

Conceptual Metaphors and Pragmatics Meanings in Christina Perri's Songs: "Hurt", "Blue" & "Mothers"

Aura Pradita¹

190350060@pertiwi.ac.id

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language, Universitas Pertiwi

Herlyna

herlyna@pertiwi.ac.id

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language, Universitas Pertiwi

Retno Ramadhina

retno.ramadhina@pertiwi.ac.id

English Literature Department, Faculty of Tourism and Language, Universitas Pertiwi

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Abstract: The writer raises the issue of types of conceptual metaphors and the pragmatic meaning of these metaphorical expressions found in Christina Perri's songs entitled "Hurt", "Blue" and "Mothers". The aim is to analyze the types of conceptual metaphors and the pragmatic meanings contained in them to make it clear that collaboration between concept metaphors and pragmatics can be done and is becoming increasingly familiar to most people, especially in the field of linguistics. This research applies George-Lakoff's (2013) conceptual metaphor theory and Brown-Yule's (2013) pragmatics theory to find the meanings contained therein. A qualitative descriptive approach used in this research. The results of the research confirm that there are 3 types of conceptual metaphors in the three selected songs and in conveying their meaning, Christina Perri conveys the meaning contained in the conceptual metaphor expressions conveyed contextually not literally, based on the background of the song lyrics created

Keywords: Conceptual Metaphor, Pragmatics Meaning, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Many things in human life today are shrouded in metaphorical expressions. It can be said that almost every day in the world, humans use metaphorical expressions consciously or unconsciously (Schumacher, 2020). We can find many metaphorical expressions around us directly or indirectly. Metaphorical expressions are most easily found in a work of literature or linguistics. However, there are also many sciences outside of

linguistics that also use metaphors to make it easier for them to give understanding or explanations to people who do not understand these complex fields of science (Salomao, 2023). The most famous example is on October 12, 2018, when our president Jokowi gave a speech using metaphorical expressions. This speech describes global uncertainty by using a fantasy drama series about the power struggle of the Game of Thrones which is very popular among the people (Widi, 2023). From these examples, the role of metaphor is

¹ Corresponding author

indispensable in determining the way people perceive and react to the world and its surroundings because it helps someone understand complex concepts into concepts that are familiar to them.

Talking about the metaphor itself, generally, most people are more aware that metaphor is part of language style or figurative language (Team, 2020). They have various kinds that rarely people know about. One of them is a conceptual metaphor. In the book Metaphors We Live by (1980) George Lakoff and Mark Johnson define conceptual metaphor as the concept of understanding one domain which is usually abstract and being transferred into other terms which are usually more concrete (p.15). This definition also explains that the conceptual metaphor applies as a cognitive process of understanding a domain which is a concept characterized as understanding one idea as a source domain with another as a target domain (p.203). It should also be noted that conceptual metaphor itself is divided into several types. They are orientational, ontological, and structural (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Lakoff & Johnson, 2013).

Orientational metaphors are metaphors that explain the involvement of spatial relationships whose concepts are characterized by an 'upward' orientation, while the 'opposite' accepts a 'downward' orientation based on the experience of the world through perception and movement. For example: 'He sank into a coma' or 'I'm at the peak of the situation'. Ontological metaphors are metaphors that project something concrete into something abstract. Abstract here represents activity, emotion, or idea, as something concrete, managed conceptually as an object of something tangible, it is like a human ability is given to things that are not human. For example "Cancer eats away at his life.", Cancer here is not an entity like humans, but it can do things the humans do, such as gnawing. A Structural metaphor is a metaphor that presents an abstract complex concept into another, more concrete concept. An example of the concept of Argument is War or Life is Journey. The source

domain provides the framework for the target domain.

Metaphor plays the most prominent role in linguistics and literature. Many literary Works use metaphorical expressions such as poetry, books, plays, and even songs.

Especially in songs, songs are the ones that most often use them. Songs are short poems accompanied by musical instruments and sung by singers. (Gray, 2022). Many songwriters use metaphors in the lyrics of their songs with the aesthetic purposes of making the beautiful songs, pleasing to hear and helping listeners to more easily understand the meanings of songs. The Song is also a place to convey messages through lyrics (Wilson, 2018). Musicians here act as communicators, and song lyrics are a channel for songwriter to convey their messages. The songwriters convey the ideas, thoughts, and feelings in the songs that they create based on the experiences and imagination they felt. In making the song itself, they play on words and language so that the song created has its characteristics compared to another song.

