



A COGNITIVE STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF PINK FLOYD'S SONG LYRIC "TIME"

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Abstract: The objective of this paper is to describe how the content of song lyrics interacts with concepts of time, memory, and human experience and knowing how language and cognition are interrelated to create profound artistic expression in music through scheme theory, metaphor theory, and figures of speech as features of creativity and novelty in language use. The data was derived from the song entitled Time by Pink Floyd. The research method used in this study is qualitative descriptive. The result of this study is skillfully employing various figures of speech, such as metaphor, personification, and paradox, to convey the complexities of time, aging, regret, and the human experience. These literary devices engage the listener's intellect and emotions, prompting reflection on the passage of time and its impact on our lives. Furthermore, the song employs schema theory to activate the "Time that has passed" schema in listeners, encouraging them to reflect on the value of time and the importance of seizing precious moments before they slip away. The song's vivid imagery and metaphors serve as a bridge between abstract concepts and concrete experiences, making it a relatable and thought-provoking piece of art.

Key Terms: *cognitive stylistics, scheme theory, metaphor cognitive theory, figures of speech*

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INTRODUCTION

Pink Floyd is an English psychedelic rock and progressive rock band that originated in 1964. They are renowned for their bombastic song compositions, philosophical lyrics, beautiful album covers, and magnificent concerts. "Time" is a single from the album titled "The Dark Side of the Moon," which was released in 1973. Among all the lyrics ever written by Roger Waters, the lyrics of the song "Time" can

be considered as some of the best he has ever created. Waters was not even 30 years old when he wrote a song about how quickly life passes by.

The lyrics of the song "Time" by Pink Floyd have long captivated listeners with their complex blend of poetic language and philosophical themes. In this paper, we conduct an analysis of language use and how it influences the interaction between the writer and the listener. By applying principles of cognitive linguistics and stylistics, we aim to explain how the content of song lyrics interacts with concepts of time, memory, and human experience. This analysis will not only provide a richer understanding of the songs themselves but also offer greater insight into how language and cognition are interrelated to create profound artistic expressions in music.

Related to its aim, this study is divided into two main sections: the theoretical background section which deals with two main aspects. The first part outlines cognitive stylistics in the field of linguistics with a special focus on schema theory and conceptual metaphor theory. The second part discusses figures of speech as a strategy for creativity and novelty in language use.

The focus is away from models of text and composition towards models that make explicit the links between the human mind and the process of reading (Simpson,2004:39). In order to explain or forecast interpretation, stylistic analysis frequently uses language theories or frameworks. The systematic linguistic analysis that is founded on ideas that connect language decisions to cognitive structures and processes is what is novel about cognitive stylistics. This offers more detailed, systematic explanations of how texts and reactions and interpretations relate to one another.

Scheme Theory in Stylistics

Schemes are figures of speech that deal with word order, syntax, letters, and sounds, rather than the meaning of words. Simpson (2004) stated that the scheme appears to be a "significant landmark" in the cognitive stylistic study (p.89). According to Rumelhart (1980), schema theory investigates how individuals utilize their accumulated knowledge about the world to understand texts by reshaping their existing mental frameworks, ultimately constructing a fresh perspective on the world. Rumelhart argues that this process involves reorganizing and adjusting these mental structures or schemas to accommodate new information or to create a deeper understanding. So, when people encounter a text, they don't just take it at face value;

instead, they apply their background knowledge to interpret it. This act of reorganizing and adapting existing schemas allows individuals to develop a new or refined perspective on the world based on their interactions with various texts and experiences. Essentially, it highlights the dynamic and active role that our prior knowledge plays in how we understand and make meaning of the world around us.

Schema theory, as described by Anderson (1984), refers to an individual's accumulated background knowledge and experiences that form the basis for interpreting new information. In cognitive stylistic studies, Simpson (2004) highlights schema theory as a "significant landmark." It primarily focuses on how knowledge is mentally represented and utilized to interpret information. Rumelhart (1980) further explains that schema theory explores the process of combining world knowledge to interpret texts by reorganizing existing schemes, creating a new perspective of the world. Stockwell (2002) notes that schemata offer readers a crucial means of understanding both explicit and implicit information in texts. In literary analysis, Marszalek (2012) emphasizes that interpreting literary texts heavily relies on readers' background knowledge and prior experiences, indicating that readers interpret texts through the lens of their own worldly knowledge.

