this study, the researcher used Taylor Swift's last 9 albums as the object and used the word class metaphor classification theory by Goatly (1997) as one of the theories used to obtain the data.

From previous studies, it can be concluded that all studies use the Folklore album as the research object. The difference in research lies in the use of theory as a basis for research, in the first research using Lakoff & Johnson's theory accompanied by looking for meaning in denotative and connotative terms, the second research directly focuses on ontological metaphors which are types of metaphor from Lakoff & Johnson's theory, but in third research, there are differences in the objects used, namely not only the Folklore album but 8 other albums and also one of the theory used is Goatly's (1997) theory. For this research, the research gap will be used to differentiate this research from previous research, even though it uses the same theory, namely Lakoff & Johnson, as the object to be researched. The object that will be studied in this research is Taylor Swift's eleventh and most recent album, which came out in the first half of this year. Aside from that, the researcher chose this object and topic since no other researchers had researched both precisely.

Hence, this research will concentrate on metaphors, specifically those that are used in Taylor Swift's song lyrics in The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology, Taylor Swift's latest album that came out in the first half of this year. However, the researcher will specifically try to categorize or classify the type of metaphor and then define the meaning. So, based on the aforementioned explanation, the researcher will conduct research entitled "Metaphor Depicted in Taylor Swift's Songs." Based on the background explained by the researcher above, the researcher formulated the research question as follows: 1) What types of metaphors are used in Taylor Swift's album entitled The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology?; and 2) What is the meaning of orientational metaphor and ontological metaphor expressed in Taylor Swift's album entitled The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology?.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The descriptive qualitative study was chosen for this research. Qualitative research indicates that the information gathered was in the form of words rather than numbers (Sugiyono, 2010). This research was qualitative since it focused on describing the significance of the chosen topic rather than converting data into numbers. And, descriptive because the explanation in this study was as detailed as possible, allowing this research to be classified as descriptive qualitative. Qualitative research has various points of view or approaches, one of which is the framework. Framework analysis, also known as "the framework approach," "the framework technique," and "the framework method," is an inherently comparative form of thematic analysis that employed an organized structure of inductively and deductively derived themes (i.e., a framework) to conduct cross-sectional analysis using a combination of data description and abstraction (Ritchie et al., 2014).

Data Sources

The song lyrics script served as the major data source for this study. The latest release date for Taylor Swift's album was Friday, April 19, 2024. Taylor Swift has approximately 11 original albums and 274 songs from all her albums to complement her discography. All diction, equivalent words, and sentences in all of her chosen songs' lyrics from all of her chosen albums were recorded as data, which was the primary focus of the research. All of this data was identified, collected, analyzed, and documented. All of Taylor Swift's song lyrics from the

chosen album can be listened to on streaming music platforms, including Spotify, YouTube Music, and Apple Music.

Research Instrument

The instrument that was used in this research is data tabulation. The writer read thoroughly every lyric in all of Taylor Swift's songs in the chosen album. The writer was supported in gaining the lyrics included in the song by a website called Genius.com and an application called Spotify to ensure that the lyrics obtained are correct and match the song perfectly. Furthermore, the writer coded each type of metaphor in the lyrics that the writer found when the writer read the lyrics in detail. For more accurate results, the writer repeated this stage with the same instrument multiple times. Another instrument that was used by researchers was note-taking. The researcher jotted down numerous important findings after identifying and thoroughly investigating the chosen object. These notes were then used as a reference while evaluating the research results.

Data Analysis

The tabulation and note-taking procedures implemented in this study rigorously adhered to the essential instruments identified as critical for guiding the research. Specifically, these instruments were grounded in the classification of metaphors by Lakoff and Johnson (2003), which delineates three primary types: Structural Metaphor, Orientational Metaphor, and Ontological Metaphor. These categories systematically informed and supported the research instruments throughout the study, ensuring a structured and scientifically sound approach to data collection and analysis. Along with instruments, other guides help this research, such as indicators for metaphor classification. An indicator for classification in metaphors served to systematically identify and analyze metaphors, thereby making it easier to categorize them and facilitating a deeper understanding of their roles in language and thought by distinguishing between their different types and applications.

