

Relationality and Metaphorical Landscape of Studio Ghibli Song Lyrics: An Ecolinguistic Study

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Abstract

This research addressed a significant gap in the literature regarding the ecological messaging embedded in Studio Ghibli's song lyrics, which has been largely overlooked compared to visual and narrative elements. Qualitative in design, grounded on Ecolinguistics and utilizing Critical Metaphor Analysis, this research examined chosen Ghibli songs in a search for the presence of common metaphors and what such metaphors could suggest for ecological relationality. Structural and ontological metaphors that express the link between humanity and nature can be found in the data analysis, which could further be divided into intra-, inter-, and extra-relations. These metaphors produced emotional links to the environment and built a better understanding of ecological issues among young listeners. Thus, the discussion points toward language and its role in making an environmentally aware being. It concluded that artistic expressions from Ghibli's musical narratives were critical in developing ecological consciousness and motivation toward action against climate change. This gave one reason to believe in incorporating an Ecolinguistic approach and artistic narrative in the context of environmental education in early stage of learning.

Keywords: *ecolinguistic, ghibli studio, relationality, metaphorical landscape*

Introduction

In the study presented by Amitav (2016), our inability to respond to climate crises led to the great need for stories underlying modernity to gather complexities and highlight fundamental ways to fight against climate change. This goes to the man who created Studio Ghibli- Hayao Miyazaki. Miyazaki of Studio Ghibli opens a new perspective on responding to the climate crisis. He is acknowledged globally for his animation films, notably *Spirited Away* (Yoneyama et al., 2021). Although there have been attempts to clarify the theoretical significance of Miyazaki's work about climate change (Pan, 2020), scholarly attention has been given to the visual and narrative aspects of Studio Ghibli's films, and the ecological messaging in the songs still needs to be explored.

Studio Ghibli (Kabushiki-gaisha Sutajio Jiburi) is one of the most influential animation studios in the world (Lioi, A. 2015; Darling-Wolf, F., 2018). This was founded in 1985 by directors Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata and producer Toshio Suzuki (Hara, K., 2024). Ghibli's films address ecological issues, such as the long-term effects of industrial waste, the damage done by atomic bombs, the relationship between ecotopia and artificial intelligence, the destruction of forests by industry, and the persistence of deep time in the present (Mridha, S., 2019).

Studio Ghibli, in general, has always been interested in environmental themes. Some film companies have adopted eco themes as an easy grade. However, Miyazaki loves not merely sustainable environments but also the right of children to be children. Miyazaki's films not only caught the zeitgeist in the late 20th Century, for audiences just starting to come to terms with environmental issues, but also in the 21st Century, with millennials growing up with a sense that their world has already been despoiled (Haider, A., 2021). The Ghibli influence is already huge with its schema-activating potential to influence an audience's perception and interpretation of film plot and protagonists, film music or songs goes far beyond the role of an emotionalizing accessory in film contexts (Herget, A.-K., 2019) and Studio Ghibli songs serves as a bridge connecting historical richness with cinematic splendour.

This highlights a relevant theory called "Ecocriticism," about the interaction of literature, culture, and environment. Ecocriticism is an interdisciplinary field that mainly focuses on literary, ecological, and philosophical studies, which allows for formulating a more complex approach (Yadav et al., 2024). Its core is the matter of how the arts and culture are the primary representational devices of the environment and the way the media is used in the process of the generation of ecological awareness and the information that it provides, as well as the media's powerful nature of influencing human attitudes toward nature. Ecocriticism, particularly when integrated with Ecolinguistics, examines how language and metaphors shape individuals' perceptions of the environment, often through artistic expressions like literature, film, or music. This approach also considers the role of artistic works in ecologically achieving awareness and activism through the differences brought about by an anthropocentric versus an ecocentric worldview. According to Stibbe (2015) and Ross A. (2019), ecocriticism reads against or challenges the representations of nature presented in cultural texts to understand how these representations foster a deeper connection with the natural world and ecological action.