Conceptual Metaphor Theory in Stylistics

According to George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) is the theory that goes back a long way and builds on centuries of scholarship that takes metaphor not simply as an ornamental device in language but as a conceptual tool for structuring, restructuring and even creating reality.

Wreth (1997) and Gavins(2001) state that metaphor forms a type of epistemic sub-world in the text world. According to Laccoff and Tumer (1989) and Lakoff and Johnson(1980) metaphors are ontological and epistemic mapping across conceptual domains, that is, from the source domain to the target domain. For instance (from Webers:1996), argument which is the target domain can be conceptualized as war which is the source domain, and which can be realized in different ways linguistically: attacking someone's argument, defending your own position, planning a strategy to wipe out one's opponent in debate, etc.

Simpson (2004) notes that writers seek novelty and creativity in literary expression, aiming to draw attention to deviations from normal language. To achieve this, writers employ various stylistic strategies, including figures of speech and poetic

metaphors. Figures of speech, including metaphors, are integral features of this strategy. By deviating from conventional language, these figures of speech serve to awaken readers and foster a new perceptivity, as highlighted by Childs and Fowler (2006). In essence, the use of figures of speech becomes a powerful tool for writers to introduce novelty and creative expression in their works.

Figures of Speech as Features of Creativity and Novelty in Language Use

Kartz and colleagues (1998) point out that figures of speech can be viewed as a way of elucidating concepts through unconventional comparisons. Frequently, this technique is employed to render ideas and creative visions in a more engaging and comprehensible manner, with the aim of piquing the reader's curiosity or enhancing their understanding.

Hence, figures of speech hold a unique significance in literature, serving as potent tools for enhancing the style of any given text. Therefore, writers can turn to figures of speech, which serve as a wellspring of creativity and innovation, without necessitating any exceptional talent, as a means to foster and craft fresh stylistic expressions. Figures of speech are commonly used in song lyrics to enhance the lyrical and emotional impact of the music.

Considering this perspective, the utilization of figures of speech holds significance within literary works, as it offers authors the opportunity to infuse words with the capacity to convey fresh connotations. To be more precise, as highlighted by Trim (2007:35), the creation of novel metaphorical associations demonstrates the necessity for expressing ideas and sentiments beyond the usual and conventional verbal expressions.

METHOD

In this study, the qualitative descriptive method was employed. As defined by Bogdan and Taylor (2002), qualitative research generates descriptive data, i.e., verbatim or written statements from subjects or observed behaviors.

The Pink Floyd song "Time," which has two main sections—the theoretical background portion, which covers two primary aspects—was the source of the data used in this study. The first section addresses cognitive stylistics in the context of linguistics, emphasizing conceptual metaphor theory and schema theory in particular.

The employment of figures of speech as a linguistic device for originality and creativity is covered in the second section.

This analysis was carried out with the following steps:

1. Choose the song lyric that will be analyzed, in this case, "Time" by Pink Floyd.
2. Define the research objectives. In this case, the research objective is Pink Floyd's song lyrics.
3. Familiarize yourself with the song, its lyrics, and its context. Understand the song's themes, the band's history, and any relevant cultural or historical context.
4. Identify patterns in language use that contribute to the song's meaning and style.
5. Utilize cognitive stylistic theories, such as schema theory and conceptual metaphor theory, to interpret the cognitive processes at play in the lyrics. Explore how the lyrics engage with the audience's pre-existing knowledge and mental structures.
6. Apart from that, also pay attention to the usage of figure of speech to enhance the lyrical and emotional impact of the music.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A General Overview

