



**ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN TERM OF SLAVERY RESISTANCE
AS REFLECTED IN BOB MARLEY'S SONGS LYRIC;
REDEMPTION SONG AND BUFFALO SOLDIER**

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Abstract

This study is attempted to analyze metaphor in Bob Marley's selected lyrics; entitled Redemption Song and Buffalo Soldier. The problems of the study are 1) what types and meanings of each metaphor found in Bob Marley's selected lyrics? 2) How those metaphorical expressions intensify slavery resistance as the content of the songs? The aim of this research is to find out the types of metaphors used in those lyrics and to understand the meanings of words, phrases or sentences contained the data. To achieve the objectives of the study, I used qualitative descriptive research and semantics as the approach in order to interpret the meanings. I collected the data from the songs lyrics, then classified them into types of metaphor. Based on the theories provided, the data were analyzed one by one to know the types of metaphor used and the meaning of them. Metaphorical expressions found mostly in the songs lyrics are structural metaphor and ontological metaphor. In the beginning, the metaphorical expressions were explained in their literal meanings, so they could show the influence of using metaphor in the phrase or sentence. Through songs lyrics as the object of my analysis, it could be concluded that those songs lyrics generally contained metaphorical expressions.

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INTRODUCTION

We need to communicate with others to fulfill our necessities by using the language because it is the most means of communication. People have various ways to communicate to each others, by using spoken language, written language, or gesture. According to Kreidler (2002:19), language is only one of the common activities of a society. For instance, a songwriter conveys ideas, thoughts, and feelings through the lyrics of the songs that he created. Lyric is a media which is used to convey the message of the songwriters to the listener. In addition, as a means of entertainment, song lyrics can be used as a media to provide information and opinions on the social problems that occur in our society. It can be concluded that language also constitutes as the form of the author's medium in producing his or her literary work in order to express their thoughts or ideas.

The use of language can be various ways to be expressed. One of them is called language style. Style becomes part of the diction by the choice of words that indicates whether it is suitable or not in using the word, phrase, or sentence to express certain situation (Keraf, 1991:136). In my further discussion I would like to analyze the metaphors in term of slavery resistance as reflected in Bob Marley's songs lyric; *Redemption Song* and *Buffalo Soldier*. In terms of song, lyric is a literary work. As today's popular culture that can reflect social phenomena at certain of time and it may reflect the aspect of history that is very interesting to study. Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 156) say metaphors may create realities for us, especially social realities. By observing his work, we can see the point and understand author's feelings and the messages that is expressed from the use of language style used by the author. It can be explored from the analysis by finding metaphorical expressions and explicating each part of the lyrics.

Those two selected songs lyrics are used as the data of the analysis because some metaphors were found and it is assumed that there are many metaphors existed in lyrics which are going to be analyzed semantically. In these lyrics, Bob

Marley employs metaphors to strengthen and enhance his ideas about slavery resistance on black people. Metaphor is widely used in literature such as in poetry, song lyrics and novels. It is important for us to know and understand about metaphor precisely, because it is inseparable that metaphor has revealed many facts about how the human mind use the metaphors in daily life.

DISCUSSIONS

Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 3) explain metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. Our ordinary conceptual system, in terms of which we both think and act is fundamentally metaphorical in nature. In addition they explained that the essence of metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another. In conceptual metaphor, the experiential correlations divide into two types: experiential concurrence and experiential similarity. An example of experiential concurrence would be *more is up* because it is grounded in the concurrence of experiences, adding more of substance and seeing the level of the substance rise. An example of experiential similarity is *life is a gambling game*, where one experiences actions are perceived as winning or losing. When such a metaphor is extended, we may experience new similarities between life and gambling games (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980: 155).

Lakoff and Johnson (1980: 14) made a classification of metaphor into three types according to their form and content which are often based on correlations we perceived in our experiences:

1. Structural Metaphor

It is a conventional metaphor in which one concept is understood and expressed in terms of another structured, sharply defined concept.

For example *Please sit in the apple-juice seat.*

Apple is a kind of fruit, apple-juice seat is not a conventional way of referring to any kind of object to arrive at a logical sense. The sentence must be interpreted figuratively. The sentence

makes perfect sense in the context in which it was uttered.

2. Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphor is the metaphor that associated with space and place that can be determined through the physical and experience. These spatial orientations arise from the fact that we have bodies and their function as they do in our physical environment.

For example : *Happy is up*

The fact that the concept *happy* is oriented *up* leads to English expressions like “I’m feeling *up* today”. This metaphor is based on human physical experience in regulating the orientation toward life. The use of the word *up* is to give a positive impression, such as happy and healthy. While we provide information on the word *down* which sound is negative. For example in the sentence: *my spirits sank* means my spirits descending.

3. Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphor involves the projection of entity or substance upon something that does not have status inherently.

For example: *his religion tells him that he cannot drink fine French wines.*

In this sentence implies that *religion* can do such activities that are often done by human.

Fainsilber and Ortony quoted by Laurie (1999:17) give the explanation that metaphor is used primarily to satisfy specific communicative needs of the speaker. In addition, they explain the three most common of communicative functions in metaphor as follow:

1. Inexpressibility: metaphors are used to express ideas that are difficult to communicate with general language.
2. Compactness: unlike literal language, which is composed of discrete information units, metaphors communicate larger “chunks” of information. Thus, metaphoric utterances can represent and communicate ideas more efficiently than literal language.
3. Vividness: by appealing to sensory and perceptual inputs, metaphors help capture and express the vividness of our subjective experiences. This has also been referred to as the emotional force or resonance of metaphor.

DATA DESCRIPTION

The data will be taken from the lyrics of the songs by Bob Marley; *Redemption Songs* and *Buffalo Soldier*. The analysis method uses the conceptual metaphor theory in order to discover what types and meanings of metaphorical expressions contained in selected songs lyrics. The following data shows the research finding about metaphorical expressions and their meanings. Each of the datum display is followed by the analysis. All of the metaphorical expressions which are underlined, firstly interpreted by the literal definition which are taken from Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. The literal definition is used to support the analysis of the figurative expressions used in the song lyrics

Table 1. Types and Meanings of Metaphor Found in Redemption Song

Datum No	Song Lyrics	Types	Meanings
1	<i>Old pirates</i> yes they rob I	Structural Metaphor	European colony
2	My <i>hand</i> was made strong	Structural Metaphor	Power or energy
3	My hand was made <i>strong</i>	Orientalional Metaphor	Up
4	By the <i>hand of the almighty</i>	Ontological Metaphor	God's help
5	Won't you <i>help to sing</i>	Ontological Metaphor	To conceive
6	These <i>songs of freedom</i>	Ontological Metaphor	Marcus Garvey's speech
7	Cause all I ever had <i>redemption songs</i>	Ontological Metaphor	The act of redeeming
8	Emancipate yourselves from <i>mental slavery</i>	Ontological Metaphor	Fatuous
9	Have no fear of <i>atomic energy</i>	Ontological Metaphor	Threats and dangers
10	Cause none of them can <i>stop the time</i>	Ontological Metaphor	Stop the condition
11	How long shall they <i>kill our prophets</i>	Structural Metaphor	Virtuous authority
12	We've got to <i>fulfill the book</i>	Ontological Metaphor	To undergo in destiny

Explanations:

1. *Old pirates* yes they rob I

Old literally means known for a long time or former, belonging to past times or a past time in your life. While *Pirate* means a person on a ship who attacks other ship at sea in order to steal from them. The *Old Pirates* here refers to European colony. It is one of experience in concurrence history. As it has been described which this happened in the past and it has been known for a long time that the slaves from Africa were

brought by European colony in applying slave trade.

This metaphor belongs to **structural metaphor** because it is clear that it comprehend one aspect of a concept in terms of another. Here the concept of European colony is delivered metaphorically by the concept of old pirates and it's characteristic who robs the black people to work as slaves.

2. But my *hand* was made strong
3. But my hand was made *strong*

Hand has literal meaning the part of the body at the end of the arm, including the fingers and thumb. The meaning of this sentence could be understood easily no matter if the sentence could be interpreted into everyday use and the exact meaning would be achieved. But the sentence above contains metaphorical sense. *Hand* identically means a very significant part of the body that used to run something as pleased such as can grab, take up, and put down according to the functions and purposes. Based on experiential similarity, the phrase *my hand* represents *my power* or *energy*. This interpretation is supported by the line following this metaphor. It can be seen from some of the possibility that could be a comparison in the words *strong*. It is associated by showing a great power or good feeling in achieving something. Based on the analysis above, this metaphor includes **structural metaphor** because it illustrates an idea which can be expressed in other ways. Here the concept of power is delivered metaphorically by the concept of hand as a part of the body.

While *Strong* literally means having a lot of physical power or having great power. In addition, with the utterance *was made*, the word *strong* means *Up*. It indicates that cause something to appear as a result based on physical experiences. It is grounded in the experiential concurrence of seeing the level of the substance rise. Since this substance refers to power or energy related to previous metaphor. So this metaphor belongs to **orientational metaphor**. In metaphor this sentence means 'my energy was up'.

4. By the hand of the almighty

Hand has literal meaning the part of the body at the end of the arm, including the fingers and thumb. While the word *Almighty* definitely having absolute power over all. The word *hand* in this sentence is impossible to interpret literally because the sense in the sentence would be very difficult to understand, it must be interpreted figuratively to get the right meaning.

It is an experiential concurrence since there is no experiential similarity at all. It could be

stated that the sentence contained a metaphor sense namely **ontological metaphor** because the range of ontological metaphors used for such purposes is enormous. This sentence described in referring of the act of helping somebody, figuratively by the word *hand*. So the right interpretation of this metaphorical expression is 'by God's help'.

THE METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS INTENSIFY SLAVERY RESISTANCE AS THE CONTENT OF REDEMPTION SONG

In order to get detailed meaning and how those metaphorical expressions intensify the content of the song, it is important to explicate each part of this song lyric.

Redemption Song was released by Bob Marley in 1980. It was the last song on the last album he released before his death in 1981. It consists of 5 stanzas and each stanza consist of 4 lines. The author here is the singer of this song. He uses the word 'I' as a subject for the entire lyric. 'I' or 'my' is a pronoun referring to the African slaves. The form of this song that shown by the author is ballad, means a song that tells a story. He tells a series of events about himself and his society that have ever experienced through the Redemption Song.

The first stanza,

*Old pirates yes they rob I
Sold I to the merchant ships*

The author clarify that he and million Africans were robbed of their freedom and sent to the America as slaves by the pirates. Old pirates here means European colony. The use of metaphor *old pirates* is to intensify the character of European colony which is identical with the authority of being wicked. This metaphor introduces idea of preceding event with the characterization of European colony as the objective. According to the history that the existence of black people in America because of slave trading by the merchant ships, where loaded with slaves which were bound to serve a person

of money. Slave is a person who is owned by another person and is forced to work for them. They are supplying colonies with human labor.

*Minutes after they took I
From the bottomless bit*

He is referring to the terrible conditions underneath the decks of the ships which the slaves were transported with. In this case Bob Marley as a Black People who always become an object of slavery. *From the bottom less pit*, it explains about the their sufferings situation which seems never to end because of the colonizer. As a matter of fact where situation without freedom of the slaves are treated cruelly and arbitrary. The movement of the structure in first stanza has a relation to the content, it contained the ideas that developed chronologically about the background of slave.

The second stanza,

*But my hand was made strong
By the hand of the Almighty*

The author tells about he found his energy is up or a strong enthusiasm feeling that has been strengthened because of the God's help when they have been in the misery conditions. *The hand of the Almighty* is a metaphorical expression of belief that makes his lives could be better in religion aspect that makes him stay withstand. Though all his sufferings, he is convinced with the strength of God. In these two lines, the lyric's structure develops by cause and effect that reflected the movement from sufferings into spirit. His belief to the God cause of his spirit. Those metaphors show idea of situations by person's feelings as the objective.

Table 2. Types and Meanings of Metaphor Found in Buffalo Soldier

Datum No	Song Lyrics	Types	Meanings
1	<i>Buffalo Soldier</i>	Structural Metaphor	Black calvary troops
2	<i>Dreadlock Rasta</i>	Structural Metaphor	Rastafarians
3	There was a buffalo soldier in the <i>heart of America</i>	Ontological metaphor	The central of America
4	I mean it, when I analyze <i>the stench</i>	Structural Metaphor	The unpleasant truth
5	To me it makes <i>a lot of sense</i>	Ontological metaphor	Obvious
6	Buffalo soldier <i>troddin through the land</i>	Structural Metaphor	The regulation of slavery system
7	Said he wanna <i>ran</i> ,	Structural Metaphor	Escape
8	then you wanna <i>hand</i>	Structural Metaphor	Help

9	Driven from the mainland to <i>the heart of the Caribbean</i>	Ontological Metaphor	The the central of Carribean
10	Trodding' through san juan <i>in the arms of America</i>	Ontological Metaphor	Every place

Explanations

1. *Buffalo soldier*,
2. *dreadlock Rasta*

Buffalo literally means a large wild animal of the cow family which has wide, curved horns and black coloured. *Soldier* means a member of army, especially one who is not an officer. If the sentence interpreted literally, the sense in the sentence would be unclear and might be confusing if the reader read or hear it. Therefore to make it logical, it must be figuratively interpreted. The word *buffalo* is identical with strong and having a lot of physical power, bravery, and dexterity. While *soldier* is identical with assertiveness and be in charge in taking a part in a war or battle against the enemy. This interpretation is supported by the other proper word following this metaphor as a comparison in the word *fighting* is associated with 'to battle against the enemy'.

It is one of experiential similarity if this metaphor is simply interpreted as there were black people (army). But it is a reference to experiential concurrence in history that *Buffalo Soldier* has been described which happened in the past, it is an appellation to black cavalry troops in America. This belongs to **structural metaphor** because one concept is understood and expressed in terms of another structured, sharply defined concept of black cavalry troops.

In connection with next metaphor is the word *dreadlock* means hair that is twisted into long thick pieces that hang down from the head, worn especially by Rastafarians. The *Rastafarians* is identical with black people as a member of a Jamaican religious group. It is grounded in the experiential concurrence. Based on the analysis above, this metaphor belongs to **structural metaphor** because the author would like to describe the nature of an animal named buffalo as a representative of human as a concept. Then the

human concept refers to Rastafarians people that become soldiers.

3. There was a buffalo soldier in the *heart of America*.

Heart means the organ of the chest that sends blood around the body, usually on the left in humans. *America* is a name of a country. If the sentence is interpreted literally, the sense of the sentence will sound vague and clumsy. It is impossible to say that America has a heart. In this term the word *heart* in this sentence is the central and it is an important thing. It is grounded in correlation within experiential similarity and experiential concurrence that could be stated the sentence contained a metaphor sense.

The metaphor *heart of America* categorized to **ontological metaphor** because it is identifying aspect of abstraction an idea 'the central of America'. In metaphor this sentence means 'there was black people in the central of America that become most important object in enslavement system'.

4. I mean it, when I *analyze the stench*

Analyze means to examine the nature or structure of something, especially by separating it into its parts, in order to understand or explain it. While *stench* is a strong and very unpleasant smell. The word *stench* in this sentence is impossible to interpret literally because the sense in the sentence would be very difficult to understand. It must be interpreted figuratively to get the right meaning. Because it tied together with the word *analyze* that associated with examine something real and has connection with certain context. In this term the word *stench* metaphorically means the unpleasant truth based on the context. This interpretation is supported by the lines following this metaphor. It can be seen from some of the possibilities that could be a comparison by the words *stolen* and *brought* is

associated with 'the unpleasant truth'. There is an experiential similarities between the characteristic of stench and the states of being suffered. It also could be stated as experiential concurrence which is grounded in seeing *the stench* as a certain situation, in this cases is the unpleasant truth based on the context of the song.

Based on the analysis above this metaphor belongs to **structural metaphor** because the concept of the suspiciousness (unpleasant truth) was expressed in the form of *the stench*. In metaphor this sentence means 'it's really happened when I experienced the 'unpleasant truth'.

THE METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS INTENSIFY SLAVERY RESISTANCE AS THE CONTENT OF BUFFALO SOLDIER

Song entitled Buffalo Soldier by Bob Marley which is chosen by the writer released in 1983. It consists of 7 stanzas and each stanza consists of different number of lines. This lyrics tell a story that occur in certain event in America as described in the following analysis.

The first stanza,

*Buffalo soldier, dreadlock rasta
There was a buffalo soldier in the heart of
America*

The tittle of this song is appear in this line. Absolutely it related to the overall content about *buffalo soldier* which has correlation with the history. The *buffalo soldier* will have a figurative meaning that signify the black people resembled buffalos because of their dreadlocks. This line is about the *buffalo soldier* who just so happened to be a Buffalo Soldier was part of the Rastafarian. The Rastafarian was a type of religious movement that included the believers growing out dreadlocks. Actually the word *Buffalo Soldier* is an appellation black soldiers fought in the American Civil War againts Native Americans. The author named in the heart of America, as a fact that African Americans have served in American war during the Civil War. Those three

metaphors show ideas of the certain person's by making of characterization, identifying features of the black soldiers and a place as the objectives.

*Stolen from Africa, brought to America
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival*

This line means that black slaves were fighting as soon as they arrived in America from Africa. There is a circle back to where the buffalo started through the words *brought to America*. The author draws similarity between the fate of slavery and Buffalo Soldiers that had been stolen from Africa and brought to America that is exactly happened. He uses the Buffalo Soldiers' fight for survival during the Indian Wars as a symbol of black resistance. *Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival*, it really showcases the bravery that Buffalo soldier showed in this line.

Second Stanza,

*I mean it, when I analyze the stench
To me it makes a lot of sense*

The author convince through the word *the stench* that it makes sense with the fact that the black people were the victim of slavery. There is an emotion expressed in these lyrics through the metaphor. The concept of the suspiciousness (unpleasant truth) was expressed in the form of the stench. This metaphor adds to the meaning of the lyric and to intensify the effect of the song. He is talking about how the stench is analysing followed by next lines:

*If you know your history
Then you would know where you coming from
Then you wouldn't have to ask me
Who the 'eck do I think I am*

The history of the black people and their sufferings were told by the author. He talked to the listener especially black people that their history come from slaves in slavery trade. If this line is defined in general meaning which is related to the content of the lyrics, as a result it is easy to be understood. It goes without saying that the subject in this songs is clearly portrayed.

CONCLUSIONS

First, there are three types of metaphors according to Lakoff and Johnson (1980). They are structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor. *First*, structural metaphor is conceive when metaphorical concept formed through the use of other concepts. I found 8 data in the object of study. *Second*, orientational metaphor is conceive when metaphor is associated with space and place that can be determined through the physical and experience. It is found 1 datum in the object of the study. The last types of metaphor is ontological metaphor, it conceives since the metaphors are physical object which is further specified as being a person. In addition, we can perceive that the personification as a form of ontological metaphor. It is the most dominating type. It can be seen by looking 13 data of metaphor found in the object of study. After analyzing all the data, both of songs lyrics; redemption song and buffalo soldier have metaphorical expressions. There are 22 metaphors found from the overall data that can be analyzed it's type and meaning.

Second, through songs lyrics as the object of my analysis, it can be concluded that those songs lyrics generally contain metaphorical expressions. They are used to beautify the songs and convey deeper meaning than the literal one. Those metaphorical expressions show how it can influence the lyrics. Because they are more expressive and evokes a particular sense which can help the readers to conceive what the author means. It is expressing emotions of the author, developing chronologically of the content, making cause and effect or making movement from one attitude to a different attitude of the lyrics. This reflects that Bob Marley revealed social criticism in term of slavery resistance by using conceptual metaphor. Based on the analysis in chapter IV, all of them associated with the slavery resistance which is examined through metaphorical analysis.

The last, my points that understanding the concept ideas or contexts are the most important thing to understand and conceive the

metaphorical expression's meaning. It is the main of conceptual metaphor, how we can understand the concept of an idea that is expressed in other ways.

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