

## Metaphor Used in Elemental: Forces of Nature Movie

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### ABSTRACT

Metaphor is a beautiful way to communicate through understanding hidden meanings in language. The objectives of this research are to analyze what types the metaphor are employed in the Elemental: Forces of Nature movie and reveal the reasons behind its uses by the writer based on general cultural experiences, thoughts, and perspective. The research methodology employed in this research is descriptive qualitative. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses the theory that is proposed by Lakoff (2003) about conceptual metaphor theory to identify the types of metaphor and analyzed the physical and cultural experience to conduct the reasons arise from the data. Those types of metaphor are structural metaphor where one concept is another concept, orientational metaphor where it deals with a spatial orientation that derived from our physical or cultural experiences, and ontological metaphor where it considers an abstract thing, such as event or idea as a concrete entity. The findings of this study reveal the presence of 5 phrases structural metaphor, 18 phrases of orientational metaphor, and 19 phrases ontological metaphor within the movie. From those results, the researcher concludes that there are three types of metaphor which is ontological metaphor the most frequently type that is used.

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### INTRODUCTION

Semantics is the study focuses on interpretation meaning of words, phrases, and sentence within a particular language. It brings the knowledge of the person's ability to thing logically and understanding between the text and context. Thomason (2012) states that every speaker of a language has a unique ability to think about its meaning even though they have not seen the sentence. Semantic interpretation plays an important role in every speech act, because without meaning, all words in language have no meaning.

Meaning is connected to communication. Communication is important in social life, both verbal and nonverbal, express or implied, because everyone must have meaning. Meaning of a language that used by the speakers is not always understood by the hearer. Meaning refers to the understanding, interpretation, and significance of linguistic expressions. Unfortunately, native speakers do not always understand the language of their speaker's audience. Sometimes people use metaphors to describe their feelings. A concept of meaning depends on its environment the speaker said. According to Griffiths (2006) "There are different ways to communicate the same message because it depends on the environment that allows the recipient to know something the purpose of the

sender". Therefore, we must examine the context of the implicit meaning spoken by its speakers.

Metaphors are integral to language, serving not only as rhetorical tools but also as a means to understand and express reality in profound ways. Semantics, the study of meaning in words, phrases, and sentences, plays a foundational role in communication, connecting the interpretation of linguistic expressions with their social and cultural contexts (Thomason, 2012). Without meaning, language would lack significance, as every expression relies on its context to convey the speaker's intent effectively. Metaphors, as part of figurative language, bridge abstract and concrete ideas, allowing for more accessible and impactful communication (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003). For instance, metaphors conceptualize abstract notions into tangible forms, such as comparing complex feelings to universal elements like the sky or fire, as seen in the movie *Elemental: Forces of Nature*. This research focuses on analyzing metaphors in this film, which employs the elements of Earth as personified characters to convey profound cultural and emotional narratives. By categorizing the types of metaphors—structural, orientational, and ontological—used in the movie, the study aims to uncover how these metaphors enhance storytelling, character development, and thematic depth.

Metaphors also function as cognitive and cultural instruments, reflecting both universal and culture-specific dimensions of human thought. For example, Banaruee et al. (2024) explore cross-cultural variations in metaphor reception, showing that cultural contexts heavily influence metaphorical interpretation. Similarly, Yu (2023) examines the emergence of primary metaphors from perceptual and cultural experiences, highlighting how human perception interacts with cultural schemas. These insights are critical in education, where metaphors, as noted by Cao et al. (2024), enrich the learning experience by helping students grasp complex concepts and enhance their critical thinking skills. Moreover, Miao (2023) emphasizes the strategic role of metaphors in bridging linguistic and cultural barriers in language teaching, strengthening students' communicative competence and cultural understanding. Beyond education, metaphors enrich literature by connecting abstract and concrete ideas, providing a more profound interpretative experience for readers (Shorakhmetov, 2024). This dual function of metaphors—as tools for linguistic expression and cultural transmission—is further evidenced in advertisements, such as those found on hotel websites, where they translate abstract concepts like luxury and beauty into relatable and compelling expressions. These studies affirm the multifunctional role of metaphors in shaping human thought, communication, and cultural understanding across various contexts.

This research specifically focuses on analyzing a movie as the object of study. The choice of a movie as the object for analysis is guided by the advantages it offers in terms of audiovisual elements. Movies provide a rich audiovisual experience, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the meaning conveyed through a combination of various elements, such as dialogues, gestures, and facial expressions of the characters. These visual and auditory enhance the researcher's ability to interpret the intended meaning behind the metaphorical language used in the movie.

The researcher has chosen the *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie for several reasons. Firstly, *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie is one of the children's movies released in the middle of 2023 and produced by The Walt Disney Company, alongside *Peter Pan & Wendy* and *The Little Mermaid*. While both of these films are adaptations of the original films from the 1900s, *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie stands out for its unique concept of bringing the elements of the Earth to life as human beings. For instance, the element of fire is depicted as being in love with the element of water, and they have a multi-

generational family. Secondly, the researcher is interested in exploring the implicit meanings conveyed through the metaphors used in the Elemental: Forces of Nature movie, as revealed in the movie's script. It would be revealed with the speech situation as a supporting theory on this research. By examining the dialogue and narrative of the film, the researcher aims to gain a deeper understanding of the intended metaphorical messages. Lastly, the researcher argues that the Elemental: Forces of Nature movie offers numerous examples of metaphor due to the nature of its characters, who use the elements found on Earth, such as water, fire, land, and air. The researcher believes that these elemental characters may contain a wealth of implicit metaphors related to their respective elements.

