

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the conceptual metaphors found in the song lyrics of the songs *Aurora* and *Regulus* by ONEWE. These songs were chosen because the lyrics contain poetic language, and it has deep emotions, which also contains metaphorical expressions. The analysis is based on the Conceptual Metaphor theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), which classifies metaphors into three main types: structural, ontological and orientational. The metaphorical expressions identified in the lyrics are interpreted to reveal the deeper meaning behind the emotional themes conveyed through the songs.

#### A. Findings

This section presents data in the form the samples of the lyrics excerpt, identified metaphors by concept mapping, and classified based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

##### 1. Identified the conceptual metaphors used in the lyrics of ONEWE's songs *Aurora* and *Regulus*

###### a. Identified the conceptual metaphors used in the lyrics of ONEWE's songs *Aurora*

To make the process easier, here is a table containing sample lyrics from the song *Aurora* that have been identified using concept mapping.

Tabel 4.1 Identified Conceptual Metaphor in the Song Aurora

No.	Lyrics Excerpt	Identified Metaphor
1	“I’m on my way to you, following this light”	Love is a journey
2	“The light still shines out bright at midnight”	Light is hope
3	“Aurora that you gave me always shines”	Love is light
4	“Will you clear the cloud that’s hiding you”	Emotional barriers are physical barrier
5	“And remain longer as the light in the dark night”	Light is hope
6	“Fill up and fulfill the night sky with your glowing light”	Love is light

In the first lyrics, “I’m on my way to you, following this light” described about someone that walk toward another person by following the light. That expression reflected the conceptual metaphor of “*Love is a journey*,” where it compared the emotional experience of love to the act of traveling. Although it sounded like a physical movement, it actually described an emotional process. It compared falling in love to going on a journey, where the loved one was the destination and the light was a symbol of hope or guidance. In this metaphor, the source domain is “a journey” and the target domain is “love.” The traveler represented the “I’m” in the lyrics, the destination is the person they love, the path is the relationship process, and the

light symbolized emotional guidance. This metaphor helped express that love required effort, direction, and purpose just like a real journey.

In the second lyrics, “The light still shines out bright at midnight” expressed the idea that even in a dark or hard times that symbolized by midnight, the presence or memory of someone that symbolized by the light is still offered hope. The lyrics were identified as conceptual metaphor “*Light is hope.*” The target domain is “hope” and the source domain is “light.” This meant that the abstract concept of hope was understood through the more concrete and physical concept of light. Hope that could not be seen or touched was given a visible and concrete form through the image of light.

In the third lyrics, “Aurora that you gave me always shines” describe about Aurora. An *aurora* itself is a natural light display that occurs in the sky, often associated with beauty. In this context, the word “aurora” did not refer to an actual phenomenon, but symbolized a deep emotional experience. The lyrics were identified as conceptual metaphor “*Love is light.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is “love” and the source domain is the aurora, a concrete and visible natural “light” phenomenon. The emotional feeling in that lyrics described as if it were a physical object like an aurora that continued to shine, meaning it continues to have a lasting presence.

The fourth lyrics, “Will you clear the cloud that’s hiding you” contained a metaphor that expressed emotional distance through the

imagery of the weather. Literally, clouds can cover or block something from view. However, in this context, clouds symbolized emotional barriers, confusion, or sadness that prevented feeling close to another person. This created a conceptual metaphor “*Emotional barriers are physical barriers.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is “emotional space” while the source domain is a cloud, a “physical object that hides” or blocks vision. This metaphor implies that just as clouds can hide the sky or sunlight, emotional problems can hide a person’s true feelings.

In the fifth lyrics, “And remain longer as the light in the dark night” expressed the songwriter’s wish for someone’s presence to last longer, especially during hard times. In literal language, the lyrics referred to a light shining in the night, but metaphorically, it implied that the person being spoken to brought hope, like a light shining in the darkness. The conceptual metaphor identified here was “*Light is hope.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is “hope,” which is abstract, while the source domain is “light,” a physical and visible phenomenon. The image of “light in the dark night” was used to represent how someone’s presence can offer emotional strength during hard times that was imagined as the dark night in the lyrics.

And the last lyrics, “Fill up and fulfill the night sky with your glowing light” used clear imagery to describe how the presence of a person brought warmth and emotional brightness into a dark or lonely

space. Although the lyrics appeared to describe a beautiful physical scene, it metaphorically referred to the powerful emotional effect the person had on the songwriter's life. The identified conceptual metaphor is *"Love is light."* In this metaphor, the target domain is "love," an abstract human feeling. The source domain is "light," a concrete and visible phenomenon. The lyrics described this emotional presence as something that can physically fill and brighten the night sky, symbolizing how deeply it affected the songwriter, especially in hard times.

