An Analysis of Conceptual Metaphor in "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel"

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Abstract
Metaphor is one of figurative language which compares one different thing to another. This study is focused on the types of conceptual metaphor used in "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" by Val Emmich, Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, and Justin Paul. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of conceptual metaphor used by the author in both the dialogue and the narrative text in the book. This research used descriptive qualitative method to manage a clear and systematic description about the metaphor found in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel". The data were collected from the digital book and were elaborated based on the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) about conceptual metaphor. Based on the acquired data, there are 155 conceptual metaphors were identified in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel", including structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor.

Keywords*: conceptual metaphor, figurative language, novel, Dear Evan Hansen*

Abstrak
Metafora adalah salah satu bahasa kiasan yang membandingkan dua hal berbeda. Penelitian ini difokuskan pada jenis metafora konseptual yang digunakan dalam buku "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" karya Val Emmich, Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, dan Justin Paul. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis metafora konseptual yang digunakan oleh pengarang baik dalam dialog maupun teks naratif di dalam buku. Penelitian ini diwujudkan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk memperoleh deskripsi yang jelas dan sistematis tentang metafora yang ditemukan dalam buku "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel". Data diperoleh dari buku digital dan diuraikan dengan menggunakan teori yang dipaparkan oleh Lakoff dan Johnson (1980) tentang metafora konseptual. Berdasarkan data yang diperoleh, ada 155 metafora konseptual yang diidentifikasi dalam buku "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel", termasuk metafora struktural, metafora orientasi, dan metafora ontologis.

Kata kunci*: metafora konseptual, bahasa kiasan, novel, Dear Evan Hansen*

Introduction

The book Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel delivered a story that might be related to daily life. There were teenagers who suffer from social disorder anxiety and hiding away from people because of their fear. The novel itself implicitly made to inspire those who had the same condition as the main character, Evan Hansen, who gradually developed his character. According to the book, there was a part where people misunderstand Evan's letter because the letter itself had metaphorical expressions.

Language has an important role in human's life because it takes part in the development of human. Every earthling has the ability to communicate to each other. However, the use of language distinguishes people from the other living things. According to Chomsky (2006, p.14), language is interesting because it has an important part in human's thoughts and communication. People are helped by language in sharing their feelings and ideas, as well as obtaining their necessities and wants through the communication with other people. However, sometimes people do not use word as how it delivers a meaning, but they occasionally communicating with implied expression, where they use words not as how the words literally mean.

Certain people unfortunately experienced misunderstanding because of the misinterpretation they capture with the purpose delivered by the speaker in a conversation. Implied or indirect expressions are called as figurative language. Figurative language is set up based on equation or comparison. Collating one thing to another means trying to discover the characteristic features that reveal the similarities between the things compared (Keraf, 2006:136). There are various types of figurative language, including metaphor, simile, personification, eponym, allegory, allusion, etc.

One of the most common figurative language that used in daily life is metaphor. Knowles and Moon (2006, p.) stated, metaphor is the example of non-literal language which involve some kind of recognition or comparison: they would be illogical, untrue, or improbable if they are interpreted in literal way. There is another type of figurative language named simile, which is similar to metaphor. Simile uses words such as *compare, like, as, resemble,* and so on to compare two different terms and this makes simile different with metaphor. Metaphor itself is classified into conceptual metaphor and conventional metaphor.

"Time is money" is an example of metaphor that people regularly use in daily life. If the sentence is interpreted literally, it means time is the same with money. Meanwhile, the actual meaning of the sentence is talking about how precious a time just as precious as money and that people should not wasting time for unimportant matter. Besides daily conversation, metaphor can be found in literary works. Literary works are often used by people, either related to their job or merely for entertainment purpose. Various types of interpretation frequently happen in the literary works with implied words, and it might lead the readers to have the wrong idea from what the writer expected. As the result of misinterpretation, there will be misunderstanding and it will lead into an incomprehension. This situation will be a loss because there are plenty of important messages that might be hidden in the works.

Novel writers usually put their feelings, imagination, and experience into the works. Uncommon words are occasionally added to embellish the sentences in their works. "Dear Evan Hansen" is a musical theater produced by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. The story of the stage had been made into a novel entitled "Dear Evan Hansen:

The Novel", written by Val Emmich with Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, and Justin Paul. Dear Evan Hansen is a story about a student named Evan Hansen with lack of socialization ability and ended up making white lies in order to get the attention and friends. The author frequently used metaphor in the book which need to be examined, because metaphors are often hard to recognize, especially for non-English native speaker.

