

Research Article

Metaphors and Their Meanings in Lady Whistledown's Utterances in the Television Series Bridgerton

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Abstract. Metaphors are used to understand the basic function of a term through another term, where there are some similarities or correlations between the two terms. Figurative language including metaphors is commonly used in dialogue, narrative text, and even in movie and television dialogue, where the dialogue can become more sparkling by the use of metaphors. The goal of this study was to examine Lady Whistledown's metaphorical expressions in the Bridgerton television series and to explain the meanings of the metaphors. This was a qualitative study and the data were analyzed using Beekman and Callow's metaphor theory. Full metaphor and abbreviated metaphor were the types of metaphor discovered by the researchers. The results of this study showed that abbreviated metaphor type 3 was the most frequently used. The meaning of each metaphor can be interpreted through the existing context. The findings of this study will be valuable to scholars who examine metaphors and metaphorical expressions.

Keywords: metaphor, abbreviated metaphor, meaning, Bridgerton

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1. INTRODUCTION

In order to generate a specific meaning or effect, figurative language deviates greatly from what language users interpret as the typical meaning of words or the regular arrangement of words (Abrams, 1999) [1]. "Figurative language was supposed to be one facet of what gives a text-in particular, a poetic text-special aesthetic value," as stated by Dancygier and Sweetser (2014) [2]. Figurative language uses figures of speech to become more effective, persuasive, and imaginative. The figure of speech such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, alliteration are outside the literal meanings of the words to give the reader new insights.

One of the figurative languages is metaphor. Metaphor becomes a way to understand the basic function of a term through another term, where there are some similarities or correlations between the two terms as Lakoff and Johnson (1980) mentioned [3]. Nowadays, figurative language including metaphor has been used in dialogue, narrative

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text even in movie dialogue. This is interesting because most of that movie's dialogues have been more sparkling by the use of metaphor. Metaphors could be found in many kinds of movie genres, romantics, science fiction, detective, horror, comedy, thriller, drama, adventure even in a mystery movie. Also, metaphor becomes the lucky charm to attract the audience.

The writers use Beekman and Callow's theory of metaphor to analyze this study (1974). According to Beekman and Callow (1974), a metaphor is an implicit comparison in which one of the comparison items (the "image") has many meaning components, only one of which is contextually relevant to and shared by the second item (the "topic") [4]. This research also makes use of Cutting's theory of context. Cutting (2008) defines context as the shared knowledge assumptions of the speaker and listener [4]. He distinguished between three types of context: situational context, background knowledge context, and cotextual context [5]. This study looked at the different types of metaphors used by Lady Whistledown in the film *Bridgerton*.

2. METHODOLOGY

This is a qualitative study in which the data and findings are presented in a methodical manner. "A qualitative study is characterized as an inquiry process of comprehending a social or human problem, based on developing a complex, holistic picture with words, reflecting comprehensive viewpoints of informants, and undertaken in a natural context," according to Cresswell (1994) [6]. Qualitative research comprises collecting and analyzing non-numerical data in order to better comprehend concepts, opinions, or experiences (e.g., text, video, or audio). The findings of the analysis are provided by explaining the findings of the study.

In conducting this research, the writer will use the movie entitled *Bridgerton*, a popular movie series about which set in the British Regency Era that was released at the end of 2020 as the source of data. A data source is an entity from which all research data is derived, according to Arikunto (1998) [7]. The data can be in the form of a conversation, a sentence, a clause, a phrase, or a word (Subroto, 1992) [8]. In this research, the data are the utterances from Lady Whistledown in the movie entitled *Bridgerton* that contain metaphors.

The data of this study are collected by doing the following procedures: First, the writer watching the movie entitled *Bridgerton* from Netflix several times. The writer focusing only on Lady Whistledown utterances throughout the movie. After that, the writer starts noting all of the utterances. From the notes, the writer examined and underlined

TABLE 1: Table of Types of Metaphor used by Lady Whistledown's.