This study explores the recurring ecolinguistic morphology connection in selected Ghibli songs, the role of linguistic metaphors in shaping young listeners' ecological perspectives, and how these songs promote environmental

awareness and emotional connections to nature. By adopting an Ecolinguistic design and applying Critical Metaphor Analysis to the lyrics, the study aims to shed light on how language influences the formation of ecological influence worldviews.

Literature Review

Metaphorical Language

In an age where environmental degradation and climate change are critical global issues, the role of media and culture in fostering ecological awareness has become increasingly relevant (Sabra, P., & Al-Moaz, M. A. (2022)). Numerous studies on the connection between metaphorical language and the environment have been conducted, including a study carried out by Michelle Gargan (2007) entitled *Magic Romance: on Perfume, Language and the Environment, Language and Ecology in Ecolinguistics Perspective: A Case Study on Teaching Language in Riau, Indonesia* by Jismulatif and Dahnisyah (2019) and Douglas Ponton (2015), in his study entitled *The Natural Choice? Metaphors for nature in a UK government white paper* discussed the persuasive aspects of government documents (white papers) viewed using metaphorical language as cited by Jismulatif, J., et al. (2020).

Ecolinguistic

Ecolinguistics, the study of language's role in shaping ecological perspectives, offers a valuable framework (Li, J., Steffensen, S. V., & Huang, G., 2020) for analyzing how the lyrics of Ghibli songs influence listeners' understanding of environmental issues. By examining metaphors, symbols, and thematic structures within the lyrics, ecolinguistic analysis reveals how language promotes anthropocentric or ecocentric views, affecting how young audiences perceive their relationship with nature. The ultimate goal of Ecolinguistics is to develop linguistic theory by looking at humans as part of society and a larger ecosystem on which life depends (Stibbe, A., 2021). In addition, Ecolinguistics also shows how linguistics can be used to tackle ecological problems that are increasingly serious, from climate change and biodiversity loss to environmental injustice (Stibbe, 2015 as cited by Perangin-Angin, D. M., & Dewi, N., 2020).

Methodology

This qualitative research adopted an Ecolinguistic design using the Critical Metaphor Analysis. One of the dominant analytical frameworks proposed to study metaphors, particularly from a critical discourse analysis lens, is Charteris-Black's (2004) Critical Metaphor Analysis Approach (CMA). Inspired by Fairclough's (1995) three-dimensional framework, CMA is composed of three levels of analysis: Metaphor Identification, Metaphor Interpretation, and Metaphor Explanation (Charteris-Black, 2004; Susilowati, N. E. et al, 2023)

The researcher also adopted the Ecolinguistic morphology model by Bundsgaard and Steffensen (2000) through types of relation: Intra-relations, Inter-relations, and Extra-relations to analyze the structural and ontological metaphor presented in the following Ghibli song lyrics. It considers all three kinds of relationality. Indeed, seen from our dialectical point of view, Ecolinguistics is the study of language's intra-, inter-, and extra-relations and the relations between these relations. (Bundsgaard, J., & Steffensen, S., 2000; Sianturi, S. et al, 2024).

The researchers selected specific linguistic datasets based on several key criteria to ensure relevance and accuracy. Firstly, recognition within the Ghibli community was essential, ensuring that the songs chosen were widely acknowledged and respected in this context. The original Japanese language and its English translations were also considered to capture the nuanced meanings and ecological perspectives conveyed in the song lyrics. Additionally, the availability of the songs and their translations on accessible platforms was a critical factor in ensuring ease of analysis. By carefully applying these criteria, the researchers ensured that the selected songs met the study's ecological perspective standards.

