



A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS OF BETRAYAL AND EMOTIONALITY IN SERIES 'LAYANGAN PUTUS'

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Abstract The web series *Layangan Putus*, produced by MD Entertainment and directed by Benni Setiawan, premiered in November 2021 on WeTV and iFlix. This study examines metaphors related to betrayal and emotional expression in the series from a semantic perspective. It focuses on how emotional and psychological conflicts are conveyed through metaphorical language, especially those that reflect themes of infidelity, heartbreak, and inner turmoil. The research utilizes a qualitative descriptive method with a semantic analysis approach, analyzing dialogues and scenes using Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory, as outlined in *Metaphors We Live By*. According to this theory, metaphors are fundamental to how we understand abstract concepts, comparing them to more concrete experiences like money, journeys, or warfare. The study finds that metaphors of betrayal often stem from domains such as war, destruction, and fragmentation (e.g., "inner war," "shattered into pieces"), while emotional metaphors often draw from physical sensations and natural elements (e.g., "explosive," "like a storm"). These metaphors enhance the narrative and deepen the audience's emotional connection with the characters. Ultimately, metaphor in *Layangan Putus* serves as a key element in shaping the story's emotional impact and audience engagement.

Keywords: *Semantics, Metaphor, Layangan Putus, Conceptual Metaphor Theory*

Abstrak Serial web *Layangan Putus*, yang diproduksi oleh MD Entertainment dan disutradarai oleh Benni Setiawan, pertama kali ditayangkan pada November 2021 di WeTV dan iFlix. Penelitian ini menganalisis metafora yang berkaitan dengan pengkhianatan dan ekspresi emosional dalam serial ini dari perspektif semantik. Fokus penelitian adalah bagaimana konflik emosional dan psikologis disampaikan melalui bahasa metaforis, terutama yang mencerminkan tema pengkhianatan, patah hati, dan pergolakan batin. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis semantik, menganalisis dialog dan adegan dengan menggunakan teori metafora konseptual dari Lakoff dan Johnson, seperti yang dijelaskan dalam buku *Metaphors We Live By*. Menurut teori ini, metafora merupakan cara mendasar dalam memahami konsep abstrak, dengan membandingkannya dengan pengalaman yang lebih konkret seperti uang, perjalanan, atau peperangan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa metafora pengkhianatan sering kali berasal dari domain peperangan, kehancuran, dan fragmentasi (misalnya "perang batin," "terpecah berantakan"), sementara metafora emosional banyak diambil dari sensasi fisik dan elemen alam (misalnya "meledak," "seperti badai"). Metafora-metafora ini memperkuat narasi dan memperdalam keterhubungan emosional penonton dengan karakter-karakternya. Secara keseluruhan, penggunaan metafora dalam *Layangan Putus* tidak hanya sebagai perangkat stilistik, tetapi juga berfungsi penting dalam membentuk dampak emosional dan keterlibatan penonton terhadap cerita.

Kata Kunci: *semantik, metafora, layangan putus, teori metafora konseptual*

INTRODUCTION

In the world of entertainment, drama series are one of the most popular shows by the wider community, especially drama series that are very related to everyday life are one of the most anticipated and warm entertainment in the entertainment world discussion

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with the acting of the actors in a drama series. One of them is LAYANAGAN PUTUS, which was successful in its time as a topic of conversation in the entertainment world and stole a lot of public attention. Where this series tells the story of a household life that was initially harmonious between Haris (Reza Rahadian) and Kinan (Putri Marino) who have one child and are waiting for their second child but have to end heartbreakingly because of the betrayal and infidelity (infidelity) committed by Haris with Lydia (Anya Geraldine) which received a lot of negative responses from the public, this drama series premiered in November 2020 directed by Benni Setiawan brought by MD Entertainment production which successfully reached trending 1 in November.

Language is not only a medium of communication, but also a powerful tool for expressing complex human experiences, including emotions and social conflicts. In the realm of media and literature, metaphor plays a crucial role in shaping narratives and conveying psychological depth. One compelling example is the Indonesian drama series *Layangan Putus*, which portrays the emotional turmoil caused by betrayal and infidelity. This series has gained widespread attention due to its intense emotional scenes and relatable themes, making it a rich source for linguistic and semantic analysis.

