

METAPHORICAL EXPRESSION IN JOHN CLARE'S POEMS: "I Am," "The Skylark," and "Remembrances"

¹Fadilah Nur Fauzi, ²Hanafi Wibowo
FKIP Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Islam As-Syafi'iyah
¹fadilahnur.fnf@gmail.com, ²hanafiwibowo.fkip@uia.ac.id

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Abstract

This study investigates "Metaphorical Expression in John Clare's Poems: I Am, The Skylark and Remembrances." The purpose of this study is to identify the types of metaphors in John Clare's selected works. This research adopts a qualitative approach. Data collection involved accessing the texts of these poems through reliable online literary archives, articles, and books during the research period of May to July 2024. The researcher conducted a close reading of each poem to document metaphorical expressions, which were then classified into Structural, Orientational, or Ontological types based on Lakoff and Johnson's framework. A total of 11 metaphors were identified: 4 Ontological (36.4%), 3 Structural (27.3%), and 4 Orientational (36.4%). The most frequently used type of metaphor was Ontological Metaphors and Orientational Metaphors, reflecting Clare's technique of personifying abstract concepts like sorrow and memory. This study highlights Clare's mastery of metaphor to explore themes of identity and nature, offering a detailed view of his poetic style.

Keywords: *metaphor, poems, figurative language*

INTRODUCTION

Language assumes a paramount significance in human existence, serving as a conduit for communication and emotional expression. Across the globe, all languages boast a rich array of literary compositions, sparking curiosity and prompting individuals to delve deeper through reading and comprehension. This phenomenon is particularly pertinent for English learners, who can glean insights into cultural nuances, historical contexts, social stratification, and interpersonal dynamics elucidated within literary texts. Consequently, students stand to gain a comprehensive understanding of cultural and historical milieus by dissecting the formal aspects of literature. Language serves as a medium for communication, facilitating the transmission of information and experiences, both within cultural contexts and on an individual level (Banerjee & Sowards, 2022). Through speech, individuals within a culture can convey ideas, experiences, and beliefs across generations, utilizing linguistic elements such as words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Metaphors are essential in communication for their ability to simplify complex ideas, evoke emotions, and create memorable narratives. By comparing abstract concepts to familiar experiences, metaphors enhance understanding, bridge cultural gaps, and stimulate creativity, making messages more impactful and fostering deeper connections between communicators and audiences. Metaphor also aids in expressing intangible emotions and ideas, ensuring that key messages resonate and are retained over time. Embedded within the realm of poetry, metaphor stands as a prominent figurative language device equating disparate objects or

concepts by illustrating their shared characteristics.

As articulated by (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003), metaphor pervades human communication as a universally prevalent linguistic phenomenon. (Mao, Lin, & Guerin, 2020), delineated metaphor as a linguistic construct or term aimed at likening one concept to another. This characterization suggests that metaphor constitutes an integral facet of figurative speech, facilitating comparisons between disparate entities. Lakoff and Johnson's framework categorizes metaphor into three classifications: structural, orientation, and ontological. Drawing from this definition, the researcher endeavors to identify a metaphorical construct that elucidates the interpretation of metaphor within John Clare's poems.

According to (Meyer, 2017), literature embodies a meticulous deployment of language, typically characterized by described within written compositions employing creative metaphorical devices characterized by proficient syntax, adept phrase transformation, rhyme schemes, and alliterative elements, literary works manifest their aesthetic appeal, observable and appreciable upon reading. Beyond textual representation, literary expressions are conveyed through symbolism and numerical symbolism. Literature comprises two primary forms: written and oral. The written domain encompasses prose, drama, novels, and poetry, the latter generally epitomizing aesthetic expression. Poetry, as a subset of literature, embodies beauty through its language, inferred from its meticulous selection of aesthetically pleasing words. Typically originating from the creator's emotions and intellect, poetry features rhythmic, rhyming, and lyrical qualities in each line. It serves as a conduit for conveying emotions such as joy, love, sorrow, and even antipathy towards various subjects (Rosmaidar & Fitriurrahmahi, 2012).

John Clare's poetry, especially "I Am," "The Skylark," and "Remembrances," has attracted a lot of attention due to its sensitive depiction of nature and creative metaphors. However, the majority of the literature that has already been written concentrates on topic and stylistic evaluations, leaving a vacuum in the study of the complex metaphors used in these poems. By performing a detailed metaphorical analysis of Clare's writings, this study seeks to close this gap and provide fresh insight into the breadth and complexity of his poetic language. To initiate this investigation, the researcher will initially review existing research to identify potential similarities and pinpoint the knowledge gap that this study aims to address.

