

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS IN THE SONG “TRAITOR” BY OLIVIA RODRIGO**Dwi Cindy**

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*Muhammadbasri.dalle@umi.ac.id***Abstrak**

Saat mendengarkan lagu, tubuh mengurangi produksi dari hormon kortisol sehingga dapat menangani stress dan mengurangi gejala depresi. Maraknya lagu yang menggunakan kata-kata yang memiliki arti tersembunyi membuat pendengarnya kurang memahami arti dari lagu tersebut. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan jenis makna dari lagu “Traitor” karya Olivia Rodrigo dan menjelaskan jenis makna bahasa kiasan dalam lagu “Traitor” karya Olivia Rodrigo. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti berfokus pada jenis makna semantik apa saja yang ditemukan dalam lagu “Traitor” karya Olivia Rodrigo dan jenis makna bahasa kiasan apa yang terkandung dalam lagu “Traitor” karya Olivia Rodrigo. Metode kualitatif deskriptif digunakan untuk melakukan gambaran yang jelas tentang masalah yang diidentifikasi. Data diambil dari lirik lagu Traitor karya Olivia Rodrigo. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga jenis makna semantik yang digunakan dalam lagu “Traitor” yaitu makna konotatif, makna konseptual dan makna asosiatif. Dan ada empat jenis makna bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lagu “Traitor” yaitu simile, personifikasi, metafora, dan paradoks.

Kata kunci: lagu, makna, makna bahasa kiasan, Semantik.

Abstract

When listening to song, the body reduce the production of the hormone cortisol so it can deal with stress and depression. The rise of songs that use words that have hidden meanings makes the listener less understand the meaning of the song. As a result, the purpose of this research is to clarify the types of meaning and types of figurative language meaning. The goal of this research is to determine what types of meaning and types of figurative language meaning in the song “Traitor” by Olivia Rodrigo. To provide an accurate rendering of issue recognized, a descriptive qualitative approach is used. The data is taken from the lyrics of the song “Traitor” by Olivia Rodrigo. The results of the research show that there were three types of semantic meaning which had been used in the song "Traitor" namely connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning. And there are four types of figurative language meanings used in the song "Traitor" namely simile, personification, metaphor, and paradox.

Keywords: Figurative meaning, meaning, Semantic, song.

INTRODUCTION

Listening to song is enjoyable activity, song is not only used to entertain people but also can reduce pain, depression, can improve sleep quality and improve mood. People like for listening to favorite music for spending their time. Music has the power to express people thoughts, experiences, and emotion, whether those feelings be positive or negative. When someone is listening to song, music also inspires them to enter a new phase of life. Music also invites the listener to come into new life, when they are listening the lyric of the songs by singer. Besides that, music is being able to chance brain waves and make the brain more receptive to learn but the listener cannot get the pleasure if they do not understand the meaning of the song.

Each song contains both music and lyrics. Song lyrics are created based on the author's existential experience with the world around him. A creator or singer conveys his ideas, thoughts and feelings through song lyrics. Song lyrics is a medium for conveying messages to others and even for providing information about social realities contained in society or a culture. Song lyrics are a text written by a songwriter with the aim of expressing a certain message or meaning that is free to be interpreted by the reader (Pohan, S. 2023). Song lyrics are included in the genre of literature because the lyrics are literary works (poetry) which contains the outpouring of personal feeling, the wording of the song. One of the ways that literature can convey meaning is through presenting in the author's principles. And other literary works, the author aims to impart moral lesson to the audience. Over time the songs began to develop and many singers emerged using various words or dictions. One of the talented and famous singers is Olivia Rodrigo. One of Olivia Rodrigo's famous songs is called "traitor" which was written by Olivia and Rodrigo. "Traitor" gained popular with the public and financially successful. The song's voice and lyric won accolades from music critic, who also singled it out as a standout on the album. "Traitor" peaked within the top 10 in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Portugal. It debuted at number nine in the United States. This song is about a woman who was dumped by her boyfriend and is left felling betrayed and yearning for the past. Through this song, Olivia Rodrigo vents her disappointment.

