A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN BEN HOWARD'S SONG LYRICS

SKRIPSI

**presented to partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of sarjana in the English Education Study Program**

**By:
Nina Irnisa Fauziyah
NIM 20120028**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
IKIP PGRI BOJONEGORO
2024**

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN BEN HOWARD'S SONG LYRICS

SKRIPSI
Presented to
IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro
in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of Sarjana in the English Education Study Program

By
Nina Irnisa Fauziyah
NIM: 20120028

ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
IKIP PGRI BOJONEGORO
2024

APPROVAL SHEET

Undergraduate thesis proposal entitled "A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics" written by:

Name : Nina Irnisa Fauziyah

Student ID : 20120028

Study Program : English Language Education

Has been approved by the advisors and proposed to be examined in the Undergraduate Thesis Exam.
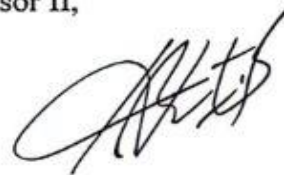
Bojonegoro, 15 July 2024

Advisor I,

Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd
NIDN. 0725058403

Advisor II,

Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd
NIDN. 0728017903

LEGITIMATION

This undergraduate thesis entitled "A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics" written by:

Name   : Nina Irnisa Fauziyah

Student ID   : 20120028

Study Program : English Education Program

has been defended in the undergraduate thesis exam at the Study Program of English Language Education, Faculty of Language and Art Education, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro on Wednesday, 24 July 2024.
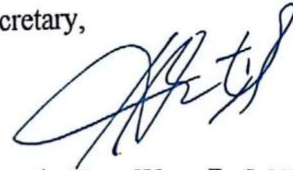
Bojonegoro, 29 July 2024

Chairman,

Fitri Nurdianingsih, M.Pd.
NIDN. 0729058701

Secretary,

Chyntia Heru Woro P., M.Pd.
NIDN. 0728017903

Examiner I,

Dr. Ima Isnaini T. R., M.Pd.
NIDN. 0723058302

Examiner II,

Ayu Fitrianingsih, M.Pd.
NIDN. 0720049101

Rector,

Dr. Junarti, M.Pd.
NIDN. 0014016501

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned below:

Name	: Nina Irnisa Fauziyah
Student ID	: 20120028
Study Program	: English Language Education
Faculty	: Faculty of Language and Arts Education

I solemnly declare that the undergraduate thesis that I have written is really my own writing and does not constitute plagiarism either in part of in whole.

If in the future, it is proven or can be proven that this thesis is the result of plagiarism, either partially or wholly, then I am willing to accept sanctions for such actions with the applicable provisions. By upholding academic integrity, sincerely and without any coercion from any party.

Bojonegoro, 16.July 2024

Nina Irnisa Fauziyah
20120028

ABSTRACT

Fauziyah, Nina Irnisa. (2024). A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics. Skripsi. Department of English Education. Faculty of Language and Arts Education. IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro. Advisor (I) Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., Advisor (II) Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd.

Keywords: Ben Howard, Connotative Meaning, Semantic, Song lyrics

In linguistics, semantics studies how meaning is expressed through language, including sentences, phrases, and words. Connotative meaning, which gives words emotional depth and resonance, is significant in song lyrics. This study, titled "A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics," aims to explore the connotative meanings in Ben Howard's lyrics. The researcher chose five of his most popular songs on Spotify for this analysis. Using a qualitative descriptive analysis approach, the study looks into the sense of values and types of connotative meanings in the lyrics. The analysis shows that the songs' themes affect the types of connotations found. Songs about love, vulnerability, and youth memories tend to have positive connotations, while themes of self-doubt, separation, and searching for life's meaning have more negative and neutral connotations. Moreover, associative meaning is the most common connotative form, followed by affective, reflective, and allusive meanings. The findings indicate that song themes greatly influence the types of connotations used, with positive connotations more frequent in hopeful songs and negative ones in introspective songs. This research adds to language studies by offering insights into the complex and rich meanings in Ben Howard's song lyrics.

