

The Sun as a Mental Symbol in English Pop Song Titles: A Conceptual Metaphoric Analysis

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Abstract - This paper employs the conceptual metaphor theory to analyze and discuss the representation of the Sun¹ as a mental symbol in 10 English song titles. By examining the association of the cultural context and content of the ten songs to their title each, this study aims to explore the conceptual meanings and implications associated with the metaphorical use of the Sun in association between the titles and their music lyrics in a qualitative approach. In other words, through a cognitive semantic analysis, this paper studies how the Sun shows up in the title and serves as a mental symbol within the lyrical content association of the songs.

Key words: *the Sun, mental symbol, conceptual metaphor theory, titles, pop songs*

1. Introduction

Conceptual metaphor theory, as proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), argues that metaphor is not merely a linguistic device but a fundamental cognitive process through which abstract concepts are understood and expressed in terms of concrete domains. This theory has been widely applied across various disciplines, including linguistics, psychology, and literature, to analyze how metaphors reflect our world cognition.

In that sense, in pop music, metaphors play a significant role in conveying perceptions, emotions, experiences within song lyrics. The use of metaphorical language allows songwriters to raise vivid associations with deeper layers of meaning. One recurring image found in English pop songs is the metaphorical representation of the Sun, which holds diverse cultural and symbolic significance.

Among a big number of English pop songs with the Sun as a metaphorical symbol, a set of ten are selected as a database in order to find unique perspectives and interpretations of the Sun as a mental symbol:

1. "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles.
2. "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves.
3. "Sunshine of Your Love" by Cream.
4. "Blister in the Sun" by Violent Femmes.
5. "Island in the Sun" by Weezer.
6. "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" by Stevie Wonder.
7. "The house of the Rising Sun" by The Animals.
8. "Black Hole Sun" by Soundgarden
9. "Good Day Sunshine" by The Beatles

¹ Although there may be a debate over whether or not to capitalize the word sun, during this study, let us capitalize the word "sun" as an emphasis of research object.

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10. “Waiting for the Sun” by The Doors

In that observation, we have decided to do some research into the Sun showing up in the pop song titles as part of metaphorical mappings from a more concrete domain of its literal meaning. The structure of this paper is as follows: firstly, we will provide a brief overview of conceptual metaphor theory and its application in analyzing song lyrics. Next, we will present a comprehensive analysis of each of the ten selected song titles, examining how the Sun is metaphorically employed within the lyrical content. We will then compare and contrast the representation of the Sun across different songs, highlighting common themes and variations in metaphorical use. Finally, we will discuss the broader implications of our findings and suggest potential avenues for future research in this area.

2. Research questions

In order to fulfill the purpose, the three research questions will be answered sufficiently:

1. How does the metaphorical representation of the Sun in English pop song titles reflect broader cultural and emotional themes, and what insights can be gained from analyzing these representations within the context of conceptual metaphor theory?
2. In what ways do songwriters use the Sun as a metaphorical symbol to convey complex emotions, experiences in their lyrical content, and how does this resonate with listeners on a cognitive and emotional level?
3. What are the implications of utilizing natural phenomena, such as the Sun, as metaphorical symbols in artistic expression?

3. Theoretical Foundation

3.1. Theory framework

Conceptual metaphor theory, proposed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson in their seminal work “Metaphors We Live By” (1980), suggests that metaphor is not just a literary device, but a fundamental aspect of human cognition. According to this theory, abstract concepts are often understood and expressed through metaphorical mappings from more concrete domains. Indeed, the concept “horse” in “Tom is a horse” is not understood as a livestock but as “one kind of thing in terms of another.” (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 5). In daily human communication, communicators use metaphors in a way metaphors are not merely things to be seen beyond or through, as in the old view, but also ways of seeing.” (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 6). In other words, this theory suggests that abstract concepts are often understood and articulated through metaphorical mappings onto more concrete domains. As Kövecses (2010) notes, these metaphorical mappings are not arbitrary but are shaped by our embodied experiences and cultural contexts.

Conceptual metaphor theory has been applied to various cultural contexts to explore how metaphors shape our conceptualization of the world. For instance, in support of Lakoff and Johnson’s viewpoints, Gibbs Jr (1994) demonstrates how metaphors are not merely linguistic devices but fundamental cognitive tools that structure our thoughts and perceptions. Through a cross-cultural analysis, Steen (2008) emphasizes the universality of certain metaphorical concepts while also acknowledging the influence of cultural variations on metaphorical expressions.