Table 1: *Ghibli Songs*

Code	Song Title	Artist or Composer	Song Description
#1	世界の約束 (Promise World)	BAISHOU Chieko	"Promise World" embodies the fruit of a lovely harmony between humans and nature and stresses the beauty of coexistence. The lyrics also indicate a feeling of giving back to nature so future generations can inherit a pleasant environment. The song's melodic narration reminds us of our promise to save the Earth.
#2	人生のメリーゴーランド (The Merry-Go-Round of Life)	Shuntaro Tanikawa & Joe Hisaishi	"The Merry-Go-Round of Life" captures the life cycle from which we all grow: all upsides result from previous downsides. The infusion of the human realm within this song, reminding the listener of the precarious balance that keeps it intact, speaks volumes about our collective travel on this Earth.

#3	となりのトトロ (My Neighbor Totoro)	Joe Hisaishi & Azumi Inoue	My Neighbor Totoro" symbolizes the assimilation of humans into the world around them, according to the depicted "mythology" of the character Totoro. The song is a representation of the innocence children have when discovering nature. The beauty of the surroundings speaks of preserving natural landscapes for generations to come. Or, the carefree, merry melodies foreground the importance of protecting those natural areas for years to come.
#4	風のとおり道 (Pathway of Wind)	Joe Hisaishi	This sounds peaceful and related to the world. It gives impressions of light breezes blowing over vast expanses of flowing landscapes and reminds one of a journey in life, urging people to care for the surroundings and respect the beauty of nature. Somber melodies remind people to preserve these paths both for humans and animals.
#5	カントリー・ロード (Country Roads)	Yoko Honna	"Country Roads" is about yearning to return to find a home where nature meets to be with the Earth. This song tells the listener how the people maintain a relationship with the Earth and rejoice in the simplicity and beauty of country life. This song elaborates on the nostalgia of the natural land and the importance of holding our roots.
#6	あこがれのまち (The City of My Dreams)	Mai & Yumiko	The song represents the ideal world, where humans live in complete accordance with nature. It is a hope for a city and building process that considers nature and offers good living conditions. The song expects livable homes in an interdependent world.
#7	いつも何度でも (Always with Me)	Youmi Kimura	Always with Me is a song that denotes the perpetuity of connection to nature and memory, which shape our identities. This has the message that the environment plays an integral role in the personal lives of individuals so that memories are never forgotten. Its devotion invites good things in when change is apparent.
#8	もののけ姫 ヴォーカル (Princess Mononoke)	Mera Yoshikazu	"Princess Mononoke" throws the message on how to come to a point where humankind and nature meet, balancing and learning from each other. Powerful themes in this song call for the listeners and thinkers to pay attention to what happens in the pollution of the environment and protect our planet as much as possible.
#9	君をのせて (Carrying You)	Inoue Izumi	This "Carrying You" song symbolizes the stewardly relationship between man and nature. Therefore, there is stewardship, and in lyrics, commitment to support each other mirrors how we should care for the environment. It captures the essence of nurturing connections to help people cherish and protect the natural world.
#10	崖の上のポニョ (Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea)	Joe Hisaishi	"Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea" expresses the magic that the ocean and its dwellers can embody in each other, bringing out the beauty and treasures of the ocean and those beings that inhabit it. The song portrays the meeting behind the working relationship between humans and nature, the meeting with this message of friendship between sea dwellers and travellers. The lightness of the melody of this song calls the people to enjoy and care for such natural wonders along with the aquatic habitat.

Findings

The analyzed data from selected Ghibli songs with the idea of 'Nature,' the classifications reveal a rich tapestry of metaphorical language. The following song's lyrics underwent metaphor identification, interpretation, and explanation (Redden, S. M., 2017), highlighting the deep emotional connections between characters and their natural surroundings. These metaphors convey messages about the significance of nature, emphasizing its role as a nurturing and vital force in human life (Kamel et al., 2024) as cited by Tracy, S. J. (2024). The metaphoric expressions found in these songs reflect a profound relationship between language and the environment (Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M., 2020), urging listeners to appreciate and protect the nature as an integral part of their existence and identity. Through these lyrical explorations, Ghibli reinforces the idea that the beauty and essence of nature are essential to our understanding of life and our place within it.