According to the explanation above, the objectives of this research are to find the types of metaphors used in the Elemental: Forces of Nature and why are the metaphors employed by the characters. By identifying and categorizing the types of metaphors utilized, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of how the filmmakers employ metaphorical language to convey complex ideas related to the forces of nature. Furthermore, by examining the characters' use of metaphor, we seek to uncover their motivations and intentions to help us understand their role in character development and storytelling. Through this research, the researcher hopes to gain insights into the creative decision-making behind the use of metaphors in Elemental: Forces of Nature.

## THEORY AND METHOD

The researcher applied a descriptive qualitative method in this research. According to Nurmalasari and Apsari (2019), qualitative descriptive studies are the least encumbered by pre-existing theoretical or philosophical commitments compared to other qualitative approaches. This means that this research provides a description of the content without calculating data quantitatively.

In addition, metaphor, as defined by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), is a cognitive and linguistic phenomenon where one conceptual domain is understood in terms of another. Metaphors are not merely a linguistic decoration but a fundamental tool for human thought and communication. This research holds significance because understanding metaphors in language use can uncover deeper insights into cultural and cognitive aspects embedded in communication. It also provides practical applications in language teaching, cross-cultural communication, and discourse analysis. It means this research gives the description about the content and it does not calculate the data of this research.

The primary data source for this study consists of the script obtained from the original Elemental: Forces of Nature movie, which is available on the Disney Hotstar platform and was released on 13 September, 2023. Utilizing the script allows for a clearer examination of the words, phrases, utterances, and sentences spoken by the characters, surpassing the comprehension achievable through watching the movie. The choice of Elemental movie as the data source stems from its status as a recently released animated film by Pixar in the mid-2023 period and presents the metaphorical language in children's movie. Secondary data is derived from articles, journals, and the official website of Pixar.

The data collection process involves several steps. Firstly, the researcher watches the Elemental: Forces of Nature movie on Disney Hotstar and downloads it. Secondly, note-taking techniques are employed, involving active listening to the audio and simultaneous reference to subtitles using tools such as laptops, notebooks, pens, and highlighters. Finally, the researcher thoroughly examines the script. During this examination, the researcher assigns codes to specific sections of the script, indicating the relevant study categories. For instance, "S" may refer to structural metaphor, "ON" to

ontological metaphor, and "OR" to orientational metaphor. As Miles and Huberman (1994) said, coding is the process of assigning tags, names, or labels to segments of data. Additionally, during the coding process, the researcher makes notes of memos. Memoing, as the second fundamental operation in qualitative data analysis, involves recording thoughts, reflections, and insights. Once the data collection phase is complete, the researcher proceeds with the analysis of each data.

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## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the theories and study in the previous chapter, metaphor theory by Lakoff and Johnson has three kinds, namely: structural metaphor; orientational metaphor; and ontological metaphor. In this chapter, the kinds of metaphors and its reason why the metaphors are used in this movie were revealed with the data which taken from the movie's script entitled "Elemental: Forces of Nature Movie". The data used in this research are sourced from note-taking techniques, involving active listening to the audio and support by the subtitles of the movie, generated by the Disney Hotstar plus app.

### Kinds of Metaphor

Based on the theories and studies discussed in the previous chapter, this section presents the results of metaphor analysis in the movie Elemental: Forces of Nature. The types of metaphor are classified based on the framework of Lakoff and Johnson (2003), which categorizes metaphor into structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor. The data are collected through note-taking techniques by watching the movie and analyzing the script. The findings are summarized in the following table:

Type of Metaphor	Frequency	Example
Structural Metaphor	5	"Running out of air"
Orientalational Metaphor	18	"Lighting you up"
Ontological Metaphor	19	"Punched in the face with beauty"

The results indicate that ontological metaphors are the most frequently employed in the movie, followed by orientational and structural metaphors.

1. Structural Metaphor Structural metaphors involve understanding one concept in terms of another, often using a concrete concept to describe an abstract experience (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003). For example, the phrase "running out of air" conceptualizes breathing as a finite resource, creating a sense of urgency. This metaphor aligns with Kovecses (2010), who emphasizes that structural metaphors often highlight problem-solving and action-oriented cognition in discourse.
2. Orientalational Metaphor Orientalational metaphors are grounded in spatial orientation, often reflecting cultural and physical experiences (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003). The phrase "lighting you up" exemplifies the metaphor "happiness is up," implying emotional elevation. Yu (2023) underscores that orientational metaphors reflect cultural

perceptions of emotion and status, reinforcing positive emotions through upward directionality.

3. **Ontological Metaphor** Ontological metaphors treat abstract concepts as entities or substances (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003). The phrase “punched in the face with beauty” personifies beauty as an active agent causing a physical impact. This resonates with Miao (2023), who states that ontological metaphors enhance emotional connection by assigning human-like properties to abstract concepts, making them more relatable.

**Reasons for Metaphor Use** The prevalence of ontological metaphors can be attributed to their effectiveness in making abstract concepts more accessible, especially in children’s media. According to Cao et al. (2024), metaphors in visual narratives facilitate comprehension by grounding complex ideas in familiar physical experiences. Ontological metaphors are particularly effective in animated movies like *Elemental*, as they align with the visual representation of anthropomorphic elements (e.g., fire, water) embodying human traits.