In summary, conceptual metaphor theory provides a valuable framework for analyzing linguistic expressions in various cultural contexts, including the metaphorical representation of the Sun in different forms of media. By examining previous studies on this topic, we can gain insights into how metaphors shape our understanding of the world and illuminate the complex interplay between language, culture, and cognition.

3.2. Key Terms

1. **Metaphor:** Lakoff and Johnson (1980) define metaphor as a cognitive process through which abstract concepts are understood and expressed in terms of concrete ones. Metaphors allow us to conceptualize one domain of experience in terms of another, facilitating understanding and communication.
2. **Conceptual Metaphor:** Conceptual metaphors are systematic mappings between domains of experience that structure our understanding of abstract concepts. These metaphorical mappings are not arbitrary but are grounded in our embodied experiences and cultural frameworks.
3. **Source Domain and Target Domain:** In conceptual metaphor theory, the source domain is the domain of experience from which the metaphorical mapping is derived, while the target domain is the domain to which the metaphorical mapping is applied. For example, in the metaphor “love is a journey,” love (the target domain) is understood and articulated in terms of a journey (the source domain).
4. **Mental Symbol:** Mental symbols are cognitive representations that stand for abstract concepts or ideas. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) argue that metaphorical expressions function as mental symbols, allowing us to understand and communicate abstract concepts

through concrete imagery. They state that a metaphorical concept is a mental symbol that allows us to use what we know about our physical and social experience to comprehend seemingly unrelated areas of experience.

5. **Title Significance of a Song:** The title of a song serves as a crucial element in shaping listeners' perceptions and expectations. Sweeney (2019) explores the significance of song titles, noting that they often encapsulate key themes, emotions, or messages conveyed in the lyrics. He states "a song title is like a snapshot of the song's essence, providing listeners with a glimpse into its content and meaning." (Sweeney, 2019: 23). Song titles can also raise curiosity, intrigue, or emotional interaction, influencing listeners' engagement with the song.

4. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative methodology rooted in conceptual metaphor theory to analyze the metaphorical significance of the Sun in the titles of ten selected pop songs. The methodology is structured around three key components: selection criteria for the song titles, data collection, and analysis.

Each of the selected song titles offers a unique entry point into understanding how the Sun is metaphorically employed as a symbolic image in popular music. These titles suggest a range of emotions, themes, and imagery associated with the Sun. By analyzing a diverse selection of song titles, this study aims to uncover the multiple meanings and cultural resonances of the Sun as a mental symbol in English pop music.

Qualitative data collection involves a systematic examination of the linguistic and metaphorical features of each selected song title relevant to their song content and context, focusing on identifying key metaphors, thematic patterns, and symbolic associations related to the Sun. The analysis is guided by conceptual metaphor theory, which provides a framework for understanding how abstract concepts are metaphorically mapped onto more concrete domains, such as natural phenomena like the Sun.

Key metaphors associated with the Sun, such as light, warmth, energy, and transformation, are identified and examined from the linguistic context and content of each song. Thematic patterns, such as themes of hope, joy, love, and existential contemplation, are also explored to uncover repeated image and symbolic resonances across the selected titles.

5. The study

5.1. Analysis

5.1.1. *The Sun: from a physical object to mental concepts*

Undoubtedly, the Sun is as a universal concept of a great physical object giving light and heat to humans. However, it has been embedded in our perception as a mental positive symbol so long that nobody asks why our happiest day in a week is Sunday, that is, the day of the Sun. The two utterances (1) "I can see the Sun in the sky" and "I can see the Sun in her eyes" can illustrate the viewpoint. Thus, the metaphorical representation of the Sun has been a subject of interest across different forms, from a daily spoken channel to others such as literature, film, and visual art. In literary studies, scholars have explored how authors use the Sun as a symbolic referent that implies happiness, hope, joy, warmth, start, etc. As Suchman (2015) observes, the metaphorical resonance of the Sun extends beyond its physical properties to encompass broader cultural, spiritual, and existential dimensions. In popular music, the presence of the word "Sun" in its lyrics as a cognitively metaphoric representation is extremely popular in the composer's creation.