The previous studies have explored various aspects of metaphorical analysis in different contexts, employing qualitative methodologies and theoretical frameworks such as Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphor theory. Research on metaphorical expressions in poetry has been carried out by (Cenita & Nurmaily, 2020; Humagain, Humagain, Regmi, & Phuyal, 2023; Monika, 2020; Rorimpandey, Fauziah, Leonartdo, Putri, & Simatupang, 2021; Safira et al., 2022; Sinthya, Dahnilsyah, & Erni, 2022). These studies primarily focus on identifying types of metaphors and interpreting their implicit meanings, often utilizing established frameworks like Leech's theory. However, there is a notable gap in the analysis of metaphor's function specifically within Romantic poetry, particularly regarding pastoral and existential themes.

Similarly, research on metaphor usage in novels has been undertaken by (Anone, I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri, & Ida Bagus Gde Nova Winarta, 2023; Erlin, Sembiring, & Sigit, 2020; Meranggi, Santika, & JUNIARTHA, 2022; Peng, 2023; Rahayu & Pardede, 2024; Yani, 2018). These studies focus on identifying metaphor types and translation strategies, exploring how metaphors convey deeper meanings. In contrast, John Clare's poetry is uniquely analyzed for its metaphors within a Romantic, pastoral context, emphasizing themes of existence and nature. This study aims to fill a gap by examining Clare's introspective metaphorical usage,

which delves into identity and emotional struggles, differentiating it from contemporary analyses of metaphors in novels.

Research has also been conducted on metaphorical expressions in song lyrics by (Afnita Asfar, Nyoman Kardana, Umiyati, & Armstrong, 2022; Bernadetta, Linuwih, & Kurniawan, 2023; Jannah & Istiqomah, 2021; Juliana, Arafah, Rahma Handayani, & Arayu Hutagalung, 2023; Ndraha, 2018; Rahmat & Dianita, 2024; Sari, 2020; Setiawati & Maryani, 2018; Wahyuda, 2022; Yusuf & Reski Amelia, 2018). These studies typically focus on identifying types and meanings of metaphors, often using frameworks such as conceptual metaphor theory. However, research on John Clare's poetry addresses a gap by examining metaphors in a Romantic, pastoral context that explores existential and nature-centered themes. This distinction underscores Clare's unique metaphorical language for expressing identity and introspection, setting it apart from the more contemporary and entertainment-driven metaphors found in song lyrics.

A significant research gap exists regarding the analysis of metaphorical expressions in the poetry of John Clare, a notable figure in Romantic literature celebrated for his profound connection with nature and rural life. Unlike previous studies that have focused on contemporary themes or specific literary periods, an exploration of John Clare's poetry, specifically poems like "I Am," "The Skylark," and "Remembrances," would provide insights into metaphors within the context of Romanticism. Clare's poetry often evokes natural landscapes and emotions in a manner distinct from modern and urban-centric literature.

While previous studies have categorized metaphors into conventional types such as structural, orientational, and ontological, an analysis of John Clare's poetry may reveal unique metaphorical patterns and thematic emphases rooted in his pastoral and introspective style. Clare's works are known for their intimate reflections on nature and rural life, potentially yielding metaphors that differ significantly from those found in contemporary literature or specialized discourses.

Therefore, a new study focusing on metaphorical expressions in John Clare's poetry would not only address a gap in Romantic literature scholarship but also offer a comparative perspective that enriches our understanding of metaphorical functions across different literary epochs and genres. Such research would contribute to a deeper appreciation of metaphors depicting natural landscapes, emotional states, and existential reflections within Clare's poetic corpus, distinguishing it from previous studies focused on more contemporary or thematic analyses.

The aim of this research is by conducting a meticulous analysis of the metaphorical elements present in John Clare's poems, specifically "I Am," "The Skylark," and "Remembrances." By undertaking this study, the researcher seek to achieve several objectives: firstly, to provide a comprehensive examination of the metaphorical layers woven into Clare's poetry, elucidating the breadth and complexity of his figurative language; secondly, to identify recurring motifs and symbols across the selected poems, thereby highlighting Clare's nuanced understanding and portrayal of the natural world; thirdly, to explore how Clare employs metaphor to express existential themes such as identity, freedom, and resilience, shedding new light on his thematic concerns and stylistic decisions. In "I Am," Clare employs metaphors to express his existential struggle and connection to nature, while "The Skylark" and "Remembrances" utilize metaphors to depict themes of freedom and captivity, respectively.

