

THE MEANING USED IN KATTY PERRY SONG “DARK HORSE”

Adeliya P. Renjani¹, Emeliya S. D. Damanik², Filzah Nazhifah³,
Depimaya S. Harahap⁴, Putri F. Manik⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5} Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara - Indonesia

Emails: ¹adeliyarenjani01@gmail.com, ²emeliya@uinsu.ac.id,
³filzahnazhifah46@gmail.com, ⁴depiharahap558@gmail.com,
⁵utyfadillah17@gmail.com

Abstract

Keywords:

*Denotative,
Connotative, Song*

This study aims to analyze the various meanings contained in the song Dark Horse by Katty Perry. This research uses descriptive qualitative analysis method to conduct research. The research sample is a song entitled Dark Horse by Katty Perry with 12 stanzas of lyrics. The results of the study show that there are two dominant meanings in this song, namely denotative meaning and connotative meaning. The denotative meaning is the meaning according to the dictionary, while the connotative meaning is the implied meaning that interprets the overall context in the song. The general message contained in this song is to talk about love, don't hesitate in expressing love so you won't regret it later, but never betray love if you don't want that person to turn into a vicious “dark horse” that ravages your life.

Kata kunci:

*Denotatif, Konotatif,
Lagu*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis berbagai makna yang terkandung dalam lagu Dark Horse karya Katty Perry. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif kualitatif untuk melakukan penelitian. Sampel penelitian adalah lagu berjudul Dark Horse karya Katty Perry dengan lirik sebanyak 12 bait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada dua makna yang dominan dalam lagu ini, yaitu makna denotatif dan makna konotatif. Makna denotatif adalah makna menurut kamus, sedangkan makna konotatif adalah makna tersirat yang memaknai keseluruhan konteks dalam lagu. Pesan umum yang terkandung dalam lagu ini adalah berbicara tentang cinta, jangan ragu dalam mengungkapkan cinta agar tidak menyesal di kemudian hari, tetapi jangan pernah mengkhianati cinta jika tidak ingin orang itu berubah menjadi “kuda hitam” yang kejam. yang merusak hidup Anda.

INTRODUCTION

Song is a tune and sound consisting of melody, lyrics, music arrangement, and notation. The song is not just a lyric song that arrangement of words into a sentence, but it is also a representation of the emotional composer and intent to express personal feelings like love, struggle, difficulty, jealousy, feeling, and so on. The composer creates the song lyrics based on life experience that tells about someone or another like a song Dark Horse by Katy Perry. There are some messages sent by the singer or composer to the listener with specific situation or context in song lyrics. People have to find out the meaning of the lyrics of the song that the singer wants to express to the listener (Hamdiana, 2015). Unfortunately, not all the lyrics of songs are easily understandable.

When we listening to the music we connect our feelings, but there are some people just listen. They don't know the message and the meaning of the music; the song that they listen has a deep message. Furthermore, in understanding what is meant the lyrics song and the message contain in the song lyrics. We should learn about what kind of meaning of the song lyrics. There are many types of meaning in semantic, but in this paper the writer just use two types, namely denotative and connotative meaning.

Dark Horse, which has sold more than 13 million copies worldwide, credits several songwriters, including Perry and Sarah Hudson, who wrote the lyrics, and rapper Juicy J, who wrote his verse. The track was produced by Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Cirkut, who created the beat in question during the week-long trial.

The song Dark horse by Katty perry has a word that has a deep meaning and must be understood as a connotation, and it draws attention to researchers to grasp its denotative and connotative meaning.

The contribution of this research is to find out the denotative meaning and connotative meaning on catty Parry's song titled "Dark Horse"

Problem of Study

1. How many types of meaning in the song of Dark Horse by Katty Perry?
2. What is the dominant meaning in the song of Dark Horse by Katty Perry?

James R. Hurford, Brendan Heasley, & Michael B. Smith 2007) stated that a dictionary is a central part of writing in any language. A good ordinary home dictionary usually provides three types of information about a word. Speech information about how words are pronounced, part of speech (nouns, verbs, etc.) and grammatical (syntax and form) information about flexion changes (nouns, verbs, etc.). Semantic information is about the meaning of words (in case of multiple numbers or past tenses).

James R. Hurford, Brendan Heasley, & Michael B. Smith defined semantics as the study of meaning in language.

According to Leech (1974), there are seven types of meaning: denotative meaning (meaning by dictionary), connotative meaning (meaning by suggest of mind), social meaning (social context), affective or emotive meaning (convey about personal feeling), and reflected meaning (multiple conceptual meaning), connotative meaning (association of words), and thematic meaning (message of meaning).

Leech (1981) defined denotative or cognitive meaning is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication, and he thinks it can be shown to be integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning are not (which is not to say that conceptual meaning is the most important element of every act of linguistic communication).

Leech, Connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. If the word woman is defined conceptually by three features (+HUMAN, -MALE +ADULT), then the three properties 'human', 'adult, and 'female' must provide a criterion of the correct use of that word.

Barker (2001:4), connotative meaning is the part of the meaning of a word and connotative has an implicit meaning.