**Orientational metaphors** are frequent due to their universality in conveying emotional states. As Banaruee et al. (2024) suggest, spatial metaphors are culturally pervasive, enabling viewers from diverse backgrounds to interpret emotional and situational nuances.

**Structural metaphors**, though less frequent, serve critical narrative functions by emphasizing problem-solving and transitions. As noted by Ngoc Vu (2014), structural metaphors often support goal-oriented discourse, making them valuable in depicting challenges and achievements.

**Supporting Theories** The findings align with Lakoff and Johnson’s (2003) *Conceptual Metaphor Theory*, emphasizing that metaphor is not merely a linguistic device but a fundamental cognitive mechanism shaping perception and understanding. Additionally, Kovecses (2010) highlights that metaphorical structures reflect universal human experiences, while Yu (2023) and Banaruee et al. (2024) demonstrate the cultural specificity in metaphor interpretation. These theoretical perspectives underscore the interplay between universal cognitive patterns and cultural contexts in metaphor usage. The explanation of each type will be explained below.

### **Structural Metaphor**

This metaphor shaped when one concept structured in terms of another. It referring to the idea that our understanding of an abstract is shaped by our understanding of a more concrete concept.

Datum 1

Wade : A Vivisteria.

Ember : Whoa.Ouch.

Wade : Hey, you’re running out of air. Almost there. Try to breathe slow and steady.

Ember : That was amazing! I finally saw a Vivisteria!

The phrase “running out of air” is a compelling example of a structural metaphor, where an abstract experience—breathing—is conceptualized through a more tangible and relatable framework: the depletion of finite resources such as time, money, or energy. By framing air as a resource that can be consumed, this metaphor highlights the urgency and criticality of the situation faced by Ember. Drawing on the universal understanding of resources as expendable, the metaphor bridges the gap between the physiological act of

breathing and the psychological tension of managing scarcity, making the stakes of the moment immediately apparent and emotionally resonant.

Wade's use of the metaphor serves as a multifaceted communication tool within the narrative. First, it acts as a warning to Ember, emphasizing the dire importance of conserving her air supply. This warning is not just practical but carries an emotional weight that underscores the gravity of the situation. Second, the metaphor signals the presence of imminent danger, heightening the scene's tension and drawing the audience further into the unfolding drama. Third, it functions as a motivational driver, encouraging Ember to act decisively and maintain composure under pressure. The conceptual framing of air as a limited resource introduces a sense of urgency that propels the characters into action, reinforcing themes of survival and resilience.

The metaphor's strength also lies in its universality. Air, as a vital resource for life, is a concept understood across all cultures and contexts, making the metaphor accessible to a diverse audience. This universal resonance deepens the emotional connection between the audience and the characters, as the metaphor evokes shared human experiences of suffocation and the instinctual drive for survival. Furthermore, the phrase aligns seamlessly with broader themes of resourcefulness and balance, underscoring the precarious relationship between life and the risks that threaten it.

In the context of the narrative, the metaphor enriches both character dynamics and thematic exploration. Wade's choice of words reflects his concern for Ember's well-being, showcasing his awareness and quick thinking in a high-stakes scenario. Simultaneously, the metaphor amplifies the audience's engagement by blending practical advice with vivid imagery that captures the peril of the moment. This duality of function—practicality and emotional evocation—illustrates the versatility and depth of structural metaphors in storytelling.

Ultimately, "running out of air" is more than just a descriptive phrase; it is a narrative device that encapsulates complex ideas of urgency, survival, and resilience in a manner that is both accessible and impactful. By mapping a universal experience of resource depletion onto the act of breathing, the metaphor creates a vivid and memorable moment that reinforces the emotional stakes of the scene while deepening the audience's connection to the characters and the story's themes.

Datum 2

Ember : Dad, I'll take care of it. You need to rest.

Mr. Bernie: How?

Ember : I learned from the best.

Mr. Bernie: I am old. I can't do this forever. Now that you've beaten my time, there's only one thing you haven't done. Tomorrow, I sleep in and I want you to run shop for Red Dot Sale.

Ember : Seriously? By myself?

The dialogue between Ember and Mr. Bernie encapsulates a profound moment of transition through the conceptual metaphor "Time as a Resource." This metaphor frames time as a finite, valuable commodity that can be quantified, managed, and even surpassed, aligning with the theory of Lakoff and Johnson. By stating that Ember has "beaten [his] time," Mr. Bernie transforms the abstract and intangible nature of time into a tangible, competitive framework, making his acknowledgment of Ember's growth more vivid and emotionally impactful. This choice of words not only reflects Mr. Bernie's pride in Ember's

achievements but also symbolizes his readiness to entrust her with greater responsibilities, marking a critical turning point in their relationship.

The use of the metaphor "beaten my time" carries multiple layers of meaning. First, it conveys a sense of accomplishment and recognition. By framing Ember's progress as a victory in a figurative race against time, Mr. Bernie underscores her readiness and capability to take over responsibilities that he can no longer manage. This is not merely a practical acknowledgment but an emotional one, where Mr. Bernie expresses his pride in Ember's growth and her ability to surpass his own efforts. Second, the metaphor introduces a subtle yet powerful competitive element. This framing can be interpreted as both playful and motivational, emphasizing the value of striving for excellence. It highlights Ember's determination, resilience, and ability to excel, qualities that are essential for the challenges ahead.