5.1.2. *Cultural context and metaphoric use of the Sun as a mental symbol in each song title*

1. **Here Comes the Sun** by George Harrison, released by his band, the Beatles in 1969. The title "Here Comes the Sun" metaphorically stimulates feelings of hope, renewal, and optimism relying on the image of "Sun" in which, there is no doubt, it represents a metaphorical dawn, signaling the end of darkness and the *arrival* of a new beginning. The song's release amid societal upheaval reflects a desire for positive change and a brighter future. Nevertheless, it would not have a metaphorical expression in such a way without the association of the arrival of the Sun (*Here comes* the Sun). Indeed, the following expressions of the song "little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter" and "sun, sun, sun, here it comes." signals the passing of cold and lonely winter and a joyful welcome to the coming of the Sun as warmth and a new beginning.

2. **Walking on Sunshine** by Katrina and the Waves, released in 1985 that became an iconic and famous pop "anthem". The image of the "Sunshine" in the song title serves as a powerful mental symbol associated with positivity, happiness, and brightness. It evokes a sensation of good mood in sunlight, which is often represented to warmth, vitality, and hope. In the context of the song, "walking on sunshine" becomes a metaphor for experiencing an emotion (I'm walking on sunshine, whoa-oh-And don't it feel good, hey). And when s/he a person always thinks and finally knows that it is true that he is loved ("I used to think maybe you love me, now I know that it's true"), it becomes intense happiness. There is no cause to prevent the listener from understanding the fact that he is "walking on sunshine" is walking in happiness.

3. **Sunshine of Your Love** by Cream, released in 1967 amid the psychedelic rock movement, the "sunshine" in the song embodies the sensual and romantic ethos of the era. It employs the Sun as a metaphor for love and affection. The title implies warmth, intimacy,

and emotional connection with the Sun symbolizing the object of desire and adoration. In the expressions “It's getting near dawn, when lights close their tired eyes / I'll soon be with you, my love”, the reference to “lights close their tired eyes” suggests the end of darkness and the emergence of light (sunshine), akin warmth and brightness.

4. **Blister in the Sun** by Violent Femmers, released in the early 1980s. That period saw the emergence of alternative rock and punk music as significant cultural forces, providing an outlet for youthful rebellion and expression and reflecting the angst of Generation X. In “Blister in the Sun,” the image of the “Sun” is used metaphorically to represent various emotions and sensations including pleasure, desire, and intensity. However, the interpretation of the Sun in this song differs from its typical associations with warmth and positivity. Instead, it conveys a sense of discomfort or unease, highlighting the complexities of human experience. This expression “When I'm a-walkin', I strut my stuff, and I'm so strung out” suggests a feeling of confidence and self-assuredness, despite being in a state of being “strung out,” which typically conveys tension or anxiety. The image of walking under the Sun, therefore, may symbolize exposure and vulnerability.

5. **Island in the Sun** by Weezer released in the early 2000s marking a period of transition in popular music, with alternative rock bands continues to reflects the broader cultural longing for simplicity, tranquility, and escape from the complexities of modern life. In “Island in the Sun,” the image of the “Sun” symbolizes warmth, happiness, and the promise of a better future. It represents hope and optimism amid the chaos and uncertainty of everyday life. Here are some lyric excerpts that illustrate the significance of the Sun symbol. The expression “We'll never feel bad anymore” suggests a longing for a carefree existence where negative emotions are absent. The image of the Sun implies a state of perpetual happiness and contentment, free from worries and troubles. The idea “We'll run away together” in order to come to an “island in the Sun” represents an escape from reality and a desire for adventure to a place in what evokes images of joy and peace.

6. **You Are the Sunshine of My Life**, released in 1972 as part of Stevie Wonder's album “Talking Book.” by Stevie Wonder: In “You Are the Sunshine of My Life,” the Sun is personified as a beloved partner or source of happiness. The title metaphorically conveys feelings of warmth, affection, and emotional fulfillment. The “Sun(shine)” serves as a metaphor for someone's beloved or significant other. It symbolizes their importance and centrality in the speaker's life, as well as the positive impact they have on their emotional well-being. The expression lyrics “You are the Sunshine of my life / That's why I'll always stay around” express the Sun as deep affection, love and therefore happy feelings towards his partner, likening those concepts to the Sun that brightens their world and brings joy into his life.

