

METAPHOR IN THE SONG LYRICS "AN ANGEL" BY THE KELLY FAMILY : SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

Titis Salsa Firdausiah
Sastra Inggris, Universitas Sebelas April, Sumedang
E-mail: [*firdaussalsa321@gmail.com](mailto:firdaussalsa321@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Semantic analysis of The Kelly Family's song "An Angel Lyrics" is a study of the meaning of language in a musical context. Researcher aim to understand the song using semantic elements such as metaphor, simile, and connotation. We argue that the use of metaphors in song lyrics conveys a powerful message. Literally, a kiss as sweet as honey cannot nourish a person or meet their nutritional needs. Analysis of meaning: However, the use of this metaphor reveals that the person's kisses provide satisfaction, warmth, or comfort that always gives the desire to survive, just like eating which always gives life, like eating which always gives life and strength. "But we are not afraid!" This stanza is an example of a humanizing metaphor, where human traits such as fear are attributed to an entity that has no consciousness. Basically, people must have fear. However, by using this metaphor, the author illustrates that despite something scary or threatening, the person has the courage and strength to face it. Analysis of meaning: In this lyric, the songwriter expresses extraordinary courage as if whatever big thing happens to him doesn't make him afraid or daunted. It can be concluded that the songwriter still wants to achieve the hopes that he poured out earlier at any cost, regardless of the challenges.

Keywords

Semantic, Metaphor, Music, Lyric, The Kelly Family

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the most perfect communication tool, both written and spoken. Language is a dynamic exchange between speakers and listeners, facilitating mutual understanding (Rabiah, 2018). Humans interact with the communication tool called "Language" (Hohenstein, 2023). Language is an expression that contains the intention to convey something to other people (Tomasello, 2023). In addition, language can also be conveyed through works of art, such as poetry, rhymes, rhymes, theater, and songs and other works. such as poetry and songs (Francis, 2021).

In daily lives humans experience a variety of emotions and experiences that are sometimes difficult to express directly (Saganowski 2022). Therefore, humans often use art as a means to convey their feelings and ideas to others (Tolstoy, 2023). One popular form of art is music, Music is a universal form of artistic and cultural expression (Tillakhujayev, 2022). It is not merely entertainment, but a medium for conveying emotions, ideas, and values that cannot always be expressed through ordinary language (Maoula et al., 2022). In this context, music can symbolize complex human experiences whether personal, social, or existential (Camlin, 2023). A song lyrics can be a powerful vessel of expression (Pade, 2025). In the world of contemporary music, The Kelly Family

has stolen the limelight with their interesting works and talents. In this journal, we will conduct a semantic analysis of The Kelly Family's song "An Angel".

Semantic analysis is the study of the meaning contained in language, both the meaning of individual words and the meaning that arises from the relationship between words in a particular context (Nastase et al., 2022). In the context of this song, we will explore how the songwriter's use of language creates deep meaning and affects the listener. Through this analysis, we aim to understand the song created by The Kelly Family using semantic elements such as metaphor, simile, and connotation to convey a powerful message in the song "An Angel".

Analysis of the semantics in The Kelly Family's song "An Angel" will not only provide insight into the effective use of language in a musical context, but will also reveal the meaning and emotional impact that results from the experience of listening to this song. It is hoped that this research will contribute to music lovers, The Kelly Family fans, as well as art observers in understanding the power and depth of the works and songs they perform. Therefore, this study aims to examine how metaphorical language in "An Angel" constructs emotional meaning. The research question addressed is: What types of metaphor are used in the lyrics, and what meanings do they convey?

According to Keraf (1981), language has two meanings as follows: Language is a means of communication between members of society in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech. Language is a communication system that uses vocal symbols (speech sounds) that are arbitrary.

Chaer and Agustina (1995:14) the main function of language is as a means of communication. Language is the ability humans have to communicate with other humans using signs, such as words and movements. Language as a means of communication which is closely related to the field of semantics. Semantics plays an important role in communication because the language used in communication is to convey a meaning. Verhaar (1981: 9) states that semantics (English: semantics) means theory of meaning or theory of meaning, namely the systematic branch of language that investigates meaning or meaning.