Moreover, the metaphor's framing provides clarity and relatability. The conceptualization of time as a resource resonates universally, as it mirrors everyday experiences where time is often seen as something to be managed or overcome. This relatability makes Mr. Bernie's statement not only impactful for Ember but also accessible and meaningful to the audience. By linking time to a concrete, measurable concept, Mr. Bernie ensures that the weight of his trust and the significance of this moment are fully understood. The metaphor also allows Ember to grasp the symbolic importance of her progress and the trust her father places in her.

Beyond the immediate interaction, the metaphor "Time as a Resource" reflects deeper themes of legacy and generational transition. Mr. Bernie's admission that he "can't do this forever" signals the inevitability of change and the passing of responsibilities from one generation to the next. His use of the metaphor positions Ember as more than just a successor; she is depicted as someone who has already surpassed expectations and proven her readiness to step into her role. This moment is not only a practical acknowledgment of Ember's capabilities but also an emotional one, as it signifies the culmination of years of effort and growth. The metaphor bridges the gap between Mr. Bernie's feelings of nostalgia and his confidence in Ember's future.

Furthermore, this interaction highlights the emotional depth of their relationship. Mr. Bernie's pride and trust in Ember are evident through his words, while Ember's initial hesitation and eventual acceptance reflect her recognition of the weight of the moment. The metaphor amplifies this emotional resonance by linking their conversation to universal human experiences of time, responsibility, and achievement. It also underscores the narrative's broader themes of growth, resilience, and the inevitability of change. The dialogue becomes a powerful moment of connection, where both characters acknowledge the shifting dynamics of their relationship.

In conclusion, the metaphor "Time as a Resource" in Mr. Bernie's statement is more than just a linguistic device; it is a narrative tool that enriches the story with emotional depth and thematic significance. It encapsulates the essence of generational transition, empowerment, and legacy, presenting Ember's journey not just as linear growth but as a meaningful and recognized achievement. By conceptualizing time as something that can be "beaten," the metaphor provides a vivid and memorable framework for understanding the characters' evolving relationship, resonating deeply with the audience and reinforcing the universal themes of responsibility, trust, and change.

Datum 3

Ember : Wait, does that mean you'll tear up the tickets?

Wade: I mean, I would, but I just sent them over to the processing department. But I can take you there so you can plead your case.

Wade: Hey, Fern. (chuckles) How you doing?

Fern : Living the dream

The phrase "living the dream," as used by Fern, is a striking example of how metaphors can be subverted to convey a deeper emotional reality. Typically, the metaphor "Life as a Dream" evokes images of happiness, fulfillment, and alignment with one's aspirations. It symbolizes a state where one's achievements or circumstances reflect one's ideal vision of success and contentment. However, Fern's sarcastic tone, flat delivery, and visibly disinterested demeanor reveal the opposite sentiment. His use of the phrase transforms it into a biting critique of his current situation, where the reality falls far short of the ideals implied by the metaphor. This subversion effectively highlights his dissatisfaction, boredom, and perhaps a deeper sense of frustration with the routine or monotony of his work life.

Fern's sarcasm does more than express discontent; it also serves as a subtle social commentary. By using "living the dream" ironically, he draws attention to the dissonance between societal expectations and personal experience. In many professional or social settings, individuals are often expected to project an air of satisfaction and positivity, even when their internal state does not align with these outward expressions. Fern's choice of words challenges this performative optimism, using humor and irony to underscore the gap between the facade and reality. The phrase thus becomes a critique of the cultural pressure to mask dissatisfaction and conform to the idealized image of success, where "living the dream" is often a superficial claim rather than a genuine experience.

In the context of the scene, this use of sarcasm not only adds depth to Fern's character but also enriches the interaction between him, Wade, and Ember. His comment provides a moment of levity, breaking the tension of the narrative while simultaneously revealing his personality—one marked by cynicism, wit, and perhaps a quiet resignation to his circumstances. The juxtaposition between Fern's words and his delivery invites the audience to engage with the layered complexity of his emotions, making him a more relatable and multidimensional character. It also highlights the contrasting dynamics within the scene, as Wade and Ember focus on their immediate tasks while Fern appears disengaged and detached from the enthusiasm surrounding them.

Thematically, Fern's subversion of "living the dream" aligns with broader motifs of disillusionment and the tension between appearance and reality. It underscores the idea that language, particularly metaphors, can carry multiple layers of meaning depending on context and delivery. While the phrase might traditionally signify fulfillment, its ironic usage exposes the fragility of such ideals and the frequent disparity between external expressions and internal states. This tension resonates universally, as many individuals have experienced moments where societal or professional expectations clash with personal emotions, making Fern's reaction both humorous and poignantly familiar.

Moreover, this interaction resonates on a deeper cultural level. By twisting the metaphor, Fern critiques not just his immediate situation but also the broader narrative of "dream fulfillment" that dominates modern cultural discourses. The notion of "living the dream" is often romanticized in popular culture as an attainable and desirable goal. Fern's sarcasm punctures this ideal, suggesting that the "dream" is often an illusion, and the reality behind it may be mundane, unfulfilling, or even frustrating. His response encourages the audience to reflect on their own experiences with this dissonance, making the moment simultaneously humorous, critical, and reflective.

In conclusion, Fern's sarcastic use of "living the dream" is a rich and multifaceted moment that blends humor, critique, and character development. It transforms a simple phrase into a powerful narrative tool, revealing his emotional state, critiquing societal norms, and deepening the thematic resonance of the scene. Through his irony, the phrase becomes not just a reflection of his discontent but also a universal commentary on the complexities of aspirations and the realities they often fail to meet. Fern's delivery invites the audience to engage with these layers, making his character and the scene memorable and impactful.

