



## SEMANTICS ANALYSIS OF THE SONGS

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### ABSTRACT

*Namely studying the meaning of the language used both from humans and those contained in songs or other literary works. This branch is an important one, and there are two namely lexical meaning and contextual meaning. By listening to the song, we can gain knowledge about literary appreciation and the background of the song. Therefore, researchers are often interested in analyzing the various meanings used in songs. After that he chooses songs that contain semantics, reads and listens to the lyrics to understand the content of the songs, conducts and analyzes the collected data and makes conclusions related to lexical meaning and contextual meaning. The researcher hopes that this research is useful for other researchers who want to know more about semantics. Moreover, semantics is an important and interesting branch of linguistics to study, especially if it is applied to literary works, such as songs or poetry and others.*

**Keywords: Semantics, Meaning, Songs.**

### I. INTRODUCTION

Semantics is one of branches in Linguistics and semantic is a systematic study of meaning. People learn semantics in many level and complexity to be able to use the role of it in delivering the message of communication since it developed in 1970 until now. Semantics is not only learned by students, but also teachers and language learners because it contains benefit that may help them understanding the meaning of each single thing around them which relates to their need in schools and daily communication. Students need to learn semantics because it may help them knowing and understanding the material given and the teachers also need to learn semantics because they have to be able to explain correctly to the students about the material which is hard to accept by the students, it is also a must for language learners to learn it because it may ease them in solving their school problems.

Semantics is also a bridge to communicate with other people in order to get the same idea. It is a need to deliver the language correct and well to other people to have the same idea or meaning. Semantics is also useful and good to learn when it is applied in literary work such as song, poem, or prose but this analysis focuses on song because song contains lessons in form of semantics (a study of meaning), the diction, cohesiveness, and cohesion. The reason to analyze song is because many people around the world like listening to the songs but they sometimes have difficulties in getting the meaning of the language. In addition, song also can entertain people that include the implied meaning which have to be delivered to community.

In other languages, semantics is the study of meaning. Often semantics is associated with two other aspects, namely syntax, namely the formation of



complex symbols from simpler symbols, and pragmatics, namely the practical use of symbols by communities in certain contexts. Another understanding of semantics is the study of the meaning used to understand human expression through language. Other forms of semantics include programming languages, formal logic and semiotics.

Kreidler (1998:3) Understanding semantics according to Kreidler is semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Kreidler argues that semantics is the study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how language organizes and expresses meaning.

Griffiths (2006:1) According to Griffiths Semantics is the study of the “toolkit” for meaning: knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meanings, up to the level of sentence meanings. Griffiths explained that semantics is the study of meaning, both knowledge of codes in language vocabulary and patterns to construct more complex meanings, down to the level of sentence meaning.

It can be concluded that semantic meaning is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in a language, code, or other type of representation. However, in a linguistic context, the sign or symbol in question involves a code or language, specifically: a word or other smaller grammatical unit that has meaning.

So, it can also be said that what is semantics is the study of symbols or signs such as words that express meaning and relationships and their influence on speakers or users (humans).

Song is an artistic composition of tones or sounds in sequence, combination, and temporal relationship (usually accompanied by musical instruments) to produce musical compositions that have unity and continuity (contain rhythm). And a variety of rhythmic tones or sounds are also called songs.

The word song has the meaning of a variety of rhythmic sounds (Moeliono (Peny.), 2003: 624). The song (singing) is the result of the relationship between the art of sound and the art of language, as a work of sound art that involves the melody and the color of the singer's voice.

By listening to the song, we can gain knowledge about literary appreciation and the background of the song. Therefore, researchers are interested in analyzing the types of meaning used in songs or the meanings contained in songs.

## **II. RESEARCH METHOD**

The method used in this journal is to use qualitative research methods, namely methods that focus on indepth observations that can produce a more comprehensive study of phenomena. The information in this journal is based on research from the library. Several concepts and research by experts have been analyzed and compiled in this journal as well as possible.

## **III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

According to Palmer, 1981, semantics is a term that is usually used to direct a study or science of meaning, and because eating is part of language, we can conclude that semantics is a branch of linguistics or linguistics.



- **There are several types of semantics namely:**

1. Conceptual Semantics

This semantics contains denotative meaning and cognitive meaning. Making meaning and semantics the main factor in the use of language in society. This can happen because there are complex meanings in semantics.

2. Grammatical Semantics

One type of semantics related to affixation, reduplication, and kalmatasi. Maybe these terms are still confusing. However, here is an example of grammatical semantics "dressed" can be interpreted as "wearing clothes". With the affixation "ber" in front of the word clothes.

- **Semantic Element:**

Of course in everything there are elements that make up these things. There are three main elements that make up semantics.

1. Signs and symbols

These two things are things that must exist in linguistics. Although rooted in linguistics, if signs are developed into a theory called semiotics, it will have three aspects that are related to semantics. The three aspects are syntax, pragmatics, and semantics.

