

**THE STUDY OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSION
IN DREAM THEATER'S ALBUM *IMAGES AND WORDS***



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In Dream Theater's Album "Images and Words"
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**THE STUDY OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSION
IN DREAM THEATER'S ALBUM *IMAGES AND WORDS***

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ABSTRAK

Artikel ini membahas mengenai penggunaan bahasa kiasan seperti metafora dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Metafora tidak hanya dipakai dalam percakapan tapi juga dalam puisi, essay bahkan lirik lagu. Dalam artikel ini dikaji tentang metaphorical expression berdasarkan kategori, arti dan fungsinya. Ketiga hal tersebut terdapat pada lirik lagu salah satu album Dream Theater yang berjudul *Images and Words*. Dengan menganalisa metaphorical expression artikel ini memberi penjelasan, keterangan dan detail lebih lanjut mengenai jenis, arti dan fungsi dari berbagai macam metaphorical expression yg terdapat pada lirik lagu *Images and Words*, sehingga pembaca bisa memperkaya pengetahuannya mengenai metaphorical expression secara optimal.

Kata Kunci : Figurative language, metaphorical expression, *Images and Words* and semantic point of view.

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A. Introduction

Language is used by the people around the world to communicate and interact to each other. Communication has purposes to send a message to other people. In sending the message, the sender does not only use an explicit message or direct expression but also uses an implicit message or indirect expression; where the meaning of message is different from its message, such as using figurative language.

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the direct interpretation. When the speaker uses direct language, he or she is simply stating the facts as they are. Figurative language, in comparison, it uses exaggerations or alterations to make a particular point in a language, for example: *I am so hungry, I could eat a horse*. This show how starves the speaker is, so he can eat any impossible thing. It proves that figurative language is used to enrich the language.

The figurative language consists of simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, etc. Moreover, there is one figurative language that is often used in daily activity, which is metaphor. Metaphor is derived from the Greek *metaphora* which means to transfer. Lakoff dan Johnson (1980: 3) stated that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. This show how metaphorical expression is completely influences people's life. Thus, metaphorical expression helps us to express our understanding of the world around us.

Making comparison in metaphor, does not employ the word *like* or *as*, instead, likeness is suggested. It needs deep understanding in order to get the

meaning of metaphorical expression by interpreting the distinction between the two objects, for example: *You are a tulip seen today*. Since a tulip is beautiful, the speaker saying the girl is beautiful, just like a tulip in the day time. In this case, the speaker does not have to say she was beautiful; he used metaphors to describe her beauty.

The metaphorical expression is also known as “word pictures” which function to convey a figurative language. As what mentioned above, the metaphorical expression is an interesting yet complicated figurative language. That is why sometimes people make mistake in using and in understanding it. Most of them do not know the meaning, function and the context in applying metaphorical expression. This situation emerges since people who do not have a deep understanding about metaphor tend to equalize it with the simile because both of them are almost the same; a simile would say you are like something, meanwhile a metaphor is more literally direct - it says you are something.

Metaphorical expression is divided into two types; there are creative metaphor and conventional metaphor. Metaphorical expression usually explored in the literary text, mainly poetry. This metaphor is called as creative metaphor. Knowles and Moon (2006: 5) said that kind of metaphorical expression which downright in literary text is said as creative metaphor which is used by the writer to express their sense and idea into the writing to make the reader catch up the meaning behind it. Meanwhile, the conventional metaphor as stated by Knowles and Moon (2006: 6) is the metaphor which is used in daily conversation to utter the feeling and emotion, as an illustration: *He exploded, which shows anger*.

Furthermore, related to this study, the writer put an attention to the creative metaphor. The creative metaphor is not only found in the poetry but also in the lyric of songs, because it is similar to the poetry. Zbikowski (2002: 512) explained that metaphorical expression which lie in the lyric of songs helps the listener to understand and to seize the meaning of the song easily. The metaphorical expression makes the song more attractive and unique. This illustrate that metaphorical expression is another way that we use to replace “normal” words in order to help others understand and catch the message which we articulate.

