

The Interpretation of Metaphors Presented in *Good 4 U* Song Lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berfokus pada interpretasi penggunaan metafora pada lirik lagu *Good 4 U* karya Olivia Rodrigo. Tujuan penelitian adalah untuk mengetahui apa saja interpretasi metafora yang disajikan dalam lirik lagu *Good 4 U* karya Olivia Rodrigo. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dan hasil penelitian menunjukkan terdapat 6 kategori metafora yang dapat ditangkap dalam lirik lagu *Good 4 U*. Dari 27 data tersebut terdapat 2 metafora absolut atau paralogis, 1 metafora mati, 4 metafora diperluas, 5 metafora tidak langsung, 4 metafora kontekstual, 10 metafora akar, dan 1 metafora tidak termasuk dalam kategori metafora. Peneliti dapat menyimpulkan bahwa metafora akar merupakan metafora yang paling banyak ditemukan pada lirik lagu *Good 4 U*. Penafsiran lirik lagu tersebut berkaitan dengan (1) Rusaknya sebuah hubungan, (2) Hangatnya sebuah hubungan. hubungan masa lalunya, dan (3) kesedihan pelantun lagu ini karena diabaikan oleh mantan pacarnya yang meraih kesuksesan luar biasa. Dari penelitian ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa metafora sangat mempengaruhi makna lirik karena dapat menyampaikan makna tertentu dengan lebih baik, sehingga dapat membantu pendengar memahami apa yang ingin disampaikan oleh komposer.

Kata Kunci : Metafora, Lirik Lagu, *Good 4 U*, Olivia Rodrigo

ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the interpretation of the use of metaphor in the *Good 4 U* song lyrics written by Olivia Rodrigo. The purpose of the study is to know what the interpretations of metaphors presented in *Good 4 U* song lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo are. This research is qualitative research, and the results show that 6 categories of metaphors can be captured in *Good 4 U* song lyrics. Out of the 27 data, there are 2 absolute or paralogical metaphors, 1 dead metaphor, 4 extended metaphors, 5 indirect metaphors, 4 contextual metaphors, 10 root metaphors, and 1 metaphor that does not belong to the metaphor category. The researcher can conclude that the root metaphor is the most common metaphor found in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U*. The interpretation of the lyrics of the song deals with (1) The destruction of the relationship, (2) The warmth of a past relationship, and (3) the sadness of the singer because she was ignored by her ex-boyfriend who achieved extraordinary success. From this research, it can be concluded that metaphors greatly affect the meaning of lyrics because they can convey a certain meaning better, which can help the listener understand what the composer is trying to say.

Keywords: Metaphors, Song lyrics, *Good 4 U*, Olivia Rodrigo

A. INTRODUCTION

Songs are a collection of beautifully arranged words sung with musical accompaniment. They are created based on musical compositions and have rhythm and tempo so that the listeners are carried away by their feelings into the song's meaning. In addition, the song is a collection of a series of words that are based on beautiful art or meaning, based on the tempo of the music. According to Smith, the song is a very special piece of literature because the tempo of the song

shows every depth of meaning (287). The song lyrics are used by the author of the song as a means of highlighting the issues of thoughts, feelings, and experiences that are currently present in the room. Usually, song lyrics are arranged in a unique and beautiful individualized organization customized structure that can attract listeners' attention. Furthermore, Smith and Fauchon state that the lyrics of the song are sweet, so that it can make people feel some type of feeling (289). It is also following previous research done by Wilyawati Setiawati and Maryani (2018) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Song Lyrics". This research shows that the figurative language found consists of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, irony, and personification.

