

CONNOTATIVE AND DENOTATIVE MEANING OF ADELE'S SONG LYRICS "EASY ON ME"

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Abstract

There are different types of meaning in language, one of the branches of linguistics that deals with meaning is semantics. Semantics is known as the study of meaning. This study aims to analyze the connotative and denotative meanings contained in song lyrics, expressions of feelings or ideas usually expressed through song lyrics. The song selected for this research data is Adele's song, entitled "Easy On Me". The analysis used is a descriptive qualitative method that aims to analyze everyday phenomena and analyze the use of words, including finding the meaning contained in song lyrics. The results of the analysis of connotative meanings are more than denotative meanings in Adele's song lyrics. The number of connotative meanings and denotative meanings are not much different, but the connotative meanings are more because this song has many meanings that actually don't exist.

Keywords: *semantics, song, connotative meaning, denotative meaning*

INTRODUCTION

Now the song has become an element of human life. Songs are composed through the art of tones or sounds that are systematic, combined, and related in time (usually accompanied by musical instruments) to create musical works that have unity and are related (containing rhythm). Jamalus (1998: 1) argues that music is a work of art in the form of sound, song or writing that expresses the thoughts and feelings of creation through the main elements of music. This opinion explains that music is a work of art in the form of sound, song or writing that expresses the thoughts and feelings of its creator through the basic elements of music, namely rhythm, melody, harmony and the form or structure of music, songs and expressions as a source of unity. Basically the art of music is based on the presence of poetry and rhythms that complement the music. To make a song interesting, song lyrics usually have explicit and

implied meanings. But sometimes song listeners and lyricists have different opinions about the meaning of the song.

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning. According to Kreidler (1998: 3) Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how language organizes and expresses meaning. Semantic type can be used to distinguish between lexical and grammatical meaning. Based on the presence or absence of meaning value, a word can be divided into denotative meaning and connotative meaning. The correlation between words and meanings is indeed arbitrary, there is no imperative correlation between the order of phonemes that make up words and their meanings. However, there is a consensus within the community when a word can get its meaning. When words have meanings from the consensus of society, the relationship between words and meanings cannot change unless the evolution of culture and society changes.

Linguistics has three aspects, namely the form of language, the meaning of language, and language in context. Semantics (the study of meaning) is central to the study of communication, and as communication becomes an increasingly important factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes even more pressing. Semantics is also central to the study of the human mind – thought processes, cognition, conceptualization – all of which are closely related to the way we classify and convey our experiences of the world through language.

According to Leech (1974) there are seven types of meaning in semantics, including:

- (1) Denotative meaning (meaning according to the dictionary),
- (2) Connotative meaning (meaning put forward by the mind),
- (3) Social meaning (social context),
- (4) affective or emotional meaning (conveying personal feelings),
- (5) reflective meaning (double conceptual meaning),
- (6) collocative meaning (word association) and
- (7) thematic meaning (message meaning).

Connotative meaning is a meaning that is not directly related to the intention or anything, in other words this meaning goes beyond the conceptual meaning itself, connotative meaning is often referred to as an incorrect meaning. According to (Leech, 1981:12) said "connotative meaning is the value and the phrase that is communicated has the virtue of what is related to outside the mere conceptual content" so that connotative meaning can be interpreted as a meaning. The term itself or its denotative meaning. For example, when we say the word police, its connotative meaning refers to the meaning of "strong" and when we pronounce it, the teacher refers to the meaning of "hero". According to (Masriyah et al., 2019) connotative meaning serves to convey real-world experiences associated with self-expression when listening and using. According to (Zuhdah & Alfain, 2020) the definition of connotation has more meaning. From this it can be concluded that connotation is a meaning that appears in addition to the dictionary meaning or the actual meaning.

According to Chaer (2013: 65), a word has a connotative meaning if the word has a "sense of value", both positive and negative. If it does not have a sense of value, then it is called no connotation, but it can also be called a neutral connotation. Connotative meaning is different from other meanings, because this type of meaning arises from the association of feelings in using language with words that are heard or read. Connotative meaning refers to how a person feels in using language regardless of whether they feel happy, sad, disgusted, or angry. So the positive meaning and negative meaning depends on the sentence. For now, the value of a taste can vary depending on the place, time, and meaning. The positive and negative values of a word often also arise due to the use of the word as symbolism. So if people claim that the word "fire" has a positive value, then the meaning will be positive. In contrast to connotative meaning, denotative meaning gives meaning according to what it is (original meaning), but there is no meaningful value, such as B tall and thin. Denotatively the meaning of the words big and thin shows the size of the human body, but connotatively the word big can have a positive meaning, because big can be very attractive, especially for men, besides that it also has a positive value. meaning. negative meaning when high means social status or power.