NO.	DATA	FULL METAPHOR	ABBREVIATED METAPHOR			
			Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
1	And the drawing room at Bridgerton House currently appears to be emptier than the muddled head of her dearest King George.	√				
2	a scribbling woman is the most canine		√			
3	marrying above one's station is an art form.		√			
4	an even rarer jewel of only the most remarkable brilliance, fire, and luster has been unearthed.			√		
5	the crown has lost its luster.			√		
6	our diamond requires a closer inspection				√	
7	show you her teeth.				√	
8	he sweeps Miss Thompson off her pretty little slippered feet.				√	
9	It stirs the passions					√
10	moves the spirit					√

utterances that containing metaphorical expressions. Lastly, the writer classified the data based on the types of metaphor proposed by Beekman and Callow (1974) and finding out the meaning based on the context from each metaphor is expressed by the character.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer found both the Full metaphor and Abbreviated metaphor were found in this movie from the study that was conducted by the writer as shown in table (1).

The result of the types of metaphor used by Lady Whistledown in the movie series Bridgerton is shown. Because of the existence of comparison figures that construct a

metaphor, these figures are the topic, the image, and the point of similarity. Sometimes because one or two items of the comparison left being implicit, the metaphor being showed in abbreviated comparison.

3.1. Types of Metaphor and Its Meaning

Metaphor is a technique for conveying information about a topic in a vivid and memorable form. Beekman and Callow (1974) defined that a metaphor is an implicit comparison in which one item of the comparison (the "image," the component of the comparison intended to illustrate the issue under discussion) carries a number of meaning components, of which only one is usually contextually relevant to and shared by the second item (the "topic," the item illustrated by the image, the subject of the discussion), while "the point of similarity" expresses the comparison or similarity between "the topic" and "the image,"[3]. The writers describe the types of metaphors utilized by Lady Whistledown and their meanings in this study. This study reveals that Lady Whistledown utterances have a variety of metaphorical expressions, that is full metaphor and abbreviated metaphor. The meaning of the metaphors relied on the context because the same image can be presented in multiple situations with different points of similarity. These will be briefly described as follows.

3.1.1. Full Metaphor

Full Metaphor is when a metaphor explicitly compares two items and gives the point of similarity as stated by Beekman and Callow (1974)[3]. In the movie series Bridgerton, writers discovered Lady Whistledown conveying full metaphorical expression in her utterance.

Data (1)

And the drawing room at Bridgerton House curenly appears to be emptier than the muddled head of her dearest King George.

From this data (1) we can see that there is a topic: **the drawing-room** being compared with the image: **the muddled head**. Both the topic and the image showed the similarity between them with the point of similarity **appears to be emptier**. After the components being identified, the researcher classified the metaphor the drawing-room at Bridgerton House currently appears to be emptier than the muddled head of her dearest King George based on Beekman and Callow's theory as a full metaphor. Because we can clearly see there are two components being compared with explicit points of similarity.

In this data, the drawing-room is the topic and the muddled head is the image. The topic and the image are compared with appears to be empty. To find the meaning, first, the writer looks at the context. For the context, Miss Bridgerton, a debutante who gets the praise of the queen was predicted to get many visits from the “callers” (who a debutante hopes to see at her home the morning after a ball; preferably numerous, bearing gifts, compliments, and flowers) but turns out there are just a few visit Bridgerton’s drawing-room. King George happened to have a muddled head at least still having more contents in his head. Here, the context used is the situational context, because Lady Whistledown uses the situation at Bridgerton’s house in her utterance. The meaning that can be inferred from here is the callers are not interested in proposing to Miss Daphne Bridgerton.

3.1.2. Abbreviated Metaphor

Abbreviated metaphor is when in a metaphor, one or two items of the comparison are left being implicit. The researcher found that Lady Whistledown often used abbreviated metaphors which then divided into 4 types as below.

1. Type 1

In abbreviated metaphor type 1, the similarities is not being stated explicitly, only the topic and the image being shown like data below.

Data (2)

A scribbling woman is the most canine.