This research offers significant contributions to literary analysis as well as a deeper understanding of metaphor in Romantic poetry, with a particular focus on the works of John

Clare. It offers a thorough examination of Clare's distinctive approach to metaphors in *I Am*, *The Skylark*, and *Remembrances*, demonstrating how he utilizes figurative language to express intricate emotions and abstract ideas. By classifying metaphors into Ontological, Structural, and Orientational categories, this study illustrates how Clare personifies intangible concepts, employs imagery from nature, and utilizes spatial relationships to convey themes such as identity, grief, and optimism.

This research addresses a significant void in the scholarship of Romantic literature by advancing beyond thematic and stylistic assessments to a comprehensive metaphorical examination. It emphasizes Clare's unique pastoral and reflective writing style, illustrating how his metaphors stand apart from those found in contemporary urban literature. It highlights the continued significance of his works in today's literary discussions, connecting historical and contemporary viewpoints on the use of metaphor.

Semantics of Metaphor

Semantics is the specialist field of linguistics that studies the subtleties of meaning in language. It examines meaning at many linguistic levels, including words, phrases, sentences, and larger discourse structures. The investigation of the relationship between form and meaning is central to the study of semantics and forms the basis of many semantic techniques. This particular branch of study focuses on the conventionalized meanings that are conveyed by using the lexical and syntactic components of language. (Abdurrahman, 2019) Semantics is the study of the meaning of lexical items, syntactic structures, and sentences and discourse, among other higher-level linguistic units. In the field of linguistic semantics, the goal is to clarify the accepted meanings that are expressed by means of the words and sentence patterns that are employed in a particular language.

The investigation of the relationship and interaction between form and meaning is a fundamental and crucial question in linguistic semantics that unites disparate points of view. Semantics pertains to the investigation of meaning within the context of language. It can be concluded that semantics, as a specialized subfield of linguistics, examines the meaning of lexical items, syntactic structures, and discourse at various levels within language. Its principal aim is to clarify the accepted interpretations conveyed by words and sentence structures in a given linguistic framework. This scientific inquiry encompasses the analysis of meaning from individual lexical elements to broader literary contexts. A fundamental and pivotal concern in the study of semantics is the exploration of how form and meaning interact, which serves to unify diverse perspectives within the field of linguistic semantics. It can be concluded that semantics is fundamentally concerned with investigating meaning within the context of language.

Figurative Language

Figurative language utilizes words or phrases that deviate from their literal definitions, aiming to construct vivid depictions, evoke emotional responses, and engage readers through interpretations that transcend straightforward meanings. It is widespread in various literary genres including poetry, narratives, and everyday communication. This linguistic approach is characterized by the strategic application of devices such as similes, metaphors, hyperbole, oxymorons, and personification, which enhance and amplify the conveyed significance.

(Almira, 2018) Figurative language serves as a fundamental instrument for authors to articulate and substantiate their thoughts or opinions. Specific forms of figurative language are

employed to articulate the thoughts, emotions, and concepts that can captivate the readers or audience. Figurative language makes use of terms or phrases whose meanings deviate from literal interpretations. It makes it possible to convey a range of ideas and feelings, which enhances the coherence and beauty of sentence structure. This linguistic strategy helps the reader conjure up vivid mental images. As a result, figurative language is a crucial tool for authors to express and support their thoughts and opinions. It encompasses specific forms that effectively communicate emotions, ideas, and concepts to captivate readers or audiences. By employing terms or phrases with meanings beyond their literal interpretations, figurative language enriches sentence structure, enhancing coherence and aesthetic appeal, while facilitating the creation of vivid mental imagery for the reader.

Metaphor

A metaphor is a rhetorical device that usually in order to create a vivid and compelling representation, directly refers to one entity to denote another. It is used to communicate meanings that deviate from the literal meanings of the words that make up the phrase. Simple metaphors use a feature of the metaphorical subject that is immediately visible to depict the subject being described. On the other hand, they can be more intricate, making use of the characteristics connected to the metaphorical subject to improve the representation and possibly produce fresh insights.

According to (Kövecses, 2002), metaphors encompass both linguistic and conceptual dimensions. Metaphorical phrases emerge from comparisons between objects that share similarities in their nature, physical attributes, or subjective perceptions. Metaphorical expressions invariably convey deeper meanings that may not be immediately apparent. In summary, metaphors, linguistic and conceptual, are used to compare similar objects, conveying deeper meanings, and can convey emotions like sadness, joy, desire, genuineness, and devotion.