From the previous explanation, the writer would be certainly analyze the connotative and denotative meaning of the song's lyrics. The writer chose the lyrics of the song because it is one of the most popular works of art in the world. Each song contains elements of explicit and implied meaning. The writer also chose Adele's lyrics as the research subject because the song is very popular. People all over the world also know and love his songs. The selection

of Adele's lyrics is because the writer wants to convey to the wider community, especially Adele's fans that many words have connotative meanings and know what value means. The writer chose one song on Adele's new album "30", Easy On Me. This song was chosen because the music video was being made. The writer chose the song Easy On Me because it is a new song that Adele released after a long absence, and this song is very liked by the public, especially fans, and is trending on social media.

METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods with descriptive analysis. Qualitative research is a method that emphasizes more on aspects of in-depth understanding of a problem, because this method prefers to use analytical techniques, so that understanding of the problem under study must be very deep. The subject of the research is the text of Adele's choice of song, the latest song from album 30 entitled 'Easy On Me'. The research focuses on analyzing the connotative and denotative meaning of Adele's song.

In the data collection technique, the writer took several steps: First, download songs and texts from the internet. Second, listening to songs, reading texts and also watching videos to find connotative meanings. Third, choosing words or sentences that contain connotative and denotative meanings in the lyrics by thickening words or sentences that contain connotative and denotative meanings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The data taken for this analysis was taken from several lyrics of the song Adele released on November 24, 2021. The title is "Easy On Me"

Tabel 1. Tabel of the song "Easy On Me"

Easy on Me <u>Adele</u>	No	Sentence
	1	<i>There ain't no gold in this river</i>

<p>There ain't no gold in this river That I've been washin' my hands in forever I know there is hope in these waters But I can't bring myself to swim When I am drowning in this silence Baby, let me in</p> <p>Go easy on me, baby I was still a child Didn't get the chance to Feel the world around me I had no time to choose What I chose to do So go easy on me</p> <p>There ain't no room for things to change When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways You can't deny how hard I have tried I changed who I was to put you both first But now I give up</p> <p>Go easy on me, baby I was still a child Didn't get the chance to Feel the world around me Had no time to choose What I chose to do So go easy on me</p> <p>I had good intentions And the highest hopes But I know right now That probably doesn't even show</p> <p>Go easy on me, baby I was still a child I didn't get the chance to Feel the world around me I had no time to choose What I chose to do So go easy on me</p>		
	2	<i>That I've been washing my hands in forever</i>
	3	<i>I know there is hope in these waters</i>
	4	<i>But I can't bring myself to swim</i> <i>When I am drownin' in this silence</i>
	5	<i>When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways</i>

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1. The Analysis of Data 1

*There ain't **no gold in this river***

In the data above, the lyrics tell nothing of value in this place. This sentence is a connotative sentence. Gold and river have connotative and denotative meanings. The connotative meaning of gold is precious and its denotative meaning is the yellow precious metal, the chemical element atomic number 79, used primarily in jewelry and decoration and to guarantee the value of currency. Meanwhile, the connotative meaning of river here is Adele's residence and the denotative meaning is a large natural flow of water flowing in a channel to the sea, lake, or other such stream.

2. The Analysis of Data 2

*That I've been **washing my hands** in forever*

In the data above, the lyrics tell that Adele has given up my involvement once and for all. This sentence is a connotative sentence. Washing my hands has two meanings, namely connotative meaning and denotative meaning. The connotative meaning of the sentence is to let go of hands/free of responsibility while the denotative meaning is the act of cleaning hands with soap and water to remove viruses/bacteria/microorganisms, dirt, fat, or other harmful and unwanted substances attached to the hands.

3. The Analysis of Data 3

*I know there is hope in these **waters***

In the data above, the lyrics tell there is still hope here (household). Waters in the sentence is a connotative meaning, namely household. Water also has a denotative meaning, namely a colorless, transparent, odorless liquid that forms seas, lakes, rivers, and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms.

4. The Analysis of Data 4

*But I can't **bring myself to swim***

When I am drownin' in this silence

In the data above, the lyrics tell Adele was so lost in silence that she couldn't swim. His point was that Adele couldn't afford to get past her problems because she was drowning in loneliness. The lyrics are connotative meanings.

5. The Analysis of Data 5

When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways

In the lyrics above Adele tell she is stuck too deep in her marriage. The lyrics have a connotative meaning. The word stuck here is a connotative meaning and a denotative meaning while the word deeply is a denotative meaning. The connotative meaning of the word stuck describes Adele being trapped in her marriage and the denotative meaning of stuck is something that freezes or stays in one place and cannot be moved.

