

## Ontological Metaphors in Pink Floyd's Selected Songs

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**Abstract.** This study is about the analysis of ontological metaphors in Pink Floyd's selected songs based on the metaphors theory by Lakoff and Johnson. In Lakoff and Johnson theory, metaphors are divided into structural metaphors, orientational metaphors, and ontological metaphors. The author uses qualitative methods in conducting this research. Researchers focused on written data in the form of scripts from lyrics of Pink Floyd selected songs. The researcher uses Jan Mukarovsky's dynamic structuralism approach. There is a relationship between ontological metaphors, social commentary, and idealism. The purpose of this study is so that people can know the impact of ontological metaphors in songs. If they are aware, then this will benefit themselves and the people around them. This research concludes that Pink Floyd often uses ontological metaphors to convey their metaphorical expression and idealism. From this ontological metaphor in Pink Floyd's selected songs, there are plots, characters, themes, and points of view that can be analyzed.

**Keyword:** Ontological Metaphors, Dynamic Structuralism, Idealism, Metaphorical language.

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini membahas tentang analisis metafora ontologis dalam lagu-lagu pilihan Pink Floyd berdasarkan teori metafora Lakoff dan Johnson. Dalam teori Lakoff dan Johnson, metafora dibedakan menjadi metafora struktural, metafora orientasi, dan metafora ontologis. Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif dalam melakukan penelitian ini. Peneliti memfokuskan pada data tertulis berupa skrip dari lirik lagu-lagu pilihan Pink Floyd. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme dinamis Jan Mukarovsky. Ada hubungan antara metafora ontologis, komentar sosial, dan idealisme. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah agar masyarakat dapat mengetahui dampak metafora ontologis dalam lagu. Jika mereka sadar, maka hal ini akan menguntungkan diri mereka sendiri dan orang-orang disekitarnya. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa Pink Floyd sering menggunakan metafora ontologis untuk menyampaikan ekspresi metaforis dan idealismenya. Dari metafora ontologis pada lagu-lagu pilihan Pink Floyd ini, terdapat alur, tokoh, tema, dan sudut pandang yang dapat dianalisis.

**Kata Kunci:** Metafora Ontologis, Strukturalisme Dinamis, Idealisme, Bahasa Metaforis.

## INTRODUCTION

Metaphors play an important role in reviewing literary works since they contain a lyrical and lovely phrase to hear, and the metaphor itself refers to how we express ourselves. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphor is the preferred strategy for expressing poetic imagination and producing extraordinary language over ordinary language.

Metaphor is a device that is commonly used in poetry, novels, movies, books, and song lyrics to compare two things. In music, similarities are frequently associated with themes, and current gossip, or are linked to other songs. When an artist or composer compares or describes a person, action, sensation, place, or item as something else, they are employing metaphor.

Metaphors can be considered as a tool used by Pink Floyd as the main theme in generating song lyrics and delivering their message via their music in this study. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphors not only enhance the vividness and interest of our thoughts, but also shape our perception and understanding.

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Metaphorical language is divided into three types. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), there are structural metaphors, an orientational metaphors, and ontological metaphors. First, structural metaphor refers to situations in which one concept is metaphorically constructed in terms of another. Structural metaphor frequently involves the use of a notion from one area to structure a concept from another.

The author has chosen the four songs that have a lot of metaphorical language in their songs, especially in Time, Money, Another Brick in the Wall Pt.2, and Echoes. The author chose four songs from different albums because the author wanted us to know that there is a metaphorical language in each Pink Floyd album that we may learn. According to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Pink Floyd were the architect of two major music movements, psychedelic space-rock and blues-based progressive rock, and became known for their biting political, social and emotional commentary.

That's one of the reasons why Pink Floyd uses metaphorical language in their song. Pink Floyd often uses ontological metaphors in their songs because Pink Floyd's songs occasionally criticize life and policies. For example in Money Songs by Pink Floyd, they criticize capitalism in the United Kingdom.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

When conducting research, the qualitative technique is used to collect descriptive data that contains exact verbal and written comments from individuals and observed actions (Moleong, 2010;4). In other words, qualitative research uses narrative description to generate descriptive data. This signifies that it is only a description of the content and will not calculate the research data.