TIME

by Pink Floyd

Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day

Fritter and waste the hours in an offhand way

Kicking around on a piece of ground in your hometown

Waiting for someone or something to show you the way

Tired of lying in the sunshine, staying home to watch the rain

You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill today

And then one day you find ten years have got behind you
No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun
And you run, and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking
Racing around to come up behind you again
The sun is the same in a relative way but you're older
Shorter of breath and one day closer to death
Every year is getting shorter, never seem to find the time
Plans that either come to naught or half a page of scribbled lines
Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way
The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say
Home, home again
I like to be here when I can
And when I come home cold and tired
It's good to warm my bones beside the fire
Far away across the field
The tolling of the iron bell
Calls the faithful to their knees
To hear the softly spoken magic spells

"Time" is a song by the English rock Pink Floyd that was released in 1973 on their album "The Dark Side of the Moon". The song is about the passage of time and the importance of making the most of the time we have. This meaning is spelled out in the 7 minute epic, packed with lyrical images about lost opportunities and a dreadful outlook on life. The lyrics explore the idea that time is constantly slipping away and that we must seize the moment before it's too late. The song also touches on themes of mortality and the inevitability of aging. Overall, "Time" is a powerful meditation on the

fleeting nature of life and the need to live in the present. The song is a lamentation on wasting valuable time that you will someday wish you had back. Roger Waters wrote the lyrics and the four members of the band wrote the music. Richard Wright and David Gilmour sing the song together. This a contemplative and thought-provoking song that invites listeners to reflect on the passage of time and the way we live our lives. It encourages us to consider how we use our time and whether we are making the most of the opportunities presented to us. The song's deep and philosophical lyrics are complemented by its iconic musical composition, making it a standout track in Pink Floyd's discography. The song begins with an original rhythm track that imitates the ticking of clocks, the ringing of alarm clocks, church bells, and chimes which set a tone of diminishing time. It is juxtaposed with a return of a heartbeat that is slower suggesting the ending of life. There is the use of Quadraphonic sound especially when you first hear the song with a pair of headphones gives an impression of sound coming from different and separate sources and when a man finds his time dull and boring. The man is failing to do something that is worthwhile thus wasting a lot of it. Instead, he stays in his comfort zone and expects life to give him direction rather than actively seeking one for himself.

In the song "Time" by Pink Floyd, Roger Waters uses several variations of figures of speech; examples are metaphor, personification, paradox, and others. The figure of speech is an important literary device in processing interpretation and approaching the meaning contained in the lyrics. The following part is concerned with giving more details on the use of figures of speech as features of creativity and novelty in this lyric.

The coherence among figures of speech

1. Paradox

A paradox is a statement that seems to contain two opposite facts but is or may be true (Oxford, 1991:298). A paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection makes some sense (Kennedy, 1979: 497). The paradox analysis in "Time" by Pink floyd are:

1. *"Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day / Fritter and waste the hours in an offhand way"* The first and second lines imply that time passes slowly and steadily, whereas the third phrase says that time is squandered casually. This paradox reflects time's subjective character. When we're bored or unengaged, time can feel like it's

dragging on (creating a dull day), yet in retrospect, we realize we've wasted it (fritter and waste).

2. *"You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill today / And then one day you find ten years have got behind you / No one told you when to run; you missed the starting gun"* In line 6-8 the first part suggests that there is ample time in youth, while the latter part highlights how quickly time passes, catching people off guard. This paradox underscores the human tendency to procrastinate and take time for granted during youth. It's only with the passage of time that we realize how much has slipped away.

3. *"And you run and you run to catch up with the sun, but it's sinking / Racing around to come up behind you again"*. The lyrics depict a fruitless race against the sun, which constantly sets and rises. This paradox represents the unending nature of time. Time moves on regardless of how quickly you attempt to catch up, and you can never completely retrieve what has been lost.

4. *"The sun is the same in a relative way, but you're older / Shorter of breath and one day closer to death"*. The sun never sets, but the human grows older and closer to death. The eternal essence of the universe is contrasted with the finite character of human life in this contradiction. It highlights the inevitability of death.