Results and Discussion

Results

The researcher presented the findings of metaphors in 31 songs from Taylor Swift's latest album, The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology. In this section, the researcher presented the findings of three metaphors based on Lakoff and Johnson's (2003) theory and the meaning of the songs that contain metaphors for the research concentrated objects. To obtain

the data, researchers completed a thorough investigation by reading all of the lyrics in Taylor Swift's selected albums, obtaining the types of metaphors required as data. Afterwards, for the second research question, after collecting the data, the researcher continued the investigation by seeking the meaning behind the lyrics that contained metaphors.

Researchers and co-researchers examined metaphors in all of Taylor Swift's songs from her most recent album, The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology. In this research, co-researchers analyzed half of all research objects: 50%. The table below shows the results of both studies:

Table 1. The results between the researcher and the co-researchers

	Total of Metaphor	Result of Metaphor Types		
		ST	OR	OT
Researcher Results	240	76	25	139
Co-Researchers Results	279	116	26	137

The aforementioned results can be used to estimate the level of agreement between the researcher and the co-researcher in the research. According to the table above, the researcher discovered 240 metaphors in the 15 song tracks monitored together, whilst co-researchers discovered 279 metaphors over the same object. After an overall evaluation, the data have received a 100% agreement level from researchers and co-researchers.

Also, from the previous statement, this research applied the Cohen Kappa formulation and theory to determine the research's reliability. Cohen's Kappa theory measures the accuracy and agreement of data examined by a researcher and co-researchers for a set number of objects. The table below shows the reliability of both studies using Cohen's theory:

Table 2. Cohen's Kappa findings: Comparing the Researcher and Co-Researcher

	Total sample of Metaphors	Frequency of Metaphor by Researcher	Frequency of Metaphor by Co-Researcher	K	Percentage
N	466	240	279	0.86	86%

The table above compares the results of researchers and co-researchers. The reliability reported in the tables is 0.86, and the results are excellent. Therefore, researchers can use the research findings to support this chapter.

Types of Metaphors

Table 3. The Total Number of Metaphors Found

NO.	SONG TITLE	ST	OR	OT
1.	Fortnight (Ft. Post Malone)	1	0	4
2.	The Tortured Poets Department	4	1	4
3.	My Boy Only Breaks His Favorite Toys	4	2	5
4.	Down Bad	0	7	7
5.	So Long, London	2	3	7
6.	But Daddy I Love Him	5	5	8
7.	Fresh Out The Slammer	2	2	10
8.	Florida!!! (Ft. Florence + the Machine)	4	2	9
9.	Guilty as Sin?	2	0	16
10.	Who's Afraid of Little Old Me?	7	2	8
11	I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can)	1	3	10
12.	loml	4	5	12
13.	I Can Do It With A Broken Heart	9	1	8
14.	The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived	4	2	12
15.	The Alchemy	3	3	6
16.	Clara Bow	2	0	8
17.	The Black Dog	5	1	10
18.	Imgonnagetyouback	2	2	9
19.	The Albatross	4	0	16
20.	Chloe or Sam or Sophia or Marcus	7	2	7
21.	How Did It End?	6	0	8
22.	So High School	5	1	8
23.	I Hate It Here	3	1	8
24.	thanK you aIMee	7	0	3
25.	I Look in People's Windows	2	3	5
26.	The Prophecy	2	1	10
27.	Cassandra	6	1	4
28.	Peter	5	3	13
29.	The Bolter	5	2	18
30.	Robin	5	6	12
31.	The Manuscript	12	2	8
	Total	130	63	273
	Total of Metaphor		466	

Characterization of Metaphor:

ST: Structural Metaphor

OR: Orientational Metaphor

OT: Ontological Metaphor

The table shows that almost all of the songs on Taylor Swift's album The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology contain different types of metaphors. Depending on the findings that were discovered, the results will be presented as follows:

a) Structural Metaphor

Structural metaphors involve understanding one idea by connecting it to other. Specifically, explaining a sentence by building a connection between two different ideas. 130 structural metaphor data were discovered in this research, and 10 among those data were as follows:

Datum #1: **Move to Florida, buy the car** you want

(T1P6L3)

Datum #1 shows that the phrase "Move to Florida, buy the car you want" is a structural metaphor that uses the concept of geographical movement to express a more profound message about obtaining freedom and fulfilling desires. "Move to Florida" offers an invitation to freedom and fresh prospects, implying that Florida is a place where dreams can be realized or where obstacles are reduced. In parallel, "buy the car you want" means fulfilling desires and attaining goals, as a car frequently represents personal independence, status, and accomplishment. Thus, the statement connects the concept of physical movement in Florida to the broader, more abstract idea of gaining freedom and realizing one's dreams, demonstrating how achieving personal freedom allows one to pursue one's desires. Two domains that have been connected in this phrase are freedom and desire.

Datum #2: But I've seen this **episode** and still love the **show**

(T2P1L7)

Datum #2 shows that this metaphor connects the experience of a relationship or repeating life events to watching television. In this context, "episode" represents a specific incident or circumstance that the speaker has already encountered, whereas "show" refers to the entire continuous experience or relationship. It enables the speaker to communicate familiarity and acceptance of repeated patterns or events within a larger, continuous framework that they continue to value and appreciate. Two domains that have been connected in this phrase are television and entertainment.

Datum #3: **Called the rain** to end our **days of wild**

(T3P1L3)

Datum #3 shows that the phrase "Called the rain to end our days of wild" is a structural metaphor because it uses the concept of summoning rain to depict bringing about change or putting an end to a period of disarray and recklessness. "Called the rain"

symbolically refers to a natural force that delivers sweeping, renewal, or a drastic change. In this sense, "end our days of wild" refers to the end of unrestrained behavior or chaotic situations. By connecting the act of calling rain to the end of wild days, the term translates the concrete idea of causing rain to fall onto the abstract idea of initiating transformation and closure, demonstrating how provoking change can put an end to chaos and herald a new beginning. Two domains that have been connected in this phrase are weather and behavior.

Datum #4: I'm **queen** of sand castles he **destroys**

(T3P2L2)

Datum #4 indicates that the phrase "I'm queen of sand castles he destroys" connects the idea of building and reigning over sand castles to the dynamics of a relationship. Someone who constantly ruins delicate, significant structures disrupts the speaker's function as the "queen". This metaphor employs the tangible experience of building and dismantling sand castles to convey the speaker's vulnerability and repetitive undermining of the relationship, resulting in a complete knowledge of the relational dynamic through this structured metaphor. Two domains that have been connected in this phrase are impermanent creation and destruction.

Datum #5:

My **spine split** from **carrying us** up the hill

(T5P1L4)

Datum #5 shows how The line "My spine split from carrying us up the hill" is a structural metaphor because it employs the physical act of the spine cracking under weight to reflect the emotional and psychological strain of supporting a tough undertaking. "My spine split" conjures up images of extreme physical strain and breaking under pressure, whereas "carrying us up the hill" represents the labor and fight required to overcome problems or trials. The metaphor conveys the toll that such efforts take on a person, emphasizing the difficulty and the breaking point reached as a result of the overwhelming responsibility. This phrase connects two domains: physiology and efforts.

b) Orientational Metaphor

An orientational metaphor organizes concepts based on spatial orientation. These metaphors help to understand emotions through physical directions. In this research, 63 orientational metaphor data were found, which were represented by 10 data as follows:

Datum #11: **On** a six-lane Texas highway

(T11P3L2)

The phrase "On a six-lane Texas highway" serves as an orientational metaphor by expressing spatial orientation and cultural context. The term "on" establishes a spatial link by placing something or someone on a surface, which is in line with everyday life of physical orientation. Highways represent movement, direction, and travel, metaphorically conveying themes of progress, journey, speed, or direction in life or activities. Furthermore, the image of a "six-lane Texas highway" conjures the vastness and fast-paced nature of Texas roadways, implying openness, possibility, and the concept of a grand journey or adventure, which enriches the metaphorical meaning through cultural context.