Many singers or bands have created great songs. One of them is Christina Perri. She is a singer and songwriter from Philadelphia, United States. Her debut single "Jar of Hearts" sold over 3 million copies in the United States and became a worldwide hit in 2010. Then, she wrote and recorded "A Thousand Years" which was used as the original soundtrack for the popular film The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 in 2012 This song has sold over 4 million copies and is certified 4× platinum in USA (Donelson, 2023). This song made her even more known because the song "Thousand Years" successfully grabbed the attention of many people and dissolved in its beautiful sensations. The sensation of beauty is created from the metaphorical expressions that adorn word for word in the lyrics of the song.

Unfortunately, the use of metaphors that are too abstract in song lyrics can cause difficulties for



JELL (Journal of English Language and literature) STIBA IEC Jakarta Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2024

listeners to understand the meaning that the songwriter wants to convey. So sometimes the listeners here interpret the meaning inaccurately. An inaccurate interpretation can lead to misunderstandings in receiving information regarding the intentions conveyed by songwriters. Therefore, it is important to study and know the branch of linguistics that studies meaning such as semantics or pragmatics (Chaer, 2015). This knowledge is very important for students in the faculty of language. It is the knowledge to know the relationship of language with meaning.

Sometimes, some people are still confused between the use of semantics and pragmatics, because people think that both of them discuss the meaning of a word. When comparing semantics and pragmatics, we can see that semantics focuses on the meaning formed by the connections between linguistic expressions. On the other hand, pragmatics explores how meaning is constructed, with a greater emphasis on considering the context in which communication takes place (Allwood, 2020).

Pragmatics states that it is very important to understand the context when the listener or reader interprets the meaning of the discourse and considers things such as irony, metaphor, idiom, and the implied meaning in it (Allot, 2010). It means that the meaning studied by pragmatics is usually based on the context outside the language or the interpretation of the speaker's situation. Unfortunately, most people are more familiar with the collaboration between conceptual metaphor and semantics than the collaboration between conceptual metaphor and pragmatics. Even though, conceptual metaphors can also build a relationship with pragmatics like semantics. Pragmatic experts have agreed that the study of pragmatic meanings uses extralingual contexts in addition to intralingual contexts. Initially, pragmatics studies aspects of language use by analyzing. Meanwhile, extralingual contexts are any contexts outside the language that determine meaning (the speaker's meaning) (Korta, 2008). Such extra lingual contexts are referred to by

Dijk (2009) as the communicative situation stated as episodic memory (episode of a speaker's long-term personal experiences). This happens because not all pragmatic meanings can be interpreted using contexts as asserted in the semantic theories. The scope of semantic meanings has been investigated by linguists. However, in practice, the semantic theory cannot be used to interpret all aspects of the speaker's meaning (Pranowo, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in researching 3 songs in one of Christina Perri's albums entitled A Lighter Shade of Blue. Which the background to the process of making this album is the story of Christina Perri's journey to move on from her sorrows as a woman, child, and mother (Putranto, 2022). In these songs, there is the use of metaphorical expressions in the form of words or phrases or sentences with different types of metaphors. This increasingly arouses the writer's interest in studying types of conceptual metaphors that few people know about. Apart from that, the song lyrics here also have their contextual meaning which is wrapped in a metaphorical expression that Christina Perri as the songwriter wants to convey, and is based on problems that could arise if the meaning of the metaphorical expression is not correct. This of course will give rise to meanings that are not on target in the language and will give rise to misunderstandings in the form of inaccurate interpretations.

Besides that, because previous research from Risalatunni'mah (2015)entitled "Figurative Language Found in Christina Perri's Lyrics of Songs" only discussed general metaphors as a part of the figurative language group, this also became the background for this research. More specifically, this research aims to know more about various types of conceptual metaphors found in songs and how the actual meaning is conveyed through these metaphorical expressions. In short, the writer hopes that this research can provide many benefits to help readers more familiar with and understand the collaboration between conceptual metaphor with pragmatics especially, help students of the English Literature Department know how to gain an understanding of the various types and meanings of metaphor in song lyrics

METHODS

Based on Denzin (2011) in elaborating this research, the writer used a qualitative-descriptive method. Qualitative-descriptive is used here because the data collected by the writer is in the form of words and sentences in song lyrics (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). In finding types of conceptual metaphors, the writer collects metaphorical expressions data by identifying, classifying, and analyzing data in Christina Perri's song lyrics, the writer describes the object in depth and detail, and then the writer applies the conceptual metaphor theory by Lakoff & Johnson (2013) and the pragmatic theory by Brown & Yule (2013).