As with anyone uses “normal” words, the song’s writer tend to uses metaphor to express their feeling, experience and their concerned about human being and phenomena they see around them through the lyric. Metaphor helps the song’s writer to get a sense of how to precede the lyric in sending the message to the listener.

Moreover, in the lyric of songs, metaphorical expression generally has function, theme and meaning. It can be a tool to interact with others and to gets the sympathy from the listener. Based on explanation above, the lyric of songs are related to one another and tells a story to the listener; it can be about life and living, as seen in the song of *Elton John* entitled *Candle in the Wind* which is dedicated for Lady Diana; revealed the fragility of life and how weak Lady Diana is, which the same with the candle in the wind that may extinguish suddenly. This phenomenon is also discovered through the lyric of songs that writer taken from the album of *Dream Theater’s* entitled *Images and Words*.

The song's writer of the album *Images and Words* used different types of metaphorical expressions which have different meanings, and functions. In this study, the writer analyzes the types, meanings, and functions which metaphor plays in semantic point of view. The writer takes Dream Theatre Album *Images and Words* because it uncovers the power of human being in order to survive in this world. That is the writer's reason to write an article entitled *The Study of Metaphorical Expression in Dream Theatre's Album Images and Words*.

B. Discussion

1.1 Semantic Theories of Metaphor

Semantic is a branch of linguistics that study about meaning. In this case, semantic theory is very useful in getting the sense of meaning in metaphorical expression. Basically, there are theories in semantics proposed by Levinson (1983: 148) which are commonly used in order to understand metaphor and its phenomena. The first theory called a comparison theory. In this theory, it is stated that metaphors are similes with suppressed or deleted prediction of similarity, for example:

1. Universities are like compost heaps.
2. Universities are compost heaps.

The first sentence is simile where the word *universities* is compared to *the compost heaps* by using the word *like* while the second sentence is metaphorical expression. In this sentence, the word *like* is deleted.

The second theory is called an interaction theory. Accordingly, metaphors are special uses of linguistic expressions when one 'metaphorical' expression (or focus) is embedded in another 'literal' expression (or frame), such that the meaning of the focus interacts with and changes the meaning of the frame, and vice versa. It means that metaphor is a process of changing the literal meaning into metaphorical one.

1.2 Types, Functions and Meaning of Metaphor in Images and Words

In analyzing the data, the writer prefers to apply the theories of categories of metaphorical expressions by Ullman (1962) and Leech (1969). The writer also utilizes the theory of metaphorical expression functions by Ullman (1962), along with the additional theory from Ungerer and Schmid (1996). Furthermore, to complete the study the writer analyzes the meaning of that metaphor as well; the writer uses the basic principle of metaphor proposed by Searle (1979).

There are four categories of metaphorical expression which is found in the songs of Dream Theater's album entitled "*Images and Words*." They are anthropomorphic, animistic, synaesthetic, and from concrete to abstract metaphor. Moreover, the meanings of metaphorical expression used in album *Images and Words* were interpreted based on principles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. Each of categories, meaning, and functions is further analysed and discussed below:

➤ **Corpus 1**

Contextual description

Title : Pull me under
Written by : John Petrucci
Lyrics : *Clouds ran by*
and I ran with them

Category

This metaphor is categorized as animistic metaphor, where the animate characteristic is attributed to inanimate. 'Ran' is the characteristics of animate; human or animal. In this expression, 'Ran' is attributed to 'clouds' as inanimate. The fact that clouds cannot run but slowly moves blown by the wind.

Meaning

'Clouds ran by and I ran with them' could be interpreted based on principle 4 of metaphorical interpretation, where the listener just perceive the connection, so that the utterance of P is associated in our mind with R properties. The meaning of 'clouds ran by and I ran with them' is the situation when human following the passage of life. It also proves that human life always moving indefinitely, so human needs to pursue the goal of their life. Along with that the meaning of 'ran' can be seen as fast or speed.