Datum #12: You **lowdown** boy, you stand **up** guy

(T12P2L6)

Datum #12 shows that the line "You lowdown boy, you stand up guy" uses spatial orientation to convey moral and character judgments. The term "lowdown" denotes a negative appraisal, connecting "down" with dishonesty or a lack of integrity, as the downward direction frequently indicates negative characteristics such as badness or inferiority. In contrast, "stand up" implies positive qualities such as honesty and dependability, with "up" symbolizing goodness, respect, and high moral standing. This use of vertical spatial orientation to express moral character and ethical behavior exemplifies how orientational metaphors shape the interpretation of abstract notions by physical direction.

Datum #13: Breaking **down**, I hit the floor,

(T13P2L6)

Datum #13 shows that the phrase "Breaking down, I hit the floor, All the pieces of me shattered as the crowd chanting, 'More'" describes emotional and psychological states using spatial and physical images. "Breaking down" implies a lack of control or collapse, while "down" indicates a negative, weakened state. "I hit the floor" emphasizes this

image, implying a total fall to the lowest point. This metaphor represents complicated emotional experiences through spatial orientation and visual representation.

Datum #14: You'll slide **into** inboxes and slip through the bars

(T14P5L11)

Datum #14 shows that the line "You'll slide into inboxes and slip through the bars" uses spatial and physical movement to express ideas of ease and elusiveness. "Slide into inboxes" implies a seamless, unnoticeable presence in online interaction. Similarly, "slip through the bars" conjures up images of effortlessly escaping captivity or barriers, symbolizing the capacity to avoid limitations or constraints. These descriptions use movement orientations—sliding and slipping—to depict the idea of flowing through environments with little to no obstacles, expressing abstract concepts of accessibility and escape through physical movements.

Datum #15:

Shirts off, and your friends lift you **up** over their heads

(T15P7L1)

Datum #15 shows that the lyrics "Shirts off, and your friends lift you up over their heads" are an orientational metaphor in which the spatial orientation "up" represents a positive, elevated situation. Being raised up physically conveys feelings of success, celebration, and encouragement, implying that someone is experiencing an epiphany of joy and fellowship. The metaphorical use of "up" gives a sense of being honored and exalted.

c) Ontological Metaphor

An ontological metaphor treats abstract concepts as concrete objects. This type of metaphor helps to understand intangible ideas by giving them physical attributes. In this research, 273 ontological metaphor data were found, which were represented by 10 data points as follows:

Datum #21: And fell victim to **interlopers' glances**

(T21P3L3)

Datum #21 implies that the line "and fell victim to interlopers' glances" refers to a state of being or existence influenced by the acts or perceptions of others. An "interloper's glance" means a quick look from someone who doesn't belong in a particular place or

situation. It is concerned with the nature of being or existence, and in this metaphor, the subject (most often a person or entity) is depicted as undergoing an alteration in their state of being as a result of the gazes of interlopers—people who enter or interfere with their affairs. It implies that external observation or interference has changed or influenced their essence or identity.

Datum #22: **Lunar valleys** in my mind

(T23P5L2)

Datum #22 shows how the line "Lunar valleys in my mind" uses the concept of lunar landscapes to express the interior of the earth of a person's emotions and thoughts. The term "lunar valleys" metaphorically refers to deep, sloping mental landscapes similar to those seen on the moon—mysterious, enormous, and possibly unexplored. This metaphor implies that the mind contains a complicated and frequently unknown terrain, with valleys representing the depths and complexities of thinking, memories, and emotions. By comparing mental landscapes to lunar characteristics, the metaphor emphasizes the immensity and depth of the inner world, provoking reflection on the richness and diversity within humans.