Types of Metaphor

Metaphors can be classified into several sorts according to different standards, such as the themes they relate to, the thoughts they express, and the structure of the metaphor. (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003), in their work "Metaphors We Live By," introduced the concept of conceptual metaphor, positing that language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a tool for illustrating abstract concepts in everyday contexts.

They identified three categories of conceptual metaphor: structural, ontological, and orientational:

- 1. Structural Metaphors:** As defined by (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003), in their seminal work "Metaphors We Live By" (original published in 1980), involve one concept being metaphorically structured within another. These metaphors extend beyond mere linguistic expressions, shaping our perception and comprehension of abstract ideas by associating them with more tangible and recognizable structures. This comprehension enables the utilization of concrete structures to organize and conceptualize abstract ideas, thereby establishing a robust cognitive framework. Furthermore, it highlights how structural metaphors facilitate the mapping of abstract concepts onto familiar structures, thereby imbuing them with meaning and relevance to real-world contexts.
- 2. Orientational metaphors:** As elucidated in the seminal work "Metaphors We Live By"

by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, involve the projection of spatial orientation and direction from one conceptual realm to another (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003). These metaphors facilitate the comprehension of abstract concepts by mapping them onto concrete spatial analogies, thereby influencing how individuals perceive and assign meaning to these concepts. Recognizing that spatial orientation is employed in language to unconsciously assign meaning enables a deeper comprehension of the intricacies of our everyday cognitive processes and interpretive mechanisms.

- 3. Ontological metaphors:** a pivotal concept in George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's "Metaphors We Live By," demonstrate how abstract ideas are comprehended through the prism of more concrete experiences (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003). This metaphor involves mapping one conceptual domain metaphorically onto another, thereby influencing how we conceptualize and communicate about abstract concepts such as love, relationships, and time. The comprehension of abstract concepts through ontological metaphors extends beyond linguistic expression, also impacting the way we think and perceive the world, thereby underscoring the intricate interplay between language, thought, and concrete experience that shapes our understanding and interaction with the environment.

It could be conclude that the discussion of metaphors includes various types: structural metaphors, where one concept is metaphorically structured within another to relate abstract ideas to familiar frameworks; orientational metaphors, which project spatial orientation onto abstract concepts influencing perception; and ontological metaphors, illustrating how abstract ideas are understood through concrete experiences. These types of metaphors explore themes such as cognitive frameworks, perception, and human experience, revealing how language shapes our understanding of the world.

Function of Metaphor

Metaphors play a critical role in language and communication by fostering enhanced conceptual understanding and enriching expressive capabilities. Several linguists worldwide have developed a profound understanding of various types and functions of metaphors in language. In addition to categorizing metaphors into different types, researchers have identified numerous functions they serve. This compilation of metaphor functions draws from significant works on the subject (Lakoff, George; Johnsen, 2003). These functions include ten categories: explanatory, constitutive, persuasive, ornamental, cognitive, referential, expressive, naming, heuristic, and aesthetic.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher adopts a qualitative approach to analyze selected works by John Clare, specifically "The Skylark," "I Am," and "Remembrances," over the research period of May to July 2024. The texts of these poems are accessed through reliable online literary archives, articles, and books, which offer both the original works and valuable interpretive insights to support a detailed metaphor analysis. Chosen for their evocative imagery and exploration of themes such as identity and nature, these poems provide a rich basis for examining Clare's poetic style.

The data collection process follows several steps. First, the researcher compiles the poems from credible literary sources, articles, and books. Next, the researcher performs a close reading of each poem, documenting metaphorical expressions. Each identified metaphor is then analyzed using Lakoff and Johnson's framework, classifying them into Structural, Orientational, or Ontological types. For data analysis, each type is assessed, and the findings are organized by frequency, revealing the most prominent metaphor types employed by Clare. This structured approach, supported by references from articles and books, offers a comprehensive view of Clare's use of metaphor across the selected poems.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Findings

No	Type of Metaphor	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Ontological Metaphor	4	36.4%
2.	Structural Metaphor	3	27.3%
3.	Orientational Metaphor	4	36.4%
TOTAL		11	100%

The study identified three main metaphor types in John Clare's poetry: Ontological (36.4%), Structural (27.3%), and Orientational (36.4%). Ontological Metaphors dominate, personifying abstract emotions to make them tangible, while Structural Metaphors use natural imagery to frame complex feelings. Orientational Metaphors rely on spatial directionality, emphasizing emotional shifts such as ascents toward hope or descents into despair, showcasing Clare's skillful use of metaphor to convey deep emotional states.