To analyze a meaning in a song, semantic analysis is needed in this research. One branch of linguistics that studies meaning is semantics. Semantic is as the science of meaning and is a part from language level. Language consists of two definite layers namely the layers of form and meaning. The shape layer is language symbols in the form of words or sentences. Meanings layer are references or concepts that are resides in the human mind to understand the emblem. This ply reflects the material in semantic studies. The shape layer is symbols or symbols in language and meaning is a reference or reference and thoughts or thought in the form stated. The language level is phonology, morphology, semantic and syntax. Meaning itself is one of the components of language, namely signifie component (understanding or concept contained in the language).

Meaning is the idea or intent that may be derived from a word, hence the meaning with the object is very inter wined and inter grated with each other. If a word cannot be connected with the object, event or certain situation, then we cannot get the meaning of the word. According to Chaer (2013) there are 13 types of meaning namely Lexical Meaning, Grammatical Meaning, Connotative meaning, Denotative Meaning, Conceptual meaning, Associative meaning, Contextual Meaning, Referential Meaning, Referential meaning, Non-referential meaning, Word Meaning, Meaning of Terms, Meaning of Idiom, and Meaning of proverbs. While figurative language is a language that creates imaginative connections between feeling and ideas or that

expresses striking similarities between things that we have never associated before through the song people can express their feelings that may be full of figurative language which has the meaning that we never know (Syamsu, Awaluddin., Muhajir, 2022). Miller (2018) says that one of the literature disciplines is metaphorical language. When taking and research in literature, one needs to understand not only the form of language or speech, but also the meaning behind each sentence. It seems to indicate that the writer or speaker also wants the reader or listener to feel the meaning behind each sentence. People communicate to convey ideas, feelings, and messages they want to convey in many ways, one of which is through song. According to Ampa and Basri (2020) Language serves as a means expressing our emotions, reflections of the world, daily experiences, ideas and considerations, and many other issues (Function of Nouns).

Previous studies were chosen for the evaluation. the first from Abdul Wahab, et al. (2022) "Analysis of Figurative Language in Lady Gaga song lyrics". The purpose of this previous study is to analyze the allusions in Lady Gaga's songs. This study uses formal and informal data collection methods. Research finds several types of meaning in Lady Gaga's song including intellectual meaning, connotative meaning, emotional meaning, and mirror meaning. In the previous study, data collection was done by downloading songs, listening carefully, reading lines, underlining, and classifying lyrics, while in this research data collection used descriptive qualitative by observing and listening to songs. The second previous study comes from Satriani (2023) "Analysis of Conotative Meaning In Adele's Song Lyrics". This study used using a descriptive qualitative approach. Data condensation, data display, conclusion drawing, and verification are the processes of data analysis. The data is validated by researchers using a validator. According to the research's conclusions, which are based on Michael Halley's theory, connotative meanings can be classified as either positive, neutral, or negative. While this research focuses on the sorts of meaning and types of semantic meaning, the previous study purely examined the connotative meaning found in Adele's song lyrics.

The third previous study comes From Salsabila (2022) Lexical Semantic Analysis of Song Lyrics In The "Manusia" Tulus Album. There are two semantic theories used, the first is conceptual meaning, and the second is associative meaning. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method, and this approach is one of the approaches in analyzing a literary work. The method of data collecting employed in this the previous study is a note-taking technique to obtain data by reading text or literature which is the source of the study by marking the lyrics of Tulus' album "Human". The difference with this research lies in the meaning studied, in this the previous study examines conceptual and associative meanings while in this research examines several types of meaning namely connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, and associative meaning and figurative language.

METHOD

The method of the research used a descriptive qualitative method it means that the focus on analyzing written material in a piece of content. The descriptive method is in the form of words, pictures, and not numbers (Moleong, 2017). The material in the research focuses on song Traitor by Olivia Rodrigo that are included in the album with the name of SOUR. According to Creswell (2014) the qualitative descriptive method is use to characterize occurrences that occur on a daily basis. To facilitate researchers in conducting research, researchers creates variables and indicators as a guide for researchers in collecting data. There are variables and indicator in the

research. The first variable is types of meaning and the indicators is connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning. The second variable is types of figurative language and the indicators is simile, metaphors, personification and paradox. The data in the research took from the lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's song entitled Traitor from spotify application, the observation technique and listening to the song "Traitor" by Olivia Rodrigo are ways to collect data in this research. Humans regularly engage in observation, with the five senses serving as the primary tool. Because of this observation, a person's capacity to employ their observations—aided by the activity of the other five senses is dependent upon their ability to observe.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the research the researchers found several sentences in the lyrics of the song have been found which contain types of meaning and types of figurative language namely as follows:

1. The types of meaning of the song “Traitor” by Olivia Rodrigo

The notion or goal that may be derived from a word is called its meaning, and the meaning of the object is very interwined and intergrated with each other. Talking about meaning in general according to Nurhidayah (2023) the word 'meaning' means 'meaning', meaning is defined as the meaning that is supported by words or the understanding of an utterance by the listener. in research finding the researchers found three types of meaning contained in the song Traitor by Olivia Rodrigo namely connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning, along with the discussion for clarity. Based on the theory this research the researchers only found 3 types of meaning among the 13 types of meaning that exist. The following details will be presented in the table.