Metaphorical expressions unconsciously appear in human's daily life. They can be included in the songs people heard, works people do, or simply film people enjoyed. Based on the explanation above, the researchers are interested to analyze the conceptual metaphor in a literary work. This research intended to identify how often the metaphorical expressions appeared in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" and what types of conceptual metaphor were included by the authors of the novel, which will lead the researchers and the readers to expand their comprehension about metaphorical expressions.

One study of metaphor analysis in a short story was conducted by Monika (2020) entitled "Analysis of Metaphor in 'A Family Affair' by Kate Chopin". The study investigated the types of metaphor and the meaning of each metaphor found in Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". The writer applied descriptive qualitative method for the research to find that the types of metaphor found in the data source were ontological metaphor and conceptual metaphor, with conceptual metaphor being the most commonly occurring one. The writer's conclusion from the study was that Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair" has numerous metaphors to analyze, and the types as well as the meaning of each metaphor found in the study based on the theory by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) to bring up the metaphor distinctly.

The second similar study was done by Lukmana et al. (2019), an article entitled "An Analysis of Metaphor in the Lyrics of Selected Minangkabaunese Songs". The study analyzed the types of metaphor found in Minangkabaunese songs by applying the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) about conceptual metaphor. The researchers used descriptive method for the research. The data were collected by selecting Minangkabaunese songs with failing in love or romance and wandering theme. Lukmana et al. (2019) stated that there were 23 data of conceptual metaphor found in romance themed songs, 25 data of conceptual metaphor found in wandering themed songs, and structural metaphor as well as orientational metaphor were dominating a number of selected Minangkabaunese songs.

Another study was done by S et al. (2021) in the form of an article entitled "Conceptual Metaphor about Corona Virus: Cognitive Semantic Analysis". The study was aimed to describe the conceptual metaphor found in the Press Conference of the Japanese Minister, Shinzo Abe on March 14 and 28, 2020 through the official website of Japan's Prime Minister kantei.go.jp. The researchers of the study applied descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. The data was sorted into categories based on the type of metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson and the type of image schemes proposed by Cruse and Croft. The study found that there were three types of conceptual metaphor: structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor. In addition, there were six different types of image schemes discovered: the image scheme of Existence, Strength, Space, Identity, Scale, and Unity.

The other similar study entitled "Conceptual Metaphor of Setya Novanto's Case" was done by Purnama and Hakim (2018). Their study was aimed to analyze the function and meaning of the metaphor, and finding out the conceptualizations of politics. The theory from Lakoff and Johnson about conceptual metaphor was used in the study. There are four news platform used for the data source: People's Mind Newspaper on 28th November 2017, Kompas Daily on 20th November 2017, New Compass on 22nd November 2017, and People's Mind Newspaper on 20th November 2017. All of the data was presented descriptively. From the study, the researchers found 55 metaphors among 175 metaphorical statements.

The fifth study of metaphor was conducted by Khumaira (2019) in the form of an article entitled "An Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions in Teenager's Fiction Novels". The aims of the study were to analyze the metaphor found in the four selected chapters of the novels and the implied meaning of each metaphor. The study was conducted using the qualitative method based on the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) in categorizing each data by the types of metaphor. The researchers found that there were 71 metaphors found in the selected chapter of the novel.

Based on the prior studies above, the similatrity between those studies and this study was the researches used the theory of conceptual metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). In the other hand, the previous studies used different data source and some of them also aimed the study differently, not only finding the types of metaphor found in the data source.

Therefore, this study concentrated on the types of conceptual metaphor appeared in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" by Val Emmich, Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, and Justin Paul. This study chose the novel as the data source because the authors of the book used plenty of metaphorical expression in the novel.

Method

This research applied descriptive qualitative method for the data. Cresswell (2014) stated, "Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem". In addition, the researchers interpreted the meaning of the data for this study, in which the data was systematically described for accurate results. The data for this study were words and phrases containing metaphor found in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel". This research began with data collection that relied on observation methods and note-taking technique. During the process of collecting the data, the object researched was limited to texts containing metaphorical expressions. The sorting of data was based on the basic mapping of metaphor, from the source to the target domain. The note-taking technique was used on the next stage after the metaphorical words were found. The final stage was analyzing the type of metaphor for each metaphorical text found, based on the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) about conceptual metaphor.

Result and Discussion

Result

The results of this study were categorized based on the type of metaphor found in the data source. In this part, the researcher presented the frequency of conceptual metaphor found in *Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel.* The data were presented as follows.

