

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF LANA DEL REY'S SONGS

SKRIPSI



**in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of Sarjana in English Education**

**By:
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**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS EDUCATION
IKIP PGRI BOJONEGORO
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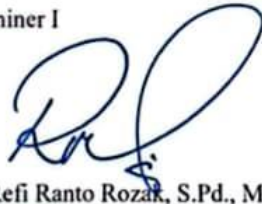
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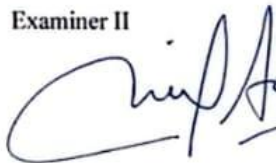
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MOTTO

"Belajar tanpa henti, hidup dengan arti, bertumbuh tanpa melupakan diri."

"Learn without ceasing, live with purpose, and grow without losing yourself".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

All praise and gratitude are due to Allah SWT for His endless blessings, mercy, strength, and guidance, which have enabled the writer to complete this research successfully. Without His grace, this study would not have been possible.

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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

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In order to uphold academic integrity, sincerely and without coercion from any parties, I hereby declare that the thesis entitled:

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF LANA DEL REY'S SONGS

Is the result of my own original work, and all sources of information used have been clearly cited in the reference list according to the scientific and academic code of ethics. I am aware that if any violations of scholarly ethics regarding to the authenticity of this work are found, I personally accept the consequences in accordance with the applicable regulations and am prepared to bear legal sanctions.



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ABSTRACT

Rohmah, Nuzilatur. (2026). “A Semantic Analysis of Lana Del Rey’s Songs”. Skripsi. English Education Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro. Advisor I Dr. Ima Isnaini Taufiqur Rohmah, M. Pd, Advisor II Dr. Fitri Nurdianingsih, M. Pd.

This study aims to analyze the semantic aspects in Lana Del Rey’s song lyrics, focusing on figurative language, word choice, and connotation, as well as their contribution to English vocabulary learning. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected from five songs by Lana Del Rey: *Young and Beautiful*, *Summertime Sadness*, *Chemtrails over the Country Club*, *Brooklyn Baby*, and *Cinnamon Girl*. The data consisted of words, phrases, and sentences containing figurative language, word choice, and connotative meaning.

The findings revealed eight types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, litotes, symbol, paradox, and apostrophe, with symbol and metaphor being the most dominant. The study also identified two categories of word choice, namely accuracy and appropriateness, as well as three types of connotation: positive, negative, and neutral, with positive connotation as the dominant type. The findings indicate that semantic elements in song lyrics help express emotions and implied meanings while contributing to English vocabulary learning by improving learners’ understanding of contextual meanings, figurative expressions, appropriate word choice, and connotative meanings. Therefore, Lana Del Rey’s song lyrics can serve as authentic learning materials for enriching students’ vocabulary and semantic understanding.

Keywords: semantics, figurative language, word choice, connotation, vocabulary learning.

ABSTRAK

Rohmah, Nuzilatur. (2026). “A Semantic Analysis of Lana Del Rey’s Songs”. Skripsi. English Education Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro. Advisor I Dr. Ima Isnaini Taufiqur Rohmah, M. Pd, Advisor II Dr. Fitri Nurdianingsih, M. Pd.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis aspek semantik dalam lirik lagu Lana Del Rey yang berfokus pada Bahasa kiasan, pemilihan kata, dan konotasi, serta kontribusinya terhadap pembelajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data penelitian berupa lima lagu Lana Del Rey, yaitu *Young and Beautiful*, *Summertime Sadness*, *Chemtrails over the Country Club*, *Brooklyn Baby*, dan *Cinnamon Girl*. Data penelitian berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat yang mengandung bahasa kiasan, pemilihan kata, dan konotasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat delapan jenis bahasa kiasan, yaitu simile, metafora, personifikasi, hiperbola, litotes, simbol, paradoks, dan apostrof, dengan simbol dan metafora sebagai jenis yang paling dominan. Penelitian ini juga menemukan dua kategori dalam pemilihan kata, yaitu ketepatan dan kesesuaian, serta tiga jenis konotasi, yaitu positif, negatif, dan netral, dengan konotasi positif sebagai jenis yang paling dominan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa aspek-aspek semantik dalam lirik lagu mampu mengungkapkan emosi dan makna tersirat, serta memberikan kontribusi terhadap pembelajaran kosakata bahasa Inggris dengan membantu peserta didik memahami makna kontekstual, bahasa kiasan, pemilihan kata yang tepat, dan makna konotatif. Oleh karena itu, lirik lagu Lana Del Rey dapat dimanfaatkan sebagai media pembelajaran autentik untuk memperkaya kosakata dan meningkatkan pemahaman semantik peserta didik.

