Metaphors in selected Blackpink’s song lyrics

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Abstract. The primary goal of this research was to examine metaphors in selected Blackpink song lyrics. The study’s objectives are to identify the types of metaphors syntactically based on Abdul Wahab (1986) and to analyse the metaphorical meanings of selected Blackpink song lyrics using Lakoff and Johnson’s source and target (1980). A descriptive-qualitative approach is used in this study. The metaphors used in Blackpink's song lyrics were the data. The researcher applies Abdul Wahab's theory of syntactical types of metaphor to the identified data and analyses it using Lakoff and Johnson's concept of source and target in metaphor. Subjective nominative metaphor, objective nominative metaphor, predicative metaphor, and sentence metaphor were the four types of metaphor used in five selected Blackpink song lyrics. The writer finds that the phrase metaphor is the type of metaphor most commonly used in Blackpink's songs, followed by the objective metaphor of the predicative metaphor and subjective metaphor. Each of the types of metaphors collected in the following study contains abstract terms with real meanings.

Keywords: Semantics; Metaphors; Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION
Humans express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through language in various communication situations. We talk regardless of what we do, whether we play, make friends, or argue. We use words, phrases, and sentences to communicate. The song is an extract from a poem or other composition of words. Lyrics are the words that make up a song; lyrics contain meanings that can be explicit or implicit. Songs have an impact that the spoken word does not have, which is why they are frequently used in specific situations. The metaphor is used for aesthetic purposes in song lyrics.

Song lyrics' free context and semantic meanings reveal Song metaphorical meanings have free context and semantic meanings. Abdul Wahab (1986) categorises metaphors into three types based on their syntax: nominative metaphors, predicative metaphors, and sentence metaphors. In nominative metaphors, the figurative symbol appears only in subjects or nouns. Because of the positions of nouns in sentences, nominative metaphors are divided into two types: subjective and objective nominative metaphors. The figurative symbol appears only as the sentence’s predicate in predicative metaphors. All figurative signs employed in metaphors include metaphorical sentence components, not just subjects, nouns, and predicates. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) examine the metaphor using targets and sources. The target is something else that is being discussed, and the source is something else that is to convey something from the target.

Previous metaphor research has concentrated on metaphor in song and music. Previous research should be reviewed to prevent using the same corpus and explanation in multiple studies. The researcher went through the following related research.
First, Wiji Lestari (2017), English Language and Literature Department Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Sharif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta, completed the research. "Metaphors in Green Day Song Lyrics" is the title of the study. The goal of this study is to examine the metaphors in Green Day lyrics, which tend to appear in texts like song lyrics. In this case, the goals of the research are to: discover numerous kinds of metaphorical speech; and evoke the meaning of Green Day's metaphors. The method used in this study is qualitative analysis. To answer the research questions, analytical descriptions might be used. The theory of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson is used to look into the concept of metaphorical expressions. All types of metaphor, according to Lakoff and Johnson's theory, can be found in data, with ontological metaphor being the most common. Using Abdul Wahab’s (1986) opinion to identify the types of metaphor and analyse the data using Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) conceptual metaphor of source and target.

Second, Friska Fricilia (2021), English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University, Makassar, conducted the research. The study's title is "Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of Metaphors in Bruno Mars' Songs." The purpose of this study is to categorise and examine the significance of metaphors in Bruno Mars' songs, as well as to determine the most common metaphor found in the chosen songs. The descriptive qualitative research design was employed to collect data from Bruno Mars' songs. The writer collected data from Bruno Mars' Divide Album, which focuses on categorising metaphor types using Lakoff and Johnson's theory before analysing the contextual metaphor meaning in Bruno Mars songs using Chaer's theory. While the author employs Abdul Wahab's (1986) opinion to identify the various types of metaphors, the data is analysed using Lakoff and Johnson's theories of conceptual metaphor of source and target.

The study was completed by Lies Dian Marsa Ndraha (2018), English Department of Teacher Training, Nias Selatan. The study's title refers to an examination of metaphor in Westlife song lyrics. The study concentrates on how the metaphor is used in the lyrics of Westlife's songs. This study was intended to be qualitative. Based on Goatly's book, the descriptive analysis technique was implemented to analyse data by reading the data to determine the various kinds of metaphor used in song lyrics. The researcher discovered 19 metaphors in Westlife's song lyrics, according to research findings. And each metaphor was discovered in Westlife's song lyrics to inform us about social life in humanity, such as love, sadness, happiness, spirit, and others. While the writer employs Abdul Wahab's (1986) opinion to identify the types of metaphor and analyse the identified data using Lakoff and Johnson's theories of source and target.