The data are lyrics and songs from the album entitled "A Lighter Shade of Blue" by Christina Perri (2022). The writer chose the three songs entitled "Hurt", Blue" & "Mothers" as the object of this research.

The research data was collected using a document study technique. Document study is a technique of gathering information that is only related to the research topic (Nilamsari, 2014). The data collection process itself began by listening to all the songs on the album A Lighter Shade of Blue by Christina Perri on Spotify. After that, read the lyrics of all the songs on Sonora. id. Then, the writer took three songs from that which contain metaphorical expressions. The writer listens to the three songs or reads the lyrics of the song more thoroughly. Furthermore, the writer tries to find words, phrases, and sentences that contain conceptual metaphors. After that, the writer

identified the general and detailed meaning of the songs. Finally, the writer classifies them and provides a code for each lyric that contains conceptual metaphors.

After finding and collecting data, the writer proceeds to the next stage, namely analyzing data. The writer uses qualitative data analysis technique which is to manage alphabetic data and focus on its quality. The steps that the writer did in analyzing the data are as follows: Classifying data from song lyrics. At this stage, the writer begins to classify words and sentences that can be categorized as metaphors contained in each of the selected song lyrics. After that, the writer gave the number one to ten on the lyrics of the song. This is to make it easier for the writer to identify it. Then, the writer enters the results of the data classification into the table to make it easier to identify data that contains metaphors. Secondly, explaining data from song lyrics. After the writer classifies the types of conceptual metaphors, the next step is the writer explain the results of the classification based on Lakoff & Johnson's 1980 theory. After analyzing and classifying based on the types of conceptual metaphors, the writer discusses or interprets the meaning to be conveyed by the data based on Brown Yule's Pragmatics theory. Lastly, concluding the research results. The writer will conclude all these points.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

There are 14 data analyzed here. The data numbered randomly from Christina Perri's songs in A Lighter Shade of Blue album. Here the symbols used are S (stanza) and L (line). The data focused on the analysis are in italics.

Stanza & Line Title Metaphorical Expression Type of Conceptual Metaphor song S1L1 Hurt I always feel blue Structural S3L1 You make me high Orientational S3L5 You make me sink Orientational Loving you is the best and the S3L7 Structural worst You kill me with the love we S5L6 Ontological make S1L4 Blue It's the cold that keeps me warm Structural at night S2L1 Cause the blue of my mother Structural has always been my color S2L2 The love that I offer is deep and Structural out of tune S2L4 All that I can do is turn a lighter Structural shade of blue S5L1 I used to hide my broken side, Structural now I wear it on my sleeve S2L1 Mothers To the mother who are lost, Orientational pulled underneath the wave S2L2 Who needs to cry for help but Orientational are drowning in the shame S2L3 To the mother who are falling Orientational and don't even make a sound S2L4 who don't know they're broken Structural

Table 1. The types of conceptual metaphors found in the songs

Based on the table above, there are fourteen metaphorical expressions found in Christina's songs "Hurt", Blue" and "Mothers" on A Lighter Shade of Blue album.

Discussions

Analysis of Types Conceptual Metaphor

In this section, the writer presents an analysis the finding on the types of conceptual metaphors found in Christina Perri's songs. The writer found results based on the data, namely there are 3 types of conceptual metaphor found in Christina's songs, namely: Orientational metaphor with 5 data, Ontological metaphor with only 1 data, and Structural metaphor with 8 data.

Orientational Metaphor

Orientational metaphors, namely figurative comparisons refer to spatial or spatial orientation, such as up-down, inside-outside, front-back, etc.

The following is an explanation of the metaphorical expressions found, which are included in orientational metaphors.