2. Referential Relations and Lexical Meaning

Lexical element is the smallest meaning that can be obtained from a linguistics. These lexical meanings can be distinguished from one another. Lexical meaning is the whole word and its implications that must be interpreted in a construction.

3. Planting

The process of searching for language symbols used to describe the concept of an object, the process of an object, and other things.

**Example Song:**

**Beauty and The Beast**

**Céline Dion, Peabo Bryson**

Tale as old as time True as  
it can be

Barely even friends

Then somebody bends Unexpectedly

Just a little change

Small to say the least

Both a little scared

Neither one prepared

Beauty and the beast

Ever just the same

Ever a surprise

Ever as before and ever just as sure as the sun will rise

Ever just the same

Ever a surprise

Ever as before

Ever just as sure

As the sun will rise

Tale as old as time

Tune as old as song



Bitter sweet and strange  
Finding you can change  
Learning you were wrong  
Certain as the sun  
(Certain as the sun) Rising  
in the east  
(Tale as old as time)  
Song as old as rhyme  
Beauty and the beast  
Tale as old as time  
(Song as old as rhyme) Beauty  
and the beast

Writers: Howard Elliott Ashman & Alan Menken

❖ Beauty and The Beast

The theme of this song is Trust. The theme is also in correlation with the background of the song that tells about the history of the two characters' meeting which ends in marriage. The two characters met for the first time coincidentally and then through times they build a relationship with a belief that The Beast can change to be a good person with good personality with the help of Beauty. Beauty shows The Beast that she trusts on him to be able to change and then it happens. Their relationship is tested by the unexpected problems that finally solved together and they marry then.

**Lexical and Contextual Meaning Analysis**

- a. Beauty is the quality of being pleasing to the senses or to the mind (Hornby, 2015:212). Besides, the contextual meaning of "beauty" is the good personality of a person which can influence and attract other people to change to become better.
- b. Beast is a person who is cruel and whose behavior is uncontrolled (Hornby, 2015:119). While the contextual meaning of "beast" is the bad personality of a person that make other people afraid of the cruelty, afraid of being hurt or bad things that might happen to them because of the bad personality of a person.
- c. Friend is a person you know well and like, and who is not usually a member of you family (Hornby, 2015:628). Although word "friend" means someone you know well, this context tells that "friend" here is the person you have just met and you hate him. This word also contains figurative language which is a paradox which shows the opposition between the word told and the fact.
- d. Somebody bends. Word "somebody" means someone who is not known well but still become a part of a life. While word "bend" means incline the body downwards but the contextual meaning of it is that the man gives up on his destiny that he is now falling in love with "Beauty" and also gives up from his bad personality that he then change becoming a good person.
- e. Change is used to replace one thing, person, service (Hornby, 2015:243). In line 6 "just a little change", it is different to understand the contextual meaning of this word because it is used to say that a man is changing his behavior and change everything bad in his life with the better things to have a better life.
- f. Bitter sweet is the word usually used to say that something is bringing pleasure and mixed with sadness (Hornby, 2015: 144). It has a contextual meaning of statement "bitter sweet and strange" which means the two characters pass hard



bad and good experiences and they find many kinds of memories from their experiences.

The discussion is done based on the analysis of theme and the background of the song. The theme of this song is about Trust while the background of the song is about the meeting of the two characters who are being told from the coincidental meeting until their marriage.

The discussion is made according to the cohesion of the words with the theme. It first begins with word “friend” in line 3 “barely even friends” that describes the first relationship between the two characters as the strangers which then into a friend that one of them “The Beast” gives up on his destiny that he is falling in love with Beauty and also he changes himself to become a better kind person. It is related with lyric line 6 “just a little change” in which the word “change” means that The Beast changes his bad behavior to be a good one because it is impossible saying that “change” means replacing something or person. It is drawn in the lyric that they are both scared of something (problem) unexpected but still facing it although they are not prepared at all. And in line 10 stated “Beauty and The Beast”, the phrase describes the two different personality of the characters, one is Belle as “Beauty” whose personality is attracting people to do something good because she has a good personality that makes people respect and love her. It is in opposition with Beast’s personality which is bad, cruel and hard that make people afraid of him moreover his behavior is uncontrolled. However, their different personality and behavior do not make them selfish because they realize that they have to stay together to solve the problem coming to them. In line 11 to 13, the lyrics describe that the change of Beast’s behavior and personality does not make Beauty (Belle) hates him because the personality is created since a long time ago and is trapped inside a heart because of the problem that only can be solved with the change of Beast. It is a trust of Beauty that finally changes the fate of Beast and shown by lyric in line 18 “as the sun will rise”. They both have passed hard bad and good experiences that make many kinds of memories shown by lyric in line 21 “bitter sweet and strange” because the statement drawst their experiences.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Studying semantics or the study of the meaning of language requires an understanding of the listener's sense relationships, namely the ears that can be used to hear songs so that they can understand the meaning contained in the song. With this journal, it can increase the reader's understanding of the semantics or the meaning of language contained in the songs.

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