The word semantics comes from the Greek *sema* which means sign. "Semantics" was first used by a French philologist Michel Breal (1883). The word semantics was then agreed upon as a term used for the field of linguistics that studies linguistic signs with the things they signify. Therefore, the word semantics can be interpreted as the science of meaning or about meaning, which is one of the three levels of language analysis: phonology, grammar, and semantics (Chaer, 1994: 2).

Song means a variety of rhythmic sound, Song (singing) is the result of the relationship between sound art and language art, as sound art involves the melody and color of the singer's voice (Bishop, 2021). A song is a complete unit of vocal music, consisting of melody (melodic style) and lyrics (language style) in a social context (Isroilovna, 2023).

The use of stylistic language such as metaphors is inevitable in every song (Fadlillah et al., 2021). In an in-depth analysis of musical works from various genres and eras, it has been proven that metaphor is an important element that complements and enriches musical compositions (Kanellos, 2024). Metaphor, as a style of language full of imagination and symbolic comparison, provides an additional dimension to artistic expression through song research shows that the use of metaphors in song lyrics provides a significant communicative advantage (Rahmadhanti et al., 2022).

In the context of songwriting, metaphor serves as a tool that allows musicians and lyricists to convey deeper and more complex meanings (Connor, 2022). Through the choice of metaphorical words, songs are able to express abstract ideas, complex emotions,

and human experiences in ways that are impossible to achieve through literal words alone (Turner, 2022).

One example of a song that caught the author's attention is "An Angel" performed by European-American pop group singers, The Kelly Family. This song was released in 1994 from the album entitled "Over the Hump". This song was written by The Kelly Family. Produced by Kathy Kelly and Hartmut Pfannmüller. Although this song has been around for 29 years, this phenomenal song has captured the hearts of millions of listeners.

According to Panggabean (2022). Metaphor is a study of Semantic figurative meaning, specifically about the comparison of two entities that are different but have similarities to provide emotional effects so that the thoughts and feelings of the speaker can be received or experienced by the listener to the maximum.

According to Leech (1984), metaphors are divided into 4 types, namely:

a. Concretive Metaphor

Concrete metaphor is the use of concrete words and physical objects to describe or represent something abstract or complex. In this metaphor, concrete objects are used as similes or analogies to help understand something that is difficult to understand directly. An example of a concrete metaphor is "he is a firm rock" which describes someone who is strong and stable.

b. Animistic Metaphor

An animistic metaphor is the use of human attributes or traits associated with human life to describe non-living objects or abstract concepts. In this metaphor, non-living objects are given human traits to make them easier to understand or provide emotional appeal. An example of an animistic metaphor is "trees dancing in the wind" which describes the movement of tree branches as dancing.

c. Humanizing Metaphor

Humanizing metaphors are the use of human attributes or human traits to describe animals, objects, or abstract concepts. In this metaphor, a non-human object is given human attributes to bring the reader or listener closer emotionally or give life to the object. An example of a humanizing metaphor is "the sun smiles at us" which describes the sun with the attribute of a smile, which is usually associated with humans.

d. Synaesthetic Metaphor

A synaesthetic metaphor is the use of a combination of different sensory experiences to describe a concept. In this metaphor, sensory experiences such as sight, hearing, smell, or taste are combined to create a more intense or interesting sensory experience. An example of a synesthetic metaphor is "sound color" which describes combining visual experience (color) with auditive experience (sound) to describe a strong impression.

All these types of metaphors are used in literary language and their use gives a new dimension to the language and helps the reader or listener to understand and feel the concepts conveyed more creatively and imaginatively. In the context of this song, metaphors can play an important role in helping us understand and feel the feelings and experiences that the songwriter wants to convey. Through analyzing the metaphors used in the lyrics of this song, we can explore the meaning hidden behind the words and capture the underlying feelings. These metaphors can also help illustrate internal conflicts, personal growth, or social images that the singer wants to express.

