

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Laufey's *A Matter of Time*, released in 2025 by the Icelandic-Chinese singer-songwriter, is a Grammy Award-winning album in 2026. The album highlights the theme of love, heartbreak, and toxic relationships. The album uses many metaphors to convey the emotional dynamics when someone is dealing with a partner in a relationship. The use of metaphors in the album is essential to analyze because it can help listeners to understand the message and Laufey's perspective on the relationship concept.

Metaphor is the most dominant literary device in literary works, especially in song lyrics. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980b), metaphors are used to conceptualize abstract ideas into more concrete forms, based on each individual's understanding and experience. It means that metaphor can serve as a tool that reflects how a person's mental and cognitive perspectives can shape their understanding of literary works. This is also supported in their statement: "the concepts that govern our thought are not just matters of the intellect. They also govern our everyday functioning, down to the most mundane details" (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980a:3).

Metaphors can appear in many aspects of the world, not just in literature. One of the interesting points is how metaphors can be depicted through song lyrics. Zbikowski (2002:520) argued that metaphorical expressions in musical works not

only function as literary devices, but also provide insight into the work. Research focusing on the analysis of conceptual metaphors in song lyrics has been of interest to many previous authors, with studies by Aljudu (2025), Fitriani et al. (2025), Nuraini et al. (2025), Rahmat and Dianita (2024), and Regita and Wibowo (2024) applying Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) to musical works. One of the studies analyzing figurative style in song is Milana and Ardi (2020). The study reveals that with a total percentage of 25% out of 80 data points, metaphor is the most dominant language style used in song lyrics.

In this study, the author will examine the metaphors used in each song in Laufey's *A Matter of Time* album that reflect the concrete concept of RELATIONSHIP. The author has conducted preliminary observations and found indications of the use of conceptual metaphors that are reflected through poetic language in each song in the album. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to explore metaphorical expressions regarding relationships in the songs' lyrics. By analyzing and identifying the source domain and target domain, this study attempts to reveal the cognitive pattern that represents Laufey's unique perspective on modern relationships.

1.2. Research Questions

It is known that Laufey's *A Matter of Time* album is relatively new. However, the album is an ideal object to be analyzed using a cognitive-linguistic approach due to its richness of metaphors in lyrics. Therefore, the author has formulated two research questions as follows.

1. How is the concept of relationship expressed through metaphorical expressions used in *A Matter of Time* album?
2. How does the use of metaphors in the song reflect Laufey's perspectives on relationships as a singer-songwriter of *A Matter of Time* album?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The author will attempt to provide solutions to those problems by answering them through the following objectives.

1. To discover how the concept and meanings of RELATIONSHIP are presented in Laufey's *A Matter of Time* album.
2. To explain how the use of metaphorical expressions contributes to conveying the singer-songwriter's perspectives on RELATIONSHIP.

1.4. Previous Studies

The author reviewed fifteen previous studies that were used to support the writing of this study. The author divided previous studies into two groups. The first group consists of research from the same artist, namely, three studies related to Laufey's album or song. The second group uses the same method, namely, twelve studies analyzing song lyrics through the conceptual metaphor theory of Lakoff and Johnson.

The first study by Rakbankerd (2025) presented a brief biography of Laufey and a musical analysis of her song entitled *From The Start*, but did not focus on the lyrical content. The study focused more on musical elements, such as chord

progressions, rhythmic patterns, and instrumental arrangement, rather than the lyrical content. Another study by Amalia and Djuharie (2025) also examined Laufey's song *Let You Break My Heart Again*. Their analysis revealed that Laufey's choice of idiomatic phrases found in the lyrics served as a tool to express emotions like sadness, longing, and confusion. Another research by Haliza et al. (2024) used qualitative and documentation techniques to collect data from thirteen songs on the album *Bewitched*. They employed figurative language theory by Knickerbocker and Leech (1981). Their study found that the most dominant figurative devices used by Laufey in her songs are metaphors, which also contribute in shaping the songs' meaning.

In addition, a study conducted by Fadhila and Juanda (2023) investigated how metaphors are communicated in the song *Is You* by Jay Chang. Their results concluded that the metaphors in the song lyrics are used to represent three target domains, such as romantic relationships, difficult relationships, and mental imagery or memory. Another study conducted by Zahra and Nirmala (2022) explored broken relationship metaphors in Taylor Swift's *Exile*. The result concluded that the song uses metaphor to describe a broken relationship situation.

Furthermore, various other studies have also introduced additional aspects for analyzing conceptual metaphors in song lyrics. For example, the study conducted by Ahabue (2025). The research linked conceptual metaphors in selected songs by Nicki Minaj to sociolinguistic identity theory. The result revealed that metaphorical language in song lyrics functions as a tool for expressing one's identity performance. Regita and Wibowo (2024) also elaborated on the functions

of each metaphor in the album *The Black Parade* by My Chemical Romance. A similar approach was taken by Rahmat and Dianita (2024), who focused on Lana Del Rey's album *Born To Die*. Both studies highlighted the ten functional roles of metaphors using Pittner's theory (1998).

Finally, there are some further studies on general conceptual metaphors in song lyrics that share a similarity in their findings, conducted by Adawiyah et al. (2025), Kha et al. (2024), Vinh (2024), and Nugrahaeny and Yuwita (2023). Adawiyah (2025) demonstrated that Taylor Swift's *The Tortured Poet*, predominantly employs ontological (physical) metaphors to depict feelings of heartbreak. Kha et al. (2024) found that the framework "EMOTIONAL INTIMACY IS PHYSICAL CLOSENESS" is the most dominant in Taylor Swift's selected songs. Another research conducted by Vinh (2024) investigated metaphors of sorrow in John Lennon's songs and linked them to his personal writing style. Study by Nugrahaeny and Yuwita (2023) found that metaphors were used as a reflection of the speaker's self in SZA's song lyrics.

Based on the previously mentioned studies, none of the studies reviewed Laufey's music on a comprehensive cognitive-linguistic analysis. While several studies analyze figurative language in Laufey's songs, they either focus on a musical form or generalized figurative language. The analysis of the conceptual metaphors on a specific Laufey's album is a missing aspect in prior lyrical analyses. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the singer-songwriter's perspectives of relationships present as metaphors in Laufey's *A Matter of Time* album, which is a gap with other previous studies.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This study analyzes the conceptual metaphors of relationship in Laufey's *A Matter of Time* song lyrics by applying a cognitive-linguistic approach. The parameters used to determine which lyrics contain metaphors are measured using the MIP (metaphor identification procedure) by Pragglejaz Group (2007). The identified metaphors will then be analyzed using CMT (conceptual metaphor theory) by Lakoff and Johnson (1980).

1.6. Writing Organization

The chapters in this study are divided based on their functions. Each chapter is connected. The following organizations are elaborated as follows.

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains six subchapters, which are the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II : THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter contains the theoretical frameworks used in analyzing the data in this study, namely Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) by Pragglejaz Group (2007). This chapter also contains the

method, including data, population, sample, sampling technique, and the method of collecting and analyzing data.

CHAPTER III : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is divided into two main subchapters, which are the result of the study and the discussion discussing the metaphor's meaning, and the singer-songwriter's perspectives on the album's theme.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusion based on the results of the research.