ABSTRAK

Fauziyah, Nina Irnisa. (2024). A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics. Skripsi. Department of English Education. Faculty of Language and Arts Education. IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro. Advisor (I) Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., Advisor (II) Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd.

Kata kunci: Ben Howard, Makna Konotatif, Semantik, Lirik lagu

Dalam linguistik, semantik mempelajari bagaimana makna diekspresikan melalui bahasa, termasuk kalimat, frasa, dan kata. Makna konotatif, yang memberikan kedalaman dan resonansi emosional pada kata-kata, merupakan hal yang signifikan dalam lirik lagu. Penelitian ini berjudul "Analisis Semantik Makna Konotatif dalam Lirik Lagu Ben Howard", bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi makna konotatif dalam lirik lagu Ben Howard. Peneliti memilih lima lagu terpopulernya di Spotify untuk analisis ini. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini mencari tahu nilai-nilai dan jenis-jenis makna konotatif dalam lirik lagu tersebut. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa tema lagu mempengaruhi jenis makna konotasi yang ditemukan. Lagu-lagu tentang cinta, kerentanan, dan kenangan masa muda cenderung memiliki konotasi positif, sementara tema keraguan diri, perpisahan, dan pencarian makna hidup memiliki lebih banyak konotasi negatif dan netral. Selain itu, makna asosiatif merupakan bentuk konotasi yang paling umum, diikuti oleh makna afektif, reflektif, dan kiasan. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa tema lagu sangat mempengaruhi jenis konotasi yang digunakan, dengan konotasi positif lebih sering muncul pada lagu-lagu yang penuh harapan dan konotasi negatif pada lagu-lagu yang bersifat introspektif. Penelitian ini menambah studi bahasa dengan menawarkan wawasan tentang makna yang kompleks dan kaya dalam lirik lagu Ben Howard.

MOTTO

"I will become what I deserve"

Ben Howard

"Don't worry about walking at your own pace or being swept by the fast-paced world because speed is not important, it's the direction that matters"

Kang Taehyun

DEDICATION

All praise be to Allah SWT who has made the process of preparing this thesis possible. With His grace and guidance, I was able to complete this thesis properly. This thesis is dedicated to:

1. My parents, for their unconditional love, support, and prayers. And my brother, for his encouragement and joy he brings to my life.

2. All my family who have given support, encouragement, and advice during the process of making this skripsi.

3. Fellow friends, who are also striving to complete their thesis, sharing each other's motivation and support.

4. My advisors, Mrs. Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati M.Pd. and Mrs. Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd., for their invaluable guidance, advice, and support throughout this journey.

5. Myself, for persevering through various challenges and completing this thesis with dedication and hard work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Firstly, and foremost, thanks to Allah SWT Almighty for His blessings and grace that enabled the completion of this thesis. Secondly, peace and blessings be upon Muhammad SAW, the final prophet. The researcher was able to complete the thesis titled "A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics." The researcher would like to express sincere gratitude to:

1. Dr. Junarti, M.Pd., Rector of IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro.

2. Fitri Nurdianingsih, M.Pd., Dean of the Faculty of Language and Arts Education.

3. Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd., Head of the English Language Study Program.

4. Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., Advisor I, for her guidance and patience during the thesis preparation.

5. Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd., Advisor II, for her guidance and assistance throughout the thesis process.

Furthermore, I would like to express gratitude to my parents for their guidance, support, and inspiration, as well as to my family and friends for their encouragement. The researcher acknowledges that this thesis is far from perfect and welcomes any constructive suggestions and criticisms for future improvement.