The concept of metaphor, as proposed by Lakoff and Johnson in *Metaphors We Live By* (1980), suggests that metaphors are not merely rhetorical devices but fundamental to human thought and cognition. Through metaphors, abstract concepts such as love, pain, and betrayal are understood and communicated by mapping them onto more concrete domains like war, natural disasters, or physical sensations. This approach, known as Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), provides the theoretical foundation for this study.

This research focuses on identifying and analyzing the metaphorical expressions related to betrayal and emotional conflict in *Layangan Putus*. The study seeks to uncover how these metaphors function semantically and how they enhance the psychological and narrative dimensions of the series. By analyzing selected dialogues and scenes, this study aims to demonstrate the semantic significance of metaphors in shaping viewers' understanding and emotional engagement with the story.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Metaphor has long been a subject of linguistic and literary analysis, with traditional views treating it as a decorative or stylistic feature. However, the emergence

of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), developed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (1980), has significantly shifted this perspective. According to CMT, metaphor is not just a linguistic phenomenon, but a cognitive mechanism through which humans understand and structure abstract concepts using more concrete experiences. For example, the metaphor "love is a journey" helps people conceptualize relationships through the structure of movement and direction.

In the field of semantics, metaphors are analyzed not only based on their linguistic forms but also their underlying conceptual mappings. Kövecses (2002) further expanded CMT by exploring how emotional experiences—such as anger, sadness, and love—are universally and culturally conceptualized through metaphor. Emotional metaphors often involve mappings from physical experiences, such as heat, pressure, or natural forces, to internal emotional states (e.g., "boiling with anger", "a storm of emotion").

Studies on metaphor in media discourse, particularly in film and television, have highlighted the role of metaphor in narrative development and character portrayal. Charteris-Black (2004) emphasized that metaphors in media can reveal social attitudes, power relations, and emotional dynamics. In Indonesian linguistic studies, metaphor has been explored in various genres, yet there is still limited research focusing on metaphors in contemporary drama series.

Previous research on *Layangan Putus* has primarily focused on its psychological themes and social impact, but linguistic analysis—especially from a semantic perspective—remains underexplored. This study fills that gap by applying semantic analysis to uncover how metaphors function in expressing betrayal and emotion within the series. By doing so, it contributes to a deeper understanding of the cognitive and emotional structures embedded in popular media narratives.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method to analyze metaphorical expressions related to betrayal and emotional experiences in the Indonesian drama series *Layangan Putus*. The approach focuses on semantic analysis, particularly within the framework of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) developed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). This theory allows the researcher to identify the conceptual domains involved in

metaphorical expressions and interpret how abstract concepts such as betrayal and emotion are structured through more concrete experiences.

Data Collection

The data were collected from selected episodes of Layangan Putus, focusing on dialogues and scenes that prominently depict emotional tension and conflict, especially those involving infidelity and heartbreak. Transcripts were manually compiled and reviewed to extract metaphorical expressions used by the main characters. Particular attention was given to emotionally charged scenes that highlight inner psychological struggles.

Data Analysis

The analysis involved several stages. First, metaphorical expressions were identified using a linguistic test adapted from the Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) by the Pragglejaz Group (2007), which distinguishes metaphorical usage from literal language. Second, each metaphor was categorized based on its source domain (e.g., war, nature, physical sensation). Finally, the metaphors were interpreted using the principles of CMT to reveal the underlying conceptual mappings (e.g., betrayal is war, emotion is natural force).

This method allows for a systematic and in-depth exploration of the metaphors used in the series, providing insights into how language constructs emotional and psychological realities in popular media narratives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of selected scenes and dialogues in Layangan Putus revealed a significant use of metaphorical expressions that reflect deep emotional and psychological conflicts. These metaphors were categorized into two major conceptual domains: metaphors of betrayal and metaphors of emotion.