5. *"Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way"*. The idea of *"hanging on"* and *"quiet desperation"* seems contradictory. This line reflects the notion that some individuals, particularly in English culture, tend to endure hardships stoically and without overtly expressing their emotions. It's paradoxical because it suggests that the act of *"hanging on"* can involve a silent struggle.

6. *"The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say"*. The song concludes with a sense of sorrow, as if the singer wished for more time to express themselves. This paradox captures the human experience of discovering that time has passed and that there were unmet thoughts or unfulfilled desires. It emphasizes the transience of existence and the sense of unfinished business.

In "Time," Pink Floyd skillfully weaves paradoxical elements into the lyrics to convey the complexities of time, aging, regret, and the human experience. These paradoxes serve to engage the listener's intellect and emotions, prompting reflection on the passage of time and its impact on our lives.

2. Personification

Kennedy (1979:495) defines personification as "a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human." Personification is the process of imbuing inanimate objects, animals, or concepts with human attributes. This can have an impact on how the reader imagines things. This is found in children's books, poetry, and fiction. Potter (1967: 54) provides another definition. He defines that personification is a figure of speech in imaginative something, which does not have a soul as though they have the human characteristic. The personification analysis in "Time" by Pink Floyd is:

- *"Tired of lying in the sunshine, staying home to watch the rain"*. This sentence personifies the acts of reclining in the sun and watching the rain as if they were deliberate choices, implying stagnation or ennui.
- *"And you run, and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking"* This line depicts the race between the individual and the sun, giving the sun a sense of movement and purpose, as if the sun is escaping the person's grasp on purpose. Time is personified in this sentence as a sentient being that one is attempting to catch up with. The setting sun symbolizes the passage of time.
- *"Every year is getting shorter; never seem to find the time"* Time is described as shortening each year, almost as if it were a sentient entity purposefully removing moments from our life.
- *"The sun is the same in a relative way, but you're older"*. The sun is personified indirectly here as unchanging and unconcerned with the aging process of the individual. It's as if the sun is constantly observing human life.
- *"Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way"*. This remark, while not a direct personification, associates a specific action ("hanging on in quiet desperation") with a cultural identity ("the English way"). It indicates that this behavior is unique to the English, personifying a collective identity.

Schema Theory

This theory focuses on the role of cognitive structures, called schemas, in understanding and interpreting literary texts. Following are some important aspects of schema theory in cognitive stylistics.

The researcher focuses on specific lines of "Time" in terms of schema theory. This song's interpretation necessitates activating the "Time that has passed" schema, incorporating melancholy, and remembering all regrets and entities engaged in the life story. The song encourages readers to consider the value of time in their lives and the importance of recording priceless moments before learning that time is a highly valuable asset that cannot be reversed. The first three lines give readers options to activate their time scheme by using phrases like "a dull day" and "the hour," while the middle lines assume that the speaker is a guy who feels like "Year" alludes to time that has passed.

Conceptual Metaphor

The first line "Ticking away the moments that make up a dull day" uses the metaphor of time as a ticking clock in order to convey the slow and ongoing aspect of time in our lives. The concept of "time as a ticking clock" is used to show the idea that time is a continuous and endless force in our lives. It works like a clock that never stops, no matter what we do or how we see things. The continuous flow of time is symbolized by the metaphorical clock, which never stops ticking. The idiom "make up a dull day" means our lives are made up of numerous smaller events, some of which may seem boring or ordinary on their own. But when taken as a whole, these events form and define our experiences. The story of our lives is made up of the moments that have passed with each tick of the clock. In conclusion, this metaphor conveys the basic concept that time is a constantly moving force that cannot be stopped and shapes our lives in deep ways. It asks us to make the most of every second rather than let it "tick away" without us realizing how we use and enjoy the moments that make up our lives.

In the eighth line, "No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun," a metaphor is used to compare life to a race with no obvious beginning or end. The comparison demonstrates how competitive and time-constrained life is. Life, like a race, consists of a journey with goals and a time limit. It means that people may not receive precise instructions or warnings regarding the beginning of their life's journey. Uncertainty can lead to feelings of unease and unpreparedness. This statement also demonstrates how this metaphor depicts the possibility of missing out on opportunities.