Datum 1

until they hit the ground

Conceptual metaphor: Happy is up

You make me high You make me cry

The lyrics above are a kind of orientational metaphor. It is said to be an orientational metaphor

Aura Pradita, Herlyna & Retno Ramadhina

Conceptual Metaphors and Pragmatics Meanings in Christina Perri's Songs: "Hurt", "Blue" & "Mothers".

because the word high in the sentence 'you make me high' refers to a space where we know that high things will always be above. This fits perfectly with the up-down concept. Based on what Lakoff & and Johnson said about orientational metaphors, when someone uses concrete figurative words to describe abstract things and is characterized by a spatial orientation of top-down, front, and back, then it is said to be an orientational metaphor. High here is used as a metaphor to describe the abstract word happiness by the songwriter. It is said to describe happiness because, in the next stanza, it is explained with the sentence 'you make me cry', which this stanza refers to something that contains an element of sadness. Then it further strengthens the songwriter that sadness and happiness always coexist. So the meaning of these two stanzas explains that Christina Perri describes the person called 'You' as someone who managed to make her both happy and sad.

Datum 2

Conceptual metaphor: Sad is down

You make me sink What do I do with this?

From the lyric above, it can be seen that it is also an orientational metaphor. The word sink here also refers to a downward space. As we know, when someone sinks they will automatically go to the bottom of the sea, it is very impossible to go up because if you go up, the sink is no longer the right word but float. And the word sink here also describes something abstract, namely sad.

Datum 3

Conceptual Metaphor: Sad is down

To the mothers who are lost, pulled underneath the waves

From the lyrics above, it is known that it is also an orientational metaphor. Because the sentence 'pulled underneath the waves' shows that the orientation of the space is downwards. This describes sentence the sadness in problems/trouble faced by mothers by using the sentence pulled underneath the waves which will make the sentence more beautiful. Because the waves here are also similar to problems that we know both often hit and pull anyone or anything into them. So maybe this is the reason why Christina used it.

Datuma 4

Conceptual metaphor: Sad is down

Who need to cry for help, but are drowning in their shame

In the lyrics above we can see the orientational metaphor again. This concept is included in Sad is Down. Especially with the word drowning which of course refers to the downward activity, we know that someone who drowns will go down, not up. So this shows that this sentence is evidence of the existence of an orientational metaphor in the lyrics. So the meaning contained in it can be said that the song describes someone sad because she is drowning in shame. At the beginning, this is also reinforced by the sentence who needs to cry for help, meaning that from the start the person's condition has been in a state of sadness.

Datum 5

Conceptual metaphor: Sad is down

To the mothers who are falling and don't even make a sound

The lyrics above are also included in the type of orientational metaphor. This is indicated by the word falling which of course refers to the sad is down spatial orientation. Mothers who are described as falling mean that mothers are trapped in sadness. The mothers who couldn't even make a sound to show their sadness were reinforced by the next sentence (Don't even make a sound).

Ontological Metaphor

Ontological metaphors are metaphors or comparative figures that explain concrete things by being described with abstract things. The following are metaphorical expressions that are included in the type of ontological metaphor that the writer managed to find.

Datum 6

Conceptual Metaphor: Love is Deadly Weapon

Expression: 'You kill me with the love we make'

The reason why this lyric is said to be a type of ontological metaphor is because love, which is something abstract, is described as being able to kill. So it can be said that love describes a weapon and the weapon is something concrete. This shows that concrete things are described as abstract things. So that is why the right type for this stanza is



JELL (Journal of English Language and literature) STIBA IEC Jakarta Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2024

ontological metaphor. Love here seems like something concrete because it can kill someone.

Structural Metaphor

A structural metaphor is a metaphor or figurative comparison that usually presents a complex, abstract concept in another form that is more concrete. The following is an explanation of the data that the writer managed to find, which data is included in the structural metaphor type.

Datum 7

Conceptual Metaphor: Sadness is the color of life

Expression: 'I always feel blue'

In the lyrics above we can see how colors are used to describe someone's feelings. Color, which is something concrete, is used to describe someone's feelings, which of course is something abstract. This is proof that the lyrics above are also included in the structural metaphor type because the characteristics presented refer to this type of metaphor.

Datum 8

Conceptual metaphor: Feeling is Ranking

Expression: 'Loving you is the best and the worst'

In the lyrics above, the words best and worst are used by the songwriter to describe the words sadness and happiness. In this case, we can say that the words best and worst are something concrete because we can measure them to decide what is best and worst like a ranking. If something can be measured then it is a concrete thing, while the words sadness and happiness generally refer to something abstract because these two words cannot be measured. Therefore, this verse also contains a structural metaphor, which is based on George Lakoff's statement that a structural metaphor is a metaphor used to describe something abstract using something concrete.