Function

The function of metaphor above is as an expressive device. The writer used this metaphor in order to express his feelings to the listener that he is in a hurry

time. He running his time to move as fast as he can; he must following the stream of life or his life will leave him away.

➤ **Corpus 2**

Contextual description

Title : Pull me under
Written by : John Petrucci
Lyric : *Arrows fly*

Category

This metaphor is categorized as animistic metaphor, where the animate characteristic is attributed to inanimate. ‘Fly’ is the characteristics of animate, especially birds. It is metaphor if ‘Fly’ is attributed to arrows as inanimate because arrows cannot fly but to be flown.

Meaning

The meaning of metaphor above is taken from the utterance. This metaphor can be interpreted by using principle 4, where things which are P are not R, nor R they like R things, nor R they believed to be R, nonetheless it is a fact about our emotional feeling which is playing in this part. The ‘arrows fly’ does not mean as it is literally said but the prominent characteristic of fly is attributed to the situation which arise in the writer’s life as if he is trying to speed up and quickly dashed to get into his destination which can be said as the goal of his life.

Function

The function of metaphor above was as an expressive device. The writer used this metaphor in order to express his feelings to the listener that he is running the time to catch up for his life; his purpose as fast as flying arrows by utilizing the opportunity and power that he has.

➤ **Corpus 3**

Feature of context

Title : Another day
Written by : John Petrucci
Lyric : *The coldness of this words*

Category

'The coldness of this word' is called Synaesthetic metaphor because there is transposition from touch to sound. In this situation the transposition is from 'the coldness' to 'this word'. The truth that there is no word which cold but impolite and have no value.

Meaning

The Synaesthetic metaphor above could be revealed by using principle 4 of, where the listener just perceive a connection, so that utterance of P is associated in our mind with R properties. The meaning of 'coldness' is lack of affection or enthusiasm which cannot elevate the passion of life.

Function

The metaphor, 'the coldness of this word' has an explanatory function. The song's writer used this metaphor in order to clarify that no matter how hard he is trying; his effort to maintain his life is meaningless as he is not able to lift up his enthusiasm to life.

➤ **Corpus 4**

Feature of context

Title : Take the time
Written by : John Petrucci
Lyric : *You're fighting the weight of the world*

Category

The metaphor above is categorized as concrete to abstract and vice versa metaphor. In this expression, 'fighting' is an abstract thing which is used to describe a concrete thing 'the weight of the world'. It is impossible for human to fight with the world; it concludes that fight is the action of struggling.

Meaning

The metaphorical expression which are used in the lyrics above could be interpreted by using principle 3, where things which are P often said or believed to be false, even though both speaker and hearer may know that R is false of P. 'Fighting the weight' can be interpreted as the effort to survive from the huge obstacle which exist in the middle of human life. When 'fighting the weight' is

attributed to the world, it could be interpreted as a big effort to stay alive in the in the world which may destroy him.

Function

The function of this metaphor above is constitutive function. He described his endeavor to survive from misery of life. By using this metaphor, the speaker directed the listener that he is capable to fight for his life and could get rid of his despair.

➤ **Corpus 5**

Feature of context

Title : The Miracle and The Sleeper
Written by : John Petrucci
Lyric : *You'll find yourself swimming in a lake of fire*

Category

The metaphor above was categorized as from concrete to an abstract. In this expression, a lake is a concrete thing which is attributed to an abstract thing 'fire'. Since the 'fire' is visible but cannot be touch by human and it is difficult to blown it down when it flame, that is make the fire become conceptual in this lyric.

Meaning

This metaphor can be interpreted based on principle 1, where things which are P, are by definition R. If metaphor works, R will be one of the silent defining

characteristics of P. One of the characteristics of fire is heat. If fire is used to describe the lake, it could be meant as a heat lake. As we know that there is no lake that can be burn by the fire, it could be meant as problem. So, ‘swimming in the lake of fire’ is the life which is full of obstacle, crisis and difficulties.