In this study, the researcher is concerned with one of the linguistic fields, which is pragmatics. According to Thomas (3), pragmatics is a science of language that studies the meaning conveyed by speakers and interpreted by speech partners. It is also a study of abstract meaning to contextual meaning; it requires investigating how listeners understand what the speaker has said so that meaning can be reached. Pragmatics also includes a study of how the speaker's words impact themselves and how they are interpreted by themselves. Song lyrics as a form of genre poetry, of course, involve pragmatics. Poetry language breaks up into familiar syntactical units: phrases of various kinds, clauses, sentences, and possibly even paragraphs, depending on the poem. Wolosky (17) adds that phrases are made up of verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and subjects and objects. Compared to most other language applications, a poem allows for a greater degree of flexibility in word choice, including word order and shape. The lyrics of a song are based on the existential experience of the author with the world around him. The author or singer conveys his thoughts, ideas, and feelings through the words in the song.

Lyrics are a means of conveying messages to others and even providing information about social realities in society or culture. Willis (16) states that lyric implies poetry that is sung, not spoken. It means that if the words of a song are separated from the musical elements, namely melody, rhythm, rhyme, and poetry, then these words can be analyzed as lyrics. In addition, the form of writing lyrics is the same as poetry, which consists of stanzas and lines.

Interpreting metaphors in *Good 4 U* song lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo can be very interesting. Cuddon (412) states that the vast majority of poetry is composed of lyric poetry, which can be found in most literary works and has an enormous range and variation. emphasizes that verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, subjects, and objects make up phrases. A poem offers more creative freedom when it comes to word choice, including word order and shape, than most other language applications.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

The theories explored cover fundamental aspects of literary and linguistic analysis. Peck and Coyle's (134) theory of interpretation emphasizes the clarification of a work's meaning through language analysis and various interpretive approaches, such as ideology and historical context. They liken interpretation to translating or paraphrasing text, illustrating how a poem is read or music played can influence its interpretation. McCulloh (16) and Eckstein (10) contribute to the theory of lyrics, defining lyrics as sung poetry that uses language to express thoughts about life and the world, often revealing the limitations of language in navigating between subject and world. Leech (59) and Yule (2) delve into pragmatics, studying how speakers convey meaning

beyond literal words and how listeners interpret intended meanings through contextual cues. McKenzie (66), qtd., in Journal Wanastra Vol IX No. 2 (Nuraeni 122) and Dancygier and Sweetser (1) explore figurative language, describing it as a creative use of language to convey deeper, non-literal meanings that enhance the aesthetic value of texts, especially in poetry. Perrine in Greg Johnson (773-833) and Cuddon further detail types of figurative language used in poetry, including metaphors (Cuddon 432), similes (Cuddon 657), personification (Cuddon 529), symbols (Cuddon 529), metonymy (Cuddon 431), allegory (Cuddon 21), paradox (Cuddon 509), overstatement (Cuddon 346), understatement (Cuddon 428), and irony (Cuddon 373).

According to Thomas Smith (Published online, 2021), metaphors can be categorized into six distinct types, each serving a unique function in language and communication. An **absolute or logical metaphor** challenges traditional similarities by connecting ideas without an obvious likeness, sometimes referred to as an anti-metaphor. A **dead metaphor** lacks the original image's transferred sense due to overuse or familiarity in everyday language. An **extended metaphor** expands upon a central comparison, establishing a main theme while introducing multiple subtopics or analogies. **Implied metaphors** contrast disparate concepts without explicitly stating one, relying on context for interpretation. **Contextual metaphors** blend analogies in seemingly irrational ways, using context to clarify meaning. Lastly, a **root metaphor** forms the emotional foundation that shapes an individual's perception of a situation, distinct from other metaphors as it influences comprehension more subtly than explicit linguistic strategies. These categories illustrate the versatility of metaphors in enriching communication by evoking imagery, enhancing understanding, and conveying complex ideas beyond literal language.

C. METHOD

1. Research Design

Qualitative research was chosen as the methodology of this research paper since it has the purpose of describing important information about metaphors presented in the song lyrics from the album "SOUR" by Olivia Rodrigo, entitled *Good 4 U* in the form of interpretation. According to Ary (446), qualitative research employs words and images to answer questions. Qualitative researchers are interested in understanding human behavior and the reasons behind it. Furthermore, he states that qualitative inquiry shows concern for context and meaning. (Ary 451) This means that the descriptive method has the purpose of making a systematic description of facts or characteristics of something.