Arsiska Sari, The differences between denotative and connotative meaning are; denotative meaning is a real meaning based on dictionary. It means, it interprets directly a word, phrase, or sentence according dictionary. Meanwhile, connotation is about getting a meaning from a word, phrase, or sentence according

suggests, or what we associate the word with, that goes beyond its formal definitions.

METHOD

The research methodology that use in this paper is descriptive qualitative research. Researchers took sample from the lyrics of the Katy Perry song entitled *Dark Horse* which is the first single on the fourth Katy Perry's studio album, *Prism* (2013). The data in this study are words and phrases that contain connotative and denotative meanings. The researchers collect the data in the following steps:

1. Listening to the *Dark Horse* song from YouTube and download the lyrics from Google.
2. Researchers read the lyrics thoroughly and repeatedly to find the data
3. The writer looks for the words, phrases, and sentences that contain connotative and denotative meanings that appear in the lyrics songs.
4. Making a list of the words, phrases or sentences that contain connotative and denotative meanings, then make a data
5. Compiling the data into several parts based on classification.

To test the validity of the data, the researcher got help from semantic and pragmatic lecturer in English education of state Islamic university of north Sumatera to check the results of this article. The researcher presented this article in front of the lecturer and classmates while being checked by the lecturer. This was important for the continuation of this article.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers provide lyric of "Dark Horse" by Katty Perry below:

"Dark Horse"

1

Oh, new
Yeah, ya'll know what it is
Katy Perry
Juicy J
Uh huh, let's rage!

2

I knew you were
You were gonna come to me
And here you are
But you better choose carefully
'Cause I, I'm capable of anything
Of anything and everything

3

Make me your Aphrodite
Make me your one and only
But don't make me your enemy
your enemy, your enemy

4

So you wanna play with magic?
Boy, you should know whatcha falling for
Baby, do you dare to do this?
'Cause I'm coming at you like a dark horse (hey)

5

Are you ready for, ready for (hey)
A perfect storm, a perfect storm? (hey, hey)
'Cause once you're mine, once you're mine
(Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey)
There's no going back

6

Mark my words
This love will make you levitate
Like a bird, like a bird without a cage
But down to earth
If you choose to walk away, don't walk away

7

It's in the palm of your hand now baby
It's a yes or no, no maybe
So just be sure before you give it up to me
Up to me, give it up to me

8

So you wanna play with magic?
Boy, you should know whatcha falling for
Baby, do you dare to do this?
'Cause I'm coming at you like a **dark horse** (hey)

9

Are you ready for, ready for (hey)
A **perfect storm**, a perfect storm? (hey, hey)
'Cause once you're mine, once you're mine
(Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey)
There's no going back

10

Uh, she's a **beast**
I call her Karma (come back)
She eats your heart out like **Jeffrey Dahmer** (whoa!)
Be careful
Try not to lead her on (mm)
Shawty's heart was on steroids
'Cause her love was so strong

11

You may fall in love when you meet her (meet her)
If you get the chance you better keep her (keep her)
She's sweet as **pie**, but if you break her heart
She'll turn cold as a freezer (freezer)
That fairy tale ending with a knight in shining armor
She can be my Sleeping Beauty
I'm gon' put her in a coma (whoa!)

12

Damn, I think I love her
Shawty so bad, I'm sprung and I don't care
She got me like a **roller coaster**
Turn the bedroom into a fair (a fair)
Her love is like a **drug**
I was tryna hit it and quit it
But lil' mama so dope
I messed around and got addicted

13

So you wanna play with magic?
 Boy, you should know whatcha falling for (you should know)
 Baby, do you dare to do this?
 'Cause I'm coming at you like a dark horse (like a dark horse)
 Are you ready for, ready for (ready for)
 A perfect storm, a perfect storm? (a perfect storm)
 'Cause once you're mine, once you're mine (oh)
 There's no going back

At lyrics that researchers found above, there are some words that have denotative and connotative meaning:

Tabel 1. Data Presentation of Denotative and Connotative Meaning

No	Words	Position	Types of meaning	Meaning
1	Make me your <u>Aphrodite</u>	Verse 3	Denotative	Aphrodite is a young god who is beautiful, attractive, and always elegantly dressed. Aphrodite is also a goddess who is known to wear jewelry on her body
2	Dark <u>House</u>	Title & Verse 8	Connotative	Someone who has power or influence that cannot be underestimated.
3	A perfect <u>storm</u>	Verse 9	Connotative	a perfect storm (not a real storm, but anger), the word storm in dictionary has meaning as very strong wind, rain hard. But the word storm here is not the true meaning of storm. But the word storm here means anger.
4	Uh, she's a <u>beast</u>	Verse 10 line 1	Connotative	(not a beast but a woman with a bad heart), it has a connotative meaning. The word beast here is not the true meaning of a beast but it means she is a wicked woman.
5	She eats your heart out like <u>Jeffrey Dahmer</u>	Verse 10 line 3	Connotative	Using the parable of Jeffrey Dahmer who is a serial killer
6	She's sweet as <u>pie</u>	Verse 11	Connotative	sometimes sweet
7	She got me like a <u>roller coaster</u>	Verse 12 line 3	Connotative	means something like up and down in her feeling
8	Her love is like a <u>drug</u>	Verse 12 line 5	Connotative	love is fun but ends in death, not real drugs
9	<u>Mark</u> _____ my words	Verse 6	Connotative	Mark in dictionary means as a 'sign' or 'characteristic'. But the word mark here is not the true meaning. It has a connotative meaning. The word mark means 'keep in mind'. So mark my words means 'keep my words in your mind'.