Table 1. Types of Meaning

No	Lyrics	Types of meaning
1	Brown guilty eyes	Connotative
2	Little white lies	Associative
3	I played dumb but I always knew	Conceptual
4	That you talk to her	Conceptual
5	How you ran to her	Connotative
6	You betrayed me	Conceptual
7	For the way I hurt	Conceptual
8	Show her off like she's a new trophy	Connotative
9	All the twisted game	Associative

Based on the table above, it can be seen that in this song there are only three types of semantic meanings, namely connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning.

a. Connotative Meaning

A word is said to have a connotative meaning, if the word has a sense of value. According to Wahyu (2021) Connotative meaning is different from other meanings, connotative meaning arises from a combination of feelings and the language of the word itself. According to Chaer (2013) A word is said to have a connotative meaning, if the word has a sense of value, whether it is positive, pleasant or negative or unpleasant. If a term conveys particular emotional values, it has connotative meaning. People use language to convey more than just their ideas, views, and

thoughts. But it also conveys specific feelings.. In the lyrics of the Traitor song the researchers found five data that are included in connotative meanings. The explanation can be seen below.

“Brown guilty eyes” (data 1) In the opinion of researchers this sentence contains a connotative meaning because it contains an emotional feeling. The word guilty is actually related to human nature, in this case the follower is the word eyes which is a noun. In this lyric, the author conveys that lies, deceit or feelings of guilt emanate from his lover's two brown eyes. “How you run to her” (data 2).The sentence is classified as a connotative meaning because there is a word run which is not true meaning, and has a sense of negative value. The word run in this sentence mean to turn away and categorized as having a negative value because the author feels abandoned by her lover and the author tries to convey to the reader or listener that her lover is being betrayed and turn away from her but in this context the author uses the word run as a substitute for the word turn away. “Show her off like she`s a new trophy” (data 3). The lyrics is classified as connotative meaning because there is a word “new trophy which is not true meaning and the word has a sense of negative value. New trophy in sentence is the new lover of the former boyfriend of the author. He flaunted his new other woman like a treasure. The author wants to express her heart when her lover betrays her which make she silence because her lover is so proud to admit that woman as his lover in front of all person.

b. Conceptual meaning

According to Chaer (2013) meaning that is consistent with the concept, consistent with the reference, and devoid of any association or relationships is referred to as conceptual meaning. In the lyrics of the traitor song, the researchers found seven conceptual meanings, for example “I played dumb but I always knew” (data 1). This sentence is classified in conceptual meaning because according to the context of this song. Dumb means the act of someone showing a lack of intelligence, not expressing words. The author played dumb to see the real behavior of her lover. “That you talk to her” (data 2) is classified as a conceptual meaning because in that sentence there is a word talk which has a conceptual meaning and is expressed as activities or events carried out viz use mouth to speak.“You betrayed me”(data 3) is classified as a conceptual meaning because betrayed is that involves someone treating us as if we were abandoned, ignored, or abused and from this glance it can be seen that the author feels betrayed by her lover. According to the concept, the author feels betrayed by her lover, which is true because this song is the personal experience of the author. Expressed her disappointment through this song because her boyfriend had betrayed and preferred another woman.

c. Associative meaning

According to Chaer (2013) the meaning of the association is the meaning of the word related to the relationship between the word and something outside the language. In the lyrics of the traitor song, there are two associative meanings.“Little white lies” (data1) According to the theory, this sentence is classified as an associative meaning. In this line, the word white lies are considered to protect other people's feelings from disappointment, sadness or adversity. In Europe white is considered calming, cool and timeless because of its association with snow. While in Indonesia, white symbolizes purity.“All the twisted games” (data 2). Based on the theory, the word twisted is found which has an associative meaning as the trait of twisted is associated with dishonesty and fraud. Meanwhile, kat game is associated with an act that is not really done. So it can be concluded that the twisted game in this lyric means an act of the author's lover who looks cheated in a relationship and is dishonest to the author.