2. Data and Source of the Data

The data of this research will be the utterances from the album "SOUR" by Olivia Rodrigo. The source of data is the song lyrics entitled *Good 4 U*.

3. Research Instrument

In carrying out this research, a research instrument is needed. According to Merriam (124), the presence of a researcher in research is necessary because, in qualitative research, the researcher is the primary instrument in data collection and interpreting data. The research objects used in this study will be taken from the song lyrics entitled *Good 4 U*.

4. Data Collection

At this point in analyzing the data of this paper, the researcher uses some steps and techniques to support the interpretation based on Ary et. al (482). The data of this research were collected in some steps:

- a. Visiting the libraries, for further provision for completing this paper, the researcher also has an initiative to visit some websites to find references from the internet.
- b. Printing out the lyrics that have been transcribed on the paper sheet. Furthermore, to get valuable information, the researcher also makes quotations from some experts, which give some relevant theories and concepts on which this study is based.
- c. Noting the words of sentences since they are considered to be the part of metaphors, symbols, or imageries, which the researcher likes to observe by the researcher and they become the outlines of the flow of the author's thoughts,
- d. Coding the important words or sentences that have a relation to the topic and which the researcher wants to analyze.

5. Data Analysis

The data of this research was gained through these procedures: (1) Familiarizing / Identifying the literary works. In this research paper, there is an attempt to understand the song lyrics entitled *Good 4 U* by analyzing their language (metaphor). Identifying interest in that area by choosing the worthwhile and comprehensible song lyrics of the topic, (2) Coding and reducing process of the Song Lyrics. To observe what is in the song lyrics entitled *Good 4 U*, the researcher looks for words or phrases that might be significant for understanding a key metaphor, and (3) Interpreting and representing/considering the evidence. The researcher searches the annotated text and inventory to list specific evidence that seems relevant to the topic, and why it supports the topic. Next, the researcher restates it and gives reasons for believing it to be true. One final remark on literary analysis is a judicious attempt to help readers see what is going on in a work or parts of it. Also, two goals of all literary analysis: presenting the interpretation and supporting it with textual evidence. The finished essay records the best thought, explains the ideas fully, as well as makes a synthesis. The researcher makes a relation between the problem and the solution, the points used to develop it, and the supporting evidence is explicit for readers. To interpret what has been discovered from metaphors and song lyrics.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher identifies the types of metaphors used in the text of the song lyrics taken from the album *Sour* as the data to answer the research questions. The theory used is based on Thomas Smith's (Published online: 2021). Likewise, each piece of data collected refers to the type of metaphors. The following table presents the analysis of the song lyrics:

Table 1: Analysis Categories of Metaphor

Data	Metaphorical Expression	Code	Interpretation
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1	Well, good for you, I guess you moved on really easily	RM	Well, good for you, I guess you are successful
2	You found a new girl and it only took a couple weeks	RM	You have met a new girlfriend, and it only took a few days
3	Remember when you said that you wanted to give me the world?	EM	Remember when you said that you wanted to give me what I want?
4	And good for you, I guess that you've been workin' on yourself	RM	And it is good for you, I think that you've been making a great effort on yourself
5	I guess that therapist I found for you, she really helped	IM	I think that someone I suggest to solve your problem (a girlfriend), she helped.
6	Now you can be a better man for your brand new girl	DM	Now you can be a better man for your brand new girlfriend
7	Well, good for you	RM	Well, it is good for you
8	You look happy and healthy, not me	EM	You look happy and healthy, not me (the author of the lyric is sad)
9	If you ever cared to ask	RM	You never ask me about my condition.
10	Good for you	RM	It is good for you
11	You're doin' great out there without me, baby	AM	You are successful out there without me, my friend
12	God, I wish that I could do that	IM	God, I wish that I could be successful (I am not successful)
13	I've lost my mind	CM	I am crazy
14	I've spent the night Cryin' on the floor of my bathroom	CM	I am sad, crying deeply all night.
15	But you're so unaffected, I really don't get it	CM	But you do not care, I really don't understand it
16	But I guess good for you	RM	But I think it is good for you
17	Well, good for you, I guess you're gettin' everything you want	RM	Well, it is good for you, I think your dreams will come true
18	You bought a new car and your career's really takin' off	CM	You can buy a new car and you are really successful
19	It's like we never even happened	EM	It's like they have never met each other
20	Baby, what the fuck is up with that?	AM	My friend, what has happened with our relationship?
21	And good for you, it's like you never even met me	EM	And it is good for you, it's like we have never been acquainted with each other
22	Remember when you swore to God I was the only Person who ever got you?	IM	Remember when you swore to God I was your girlfriend, you had?
23	Well, screw that, and screw you	IM	Well, you destroyed our relationship.
24	You will never have to hurt the way you know that I do	AM	Do not you ever hurt me!
25	Maybe I'm too emotional	NM	Maybe I am being very sensitive
26	But your apathy's like a wound in salt	IM	But your apathy's hurts me
27	Or maybe you never cared at all	RM	Or maybe you are so selfish