Datum #23: There's a **bronze spray-tanned statue** of you

(T24P1L2)

Datum #23 illustrates that the line "There's a bronze spray-tanned statue of you" is defined as an ontological metaphor since it assigns the characteristics of a statue—specifically, bronze and spray-tanned—to a person. Ontological metaphors involve tying abstract or non-physical characteristics to concrete objects or phenomena. The use of "bronze" and "spray-tanned" to describe the individual symbolically conveys traits such as supposed permanence (bronze statues are sturdy and long-lasting) and a superficial or manufactured aspect. This metaphorical construction highlights how people conceptualize and attach aspects of tangible things to people in general, combining physical and abstract elements to express a deeper meaning about the person's perceived image or presence.

Datum #24: I had died the **tiniest death**

(T25P1L1)

Datum #24 shows that the line "I had died the tiniest death" uses the concept of death to imply an intense emotional or psychological experience rather than factual mortality.

In this context, "the tiniest death" refers to a period of deep emotional or spiritual development in which a part of oneself experiences a major change or loss. Ontological metaphors address the nature of being and existence, and in this situation, the metaphorical death represents a substantial inner change or upheaval that alters one's sense of self and identity. It employs the concept of death to communicate the depth and severity of an emotional or existential crisis, hence probing the essence of personal existence and development through metaphor.

Datum #25: **Poison blood from the wound of the pricked hand**

(T26P4L5)

Datum #25 implies that the line, "Poison blood from the wound of the pricked hand" uses visuals to express deeper existential or spiritual implications. The term "pricked hand" refers to a little, purposeful injury, whereas "poison blood" symbolizes something bad or destructive arising from this cut. Learn about the nature of being and existence, with the physical wound and its poisonous aftermath representing the concept of internal struggle, guilt, or the impact of one's deeds on the essence of one's being. It looks into issues of inner turmoil and the impact of moral or ethical actions on a person's identity and perception, employing physical aspects to investigate deeper existential concerns.

Meaning of the Lyrics Containing Metaphors

Every metaphor present in the lyrics must possess its own distinct meaning. The lyrics' meaning is determined by the context in which they appear, as well as by comparing the lyrics before and after them. This research examined two types of metaphors: orientational and ontological. The meaning of the lyrics will be explained as follows:

a) Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphors are metaphors that use spatial or directional depictions to show the metaphor. Each metaphor from this orientational metaphor has a meaning or definition that is conveyed behind it. In this research, orientational metaphors can be seen in the tables from Appendix 1 to Appendix 31 that had been checklist as types of orientational metaphors in the column under the "OR" characterization.

b) Ontological Metaphor

An ontological metaphor is a type that uses words to assign physical characteristics to an abstract concept to demonstrate the metaphor. Each metaphor in this ontological metaphor represents the meaning of the word order chosen for defining it. Ontological metaphors can be found in tables Appendix 1 to Appendix 31, which have been marked as such in the "OT" column.

Discussion

According to the research findings, there are three metaphors in all of Taylor Swift's song lyrics on her most recent album, The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology. After conducting research, researchers found that the most common metaphors were ontological metaphors, followed by structural metaphors, with orientational metaphors being the least common. Furthermore, ontological metaphors appear throughout the lyrics of the songs on the selected album. Further investigation revealed that structural metaphors were mostly found in "The Manuscript" because this song, as the closing or epilogue of the selected album, explains the singer's point of view as a lyricist and her life, which she describes through the songs on the album.

The lyricist often uses two different domains to explain or interpret something in the lyrics of "The Manuscript". This is followed by orientational metaphors, which are most often found in "Down Bad" because the theme of this song is about someone who feels hopelessly infatuated with someone who does not feel the same way and is described as being "down bad". In this song, there are many uses of direction to describe feelings, such as "down", "up", or "back". Finally, ontological metaphors are most often found in "The Bolter" because this song has a theme about a woman's repeated pattern of entering and abruptly leaving relationships, driven by a desire for freedom and the thrill of the chase, while also reflecting on the impact of her past trauma and the emotional consequences of her actions. The use of ontological metaphors here serves as a medium to describe many sentences more beautifully and unusually (Lazar, 2003; Ramadhika Vajara, 2022).

