

# Ontological Metaphor in Arrival Movie Script

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**Abstract**—The use of metaphor represents people’s cognition. As well as in the movie, figurative language termed ontological metaphor in movie script has now been a brand-new idea since metaphor creates a significant piece of cinematic work and it gives an essential insight toward the dialogue, action, and character development. This study aims at answering and discovering the concepts of ontological metaphors found in the movie and what carries the messages or meanings in the concept itself, and how that figure of speech influences the movie script. The method used in this study was qualitative-descriptive in nature, and content analysis research to analyse the data by systematically evaluating them based on context. The result indicated that there are three types of different concepts of ontological metaphors found in *Arrival* movie script.

**Keywords**—*Ontological metaphor, Arrival, figurative language, movie script*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The innovation of using different languages may serve as a way to understand new meanings. This innovation has broadened as to the reason why people use different language as a strategy to persuade audiences. This relates to a usage of semantics, as an approach, where semantics is the study of the meanings of words and sentences communicated through language [1]. Semantics study itself is divided into several categories, one of them is cognitive semantics that deals with the relationship between experience, embodied cognition and language [2]. There are many chosen languages that have been broadly used in numerous platforms, and figurative language termed metaphor is included. Metaphor has traditionally been viewed as the most important form of figurative language use, and is usually seen as reaching its most sophisticated forms in literary or poetic language [1]. Metaphors are also defined as two dissimilar concepts that are associated with the other concept sharing the same meanings. There are many metaphors that are commonly used, one of them is ontological metaphor. Ontological metaphor focuses on how metaphor deals with experiences of physical objects and substances provides a further basis for understanding—one that goes beyond mere orientation [3]. The ontological metaphors, are based on the experience with physical objects. Those experiences can be identified and categorised as entities restricted by a surface. So we can categorise those things that normally do not have such a boundary by using those entities. We set up artificial boundaries [4]. For instance, Time is money can have several meanings; a) time

is something worthy, b) time is literally the money that can be used by the people to bargain, or c) If people miss their time, they will lose their money by taking time for granted. Based on those descriptions, abstract entity (time) is given the similarity with existent concept, so it needs concrete concept entity (money). There are several categories of concepts of ontological metaphor. There are personification which gives physical objects happen to be like person, the second is physical objects that happen based on one’s experience, and the last is metaphor as container when human beings are containers with boundaries and an orientation of inside and outside. This orientation is also used for other physical objects. But also non-physical objects (e.g. events, actions, activities, states) can be understood by transforming them into physical objects with definite boundaries [3]. Ontological metaphor has been widely used with different uses and reasons; a politic retorical discourse, newspaper headline, and movie script. Movie is one media that reflects the social life of human [5]. Movie script has now developed into an inescapable invention through the various uses of figure of speech. In a movie script, ontological metaphor is used to create a deeper and purposeful meaning. A movie without metaphor lacks the depth it requires to touch the inner part of a human being. Using metaphor creatively cannot only create a soul to your movie script, but it can also spark significant change within viewers. Some examples of ontological metaphor within a movie could be something like a flag, symbolizing patriotism, or a rose symbolizing love and romance. These are more common examples of metaphor and could be considered cliché. Thus, it is vital, as a writer, to create unique metaphors on the subjects of life itself [6]. metaphor intended to convey meaning that can be understood. It is to reject the view that they are merely the use of decorative or emotive language; or vice versa, it shows that style and emotion itself deliver cognitive content [7]. Other than that, metaphor has the ability to sort out redundant information or to rearrange an information in a more accessible way so as to transmit only the essence of the message [8].

Talking about metaphor that can create significant change within viewers, a question appears as to why people discover this figurative language to give essential intention toward movie. To answer that question, the objective of this study is to discover and explore the concepts of ontological metaphors and what carries the messages or meanings in the concept in the movie itself.

**II. METHOD**

**A. Data Collection Procedures**

The data in this paper were taken from *Arrival* movie script written by Ted Chiang in 2015. The first technique applied in this study was to read all the script thoroughly, after that the idiomatic expressions found in the script were written and accessed based on the meanings. They were all marked by particular content analysis approach in order to meet the specified classification. Only several representative data were taken into account to illustrate how concepts are related within the expression.