7. **The House of the Rising Sun** by The Animals, released in the 1960s. In “The House of the Rising Sun,” the image of the “sun” serves as a metaphor for hope, salvation, and the passage of time. It symbolizes the cyclical nature of life and the possibility of redemption, even in the face of hardship and adversity. The first and most symbolic expression that illustrate the significance of the “Sun” symbol is “There is a house in New Orleans, they call the Rising Sun”. That is, the titular “House of the Rising Sun” is often interpreted as a metaphor for a place of temptation or moral decay. The image of the “rising sun” suggests the beginning of a new day, but it is juxtaposed with the darkness and despair associated with the house, creating a sense of the “Sun” symbolizing the opportunity for redemption and the hope for a better future despite past transgressions.

8. **Black Hole Sun** by the American rock band Soundgarden, released in 1994. In “Black Hole Sun,” the image of the “sun” takes on a darker and more ambiguous meaning compared to its traditional associations with warmth and light. Instead, it becomes a symbol of existential dread, emptiness, and loose existence. The “black hole” represents a void or abyss, further emphasizing the song's themes of disillusionment and despair. “Black hole sun, won't you come / And wash away the rain” evokes a sense of longing and desperation, as the composer wishes relief from suffering. The image of the “black hole sun” symbolizes a desire to escape or surpass the harsh realities of life, suggesting a yearning for release. The image of the Sun serves as a powerful conceptual metaphor for the complexities of human emotions and the existential crises that pervade modern society. It challenges conventional symbols of hope and optimism of the Sun image.

9. **Good Day Sunshine** by The Beatles, released in 1966 on their album “Revolver.” It was performed during a period of significant cultural change and experimentation in the 1960s. The song reflects the optimism and euphoria of the period, characterized by the burgeoning counterculture movement, psychedelic music, and a sense of possibility and liberation. In “Good Day Sunshine,” the image of the “Sun” symbolizes positivity, joy, and a sense of renewal. It represents a source of light and warmth that brightens the songwriter's outlook and imbues them with a sense of optimism and contentment. “Good day sunshine, good day Sunshine, good day Sunshine / I need to laugh, and when the Sun is out, I've got something I can laugh about” express the speaker's delight in the presence of Sunshine and its ability to uplift their spirits. The repetition of “good day Sunshine” emphasizes joy and hope associated with the image of the Sun.

10. **Waiting for the Sun** by The Doors released in 1968 amid the countercultural ethos of the late 1960s, the song reflects themes of rebellion and existential exploration. It was released during a turbulent period in American history, marked by social and political unrest, the Vietnam War, and the burgeoning counterculture movement. In “Waiting for the Sun,” the image of the “sun” symbolizes hope, renewal, and the promise of a new beginning. It represents light and guidance that the speaker eagerly anticipates, offering comfort and direction in times of darkness and confusion. The title re-mentioned in “At first flash of Eden, we race down to the sea

/ Standing there on freedom's shore, waiting for the Sun” creates a sense of longing and anticipation as the composer awaits the arrival of the Sun as hope. The repetition of “waiting for the Sun” in “Waiting for the Sun, waiting for the Sun, waiting for the Sun” emphasizes the composer's cohesion to the arrival of daylight. It focuses on the sense of urgency and longing with which the song is imbued as well as the hope that the Sun embodies a newal.

In summary, each song title analyzed employs the Sun as a powerful metaphorical symbol, imbuing the lyrics with layers of meaning, emotion, and sensory imagery. Whether proposing any mental symbols, the Sun serves as a mental concept that enriches the thematic content of each song, reflecting the complex way of human cognitive perception.

Following is a table provides a comprehensive overview of each song title, along with their mental key-symbols, sub-mental symbols, and illustrative lyrics, capturing the essence of the metaphorical use of the Sun within their lyrical content.