It will describe the many types of metaphorical expressions used in the song and explain what the writer intends to convey through metaphorical expressions in songs. This research focuses on studying the ideas derived from the Pink Floyd collection. It describes the metaphorical expressions and values found in Pink Floyd's selected songs.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Dynamic Structuralism

Structuralism is a way of knowing of nature and human life that is interested in relationships rather than individual things, or in which objects are defined by the set of interactions of which they are a part rather than by the attributes held by them in isolation. In Anthropology, Claude Lévi-Strauss was the spokesperson for structuralism, encompassing the

work of many authors throughout the twentieth century. Three interpretations of 'structuralism' will be identified, each corresponding to a distinct timescale: structuralism as a French intellectual movement of the 1960s, structuralism as a broader epistemic attitude, and Lévi-Strauss' structuralism as a link between the two. Structural Analysis aims to unpack and explain as carefully, as precisely, as much detail, and in-depth and entanglement all elements and aspects of literature that together produce a comprehensive meaning. Teeuw (1984) In dynamic structuralism, according Mukarovsky, the chain of relationship is between four factors: the creator, literature, readers, and reality. Manifested as a sign of literary works in its intrinsic structure, in conjunction with the reality, society, creators, and readers (Teeuw, 1984). Dynamics readers are prepared by changing conventions, and the reader as the homo significans, animals, and generate a sign reading (Culler, 1975: 130 in Jabrohim, 2014: 86).

### **Rock song**

Rock meanings are difficult to discover, not least because the term has different implications in British and American usages (the latter being more broad). There is widespread agreement that rock "is a form of music with a strong beat," however it is difficult to be more specific. The Collins Cobuild English Dictionary, which is based on a massive database of British usage, suggests that "rock is a kind of music with simple tunes and a very strong beat that is played and sung, usually loudly, by a small group of people with electric guitars and drums," but there are so many exceptions to this definition that it is practically useless.

### **Ontological metaphors**

Metaphors are examples of figurative language. It is a figure of speech used to convey a message that is more complex than the plain meaning of their words. Figurative language is not meant to be understood literally.

Ontological metaphors (figures that provide "ways of viewing events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc., as entities and substances") are one of three overlapping categories of conceptual metaphors established by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By*. The remaining two categories of metaphors are structural and orientational. "Time is an object" is a common ontological metaphor.

### **Ontological Metaphor Types**

#### **1. Container metaphors**

Container metaphors, according to Lakoff and Johnson theory, are ontological metaphors in which an idea is depicted as having an inner and outer dimension and the ability to hold something else. A container metaphor is one in which something is perceived as a container with an in-out orientation that includes both inside and outside.

Containers include events, acts, activities, and states such as entering or exiting a tough situation, competing, or enjoying the accomplishment of a task.

## **2. Entity and substance metaphors**

Entity and substance metaphors are an ontological metaphor in which an abstraction is depicted as an actual physical item. According to that concept, a metaphor experienced by the speakers with actual objects provides them with a means of viewing events, emotions, actions, and ideas as substances. By viewing something as a material, they can refer to it.

## **3. Personification**

Personification is an ontological metaphor that depicts a thing or abstraction as a person. Personification refers to the transformation of non-human characteristics into human characteristics. It enables one to compare experiences with non-human beings in terms of human features, behaviors, and motives.

## **4. Social Commentary**

The act of providing commentary on societal concerns through rhetorical means is known as social commentary. This is frequently done with the intention of enacting or advocating change by alerting the general public about a specific problem and appealing to people's sense of fairness. Social commentary can be practiced in a variety of ways, including print, dialogue, and computerized communication.

## **5. Idealism**

Idealism has a long history in philosophy, dating back to ancient Western philosophers such as Plato. There are numerous interpretations and theories of idealism, and it is one of the most dominating notions in the history of philosophy. Because idealism in philosophy differs from the platonic ideal, definitions of idealism range from one philosopher to the next. The stress on the reasoning mind grasping the ideal, on the other hand, is important to idealism.

# **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

## **Research Design**

This thesis uses a descriptive qualitative methodology. When conducting research, the qualitative technique is utilized to produce descriptive data that includes exact spoken and written statements from subjects and behaviors that can be seen (Moleong, 2010;4) In other words, qualitative research is a research method that utilizes narrative description and produces descriptive data.

## **Data Collection**

The researcher collects data relating to the implementation of activities that focus on the problem (Sukmadinata, 2007). The problem to be solved in this study can be solved if the researcher collects resources first. The researcher collects the data from documents, it represents a good source for text (word) data for a qualitative study (Creswell, 2012).

Data collection process according to Creswell (2012), first identify the types of documents that can provide useful information to answer qualitative research questions, then examine them for accuracy, completeness, and usefulness in answering the research questions in this research, after that record information from the documents. This process can take several forms, including taking notes about the documents.

## **Data Analysis Procedure**

In this research, the researcher collects the sources from books, thesis, journals, and platforms: Spotify. These sources provide valuable information in helping researcher understand central phenomena in qualitative studies (Creswell, 2012).