**B. Data Analysis**

Content Analysis Method was referred to this research by systematically evaluating the ontological metaphor found in the movie script. First off, idiomatic expressions found in it are technically accessed based on the meanings. The meaning is associated with the type of metaphor. After that, the expression will be explained one by one within its contexts, so the characteristics that share the same meanings will be indicated to the exposition and association of each words in the expression.

**III. RESULTS**

The results are gathered from the qualitative analysis of the transcriptions in *Arrival* movie script. It can be seen through table 1.

TABLE I. ONTOLOGICAL METAPHOR

Type	Ontological Metaphor		
	Description	Example of Concepts	Example in Movie Script
Ontological Metaphor	based on physical objects	The mind is a machine.	<i>Memory is a strange thing.</i>
Ontological Metaphor	Container Metaphor	States are containers.	<i>Eight-year-old Hannah is tucked in bed.</i>
Ontological Metaphor	Personification	Physical objects are person	<i>The skin of the lake is a cloudy mirror.</i>

The table shows that there are three different types of ontological metaphor concepts; based on physical object, container, and personification. Each metaphor is given with example of concepts since semantics study will not be separated from concepts. Concepts are essential when analyzing metaphor since concepts are formed through the relation of semantics features that can build expression as well as idiomatic expressions. Examples found in the script fulfill the concepts of ontological metaphor that, of course,

are comparing two different things but share the same characteristics.

In comparing these concepts, the words in each metaphoric expression are associated based on the concepts they carry. From this association, type of metaphor can then be exposed.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

The results indicated that the uses of ontological metaphors with different concepts quite vary in the script. It is also implied that the focus on this metaphor is about presenting something abstract to something concrete, systematically.

Data 1	Memory is a strange thing.
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The data above shows that the expression *a strange thing* is used in the script to indicate something abstract (memory), as a commemorative remembrance, into a concrete one (strange thing), *thing* here refers to a concrete noun shown an entity or substance to label the memory becoming something that can be ‘hold’. Contextually, memory, in this case, does not refer to a device (such as a chip). It is instead the process or even the power of remembering and recalling what has been learned or retained.

The similarity like this is called ontological metaphor because the abstract concept memory is represented systematically with the expression *a strange thing* which its relevancies with the memory are not directly connected.

Data 2	Eight-year-old Hannah is tucked <i>in bed</i> .
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The data above depicts the phrase *in bed* which shows an expression of metaphor as a container that marks with a preposition *in*. Indirectly, it also shows the phrasal verb or idiomatic expression *tuck in* meaning to hold something tightly or to make (someone, such as a child) secure in bed by tucking the edges of sheets, blankets, etc. This idiomatic expression is accessed through the meaning to have a relation between semantics feature and component that builds a certain interpretation.

The interpretation leads to particular condition showing the commonness occurrence of the concept *Hannah* as little kid with the concept *bed*.

Data 3	The skin of the lake is a cloudy mirror.
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In this data, there are two similar concepts of ontological metaphor; personification and physical object. The first phrase is *the skin of the lake* where the lake is similar to *skin*, as *skin* is part of a human's body. This form is also included to ontological metaphor since *skin* is the concept that is used to indicate the surface of the lake, meanwhile *skin* and *lake* are two different things but share the same component. The second phrase is *a cloudy mirror* meaning the surface of the lake is similar to a cloudy mirror. *Cloudy* here means the lake is dimmed or dulled as if by clouds. Other than that, a concept *mirror* here shares particular meanings where we can actually see ourselves in that lake, just right when we stand up in front of the mirror.

Data 4	From outside looking in, a curious circular shadow is thrown from the deck light.
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The sentence written above is indicated as an ontological metaphor since it is similar to personification concept where abstract object is projected as a person. It is shown where the word *curious* is used to describe a shadow when its term is commonly used to describe a person. The concept of meanings containing in *circular* also depicts that shadow is equally thought as something that is spread as a letter. In addition, the form of noun phrases mentioned above has shown that every concept of the word cannot be translated literally since it does not produce the true meanings containing in that sentence.

## V. CONCLUSION

According to the discussions above, it can be concluded that there are three different concepts forming ontological metaphor; personification, container, and physical object. Those concepts definitely influence the way the writer wrote the movie script. Metaphor creates a significant piece of cinematic work. By understanding how to implement metaphor properly, we can give a different insight toward the dialogue, action, and character development. The inescapable use of metaphor can also build a deeper and stronger meaning uttered by the speaker.

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