To answer the second research question, the researcher investigated the meanings of the words and sentences in the songs that contain metaphors. To determine a meaning that is compatible with the song's topic, the researcher examines and investigates the lines preceding

the song lyrics that contain the metaphor under consideration, as well as the meaning of the lyrics that follow. Researchers discovered that every lyric with a metaphor has a deeper and distinct meaning because the comparable words and diction with a metaphor can express a more complex situation than those without a metaphor. The context provided by a lyric can be said to be in line with the concept and context conveyed throughout the song and its title (Jati, 2020).

Additionally, the study discovered that some figurative languages were quite similar. For example, ontological metaphors can be similar to personification. However, as Lakoff and Johnson (2003) explained, personification is a broad category that encompasses various metaphors, each focusing on a different aspect of a person or a way of perceiving someone. The commonality among them is that metaphors are extensions of ontological metaphors, enabling us to understand phenomena in human terms—terms based on our own motivations, goals, actions, and characteristics. This suggests that the discovery of one metaphor might closely resemble other types of figurative language.

This also points out the gap between this research and previous investigations by showing that the research's objective successfully demonstrated the richness of existing metaphors based on the chosen theory. The research gap can also be identified from the selection of different objects between the current and previous researchers. The current researchers chose Taylor Swift's new album entitled The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology, while previous researchers (Yasmina Frida & Zuraida, 2022; Amiruddin, 2020) focused on earlier albums, with Folklore being one of the most studied. These two albums differ in themes and genres; The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology is Pop, whereas Folklore is Indie-Folk and Alternative-Rock. Despite both albums predominantly addressing the heartbreak of a relationship, they differ in their conveyance and lyrical composition. Folklore contains more structural metaphors, while The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology features more ontological metaphors. Thus, with different genres and themes, the types of metaphors most commonly found in these two albums also vary.

From research conducted by Yasmina Frida & Zuraida (2022), who analyzed 8 tracks on the album titled Folklore, 13 structural metaphors, 12 orientational metaphors, and 10 ontological metaphors were found. In this study, which analyzed 31 tracks, 130 structural metaphors, 63 orientational metaphors, and 273 ontological metaphors were identified. The striking difference between the two studies lies in the number of songs analyzed. The significant difference in the

number of tracks studied results in varying metaphors found. Additionally, Taylor Swift's evolving lyrical abilities, reflecting her personal growth, experience, and artistic exploration, contribute to this variation. This progression is evident in the increasing number of tracks on her albums, with her previous album, Midnights, featuring 23 songs, compared to the latest album's 31 songs. Thus, it can be concluded that Taylor Swift's advanced writing skills and personal experiences have led to a higher number of metaphors in her latest album.

And, based on this research and all of the metaphors found in each lyric of the chosen album, it has been proven that metaphor is one of the important keys of music, especially in the lyrics. Metaphors in lyrics cannot be separated. As (Pattison, 2009) stated, metaphors are an essential component of excellent lyric composition and serve as a foundation for lyrics. Additionally, the lyrics' meaning differs based on the line's topic and context. These two elements work together to create excellent lyrics for all of the songs.

Conclusions

The research concludes that ontological metaphors appear more often in Taylor Swift's lyrics than the other two types. Researchers discovered significant differences in the amount of data of the three types, with ontological metaphor appearing the most frequently compared to the other two, followed by structural metaphor and then orientational metaphor. The metaphors contained in all the lyrics make up over half of the total; nearly all of the lyrics use these three metaphors. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the lyrics in this album are quite rich in metaphors, which beautify the writing of the lyrics, and that Taylor Swift, the album's singer-songwriter, succeeded in creating an album almost full of metaphors.

Regarding the second research question, researchers discovered that every existing metaphor has a meaning behind it. As in every lyric that has an orientational or ontological metaphor. Lyric lines that use direct language instead of metaphors appear less appealing than lyric lines that use metaphors. Aside from that, the lyrics are consistent with the overall topic or concept conveyed by each song's lyrics. Hence, not only are the phrases beautiful but the phrases are also cohesive or in line with the concept of the song that want to portray through the lyrics in the songs on the chosen album.

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