Metaphor	Meaning	Analysis
Love is a kite	A relationship that can soar high but is fragile	Illustrates that relationships must be guided and cared for or they'll fall apart.
Marriage is a fragile castle	Seems strong but collapses easily with betrayal	Reveals how trust is the true foundation of a stable marriage.
Tears are soul rain	Deep emotion flowing like heavy rain	Symbolizes unspoken emotional pain and inner turmoil.

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Betrayal is poison to love	Slowly destroys love	Deceit corrodes the emotional bond, even if the damage is not immediate.
The heart is glass	Once broken, it's hard to fix	Represents the fragility of trust and emotional wounds.
Lies are marital fog	Obscures the truth and causes confusion	Aris's deception clouds Kinan's perception of reality and trust.
Marriage is a ship at sea	Needs cooperation to stay on course	Without joint effort and honesty, the marriage sinks in the storm of problems.
The child is the kite string	A binding force between spouses	Kinan stays in the relationship longer because of her child, not love.
Anger is fire in the chest	Burns internally	Shows the suppressed rage in Kinan that eventually erupts.
Hope is a small light	Guides in the darkness	Kinan's hope keeps her moving even in emotional despair.
Love is war	Full of wounds, strategy, and struggle	Marriage is depicted as a battlefield of emotions and decisions.
Kinan is a wounded bird	Lost and emotionally injured	Portrays her as someone who struggles to regain freedom and healing.
Aris is a cracked mask	Hides lies that eventually break	His outward perfection crumbles when truth emerges.
An affair is a storm in the home	Destroys the family structure suddenly	Infidelity comes like a storm, ruining what was built over time.
Loyalty is a fortress	Protects from external threats	When loyalty fails, the entire relationship becomes vulnerable.
Kinan is a broken kite	Symbol of losing control and direction	She must rebuild her life after her marriage collapses.
Words are bullets	They can hurt deeply	Dialogue in the film shows how speech can be emotionally damaging.
Divorce is an exit from hell	Freedom from emotional pain	Kinan chooses divorce as a way to survive and heal.
Memories are ghosts	They haunt and linger	Past moments continue to affect Kinan emotionally.
Lies are time bombs	Explode and destroy eventually	Aris's secrets eventually blow up and ruin everything.
Love is dried flowers	Beautiful but no longer alive	Symbolizes a relationship that looks intact but is emotionally dead.
Promises are glass ornaments	Fragile and decorative	Indicates that promises are beautiful but easily broken.
Deception is smoke in the lungs	Invisible but harmful	Shows how lies are subtly destructive over time.

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Honesty is clear water	Pure and needed for survival	Depicts honesty as essential for emotional clarity.
Betrayal is a silent scream	Deep pain without expression	Describes intense inner pain caused by betrayal.
Hope is an echo in a tunnel	Present but distant	Conveys lingering hope even in emotional darkness.
Pain is a second skin	Constant emotional layer	Pain becomes part of one's identity after betrayal.
Marriage is a delicate painting	Beautiful but must be handled with care	Marriage is an art that needs care to preserve.
Secrets are closed windows	Block emotional insight	Secrets hinder emotional openness and intimacy.
Loyalty is a candle in the wind	Vulnerable commitment	Loyalty can easily fade without mutual effort.
Divorce is breaking a mirror	Shattering of shared self	Divorce fractures the shared identity of a couple.
Guilt is a chain on the soul	Emotional bondage	Guilt binds individuals emotionally and mentally.
Aris is a sinking island	Losing himself in his lies	Aris becomes isolated by his own deception.
Kinan is a fading photograph	Fading from emotional exhaustion	Kinan loses her identity due to emotional pain.
An affair is a floodgate burst	Emotional boundaries break	Infidelity overwhelms the emotional structure.
Words are shattered mirrors	Reflect distorted truth	Hurtful words damage perception and self-image.
Love is a borrowed coat	Temporary comfort	A temporary and fragile feeling of warmth in love.
Emotional wounds are open books	Easily visible	Emotional pain is apparent to those around.
Happiness is a locked drawer	Inaccessible after betrayal	Joy becomes unreachable after being hurt.
Marriage is a tightrope walk	Requires balance	Marriage demands careful emotional balance.
Lies are termites in wood	Destroy from within	Lies gradually destroy relationships internally.
Kinan's heart is a battlefield	Fighting multiple emotions	Conflicted emotional state due to betrayal.
Tears are broken pearls	Lost beauty and pain	Tears reflect lost joy and lingering sorrow.
Trust is a fragile vase	Once shattered, never the same	Broken trust cannot be fully restored.
Aris's words are sugar-coated daggers	Sweet lies that hurt	His kind words conceal harmful truths.