Structural Metaphor

A structural Metaphor is a conventional metaphor in which one concept is understood and expressed in terms of another structured, sharply defined concept. The source domain provides a rich knowledge structure for the target concept in this metaphor. Based on the lyrics of the Ghibli songs, nine (9) structural metaphors are discovered. The Following is the data analysis.

Song #1

Data 1:

“木漏れ日の午後”
sun beaming through the trees

The lyric concretely embraces some of the themes of beauty, nostalgia, and the emotional relationship between human beings and nature. It is poignant that we remind ourselves of the moments that constitute our lives because it invites us to consider the value of our experiences and those about us in the world around us.

Data 2:

“木漏れ日の午後”
In the color of this sky, in the fragrance of flowers

This line underlines a deeper appreciation of the beauty of nature and its ability to somehow stir life into us. The mention of colors seen in the sky and flowers' fragrances implies some connection to the senses in the environment so that nature finds ways to make our experiences and emotions more meaningful. This line suggests that the essence of life or memories may be reflected in these natural elements, then holding onto a desire for eternal connection with some beautiful moments.

Song #2

Data 3

“にこの空の色に”
To the color of this sky

It emphasizes the close relationship between human emotions and nature. There is room for reflection on how beautiful and fragile life is, urging listeners to understand their attachment to nature and the memories it stirs up with color changes. This phrase epitomizes nostalgia and hope and the mighty influence of the environment on emotional states.

Song #3

Data 2

“ちっさな芽 生えたら”
When a small sprout grows

It embodies hope, renewal, and beauty in growth in natural settings or human experience, a reminder that even the smallest beginnings could do the most fantastic things, instilling optimism and enriching appreciation for the complexity of life. The listener is then ushered into a reflection on their journeys and potential growth within themselves and their surroundings through this imagery.

Data 3

“雨ふり バス停”
Rainfall around the bus stop

The rain was the backdrop for all these deep thoughts, reminding us of the beauty and complexity inside our lands. It catches a moment while waiting in nature, marking its emotional depth. It represents this part of humanity inside a person who waits for transitions in life, introspection, and even for the bus to arrive. It fills us with this deep feeling of considered ideas about life, relations, and the passage of time.

Song #5

Data 1

“丘をまく 坂の道”
The hill-winding sloped road

The intricacies of our surroundings can be appreciated to initiate a deeper rapport with the environment and give importance to our bond with the Earth. It relates the beauty of the contours of nature and the paths we are taking

through life. It reminds us that, like the twisting road, our journey will have many twists and turns, inviting us to tackle the natural world's challenges and wonders.

Song #7

Data 3

“新しい景色が映される”
A new scenery is reflected

The beauty of changing landscapes is something that is to be appreciated by the eyes focused on the essence of transformation and renewal within the natural world. It makes one reflect on his or her journey. This phrase reminds us of the deep and substantial connection between man and nature, thus inspiring a better appreciation of this ever-evolving scenery.

Song #9

Data 1

“地球はまわる 君をかくして”
The Earth turns, hiding you.

These lyrics speak of interconnectivity, time passing, and emotional ties between humans and the Earth. The challenge is to recognize the place among nature of which one stands, graciously acknowledging the excellence and fragility of Earthly life, calling for greater awareness and stewardship over its environment.

Data 2

“地球はまわる 君をのせて”
The Earth spins, carrying you

The journey of life and the meaning of relationships will always be an excellent reminder of our placement within the world and the wonder of sharing moments. This phrase reflects life's subtle balancing act between life, love, and nature. This encouraged us to learn to cultivate our bond with others and understand our part in the great scheme of things.