Datum 9

Conceptual metaphor: Sadness is temperature

Expression: 'It's the cold that keeps me warm at night'

In the lyric fragment above, the word cold, which is part of temperature, which of course we can feel and measure, is used by the songwriter to describe the word sadness, which is something abstract. So this lyric fragment also refers to the type of structural metaphor.

Datum 10

Conceptual metaphor: Sadness is the color of life

Expression: 'Cause the blue of my mother has always been my color'

In this verse, just like the previous word blue which describes sadness, the word blue here also contains the same meaning, namely the word blue which is something we can see and its meaning includes something concrete which is used to describe something abstract such as sadness. So this metaphor is included in the type of structural metaphor in conceptual metaphor.

Datum 11

Conceptual metaphor: Love is music

Expression: 'The love that I offer is deep and out of tune'

The lyrics above are included in a structural metaphor because the abstract word love is paired with the description out of tune, where out of tune is usually used to describe music. If we can hear and play music then this is something concrete, that's why here the songwriter describes deep love which is likened to music that is out of tune.

Datum 12

Conceptual metaphor: Sadness is the color of life

Expression: 'All that I can do is turn a lighter shade of blue'

In the lyrics above, why is it also included in the structural metaphor type because the word 'Blue' refers to a color that is something concrete? This concrete thing is used to express sad feelings which also refers to something abstract.

Data 13

Conceptual metaphor: A Human is an object

Expression: 'I used to hide my broken side, now I wear it on my sleeve'

The metaphorical expression 'my broken side' describes the weakness of subject I, subject I here is human but it is said that she tries to hide her broken side. The word broken is usually used for an object or things, so this refers to the use of concrete words to describe abstract words, such as broken side which is used to describe the abstract word

Aura Pradita, Herlyna & Retno Ramadhina

Conceptual Metaphors and Pragmatics Meanings in Christina Perri's Songs: "Hurt", "Blue" & "Mothers".

'weakness'. This is proof that the type of metaphor contained in this verse is a structural metaphor because it uses concrete words to describe the abstract words intended by the songwriter.

Datum 14

Conceptual Metaphor: Human is an object

Expression: 'Who doesn't know that they're broken until they hit the ground'

The lyrics above explain that humans are like objects because to express the human condition in her song, Christina describes it as being like an object. The condition of an item that can be seen or included in a concrete thing is used to describe someone's abstract feelings or condition, so that is also the reason why this lyric is included in the structural metaphor type because abstract things are described with something concrete

Analysis of Pragmatics Meaning

In this section, the writer discussed deeply the finding of Pragmatics meaning that found in Christina's songs. The meaning of the expression of the conceptual metaphor found is based on the background or condition of the songwriter's feelings in the process of creating the song lyrics.

Datum 1

You make me high

The context discussed in this stanza is the word 'high'. High here, if interpreted literally, is being a large distance from top to bottom or a long way above the ground, or having the stated distance from top to bottom. However, that is not the context intended by the songwriter, but rather the word 'high' here refers to the word 'happy', which the songwriter explains the subject called you, who is her partner, has succeeded in making her happy.

Datum 2

You make me sink

The context discussed in these lyrics is the word 'sink'. The word sink can mean to (cause something or someone to) go down below the surface or to the bottom of a liquid or soft substance. However, what is meant by the songwriter here is that the word sink here represents the word 'sad'. Here the songwriter explains that the subject you, who is her partner, has succeeded in making her sad.

Datum 3

To the mothers who are lost, pulled underneath the waves

The context of these lyrics focuses on the sentence 'pulled underneath the waves', which the songwriter means is in deep sadness. A mother's feelings of sadness are like being pulled under a wave where it is very deep and it is difficult to get out of the situation.

Datum 4

Who need to cry for help, but are drowning in their shame

The context of these lyrics focuses on the sentence 'but are drowning in their shame', which the songwriter means is prestige. These lyrics describe how a mother is too reluctant to ask for help because she feels she has to be strong to endure everything as a mother for her children so she forgets that she is hurting inside.

Datum 5

To the mothers who are falling and don't even make a sound

The meaning of the context focused on these lyrics lies in the sentence 'to the mother who is falling'. This sentence refers to mothers who feel hurt or trapped in sadness. The word 'falling' which is used to describe this context is connected because if you think about it logically, someone who falls will automatically get hurt or cry, and crying is a form of expression of sadness.