This data (2) has **a scribbling woman** as the topic, **canine** as the image, but the point of similarity is not explicitly stated that is why this data can be classified as abbreviated metaphor type 1. The image canine is often associated with ‘dog’ and its sharp tooth. this is because the word canine derives from *Canis*, the Latin word for dog. The image canine first being compared with the topic of a scribbling woman. The point of similarity is omitted, but we can know the point of similarity between a canine and a scribbling woman by understanding the character of the image canine. The character of canine, or dog, is always barking when they face enemies and threats. From that, we can see it is clear that a scribbling woman has the same characteristic as a dog. Like the metaphor a scribbling woman is the most canine, the dog always barking loudly whenever they face threats and enemies so the people can hear it from the miles and be aware of it, same goes with the scribbling woman, she keeps writing and publishing it so people know about her utterances even though she received various threats. Based on that,

the meaning that can be inferred from this metaphor is Lady Whistledown is not afraid of the threats she receives.

2. Type 2

In abbreviated metaphor type 2, the topic is not being stated explicitly, like being shown in the example below.

Data (5)

If the crown has lost its luster

The image **crown** is shown in data (5) above; **lost its luster** is the point of similarity while position as a princess is the topic that is not explicitly stated. The context of this metaphor is the Prince Friedrich of Prussia, Queen's niece comes to the town looking for his soon-to-be princess. Almost all of the debutantes competing to attract the attention of the prince are hoping to be his princess, except Miss Daphne Bridgerton, the one who is referred to as 'one diamond who is immune'. Miss Daphne's act makes Lady Whistledown wonder if the position of the princess is lost the luster (in here referred to as the quality) as the crown whose has also lost its luster (the shine) so it is unable to attract Miss Daphne's interest. The meaning of metaphor **the crown has lost its luster** based on the explanation above is the title 'Princess' is not fancied Miss Daphne Bridgerton.

3. Type 3

In abbreviated metaphor type 3, the point of similarity, as well as the topic, are not indicated. This type of metaphor just shown in the data like below.

Data (7)

Then this author would like to show you her teeth

From this data (7) only the image which is **her teeth** is shown here while the topic and point of similarity are not stated. To find out the meaning, we refer to the previous metaphor from data (2) with the same context. The meaning from the previous metaphor is a scribbling woman is the same as a barking dog. A canine can also be associated with a dog's fang. If a dog shows its fang, it means to show strength to threaten the enemy. So **show her teeth** means the scribbling woman will also show her strength and not fear to face the threats she received and the consequences of her actions.

4. Type 4

In abbreviated metaphor type 4, the point of similarity, as well as a portion of the image, is implied (not explicitly stated).

Data (9)

It stirs the passion and moves the spirit.

mage's full form would be 'an appreciation of the arts is what stirs the passion of us, human'. The topic may be put in the comparable form 'human...passion'. The point of similarity between 'appreciation of the arts' and 'passions' are both feelings that are felt by humans so we can conclude that the meaning of this metaphor is the appreciation of the art evoke the strong feeling of us, the human. This metaphor refers to Lady Whistledown herself. Lady Whistledown considers that her work-newspaper about scandal-is an artwork. Her appreciation for art which in this context means scandals, makes her want to continue making other works, searching for another scandal, supposed more spectacular than the recent one.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Lady Whistledown seems to used metaphor in her utterances. In the study done by the researcher, the researcher used the theory that was proposed by Beekman and Callow (1974). The metaphors found in the Bridgerton movie series are Full Metaphor and Abbreviated Metaphor. Abbreviated Metaphor then subdivided into 4 types; Type 1 wherein the metaphor only topic and image are stated while the point of similarity is not. Type 2 when the topic is not being stated explicitly, left the image and point of similarity explicitly stated. When it is the only image is being stated in a metaphor, it is included in Type 3. And the last type, Type 4 is when the point of similarity and part of the image is implicit. Context plays an important role in interpreting any metaphor of Lady Whistledown. Situational and background knowledge contexts are frequently utilized in the analyzed metaphor. We can deduce the metaphor's meaning by looking at the context. The reader will gain understanding about metaphor, particularly in the British Regency Era, and its meaning as a result of this research. People will also be able to improve their knowledge of metaphor as a result of this research.

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