Ontological Metaphor

Ontological Metaphor is a metaphor that conceptualizes the mind, experience, and other abstract components to the concrete features. Ontological metaphors provide much less cognitive structuring for target concepts than structural ones. Based on the lyrics of the Ghibli songs 10, seventeen (17), ontological metaphors are discovered. The Following is the data analysis:

Song #2

Data 1

“夜にひそやかに”
Whispering at night

It underscores the value of silence for reflection, intimate contact with nature, and communication with the Earth. It shows how existence is becoming complex; it depends on its listeners to learn the profundity of their thoughts and relationships in the soulful comfort of night time.

Data 2

“花の香りに”
In the scent of flowers

The lyric gives a reflection on beauty and fragility in life. Humans' sensory and emotional relationship with nature is underlined, especially since memories of these experiences are left vivid and alive. In this phrase, the listener is encouraged to find comfort, inspiration, and deeper meaning in that natural world and how they connect with other people in it.

Song #3

Data 1:

“森へのパスポート”
Passport to the forest

It symbolizes a quality of accessing the transformational power of nature. Thus, it invites one to take a journey along which the person gets a more apparent realization of the world around him and thereby feels deep emotional and spiritual connections. This phrase is closely related to exploration, healing, and environmental consciousness.

Data 4:

“森の中に むかしから住んでる”
Has been living in the woods for a long time

It suggests a physical presence in the woods and a life deeply intertwined with the natural world. It reflects themes of continuity, harmony, and respect for nature, portraying the woods as a home and a source of enduring wisdom and connection.

Song #4

Data 1

森の奥で
生まれた風が
原っぱに ひとり立つ 榎の木
フワリ かすめ やって来た
あれは 風のとおり道

The wind, born deep in the forest, gently brushed the solitary elm tree standing in the meadow that was the wind's pathway.

Reflect on the beauty and power of quiet moments by nature. It speaks of how interconnectedness pervades all-natural elements where even apparently simple movements, like the wind passing through, carry more profound meanings. Humans are part of the cycle where they can be drawn gently into the flow of nature amidst forces subtly acting upon them.

Data 2

“森の奥で 生まれた風が”
The wind born deep in the forest

This line of thought sets a serene and natural scene, "for so was nat the wind bor[n]"-emphasizing that the wind originated as something born in the depths of a forest, to symbolize the power and mystery that characterizes the natural world. It creates a feeling of serenity with a connection to the elemental forces of nature.

Data 3

“はるかな地 旅ゆく風 道しるべ”
A distant land, the traveling wind, a guidepost

This phrase perfectly captures the interplay between discovery, guidance, and nature. It teaches that nature is beautiful and full of wonders and that a teacher guides us in being wise. Listening to the "traveling wind" or seeing the "guideposts" around us could better understand our environment and ourselves, giving us more regard for the natural world.

Song #6

Data 1

“あおいかがふく まどのそと”
The blue wind blows outside the window

This captures the essence of how nature works within human emotions and thoughts. It invites reflection on the inner self and outer world; it asks listeners to become familiar with nature's silent, tranquil beauty and acknowledge that the possibility of change affords growth and renewal. This may be the message that our lives are intertwined with the natural world, which generates a sense of awareness and appreciation for both.

Data 2

“あかるいよあけね もりのうえ”
The bright dawn is above the forest

It highlights the idea of renewal, hope, and serene beauty in nature. It asks listeners to appreciate simply the quiet dramatic moments that mark the transition of night into day, encouraging newness and the importance of our connection to the natural world. This reminds us all that just as with dawn when some light enters the forest, we can also break through into a place of illumination and clarity in our lives to pave new paths and opportunities.

Data 3

“そらにえがくみち”

The path drawn in the sky

It talks about exploration, aspiration, and the transiency of life's journeys. Furthermore, it reminds one that even though their journey cannot be defined, it is closely linked to a dream and the universe it encompasses. The word provokes people to embrace their journeys and find inspiration from the world to follow dreams with hope and determination.