### **Orientational Metaphor**

Orientational metaphor involves the spatial or physical orientations onto abstract concepts. It is a specific type of metaphor that relies on our experiences or cultural and spatial understanding to conceptualize and talk about abstract ideas.

Datum 4

Mrs. Ripple : Hardly. Wade hasn't stopped talking about you since the day you met.  
The boy is smitten.

Wade : Mom.

Mrs. Ripple : Oh, come on. I'm your mother. I know when something's lighting you up.

The sentence "I know when something's lighting you up," spoken by Mrs. Ripple, exemplifies a profound use of metaphor that encapsulates the emotional intensity of Wade's feelings for Ember. Drawing on the orientational metaphor "happiness is up," the phrase "lighting you up" connects Wade's internal emotional state—his joy and passion—with the external manifestation of those feelings, symbolized by radiance and brightness. The imagery of light is powerful and universal, often associated with positivity, warmth, and transformation. Mrs. Ripple's words suggest that Wade's enthusiasm and happiness are so evident that they shine through him, much like a light illuminating from within. This observation not only highlights Mrs. Ripple's perceptiveness as a mother but also her emotional attunement to her son's experiences, creating a moment of closeness and understanding in their relationship.

The metaphor serves multiple purposes within the context of the scene. Firstly, it reflects Mrs. Ripple's deep empathy and ability to read her son's emotions, showcasing her intuitive nature and her role as a supportive mother. By acknowledging Wade's feelings in this way, she validates his emotions and implicitly encourages him to embrace them. Her tone is warm and approving, signaling her excitement about his relationship with Ember. This subtle encouragement fosters an environment of trust and openness, allowing Wade to feel comfortable sharing his emotions. Additionally, Mrs. Ripple's comment also serves as a bridge between herself and Ember. By openly discussing Wade's happiness, she indirectly includes Ember in their family dynamic, signaling her acceptance and creating a sense of connection. This moment becomes a foundation for a positive relationship between Mrs. Ripple and Ember, highlighting the mother's welcoming and supportive nature.

Beyond its immediate relational impact, the metaphor "lighting you up" carries symbolic and cultural resonance, particularly when contextualized within the story's elemental framework. Ember, as a fire element, embodies light and brightness, making Mrs. Ripple's choice of words particularly fitting. The metaphor aligns Ember's fiery nature with the joy and excitement she brings into Wade's life, adding a layer of

symbolism that enriches the narrative. Mrs. Ripple's ability to recognize this connection further underscores her perceptiveness and emotional intelligence. The metaphor thus becomes more than a simple description of happiness; it serves as a thematic link between the characters' emotions and their elemental identities.

On a broader level, the phrase reflects universal themes of love, family, and emotional connection. It captures the transformative power of positive emotions, particularly how love and excitement can elevate one's demeanor and bring light into their life. Mrs. Ripple's use of the phrase demonstrates her role as a facilitator of emotional bonding, not only between herself and Wade but also between Wade and Ember. Her openness and warmth invite a deeper emotional connection, signaling her readiness to embrace the changes in Wade's life with enthusiasm and support. The metaphor's use of light imagery also resonates universally, as brightness and illumination are common symbols of joy and positivity, making the moment relatable and impactful for the audience.

In conclusion, Mrs. Ripple's statement "I know when something's lighting you up" is a rich and layered use of metaphor that captures the essence of Wade's emotional state while fostering connection and understanding within the family. The metaphor reflects her empathy, support, and emotional intelligence, while also aligning with the narrative's elemental symbolism through Ember's fiery identity. By linking Wade's joy to light, the metaphor reinforces the themes of love, transformation, and acceptance that run through the story. This simple yet profound phrase encapsulates the complexities of familial and romantic relationships, making the moment both memorable and emotionally resonant for the characters and the audience..

#### Datum 5

Bernir : Cinder? Who down there? Ember : It's my dad. You have to go.

Wade : Wait, are we a match? (YELPS)

Bernie : What's going on? I wake up and nobody upstairs.

Ember : It was just me. I was doublechecking the locks. (CHUCKLES)

The phrase "wake up," as used by Mr. Bernie, operates as a layered orientational metaphor that bridges the literal act of awakening with the broader concept of becoming conscious and attentive. At its core, the metaphor symbolizes a transition from unconsciousness to awareness, aligning with the conceptual framework described in Lakoff and Johnson's *Metaphors We Live By*, where "up" is associated with consciousness, presence, and activity, while "down" signifies passivity and unconsciousness. When Mr. Bernie says, "I wake up," he signals not only his literal return to consciousness from sleep but also a metaphorical readiness to reengage with his surroundings and assume responsibility for the unfolding situation. This choice of words elevates a mundane statement into one rich with cultural and emotional resonance, underscoring his role as an attentive and protective figure within the family.

The metaphor extends beyond the physical act of waking, conveying a moment of clarity and heightened awareness. By explicitly stating "I wake up," Mr. Bernie emphasizes his presence and readiness to act, contrasting sharply with the passive state of sleep. This declaration also serves as a subtle assertion of authority, as his alertness reestablishes his oversight of the household. In many cultural contexts, the phrase "wake up" is imbued with connotations of vigilance, responsibility, and readiness to respond, making it an effective metaphor for his role as the head of the family. Moreover, this phrase reflects his instinctive protective nature, reinforcing his connection to his duties as a parent and his commitment to maintaining order.

