

**CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR IN THE POETRY COLLECTION *LOVE LETTERS FOR THE FUTURE YOU* BY ADI K : COGNITIVE SEMANTICS STUDY**

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***Abstract***

*This research aims to find out the types of conceptual metaphors and then describe the meanings of these types of conceptual metaphors. This research uses the theory of Conceptual Metaphor from Lakoff and Jhonson (2003) followed by the study of Cognitive Semantics. This research uses qualitative research methods. The data used in this research is a poetry collection book entitled Love Letters for the Future You by Adi K. The results of this study show that there are 3 types of Conceptual Metaphors, namely Structural Metaphors, Orientational Metaphors, and Ontological Metaphors based on the theory of Lakoff and Jhonson (2003). This study found 4 data of Conceptual Metaphor of Structural Metaphor type. In addition, this study found 3 data of Conceptual Metaphor from the type of Orientational Metaphor. And finally, this study found 3 data of Conceptual Metaphor of Ontological Metaphor type.*

**Keywords :** *Lakoff & Jhonson Theory, Conceptual Metaphor, Love Letters for the Future You.*

***Abstrak***

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis metafora konseptual dan kemudian mendeskripsikan makna-makna dari jenis metafora konseptual tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Metafora Konseptual dari Lakoff dan Jhonson (2003) diikuti dengan kajian Semantik Kognitif. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu buku kumpulan puisi yang berjudul Love Letters for the Future You by Adi K. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 3 jenis Metafora Konseptual yaitu Metafora Struktural, Metafora Orientasional, dan Metafora Ontologis berdasarkan teori Lakoff dan Jhonson (2003). Penelitian ini menemukan 4 data Metafora Konseptual dari jenis Metafora Struktural. Selain itu, penelitian ini menemukan 3 data Metafora Konseptual dari jenis Metafora Orientasional. Dan yang terakhir, penelitian ini menemukan 3 data Metafora Konseptual dari jenis Metafora Ontologis.*

**Kata Kunci :** *Teori Lakoff & Jhonson, Metafora Konseptual, Love Letters for the Future You.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Generally, language is a means of communication used to convey intentions, ideas, thoughts, and feelings to others. With language we can interact easily with others. Conversely, without language, it will certainly make it difficult for someone to convey what they want or hope for. Thus, it is important for someone to master and continue to improve their language skills. Harmer (2007) in Rorimpandey et al. (2021) argues that Language is an important aspect in humans. Language has a big role in human life to establish relationships with their environment. Harmer (2007) in Rorimpandey et al. (2021) stated that language is widely used in communication between people who do not speak the same first (or even second) language. This shows that language is very important to learn in human life. Meanwhile, literary works are a form of human thought. The work has a certain effect on its readers. The beauty of language and the word formation style of an gives its own expression with its sentences. Expression in poetry that provides a description and representation of the feelings of the author Fransori (2017). One of the literary works is poetry.

Nurgiyantoro (2005) in Hayati (2016) reveals that poetry is a literary genre that pays great attention to the selection of linguistic aspects. The beautiful effect of poetry is obtained from the selection of language, especially the diction aspect that concerns the elements of sound, form and meaning of poetry. Poetry expresses thoughts that arouse feelings, stimulate the imagination of the senses in a rhythmic arrangement. All of that is something important, which is recorded and expressed, expressed interestingly and impressively. Ntelu et al. (2020) defines Poetry is one of the literary works that contains the author's expression that is overgrown by words containing aesthetics, one of which is contained in it called figurative language. It can be concluded that poetry is an imaginative work to express the poet's feelings poured in the form of beautiful words to give an interesting and aesthetic impression by using a distinctive language. One of the features of poetry is figurative language. Figurative language in poetry aims to make readers feel the imagination of the meaning contained in the lyrics of the poem. As stated by Pradopo (2000) in Rorimpandey et al. (2021) figurative language consists of simile, metaphor, parable, metonymy, synecdoche, allegory and personification. Thus, one form of figurative language is metaphor. So in poetry there are metaphors. However, metaphor is also found in linguistics known as conceptual metaphor.