Song #7

Data 1

“空の青さを知る”

to know the blueness of the blue sky

It speaks of a profound perception and appreciation of nature's beauty, especially the blue sky. It is also a pilgrimage to gain enlightenment and foster bonding; it tells people to look deeper into their experiences. The word reminds its readers of the stillness that nature gives and how. Therefore, one has to be mindful at all moments.

Data 2

“花も風も街も みんなおなじ”

Flowers, wind, and the city are all the same

It highlights the interconnectedness between nature and city life. It reflects on the temporality and acceptance of experiences. It portrays an appreciation of beauty, both in nature and human creations. This phrase challenges people to seek a balance between these aspects and recognize each element's shared importance in molding the essence of human existence.

Data 4

“海の彼方には”

Beyond the Sea

This phrase expresses a deep yearning, discovery, and emotion towards nature. It signifies the desire to search beyond our horizons of everyday living, perhaps reflecting on dreams, aspirations, or emotional connections that tie us to places or people we never get in touch with. This message would allow the listener to live and find beauty in unknown distances because even the most incredible distances usually symbolize deeper meaning or significance.

Song #8

Data 1

“月の光にざわめく”

Stirring in the moonlight

This line underlines the role of nature in human experiences- it encourages a sense of wonderment and respect for the world around us. It points out themes that range from beauty and movement to an emotional relationship with nature. The beautiful changeable power of nature is to be reached by the self as one lives life from the world around them, keeping in mind their moods beneath the gentle yet stirring glow of moonbeams.

Data 2

“森の精 もののけ達だけ”

Only the spirits of the forest and the creatures

It reveals a tapestry of meaning bound with nature and gives it a spiritual, interconnected, and harmonious message between humans and the natural environment. The preservation of the fragility of the ecosystems forms part of its message, as well as paying respects to the forms of life existing within those environments. By respecting the spirits and creatures of the forest, we are being challenged to take a further step in connection with nature and realize our role as the stewards of the Earth.

Song #10

Data 1

“ポーニョ ポーニョ ポニョ さかなの子”
Ponyo, Ponyo, Ponyo, the fish child

Ponyo depicts her innocence and connection to nature, which viewers need to explore by understanding the character and her relationship with the environment.

Data 2

“青い海からやってきた”
Came from the blue sea

This is a message of life, nature, and identity, reflecting on both the magical origins and the connection to the environment that Ponyo provides. It keeps reminding them of the beauty and wonder in the natural world and summons reflection about one's place in that view and the transformation that determines who they are.

Discussion

Ecological Relationality

Ecological relationality of selected Ghibli songs metaphorical lyrics includes intra-, inter-, and extra-relations in the lyrics. Most of the lyrics (18) bear intra-relational connections that point out an inner consistency and integrity within a song. Examples of such include phrases relating to natural images or scenes: “木漏れ日の午後,” which illustrates the afternoon light filtering through the trees, and “あおいかががふく,” where it is described that the blue wind is blowing outside the window. This implies a strong use of individual experience and emotions. There is one (1) for inter-relations where the content relates to another environment or greater realities, such as “森の中に むかしから住んでる” (since olden days). It proves the existence of extrinsic interests in life and society, reinforcing the songs' thematic richness.

There are also seven (7) extra-relational metaphors, indicating the connection to a broader concept or universal theme as, for instance, in “地球はまわる 君をかくして” (the Earth spins, hiding you) and “花も風も街も みんなおなじ” (flowers, wind, and streets are all the same). Such metaphors relate to broader reflections on existence and what one means about nature and the interconnectedness of life. Overall, intra-relational metaphors tend to be dominant in Ghibli songs, recalling profound commitment to personal and environmental themes while punctuated by inter-relational and extra-relational metaphors, which helps distend the scope of interpretation of songs.