## **AUTHORS BIOGRAPHY, WORKS, AND WORKS SUMMARY**

### **Author's Biography**

Pink Floyd were an English rock band that achieved international acclaim with their progressive and psychedelic music. Distinguished by their use of philosophical lyrics, sonic experimentation, and elaborate live shows, they are one of the most commercially successful and musically influential groups in the history of popular music.

Founded in 1965, Pink Floyd originally consisted of students Syd Barrett, Nick Mason, Roger Waters, and Richard Wright. They first gained popularity performing in London's underground music scene during the late 1960s, and under Barrett's creative leadership they released two charting singles and a successful debut album. David Gilmour joined as a fifth member in December 1967; Barrett left the band in April 1968 due to his deteriorating mental health.

### **Author's Works**

Pink Floyd made several albums such as *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn* August 5, 1967, *A Saucerful of Secrets* June 29, 1968, *More* July 27, 1969, *Ummagumma* October 25, 1969, *Atom Heart Mother* October 5, 1970, *Meddle* November 11, 1971, *Obscure by Clouds* June 3, 1972, *The Dark Side of the Moon* March 1, 1973, *Wish You Were Here* September 12, 1975, *Animals* January 23, 1977, *The Wall* November 30, 1979, *The Final Cut* March

21, 1983, A Momentary Lapse of Reason September 8, 1987, Delicate Sound of Thunder November 22, 1988, The Division Bell March 28, 1994, Pulse May 29, 1995.

### Summary of Author's Work

Pink Floyd signed to EMI Records in 1967, releasing the singles Arnold Layne and See Emily Play, both written by Syd, and the album *The Piper At The Gates Of Dawn*, again mostly composed by Syd and considered to be one of the greatest British psychedelic albums. Arnold Layne reached No. 20 in the UK Singles Chart, and See Emily Play reached No. 6, while *The Piper At The Gates Of Dawn* also entered the album charts at No. 6, the first of a long line of Pink Floyd album chart successes. Whilst Syd Barrett had written the bulk of the first album, only one composition by him, Jugband Blues, appeared on the second Floyd album. *A Saucerful Of Secrets* was released in June 1968, reaching Number 9 in the UK. *Point Me At The Sky*, a Waters/Gilmour composition released in December 1968, was to be the band's last single release until *Money* from *The Dark Side Of The Moon*.

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### Analysis

This research requires discussion and findings to obtain results, along with analysis, and findings of the ontological metaphors and the dynamic structuralism

### 1. Container Metaphors in *Time*, *Money*, *Another Brick in the Wall Pt.2*, and *Echoes* by Pink Floyd.

The first song that the researcher analyse is *Time* by Pink Floyd with the lyrics are as follows:

"Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day  
Fritter and waste the hours in an offhand way  
Kicking around on a piece of ground in your hometown  
Waiting for someone or something to show you the way  
Tired of lying in the sunshine, staying home to watch the rain  
You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill today  
And then one day you find ten years have got behind you  
No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun  
And you run, and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking  
Racing around to come up behind you again  
The sun is the same in a relative way but you're older  
Shorter of breath and one day closer to death  
Every year is getting shorter, never seem to find the time

Plans that either come to naught or half a page of scribbled lines  
Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way  
The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say  
Home, home again  
I like to be here when I can  
And when I come home cold and tired  
It's good to warm my bones beside the fire  
Far away across the field  
The tolling of the iron bell  
Calls the faithful to their knees  
To hear the softly spoken magic spells”  
(*Time*, 1973: full lyrics)

The Container metaphor found in *Time* song by Pink Floyd will be analyzed as follows:

In the lyrics above, ticking away is a container metaphor because it is an object that describe a time that passing by, Waiting for someone or something to show you the way is a container metaphors because it is symbolizes a person that were just waiting for someone's or something that might help him or her.