Song Title	Key mental symbol	Submental symbol	Illustrative lyrics
Here Comes the Sun	Hope, Renewal, Brighter Future	Emerging from Darkness, New Beginning	Here comes the Sun, and I say, it's all right, Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter, Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here”
Walking on Sunshine	Joy, Happiness, Positivity	Carefree Happiness, Euphoria	“I'm walking on Sunshine, whoa, I'm walking on Sunshine, whoa, I'm walking on Sunshine, whoa, and don't it feel good”
Sunshine of Your Love	Love, affection, adoration	Sensuality, Desire	“It's getting near dawn, When lights close their tired eyes, I'll soon be with you my love, To give you my dawn surprise”
Blister in the Sun	Emotion, sensation, intensity	Discomfort, Unease, complexity	“Let me go on, like a blister in the Sun, Let me go on, big hands, I know you're the one”
Island in the Sun	Happiness, Hope, Optimism	Reality Escaping, Adventure desire	“Hip hip, hip hip, hip hip, hip hip, When you're on a holiday, You can't find the words to say, All the things that come to you, And I wanna feel it too”
You're the Sunshine of My Life	Love, Affection, happiness,	Beloved Partner, Light	“You are the Sunshine of my life, That's why I'll always stay around, You are the apple of my eye, Forever you'll stay in my heart”
The House of the Rising Sun	Longing, Redemption, Search for Connection	Adversity, Regret	“There is a house in New Orleans, They call the Rising Sun, And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy, And God, I know I'm one”
Black Hole Sun	Existential Dread, Disillusionment	Darkness, Uncertainty	“Black hole sun, won't you come, And wash away the rain? Black hole Sun, won't you come? Won't you come?”
Good Day Sunshine	Joy, Optimism, Appreciation	Simple Pleasures, Gratitude	“Good day Sunshine, Good day Sunshine, Good day Sunshine, I need to laugh and when the Sun is out, I've got something I can laugh about”
Waiting for the Sun	Hope, Renewal, Longing	New arrival, transformation	“At first flash of Eden, We race down to the sea, Standing there on freedom's shore, Waiting for the Sun, waiting for the Sun, waiting for the Sun”

5.2. Discussion

The metaphorical representation of the Sun in English pop song titles offers a fascinating insight into the cognitive and emotional significance of using natural phenomena as metaphorical symbols in artistic expression. Through the analysis of various songs, it becomes evident that the Sun serves as a versatile and powerful metaphor, capable of evoking a wide range of emotions, themes, and experiences. The findings of the analysis highlight the diverse ways in which the Sun is metaphorically employed within lyrical content. From symbolizing hope and renewal in songs like “Here Comes the Sun” to representing existential dread and disillusionment in tracks such as “Black Hole Sun,” the Sun's metaphorical significance transcends traditional interpretations and encompasses complex layers of meaning.

One broader implication of the metaphorical representation of the Sun in pop song titles is its ability to resonate with audiences on a deep emotional level. The Sun is a universal symbol that holds cultural and psychological significance across different societies and contexts. As such, its metaphorical use in music allows artists to touch shared human experiences and emotions, fostering a sense of connection, that is, a cognitive resonance among listeners. Furthermore, the metaphorical representation of the Sun reflects the broader human tendency to conceptualize abstract concepts through concrete, tangible and/or physical symbols. This phenomenon, known as conceptual metaphor theory, suggests that our understanding of abstract concepts is often shaped by our experiences with the physical world. In the case of the Sun, its association with light, warmth, and life aspects makes it a powerful metaphor for concepts such as *hope*, *happiness*, and *renewal* despite some different conceptions in *The House of the Rising Sun* and *Black Hole Sun*.

By drawing on these scholarly viewpoints, we gain deeper insights into the cognitive and emotional significance of using natural phenomena like the Sun as metaphorical symbols in artistic expression. These perspectives underscore the complex interplay between language, cognition, and culture, explaining how conceptual metaphors shape our perception and interpretation of the world around us. As we reflect on the broader implications of the metaphorical representation of the Sun in English pop song titles, we recognize the potential for future research to further explore the role of conceptual metaphor theory in analyzing other forms of popular culture and its applications in diverse fields of study.

In a word, the metaphorical representation of the Sun in English pop song titles offers a rich “carpet” of meanings and emotions, reflecting the cognitive and emotional significance of using natural phenomena as metaphorical symbols in artistic expression. Through further research and analysis, we can continue to explore the profound impact of metaphor on our perceptions, emotions, and cultural narratives.

5.3. Comparative Analysis

Compare and contrast the representation of the Sun in the ten song titles, highlighting similarities and differences in metaphorical usage. Explore how factors such as genre, era, and cultural background influence the interpretation of the Sun as a symbolic motif.

5.3.1. Representation of the Sun

- **Similarities:** Across the ten song titles, the Sun is metaphorically employed to evoke a range of emotions and experiences, including hope, joy, love, longing, and despair. In each case, the Sun serves as a powerful symbol representing various facets of the human condition.
- **Differences:** While some songs portray the Sun as a source of positivity and vitality (“Here Comes the Sun,” “Walking on Sunshine,” “Good Day Sunshine”), others explore darker themes of existential angst and disillusionment (The House of the Rising Sun “Black Hole Sun,” “Blister in the Sun”).