Finally, the previous studies above continued to employ Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphors in their previous study, which both discussed metaphors in songs and music, such as recognizing the types of metaphors and analysing the data that was identified. The author applied Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphor theory of both sources and targets to analyse metaphors in song lyrics, using the previous studies as a guide. The writer gained a better understanding of how to analyse song lyrics' metaphorical expressions, as well as the interconnections of every component in relation to Lakoff and Johnson's theory.

Therefore, this current study are centred on Blackpink's five selected song lyrics. "Pink Venom, Lovesick Kill This Love, How You Like That, Bet You," the song's lyrics. The writers realise that many hidden terms, namely metaphors, are contained in the lyrics of these songs. These terms are not understood by everyone because their true meanings are interpreted in the lyrics of these five Blackpink songs, resulting in an abstract meaning. The purpose of this study is to identify types of metaphors on Wahab's syntactic vision and to analyse metaphorical meanings of
lyrics from selected Blackpink songs using Lakoff's source and target. As a result, it can be used to uncover hidden meanings in song lyrics.

**METHOD**

Because the data for this study was gathered from song lyrics that contained metaphors, descriptive qualitative research was used. Descriptive qualitative research, according to Moleong, Lexy. J (2010), is a study that explains the phenomena of the research object, such as its doings, intellect, propulsiveness, action, and so on. In general, as well as the method of describing the result in words and sentences.

The information is derived from Blackpink's complete English song lyrics, which are available on song lyrics websites. Her songs include "Pink Venom" (released in 2022), "Lovesick Girls" (released in 2020), "Kill This Love" (released in 2019), "How You Like That" (released in 2020), and "Bet You Wanna." The author obtains information from the internet because there are complete song lyrics in the full English version.

This Descriptive Qualitative research method would be utilized to examine metaphors in selected Blackpink songs' lyrics. The author used this qualitative research design to produce good analytical findings that will establish the types and meanings of metaphors.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The author intends to discuss the various metaphors and conceptual metaphor of source and target found in Blackpink's songs, as well as their interpretation, one line of an array in each stanza at a time. In five selected Blackpink's song lyrics; Pink Venom, Lovesick Girl, Kill This Love, How You Like That, Bet You Wanna, There were four types of metaphor used, which are: subjective nominative metaphor, objective nominative metaphor, predicative metaphor, and sentence metaphor.

1. **Subjective Nominative Metaphor**

   Song's title: Pink Venom
   Stanza 1, line 2
   **Just get your popcorn**, don't even think about getting involved

   In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol in the first phrase is the subject of the sentence, while the other phrase has a literal meaning. **Just get your popcorn** means to get ready enjoying the show.

   Stanza 2, line 5
   **It's** so beautiful, it's cruel I bring the pain like

   In the array of the fifth line, the figurative symbol is the subject of sentence, while other complements have literal meanings. **It** refers to something painful but addictive.

   Stanza 3, line 4
   **Designer crimes** or it wouldn't be me

   In the array of the fourth line, the figurative symbol is the subject of sentence, while other complements have literal meanings. **Designer crimes** refers to a person who intentionally destroys something beautiful.
Song’s title: Lovesick Girls
Stanza 1, line 1
**Endless** night

In the array of the first line, the figurative symbol is in the subject of sentence, while other complement has a literal meaning. **Endless** means to have no beginning or end; it is either eternal or infinite.

Song’s title: How You Like That
Stanza 3, line 2, and line 3
**10 out of 10**, I want what’s mine
**Karma** come and get some

In the arrays of the second and third lines, the figurative symbols in the sentence’s subject, while the other complements have literal meanings. **10 out of 10** means something very well done. **Karma** means fate or destiny, resulting as an effect of a cause.

### 2. Objective Nominative Metaphor

Song’s title: Pink Venom
Stanza 1, line 1
Kick in the door, waving the **coco**

In the array of the first line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence’s object, while other complements have literal meanings. **Coco** refers to a luxury brand, Coco Chanel, as a nod to one of the Blackpink members (Jennie), as the brand ambassador of a luxury brand.

Stanza 2, line 1
It’s tonight, I’m a **venomous flower**

In the array of the first line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence’s object, while other complements have literal meanings. **Venomous flower** refers to a girl’s evil plan to entice others into their dangerous-yet-lovely relationship.

Stanza 3, line 1
Black paint and ammo, got bodies like **Rambo** Rest in peace, please light up a candle

In the array of the first line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence’s object, while other components have literal meaning. **Rambo** refers as a tough person.