This research aims to analyze the use of metaphor in the song "An Angel" by The Kelly Family. Metaphor is one of the strong language styles in literature and music, where a concept or object is described through implicit comparison with another different concept or object. Metaphors provide a figurative and symbolic dimension that can enrich the meaning and message of the song. By understanding the use of metaphors in this song,

we can dive deeper into this work of art and appreciate the expertise of the songwriter and singer The Kelly Family in providing and conveying emotional messages through lyrics and music. This research is expected to provide new insights into the influence of metaphors in creating powerful artistic expressions that touch the hearts of listeners.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to explain the meaning of metaphors found in the song lyrics "An Angel" by The Kelly Family. The data is analyzed using Leech's semantic theory (1981), which classifies metaphors into concrete, animistic, humanizing, and synaesthetic types. Since the study relies solely on textual analysis, expert validation is not required. In qualitative research, the researcher acts as the key instrument (Moleong, 2006).

This research method involves the following steps :

a. Preparation

In this stage, the author searches for metaphorical concepts that match the object of research, and reads several song lyrics with different titles and singers to find metaphors and interpret them to get a good understanding.

b. Data Collection

In this stage, the author selects songs performed by "The Kelly Family" that contain metaphors and then identifies the arrays in each song lyric that contain metaphors and is identified based on opinions about the types of metaphors.

c. Analysis

The author analyzes the data by identifying metaphors by finding words or expressions that are not used literally in the text. These metaphors were then classified by type and function to identify their context and underlying meanings in the lyrics.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Discussion of Metaphors in the lyrics of the song "An Angel" by Kelly Family.

In this study, the author found metaphor data which is divided based on its type, namely concrete, animistic, humanizing, and synaesthetic metaphors. From 29 lines of the song (4 stanzas with the same lyrics) the author gets 10 stanzas that are recorded as containing metaphors.

3.2 Analysis of Metaphors in the lyrics of the song "An Angel" by Kelly Family.

The author will explain each stanza of the song lyrics and provide interpretations related to the meaning in the lyrics of the song "An Angel". These song lyrics include:

1) "I **wish** I had your pair of **wings**"

This stanza is categorized as a concrete metaphor, where the concrete image of

'**wings**' represents an abstract desire or wish to reach someone. Analysis of meaning:

This stanza can be interpreted as a wish to have the same ability or power as others, so as to reach the admired one. The songwriter seems to want to meet a person who is difficult to reach so that they must have the same 'wings' in order to be together.

2) "I **wish** I had a pair of **wings**"

Similar to the previous stanza, this is categorized as Concretive Metaphor, because

in this stanza, "**wish**" is an abstract thing used to describe a concrete thing, namely "wings".

Analysis of meaning:

Like the previous stanza, this stanza can be interpreted as a wish to have the same ability or power as others, so as to reach the admired one. The songwriter seems to want to meet a person who is difficult to reach so that they must have the same 'wings' in order to be together.

3) "Till the **Sunrise** broke my eyes"

This stanza is categorized as an Animistic Metaphor, because this stanza mentions the statement of human characteristics into inanimate objects. The word "**broke**" is a human adjective. "**Sunrise**" will never break human eyes with treatment.

Analysis of Meaning:

The meaning of the stanza is that it is a bright morning with '**sunlight**' that gives the impression of 'glare' on 'human eyes'. The eyes that just woke up from a dark sleep immediately startled humans with the bright sunlight highlighting, it will disturb the vision. "Tonight"

4) "the **sky** has **glued** my eyes"

This stanza is categorized as a synaesthetic metaphor. Because this stanza describes that 'the **sky**', glues its eyes. This metaphor combines the sensation of sight (eyes) with the sensation of touch (gluing) to create a unique and intense experience. Meaning Analysis:

This stanza creates a strong image of how the amazing visual experience of the sky can have a profound effect on the speaker of the song, so that the writer feels as if his eyes are actually pasted by the sky, even though it is the writer's vision with a form of awe.

5) "Cause what **they** see's an **angel** hive"

This stanza is categorized as a humanizing metaphor, because in this stanza, the word '**they**' refers to the 'sky' which is not a living object that seems to have brought the writer to see something extraordinary, namely "**an angel hive**".