In the context of the scene, the use of "wake up" heightens the tension and urgency, as Mr. Bernie's sudden awareness disrupts Ember's attempt to discreetly manage the situation. His words shift the focus of the interaction, forcing both Ember and Wade to react to his presence. The metaphor amplifies this moment, creating a narrative pivot where Mr. Bernie's awareness demands immediate adjustment from the other characters. This dynamic interaction underscores his character's reliability and attentiveness, portraying him as someone who is quick to perceive and address any disruptions within his domain.

Culturally, the metaphor "wake up" carries profound symbolic weight. Across languages and traditions, awakening is often associated with enlightenment, realization, or the initiation of action. This universal association enhances the impact of Mr. Bernie's words, as they resonate with the audience's shared understanding of "waking up" as a call to attention and readiness. The upward orientation implied by the metaphor aligns with broader cultural narratives that associate "up" with positive states such as awareness, energy, and engagement, reinforcing the idea that awakening marks a transition to an active and purposeful state.

Ultimately, the phrase "wake up" serves multiple narrative and thematic functions within the scene. It reflects Mr. Bernie's transition from passivity to active engagement, underscores his vigilance and authority, and introduces tension that drives the characters' interactions forward. At the same time, it resonates as a cultural symbol of awareness and responsibility, blending practicality with deeper metaphorical significance. Through this simple yet powerful phrase, the scene conveys the complexity of Mr. Bernie's character and the shifting dynamics of the moment, making it both impactful and relatable for the audience.

Datum 6

People : Toot Toot juice, get your Toot Toot juice. Wade : You'll be great. This way.

Ember : Excuse me.

Wade : Jimmy, what's up?

Ember : Sorry. Pardon.

Wendy : Oh. Sorry. Fire girl coming through.

The phrase "What's up?" used by Wade in this scene serves as an orientational metaphor that frames the inquiry about someone's current state regarding upward movement or condition. In the metaphorical framework, "up" is associated with positive states, progress, and well-being, while "down" connotes negativity, stagnation, or decline. This linguistic association reflects broader cultural and cognitive patterns where upward movement is metaphorically linked to desirable or improved states. By using the phrase "what is up?" Wade is not merely asking about Jimmy's circumstances; he is implicitly inquiring about any positive updates, exciting developments, or notable occurrences in his life. The metaphor suggests an interest in uplifting news or an optimistic perspective, subtly reinforcing a culturally ingrained preference for framing situations in terms of improvement and positivity.

This seemingly casual phrase carries significant social and cultural weight. In many cultures and languages, expressions involving "up" are commonly used to denote improvement, success, or a positive outlook. The widespread use of "what is up?" as a greeting or inquiry reflects this cultural norm, making it a socially understood and accepted way to initiate conversation. Wade's choice of words aligns with these conventions, signaling his interest in Jimmy's well-being while adhering to familiar

conversational norms. This usage highlights how metaphors shape everyday language, embedding abstract concepts such as well-being and curiosity into simple, relatable expressions.

Wade's use of "what's up?" serves multiple purposes in the scene's context. First, it conveys genuine interest in Jimmy's situation, demonstrating Wade's attentiveness and willingness to engage. The upward orientation of the metaphor reinforces the idea that Wade is looking for positive or noteworthy developments, subtly encouraging Jimmy to share good news or express optimism. This inquiry establishes a friendly and open tone, facilitating connection and rapport. Second, the phrase maintains the rhythm of the scene by aligning with the fast-paced and conversational nature of the interaction. It serves as a brief yet impactful way to acknowledge Jimmy and keep the dialogue flowing.

Moreover, the use of "what's up?" reflects Wade's adherence to cultural norms of communication, where greetings and inquiries often prioritize lightheartedness and positivity. This aligns with the broader social function of greetings, which are not merely utilitarian but also serve to establish and reinforce social bonds. By employing this phrase, Wade demonstrates an awareness of the cultural script for casual interactions, ensuring that his communication feels natural and approachable.

On a broader thematic level, the metaphor "what's up?" ties into the story's emphasis on connection and understanding. The metaphor's upward orientation mirrors the narrative's aspirational and optimistic undertones, emphasizing the importance of finding positivity even in everyday exchanges. Wade's use of this phrase reflects his character's inherent curiosity and friendly nature, reinforcing his role as a connector between characters.

In conclusion, Wade's use of "what's up?" in the scene is more than a casual greeting; it is a layered expression rooted in orientational metaphor that reflects cultural norms, conveys interest, and promotes connection. By framing his inquiry in terms of "up," Wade aligns his language with universal associations of positivity and progress, making his interaction with Jimmy both culturally resonant and personally meaningful. This simple phrase serves as a bridge between characters, enhancing the relational dynamics of the scene while subtly reinforcing the narrative's themes of optimism and connection.

### **Ontological Metaphor**

Ontological metaphor is experienced with physical objects (especially our own bodies) that view events, activities, emotions, and ideas as entities and substances even though they do not possess physical existence.

Datum 7

Ember : Are you crying?

Wade : Yes. I've just never been punched in the face with beauty before.

Ember : (LAUGHING, GASPS) It worked!

Wade's statement, "I've just never been punched in the face with beauty before," employs a vivid ontological metaphor to describe the overwhelming impact of encountering something extraordinarily beautiful. While the phrase suggests a physical blow, its meaning is entirely figurative, equating beauty's emotional and sensory power to the force of a punch. This metaphor personifies beauty, attributing it to the capacity to act upon Wade physically and viscerally. Through this metaphor, Wade conveys the intensity of his reaction, capturing the transformative and striking nature of the moment. Using the

term "punched" elevates his admiration for Ember's creation, emphasizing its power to captivate and move him.