Song’s title: Lovesick Girls
Stanza 2, line 3, line 4, and line 5
If I leave anyway, I’ll hate you in my **pained state**
We can’t end it before it’s over
It’s as if we’ve been waiting for this **agony**

In the array of the third, fourth, and fifth, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s object, while other complements have literal meanings. **Pained state** refers to the condition of
love-related mental illness. It refers to toxic romantic relationship. Agony refers to mental suffering.

Stanza 3, line 1, line 3, and line 4
We are the lovesick girls
We are the lovesick girls
I’m nothing without this pain

In the arrays of the first, third, and fourth lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s object, while other complements have literal meanings. Lovesick means falling madly in love with a loved one to the point where one unable act normally. Pain is a confession that one cannot expect anything positive from being hurt in a romantic relationship.

Song’s title: Kill This Love
Stanza 2, line 6, line 8, and line 9
With just one word, you’re like starstruck again
Felt like heaven, but
You might not get in it

In the arrays of the sixth, eighth, and nineth lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s object, while the other complements have literal meanings. Starstruck refers to being fascinated or greatly impressed by famous people, particularly those associated with the entertainment industry. Heaven means the great excitement of being nervous and having a warm feeling. In the previous line, it refers to heaven, which means a nervous and warm feeling that causes great excitement.

Stanza 3, line 4
If you cry tears of blood from both eyes

In the array of the fourth line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence’s object, while the other complements have literal meanings. Tears of blood it refers to expressing sadness that is too deep until there are no tears left.

Song’s title: How You Like That
Stanza 2, line 2
While looking into your eyes, I’ll kiss you goodbye

In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence’s object, while the other complements have literal meanings. Kiss you goodbye means being forced to regard something as lost, ruined, or hopeless.

Stanza 3, line 1, and line 8
Your girl needs it all and that’s a hundred
Then tell me, how you like that, like that?

In the arrays of the first and eighth lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s object, while the other complements have literal meanings. It refers to something that needs to be reached or accomplished. That refers to behaviour, which is when members ask the other person, "How you like that?" now that they are no longer under their control.
Song’s title: Bet You Wanna
Stanza 1, line 2, and line 5
I’ll meet you with my bags at the door
Take me to your paradise

In the arrays of second and fifth lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s object, while the other complements have literal meanings. Bags at the door refers to the act of being ready to go anywhere. Paradise refers to a condition of great happiness where everything is exactly as you would like it to be.

Stanza 2, line 3
I’m lighting your fire

In the array of third line, the figurative symbol is in the object of sentence, while the other components have literal meanings. Fire refers to passion in terms of love and romance.

Stanza 3, line 6
Time to shine. I bust down the AP

In the array of sixth line, the figurative symbol is in the object of sentence, while the other components have literal meanings. AP is short for Audemars Piguet. A luxury watch manufacturer from Switzerland.

3. Predicative Nominative Metaphor

Song’s title: Pink Venom
Stanza 1, line 6, and line 7
Everything is collapsing at the flick of my fingertip
It was flashy for a fake show

In the arrays of sixth and seventh lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. Collapsing means being demolished. Flashy means fashionable and noticeable.

Stanza 2, line 2, and line 6
After taking your soul
I bring the pain like

In the arrays of second and sixth lines, have the figurative symbols in the sentence’s predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. Taking means controlling. The word soul appears after the word taking, which has the meaning of controlling a person. Bring means possessing. The word the pain appears after the word Bring, which has the meaning of possessing something hurtful.
Song's title: Lovesick Girls
Stanza 1, line 2
Endless night
Love trapped us in a windowless room
What can we say?
Long for love even though it hurts every time

In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. The word *love* appears before the word *Trapped* which means to be caught in the snares of love, as if love can do something that makes one unable to flee.

Stanza 2, line 2
Don't know what's making me **hold on**

In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. **Hold on** refers to unable to escape from something, means being hypnotized of love.

Stanza 3, line 2
You can't just **end** this love on your own

In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. **End** refers to can't limit, the words this love appears after the word end, means have no control over love.

Song's title: How You Like That
Stanza 1, line 3
To **grab** onto the last bit of hope

In the array of the third line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. **Grab** refers to attempting to obtain something.

Song's title: Bet You Wanna
Stanza 1, line 3
I'm gonna make you **blind**

In the array of the third line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. **Blind** refers to forget everything for something enjoyable or exciting.