Table 1. Types of Conceptual Metaphor Found in "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel"

Types of metaphor	Occurence	Percentage
Structural Metaphor	103	72.4%
Orientational Metaphor	7	8.4%
Ontological Metaphor	45	19.2%
Total	155	100%

Based on the table above, there were three types of conceptual metaphor found. They were structural metaphor with 103 data and the percentage was 66.45%, orientational metaphor with 7 data and the percentage was 4.52%, and the third was ontological metaphor with 45 data and the percentage was 29.03%. Structural metaphor is dominantly occurred in the data source. In the other hand, orientational metaphor is the least type of conceptual metaphor appeared in the data source. The total occurrences of the data found is 155.

Discussion

Metaphor is formed by three components, there are topic, vehicle, and ground. The topic is the unit referred to, and the vehicle is the idea to which the unit being compared. The ground is the foundation in which the comparison is being made from. Knowles and Moon (2006) stated that metaphor is consisted of three parts: the metaphor, its significance, and the connection or similarity between the two which being compared. These three parts was referred to as the topic, the vehicle, and the ground. In the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel", the type of metaphor that dominantly appeared was structural metaphor. It was happened because the metaphors found were mostly had similarity of structure and system in structural metaphor.

1. Structural Metaphor

Structural metaphor is based on structured link within the experience of human. This type of metaphor most often appears in everyday life. Structural metaphor let people to use one very regulated and distinctly explained idea (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980:61). This is a type of metaphor that allows people to understand the target A through the structure source B.

Data 1

"Connor isn't moving, isn't speaking, just staring. Everything about this kid makes me shiver. *He's permafrost*."

(Chapter 3, Page 28)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "permafrost". The target of metaphor in the Data 1 is "he" and the source of metaphor is "permafrost". This sentence consisted of two words namely "he" has the lexical meaning of a guy and "permafrost" has lexical meaning of a thick subsurface coating of ground that remains frozen year by year. The sentence tried to make the readers understand "what is 'he'" by explaining that "he" is "permafrost". It was clear if the subject "he" is an ordinary person by looking at the sentence before the metaphorical sentence. "He" referred to a person named Connor, but the authors used the term "permafrost" to describe a human, which both human and permafrost are clearly different. This data belongs to structural metaphor because "permafrost" structures the subject "he".

Data 2

"It's just, I heard *Troy Montgomery*, *the star of our football team*, had a few college reps come to our school to speak with him."

(Chapter 5, Page 58)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "star". In the Data 2, the target of the metaphor is "Troy Montgomery" and the source of the metaphor is "the star of our football team" or "the star". The sentence tried to make the readers understand "who or what is Troy Montgomery" by describing that "Troy Montgomery" is "the star of our football team". It was comprehensible that Troy Montgomery is a name of a person, nevertheless the authors described that person as a star, one of the astronomical objects. A person is clearly not an astronomical object that makes this data belongs to structural metaphor, because "the star of our football team" structures the subject "Troy Montgomery".

Data 3

"In Zoe Murphy's eyes, *Evan Hansen is trash*."

(Chapter 9, Page 123)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "trash". The source of the metaphor in Data 3 is "trash" and the target of the metaphor is "Evan Hansen". The authors tried to make the readers know "what is Evan Hansen"

by telling that "Evan Hansen" is "trash". This sentence consisted of two terms namely "Evan Hansen" has the lexical meaning of a person named Evan Hansen and "trash" has lexical meaning of something that worth nothing. A human and a trash is different which makes this sentence a metaphorical sentence. In addition, the word "trash" structured the subject "Evan Hansen" and leaded this data becoming a structural metaphor.

Data 4

"Sounds noble—and maybe it is— but even that approach can start to feel like torture. Especially when *you're the lab rat*."

(Chapter 10, Page 138)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "rat". In Data 4, the target of the metaphor is "you" and the source of the metaphor is "the lab rat". The sentence attempted to make the readers understand "what is 'you'" by describing that "you" is "the lab rat". The previous sentence made it clear if the subject "you" belongs to a person, but the authors described that person as a lab rat, the rat that used to be an experimental material. It is clear that human and rat are two different things. Consequently, it made the sentence became a metaphor. Furthermore, this sentence belongs to structural metaphor because the source of metaphor structured the target of the metaphor.

Data 5

"Alana pulls at the cuffs of her shirt so they reach down to her wrists. "*Life is an interview*, Evan.""