**b. Identified the conceptual metaphors used in the lyrics of ONEWE's songs *Regulus***

To make the process easier, here is a table containing sample lyrics from the song *Regulus* that have been identified using concept mapping.

*Tabel 4.2 Identified Conceptual Metaphor in the Song Regulus*

No.	Lyrics Excerpt	Identified Metaphor
1	"The name of the star that I live on Often, they call it the regulus"	Emotional states are physical location
2	"Even though it may be dark all day I'm not lonely at all"	Difficult emotions are darkness
3	"There's a flower that resembles you, it doesn't wither or fade away"	A person is a flower
4	"The moment of the sound of your footsteps come scross the galaxy"	Emotional prsence is a physical movement through space

5	“After the rain goes, we have bloomed in full”	Emotional growth is in bloom
6	“This star is precious, a living and breathing memory”	Memories are living thing

In the first lyrics, “The name of the star that I live on, often, they call it the Regulus” presented a metaphor where the songwriter imagined themselves living in a star called Regulus. In literal words, this shows a person living on a celestial body, which is impossible. However, metaphorically, it represented the songwriter’s emotional or mental that was associated with a person symbolized by a star. The identified conceptual metaphor was *“Emotional states are physical locations.”* In this metaphor, the target domain is the “emotional experience” of the songwriter, such as loneliness, admiration, or longing. The source domain is a “star,” a concrete physical object in the universe. By saying that they lived on a star, the songwriter expressed their emotional state as if the star were the place where they live. This kind of metaphor framed emotions as locations that someone can be in or on.

In the second lyrics, “Even though it may be dark all day, I’m not lonely at all” used darkness not only as a physical description, but also as a metaphor for emotional states. In the line “dark all day,” did not literally refer to the absence of sunlight, it symbolized feelings of sadness. Although in “darkness,” the speaker expressed that they do not feel lonely, which indicated emotional strength, hope, or

connection. The identified conceptual metaphor was “*Difficult emotions are darkness.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is an “emotional experience,” specifically sadness. The source domain is “darkness,” a physical condition that we usually associate with fear. This metaphor depended on the common human experience that darkness can cause emotional distress, and therefore used it to express an abstract emotional state.

In the third lyrics, “There’s a flower that resembles you it doesn’t wither or fade away” presented a metaphor that compares a person to a flower. The songwriter did not just say that the person was like a flower, but implied that this flower represented them, and highlighted its beauty and eternity. This created a conceptual metaphor of “*A person is a flower.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is a “person,” a loved one and the source domain is “a flower,” which is concrete, beautiful and often associated with life, emotions and nature. This metaphor implied that the person had positive qualities like a flower, such as beauty, or pureness, but unlike a real flower, it never withered or faded, symbolizing the lasting impact or everlasting character of the person’s presence or love.

In the fourth lyrics, “The moment of the sound of your footsteps come across galaxy” created a metaphor that described the emotional presence of a loved one as something that echoed across vast distances such as galaxies. Although the image of footsteps crossing space is not

literal, it expressed the emotional impact and presence of someone who meant a lot. The conceptual metaphor identified is that *“Emotional presence is a physical movement through space.”* In this metaphor, the target domain is the “emotional experience of intimacy,” such of love, and the source domain is a “physical movement” which is footsteps, across the great space or galaxy. The songwriter imagined the presence of the loved one as something so powerful that their footsteps could be heard across the galaxy symbolizing how meaningful their emotional effect was.

In the fifth lyrics, “After the rain goes, we have bloomed in full” used natural imagery to describe the emotional growth of a relationship. Literally, this lyric referred to a flower blooming after the rain. However, metaphorically, it expressed how the songwriter and the partner had grown emotionally and become stronger after going through hard times. The identified conceptual metaphor is *“Emotional growth is in bloom.”* In this metaphor, the target domain is “emotional growth,” and the source domain is the “blooming of flowers in nature.” Rain symbolizes difficulty, sadness, or struggle, while full bloom symbolized achieving a better or stronger emotional condition. The process of blooming after rain reflected how people often grow and become stronger after going through hard times.

And in the last lyrics, “This star is precious, a living and breathing memory” conveyed a deep emotional meaning by comparing

memories to living stars. Although stars are celestial bodies and cannot literally live or breathe, the lyrics metaphorically described it as something alive, representing the lasting emotional presence of someone or something important from the past. The conceptual metaphor identified is that “*Memories are living things.*” In this metaphor, the target domain is “memory” which is an abstract concept related to emotions. The source domain is a “living thing,” represented here by a star described as living and breathing. In other words, the memories were described as if they were alive and breathing.