Analysis of meaning:

Here the writer is trying to emphasize again that the sky he saw was really beautiful until he saw angels there.

6) "I've got to **touch** that Magic Sky"

This stanza falls into the category of synaesthetic metaphor, because the word "**Magic Sky**" is an object that is intended and as if it really exists (Magic sky) and has been recognized by the sense of **touch** with a sense of courage and fearlessness that gives the impression of the experience of touching the 'magic sky'. Analysis of meaning:

This lyric describes the songwriter's very strong interest or desire for the experience of touching the magic sky.

7) "Sometimes I **wish** I were an **angel**"

This stanza is categorized as a concretive metaphor, because in this line, '**I wish**' is a concrete thing used to describe an abstract thing, namely '**An angel**'.

Analysis of meaning:

In reality, humans will never be angels. used to represent or symbolize something

that is desired or desired by the speaker could be in the nature of goodness that exists in angels or the depiction of perfect angels, not literally saying that the speaker wants to be a true angel figure.

8) **"Pour** it all over me sweet love"

A concrete metaphor is used in this stanza, using the action of 'pouring' as a depiction for the intensity and depth of love. Although 'pouring love' is not literal, this metaphor evokes a strong sensory image of love overflowing like a liquid being poured.

Analysis of meaning:

This sentence describes the author's desire to feel love with strong intensity or to be fully immersed in the feeling of love, this sentence describes the author's longing and desire to experience deep love.

9) **"Your honey kisses keep me fed"**

This stanza falls into the Humanizing Metaphor type, this metaphor connects a person's 'kiss' with food or nutrition. Literally, the kiss of honey cannot keep a person **fed** or fulfill their nutritional needs.

Analysis of meaning:

However, the use of this metaphor reveals that the person's kisses provide satisfaction, warmth, or comfort that always gives the desire to survive, just like eating which always gives life and strength.

10) **"But we are not afraid!"**

This stanza is an example of a humanizing metaphor, where human traits such as fear are distributed to an entity that has no consciousness. Basically, people must have fear. However, by using this metaphor, the author illustrates that despite something scary or threatening, the person has the courage and strength to face it. Analysis of meaning:

In this lyric, the songwriter expresses extraordinary courage as if whatever big thing happens to him does not make him afraid or daunted. It can be concluded that the songwriter still wants to achieve the hopes that he poured out earlier at any cost regardless of the challenges.

4. CONCLUSION

After identifying the types of metaphors and analyzing the meaning of metaphors in "An Angel", the author concludes that in this lyric, there is the use of various types of metaphors to describe desires, and emotionally intense experiences. Concrete, animistic, humanizing, and synesthetic metaphors are used to create a stronger image and give a deeper emotional dimension to the song 'An Angel' by The Kelly Family, metaphors were found in 29 lines of lyrics, including 4 repeated lines. The author took 10 song lyrics to analyze. In the 10 song lyrics, the author has analyzed and shared several types of metaphors, namely: concrete metaphor 4 stanzas, humanizing metaphor 3 stanzas, animistic metaphor 1 stanza, and synaesthetic metaphor 2 stanzas.

The author found that of the four types of metaphors contained in all song lyrics, concrete metaphors are the most widely used in the 10 lyrics of the song "An angel". This is because the songwriter (Danny O'donoghue) uses more abstract words to describe a

certain condition or situation from the songwriter's own life experience or what he feels and sees. The concrete type of metaphor is more suitable to describe it all.

The Kelly Family's song "An Angel" is about the loss of a loved one and the hope of meeting again in the afterlife. The lyrics tell the story of someone who has died and is now an angel in heaven. The song conveys a deep sense of loss and unbearable longing for the person who has gone. However, there is also hope and faith that the person is still there in the other world, guarding and protecting those left behind. Overall, "An Angel" is an emotional and melancholic song, depicting feelings of loss and spiritual hope. The song is often thought of as a comfort to those who are grieving and a reminder to them.

This study highlights how metaphorical expressions contribute significantly to emotional and symbolic meaning in song lyrics. Future research may compare similar uses of metaphor across musical genres or explore listener interpretations of lyrical metaphors.

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