2. The types of figurative language meaning of the song “Traitor” by Olivia Rodrigo.

Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory Researchers identified four varieties of figurative language in the song. “Traitor” by Olivia Rodrigo. The following details will be presented in the table.

Table 2. Types of Figurative Language Meaning

No	Lyric	Types of figurative language meaning
1	Show her off like she is a new trophy	Simile
2	Brown guilty eyes and little white lies	Personification
3	And you told me I was paranoid	Metaphor
4	I played dumb but I always knew	Paradox

Based on the table above, it can be seen that in this song there are only four types of figurative language meanings, namely simile, personification, metaphor, and paradox.

a. Simile

A simile is a rhetorical device that uses words with the connotations of "like" or "as" to describe resemblance. In this research, it was found one data that are included in the simile type. The explanation can be seen “Show her off like she`s a new trophy”. This section is classified as a simile because it compares two things, it compares a human to an object. The topic of this parable is written by the author where a man betrays his lover who prefer another woman and the man proudly shows everyone that he woman is his lover. The word that connects these two different things is “like”. The two things must be different. In this lyric, the word “trophy” is valuable and proud object, which is fought for in a match. In this expression it means that the author shows a pain where the man is prouder to show the woman to everyone than when he is with her.

b. Personification

Personification is equating human nature with regards to things, animals, or conceptual ideas. Personification illustrates the contrast between two various objects. In this research, it was found one data that are included personification. The explanation can be seen “Brown guilty eyes and little white lies”. This section is classified as a personification because it compares human nature with abstract ideas. The lyric refers to the author condition when she looks at her lover who has betrayed her. In which she pretends not to know all her lover’s actions in order to maintain a relationship. Here implies a lie. This song talks about the relationship between humans and the ideas of one side. In this song the author indirectly conveys her heartache because she has to remain silent event though she knows all the betrayals committed by her lover.

c. Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech that contrasts two things, specifically those that are thought to be comparable implicitly (without the use of "like" or "as"). While simile comparisons are explicit, metaphor is frequently referred to as implied similes. This is in contrast to metaphors that imply comparisons there is one of sentence that found are identified as metaphor. “And you told me I was paranoid”. This sentence is classified as a due to the presence of two comparison words to express something. It differs from simile there are no conjunction “like” or “as” applied in this sentence. In this lyric, the author compares the word “me” with “paranoid”. The word “me” refer to the author and the word “paranoid” means

psychological problem with excessive suspicion. In the lyrics above, the author would like to say that her boyfriend called her a psychological disorder who feared and suspected too much of him with other women. The song Traitor talks about a woman's disappointment with her lover who has betrayed and prefer another woman, her boyfriend always evades and blames her for being too suspicious.

d. Paradox

Paradox are statement which, on the surface, appear illogical, even absurd, on the surface, but make sense upon closer examination. Paradox is often used to make readers think of an idea in an innovative way. There are one sentence that are classified as paradoxes and the following is their analysis. "Yeah, I played dumb but I always knew". Paradox are figurative language used to make a statements or groups of sentences that contradict what we know while conveying the inherent truth. Here the sentence "I played dumb but I always knew" is categorized as paradox because it has contradictory words. It is dumb and knew. Dumb is when we feel unable to say anything can only be silent and mute, while knew is when we can guess something. Even though the two words are contradictory, the reflection still make sense that the person pretends not to know anything and is silent even though he knows everything. The intent is to engage the reader to discover the underlying logic in statements or phrases that seems self-contradictory, and to understand the concept in a different way and from a different point of view.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research above, it can be concluded that in the song Traitor by Olivia Rodrigo there are several types of semantic meaning and types of figurative language meaning. Types of semantic meaning of the song "Traitor" by Olivia Rodrigo". In this case of the thirteen types of meaning put forward by Chaer (2013) the researchers found three types of meaning, namely: connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning. Types of figurative language meaning in the song "Traitor" by Olivia Rodrigo". Based on the theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) who suggested that there are ten types of figurative language but in the song "Traitor" by Olivia Rodrigo" the researchers found four the types of figurative language, namely: simile, personification, metaphor, and paradox.

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