Kata Kunci: semantik, bahasa kiasan, pemilihan kata, konotasi, pembelajaran kosakata.

PREFACE

This thesis, entitled “A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS IN LANA DEL REY'S SONGS,” was written as one of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor of Education degree in the English Education Study Program. This study aims to analyze the meaning in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics through semantic analysis, focusing on word choice, figurative language, and connotations, as well as examining its pedagogical implications for English vocabulary learning.

The preparation of this thesis provided valuable academic experience for the author, particularly in understanding how meaning is constructed explicitly and implicitly through language in song lyrics. Through the semantic analysis process, the author gained a deeper understanding of the role of language as a means of emotional and symbolic expression, as well as the potential of song lyrics as an authentic learning resource in English language learning.

Bojonegoro, July, 27 2026

The Researcher

Nuzilatur Rohmah

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a communication tool that plays an important role in human interaction. Through language, humans can convey ideas, desires, feelings, and experiences to others (Nasution & Tambunan, 2022). In addition to being a medium for exchanging information, language also serves to represent the cultural values that exist in society. Language is not merely a collection of words, but a system that reflects the way humans think and interact. In the context of globalization, proficiency in foreign languages—especially English—has become very important because it has developed into a lingua franca that is widely used in international communication. Mauranen (2021) emphasizes that lingua franca is not merely a communication tool, but also a social phenomenon that reflects the needs of globalization, mobility, and cross-cultural interaction. However, in countries such as Indonesia, which do not use English as their primary language and only study it as a foreign language, the process of acquiring English remains a challenge. This requires the implementation of appropriate learning strategies that are tailored to the needs of students. According to Brown (2015, as cited in Netta, 2023) explains that for learners who do not use English as their first language, success in acquiring language skills depends heavily on the quality of input provided in the classroom, the teaching strategies used by teachers, and the level of motivation of the learners themselves.

One important aspect of learning English as a foreign language is understanding meaning. In linguistics, the study of meaning is known as semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of meaning in language; semantics studies how meaning is expressed through words, phrases, and sentences, as well as how that meaning is understood by speakers and listeners (Leech, 1981). Semantics is a fundamental aspect of communication because meaning is at the core of every linguistic act. Semantic analysis can help learners understand the messages and ideas contained in a text more deeply. Therefore, the study of meaning is very relevant when applied to English language learning, especially when analyzing authentic texts such as song lyrics.

Songs are a form of art that combines elements of music and language. Song lyrics are not only a complement to the melody, but also a means of expression that is rich in meaning. Murphey (1992, as cited in EL Kemma, 2020), explain that songs have the ability to convey emotional and social messages through concise, poetic, and nuanced language, making them an interesting object of linguistic study. Song lyrics are not just a series of sentences, but contain ideas, symbols, emotions, and styles of language that are often ambiguous and have multiple meanings. Many songs use metaphors, imagery, symbolism, and connotations to describe the feelings and social realities that the songwriter wants to convey.

In language learning, song lyrics are highly relevant for analysis through linguistic studies, especially in the context of semantics. “Songs function not only as linguistic input but also as affective and cognitive tools that support

language learning holistically” (Nurhayati, 2020). Through semantic studies, learners can more easily understand the meaning of songs, including the various forms of figurative language contained within them. Sullivan (2022) explains that analyzing song lyrics can improve students' ability to understand text content, recognize figurative language forms, and identify how songwriters use language to represent social realities, feelings, and identities. Thus, songs become an effective learning resource to help learners understand how meaning is formed in English. Therefore, the use of songs is very relevant in English education. Song lyrics are not only a medium of entertainment, but also a complex linguistic representation that can be used as teaching material to enrich semantic understanding and appreciation of language (Watkins, 2016).

In the context of utilizing songs as a learning medium and as an object of linguistic study, Lana Del Rey's songs are an interesting source for semantic analysis. Lana Del Rey, a singer from New York, United States, is known for her poetic lyrics, full of explicit and implicit meanings, and packaged with powerful word choices. Each word she uses is capable of producing a certain emotional effect and creating a distinctive image. Semantic analysis is relevant for exploring how this word choice shapes the meaning and mood of her songs. According to Lakoff and Johnson (2003), figurative language such as metaphors and symbolism is used to express abstract and emotional experiences. In Lana Del Rey's songs, the use of figurative language allows for the creation of deep emotional images and atmospheres. Thus, semantic analysis can reveal the more complex layers of meaning behind the words used

and help us understand how the lyrics represent the experiences, emotions, and social realities that the songwriter wants to convey.