Bojonegoro, 15 July 2024

Researcher

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF APPENDICES

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five topics related to the research, those topics are the background of the study, research question, research objective, significance of the study, delimitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Research Background

Language is a fundamental tool for communication among individuals within a society (Sirbu, 2015). In addition, Kapur (2020) stated that language is generally recognized as a tool that enables individuals to engage in cooperative efforts and coexist with one another. It implies that language plays an important role in fostering social connections, building relationships, and enhancing understanding among people from diverse backgrounds. It allows us to convey thoughts, ideas, emotions, and intentions. Language consists of various interconnected components that work together to facilitate communication. These components include phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

Linguistically, culture plays a crucial role in the dimension of language that affects the semantic, pragmatic, and discourse levels of the language itself (Prastiwi & Purnama, 2018). Semantics focuses on the study of how meaning is conveyed through linguistic systems. These systems comprise various structural units, including sentences, phrases, words, and morphemes. The main objective of semantics is to examine how these linguistic units contribute to the transmission and interpretation of meaning (Yunira et al., 2020)..

According to Purnamasari (2018), semantics can be categorized based on lexical meaning and grammatical meaning. Lexical meaning refers to the specific meaning associated with a word, while grammatical meaning refers to the role a word plays in the structure of a sentence. Words can also be distinguished as having denotative meaning, which is the literal or dictionary meaning, or connotative meaning, which includes the emotional or cultural associations attached to a word. The relationship between a word and its meaning is subjective, as there is no inherent connection between the sounds or letters of a word and its meaning.

Connotative meaning plays an important role in song lyrics, as it adds depth and emotional resonance to the words being sung. Through connotation, songwriters can evoke specific feelings and associations in the listeners. For example, a simple word like "fire" can take on connotative meanings such as passion, desire, or destruction, depending on how the word is used in the lyrics. The connotations attached to certain words and phrases in songs can evoke personal memories, cultural references, or societal themes, thus creating a rich of emotions and connections.

Plotnickiy (2021) emphasized song lyrics can describe stories and evoke strong emotions through the themes expressed by the writer. Indeed, song lyrics have the unique ability to convey stories and evoke strong emotions through the themes they carry. Songwriters usually use poetic elements such as metaphors and symbolism to bring the narratives in their songs to life. The lyrics of a song often invite different interpretations, sometimes deviating from the artist's explicit intention in creating the meaning of the song (Castilla et al., 2023).

Thus, connotative meaning has the power to deeply touch the hearts and minds of listeners. It allows individuals to form a personal connection with the music, resonating with their own experiences and emotions on a deep level.

In addition, Castilla et al. (2023) emphasized lyrics in songs have different meanings in different contexts, they play an important role in describing and understanding musical messages. The connotative meaning of song lyrics plays a significant part in this process, it can evoke specific emotions, memories, or cultural references that make up the overall understanding of the song. Some researchers have conducted a similar study on connotative meaning in song lyrics.

Purnamasari (2018) conducted a study titled "An Analysis of Connotative Meaning on Justin Bieber's Song Lyrics." This study determines whether connotative or denotative meaning dominates in the song using values of America. The study found dominant positive values in the song lyrics. Armawansyah (2016) in his study "An Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Selected Maher Zain's Songs Lyrics", analyzes the connotative meanings in Maher Zain's song lyrics and identifies the messages his lyrics convey. The research found three types of connotative meanings, namely positive, neutral, and negative, with positive connotations being used most frequently. The research found that Maher Zain uses connotative meanings to convey messages encouragingly, while also incorporating neutral and negative connotations to enhance understanding.

Moreover, Ishar & Irawan (2023) studied "Semiotic Analysis of the Denotative and Connotative Meaning on The Beatles's Songs Lyrics", the study conducted a semiotic analysis of five Beatles songs to explore denotative and connotative meanings within the song lyrics. The study found 26 semiotic signs whose contents have denotative and connotative meanings. In the present study, however, a different approach was taken to analyze the connotative meaning in song lyrics, focusing on a different artist and their specific values and emotions expressed in the songs. Among the diverse songwriters in the contemporary music landscape, Ben Howard has emerged as an artist who navigates complex lyrical terrain with depth and subtlety.