**2. Classified conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of *Aurora* and *Regulus* by ONEWE based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson’s Conceptual Metaphor Theory.**

**a. Classified conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of *Aurora* by ONEWE based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson’s Conceptual Metaphor Theory.**

To make the process easier, here is a table containing sample lyrics from the song *Aurora* that have been identified using concept mapping, which are then classified based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson’s Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

*Tabel 4.3 Classified Conceptual Metaphors in the Song Aurora based on CMT by Lakoff and Johnson*

No.	Lyrics Excerpt	Identified Metaphor	Type of Conceptual Metaphor
1	“I’m on my way to you, following this light”	Love is a journey	Structural
2	“The light still shines out bright at midnight”	Light is hope	Ontological
3	“Aurora that you gave me always shines”	Love is light	Ontological
4	“Will you clear the cloud that’s hiding you”	Emotional barriers are physical barrier	Ontological
5	“And remain longer as the light in the dark night”	Light is hope	Ontological
6	“Fill up and fulfill the night sky with your glowing light”	Love is light	Ontological

The expression in the first lyrics, “I’m on my way to you, following this light” was classified as a structural metaphor because it presented the abstract concept of love using the structure of a more concrete concept, which is a journey.

The expression of the second “The light still shines out bright at midnight” was classified as an ontological metaphor because the abstract concept of hope was described using the concrete image of light, which is something we can physically see and experience.

The expression in the third lyrics, “Aurora that you gave me always shines” was classified as an ontological metaphor, where

something abstract is conceptualized as a concrete object. In the lyrics, the songwriter talked about love or a memory as if it were an aurora, something that can be seen and imagined. The aurora was described as shining, which means the feeling was shown as something real, lasting, and active.

The expression in the fourth lyrics, “Will you clear the cloud that’s hiding you” was classified as an ontological metaphor. Ontological metaphors occur when abstract experiences are treated as if they were objects or entities. In this case, the cloud is not just weather that represented emotional problems that were talked about as if they were physical things that can be removed or cleared.

The expression in the fifth lyrics, “And remain longer as the light in the Dark” was classified as an ontological metaphor because it treated an abstract feeling like hope as a concrete object like light. The metaphor allowed the songwriter to talk about emotional presence as something that can be seen, felt, and that had physical object that stayed longer.

And the expression in the last lyrics, “Fill up and fulfill the night sky with your glowing light” was classified as an ontological metaphor. Ontological metaphors are where abstract concepts are treated as if they were physical objects or substances. In this case, emotional presence was described as a shining light, something that can “fill” space and “fill” something else like the sky. This is usually

associated with physical things, which revealed that abstract feelings were conceptualized as real strengths.

**b. Classified conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of *Regulus* by ONEWE based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory.**

To make the process easier, here is a table containing sample lyrics from the song *Regulus* that have been identified using concept mapping, which are then classified based on types of metaphor by Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory

*Tabel 4.4 Classified Conceptual Metaphors in the Song Regulus based on CMT by Lakoff and Johnson*

No.	Lyrics Excerpt	Identified Metaphor	Type of Conceptual Metaphor
1	"The name of the star that I live on Often, they call it the regulus"	Emotional states are physical location	Ontological
2	"Even though it may be dark all day I'm not lonely at all"	Difficult emotions are darkness	Ontological
3	"There's a flower that resembles you, it doesn't wither or fade away"	A person is a flower	Ontological
4	"The moment of the sound of your footsteps come scross the galaxy"	Emotional prsesence is a physical movement through space	Structural
5	"After the rain goes, we have bloomed in full"	Emotional growth is in bloom	Ontological
6	"This star is precious, a living and breathing memory"	Memories are living thing	Ontological

The expression in the first lyrics, “The name of the star that I live on, often, they call it the Regulus” was classified as ontological metaphors. Ontological metaphors make it possible to understand abstract concepts as objects or locations. In the lyrics, the abstract emotional state was treated as a place, the star Regulus, which is a permanent and faraway point in the universe where the songwriter lives. This metaphor provided an imagery by describing it as a specific place, making it easier for the listener to visualize and relate to the emotional state.

The expression in the second lyrics, “Even though it may be dark all day, I’m not lonely at all” was classified as ontological metaphors. Ontological metaphors allow us to understand abstract experiences such as sadness as a physical matter or condition. In this case, darkness was used as a matter or condition that filled the day, symbolizing emotional struggle.

The expression in the third lyrics, “There’s a flower that resembles you it doesn’t wither or fade away” was classified as ontological metaphors. In an ontological metaphor, abstract or emotional concepts are understood as physical objects or living things. Here, the person whose emotional presence is abstract, was represented as a flower, a real object with a physical form. This metaphor made the abstract idea of emotional attachment easier to understand, and has emotional power.

The expression in the fourth lyrics, “The moment of the sound of your footsteps come across galaxy” was classified as structural metaphors. Structural metaphors occur when one concept is systematically organized in relation to another. Here, abstract ideas about emotional presence were framed using concrete concepts about movement across space. This metaphor borrowed from the physical structure of travel, where someone comes and leaves a footprint, to describe the songwriter’s conception of emotional intimacy.