Similar to a race, failing to notice the starting gun can cause one to fall behind or miss an opportunity to advance further. This can lead to missed possibilities for enjoyment, success, or advancement in life. Finally, it successfully demonstrates how the metaphor views life as a race with ambiguous beginnings and the risk of missing out on opportunities, emphasizing the significance of being awake and attentive in directing our life's journey.

"And you run and you run to catch up with the sun, but it's sinking," the ninth line says. The analogy accurately connects the never-ending pursuit of happiness or prosperity to a race against time. It also describes how the sun symbolizes something that is constantly changing. Time passes indefinitely, just as the sun always sets. The sun represents the fleeting nature of possibilities and the dread that one's efforts will be futile if one cannot keep up with the pace of time. Time does not spare anyone. Despite our greatest efforts, the never-ending flow of time might cause us to appear to be always slipping behind in attaining our goals or getting to our destination. This line demonstrates how the metaphor depicts life as a never-ending search. People are seen working hard to achieve their goals, but the passage of time complicates their task, potentially leading to feelings of futility or dissatisfaction. Finally, it effectively conveys how this metaphor represents a never-ending search for happiness or achievement in the face of time's constant movement, emphasizing the feeling that one constantly seeks their goals but may always fall behind.

The thirteenth line "Every year is getting shorter, never seems to find the time" employs the metaphor, which depicts time as a succession of decreasing years. According to this metaphor, as people get older, they assume that time passes faster. It demonstrates how our view on time changes as we become older. When we are young, time appears to stretch out in front of us, but as we become older, each year appears to fly by. This is a psychological impact in which people perceive that time flows faster as they grow older. This line emphasizes how tough it is to prioritize the most important aspects of life. The impression that time is passing may make it more difficult to devote adequate time to important pursuits, which may lead to regret or discontent. The broader topic of successfully controlling our time indicates that the perception of time speeding up with age serves as a reminder of the significance of savoring each moment by prioritizing what is most important. Finally, it clearly explains how this metaphor depicts how our perspective of time changes as we get older, as well as the difficulties

that come with it, giving the impression that time is going faster than we can keep up with.

The sixteenth line, "Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way," employs metaphor, with the term "hanging on" referring to the process of dealing with life's hardships. By evoking a sensation of clinging to existence in the midst of adversity, this metaphor emphasizes the passive and wordless nature of the battle. It is stated that this metaphor was employed to represent the concepts of resignation and calm sorrow. It suggests that many people suffer through difficult times or confront obstacles in their lives, but they do not express their feelings, seek help, or make changes. This statement expands on the cultural theme by referencing the "English way." This implies that this mindset is not limited to one culture and may represent a more universal human tendency to face hardships with stoic quiet. Finally, it convincingly demonstrates how this metaphor embodies the idea of bearing hardships quietly, cultural attitudes toward facing obstacles, and the complex sensations elicited by such experiences.

In the end, it relates to the song's major theme of the permanent passage of time and how our decisions and thoughts on it can alter it. They make these abstract notions more understandable for listeners by encasing them in relevant and real visuals, transforming the song into a powerful study of the human condition and our relationship with time.

CONCLUSION

While this brief cognitive stylistic analysis may be succinct, it effectively demonstrates several methods of employing various figures of speech as elements contributing to creativity in language utilization. Pink Floyd's song lyric "Time" consists of different forms of figures of speech to produce a coherent and solid text characterized by creativity and novelty. A Cognitive Stylistic Analysis of Pink Floyd's song lyric "Time" is to explain what a particular thing is like and to convey a meaning in a more interesting and creative way. "Time" offers lots of schemes, conceptual metaphors and figures of speech.

In conclusion, "Time" by Pink Floyd is more than just a song; it's a deep exploration of human existence and how we perceive time. Its clever use of language and literary techniques intensifies its emotional impact, encouraging us to grasp the

importance of seizing the present moments. This analysis has highlighted the song's intricate lyricism and its lasting importance in the realm of music and art.

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