Function

The metaphor function in that case is as a constitutive since writer used this metaphor in order to construct a conceptual framework of abstract ideas. He described the pictures of his dreams that we would swim in a lake of fire. It shows how hard life can be. By using this metaphor, the song’s writer give the listener an idea that the life is not as easy as it is look alike.

1.3 The Categories of Metaphorical Expression

There are 4 categories of metaphorical expression that can be found in the album of Dream Theater entitled “Images and Words”.

Table 1: Categories of Metaphorical Expression

No.	Categories of Metaphorical Expression	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Animistic metaphor	11	36%
2.	Anthropomorphic metaphor	1	4%
3.	Synaesthetic metaphor	7	24%
4.	Concrete to abstract and vice versa metaphor	11	36%

Based on the table above, it can be seen that there are 4 categories of metaphorical expression are formulate in the lyric of song of Dream Theater's album *Images and Words*. From that analysis can be seen that the types of metaphor which is used the most by the song's writer is animistic and concrete to abstract and vice versa metaphor because it can verify the song's writer interest about the living thing and to the conceptual understanding into concrete terms or attribute to concrete term or physical existence to abstraction concept.

1.3 The Functions of Metaphorical Expression

Metaphorical expression in this article has its own functions. That functions is used to explore the point and the idea which the song's writer put on that lyric.

Table 2: Functions of Metaphorical Expression

No.	Functions of Metaphorical Expression	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Expressive device	7	23%
2.	As an outlet for intense emotion	7	23%
3.	Constitutive function	4	14%
4.	Explanatory function	12	40%

The table above shows the functions of metaphorical expression in Dream Theater's album "Images and Words", they are: Expressive device, as an outlet for intense emotion, constitutive function and explanatory function. That

functions were analyzed with 3 theories; this is done by the writer to search out the functions accurately, so that, there is no doubt and misunderstood in this study. Those theories are theories of Ullman, Ungerer and Schmid. The writer find out that the explanatory function is mostly used in the lyric of song, as it used to illustrate and describe the meaning inside the metaphor, so that the listener can catch the meaning of the song easily.

C. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This article, entitled *The Study of Metaphorical Expression in Dream Theater's album Images and Words* is aimed to find and analyze the *metaphorical expression* in Dream Theater's album *Images and Words*. This study also meant to evaluate the categories, functions and meaning of metaphorical expression based on semantic point of view. In collecting the data, the writer searches the transcription of all songs in the Dream Theater's album *Images and Words* through the music site to complete the data and to assist the writer in analyzing it easily. In analyzing the data, the writer prefers to apply the theories of categories metaphorical expressions by Ullman (1962) and Leech (1969). The writer also utilizes the theory of metaphorical expression functions by Ullman (1962), along with the additional theory from Ungerer and Schmid (1996). Furthermore, to complete the study the writer analyzes the meaning of that metaphor as well; the writer use the basic principle of metaphor proposes by Searle (1979). From that study, the writer found that there are some metaphorical categories in Dream Theater's album *Images and Words* which are: animistic metaphor,

anthropomorphic, from concrete to abstract and vice versa metaphor and Synaesthetic metaphor. Meanwhile, the functions of it are: expressive device and as an outlet for intense emotion, constitutive and explanatory function. From this study it can be seen that metaphorical expression can be place in many fields, so that, people especially student is able to understand and using it in daily.

Furthermore, the writer suggests others to analyze the metaphorical expression on different context because it will make and create the different ideas and thoughts, so that, the study of metaphorical expression will grow up and become better in the future. Moreover, this article also can be used as the references for the related linguistic studies. Hopefully this paper can be useful to increase the knowledge of the reader (especially the student) about metaphorical expression.

Catatan: Artikel ini disusun berdasarkan makalah yang dibuat penulis dengan bantuan dan arahan dari Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S, M.Hum sebagai Pembimbing.

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