As stated by Chaer (2002) in Amilia and Widyaruli Anggraeni (2017). Semantics is agreed as a term used in the field of linguistics that studies linguistic signs with the things they signify. Semantics is referred to as a field of linguistics that studies the

relationship between linguistic signs and the things they signify. In other words, semantics is a field of study in linguistics that studies the meanings contained in language units. Thus, semantics can clearly be said to be the study of meaning. Chaer emphasized that semantics has the same position as phonology, grammar, and syntax in one linguistic study. As stated by Arimi (2015) in Dessiliona and Nur (2018) Cognitive semantics is an approach based on experimental, namely how language is used and experienced in reality. The principles of cognitive semantic analysis according to Evans and Green (2006) in Wiradharma and Tharik W S (2016) are concept formation, semantic structure, meaning representation, and meaning formation. Cognitive semantics investigates the relationship between experience, conceptual systems, and semantic structures embodied by language. In particular, cognitive semantics adherents investigate conceptual structure (knowledge representation) and conceptualization (construction meaning).

The concept of metaphor began to develop since the publication of the book *Metaphors We Live By* in 1980 written by George Lakoff together with his colleague, Mark Johnson. Lakoff and Johnson (2003) in Dessiliona and Nur (2018) says that a metaphor is something that has another meaning and its main function is to understand. In other words, metaphor is a part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. Lakoff and Johnson observed that all human languages use metaphorical meanings to communicate at various levels of abstraction from concrete reality. This theory is Lakoff and Johnson's theory of metaphor which is better known as conceptual metaphor theory. Conceptual metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (2003) in Dessiliona and Nur (2018) is the result of mental construction based on the principle of analogy which involves conceptualizing an element in another element. Conceptual metaphor includes transfer from (source domain) to (target domain) so that the second domain is understood inseparably from the first domain. This theory of metaphor is better known as (Conceptual Metaphor Theory, abbreviated as CMT). An important feature of CMT is the utilization of certain aspects of the source domain or target domain that contribute to the metaphor. That is, if it is suggested that a conceptual metaphor can be expressed by A IS B, this does not mean that the entire concept of A or B is included, only a particular aspect is selected.

The use of conceptual metaphors in poetry, as it has been discussed earlier, is the main foundation of this study. By integrating a cognitive approach to understanding linguistic meaning, this study aims to make a significant contribution to the understanding of how meaning is produced and understood through the use of conceptual metaphors in poetry. This research uses the poetry collection *Love Letters for the Future*

*You* by Adi K. The reason this research takes the poetry book *Love Letters for the Future You* by Adi K is because when identifying and checking from the Google Scholar platform or from other media sources, no journal or thesis has been found that examines or studies this book. Meanwhile, this book is categorized as a new book in 2024 from several other books from Adi K's works.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In this study using qualitative methods. Creswell (2014) explains that qualitative research is a method for exploring and understanding the meaning that some individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or human problems. The qualitative research process involves important efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting specific data from participants, analyzing data inductively from specific to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data. The final report for this research has a flexible structure or outline. Anyone involved in this form of research should adopt a research perspective that is inductive in style, focuses on individual meaning, and interprets the complexity of an issue. In this study takes data sources from books, namely the book "*Love Letters for the Future You* by Adi K" which contains several kinds of poetry. The data collection technique used in this research is library research, which is a data collection technique by studying scientific journals, literature books, and other sources related to the problem being studied. After collecting the data, this research analyzes a collection of poems that contain conceptual metaphors.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this study, the use of conceptual metaphors in the poetry collection *Love Letters for the Future You* by Adi K(2024), using the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (2003). This analysis categorizes conceptual metaphors into three main types : Structural metaphor, Orientational metaphor, and Ontological metaphor.

### a. Structural metaphor.

Data 1 : (line 1 & 2, stanza 2, page 29)

*"Love is measured by transformation"*.

Analysis :

Source domain : Love

Target domain : measured by transformation

By saying "Love is measured by transformation" this metaphor uses the concrete concept of transformation to understand and measure abstract love. It shows how one

concept (love) is explained in terms of another concept (transformation). This metaphor implies that we can judge or measure love based on the changes or transformations that occur as a result of the love. For example, how love changes a person or relationship for better or worse.