The researcher analyzed conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of the *Good 4 U* song. It is analyzed based on metaphor theory. The conceptual metaphor theory proposed by Semino (353) defines metaphor as “the phenomenon whereby we talk and, potentially, think about something in terms of something else”. While Cuddon (432) states, a metaphor is a direct comparison hidden between two things. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is described in terms of another.

In the song lyrics *Good 4 U* by Olivia Rodrigo, not all of the lyrics emphasize the subject of the lyrics. The researcher found that in expressing song lyric ideas, poets tend to use you to describe as if it were a personal experience of the author’s friends. You in the lyrics, in this case the subject of the lyrics, also function as a means of self-realization. The researcher interprets the lyrics based on Pragmatics. Interpretation, according to Peck and Coyle (134), is “concerned with clarifying the meaning of the work by analyzing its language and commenting on it.” According to Leech (59), pragmatics is the study of meaning conveyed by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. The speaker here is not only someone who speaks the language but also someone who writes using the language and conveys it through an article. Meanwhile, the listener here is also not just someone who just listens, but also someone who reads the work of someone.

Based on this theory, the researcher acts as a listener, then interprets the song lyrics written by the speaker (writer of the song lyrics). in the form, the writer then analyzes the arrays that contain metaphors by determining the target and source. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is described in terms of another (Cuddon, 432). Target refers to the idea emphasized or the main subject of the metaphor, while source states the emphasized idea, equalizing idea, or thing being equated. In analyzing the metaphor of the song lyric *Good 4 U*, the type of metaphor is analyzed based on Thomas Smith's theory (Published online: 2021).

In this research, the researcher found six types of metaphors conceptually in the lyrics. The metaphorical expressions in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U* are as follows: types of metaphors found are Root, Extended, Implied, Dead, Absolute, and Contextual metaphors.

1. The metaphorical expressions in the lyrics of the song are as follows:

Table 2: Metaphorical Expressions Categories Shown

No	Category	Code	Total
1	Paralogical Metaphor	PM	2
2	Dead Metaphor	DM	1
3	Extended Metaphor	EM	4
4	Implied Metaphor	IM	5
5	Contextual Metaphor	CM	4
6	Root Metaphor	RM	10
7	No Metaphor	NM	1
Total			27

2. The interpretations of metaphorical expression found in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U* by Olivia Rodrigo are as follows:

Table 3: Interpretations of metaphorical expression found in song lyrics

Data	Metaphorical Expression	Code	Interpretation
1	Well, good for you, I guess you moved on really easily	RM	Well, good for you, I guess you are successful
2	You found a new girl and it only took a couple weeks	RM	You have met a new girlfriend, and it only took a few days
3	Remember when you said that you wanted to give me the world?	EM	Remember when you said that you wanted to give me what I want?
4	And good for you, I guess that you've been workin' on yourself	RM	And it is good for you, I think that you've been making a great effort on yourself
5	I guess that therapist I found for you, she really helped	IM	I think that someone I suggest to solve your problem (a girlfriend), she really helped.
6	Now you can be a better man for your brand new girl	DM	Now you can be a better man for your brand new girlfriend
7	Well, good for you	RM	Well, it is good for you
8	You look happy and healthy, not me	EM	You look happy and healthy, not me (the author of the lyric is sad)
9	If you ever cared to ask	RM	You never asks me about my condition.
10	Good for you	RM	It is good for you
11	You're doin' great out there without me, baby	AM	You are successful out there without me, my friend
12	God, I wish that I could do that	IM	God, I wish that I could be successful (I am not successful)
13	I've lost my mind	CM	I am crazy
14	I've spent the night Cryin' on the floor of my bathroom	CM	I am really sad crying deeply all night.
15	But you're so unaffected, I really don't get it	CM	But you do not care, I really don't understand it
16	But I guess good for you	RM	But I think it good for you
17	Well, good for you, I guess you're gettin' everything you want	RM	Well, it is good for you, I think your dreams come true
18	You bought a new car and your career's really takin' off	CM	You are able to buy new car and you are really successful
19	It's like we never even happened	EM	It's like they have never met to each other
20	Baby, what the fuck is up with that?	AM	My friend, what have happened with our relationship?
21	And good for you, it's like you never even met me	EM	And it good for you, it's like we have never been acquainted to each other
22	Remember when you swore to God I was the only Person who ever got you?	IM	Remember when you swore to God I was your girlfriend you had.?
23	Well, screw that, and screw you	IM	Well, you destroy our relationship.
24	You will never have to hurt the way you know that I do	AM	Do not you ever hurt me!

25	Maybe I'm too emotional	NM	May be, I am being very sensitive
26	But your apathy's like a wound in salt	IM	But your apathy's hurts me
27	Or maybe you never cared at all	RM	Or maybe you are so selfish

From the data above, it can be concluded that 6 categories of metaphors can be captured from the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U*. Of the 27 data, there are 2 Absolute or Paralogical Metaphors, 1 Dead Metaphor, 4 Extended Metaphors, 5 Implied Metaphors, 4 Contextual Metaphors, 10 Root Metaphors and 1 data is not included in the metaphor category. The researcher can conclude that the root metaphor is the most common metaphor found in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U*. The meaning of the metaphorical expression in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U*. In this research, it was analyzed using Thomas Smith's theory (Published online: 2021). The main metaphorical structure of the song lyric topics discussed are (1) about the destruction of relationship between the singer and the listener of the song (the object in question) (2) a story about the warmth of relationship that used to understand each other and (3) the sadness of the singer of this song because he was ignored by his best friend who achieved extraordinary success. Each line in the lyrics has a different meaning, but several data points have meanings that are related to each other. The message to be conveyed in the lyrics of this song is that you should not forget your friends who have helped you achieve success, to the point where your friends are neglected.

D. CONCLUSION

From the research questions, the researcher managed to find the interpretations of metaphors presented in *Good 4 U* song lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo. There are 2 Absolute or Paralogical Metaphors, 1 Dead Metaphor, 4 Extended Metaphors, 5 Implied Metaphors, 4 Contextual Metaphors, 10 Root Metaphors, and 1 data point is not included in the metaphor category. The researcher can conclude that the Root metaphor is the most common metaphor found in the lyrics of the song *Good 4 U*. The interpretation of the song lyric discusses:

1. About the destruction of the relationship between the singer and the listener of the song (the object in question)
2. A story about the past warmth of the relationship,
3. The sadness of singer of this song because he was ignored by his best friend, who achieved extraordinary success.

The researcher discovers that metaphors of expression are typically present in song lyrics after analyzing the lyrics for this study. The use of the metaphor elevates the song's beauty and communicates a deeper meaning than either the original or the overall meaning of the song. Since they evoke a particular sense, metaphors have a considerable impact on a lyric's meaning and can help the listener understand the author's intended meaning. In the lyrics, the vocalist conveys the author's emotions, advances the topic chronologically, establishes cause and effect, or switches up the attitude.

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