(Chapter 14, Page 182)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "interview". The target of the metaphor in Data 5 is "life" and the source of the metaphor is "an interview". The sentence tried to make the readers acknowledge "what is life" by explaining that "life" is "an interview". Life is the situation that distinguishes human, animal, and plants from inorganic things. In the other hand, interview is an activity of question and answer between two or more people. It was clear that "life" and "interview" are two different things, which made this sentence categorized as a metaphor. This data belongs to structural metaphor because the word "an interview" structured the word "life"

Based on the above findings of structural metaphors in this study, after comparing it with the previous research results mentioned in the introduction, it was found that the conceptual metaphorical similarity of structural metaphors was more focused on how to transport or transfer a concept's qualities to another concept in order to illustrate the metaphor's intended meaning, which depends on the subject of the metaphor.

2. Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphor is associated to the entire system concept in terms of another and mainly related with spatial orientation such as: front-back, in-out, updown, etc. (Lakoff and Johnson: 1980). This type of metaphor does not depend on talking about A is understandable in terms of B.

Data 6

"Just because Connor isn't here, trying to punch through my door, *screaming at the top of his lungs* that he's going to kill me for no reason, that doesn't mean that all of a sudden we're the fucking Brady Bunch."

(Chapter 10, Page 137)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "top". Based on the sentence above, the authors used the word "top" which is indicating the metaphor "health and life are up". The term "up" was represented in the word "top" in the context of condition and it is used to designate a healthy person; in which it was denoted to represent someone's in healthy condition until that person was able to scream loudly. Based on the theory, this data belongs to Orientational Metaphor because the word "top" which represents the word "up" is a spatial orientation.

Data 7

"A bird whips past us and ascends to the open air. That's me up there, soaring. *I've never been this high*."

(Chapter 17, Page 225)

Based on the results of the orientational metaphor discussed above, it was found that this kind of orientational metaphor had a conceptual metaphorical similarity that focused more on human experience to illustrate the intentions of the metaphorical expression, which was undoubtedly dependent on the object of investigation, compared to the results of prior studies as explained in the introduction.

3. Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphor is the type of metaphor that examines abstract objects as if they are concrete things. Ontological metaphor is used to acknowledge events and actions, states, and activities; events and actions are conceptualized metaphorically as object, states as containers, and activities as sub-stances (Lakoff and Johnson: 1980).

Data 8

"Now she'll leave me handwritten messages around the house, saying things like: ***Step outside your comfort zone***."

(Chapter 1, Page 12)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "step". The term "comfort zone" had no physical form that made the term became an abstract thing. Abstract is the name of things that have no physical form. The phrase talked about stepping outside someone's comfort zone, meant to step outside an abstract object. This metaphorical phrase represented an activity of doing something to the "comfort zone". This data belongs to Ontological Metaphor since it treated "comfort zone" as a concrete object as if it is able to be stepped out.

Data 9

"Still, ***I can't catch my breath*** as I walk up the concrete path and through the metal doors of the school."

(Chapter 4, Page 44)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "catch". The term "breath" had no physical form that made the term became an abstract thing. Abstract is the name of things that have no physical form. The sentence talked about catching the speaker's breath, which meant catching an abstract object. This metaphorical sentence represented an activity of doing something to the "breath". This data belongs to Ontological Metaphor since it treated "breath" as a concrete object as if it is able to be stepped out.

Data 10

"***My mind is a slide show*** of worst-case scenarios as I walk through the empty halls to the main office."

(Chapter 5, Page 56)

The metaphor representation of the above data is identified by linguistic tag "slide show". "Mind" is an abstract thing because it consists of thoughts in human's brain and it has no physical form. the sentence talked about a slide show in someone's mind. This data belongs to ontological metaphor because it treated "mind" as if it was a concrete object.

Based on the above findings of ontological metaphors, the researchers found that this kind of orientational metaphors has the similarity of conceptual metaphors, and is more inclined to conceptualize abstract things into concrete things to show the purpose

of metaphoric expression, which undoubtedly depends on the object described, when compared with the results of prior studies as mentioned in the introduction.

Conclusion

According to the study's findings, there were three different categories of conceptual metaphor: structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor. The use of structural metaphor was wider used in the book "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" because the authors thought it would be easier for people to understand what they were writing if they showed a concept using another concept. In this case, the author of "Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel" wanted to use metaphorical elements, particularly structural metaphor that was related to daily life of the readers, to more effectively deliver the chaos as the result of doing continuous lies.

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