Based on the data above, it can be seen that there are two types of meanings in the song Dark horse Katy Perry which have denotative meaning and connotative meanings. Each of the lyrics and video clips has a characteristic language and gesture, which is explained by illustrating the role of a goddess or queen and supporting characters to describe the actual situation of the lyrics. The meaning of dark horse mentioned in the title is coded in descriptions such as "a person who has power or influence that cannot be underestimated". This starts from the beginning of the lyrics that say "MAKE ME YOUR APHRODITE" where APHRODITE means a young god who is beautiful, attractive, and always elegantly dressed. Aphrodite is also a goddess who is known to like to wear jewelry on her body with a body guard and the characteristics of an animal-headed casts, this song is like a story of power, love and worship. From this data analysis, it can be concluded that the dark horse song is encoded through connotative meaning.

As mentioned in the lyrics " cause I'm coming at you like a "dark horse" Muler and Merbach that the intentional (connotative) meaning of a thing is a collection of characteristics or traits or qualities: 'A connotative definition gives meaning to a word by describing the general characteristics shared by all the things symbolized by the word. Cruse (2006), also defines that the definition includes issues of extension and intention. Extension means a linguistic form that includes all entities that can be represented by a form, such as the word animal can denote a tiger, lion, cat, and others that fall into the category of animals. In this research, this website is presented using connotative meaning. In this type of writing is descriptive text. This can be seen from the generic structure of the lyric text starting from the introduction and explanation per lyric which contains connotative meaning. This also appears in the use of stylistic features, using simple similes to describe the character of his influential power like a dark horse.

Previous research about denotative and connotative meaning is already conducted in 2021. They find 10 lyrics that contain the denotative and connotative meaning in the nine songs of the "greatest showman album". But, research on denotative and connotative meaning in the song "Dark Horse" is a new study and

there has been no previous research, this shows a new fact that this song also has denotative and connotative meanings that should be explored further. Comparing the study before, we know that there are some denotative and connotative meanings in several songs.

CONCLUSION

Based on our research, it can be concluded that this song have two dominant meanings in it, there are denotative and connotative meanings. The general meaning of this song is to talk about love, don't hesitate in expressing love so you won't regret it later, but never betray love if you don't want that person to turn into a vicious “dark horse” that ravages your life.

REFERENCES

- Barker, Chris. 2001. *Lexical Semantic*. USA: San Diego Press. Chaer, A. 1994. *Linguistik Umum*. Jakarta: PT. Rineka Cipta.
- Cruse, A. 2006. *A Glossary of Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Cruse, Alan. 2000. *Meaning in language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. United States: Oxford University Press.
- Hadi, I. (2021). An Error Analysis of Active and Passive Voice Towards English Text of University Students in South Jakarta. *Jurnal Ilmiah Wahana Pendidikan*, 7(2), 9-16.
- Hadi, I. (2021). Denotative And Connotative Meaning Analysis In The Greatest Showman Album. *Jurnal Bahasa Indonesia Prima (JBIP)*, 3(2), 325-333. <https://doi.org/10.34012/bip.v3i2.1987>
- Hadi, Irfan. 2021. Denotative and Connotative Meaning Analysis in the Greatest Snowman Album. *Jurnal Bahasan Indonesia Prima*. Vol. 3, no.2.
- Hurford, James R. Brendan Heasley, & Michael B. Smith. 2007. *Semantics: A Coursebook 2nd Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Leech, G. 1974. *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Press.
- Leech, Geoffrey . 1981. *Semantics: The Study of Meaning Second Edition*. London: Penguin Press.

Novel “Mary Poppins” By Pl Travers. *Jurnal Lentera Pendidikan Pusat Penelitian*. Lppm Um Metro, 6(1), 14-30.

Pakpahan, D. Putri, dkk. 2020. An Analysis of Connotative Meaning on Westlife Song Lyrics Based on Semantics. *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research*. 10(4), 34-44.

Pardede, Hilman. (2016). *Semantics: A View to Logic of Language*. Pematang Siantar: FKIP UHN

Sari, Arsiska & Paramita Kusumawardhani. *Denotative and Connotative Meaning in One direction’s Songs Lyric: A Semantic Perspective*. 14-17.

Strehlow TGH 1971. *Songs of Central Australia* Sydney: Angus and Robertson.

Turpin, Myfany & Stebbins, Tonya. (2010). The Language of Song: Some Recent Approaches in Description and Analysis. *Australian Journal of Linguistics*. 30. 10.1080/07268600903133998.