Ben Howard's lyrics have a strong impact on listeners, captivating them with poetic and introspective lyrics. Ben Howard's lyrics are often full of deep meaning, metaphor, and powerful imagery. Attracting the listener to a masterful blend of acoustic elements and compelling storytelling. Each of his song lyrics serves as a medium for exploration and reflection, making his song lyrics an interesting subject to research.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled **"A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Ben Howard's Song Lyrics."** This study aims to explore the connotative meanings contained in Ben Howard's song lyrics. The researcher has selected five of Ben Howard's most popular songs on Spotify to investigate their connotative meanings. Using semantic analysis techniques, the researcher will analyze the depth of the meanings, associations, and emotions contained in the song lyrics. Through this analysis, the researcher hopes to contribute to the field

of language studies and provide insights into the rich and complex meanings within Ben Howard's song lyrics.

B. Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher defines the research questions as follows:

1. What sense of values did exist in Ben Howard's song lyrics?

2. What are the types of connotative meanings used in Ben Howard's song lyrics?

C. Research Objective

The purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the sense of value present in Ben Howard's song lyrics,

2. To categorize the types of connotative meanings used in Ben Howard's song lyrics.

D. Significance of the Research

Several advantages can be achieved from this study. Those are as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

   The theoretical benefit lies in the advancement of linguistic knowledge, particularly in the field of semantics, by providing insights into the connotative meanings found in Ben Howard's song lyrics. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language is used creatively and evocatively in the context of music.

2. Practical Significances

    a. For future researchers

        This study on the connotative meanings in Ben Howard's song lyrics contributes to the field of semantics and linguistic studies. It expands the existing knowledge base by exploring the creative and evocative use of language in a musical context. Future researchers can build on these findings to delve deeper into the analysis of connotative meanings in song lyrics across different genres and artists. This study also highlights the potential for further investigations into the relationship between music, language, and emotional expression.

    b. For the readers

        This study on the connotative meanings in Ben Howard's song lyrics offers valuable insights into the power of language and symbolism in music. Readers, such as music enthusiasts and Ben Howard fans, can gain a deeper appreciation for the artistic elements present in his lyrics. The analysis of connotative meanings provides a new lens to interpret and connect with the emotions and messages conveyed in his songs. In addition, this study encourages readers to explore the broader implications of connotative meanings in song lyrics, fostering a greater understanding of the interplay between language, music, and human emotions.

E. Definition of Key Terms

The purpose of providing definitions for key terms is to prevent any misinterpretation of the concepts employed in this study. The terms that require clarification are as follows:

1. Semantic

The term "semantics" relates to the examination of the meaning of language. It is a subfield in linguistics that focuses on how meaning is conveyed through linguistic systems. Semantic analysis covers different levels of linguistic structure, including sentences, phrases, words, and morphemes, to understand how meaning is constructed and communicated (Efransyah, 2020). Semantics is a field of study that investigates the relationships between words and sentences, and how they relate to objects and processes in the world, aiming to understand how language reflects and describes our surroundings (Hasibuan, 2017). Based on the definition above, semantics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on understanding the meaning of language in song lyrics by exploring how words and sentences relate to objects and processes in the world.

2. Connotative meaning

According to Siliwangi (2020), connotative meaning is the additional value an expression carries beyond its explicit or literal meaning, it encompasses the associations and implications that go beyond the straightforward definition of a word or phrase. In line with Siliwangi Marliana et al. (2023) define connotative meaning as the additional or implied meaning of a communication beyond its literal or explicit content.

Connotative meaning includes the non-literal or implied value conveyed through communication. It can be concluded that connotative meaning is a crucial aspect of language in song lyrics that goes beyond the surface-level definition of words or phrases, including associations and implications.

3. Song lyrics

Song lyrics are written interactions between songwriters and listeners, forming musical compositions that combine melody and vocals, often with expressive or narrative content (Maesaroh, 2023). Song lyrics are often more ambiguous, contain more figures of speech, break syntax rules, and are accompanied by music and rhythm. As a result, song lyrics offer a unique form of expression and convey information that can be analyzed and interpreted (Papazoglou & Gaizauskas, 2021). From the definition above, song lyrics serve as a unique form of communication, allowing songwriters to express information through storytelling and emotional content