

# The metaphors used in the song lyric of “Best Part” by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R

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## ABSTRAK

Metaphor is figurative language that compares two different things containing the original meaning and describing the metaphor itself. This study aims to analyze different metaphors using Lakoff and Johnson's theory from 1980. The researcher employed a descriptive qualitative using a descriptive analysis method the data revealed the significance of context that was discovered in the Best Part song. The way to get the result is the song was attentively listened to after first obtaining them from Spotify, reading several times to comprehend the meaning, finding the relevant facts, making notes about it, and

recognizing all kinds of metaphors. Data is also observed by classifying, analyzing, and drawing conclusions. The findings of this study are 8 data gathered in the song lyric Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.: orientational (37.5%), structural (62.5%), and ontological (0%). As a result, structural metaphor predominated in a number of chosen Best Part song. Finally, a songwriter manipulates words and language to make the songs appealing while describing their experience. Teachers, students, and anybody else who enjoys listening to music should find it simple to comprehend the meaning and expression of the songs they enjoy via the use of this study song.

## Introduction

Language is a tool that helps people communicate with one another. Language is used by humans to express their opinions, feelings, and thoughts through words and sentences. In addition to using verbal language, we can also communicate through music. According to Rohmah (2021), singing is essential in modern life, used in movies, advertising, radio, and public locations. Technology advancements like iPod, mobile phones, and MP3 enable access to favorite music anytime, anywhere. In every song lyrics created by singers must contain a message or meaning between the lines. According to Derbyshire (1977), the best way to communicate is through language which also describes how language develops and its core ideas. With language, we can understand the intent of the interlocutor.

Each word, phrase, or sentence expressed has a different meaning. The study of meaning is semantics. Understanding how hidden and meaning understanding in



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communication is its function. In semantic analysis also learn about deeper meanings that do not mean the actual meaning. Meaning is an idea or thought that may be expressed in one language or another and transferred from the speaker to the listener's mind (Leech, 1974). Figurative languages, such as idioms and metaphors, are included in this. There are two sorts of meanings in semantics, according to Leech (1981). Denotative and connotative meanings are what they are. Denotative meaning, which pertains to actual words and dictionary definitions, is the meaning of a word.

Metaphor is figurative language that compares two things, even though they are not actually the same. With this metaphor, things become more meaningful, evoke emotions, and create a deeper perspective. Metaphor is commonly found in literary works such as poetry, prose, drama, and others. With the use of metaphors, the words come alive in order to arouse the visuals and engage the reader. According to Rijal (2022), metaphors reveal true meaning through unique images, allowing interpretation beyond literal interpretation.

According to Richards (1936), metaphors increase the intensity and clarity of language, speakers and writers can use strong emotions and responses and add to the richness of language which makes it more interesting. Metaphors encourage creative and innovative thinking. This is because many new things are created and allow the exploration of insights and experiences. Metaphors also influence careful thinking about something because, with metaphors, perspectives will increase and vary in understanding a complex world.

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphor is an element of humanity in understanding and thinking, not just a linguistic tool. They specify metaphors into three types. They are orientational metaphors, ontological metaphors, and structural metaphors. Orientational metaphors is kind of metaphor that has a spatial orientation such as ups and downs in showing power. For example, "My intention is up today" or "My sister is feeling down". Ontological metaphors is kind of metaphor that relates to existence. An example is "life as a journey", meaning that life is seen and imagined as a journey that has a beginning, middle, and end. Abstract nouns are assumed to be tangible nouns in ontological analogies. Structural metaphors use a structural relationship or organization between two concepts to convey meaning, highlighting similarities in organization, order, or relationships between different domains. For example, "Building a relationship".

A metaphor is an interesting way to convey a meaning, including in a song. According to Budianto (2019), to draw in, sway, incite, and convince the receiver, metaphor is a potent discursive and rhetorical tool. Singers try to convey thoughts, opinions, and emotions through the lyrics of the songs they sing. Song is the art of conveying messages and entertainment, which can touch human hearts and make them sad, inspired, or happy. The Best Part song is a song that is considered sacred by teenagers who have very deep lyrics. By studying the metaphors in the song, we will know more about the meaning conveyed by the singer so that we can enjoy the music and its real meaning. That's why studying metaphors is so interesting. In this study, the researcher tries to find metaphors and their meaning in the lyrics of the song "Best Part"

by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. by using the conceptual theory metaphor put forward by Lakoff and Johnson.

"Best Part" is a song that was released in 2017 by Canadian singer-songwriter Daniel Caesar and American singer H.E.R.. Daniel Caesar's "Best Part" is a magnificent work of musical genius that captivates hearts with its delicate beauty. The song perfectly captures the spirit of love and commitment from the first gentle guitar strumming to the last lingering note. "Best Part" is a heartfelt love ballad that celebrates the simple yet profound moments shared between two people. The lyrics speak of the deep connection and admiration felt for a significant other, acknowledging their irreplaceable presence in one's life. Daniel's lyrics are poetic and genuine, expressing sentiments of vulnerability, tenderness, and unwavering affection.

The researcher develops the research questions in light of the study's context.

- a. What types of metaphors are used in the lyrics of the song Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.?
- b. What is the denotative meaning of the metaphors used in the lyrics of the song Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.?

## Method

"Best Part" is a song that perfectly expresses love in all of its purest forms, affecting listeners' emotions and leaving a lasting impression. "Best Part" has justifiably earned its spot as one of Daniel's most adored and treasured songs because of its ageless beauty and allure. Many listeners, particularly young ones, have been moved by it, and it is still a fan favorite in the R&B and soul music genres. Descriptive qualitative was employed in this study's analysis of the metaphors in the Song Lyric of "Best Part" by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.. The words and phrases discovered in Best Part song that incorporate metaphor served as the study's source of data.

The method of documentation was used to gather the data for this research. Best Part song was collected using the methods described below. The song was attentively listened to after first obtaining them from Spotify. Second, each song's lyrics that had previously been acquired from Spotify were read several times in order to comprehend the meaning. Finding the relevant facts and making notes about them come in third. The last is the researcher recognized all kinds of metaphors, whether they were expressed in words, phrases, or clauses, in the collected songs. Data is also observed by classifying the lyrics of the song's metaphors and denotative meanings, then analyzing the data needed to identify and in detail discuss the words or phrases in the song's lyrics that have both metaphors and denotative meanings, and then drawing conclusions based on data analysis and the conclusions drawn therefrom. There are three instruments used in the metaphorical research in this lyric, the first is a researcher that is useful for data collection, analysis, and answering research problems. The second is the table where the data is placed. The third is a laptop that is used to search for information data sources and download and listen to songs.

## Result

The author displays a table in this section that lists the metaphors type and denotative meanings of Best Part lyrics. The researcher found 8 metaphors used in the song lyric Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R.. The types of metaphor found for the song were: orientational (3), structural (5), and ontological (0). Lots of repetition of sentences in the lyrics of the song Best Part. The table below lists the many metaphors that were used.

**Table 3.1** The Metaphor Types and Denotative Meaning of the Lyrics in Best Part Song

No.	Lyrics	Metaphor Types	Denotative Meaning
1.	It's the sweetest thing	Orientalional Metaphors	The sweetest thing means that hugs and kisses generate emotional satisfaction and pleasure. It reflects the singer's intense love and admiration for their relationship as well as the value and delicacy of their shared moments.
2.	You're the coffee that I need in the morning	Orientalional Metaphors	Coffee describes the source of energy and enthusiasm in the morning which describes the partner. Like coffee in the morning, she provides the singer's day energy, comfort, and a sense of completion. The lyric expresses how important this person is to the singer and how her company makes him feel happy and fulfilled.
3.	You're my sunshine in the rain when it's pouring	Orientalional Metaphors	This symbolizes that the partner is a support and encouragement when many problems which are symbolized as rain, the emphasis is on the partner as a source of calm and comfort in facing challenges. She is the singer's source of courage, happiness, and consolation, boosting their spirits and making them feel better even in the face of difficulty.

4.	I know you're a star	Structural Metaphors	The singer describes his partner as a star because of the beauty, radiance, and brilliance that resides in her face and herself. The singer is expressing her unwavering adoration and confidence in the person's excellence by referring to her as a star. It's a way of saying that she is genuinely outstanding and have a special place in the singer's life.
5.	If life is a movie, oh, you're the best part	Structural Metaphors	This represents that his partner is the best part of his life which is symbolized in a movie, this states that the presence of his partner makes the singer's life more fun and exciting. She makes the singer's journey better and more meaningful by bringing joy, love, and a sense of completion. The phrase highlights this person's significant influence and the joy she gives to the singer's life while also conveying the singer's great love and gratitude for them.
6.	You're my water when I'm stuck in the desert	Structural Metaphors	Just as water is a source of life, their partner is also a source of life and happiness when the singer is in trouble which is symbolized as a desert. She provides support, sustenance, and direction, relieving their suffering and filling their need on both an emotional and spiritual level. The lyric highlights the significant influence this person has on the singer's health, emphasizing her function as a source of comfort and renewal amid tough circumstances.

7.	You're the Tylenol I take when my head hurts	Structural Metaphors	This represents that his partner is a medicine for him when stress and mental pressure hit like Tylenol which is a medicine for headaches, this shows that he helps reduce mental stress. The sentence underlines how important this person is to the singer's wellbeing and stresses how they can ease their emotional suffering or troubles.
8.	You're the sunshine on my life	Structural Metaphors	This represents that his partner has a warm nature and brings joy, also immense positivity to the singer's life just like the sun gives warmth to the world. This line expresses how much the singer values and admires this person and the significant contribution she makes to their happiness and satisfaction.

Below is a computation of the percentage of each form of metaphor used in the lyrics of the Best Part song after examining and categorizing them according to their denotative meaning and types of metaphor.

**Table 3.2** The Percentage of the Occurrence Types of Metaphors in Best Part Song

No.	Metaphor Types	Data	Percentage
1.	Orientational	3	37.5%
2.	Structural	5	62.5%
3.	Ontological	0	0%
Total		8	100%

Based on the findings above, there are 8 samples of data that contain metaphors used in the lyrics of the song Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R. which has been analyzed. In these findings, it can be seen that the use of structural metaphors is more than orientational metaphors and ontological metaphors, which is 62.5%.

## Discussion

In this part, the relationships between the chosen theories and the research topics are discussed. The two developed research questions are relevant to the conversation. In this part, we talk about two main concepts. The first topic of discussion is the sorts of metaphors used in the lyrics to the Best Part song. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), there are three different kinds of metaphors. They fall under the categories of ontological, structural, and orientational metaphors. Nevertheless, Daniel Caesar, the Best Part author, has a distinct approach to writing and producing the songs. According to the study above, the lyrics contain three orientational metaphors and five structural metaphors, which represent two of the three categories of metaphors. The song "Best Part" has eight metaphors. In the song Best Part by Daniel Caesar and H.E.R., the type of metaphor that is most used is structural metaphors. This is because in this song the focus is on conveying meaning, highlighting similarities in organization, order, or relationships between different domains. This Best Part song really represents how the singer really loves and is proud to have the perfect partner so it is written in a parable in a metaphor. "Best Part" is a tender and romantic song that captures the essence of a deep and loving connection between two people, emphasizing their mutual admiration and the beauty they find in each other.

The meanings of the song analysis were supported by the theory of Leech (1981). According to Leech (1981), there are two different types of meanings in semantics. Meanings that are denotative and connotative are what they are. The meaning of a word is its denotative meaning, which applies to real words and dictionary definitions. Knowing the meaning contained in the lyrics of the Best Part song can make us understand better and be able to appreciate the song lyrics or the singer's feelings that he wants to convey. That is why learning and studying the denotative meaning is necessary for this research because it helps the researcher in finding the answer to the second research question which is the meaning of the song.

## Conclusion

The sorts of metaphors and variations among metaphors utilized in the Best Part song were detailed by the researcher. The researcher discovered 8 analogies in this study. Metaphors of the structural and orienting varieties were detected in this song. The Best Part song mostly used structural metaphors, which were cited five times. On the other hand, the ontological metaphor was the least frequent and only featured zero.

The researcher discussed the many kinds of metaphors and their variations that are employed in the Best Part song. In this study, the researcher discovered 8 metaphors. Orientational and structural metaphors were the two sorts of metaphors included in this song. The structural metaphors, which were used five times, were the most common forms of metaphor in the Best Part song. The lowest-ranking metaphor, which featured 0 times, was the ontological one.

The results show that the denotative meaning has an important role in findings the meaning of the lyric song and knowing the message of the lyric song in Best Part. The general message from whole of this song is filled with a lovely message about genuine love and respecting the people in our life. The lyrics urge us to cherish the simple moments with our lovers and talk about how we feel emotionally linked to them. Loyalty, respect, and high-quality support are the foundations of healthy partnerships between two individuals. This song emphasizes the value of being considerate of and respectful of our partners in everything that they do. Overall, "Best Part" encourages us to treasure love, form deep connections with others, and savor the precious moments we spend with them.

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