The expression in the fifth lyrics, “After the rain goes, we have bloomed in full” was classified as ontological metaphors. Ontological metaphors occur when abstract experiences such as growth or emotions, are understood as physical objects or living things. In this case, the relationship was treated as a flower, a living thing that grows, making the abstract concept of emotional growth more concrete and imaginable.

And the expression in the last lyrics, “This star is precious, a living and breathing memory” was classified as an ontological metaphor because it treated the abstract concept of memory as if it were a concrete, living thing. Ontological metaphors help understand non-physical things, such as emotions, ideas, or memories, as if it were objects or beings that can exist and act. In this case, the metaphor made the memory feel alive, emotionally present, and persistent, thus giving it meaning and importance in the songwriter’s life.

## B. Discussion

This discussion discusses the findings from the analysis of conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of the songs *Aurora* and *Regulus* by ONEWE. This discussion will explain how these metaphors function to communicate the major themes of the songs, supported by the framework of Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory, and supported by the relevance of previous studies.

### 1. Conceptual Metaphors in the song *Aurora*

The song *Aurora* consistently uses source domains related to light to express themes of love, hope, and guidance. The metaphor “*Love is a journey*” in the lyrics “I’m on my way to you, following this light” describes love as a process that needs effort and guidance, similar to a physical journey. This concept is in line with Lakoff and Johnson’s (1980) perspective that life experiences, including love, are often structured as journeys. This finding is also supported by Kartika et al. (2024) study in the analysis of “Conceptual Metaphor Analysis on ‘The Greatest Showman’ Soundtrack Album” which found that emotions are often conceptualized through movement, confirming that “*Emotional experiences are journeys*” is a powerful cross-cultural metaphor.

Furthermore, the dominance of the metaphors “*Light is hope*” in the lyrics “The light still shines out bright at midnight,” “And remain longer as the light in the dark night,” and “*Love is light*” in the lyrics “The

aurora you gave me always shines,” and “Fill and fill the night sky with your glowing light,” show how light functions as a positive sign in an emotional context. Light here is not only a symbol of hope, but also a representation of a warming and brightening presence. This is in line with Charoenpong (2023) research titled “Metaphor Analysis in Mark Tuan’s Songs” where light often symbolizes clarity, happiness, and a bright future, confirming the orientational nature of the light-dark metaphor that explained by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), where positive is associated with up or light and negative with down or dark.

The next metaphor “*Emotional barriers are physical barriers*” in the lyrics “Will you clear the cloud that’s hiding you” smartly uses the image of clouds to represent emotional barriers. Clouds, which physically block the view, metaphorically describe something that hides or keeps away. This metaphor shows that often understand problems in communication or connection between people through the terms of physical objects.

## 2. Conceptual Metaphors in the song *Regulus*

Similar to *Aurora*, most of the metaphors in *Regulus* are also ontological metaphors. Examples include “*Emotional states are physical locations*,” “*Difficult emotions are darkness*,” “*A person is a flower*,” “*Emotional growth is in bloom*,” and “*Memories are living things*.” This shows a preference in lyrics to objectify abstract concepts, such as thinking of memories as “living, breathing stars,” to give more real presence to personal experiences. This allows the listener to “see” and “feel” the emotion or memory as if it were a real object. It is similar to how Coldplay’s lyrics were analyzed in Wahyuda et al. (2022), where metaphors give life to feelings, portraying them as beings that “stay,” “shine,” or “breathe.”

However, the metaphor “*Emotional presence is a physical movement through space*” in the lyrics “The moment of the sound of your footsteps come across the galaxy” is classified as a structural metaphor. This metaphor not only objectifies “emotional presence” but also maps the structure of the experience of physical movement in the lyrics “footsteps across distance” onto the emotional experience. This shows a systematization in the understanding of emotional presence that goes beyond simply objectifying it. Kartika et al. (2024) also highlighted the use of structural metaphors in song lyrics to build more complex narratives.

This study highlights that ONEWE, through *Aurora* and *Regulus*, expertly uses conceptual metaphors to build emotional and poetic depth in their lyrics. The dominant use of ontological metaphors allows the abstraction of inner emotions and experiences into concrete entities that listeners can imagine and feel. This is especially powerful in lyrical art, where the audience's imagination is the key. Meanwhile, structural metaphors such as “*Love is a journey*” and “*Emotional presence is a physical movement through space*” provide a more complex narrative framework, allowing for a more organized understanding of relationships and experiences.

Compared to previous studies, this finding supports the idea that conceptual metaphors are a universal linguistic tool in the expression of human emotions and experiences in music. A possible gap that could be further explored is how the use of these metaphors might differ across musical genres or languages, or how specific cultural contexts, for example Korean culture, might influence the types of metaphors chosen.