This ontological metaphor functions on multiple levels. First, it expresses the sheer impact of Ember's skill and artistry. By comparing the experience to being punched, Wade underscores how her work transcends ordinary beauty and enters the realm of the extraordinary. The metaphor implies that Ember's creation—a high glass wall designed with precision and artistic excellence—has a profound effect, rendering Wade momentarily stunned. This choice of words not only praises Ember's talent but also conveys the emotional weight of the experience, making it clear that this is a beauty unlike any he has encountered before.

Secondly, the metaphor highlights the uniqueness of the moment. By describing the beauty as something that "punched" him, Wade implies that it stands out from all his prior experiences. The metaphor captures Ember's work's rarity and exceptional nature, elevating it to a level that demands admiration and awe. It positions the experience as unique and unforgettable, reinforcing Ember's abilities as skilled and extraordinary.

Moreover, the metaphor enhances expressiveness and engagement in the dialogue. Wade's choice of language is descriptive and highly evocative, creating a striking image that resonates with the audience. The dramatic nature of the metaphor makes his reaction memorable and adds emotional depth to his character. It also serves to deepen his connection with Ember, as his words acknowledge and celebrate her abilities in a personal and heartfelt way. This level of engagement strengthens their bond, making the interaction more meaningful and intimate.

The metaphor also conveys emotional depth and vulnerability. By comparing his reaction to being "punched," Wade reveals Ember's creation's profound effect on him, evoking strong feelings of awe, wonder, and admiration. His words reflect his openness and willingness to express his emotions candidly, highlighting his genuine appreciation for her talent. This vulnerability adds a layer of authenticity to the interaction, making his response more impactful and relatable.

Wade's statement encapsulates the transformative power of beauty and artistry in the scene's context. Ember's creation is both functional and profoundly moving, blending practicality with aesthetic brilliance. The metaphor "punched in the face with beauty" captures this duality, emphasizing how her work solves a problem and inspires admiration and wonder. The imagery of the shining, glassy wall reinforces the metaphor's impact, symbolizing clarity, strength, and artistic excellence.

In conclusion, Wade's metaphorical statement powerfully expresses the emotional and sensory impact of encountering extraordinary beauty. Through the ontological metaphor, he personifies beauty as an active force, highlighting the moment's intensity, uniqueness, and emotional depth. The metaphor enriches the narrative by celebrating Ember's talent, deepening the connection between the characters, and emphasizing the transformative potential of artistry. This vivid and evocative language makes the interaction memorable and resonant, leaving a lasting impression on the audience.

Datum 8

Wade : Look, I know it can be tough. I mean, with my dad, we were like oil and water. I never got a chance to fix that. But you guys are different. It might be time to tell him.

Ember : Yeah, right. And tell him what? That I got us shut down and destroyed his dream?

The phrase "It might be time to tell him," as used by Wade, employs a personification of the abstract concept of time, transforming it into an active agent capable of influencing decisions and perspectives. This metaphorical interpretation aligns with Lakoff and Johnson's theory that abstract concepts are often understood through the framework of more tangible entities. Here, time is depicted as a force with agency—an entity that can shape events, guide actions, or create the right conditions for a significant revelation. By attributing such qualities to time, Wade effectively suggests that timing is crucial in determining the outcome of Ember's relationship with her father and resolving their conflict.

The metaphor carries multiple layers of meaning and serves a variety of purposes within the context of the scene. Firstly, it emphasizes the importance of patience and timing in addressing emotionally charged situations. Wade implies that the right moment for Ember to share her concerns with her father is approaching, encouraging her to trust the natural progression of events. This framing allows Wade to offer support and guidance without imposing a definitive course of action, leaving room for Ember to decide when she feels ready to confront her father.

Secondly, the metaphor provides a sense of inevitability and optimism. By suggesting that "it might be time," Wade conveys that the opportunity for resolution is imminent and part of a natural and expected process. This perspective reassures Ember, implying that even tricky or strained relationships, like her father's, can evolve and improve with time. Wade's use of this metaphor subtly introduces the idea that time, as an agent, can facilitate understanding and healing, fostering a sense of hope and possibility.

Additionally, the metaphor resonates with universal experiences of decision-making and emotional readiness. People rely on "the right time" to address complex or sensitive issues in many contexts, trusting that time will provide clarity, courage, or favorable conditions. Wade's statement taps into this shared understanding, making his advice relatable and persuasive. By framing time as an ally in resolving conflicts, he shifts the focus away from immediate obstacles, encouraging Ember to consider the broader trajectory of her relationship with her father.

The metaphor also reflects Wade's emotional growth and understanding of familial dynamics. By referencing his unresolved relationship with his father, he contrasts his past mistakes with the potential for a different outcome in Ember's situation. This comparison underscores his belief in the power of communication and timing to mend relationships, lending weight to his advice. It also adds depth to his character, showing that his perspective is shaped by personal experience and regret, making his support for Ember more empathetic and heartfelt.

In the broader narrative, the phrase "it might be time to tell him" underscores reconciliation, patience, and growth themes. It suggests that while time cannot directly solve problems, it creates opportunities for resolution by allowing emotions to settle and perspectives to shift. The metaphor encapsulates the delicate balance between waiting for the right moment and taking action, highlighting the interplay of timing and agency in navigating personal relationships.