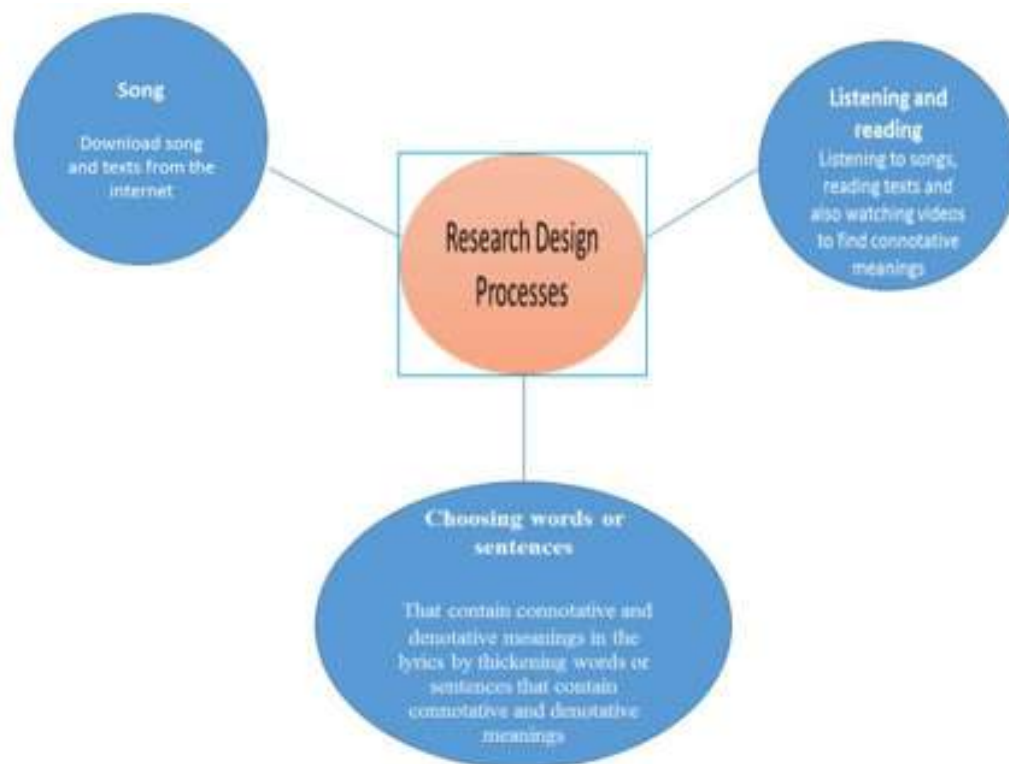


Figure 1. Research design processes

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Discussion

The message of the song is conveyed to the listeners in a simple way, but it is a bit difficult for researchers to understand the lyrics. The lyrics of the song contain many connotative meanings. The song tells the story of Adele's struggle to keep her marriage to Simon Konecki, who was saved only after the two divorced. The song is like a meditative groan about Adele's childhood, failed marriages, life lessons, and abandonment ending in regret.

There are several advantages to using song lyrics as semantic teaching materials, especially through the use of Adele's songs. Adele is very popular in Indonesia. Some of the benefits that can be obtained from using songs as learning materials are to make learning activities more interesting and intense; offer opportunities to practice vocabulary; Turning songs into language learning activities; and has a basic sentence structure that can be embedded in the minds of learners. When teachers use music texts instead of textbooks or other class materials, students are more interactive and interested in class. The lyrics help them develop their interpersonal skills (Akbar et al, 2018).

The connotative and denotative meanings contained in Adele's chosen songs can be used as references or alternative sources for studying semantic studies. Students would be more excited to learn semantics through song lyrics. In addition, the lecturer must present the material in an interesting way so that students are involved. For example, she could ask one of the students to give an opinion about the connotative and denotative meanings in another English song.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion in the above analysis is that this analysis contains many denotative meanings. The lyrics of the song Easy On Me contain many figurative meanings and have incorrect meanings. When viewed with an implied meaning, the lines written in the song's

lyrics describe it as focusing on "a childhood full of suffering, his lost marriage and lessons learned and not learned about family, love, and abandonment along the way," when she sings that she has "changed" to "put you two first," but gave up putting herself first by divorcing her ex-husband.

"When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways / You can't deny how hard I've tried / I've changed who I was to put you both first / But now I give up," Adele sings.

The chorus can be interpreted in two ways. One, as a way to explain the divorce to her son, and two, to ask her future lovers to "go easy" on her.

The writer hopes that this research can help readers to better understand the types of meanings that exist in language, so that readers will more easily understand what messages are contained in each utterance. Since not everything written and discussed has a true meaning, many also have an implied meaning.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBnQbBDHIDo>