

CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR IN SZA'S SONG LYRICS: A STUDY OF SEMANTICS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine how conceptual metaphors are used by SZA in her song lyrics. Finding the source domain and target domain of the conceptual metaphors used in song lyrics is the main goal of this study. A descriptive qualitative research approach is used, which includes semantic analysis and conceptual metaphor mapping in song lyrics. The information used consists of five well-known SZA songs that were specifically chosen. The author defines conceptual metaphors in 5 lyrics from SZA's song. In the "Kill Bill" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor, in the "Snooze" song there are 2 conceptual metaphors, in the "The Weekend" song there 3 conceptual metaphors, in the "Nobody Gets Me" song there are 4 conceptual metaphors, and in the "Open Arms" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor. The research provides our understanding of how conceptual metaphor is used in song lyrics and shows the depth of creativity and artistic expression found in SZA's songs. The findings of this study may be helpful for future semantics and cultural studies research, as well as for developing a deeper understanding of both the complexity and the beauty of SZA's song lyrics.

Keywords: Conceptual metaphor, Lyrics, Songs, Semantics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool for communication while interacting with other people. It consists of words and phrases combined to convey meaning. Language is diverse, with many combinations used, especially in literature and writing to convey meaning. Language can be a challenge to translate from one meaning to another because of the diversity of language usage, especially if we do not understand the underlying ideas.

A metaphor is a way of expressing an idea or concept by comparing it with another idea or concept that is easier to understand. A conceptual metaphor is a metaphor used to describe abstract or difficult-to-understand concepts using more concrete or better-known concepts. Conceptual metaphors are powerful cognitive and linguistic tools that allow us to understand abstract or complex concepts by drawing parallels with more concrete and familiar ideas. In essence, it is a way of understanding one domain, known as the target domain (usually abstract or difficult to explain), by mapping it to another domain, known as the source domain (which is concrete and easy to understand).

The process of mapping concrete attributes from the source domain to the target domain makes it easier to understand abstract ideas. For example, the widely known metaphor "Time is Money" connects the abstract concept of time with the concrete idea of money, allowing us to see time as a valuable resource that can be spent, saved, or wasted, similar to money. Conceptual metaphors are not limited to a particular culture or language; some are universal and recognized across societies, while others may be culture-specific, and rooted in particular cultural experiences. These metaphors are an integral part of our cognitive processes, influencing our thinking, perception, and, most importantly, our use of language.

They manifest not only in literary or poetic expression but also in everyday language, shaping the way we convey and understand complex ideas. Additionally, conceptual metaphors highlight the adaptability and creativity of human cognition and language, as individuals and cultures can create new metaphors to explain different experiences. In essence, conceptual metaphors function as a bridge that connects the abstract with the concrete, thereby deeply influencing our linguistic and cognitive world.

Conceptual metaphors are used in everyday language, thought, and action. Conceptual metaphors help us speak, think, and even act with metaphors. The purpose of a metaphor, according to Arimi (2015:133), is to help readers understand or even experience one thing through another. An example of a conceptual metaphor is "Love is a journey." This metaphor describes the abstract idea of love as a real-world journey. By using our knowledge and experience of physical journeys, this metaphor helps us understand and explain the subtleties of love. Conceptual metaphors help us formulate abstract or difficult-to-understand concepts using more concrete or better-known concepts. Conceptual metaphors influence our behavior and interpretation as well as how we perceive the world.

In song lyrics, metaphor is a rhetorical device often used to express a message or emotion uniquely and imaginatively. Metaphors are used in song lyrics to describe and communicate deeper meanings by comparing them to something else. Metaphors in song lyrics can provide strong and compelling imagery that triggers listeners' imagination and evokes various emotions. Metaphors in song lyrics can be used to convey emotions such as love, loss, power, or struggle, as well as to vividly depict various human experiences.

Conceptual metaphors are also present in song lyrics, and one example is the music of SZA. SZA is a singer-songwriter and musician known for her unique and varied musical style. Her music often combines different genres, including R&B, hip-hop, and soul, to create a modern and distinctive sound. SZA's lyrics often discuss personal growth, relationships, struggles, and self-reflection. She is also known for her activism on social justice and women's issues. In addition, SZA also has 71.3 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

In song lyrics, metaphors are used to express emotions and convey deeper meanings by comparing them to something else. Metaphors in song lyrics can provide strong and compelling imagery that triggers listeners' imagination and evokes various emotions. For example, in SZA's song "Snooze," the metaphor "I'll touch that fire for you" is used to describe feeling defeated or broken. The metaphor denotes a person who is willing to take a chance or even put themselves in danger as a sign of sacrifice or showing love for the person they are pursuing.

Studying conceptual metaphors in song lyrics can help us understand the deeper meaning of the lyrics and the emotions they convey. Metaphors can be used to explain difficult-to-explain human experiences, feelings, or concepts. Investigating the song's symbolic meaning by analyzing the conceptual metaphor can help us connect with the lyrics more deeply and have a more significant emotional musical experience.

Conceptual metaphor is a cognitive mechanism that enables us to make sense of abstract or difficult concepts by using more concrete or better-known concepts. It is a representation of thought and action as well as words or linguistic expressions. According to Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) conceptual metaphor theory, the source domain, which is used to comprehend the target domain, is more concrete while the target domain typically contains abstract concepts. The purpose of a metaphor is to help the reader comprehend or even experience one thing through another.

Semantics is the study of meaning in language. It involves the analysis of the meaning of words and how that meaning is integrated into sentence structures. Chomsky's

(1950) perspective on semantics has been a significant contribution to the development of generative grammar, which is a theoretical framework that seeks to explain how language is constructed. In generative grammar, including semantics is essential for a more comprehensive understanding of language.

Chomsky, with his revolutionary approach to the study of language, has influenced many aspects of modern linguistics and continues to play a vital role in our understanding of language and its meaning. Conceptual metaphors are more than just linguistic devices; they are deeply embedded in our cognitive functions and have a significant influence on the way we reason, think, and perceive the world. They affect our behavior and interpretations as well as how we perceive reality. Understanding conceptual metaphors improves our comprehension of the relationship between language and cognition as well as how we make sense of the world.

In song lyrics, conceptual metaphors are frequently used to express a message or emotion uniquely and imaginatively. Metaphors in song lyrics can provide strong and compelling imagery that triggers listeners' imagination and evokes various emotions. They can be used to explain difficult-to-explain human experiences, feelings, or concepts. Investigating the song's symbolic meaning by analyzing the conceptual metaphor can help us connect with the lyrics more deeply and have a more significant emotional musical experience.

Studying conceptual metaphors has significant relevance in language and communication contexts for many compelling reasons. First, it allows a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between language and cognition. Conceptual metaphors are intricately woven into our cognitive functioning, deeply influencing our reasoning, thought processes, and the way we view the world. They play an important role in shaping our behavior, interpretation, and even perception of reality. Therefore, studying the study of conceptual metaphors offers valuable insights into the complex interactions between language and cognition.

Second, improve understanding of literature, especially in the context of figurative language. Literature and writing often use figurative language, including conceptual metaphors, to convey different meanings and evoke strong emotions. Understanding conceptual metaphors plays an important role in deciphering deeper layers of meaning in literary works.

In addition, the study of conceptual metaphors contributes to improved communication. Metaphors serve as powerful rhetorical tools, allowing us to convey complex ideas and intense emotions. Understanding how conceptual metaphors function equips us to use them effectively in our communications, allowing us to captivate listeners, express thoughts eloquently, and convey deep emotions.

In the field of cognitive linguistics, influential researchers such as Lakoff and Johnson have shed light on the fact that metaphors go beyond words and penetrate our concepts. They argue that the conceptual framework that guides our actions and perceptions is metaphorical in nature. Metaphors, they argue, are an inseparable part of human existence, shaping our thoughts, actions, and linguistic expressions. Thus, our lives are inherently intertwined with metaphor, and understanding one concept in relation to another concept is the essence of conceptual metaphor.

Exploring conceptual metaphors in song lyrics, including those of SZA, opens the door to a deeper understanding of how language is used to express emotions, messages, and meanings uniquely and creatively. SZA, a singer and songwriter known for her powerful and profound lyrics, often employs conceptual metaphors in her compositions. Conceptual metaphors illustrate the relationship between two different concepts,

transforming the way we perceive something by comparing it to something more concrete or familiar.

A concrete example of exploring conceptual metaphors in SZA's songs is the track "The Weekend." In this song, SZA uses metaphors to depict the dynamics of a relationship. She portrays herself as the "weekend" used by a man as a time for enjoyment, while she realizes that she only gets "weekday" time. This metaphor illustrates the complex feelings in a relationship and the conflict between reality and expectations.

It's important to understand that conceptual metaphors in song lyrics are not just about words but also about deeper feelings, experiences, and understanding. Each song may have unique metaphors, and through lyric analysis, we can identify these metaphors and unearth deeper meanings.

Exploring conceptual metaphors in song lyrics helps us understand how the art of music can be a means to convey messages and emotions uniquely and creatively. Furthermore, it enriches the experience of listening to music by helping listeners immerse themselves more deeply in the lyrics and provides a new perspective on the relationship between language, emotions, and art.

There have been some earlier studies on metaphors that are connected to music and song metaphors. A review of previous research should be conducted to prevent the use of comparable material and explanations. The author has read the following other relevant studies. To complete this research, the author studied earlier studies that talked about metaphors.

Nuryadi and Nur (2021) conducted a study on conceptual metaphors and schematic imagery in magazines and newspapers, discovering that structural metaphors were the most prevalent among the three forms of conceptual metaphors. According to the findings of the Cruse & Croft theory-based picture schema analysis, the existence or object schema was found to be the most predominant. Ontological research is also a significant focus in this field.

Chuyi (2020) conducted a cognitive examination of conceptual metaphors in Taylor Swift's lyrics. The study aimed to investigate the general distribution and practical significance of the conceptual metaphor theory in Taylor Swift's lyrics. The findings categorized conceptual metaphors into two main groups: structural metaphors and ontological metaphors. The analysis results suggested that conceptual metaphors play a crucial role in Taylor Swift's songs.

Devita and Nur (2020) examined the use of metaphors in music lyrics, specifically in Lukas Graham's "The Purple Album." They concluded that there were 15 ontological metaphors, 2 orientational metaphors, and 4 structural metaphors based on data analysis using Lakoff & Johnson's theory. Furthermore, Manalu et al. (2021) analyzed metaphorical expressions and values in English textbook song lyrics, highlighting the use of ontological, structural, and orientational metaphors in high school English textbook lyrics. Their research aims to deepen students' understanding and assist teachers in explaining metaphors using song lyrics in textbooks.

Based on the type of structure, concept, and meaning of the metaphor, the previous researcher conducted research on it. This indicates that the type of metaphor was the main focus of earlier studies. The study's focus is what separates it from earlier studies in this field. The types of metaphors and their meaning are the main topics of this study. This study by Lakoff and Johnson focused on various types of metaphors. Five songs were chosen to represent the various musical genres or styles that are a part of SZA because of the representation of musical genres or styles. To ensure that the five songs chosen for the study represent a diverse range of SZA's musical output, the author wants to see how metaphors are conceptually used in different musical contexts.

The research problem in this study is to explore and analyze the use of conceptual metaphors in song lyrics, especially those created by SZA. This involves questions about how SZA employs conceptual metaphors in her work, what meanings she intends to convey through these metaphors, and how the use of conceptual metaphors in the musical context influences the understanding and experience of the listeners.

This research aims to deepen our understanding of how language and art intersect, particularly in the context of song lyrics. This research also aims to uncover the messages contained in SZA's works and how conceptual metaphors are used to communicate them to the audience.

This research implies that our understanding of language, art, and communication will be enriched. Furthermore, this research can provide new insights into how we perceive and understand music and how the use of conceptual metaphors in the musical context can enhance the listening experience. The results of this research can also serve as a source of inspiration for musicians and lyricists to explore their creativity in using language and metaphors in their works.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach because the data is presented as words. According to Fraenkel and Wallen in Creswell (1994:162), descriptive data i.e., data that are provided in words (mainly the participant's words) or pictures rather than in numerical form are the results of qualitative studies. The use of conceptual metaphors in SZA's song lyrics will be examined using text analysis. This technique involves choosing and organizing relevant song lyrics, recognizing the conceptual metaphors used, and examining their significance and impact on the song lyrics.

The research object in this study is song lyrics, the lyrics obtained are from the genius website, with a specific focus on the lyrics created by SZA. Song lyrics serve as a unique form of artistic expression and communication, where words are skillfully crafted to convey messages, emotions, and themes. They are a rich source of textual material for exploring the use of conceptual metaphors. For this study, song lyrics written by SZA will be the primary material analyzed.

The research subjects are the song lyrics penned by SZA. SZA, whose full name is Solána Imani Rowe, is a renowned American singer-songwriter known for her distinctive musical style, direct and personal songwriting, and genuine performances. Her music often explores themes related to personal growth, relationships, struggles, and self-reflection. As an artist, she has garnered significant attention and acclaim for her work in the music industry.

This research began by compiling a collection of songs written by SZA, strategically selected to encapsulate the diverse genres and musical styles that typify SZA's extensive body of work. This careful selection covers musical themes and context, facilitating a comprehensive and varied analysis.

After the song selection process, the research continued by collecting complete lyrics from the carefully selected songs. The selection of songs based on their popularity is an important step to ensure that the research provides a comprehensive and meaningful analysis. Popular songs were chosen because they are likely to have gained significant attention and a wide audience, indicating their cultural and social significance. These songs are liked by many listeners, making them more relevant to learn.

When selecting popular songs to analyze, it is important to consider a variety of factors, including chart ranking, streaming numbers, and cultural impact. Songs that have achieved high chart positions, such as topping the Billboard Hot 100 or other relevant

charts, are often an indication of their popularity. Additionally, the number of streams or views on digital platforms such as Spotify, YouTube, or other music streaming services can provide insight into the popularity of a song.

In essence, by selecting popular songs, this research ensures that the analysis is based on music that has broader cultural and social relevance, providing insight into how conceptual metaphors are used in music that has a significant impact on society and individuals. These lyrics are carefully sourced from leading platforms including official music websites and streaming services, ensuring the accuracy and authenticity of the lyrical content.

With the existing lyric corpus, this research conducted a thorough and systematic examination of the lyric composition of each song. This in-depth analysis aims to see the use of conceptual metaphors in the lyrics. Conceptual metaphors, these ingenious linguistic devices, intertwine one concept with another, providing an innovative lens for understanding abstract and complex ideas. Identification of these metaphors is achieved by observing expressions that draw allegorical parallels between two different concepts. Through this process, the research sought to uncover the conceptual richness underlying SZA's lyrical prowess.

The data analysis process begins with identifying conceptual metaphors embedded in the song lyrics. These metaphors are often conveyed through phrases or expressions that cleverly draw parallels between two different concepts. For example, the phrases "life is a journey" or "love is a battlefield" use conceptual metaphors to effectively convey complex and abstract ideas.

Once this metaphor is understood, research continues by interpreting its meaning. This involves a careful examination of the context in which the metaphor is used, to understand the message it encapsulates. It is important to realize that the meanings attributed to these metaphors can show variation, influenced by factors such as the thematic content of the song, SZA's artistic intent, and the emotional resonance it evokes among listeners.

To find out more about the use of conceptual metaphors in SZA's song lyrics, a comparative analysis was carried out. This analytical approach requires a careful comparison of lyrics taken from various songs to identify recurring metaphors, thematic motifs, or stylistic preferences in SZA's songwriting. By observing a spectrum of songs, this research attempts to find patterns or variations in the application of metaphor across the repertoire.

Context, both immediate and broader, has a very important meaning in the entire data analysis process. This research takes into account the overarching context of SZA's musical influences, her cultural references, emotional or artistic elements that could potentially influence her selection, and the importance of metaphors in her lyrics. This contextual exploration proved instrumental in uncovering the underlying intention of combining metaphors in his lyrical compositions.

Furthermore, the author will compare the lyrics of various songs to look for variations or patterns in the use of conceptual metaphors. This may involve paying attention to variations in themes, writing techniques, or metaphorical meanings in song lyrics. The final step is when the author interprets the findings and draws important conclusions. Conclusions could include an understanding of the conceptual metaphors used in SZA's song lyrics, the messages, and meanings they convey, as well as any differences or patterns in the metaphorical use.

RESULTS

In this analysis, the author defines conceptual metaphors in 5 lyrics from SZA's song. The lyrics to each song are organized below, with an example for each. The author defines conceptual metaphors in 5 lyrics from SZA's song. In the "Kill Bill" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor, in the "Snooze" song there are 2 conceptual metaphors, in the "The Weekend" song there 3 conceptual metaphors, in the "Nobody Gets Me" song there are 4 conceptual metaphors, and in the "Open Arms" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor.

1. Kill Bill

- A. "You was at the farmers market with your perfect peach (line 21)"

Target: you was at the farmer's market

Source: perfect peach

2. Snooze

- B. "In the droptop ride with you, I feel like Scarface (line 18)"

Target: in the droptop ride with you

Source: scarface

3. The Weekend

- C. "Hangin' out the back, all up in your lap (line 10)"

Target: all up in your lap

Source: hangin' out the back

- D. "You like 9 to 5 (line 20)"

Target: you

Source: 9 to 5

- E. "I'm the weekend (line 20)"

Target: I

Source: Weekend

4. "Nobody Gets Me"

- F. "Took me out to the ballet (line 17)"

Target: to the ballet

Source: took me out

- G. "Now I'm stuck dealin' with a deadbeat (line 20)"

Target: stuck dealin' with a deadbeat

Source: dealin'

- H. "If I was you, I wouldn't take me back (line 22)"

Target: if I was you

Source: take me back

- I. "I don't wanna see you with anyone but me (line 25)"

Target: I

Source: see you with anyone but me

5. Open arms

J. "You my favorite color, now you seein' every shade of me (Line 32)"

Target: "you my favorite color"

Source: "every shade of me"

DISCUSSION

1. Kill Bill

Since its release on Friday, December 9, 2022, SZA's song "Kill Bill" has gained extraordinary popularity on social media and often becomes the background for various content. This 2-minute 35-second song features a slow and charming melody that immediately captivates listeners when they first meet it. In fact, since the audio video was uploaded to YouTube, the songs from the S.O.S album have collectively been viewed 6.7 million times. "Kill Bill" explores themes of intense emotional turmoil after a painful breakup, including the desire for revenge on a former lover. The song not only explores intentions to hurt one's ex-partner but also expresses a longing to hurt one's ex's new romantic interest. Through her lyrics, SZA expresses the deep sadness she experienced when she witnessed her ex having a new lover.

"You was at the farmers market with your perfect peach" (line 21)

Target: "you was at the farmer's market"

Source: "perfect peach"

The metaphor implies that the subject describes beauty, attractiveness, or another quality that is highly valued, like a perfect peach. In this context, the term "perfect peach" refers to a person's characteristics or qualities that stand out or are considered perfect, while the term "farmers market" refers to the place where the person is met or seen. "Perfect Peach" is used as a concept or idea that reflects the positive traits or ideal qualities possessed by an object.

In this case, "Perfect Peach" is a symbol of something that has beauty, perfection, or positive value. The domains used in these lyrics may include concepts such as beauty, softness, perfection, or even other positive qualities metaphorically associated with a "perfect" peach. So, this lyrical concept is a positive attribute that is abstractly related to "Perfect Peach".

Thus, the lyrics of "Perfect Peach" create a domain in which the listener can understand the object being talked about (i.e., "Perfect Peach") as having certain positive attributes or positive values, even though it is not literally talking about a peach.

2. Snooze

The song "Snooze" is indeed a song from SZA's S.O.S album which was released in 2022. In this song, SZA beautifully summarizes the depth of a woman's love for her partner and how much meaning they have in her life. The lyrics paint a real picture of love that is so deep that it is almost timeless. The term "Snooze" is metaphorically used to describe the idea that when you are with someone you really care about, time seems to stop. This song conveys the warmth and comfort of a loving relationship, where every moment feels like a hug, and every second together is a precious memory. SZA's soulful vocals and lyrical artistry bring to life emotions of devotion and affection, making "Snooze" a heartfelt and meaningful musical expression.

"In the droptop ride with you, I feel like Scarface" (line 18)

Target: "in the droptop ride with you"

Source: "scarface"

The word "scarface" is used in this line to define "ride" as if it were an American crime drama film released in 1983 and directed by Brian De Palma. The example above shows how a person in that state feels assured, strong, and filled with a sense of freedom and joy that is similar to what Scarface felt in the world of movies. The use of Scarface in this context allows for the strong and comforting feeling of being with someone you like or love, creating a powerful representation of the thrill and excitement one experiences at that exact moment in time.

In this context, "Scarface" refers to the fictional character named Tony Montana from the film "Scarface" directed by Brian De Palma and played by Al Pacino. The character Tony Montana is known as the main character in the film and is a strong, ambitious figure who has great influence in the world of crime.

So, when speakers use a comparison to "Scarface," they want to convey the feeling of power, courage, or influence they feel when they are in a droptop car with someone. They feel like strong and influential figures in this context, so the domain underlying the use of "Scarface" in this sentence is the world of the film and its characters.

3. The Weekend

The meaning of this song can be interpreted as a reflection of infidelity or infidelity in a relationship. The man in this song is having relationships with more than one woman at the same time, and the female singer (SZA) is aware of this. Even though she knows that he has other women in his life, she is willing to accept the role of "weekend woman" just to be with him. This song reflects the complexity of feelings and situations that often arise in human relationships. The meaning of song "The Weekend" by SZA could mean that love and relationships are often full of shades of gray, and people often come to terms with situations that may not be ideal because of the feelings they have.

“Hangin’ out the back, all up in your lap” (line 10)

Target: “all up in your lap”

Source: “hangin’ out the back”

The phrase "hangin' out the back" indicates the physical presence or placement behind something. This may refer to the idea of something or someone being behind something else, such as a chair or a car. Whereas the target Domain in this phrase refers to a close physical or emotional presence. "All up in your lap" is a phrase used to refer to someone close to and intimate with another person. In this context, "lap" refers to both an intense emotional closeness or concern as well as a physical part of a person. "hangin' out in the back" may be associated with the vehicle or car domain. This phrase refers to the position of someone or something at the rear of a vehicle. For example, the back of a car. It can refer to a person's style or attitude that seems relaxed or less formal when in a vehicle, especially if they sit in the back and perhaps relax by hanging it on the window or back of a chair.

You like 9 to 5 (line 20)

Target: you

Source: 9 to 5

In the lyrics, the phrase "9 to 5" refers to standard or routine working hours that generally apply on weekdays, namely from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the period of time in which people usually work or carry out their job duties. In the context of the lyrics, “You

like 9 to 5, I do weekends,” this phrase is used to compare two concepts or types of people. “9 to 5” is used to describe someone who has a typical work routine and follows a standard work schedule. Meanwhile, “I’m the weekend” describes someone who is freer, more relaxed, and perhaps more suited to having fun or going on holiday. The phrase “9 to 5” is being used here to compare two distinct kinds of individuals or partnerships.

“I’m the weekend” (line 20)

Target: I

Source: Weekend

In the lyrics “I’m the weekend,” the domains for the word “weekend” are time and calendar. “Weekend” refers to the time period during which a person does not usually work or have free time, namely Saturdays and Sundays in many cultures that adopt a standard work calendar. In the context of the lyrics, “I’m the weekend” contains a conceptual metaphor that describes a person’s free time or enjoyable period. This contributes to the image that the person is a more relaxed and enjoyable option in relationships, different from the daily routine (as presented by “9 to 5”).

4. Nobody gets me

Reporting from the American Songwriter website, Thursday 26/10/2023, the song Nobody Gets Me tells the story of someone’s longing for their ex-lover. She felt like she had spent so many moments with his ex-boyfriend that it continued to haunt her. Not only that, the person feels that only his ex-boyfriend can understand her. Therefore she doesn’t want to see her ex with someone else. “The song as a whole is a story about my ex-fiancé and how we got through all this fighting, and we broke up,” says SZA.

“Took me out to the ballet” (line 17)

Target: “to the ballet”

Source: “took me out”

The idea of attending a ballet performance is the source domain in this sentence. Ballet is a performing art in which dancers perform elegant and expressive movements to classical music. This source domain captures actual, tangible experiences with ballet performances. This phrase’s target domain describes how someone feels when they receive special treatment or attention. The phrase “took me out to the ballet” denotes that someone invited or drove the speaker to the performance. The care, concern, or effort made by someone to make the speaker feel special or valued is reflected in this target domain.

In this case, a more abstract target domain (special treatment or concern) is metaphorically described by a more concrete source domain (ballet performance). In this metaphor, the experience of attending a ballet performance is framed as an act or a representation of the attention and care one shows for the speaker. Through these expressions, two people can communicate their mutual respect, privilege, or personal connection.

“Now I’m stuck dealin’ with a deadbeat” (line 20)

Target: “stuck dealin’ with a deadbeat”

Source: “dealin’”

In this expression, the source domain refers to the idea of billing or dealing with something unwanted or unexpected. Dealing with a problem or challenging circumstance is referred to as "dealin'" (to deal with). This source domain reflects actual or tangible experiences coping with unwelcome aspects of daily life. The situation or person causing the issue is described by the target domain in this expression. The phrase "Stuck dealin' with a deadbeat" indicates that the speaker is dealing with burdens or challenges brought on by the presence of a person who is viewed as irresponsible or lazy. This target domain captures disappointing or frustrated interactions with people who didn't live up to their commitments or responsibilities.

“If I was you, I wouldn’t take me back” (line 22)

Target: if I was you

Source: take me back

In this expression, the source domain refers to the idea of exchange or multiple roles. If I was you refer to a hypothetical statement in which the speaker assumes the position or viewpoint of the listener. This source domain demonstrates the capacity to consider a situation from the viewpoint of another person. The relationship between two people is described by the expression's target domain. The phrase "I wouldn't take me back" expresses the speaker's refusal to accept or give themselves a second chance if they were the listener. This target domain reflects choices or actions about relationships, particularly when it comes to forgiveness or readmission.

In this expression, the more abstract target domain (the choice not to accept or grant a second chance in the relationship) is metaphorically described by the source domain associated with multiple roles (assumed to be the listener's perspective). This metaphor implies that the speaker feels unfit or inappropriate to be reinstated into the relationship and describes self-evaluation from the other person's perspective. It conveys regret, respect for another person's viewpoint, and an unworthy feeling that is communicated through the expression.

“I don’t wanna see you with anyone but me” (line 25)

Target: I

Source: “see you with anyone but me”

In this expression, the source domain refers to the idea of sight or actual sight. In the context of a relationship, the phrase "see you with anyone but me" refers to the observation of someone with someone else. The sources in this field reflect actual or tangible observations of social interactions between people who are in romantic relationships. In this expression, the target domain refers to the desire for exclusivity in the relationship. The phrase "I" expresses the speaker's dislike of seeing their loved one with another person. This target domain reflects feelings of exclusivity or possessiveness toward the person that are expressed in a context of doubt or jealousy.

In this expression, the more abstract target domain (the desire to be in an exclusive relationship) is metaphorically described by the source domain of sight or physical sight. This metaphor expresses the speaker's feelings of resentment and desire to keep their relationship with that person private. This reflects emotions that are expressed through these expressions, such as possessiveness, jealousy, or a desire to keep a relationship going.

5. Open arms

The song "Open Arms" is a collaboration song between Sza and Travis Scott which was released in 2022. This song tells the story of someone trying to run from their romantic past and trying to find someone who can fulfill their romantic expectations.

"You my favorite color, now you seein' every shade of me" (Line 32)

Target: "you my favorite color"

Source: "every shade of me"

This lyric uses a conceptual metaphor to explain a change in a person's relationship or perception of another person. "You my favorite color" describes that the person used to be liked or considered positive by the speaker, such as a favorite color. However, later in the same sentence, "now you seein' every shade of me" illustrates that the relationship or perception has changed, and the person now sees different sides or aspects of the speaker, including ones that may be less positive. Thus, conceptual metaphors are used to describe changes in relationships or perceptions using the analogy of colors and "sides" of one's self.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the types of metaphors contained in SZA's song lyrics, the author can conclude that from the five songs that have been analyzed, these songs tell about life's journey, love stories, and sadness, and from the lyrics of the 5 songs, 10 metaphor data were found. Based on the results of the analysis in accordance with Lakoff and Johnson's theory as the main theory of types of conceptual metaphor, the author defines conceptual metaphors in 5 lyrics from SZA's song. In the "Kill Bill" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor, in the "Snooze" song there are 2 conceptual metaphors, in the "The Weekend" song there 3 conceptual metaphors, in the "Nobody Gets Me" song there are 4 conceptual metaphors, and in the "Open Arms" song there is 1 conceptual metaphor.

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