In the context of English language learning, analyzing the meaning of Lana Del Rey's songs has the potential to improve students' vocabulary. This is because, in addition to learning literal meanings, students are also exposed to figurative meanings that can enrich their knowledge of the language. Research conducted by Emirati and Marzuki (2024) shows that the use of song lyrics in English language learning can significantly improve students' vocabulary mastery. In addition, learning using song media also creates a more enjoyable learning atmosphere. This is in line with the findings of Suwartono and Rahadiyanti (2020), who stated that the use of songs in teaching English structure can make students more active, engaged, and motivated through the presentation of real examples of language use.

However, even though Lana Del Rey's songs are rich in meaning and laden with the use of figurative language, research linking semantic analysis to modern pop songs is still very limited. Most previous studies have focused more on children's songs or simple songs and tend to emphasize vocabulary improvement without comprehensively exploring semantic aspects. This condition indicates a research gap, namely the need for research that explores how meaningful song lyrics can be used for more in-depth English learning, especially regarding word meaning comprehension and semantic interpretation. Therefore, this study was conducted to fill this gap by analyzing word choice, figurative language, and connotation in Lana Del Rey's songs and examining

their implications for English language education, particularly in improving students' understanding of word meaning.

B. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background of the study. The research problem are formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of semantic features (word choice, figurative language and connotation) are constructed in Lana Del Rey's selected songs?
2. What pedagogical implications can be drawn from the semantic analysis of Lana Del Rey's songs for English vocabulary learning?

C. Objectives of the Study

As mentioned in the research problem, the objectives of study are:

1. To analyze semantic features in Lana Del Rey's lyrics, including word choice, figurative language, and connotations.
2. To identify and explain the pedagogical implications of semantic features found in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics for English vocabulary learning.

D. Significance of the study

The results of this study are expected to provide benefits in various aspects, both theoretical and practical.

1. Theoretical significance

This study is expected to contribute theoretically to the field of linguistics, particularly semantics.

- a. Providing a deeper understanding of word choice, figurative language, and connotations in song lyrics.

- b. Enriching the literature on semantic analysis of pop song lyrics, which has rarely been studied from a linguistic perspective.
- c. Adding to the academic references on the relationship between meaning analysis and foreign language learning processes, especially English.

2. Practical Significance

- a. For teachers
 - 1) Providing alternative learning media in the classroom by using song lyrics that are rich in meaning so as to increase students' vocabulary
 - 2) References for teachers in developing more enjoyable learning strategies
- b. For Students
 - 1) Helps students improve their vocabulary through lyrics that are interesting and relevant to their lives.
 - 2) Helps students understand meaning directly and indirectly in an easier way through songs.
 - 3) Increases motivation to learn because songs can stabilize emotions and build students' imagination and interest.

E. Definition of Terminologies

This section contains explanations of the main terms used in the study. The presentation of these definitions aims to clarify the concepts discussed and to prevent misunderstandings in interpreting the terms.

1. Semantic Analysis

Semantic Analysis is a study that focuses on meaning in language. In this study, semantic analysis is used to identify meaning in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics.

2. Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language. Semantics discusses how words, phrases, and sentences convey meaning. In this study, the semantic features used are figurative language, word choice, and connotation.

3. Figurative Language

Figurative language is the use of words or expressions whose meanings are different from their literal interpretations in order to create deeper meaning, emphasize ideas, and evoke emotions.

4. Word Choice

Word choice, also known as diction, refers to the selection of appropriate and accurate words to express ideas effectively.

5. Connotation

Connotation refers to the additional meaning or emotional association attached to a word beyond its literal or dictionary meaning.

6. Song Lyrics

Song lyrics are a collection of words arranged to convey a specific message or emotion accompanied by music. In this study, Lana Del Rey's song lyrics are used as the main source for analyzing meaning.

7. Song Analysis

Song analysis is the process of examining the elements contained in a song.

To understand the meaning within, this study focuses on semantic analysis.

8. Lana Del Rey

Lana Del Rey is a female singer-songwriter from New York, USA, known for her melancholic music style. Her song lyrics often contain figurative meanings and emotional themes, making them relevant for semantic analysis.

9. Lyric Data

Lyric data is the song text used as the source of research. In this study, the song lyric data consists of Lana Del Rey songs selected based on theme and relevance to the study.

10. Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a collection of words and their meanings that forms the basis for understanding a language. In this study, vocabulary is not the primary object of research, but rather is discussed as a pedagogical implication derived from a semantic analysis of Lana Del Rey's song lyrics. The vocabulary in this study is focused on understanding word meanings, including figurative and connotative meanings, which can support English vocabulary learning.