Table 2: Recurring Metaphors Conveyed in Selected Ghibli Song's Lyrics

Song	Structural	Ontological
#1	Data 1 Data 2	
#2	Data 3	Data 1 Data 2
#3	Data 2 Data 3	Data 1 Data 4
#4		Data 1 Data 2 Data 3
#5	Data 1	
#6		Data 1 Data 2 Data 3
#7	Data 3	Data 1 Data 2 Data 4
#8		Data 1 Data 2
#9	Data 1 Data 2	
#10		Data 1 Data 2

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Table 3. Ghibli Song Lyrics According to Ecological Relationality

Song	Data	Lyric	Type of Relationality
Song #1	Data 1	"木漏れ日の午後"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"木漏れ日の午後"	Intra-relations
Song #2	Data 3	"にこの空の色に"	Intra-relations
Song #3	Data 2	"ちっさな芽 生えたら"	Intra-relations
	Data 3	"雨ふり バス停"	Intra-relations
Song #5	Data 1	"丘をまく 坂の道"	Intra-relations
Song #7	Data 3	"新しい景色が映される"	Intra-relations
Song #9	Data 1	"地球はまわる 君をかくして"	Extra-relations
	Data 2	"地球はまわる 君をのせて"	Extra-relations
Song #2	Data 1	"夜にひそやかさ"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"花の香りに"	Intra-relations
Song #3	Data 1	"森へのパスポート"	Intra-relations
	Data 4	"森の中に むかしから住んでる"	Inter-relations
Song #4	Data 1	"森の奥で 生まれた風が"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"森の奥で 生まれた風が"	Intra-relations
	Data 3	"はるかな地 旅ゆく風 道しるべ"	Extra-relations
Song #6	Data 1	"あおいかがふく まどのと"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"あかるいよあけね もりのうえ"	Intra-relations
	Data 3	"そらにえがくみち"	Intra-relations
Song #7	Data 1	"空の青さを知る"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"花も風も街も みんなおなじ"	Extra-relations
	Data 4	"海の彼方には"	Extra-relations
Song #8	Data 1	"月の光にざわめく"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"森の精 もののけ達だけ"	Extra-relations
Song #10	Data 1	"ポーニョ ポーニョ ポニョ さかなの子"	Intra-relations
	Data 2	"青い海からやってきた"	Extra-relations

Inter-relations are the relationships between people and communities and the interconnectivity among different beings (Haynes, E., 2024). Ghibli's songs often depict connections between nature and human existence and reinforce the notion of belonging to a more excellent ecological chain.

Nature as a character: Songs like "The Path of the Wind" from My Neighbor Totoro use metaphors that imply a relationship between humans and their surroundings that is not strife. Personification has an emotional appeal that makes listeners able to identify with the natural world. Being able to experience nature as a living entity could provoke a greater sense of responsibility to protect it. It might make people feel more like guardians than conquerors of the environment.

Symbolism of Cooperation: Metaphors illustrating team collaboration among characters, as between Chihiro and the spirits in Spirited Away, signify that cooperation is a need to overcome opposition. It is a tool to attain a story and a call to commit to community-based efforts for environmental conservation. Common goals among various groups can facilitate collective action toward solutions to environmental issues and, in turn, impact society.

Cultural Linkages: Ghibli songs can also contain cultural linkages that connect the listener to heritage and surroundings. If the lyrics contain local ecological knowledge, listeners may take pride and a sense of responsibility and work on conserving their culture with the surrounding environment.

Intra-relations relates to one's self-identity and internal reflections of one's association with nature (Jackson, M., 2017). Ghibli's songs use metaphors to ask questions about the inner self, making the listener transform the self through the process.

Personal Growth Metaphor: "The Wind Rises" is a song that captures the metaphor of self-discovery and suggests its growth by linking personal growth to ecological awareness. The metaphor may make listeners consider their values and beliefs about nature and themselves. The process of reflection enables people to align their actions with their ecological values, promoting individual responsibility and empowerment.

