

Research article

Metaphors in Jason Mraz's Song Lyrics (An Ecolinguistic Perspective)

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Abstract.

This research was intended to analyze Metaphor in Jason Mraz's song lyrics based on an Ecolinguistic perspective by Kovecess theory. The objective of this research was "To describe how metaphors delineation realized in Jason Mraz's song lyrics based on the common source domain and the common target domain". This research used a descriptive qualitative method. The researcher used the metaphor theory by Kovecess to analyze the data. The source of the data in this research was taken from Jason Mraz's song lyrics such as The World as I See it, Back to the Earth, and Wise Woman. The data was collected through downloading, reading, classifying, coding, describing, and interpreting the data to get a complete conclusion of the Metaphor in Jason Mraz's song lyrics based on an Ecolinguistic perspective. The researcher analyzed lyrics that show metaphor based on the common source domain and the common target domain in the lyrics. The result showed that the metaphor delineations were revealed from the analysis process by using the mapping common source domain and common target domain by Kovecess. The researcher found 19 Metaphors include the common source domain and the target domain. It showed the condition of the world that has a remarkable place, the beauty of ecology, our role as a part of nature. The three songs also convey an implicit message about how protecting and loving the environment create harmony and live peacefully because humans and nature have an interrelation.

Keywords: metaphor, ecolinguistics, kovecess, sog lyrics, source domain and target domain

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most distinguishing features that distinguishes humans from other organisms. It signifies that communication language plays a vital function in human life. Language is not only a tool communication (Mbetse, 2009). Language contains a cultural vision: recording, maintain, and pass on collective concepts, historical values, philosophical, socio- cultural, and ecological of a society. Language is symbols and cultural elements attached to human life. Socioculturally, language is a component of the culture that exists in real and directly can also distinguish between one ethnic community


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with other ethnic communities. As a social reality, language is a phenomenon used by the speaking community to communicate and interact in the context of situations and cultural contexts in an environment (Sidu, 2017). Song lyrics are words that make up a song usually made up of verses and choruses. Aside from amusing, lyrics can be used to give facts and opinions on societal concerns that have occurred in a community or country. Currently, many songs can represent our emotions, such as love songs, social, political, environmental songs, and other songs stated in the lyrics. A metaphor is a common builder element in song lyrics used to portray those feelings. Song writers give their ideas, their feelings, they think of something through lyrics that use a metaphor that not everyone can understand. A conceptual metaphor is defined as a collection of mappings that exist between basic constituent elements of the source domain and fundamental constituent elements of the target domain. To understand a conceptual metaphor, one must first understand the collection of mappings that supply most of the meaning of the metaphorical verbal expression that makes a specific conceptual metaphor explicit.

The study of the relationship between language and ecology is called ecolinguistics. The ecology of language is a paradigm formulated by Einar Haugen in 1970 to refer to a new ecological study of the interrelation between language in the human mind and language in multilingual societies (Fill, 2001). As a new paradigm, the realm and scope of the application of ecological concepts in linguistics developed dramatically in the following decade. Pragmatics and discourse analysis, anthropological linguistics, theoretical linguistics, language teaching research, and several other branches of linguistics benefit from the use of ecological parameters such as environmental interrelation and density. Important topics about environmental degradation have also been adopted in all fields of linguistics.

The theoretical interest to be discussed in this research is analyzing the types of metaphor includes a common source domain and a common target domain and the relationship between environment and metaphor through the three selected songs of Jason Mraz. As Haugen (2001) noted, "language ecology may be defined as the study of interactions between any given language and its environment." According to Lakoff, G. And Johnson (1980) metaphors are common in daily life, not only in language but also in thought and behavior. Most universal and fundamental ideas of our universe, such as time, condition, and number, are comprehended through metaphorical mappings. They are derived from tangible daily experience and knowledge of the world and are projected onto abstract notions, acting as a template for their construction.