Datum 6

You kill me with the love we make

The phrase that contains contextual meaning in these lyrics is kill me with the love we make. Love here becomes a deadly weapon that can kill someone. In these lyrics, the songwriter feels that the love she experienced was very painful, like a sword that pierced her heart and was able to take her life.

Datum 7

I always feel blue

In these lyrics, the meaning of the word blue is interpreted contextually, not literally. If the meaning of 'blue' is interpreted literally then 'blue' means



JELL (Journal of English Language and literature) STIBA IEC Jakarta Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2024

the color of the sky without clouds on a bright day or a darker or lighter type, but here the songwriter interprets the word blue as one of the feelings she is experiencing, namely sad. Meaning in this verse the songwriter explains that she always feels sad because if you look at the situation experienced by the writer of this song, she was experiencing a period of sadness at the time of writing this song.

Datum 8

Loving you is the best and the worst

The phrases that contain contextual meaning in these lyrics is the best and the worst. The best and the worst here mean happiness and sadness. The songwriter here states that loving the subject you, who is her partner, is both happiness and sadness, therefore it is certainly a common thing that there is always sadness and happiness in every relationship journey.

Datum 9

It's the cold that keeps me warm at night

The phrase that contains contextual meaning in these lyrics is the cold that keeps me warm at night. The cold that keeps me warm at night here means the sadness that makes me survive in difficult times. In these lyrics, the songwriter feels that the sadnesss

she feels has played an important role in her life and made her survive through the painful things that happened in her life.

Datum 10

Because the blue of my mother has always been my color

The word that contains contextual meaning in these lyrics is blue. Blue here means sadness. In this lyric, it means that a mother's sadness becomes her child's identity. What this means is that the sadness of the songwriter's mother played an important role in shaping the writer's identity. This shows how the difficult situation experienced by the writer's mother taught the values in the songwriter's life, which in the process formed the songwriter's current identity or identity or can be concluded as a basis for strength to face the sadness that has occurred in the songwriter's life.

Datum 11

The love that I offer is deep and out of tune

The phrase that contains contextual meaning in these lyrics is out of tune. Out of tune here means unusual or enthusiastic. In these lyrics, the songwriter feels that the love she gives to her partner is a love that is different from that of other people so that her partner can appreciate her existence more.

Datum 12

All that I can do is turn a lighter shade of blue

A phrase that contains contextual meaning is turned a lighter shade of blue. Turning a lighter shade of blue here means reducing feelings of sadness. In these lyrics, it is meant that what the songwriter can do at that time is accept the sadness that is given and try to change it into a better feeling or it can be concluded with the meaning of trying to reduce the feeling of her sadness.

Datum 13

I used to hide my broken side, now I wear it on my sleeve

The phrase that contains contextual meaning in the lyrics above is broken side. A broken side here means weakness. In these lyrics, it is meant that the songwriter had tried to hide her weakness which she described with the phrase broken side, but in the end, she realized that it was not always good to hide it and she decided to show it with the phrase now I wear it on my sleeve in the lyrics which means in a place that is easily seen.

Datum14

Who doesn't know that they're broken until they hit the ground?

The sentence that contains contextual meaning in the lyrics above is They're Broken. They're broken here means those who suffer. The word 'they' here refers to the mothers referred to by the songwriter. In these lyrics, it is meant that these suffering mothers never know that they are suffering until they hit the ground. And when someone hits the ground it already means she is very frustrated and can't take it anymore. So these mothers will always hold on until they really can't hold it anymore.

CONCLUSION

This research focuses on analyzing the types of conceptual metaphors and contextual meanings wrapped in the metaphorical expressions contained in Christina Perri's songs: "Hurt", "Blue" & "Mothers". There are fourteen metaphorical expressions, each consisting of 5 orientational metaphors, 1 ontological metaphor, and 8 structural metaphors. In interpreting the meaning to be conveyed, the pragmatic meaning is used which is more appropriate because the meaning is contextually based, which is motivated by the conditions during the song's creation, the context of which refers to what is conveyed, such as one example of the results of the analysis where the word blue is translated contextually, not literally, which means sadness. This also refers to the current conditions that the songwriter felt in the process of making the album which includes the three songs discussed.

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