The meaning of the conceptual metaphor “Love is measured by transformation” is that the existence of love is judged based on the tangible changes it brings about. This metaphor provides a concrete way to understand and evaluate love through impacts and outcomes that can be seen and felt.

Data 2 : (line 1 & 2, stanza 1, page 46)

*“Missing you is a job that I do for free”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Job

Target domain : Missing you

In phrasing, “missing you” is an abstract concept described in terms of the concept of “job”. The concept of “job” is done to help visualize and understand the commitment involved in missing someone. By describing missing you as a job, the speaker gives a more concrete picture of how missing someone can be a time and energy-consuming activity, yet done willingly and selflessly.

In the structural type conceptual metaphor “Missing you is a job that I do for free” the meaning is that the feeling of missing someone is explained through the structure of the concept of work which means that the feeling of missing is understood as an activity that has similarities to work in terms of dedication, responsibility, and commitment.

Data 3 : (line 10 & 11, stanza 2, page 121)

*“your love is your home”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Home

Target domain : Love

In the metaphor “Your love is your home”. The context of “Love” can be conceptualized as a refuge in the sense of providing protection from loneliness, security, and comfort. By conceptualizing “love” in terms of the structure of a “home”, this metaphor can create a more concrete and meaningful picture of what love is: a place where one can find a source of comfort, security, and peace, all of which are represented by the concept of home.

The metaphorical meaning of “Your love is your home” is that one's love provides the same sense of security and comfort as a home. This metaphor combines the concept of home with the concept of love to express several aspects such as protection, tranquility, warmth and affection.

Data 4 : (line 1, stanza 1, page 112)

*“Time is precious”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Precious

Target domain : Time

In this example, the two conceptual domains are "precious" meaning high value and "time", "precious" meaning value which can be conceptualized as precious gold with the concept of time meaning time is very valuable. Therefore, it can be said that this metaphor is a structural metaphor.

The meaning of the conceptual metaphor “Time is precious” is to describe “time” as something very valuable, similar to a rare and high-value object. In this context, time is treated like gold, money, or jewels that must be carefully guarded and managed. This metaphor emphasizes the importance of utilizing time wisely and not wasting it, because just like other valuable items, time cannot be replaced or regained once lost.

#### b. Orientational metaphor

Data 1 : (line 1, stanza 1 & line 1, stanza 2, page 15)

*“Loving you from afar”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Afar

Target domain : Loving

“Afar” is the source domain that refers to the real physical distance between two people. “Loving” being the target domain refers to the emotional connection and feeling of love, which is an abstract concept. This orientational metaphor helps us understand the concept of love in the context of physical distance. By saying “Loving you from afar,” this metaphor use the concrete experience of distance to describe a complex emotional state.

In this metaphor “physical distance” is used to describe the state of “love”. By using the spatial orientation of “near-far,” this metaphor can describe the state of love in situations where there is real physical distance. This metaphor helps to feel and

understand love despite the spatial separation, conceptualizing love as something that exists and can be felt despite the distance.

The conceptual metaphorical meaning of “Loving you from afar” is an understanding of how love can survive and grow despite physical or emotional distance. This metaphor uses the concrete concept of “physical distance” to help it understand and express the abstract emotional state of feeling strong and loyal love despite the obstacles that separate.

Data 2 : (line 4 & 5, stanza 1, page 106)

*“love better in the future”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Love

Target domain : Better in the future

In this metaphor “love better in the future”, “love” is like a journey or process that takes place over time or is often described as forward movement. “Better” can be conceptualized as an increase or improvement in the quality of love which is associated with upward movement. “In the future” suggests that we view time as a space where we move forward into the future.

The meaning of the metaphor “love better in the future” is a hope and aspiration that love will evolve and improve in quality over time. This metaphor reflects the belief that with effort, patience, and time, love relationships can become deeper and stronger in the future.