Stanza 2, line 2
And you ain't ever gonna **come down**

In the array of the second line, the figurative symbol is in the sentence's predicate, while the other complements have literal meanings. **Come down** refers to escaping from avoiding being influenced.
4. Sentence Metaphor

Song's title: Pink Venom
Stanza 1, line 3, line 4, line 5, and line 8
I talk that talk, runways I walk, walk
Close your eyes, pop, pretend you’re not looking
One by one, then two by two
Makes no sense you couldn’t get a dollar outta me

Line 3, means that someone is free to speak and act as they please, with no one controlling them. Line 4, means to pretend that nothing is happening is to ignore what is happening. Line 5, means gradually, from a small step to an increase. Line 8, refers to the affirmation that no one can take advantage of the person.

Song’s title: Lovesick Girls
Stanza 1, line 3, and line 4
What can we say?
Long for love even though it hurts every time

Line 3, refers to can do nothing about it, the feeling long for love. Line 4, refers to someone still hang on to toxic love.

Song’s title: Kill This Love
Stanza 1, line 1, line 2, and line 3
After a sweet “Hi”, there’s always a bitter “Bye”
After every crazy high, there’s a price you have to pay
There’s no answer to this test, I’ll always fall for it, yes

Line 1, refers to the fact that there is always a bad ending to a good beginning. Line 2, refers to there’s always an impact for what we’ve done. Line 3, There’s nothing standing in the way or holding you back from falling for it, which is to be tricked into doing the wrong thing, which in this case is to be with the wrong person.

Song’s title: How You Like That
Stanza 1, line 1, line 2, and line 3
I crumbled before your eyes
Hit rock bottom and sunk deeper
I’ve tried to reach out with both my hands

Line 1, refers to someone who breaks down in front of everyone but no one does anything to help them. Line 2, refers to someone who sinks before another but is pushed down instead. Line 4, refers to a person trying to save himself from drowning.

Song’s title: Bet You Wanna
Stanza 1, line 4, and line 8
Every time I walk, my hips, they don’t lie
Every time I walk. My hips, they don’t lie
Line 4 and Line 8, it means that when you look at someone’s hips, they send a message that cannot be hidden or misinterpreted, in this case a seductive message.

5. **Source and Target Conceptual Metaphor Analysis in Blackpink’s Song Lyrics**

Song’s title: Pink Venom

Stanza 1

Kick in the door, waving the **coco** (objective nominative metaphor)

**Just get your popcorn**, don’t even think about getting involved (subjective nominative metaphor)

I talk that talk, runways I walk, walk (sentence metaphor)

Close your eyes, pop, pretend you’re not looking (sentence metaphor)

One by one, then two by two (sentence metaphor)

Everything is **collapsing** at the flick of my fingertip (predicative nominative metaphor)

*It was flashy for a fake show* (predicative nominative metaphor)

Makes no sense you couldn’t get a dollar outta me (sentence metaphor)

The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 3, **one by one, then two by two**. This expression signifies, **One by One, then Two by Two is Times**, refers to someone who slowly hypnotises the people so that they are under that someone’s control.

Song’s title: Lovesick Girls

Stanza 1

**Endless night** (subjective nominative metaphor)

Love **trapped** us in a windowless room (predicative metaphor)

*What can we say?* (sentence metaphor)

Long for love even though it hurts every time (sentence metaphor)

The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 1, **endless**. This expression signifies **Endless is Eternal**, refers to downturn that has no end, which is someone is in a bad mental state, who suffers from love.

Song’s title: Kill This Love

Stanza 1

After a sweet “Hi”, there’s always a bitter “Bye” (sentence metaphor)

After every crazy high, there’s a price you have to pay (sentence metaphor)

There’s no answer to this test, I’ll always fall for it, yes (sentence metaphor)

I’m a **slave** to my emotions (predicative metaphor)

**Screw** this heartless love (predicative metaphor)

The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 5, **screw**. This expression signifies, **Screw is Resurrection**, refers to a person who wants to get rid of the heartless love that has a bad impact, so that the person can recover from a bad mental state due to toxic love.
Song’s title: How You Like That
Stanza 1
I crumbled before your eyes (sentence metaphor)
Hit rock bottom and sunk deeper (sentence metaphor)
To grab onto the last bit of hope (predicative metaphor)
I’ve tried to reach out with both my hands (sentence metaphor)

The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 1, crumbled. This expression signifies, Crumbled is Hopeless, refers to someone who is in the lowest life position, that is helpless, needs help but no one cares, so that someone has to fight alone to reach the top life position which is the better life.