## **2. Entity and Substance Metaphor in *Time*, *Money*, *Another Brick in the Wall Pt.2*, and *Echoes* by Pink Floyd.**

The first song that the researcher analyse is *Time* by Pink Floyd with the lyrics are as follows:

“Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day  
Fritter and waste the hours in an offhand way  
Kicking around on a piece of ground in your hometown  
Waiting for someone or something to show you the way  
Tired of lying in the sunshine, staying home to watch the rain  
You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill today  
And then one day you find ten years have got behind you  
No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun  
And you run, and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking  
Racing around to come up behind you again  
The sun is the same in a relative way but you're older  
Shorter of breath and one day closer to death  
Every year is getting shorter, never seem to find the time  
Plans that either come to naught or half a page of scribbled lines

Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way  
 The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say  
 Home, home again  
 I like to be here when I can  
 And when I come home cold and tired  
 It's good to warm my bones beside the fire  
 Far away across the field  
 The tolling of the iron bell  
 Calls the faithful to their knees  
 To hear the softly spoken magic spells"

(*Time*, 1973: full lyrics)

In the lyrics above, the moments that make up a dull day is an entity and substance metaphors because it is a feeling that describe a bad day. Fritter and waste is a container metaphors because it's an activity. Fritter, by definition, means to waste time, while the word waste is quite self-explanatory. Furthermore, the expression the hours in an offhand manner refers to how we spend our time 'offhandedly' or rather carelessly.

### **3. Personification in *Time*, *Money*, *Another Brick in The Wall Pt.2*, and *Echoes* by Pink Floyd**

The researcher only found personification in one Pink Floyd song entitled *Another Brick in The Wall Pt.2*

A personification in the second stanza, the teachers seems to enjoy bullying the student, and you just isolating yourself, the words another brick in the wall refers to isolation.

"All in all, you're just another brick in the wall

All in all, you're just another brick in the wall"

(*Another Brick in The Wall Pt.2*, 1979: second verse)

### **4. Idealism in Pink Floyd selected song**

Idealism in *Time* song by Pink Floyd:

This song is about how time can slip by and how many people are unaware of it until it is too late. Roger Waters had the concept after noticing that he was no longer ready for anything in life, but was instead smack in the middle of it. He had just turned 28 years old. When the band came up with the concept for the album, they wanted to explore life's pressures through the songs. This song addresses the subject of death.

Idealism in *Money* song by Pink Floyd:



The primary focus of the song beyond the obvious (money) is the subtle commentary the singer makes on the American capitalist system. At the time of its release, the post World War II Soviet Union's economy was booming, and massive periods stagflation in America began to force citizens to question the validity of the regulated brand of capitalism made popular in the decades following Roosevelt's New Deal (Nielsen). The song appears at first glance and is accepted by most to be a sardonic condemnation of the wealthiest members of society.

## **Findings**

In this study, the researcher analyzed the ontological metaphors in Pink Floyd selected songs as well as social commentary in Pink Floyd selected songs

### **1. Pink Floyd's selected songs as social commentary**

Rock songs are a type of song that is frequently used as a musical taste, to convey ideas, and to serve as a life reference for their listeners. Many rock songs convey social commentary, whether in the form of treatises on the heart, their dislike of something and others, such as the Pink Floyd band who does not like capitalism, the band system of a down which criticizes the government about war where the government always sends poor people to join the battlefield.

Pink Floyd is one of the band that often compose songs to provide social commentary, such as songs that have been selected by researchers, *Time*, *Money*, *Another Brick in the Wall Pt.2*, and *Echoes*. Each of these songs aims to provide social commentary about life and a protest against acts of racism by teachers against their students. They can also make social commentary considering each band member's anxiety about an event.

### **2. Metaphorical expressions in pink Floyd's idealism**

Pink Floyd is one of the legendary bands from England who highly uphold their idealism, they are a group of people who have a free spirit and mind, their song lyrics which contain metaphorical expressions are a form of their idealism, and their album, *The Wall*, is one form of metaphorical expressions contained in their idealism in criticizing the education system, war, and fascism.

Pink Floyd employs metaphorical expressions into their idealism in elements of life not only in the album *The Wall*, but also in the *Dark Side of the Moon* album which explores human journeys, humans who do not respect time, humans who are greedy, and life in the dark battle-field.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis above. Pink Floyd frequently uses ontological metaphor to convey their metaphorical expression, social commentary, and idealism. Ontological metaphors in Pink Floyd's selected songs can be used to examine narratives, characters, themes, and points of view. The researcher analyzes them using ontological metaphor theory and idealism, and then interprets them using dynamic structuralism. In addition to evaluating ontological metaphors, the researcher looked at rock songs as social criticism and metaphorical manifestations in Pink Floyd idealism. Because society must understand how lovely and amazing the ontological metaphor is, it can be used to organize and rearrange words in order to make them more beautiful and delightful to hear.

## SUGGESTION

Future academics that are interested in examining ontological metaphors can apply the same theory, particularly dynamic structuralism, to better understand the properties of ontological metaphors, metaphorical expressions, and idealism.

Songs with ontological metaphors can be studied as study objects, while publications like theses, journals, and books can also be used for extra data. It is similar to the internet in that it provides people with access to all necessary information.

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