Detail Data Analysis

1. Ontological Metaphors

Ontological metaphors in Clare's poems make abstract concepts, like sorrow or memory, into concrete entities that can be visualized, interacted with, or confronted. This technique allows readers to relate to complex emotions through sensory experiences, bringing the speaker's inner life into the physical world.

1. OM/1/IA: "Into the nothingness of scorn and noise"

The "nothingness" is personified as a tangible space filled with "scorn and noise." Clare uses this metaphor to depict despair as an all-encompassing void, a space where external negativity traps and overwhelms the speaker. It gives a haunting quality to his isolation, implying he's surrounded by a hostile, empty realm.

2. OM/2/IA: "I am the self-consumer of my woes"

Clare portrays his sorrow as something internalized, an entity he consumes and is consumed by, almost cannibalistically. The metaphor reflects the cyclical nature of his despair, suggesting his suffering is self-perpetuating. This vivid depiction allows the reader to understand the introspective nature of the speaker's pain.

3. OM/3/RM: "Memories that cling to me"

Memories are described as if they are physical objects that "cling," weighing down the speaker. This ontological metaphor suggests memories as burdensome attachments, almost parasitic, that the speaker cannot escape. It conveys the inescapable hold of the past on the present, showing how memories physically and emotionally affect him.

4. OM/4/RM: "Shadows of my memories rise"

Clare uses shadows to personify memories, as though they emerge and surround the speaker. This metaphor creates a haunting image of memories that are both insubstantial and powerful, implying they loom over him and shape his present experience.

2. Structural Metaphors

Structural metaphors create a framework for understanding emotions or states of being by connecting them with familiar images, often natural phenomena in Clare's work. This helps readers grasp the complex emotions in his poems.

1. SM/1/IA: "Vast sea of sorrow where I lie"

Clare likens sorrow to a vast sea, positioning himself as a figure lost within it. This metaphor gives sorrow physical depth and breadth, suggesting it is inescapable and boundless. The structural metaphor of a "sea" conveys sorrow's overwhelming and suffocating presence in his life.

2. SM/2/SK: "In the sky's heart thou dost dwell"

In *The Skylark*, the skylark's song is depicted as originating from the heart of the sky. Clare creates an association between joy and the natural realm, suggesting that joy and nature are deeply interconnected. This structural metaphor positions the skylark as an emissary of nature's beauty, highlighting the bird's role as a symbol of freedom and hope.

3. SM/3/SK: "Messenger of joy"

The skylark is described as a "messenger of joy," using a metaphor that positions the bird as a deliverer of happiness. This structural metaphor reinforces the idea that nature can communicate and evoke emotions, with the skylark bringing messages of beauty and renewal.

3. Orientational Metaphors

Orientational metaphors in Clare's poems use spatial relationships to convey emotional states. These metaphors frame emotions through directionality, such as upward or downward movement, to imply positive or negative experiences.

1. OR/1/IA: "Into the nothingness"

The downward motion implied by "into" reflects a movement towards despair. Clare

uses direction here to suggest a descent into a dark, empty space, which mirrors the speaker's internal collapse. This orientation emphasizes his sense of falling away from life and joy.

2. OR/2/SK: "Ever up, and ever down, and ever high"

In *The Skylark*, the bird's upward and downward movements symbolize freedom and the joy of exploring life fully. The skylark's soaring conveys the uplifting and liberating aspects of nature, contrasting with the despairing downward movement in *I Am*.

3. OR/3/SK: "To meet the morning's rosy light"

The skylark's upward direction toward morning light represents renewal and hope. This orientational metaphor suggests a movement towards positivity, where the speaker in *The Skylark* feels inspired by the bird's ability to reach toward light and beauty.

4. OR/4/RM: "Lost to everything that cares or knows"

The orientation of being "lost" indicates a sense of disconnection from life and people. Clare uses this metaphor to evoke a feeling of emotional drowning, where the speaker is removed from the world, left in a space devoid of recognition or care.

Discussion

The findings of this study provide a comprehensive analysis of metaphors in John Clare's poems, focusing on *I Am*, *The Skylark*, and *Remembrances*. The analysis reveals significant insights into the types and functions of metaphors, contributing to our understanding of how Clare uses figurative language to convey complex emotions and ideas.