Connecting Emotion and Nature: Metaphors for emotions and natural elements like stormy weather metaphorically meaning turmoil can make a listener realize his or her emotions induced by ecological catastrophes. Whenever people go through such emotions, they develop a greater sense of closeness to environmental issues, leading to increased motivation for pro-environmental behaviors. People become activists through emotional connection with nature through articulation for change, activist work, or even some sustainable practice.

Personal Stories and Identity: One can often hear personal tales within the songs of Ghibli while the listeners see their own experiences reflected in the text. There seems to be something highly incestuous, permitting them to feel a part of the entire group by creating a sense of obligation to regard their ecological identity as a synergy with the planet's health.

Extra-relations study broader connections between humankind and the environment in general (Steffensen, S. V., 2024). Many Ghibli songs employ metaphors to describe the effect of human activity on the Earth and to inspire the listener to consider his place in the larger scheme of the ecosystem.

Harmony vs. Disruption Metaphor: For example, in *Spirited Away*, the song "Always with Me" can represent the metaphor of harmony as a delicate balance in ecosystems. This will then make the listener think about the impact of his or her actions on things more generally, making the individual become a good steward of the Earth. It will make the listener consider becoming an effective caretaker of biodiversity and ecological balance.

Global Interconnectedness: The use of cycles of nature, like seasons, can be metaphorical in understanding global ecosystems' linkage. It can facilitate an increased sense of liability in listeners toward ecological sustainability and inform them that their local actions can create a far reach, such as recognizing that the pollution in one area can damage other distant ecosystems and inspire collective action toward eliminating environmental degradation.

Awareness of Global Challenges: environmental crises such as pollution and deforestation. Metaphorical speech can make people rise to the call of urgent issues and encourage them to become informed and engaged citizens who advocate for policies and practices that protect the environment globally.

Conclusion

In the study, metaphors of selected song lyrics from Studio Ghibli present a deep connection between language, ecology, and emotional involvement with the nature. Applying the views of Ecolinguistics and the ecocriticism theory, it is demonstrated that such songs have repeatedly used structural and ontological metaphors in a formative way to shape perceptions of relations with nature. Results of the poetic message of the lyrics from the Ghibli songs raised the young viewers' awareness about the interconnectedness between human life and the environment and valued and conserved nature.

The focus of intra-relations was self-identity and personal change. It thus showed how songs by Ghibli were an invitation to the audience to reflect on their value and belief systems regarding the environment. Emotional inputs of metaphors catalyze this environmental consciousness because such people are provoked to act based on ecological values.

Extra-relations messages from Ghibli's songs convey a view wherein the emphasis is on the need for global cooperation in dealing with the environmental crises in the world, such as climate change, biodiversity, and pollution. It encourages stewardship beyond borders by connecting distant natural entities within music lyrics and infuses a more holistic worldview. Awareness spreads into a more extensive awareness that protecting the environment is the concern not only of an individual or community but also of the entire human race transcending generations.

In addition, the inter-relations within the songs reflect connectivity between the community and the environment. Therefore, they give an impression of belonging to something bigger than oneself- a larger chain. This dimension highlights the necessity for collective power and action regarding ecological matters because it creates shared accountability among people regarding sustainability.

Metaphors in songs taught by Ghibli connect the listener at a deeper emotional level; thus, a song comprised of metaphors not only imparts ecological messages but influences attitudes towards nature through this interaction of language and imagery in children. The results showed that Ghibli's music narration has much potential for shaping ecological awareness, and metaphors in the songs are abundant and represent an artistic expression of environmental themes toward a sustainable worldview. With climate change and environmental degradation advancing rapidly on all fronts, Ghibli's songs inspired future work in environmental education and activism by underlining the decisive role of art and language in enunciating our relationship with nature. Indeed, we can inspire a generation that protects the planet for future generations, coupled with the evocative power of music and metaphor.

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