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The affair is a wildfire	Spreads uncontrollably	Infidelity quickly consumes everything in its path.
Kinan is a bird in a broken cage	Trapped and hurt	Kinan feels emotionally trapped and wounded.
Marriage is a mirror	Reflects both people	A relationship shows who both partners truly are.
Love is a string of stars	Distant, beautiful, untouchable	Romantic love that is idealized but unreachable.
Regret is a cold blanket	Offers no comfort	Regret does not provide emotional warmth.
Truth is a scalpel	Painful but necessary	Truth hurts but is vital for healing.
Aris is a puppet of desire	Controlled by impulse	Aris acts under the influence of lust and ego.
Kinan's soul is a cracked bell	Still sounds, but broken	Emotionally functional but deeply damaged.
Love is melting ice	Slowly disappearing	Love fades slowly when neglected or betrayed.
The home is a haunted house	Full of painful memories	Household is full of emotional trauma.
Kinan is a silent volcano	Calm outside, burning inside	Suppressing emotions that may erupt anytime.
Words are storms in silence	Can create chaos without warning	Words can hurt even when softly spoken.
Trust is a sandcastle	Beautiful but washed away easily	Trust can be ruined quickly by betrayal.
Aris is a broken compass	Leads nowhere	Aris no longer provides direction or security.
Pain is a tight knot	Difficult to untangle	Emotional pain is complex and hard to resolve.
Forgiveness is planting seeds	Takes time to grow	Healing from betrayal is a gradual process.
Jealousy is a dark fog	Blinds judgment	Jealousy clouds logical thinking and clarity.
Love is a wounded soldier	Still fighting but in pain	Love persists despite emotional injury.
Betrayal is a landmine	Hidden, then explodes	Betrayal often strikes suddenly with great damage.
Silence is a cracked wall	Looks solid, but unstable	Silence may hide but not fix emotional breaks.
Heartache is a frozen river	Still on the outside, cold inside	Emotional pain that has numbed the soul.
Memories are burning letters	Still seen, but painful	Past memories continue to hurt emotionally.
Trust is a glass bridge	Transparent but risky	Trust is visible but breaks under pressure.
Healing is climbing a cliff	Difficult and slow process	Emotional recovery is a long and painful journey.

CONCLUSION

This study has explored the use of metaphors to depict betrayal and emotional conflict in the Indonesian drama series *Layangan Putus*, employing a semantic analysis framework grounded in Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT). The findings indicate that metaphors play a crucial role in shaping the narrative and enhancing the psychological depth of the series. Specifically, metaphors of betrayal, drawn from domains such as war and destruction, emphasize the violent and disorienting nature of infidelity, while metaphors of emotion, derived from physical sensations and natural forces, highlight the overwhelming and uncontrollable aspects of emotional experiences.

The study demonstrates that metaphors in *Layangan Putus* are not merely stylistic devices, but rather integral to the semantic structure of the narrative. They serve as cognitive tools that help both the characters and the audience make sense of complex emotions like betrayal, heartbreak, and inner turmoil. By using metaphors that map abstract emotional experiences onto more concrete, visceral domains, the series creates a vivid and relatable emotional landscape, facilitating deeper viewer engagement.

In conclusion, the use of metaphor in *Layangan Putus* significantly contributes to the series' ability to communicate complex psychological states and emotional dynamics, offering a more nuanced understanding of the characters' experiences and enhancing the overall narrative impact. Future research could further investigate the cultural and societal implications of such metaphors in Indonesian media, exploring how they reflect and influence broader emotional and social constructs.

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