The study identified three primary types of metaphors in John Clare's poetry: Ontological Metaphors, Structural Metaphors, and Orientational Metaphors. Ontological Metaphors were the most prevalent, comprising 36.4% of the total, reflecting Clare's tendency to personify abstract concepts, such as despair and memory, to make them more tangible and relatable. Structural Metaphors, which represented 27.3%, used natural imagery like the "vast sea of sorrow" to provide frameworks for understanding complex emotions. Orientational Metaphors also accounted for 36.4%, emphasizing spatial relationships, such as upward movements toward hope or downward spirals into despair, to convey emotional states vividly. This distribution highlights Clare's skill in using metaphor to evoke deep emotional connections.

The dominance of Ontological Metaphors, such as "nothingness" personified as a tangible void filled with "scorn and noise," highlights Clare's technique of transforming abstract emotional experiences into vivid, sensory images. This method enhances the reader's empathy and connection with the speaker's internal struggles. Similarly, the frequent use of Structural Metaphors, like sorrow as a "vast sea," underscores Clare's reliance on natural elements to communicate the overwhelming nature of human emotions.

These metaphors not only add richness to the poetic language but also resonate with readers by framing universal experiences in relatable ways. This study aligns with previous research on metaphorical analysis, as discussed in studies by (Cenita & Nurmaily, 2020; Monika, 2020; Rorimpandey et al., 2021; Safira et al., 2022; Sinthya et al., 2022; Wibowo et al., 2023, 2024). The findings also reveal significant functional aspects of these metaphors. Ontological Metaphors predominantly serve to make the abstract more concrete, enabling readers to grasp the complexities of human sorrow and memory. Structural Metaphors offer

familiar frameworks to better understand the interconnectedness of emotions and natural elements. Orientational Metaphors, through their directional language, reflect the speaker's emotional journey whether a descent into despair or an ascent toward hope.

These findings have several implications for understanding the role of metaphor in Clare's poetry. Firstly, the frequent use of Ontological Metaphors illustrates how abstract emotions like sorrow, despair, and hope can be rendered tangible through metaphorical imagery. This contributes to a deeper emotional resonance with the reader. Secondly, the study underscores the importance of natural imagery in Clare's work, which reflects his Romantic ideals of nature as a source of solace and inspiration. Lastly, the diverse types and functions of metaphors highlight Clare's linguistic creativity and his ability to adapt figurative language to explore the human condition. This study enriches the broader discourse on metaphor use in Romantic poetry, providing a nuanced understanding of how metaphors operate not only as aesthetic devices but as critical tools for exploring emotional depth and existential themes.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The researcher makes the conclusion that the metaphors in John Clare's poems, specifically *I Am*, *The Skylark*, and *Remembrances*, play a significant role in conveying complex emotions and abstract concepts. Clare's poetry, rooted in the Romantic tradition, uses metaphors to frame universal human experiences in a manner that resonates deeply with readers. His works exemplify the power of figurative language to transform intangible emotions like sorrow, hope, and despair into vivid, relatable imagery.

The study identified three main metaphor types in John Clare's poetry: Ontological (36.4%), Structural (27.3%), and Orientational (36.4%). Ontological Metaphors dominate, personifying abstract emotions to make them tangible, while Structural Metaphors use natural imagery to frame complex feelings. Orientational Metaphors rely on spatial directionality, emphasizing emotional shifts such as ascents toward hope or descents into despair, showcasing Clare's skillful use of metaphor to convey deep emotional states.

The findings indicate that Clare frequently employs metaphors such as personifications of "nothingness" and "memories" to make his emotional struggles more tangible. Structural Metaphors like the "vast sea of sorrow" convey the overwhelming nature of despair, while Orientational Metaphors illustrate emotional movement, such as descending into despair or rising toward hope.

Based on the conclusions above, there are several suggestions related to this analysis. It is hoped that these suggestions will be useful for teachers, students, future researchers, and readers. Teachers could use these findings to introduce metaphorical analysis in literature classes, helping students understand the depth and richness of poetic language. Students are encouraged to delve deeper into linguistic and literary studies, particularly in exploring metaphors, to enhance their interpretative and analytical skills.

Furthermore, future researchers might expand on this study by exploring metaphor usage in other Romantic poets or comparing Clare's use of metaphors to that of contemporary writers. The researcher also hopes that this study serves as a valuable resource not only in the field of linguistics but also in literary criticism, providing insights that can inspire further academic exploration. Ultimately, the study aims to contribute to a broader appreciation of figurative language's role in literature and its impact on readers' emotional and intellectual engagement.

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