Data 3 : (line 11, stanza 3, page 149)

*“Fall in love”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Fall

Target domain : Love

“Fall” inherently denotes movement from top to bottom. This gives a vertical orientation to the concept of love. In many orientational metaphors, “up” is often associated with positive things (happy is up, healthy is up), while “down” is associated with negative things (sad is down, sick is down). However, “fall in love” is an interesting exception where “fall” does not always have a negative connotation.

“Fall” indicates movement from top to bottom. This creates an orientational metaphor where love is conceptualized as something falling into. The word "fall" also implies a lack of control or accidentalness. It depicts love as something that happens to us, not something we consciously choose.

“Love” as a container, this metaphor also implies that love is like a container or space that we can enter or fall into, which is another aspect of spatial orientation.

The meaning of the conceptual metaphor “Fall in love” is the process by which a person begins to feel deep feelings of love or affection towards another person. This metaphor depicts love as a sudden and often unexpected event, similar to how one can suddenly fall in love without planning.

### c. Ontological Metaphor

Data 1 : (line 1 & 2, stanza 1, page 31)

*“We kiss each other’s tears”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Kiss

Target domain : Tears

“We kiss each other's tears” as an ontological metaphor, this metaphor conceptualizes emotions as physical entities, namely tears that can be seen, touched and interacted with. The act of “kissing the tears” is then interpreted as a physical way of providing comfort or affection to the emotion represented by the tears. This metaphor allows us to understand abstract emotional experiences in terms of tangible physical interactions, in a concrete and perceivable way.

In the context of the ontological metaphor, “We kiss each other's tears” means that we give physical comfort and affection to the emotions felt by others. Tears, which are the physical manifestation of such emotions, are the focus of this physical act. By “kissing each other's tears”, we show that we care and want to ease the emotional burden felt by the other person.

Data 2 : (line 1 through 4, stanza 1, page 76)

*“I found a new me inside your beautiful soul”*

Analysis :

Source domain : a new me

Target domain : soul

This type of metaphor conceptualizes abstract phenomena or experiences as concrete objects or entities. In this statement, the abstract concept of “soul” is conceptualized as an entity that has space inside “inside your beautiful soul”. In addition, “a new me” is also treated as an object that can be found within that space. This shows how the abstract experience of self-discovery or personal change is understood through a concrete entity that has an interior. This statement transforms the abstract concepts of



“soul” and “new me” into something that can be treated like a physical object. The “soul” is treated as a container or space that can contain something, and the “new me” is treated as an entity that can reside within that space.

The meaning of the phrase “I found a new me inside your beautiful soul” is that a person feels they have discovered or revealed a new aspect of themselves through a relationship with someone who has a beautiful soul or character. This metaphor describes the personal transformation that occurs as a result of deep and loving interaction with another person.

Data 3 : (line 1 through 3, stanza 1, page 130)

*“I know you are disappointed with this world”*

Analysis :

Source domain : Disappointed

Target domain : World

In the metaphor “I know you are disappointed with this world”. “World” is conceptualized as an entity that can cause or be the object of disappointment. “World” gives a concrete structure to the abstract feeling of being “disappointed”, making it possible to talk about this feeling as if it could be directed or experienced towards something real. “World” as a concrete entity that can be physically understood, but in the context of this metaphor, “world” is used to represent something more abstract. It does not literally refer to the planet earth, but to the living conditions or state of the world that one experiences.

The meaning of the Conceptual Metaphor “I know you are disappointed with this world” is an acknowledgment and understanding that one feels disappointed or dissatisfied with the state, situation, or condition of the world at hand. This metaphor emphasizes that the relationship between the external world and the individual's emotional experience, showing how the world situation can affect one's inner state.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

In closing, this study states that there are types of conceptual metaphors found based on the theory of Lakoff and Jhonson (2003). Thus, this study identifies 10 conceptual metaphor data found in the poetry collection *Love Letters for the Future You* by Adi K. Among them, there are 4 data containing conceptual metaphors included in the structural type of metaphor. Then there are 3 data containing conceptual metaphors which are included in the type of orientational metaphor. And finally, there are 3 data of conceptual metaphors that belong to the type of ontological metaphor.

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