In conclusion, Wade's use of the metaphor "it might be time to tell him" is a nuanced and powerful way to encourage Ember to confront her challenges while emphasizing the importance of timing and emotional readiness. By personifying time as an active and guiding force, Wade offers an optimistic perspective grounded in personal experience. This metaphor not only reinforces the themes of patience and growth but also deepens the scene's emotional resonance, making it a pivotal moment in the narrative that highlights the transformative potential of time in healing relationships and fostering understanding.

Datum 9

Bernie : Welcome, my Ember, to your new life. Our Blue Flame hold all our traditions and give us strength to burn bright. Do I burn as bright? One, two, one, two, one, two.

Bernie : This shop is dream of our family. Someday it'll all be yours.

The metaphor "Our Blue Flame holds all our traditions," spoken by Bernie, is a poignant example of an ontological metaphor that imbues the Blue Flame with human-like qualities of agency and responsibility. In this metaphorical framework, the Blue Flame is conceptualized as more than a natural phenomenon; it becomes a guardian and preserver of the family's cultural and emotional heritage. The phrase "holds all our traditions" transforms the abstract concept of tradition into something tangible that can be actively safeguarded. This metaphor highlights the importance of the flame as a symbolic anchor for the family's legacy, suggesting that it not only embodies their shared values and customs but also ensures their continuity across generations. By associating the flame with the act of "holding," Bernie emphasizes its role as a caretaker, reinforcing the sacredness and enduring power of the family's identity.

This metaphor functions on multiple levels, both personal and cultural. First, it symbolizes the family's traditions, with the Blue Flame acting as a visual and emotional emblem of purity, endurance, and connection. Fire has long been a universal symbol of life, transformation, and renewal, and the choice of a blue flame—often associated with stability and intensity—further enhances its significance. Bernie uses this symbol to encapsulate the essence of their family's collective memory and values, portraying them as sacred and unchanging elements that must be protected and cherished. This connection elevates the Blue Flame from a physical element to a significant representation of the family's heritage.

Second, the metaphor underscores preservation and continuity as central themes. By describing the Blue Flame as the keeper of their traditions, Bernie conveys that their customs are not static relics of the past but living legacies that require active stewardship. This framing reinforces the idea that heritage is dynamic, something to be nurtured and passed down rather than remembered. Through the flame, Bernie emphasizes the importance of connecting to their roots while ensuring their traditions remain relevant and vibrant for future generations.

Third, the metaphor reflects Bernie's profound respect and reverence for the family's customs. His choice of words portrays the Blue Flame as an honorable and sacrosanct entity worthy of care and devotion. This respect is mirrored in his tone, which conveys pride and a sense of duty toward upholding the family's values. By attributing such significance to the flame, Bernie honors their past and reinforces the importance of passing on this reverence to Ember. His statement becomes a powerful expression of trust as he entrusts her with the responsibility to protect and carry forward their shared identity.

Additionally, the metaphor reinforces themes of identity and belonging. The Blue Flame is a unified force connecting past, present, and future generations. It symbolizes the family's collective identity, reminding them of their shared history and values. Bernie's assertion that the shop, and by extension, the traditions it represents, will one day belong to Ember highlights the generational transition of this legacy. This moment signifies Bernie's belief in Ember's ability to uphold the family's traditions, fostering a sense of pride, connection, and belonging.

The metaphor also resonates with cultural and emotional symbolism. Fire, particularly in its blue form, is universally associated with resilience, wisdom, and purity. These qualities enhance the emotional impact of the metaphor, making it both relatable and evocative. The image of a flame holding traditions evokes a sense of warmth, continuity, and steadfastness, underscoring the enduring nature of familial heritage. This cultural resonance amplifies the metaphor's significance, linking it to shared human experiences of legacy, memory, and the importance of preserving one's roots.

In conclusion, the metaphor "Our Blue Flame holds all our traditions" is a richly layered expression that encapsulates the sacredness and continuity of the family's heritage. By attributing agency and responsibility to the Blue Flame, Bernie transforms it into a powerful symbol of preservation, respect, and identity. The metaphor emphasizes the importance of maintaining and honoring traditions while fostering a deep emotional connection between Bernie, Ember, and their shared legacy. Through this poignant metaphor, the narrative underscores the enduring power of family values to transcend time and connect generations, making it a profoundly resonant and impactful moment in the story.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the scopes of discussion proposed in chapter I and the analysis of metaphor data in chapter III, it could be concluded that there are 3 kinds of metaphor proposed by John and Lakoff (2003) found in this movie. These kinds of metaphors are structural metaphor, orientational metaphor, and ontological metaphor. The data found 5 structural metaphors, 18 orientational metaphors, and 19 ontological metaphors which is the most type of metaphor used is ontological metaphor. This reason comes because the author wanted to convince the audience that the event, idea, activity, and emotion could be present in term of entity in our style of language. This also appears more often than others because the type of ontology is applicable and easier to understood by the children. On the contrary, the author rarely uses structural metaphor because it is too much to think how abstract things convert into the concrete concept in the children literature.

In terms of the second scope of discussion, the reasons why the characters used the metaphorical phrase and sentence are to enhance the narration, storytelling, and visual experience for the audience. By employing metaphoric language, the movie could effectively communicate the complex and abstract concepts related to the forces of nature. Through metaphorical representations, the movie brings the elements to life evoke emotions and create a deeper emotional connection with the viewer. Furthermore, metaphor also engages the viewers to provide an effectiveness of the storytelling, conveying deeper meaning by connecting it with the elemental forces explored in the film.

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