Jason Mraz has written several songs that describe how beautiful the world, indirect he wants to give a message to the audience to keep protect and care for our planets. In a strict sense, language and environment, as Stibbe (2015) put it, is about “critiquing forms of language that contribute to ecological destruction, and aiding in the search for new forms of language that inspire people to protect the natural world”. Distinctly, this critique and analysis go far deeper than commenting on individual texts rather, “ecolinguistics can explore the more general patterns of language that influence how people both think about, and treat, the world. It can investigate the stories we live by mental models that influence behavior and lie at the heart of the ecological challenges we are facing”.

The reason why the researcher chooses Metaphor in Jason Mraz’s song lyrics because the song lyrics have not ever been observed by using the Kovecsess theory and used Ecolinguistic perspective and also from Jason Mraz’s song lyrics there are many nature element it shown from the lyrics compared with another song lyrics. Furthermore, to know that theory about metaphor not only belong to Kovcses (2010) but there is another expert too like Lakoff and johnson, etc. in this research, the researcher chooses the Metaphor by Kovecsess not from the other because according to the researcher, Kovecsess theory has the complex of types metaphors that give comprehend deeply for metaphor.

2. METHOD

This research used qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative studis a study process based on a different study methodology because it explores social or human problems (Creswell, 2014). In other hand, according to Dey (1993) qualitative research is often related to the assumption that to explain how subjects experience and understands a situation or event. In this study, the research would analyze how are metaphors delineation realized in Jason Mraz’s song lyrics based on the common source domain and the common target domain used by Kovecses theory.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Result

The World as I See It

The analysis of the song lyrics “The World as I See It” in the album A Four Letter Word (2012).

Data 1

The world as I see it, is a remarkable place

By the analysis, the researcher finds a metaphorical expression. It is the source domain and the target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “The world as I see it” including the common source domain of the human body because the author sees the world as his object by using the sense of sight. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “The world as I see it, is a remarkable place” included the common target domain of emotion because the songwriter tried to explain how wonderful he saw the world with his feelings.

Data 2

A beautiful house in a forest, of stars in outer space

From the data, the researcher finds a metaphorical expression. It is the source domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the word “a forest” including the common source domain of the natural environment because the forest is a part of the natural environment, whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the word “A beautiful house in a forest, of stars in outer space.” include the common target domain of thought. Because the songwriter describes the world as a beautiful house in a forest of stars in outer space based on his view.

Data 3

From a bird’s eye view I can see it has a well-rounded personality

Based on the analysis above, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, it is the source domain and the target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “a bird’s eye view” which included the common source domain of the animal. Because the

songwriter describes how the world is shown from a bird’s view. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “I can see it has a well-rounded personality” included the common target domain morality because it is described the moral categories such as good or bad, as well as honesty. A well-rounded personality refers to someone who interested in the world and interesting to others.

Data 4

From the bird’s eye view I can see
we are family

Based on the analysis above, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, it is the source domain and the target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “a bird’s eye view” which included the common source domain of the animal. Because the songwriter describes how the world is shown from a bird’s view. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “we are family” included the common target domain human relationship because family described as human relationship. Its means we are all connected and that we should all tread responsibly and respectfully while we’re here (on the earth).

Data 5

You are the mountain

Based on the lyrics of this song, we can get a description of how the songwriter admiring to the earth with his song, because he describes the world as a mountain and a rock. Where a mountain is the beauty of nature is admired by many people, we can see the sunrise or sunset and the surrounding environment. Based on the analysis above, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “Mountain” and included the common source domain of The Natural Environment because the mountain is a part of the natural environment. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “you are the mountain” included the common target domain of morality, because the mountain can mean honesty, majesty, greatness, etc. The songwriter describes the earth as a mountain that has morality to educate the reader for cared nature.

Data 6

You are the rocks

Based on the lyrics of this song, we can get a description of how the songwriter admiring to the earth with his song, because he describes the earth as a rock. Where the rock is a natural process which it is has great power such as a health therapy for

humans, rocks are useful as the smallest mantle that is located in groups on the earth’s surface and some rocks are used as sources of energy or fuel such as coal and petroleum. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “rock” and included the common source domain of The Natural Environment because the rock is a part of the natural environment. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “you are the rock” included the common target domain of morality, because the songwriter describes the earth as a rock which has symbolized as forces.

Data 7

You are the eagle

By the lyrics above, the researcher believes that the songwriter describes the way he saw the world as like an eagle. Because the eagle represented 'a free spirit, high soaring and courageous'. The eagle significance is particularly characteristic of new beginnings, resilience, and stamina for those who have been experiencing difficult passages in life. The symbolism of the eagle makes you realize the importance of truthful principles and honesty. If you are on the verge of embarking on a massive endeavor in life, you will benefit tremendously by calling upon the eagle symbolism first. The Native Americans were tribes of deeply spiritual people. They passed down their thoughts, reflections, ideas, theories, beliefs, and history through symbols and signs to their generations, such as the eagle symbol. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "eagle" and included the common source domain of The animal because the eagle is a part of the animal. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "you are the eagle" included the common target domain of morality, because the eagle has come to embody an all-seeing eye. The eagle is often a solar symbol and can be linked to all-sky gods. It signifies inspiration, release from bondage, victory, longevity, speed, pride, father, and royalty; it is often an emblem for powerful nations.

Data 8

You are the lark

The lark are known for their melodious singing. They also sing while they flying, unlike most other birds, who only sing when peched. This indicates cheerfulness and reminds us to find joy in our own lives. Larks have a crescent shape across their breasts. The crescent shape often signifies lunar qualities, and the moon is often linked with the concept of self. Therefore the lark reflects the inward journey that's often associated with self-discovery. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "Lark" and included the common source domain of The animal because the lark is a part of the animal. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "you are the lark" included the common target domain of emotion, because the lark indicates cheerfulness and reminds us to find joy in our own lives.

Data 9

You're the ocean eating the shore

Here the researcher assumes that the songwriter tried to describe the world as the ocean because the ocean is the true lungs of the earth in addition to trees, which provide most of the oxygen we breathe and also controls the climate on earth by absorbing large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Our ocean provides countless benefits to our planet and all the creatures that live here. The ocean also is the beginning of life on Earth, and symbolizes formlessness, the unfathomable, and chaos. The ocean can also be seen as a symbol of stability, as it can exist largely unchanged for centuries. By the analysis, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “ocean and shore” and included the common source domain of The natural environment because the ocean and the shore is a part of the Natural Environment. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “you are the ocean eating the shore” included the common target domain of emotion, because The ocean is a powerful symbol. Throughout history, it has been seen as a symbol of power and strength. And also mystery, endlessness, calmness, hope, and even truth.

Data 10

You are the calm inside the storm

From the lyrics of the song, the researcher gets an understanding or a description of how good the earth for humans, understanding our underlying link with nature might help us operate in harmony with it. Because mother nature always knows how to brighten our days, no matter how terrible of a day we might have

had, when we look up at the sky at the end of it, there is no way we won't smile. Nature gives us a home, the natural world has created the perfect balance of resources and habitat for us to survive. By the analysis, the researcher finds the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “storm” and included the common source domain of forces because the storm describes the physical world. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “you are the calm inside the storm” included the common target domain of emotion, because the lyrics is entailed prides and forces.

3.2. Back to the Earth

The analysis of the song lyrics “Back to the Earth” in the album Yes (2014).

Data 11

Whenever my head start to hurt

Before it goes from bad to feeling worst

I turn off my phone, I get down low
And put my hands in the dirt
I try to stop the world from moving so fast

In the lyrics, we can see or give an idea of what is mean by “put my hand in the dirt”. The lyrics can mean that getting dirty may also make someone happier and less stressed. Some studies suggest this effect originates in the gut, where beneficial soil microbes help regulate neurotransmitters that affect our emotional state. Playing in dirt may actually play a role in lifting depression. Live Science reported on a 2007 study that showed “exposure to friendly soil bacteria could improve mood by boosting the immune system just as effectively as antidepressant drugs.” That friendly soil microbe is *Mycobacterium vaccae*. indirectly the lyrics of the song can educate listeners about how important it is to keep a beautiful environment, because a healthy, clean and comfortable environment is an environment that is free from contamination by dirt from the surrounding environment. By the analysis, the researcher found the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “dirt” and included the common source domain of the natural environment because dirt is part of the natural environment. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “put my hand in the dirt” included the common target domain of emotion because the lyrics describe the songwriter when his head starts to hurt before it goes from bad to feeling worst, he turns off his phone, he gets down low and put his hand in the dirt, he tries to stop the world from moving so fast, it’s mean that put his hand in the dirt can make his feelings peace.

Data 12

I try to stop the world from moving so fast
Try to get a grip on where I’m at
To simplify this dizzy life,
And get my feet in the grass

By the analysis, the researcher found the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “Grass” and included the common source domain of plant because grass is part of the plant. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “And get my feet in the grass” included the common target domain of emotion because the lyrics describe feeling the peace and happiness when getting our feet in the grass.

Data 13

I'm going back to the Earth I'm going back to the Earth I'm going back to work
I'm going back to the Earth

By the analysis, the researcher found the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "Going back" and included the common source domain of Movement and direction because the lyrics are showed the songwriter wanted to return to doing something after he tried to refresh his brain by getting his feet in the grass. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "I'm going back to the earth" included the common target domain of emotion because the lyrics describe the songwriter feels relieved after he tried to get a grip on where he at to simplify the dizzy life.

Data 14

We are animals (we are animals) We are wild
(we are wild)

And we'll start with the emotions at the bottom of the ocean
I was feeling from the top of the trees

By the analysis, the researcher found the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "Ocean" and "trees" included the common source domain of the natural environment and plant. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "And we'll start with the emotions at the bottom of the ocean, I was feeling from the top of the trees" which included the common target domain of emotion

because the songwriter describes his feelings that are starting to stabilize from the emotions he was feeling.

Data 15

We are animal (we are animal) We are wild (we are wild)
And we'll truly be forgiven when
we start getting back to living with the land in harmony

By the analysis, the researcher found the metaphorical expression, which is the source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "land" included the common source domain of the natural environment. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "And we'll truly be forgiven when we start getting back to living with the land in harmony" which included the common target domain of emotion because the songwriter describes his feeling truly be forgiven when he start getting back to living with the land in harmony with nature.

3.3. Wise Woman

The analysis of the song lyrics “Wise Woman” in the album Look for the good (2020).

Data 16

She’s a green garden goddess

The researcher found the metaphorical expression by the analysis, which is the common source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “green garden” included the common source domain of the Plant. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “She’s a green garden goddess” which included the common target domain of emotion because the songwriter describes his feeling proud of nature’s beauty.

Data 17

She hears the universe

She’s out there with the planet

But she keeps it down to earth

The researcher found the metaphorical expression by the analysis, which is the common source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “hears” included the common source domain of the human body as a sense of hearing. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “She hears the universe” which included the common target domain of thought because the songwriter describes the wise woman as a woman who is venerated for experience, judgment, and wisdom.

Data 18

Yeah, she’s a green garden goddess

A sage of ancient ways

Cultivating patience

Earth has her own pace

The researcher found the metaphorical expression by the analysis, which is the common source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase “cultivating” included the common source domain of the plant because cultivating refers to the way stages of growth that plants are going through. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase “cultivating patience” which included the common target domain of emotion because the songwriter describes the wise woman as an angel without wings who can control any emotion well.

Data 19

She's a green garden goddess

Daughter of the sun Sister to the moon Mother to everyone

The researcher found the metaphorical expression by the analysis, which is the common source domain and the common target domain. The source domain is the concrete form of the phrase "green garden" included the common source domain of the plant. Whereas the target domain is the abstract form of the phrase "Daughter of the sun, Sister to the moon Mother to everyone" which included the common target domain of human relationships, because the lyrics showed there are human relationships is described such as daughter, sister, and mother. The lyrics can educate us for take care to environment because it is our common responsibility to increase public awareness of our mother earth's well-being because the environment can provide a source of life so that humans can live prosperously. The environment is a source of life support. Thus, the environment can provide welfare in human life.

4. Discussion

As already known, ecolinguistics is the study of interactions between any given language and its environment. Haugen defined ecolinguistic or ecology of language as the study of the interrelation between any given language and its environment. In other words, it can be emphasized that the interrelation and interdependence between language and ecology are inseparable parts of human life. The existence of language is used by humans to interact with each other by involving the existence of an ecological environment, both in the natural environment and in its socio-cultural environment which is influenced by thoughts, concepts, ideology and various activities carried out by humans themselves.

In this study, the researcher discusses the relations of language and environment in Jason Mraz's song lyrics which has metaphor meaning from the context of Ecolinguistic. Based on the finding above, the researcher expects to answer the research questions about "how metaphors delineation realized in Jason Mraz's song lyrics based on the common source domain and the common target domain." by using Kovecse theory. The data was obtained from three song lyrics written by Jason Mraz on a different album.

The lyrics to three of Jason Mraz's songs are The world as I see it, from the A four-letter word (2012) Album, Back to the Earth, from Yes (2014) album, and Wise Woman, from Look for the good (2020) albums. The third environmental theme song tells about the beauty of nature and how nature gives happiness to living beings. The three songs

also convey messages about protecting and loving the environment in order to create harmony and live in peace, because the environment has a relationship with humans. The environment affects human attitudes and behavior, as well as human life, which will affect the environment in which they live.

As a result of the findings above the writer found 19 data that contain the relation of language and environment in the song lyrics that contain metaphor meaning from the context of Ecolinguistic. The researcher examines the song lyrics of Jason Mraz using the Metaphor theory by Kovecess. He said that metaphors are generally referred to as linguistic studies, which transfer ideas in concrete form to more abstract areas. The metaphorical framework according to Kovecses (2010) is a form of interaction between two cultural models, the source domain and the target domain. The relationship between the two models is characterized by a very strong relationship between cognitive and linguistic communities through a mutual agreement in the process of forming a metaphor.

Based on the theory put forward by Kovecess, the researcher obtained 19 data including the common source domain and common target domains that the researcher found in three lyrics of the Jason Mraz song, which include “The world as I see it”, “Back to the Earth”, and “Wise Woman”.

5. CONCLUSION

Metaphors are found in environmental text such as song lyrics by Jason Mraz are very meaningful in life. According to the song’s lyrics “The world as I see it”, “Back to the Earth”, and “Wise Woman”, Jason Mraz defines the environment as the center of life, in harmony with all the parts that surround it, such as humans, animals, land, water, air, and others. Life will be more harmonious as long as humans can accept their place as a component of the environment.

The metaphor delineations were revealed from the analysis process by using the mapping common source domain and common target domain by Zoltan Kovecess. It shows the condition of the world that has a remarkable place, the beauty of ecology, our role as a part of nature. The three songs also convey an implicit message about how protecting and loving the environment create harmony and live peacefully because the environment has a relationship with humans. The environment affects human attitudes and behavior, as well as human life, which will affect the environment in which they live.

Based on the research that has been done with the title “Methapors in Jason Mraz’s song lyrics (An Ecolinguistic perspective)” the researcher would give some suggestions as to the considerations for readers especially the future researcher who would like to

do further research related to the ecolinguistic study. In this research, the researcher is using Kovecsess's theory which is the theory that addresses metaphor. However, the writer only finds 19 data that have or describe metaphorical meaning based on the ecolinguistic perspective in Jason Mraz's song lyrics which are "The world as I see it", "Back to the Earth", and "Wise Woman". The researcher was not able to find out the implied meaning, subtext, presupposition, based on the ecolinguistic perspective in Jason Mraz's song lyrics, therefore the researcher is highly expected that in the future the other researcher will be conducting more deep and perfect research concerning metaphor based on the ecolinguistic perspective in other object or literary works.

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