Song’s title: Bet You Wanna
Stanza 1
Tell me where you wanna go I’ll meet you with my bags at the door (objective nominative metaphor) I’m gonna make you blind (predicative metaphor)
Every time I walk, my hips, they don’t lie (sentence metaphor)
Take me to your paradise (objective nominative metaphor)
‘Cause I don’t wanna wait anymore I’ll say it one more time Every time I walk. My hips, they don’t lie (sentence metaphor)

The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 5, paradise. This expression signifies, Paradise is Happiness, refers to a condition of great pleasure, which is someone gets everything exactly as they would like it to be from their partner.
The conceptual metaphor is existed in this stanza, line 5, *paradise*. This expression signifies, **Paradise is Happiness**, refers to a condition of great pleasure, which is someone gets everything exactly as they would like it to be from their partner.

### Table 1. Number of Each Type of Metaphor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Metaphor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective Nominative Metaphor</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective Nominative Metaphor</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predicative metaphor</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence metaphor</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Song Lyrics Based on The Types of Metaphor

#### Subjective Nominative Metaphor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lyric</th>
<th>Figurative Symbol</th>
<th>Explicit Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Just get your popcorn</strong>, don’t even think about getting involved</td>
<td>Just get your popcorn</td>
<td><em>Just get your popcorn</em> means to get ready enjoying the show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It’s so beautiful, it’s cruel</strong></td>
<td>It</td>
<td><em>It</em> refers to something painful but addictive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designer crimes</strong> or it wouldn’t be me</td>
<td>Designer crimes</td>
<td><em>Designer crimes</em> refers to a person who intentionally destroys something beautiful.</td>
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#### Objective Nominative Metaphor

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<td><strong>Black paint and ammo, got</strong></td>
<td><em>Rambo</em></td>
<td><em>Rambo</em> refers as a tough person.</td>
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</table>
### Predicative Metaphor

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lyric</th>
<th>Figurative Symbol</th>
<th>Explicit Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everything is <strong>collapsing</strong> at the flick of my fingertip</td>
<td>Collapsing</td>
<td><strong>Collapsing</strong> means being demolished.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>It was</em> <strong>flashy</strong> <em>for a fake show</em></td>
<td><strong>Flasy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flasy</strong> means fashionable and noticeable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>After</em> <strong>taking</strong> <em>your soul</em>*</td>
<td><strong>Taking</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taking</strong> means controlling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The word <em>soul</em> appears after the word <em>taking</em>, which has the meaning of controlling a person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sentence Metaphor

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Lyric</th>
<th>Figurative Symbol</th>
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<td>Close your eyes, pop, pretend you’re not looking</td>
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<td>One by one, then two by two</td>
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<td>means gradually, from a small step to an increase. Line 8, refers to the affirmation that no one can take advantage of the person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Table 3. Source and Target Conceptual Metaphor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lyric</th>
<th>Conceptual Metaphor</th>
<th>Source and Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>One by one, then two by two</strong></td>
<td>One by One, then Two by Two is Times</td>
<td>Source: Times Target: One by One, then Two by Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>After taking your soul</strong></td>
<td>Taking is Manipulating</td>
<td>Source: Manipulating Target: Taking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black paint and ammo, got bodies like Rambo</strong></td>
<td>Rambo is Resistance</td>
<td>Source: Resistance Target: Rambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endless night</strong></td>
<td>Endless is Eternal</td>
<td>Source: Eternal Target: Endless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION
The writer concludes after analyzing the meaning of metaphors in Blackpink song lyrics: Pink Venom, Lovesick Girl, Kill This Love, How You Like That, Bet You Wanna. There were four types of metaphor used in five selected Blackpink song lyrics: subjective nominative metaphor, objective nominative metaphor, predicative metaphor, and sentence metaphor. The writer discovers that sentence metaphor is the most commonly used type of metaphor in Blackpink song lyrics, followed by nominative objective metaphor, predicative metaphor, and nominative subjective metaphor.

The writer intends to discuss the various metaphors found in Blackpink songs, as well as their interpretation, one line of an array in each stanza at a time. There were six Subjective
Nominative Metaphors and nineteen Objective Nominative Metaphors that appeared, as well as thirteen Predicative Metaphors that appeared in selected Blackpink song lyrics. In selected Blackpink song lyrics, there were forty-six Sentence Metaphors. The meaning of the metaphor found in each song's lyrics is the same, even if displayed differently. Each Array including the meaning of metaphor contains a specific meaning, but basically everything. It refers to the failures of love or heartbreak, the journey of life, and the pleasures of love.

REFERENCES