5.3.2. Metaphorical Usage

- **Similarities:** In many songs, the Sun is used metaphorically to represent abstract concepts such as love (“Sunshine of Your Love,” “You Are the Sunshine of My Life”), happiness (“Walking on Sunshine,” “Good Day Sunshine”), and longing for escape (“Island in the Sun”).
- **Differences:** The metaphorical usage of the Sun varies across songs, with some titles employing it as a symbol of hope and renewal (“Here Comes the Sun”), while others use it to convey feelings of discomfort or agitation (“Blister in the Sun”).

5.3.2. Influence of Factors

- **Genre:** The genre of each song influences its interpretation of the Sun. For example, upbeat pop songs like “Walking on Sunshine” tend to portray the Sun in a positive light, while grunge or alternative rock songs like “Black Hole Sun” explore darker, more introspective themes.
- **Era:** The era in which a song was released also shapes its representation of the Sun. Songs from the 1960s and 1970s often reflect the idealism and optimism of the time, while songs from the 1990s may convey a sense of disillusionment and existential questioning.
- **Cultural Background:** The cultural background of the artists and their audience influences the interpretation of the Sun as a symbolic motif. Songs from different cultural contexts may imbue the Sun with unique meanings and associations, reflecting cultural values and beliefs.

In a word, the representation of the Sun in the ten song titles exhibits both similarities and differences in metaphorical usage, influenced by factors such as genre, era, and cultural background. While the Sun serves as a universal symbol of light, warmth, and life, its metaphorical interpretation varies across songs, reflecting the complexity and richness of human experience.

6. Implications

- The study highlights the importance of metaphorical analysis in understanding the cognitive and emotional dimensions of human communication, particularly in the context of popular music.
- By examining the metaphorical representation of the Sun in song titles, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how metaphor operates as a cognitive mechanism and shapes our perception and interpretation of the world.
- The findings underscore the relevance of conceptual metaphor theory in analyzing diverse forms of cultural expression, providing insights into the ways in which abstract concepts are conceptualized and expressed through metaphorical associations with concrete entities.
- The study suggests potential avenues for future research, including exploring the role of metaphor in other forms of popular culture and conducting longitudinal studies to examine how metaphorical representations evolve over time and across different cultural contexts.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study is a focus on the importance of understanding metaphorical language in song lyrics as a means of exploring human cognition, emotion, and culture. By analyzing the metaphorical representation of the Sun, we gain insights into the ways in which abstract concepts are conceptualized and expressed through metaphorical associations with concrete entities.

It has also revealed the diverse and stylistic ways in which the Sun is metaphorically represented in ten English pop song titles. Through a comparative analysis, we have identified common themes and variations in the metaphorical usage of the Sun, highlighting its significance as a symbolic motif in popular music as well. The key findings of the study include the multiple nature of the Sun as a metaphorical symbol, encompassing themes of hope, joy, love, longing, and even despair in some case but not representative across different songs. We have also explored how factors such as genre, era, and cultural background influence the interpretation of the Sun, shaping its symbolic meaning within specific contexts.

In the context of conceptual metaphor theory, our findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how metaphor operates as a cognitive mechanism, shaping our perception and interpretation of the world around us.

Moreover, our analysis highlights the relevance of popular music as a cultural artifact for studying metaphorical thinking and its implications for communication and expression. Moving forward, potential directions for further investigation into this topic could include exploring the role of metaphor in other forms of popular culture, such as literature, film, and visual art. Additionally, longitudinal studies could examine how the metaphorical representation of the Sun evolves over time and across different cultural contexts, showing light on shifting societal attitudes and values.

The metaphorical representation of the Sun in English pop song titles offers a rich and fertile ground for exploring the complexities of human experience and the role of metaphor in shaping our understanding of the world. By exploring the nature of conceptual metaphor of the Sun, we can deepen our appreciation for the power of language and symbolism in artistic and everyday expression.

Future research could explore the cognitive and emotional mechanisms underlying the use of natural phenomena as metaphorical symbols in artistic expression. By examining how listeners interpret and respond to songs that utilize Sun imagery, researchers could gain valuable insights into the role of metaphor in shaping perceptions and emotions. Additionally, conceptual metaphor theory could be applied to analyze other forms of popular culture, such as literature, film, and visual art. By studying the use of metaphor across different artistic mediums, researchers could gain a deeper understanding of how metaphor shapes our understanding of the world and influences our cultural narratives.

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