

Connotative Meaning in Michael Jackson's Song Lyric "Heal The World": A Semantic Study

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ABSTRACT

This research was concerned on semantic study. It was aimed to describe the connotative words meaning used by the songwriter and to explain the message delivered in Michael Jackson's song lyrics. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method involving one song lyrics by Michael Jackson entitled "Heal the World". The data were collected by downloading and listening to the song, reading the lyrics, and analyzing the connotative words. The findings viewed that there were totally eleven connotative meanings founded in "heal the world" song lyrics in 3 types, such as 8 positive connotations, 2 negative connotations, and 1 neutral connotation. Furthermore, the researchers also identified 3 main messages in this song lyric. The first is heart as a symbol of someone's sincerity. The second is become a good person is not difficult. The last is nothing impossible to make this world much better as long as we have the intention. From these messages, the researchers concluded that the main message of this song is invited the listeners to fix our world in order to have a sense of love and peach even though our body is dying. Therefore, the world will be better if we are sharing love each other.

Keywords: *Semantic Meaning, Connotative Meaning*

INTRODUCTION

People are transferred their idea or information through languages. However, there are so many languages over the world that not all people can understand them. Therefore, translation is needed to transfer equivalent meaning from source language text into target language text which they understand as well. Therefore, Armawansyah (2016:11) also stated that meaning is very important to indicate someone's idea and comprehend the message which the speakers delivered to say. (Assiddiqy:2021) is also defined meaning as the result of relationship among language and the world which occur based on users agreement and can be used to deliver the information in communication practice. The term meaning can be also described from speaker's mind to the listener's mind in form of one language or the other language.

The study of meaning also called as semantic in linguistic study. According to Purnamasari (2018:157), semantic is systematic study of meaning in words, phrases or sentences and study of how a language is organized and express their meaning. In addition, Fatkurrohman (2014) also stated that semantic as a center of linguistic quest that used in understanding, not only the nature of language, but also people's language abilities. From the definition above, it can be concluded that semantic plays an important role for many people, not only to comprehend and understand a language but also to know the relationship between language and culture. Semantic study also contains benefit for helping people to understand the meaning of each thing based on someone's need and for daily communication in order to get the same idea Nisyana (2018:1).

Moreover, semantic not only found in daily communication but also it can be applied in literacy work such as song. Song is a written expression of poetry which contained writer's emotional felling

(Pratiwi, et al: 2020). Emotional feeling is very important in a song in order to make the listener felt more about the song and got the message from the songwriters. In addition, song can be also defined as combination of words and performed with musical instrument (Assiddiqy:2021). Furthermore, a song can consists of literal meaning where the source language song can be translated based on actual words in source language text. However, the lyrics in source language song sometimes cannot be translated in actual words and find more difficulties to understand what are the writer's want to convey through his/her song (Armawansyah,2016:2). That is why, it is important to know the meaning of the song in order to get the message from the lyrics and prevent wondering about the content of the lyrics.

Therefore, this research will be analyzed by using Leech (1981) theory about semantic study. Leech is divided seven types of meaning in semantic such as connotative meaning, denotative meaning, affective and social meaning, reflected and collocative meaning, associative meaning, thematic meaning, and intended and interpreted meaning. First is social and affective meaning which refers to language which convey about social circumstances of its use in a community. Second is Reflected and collocative meaning is meaning that arise from the multiple conceptual meaning which one word forms can be responded to the other sense of word. Thirds is associative meaning which related to the understanding about the speaker's individual mentality. Forth is thematic meaning which concerned on how the words order affecting the meaning that entailed in communication. Fifth is Intended and interpreted meaning which refers to the speaker's mind in arrange the message and interpret the meaning. Sixth is denotative meaning which concerned on the literal meaning in dictionary. It means the meaning can be directly found in dictionary without any effort. However, this research will be focused on the last kinds of meaning that is connotative meaning which also called conceptual meaning. This mini research used connotative meaning because the researcher wants to analyze the song lyrics.

Connotative is meanings that do not go directly to the intent and refers to the not actual meaning. Purnamasari (2018:159) stated that connotative can change by the time because it is related to the values of one's positive or negative insider feelings. For the example, the word "barked" has some meaning. If we say "the dog is barked", so it is called neutral or positive connotative, but if we say "My boyfriend often barked to me", so the connotative is obviously negative because the word "barked" generally used for animals not humans. From the example, it can be seen that there are 3 types of connotative words such as positive connotative, negative connotative, and neutral connotative. Positive connotation refers to the word meaning which make people felt good. In addition, negative connotation is word meaning which have negative emotional response to the listener or reader in a text. Meanwhile, neutral connotative is meaning that has no emotional reaction.

From the background above, then the researcher want to conduct a mini research in analysis connotative meaning or non-literal meaning of a foreign song by Michael Jackson entitled "Heal the World". "Heal the world" is one of Michael Jackson's song in the fifth album entitled "dangerous" which released in 1991. He created heal the world foundation, a charity organization that designed to children's live much better and to teach them to help others. Therefore, the researcher want to analyze a song lyric because most of people around the world usually listen some songs but not all the people can understand the meaning and the message of the song especially if it is written in foreign language and have connotative terms. Furthermore, semantic study is also appropriated to be used for investigating the song lyric because it focuses on the meaning of language that used by a people in order to convey their intent and or message through a song.

In addition, there are three relevant studies related to the connotative meaning in a song lyric. The first study was conducted by Armawansyah (2016). This study analyzed the connotative meaning in selected Maher Zain's songs lyrics. The writer took five different songs to be analyzed. Qualitative descriptive method was used by the researcher in analyzing the data. Furthermore, the finding revealed three kinds of connotative in these songs such as six positive connotations, four neutral connotations, and four negative connotations. Furthermore, the result of the study has been shown that the message of the lyric is delivered in a good structure by using positive connotative meaning.

The second study was conducted by Prayitna (2015) entitled "An Analysis on Connotative Meaning and Message in Linkin Park's Songs in A Thousand Suns Album". This study was purposed to display the interpretation of the connotations found in song lyrics, the messages of songs, and the

contribution of connotations to the messages. This research used qualitative approach. The research finding viewed 46 utterances found in the lyrics which containing connotative meaning.

The last study was carried out by Assiddiqy (2021) entitled "Connotative Meaning of Bon Jovi's Selected Song Lyrics". There were 2 objectives in this research such as found out the connotative meaning which delivered by the songwriters and to found out the message that are involved in connotative meaning that was delivered by the songwriter. This research used Abdul Chaer theory by implementing descriptive analysis method. The result is shown that there were totally 8 negative connotative and 6 positive connotative words in Bon Jovi's song lyrics. Meanwhile the message is contained the failures as a part of life and be careful to the dangerous people.

Among the previous studies above, there are two differences in this study. The first is this research will be used in Michael Jackson's song lyric "Heal The World". In addition, Michael Jackson's song also one of popular song in the world and still listen until now. The second is, this research only focus connotative meaning by using main theory from Leech (1981) about semantics. Therefore, this study will be described connotative words meaning in Michael Jackson's song lyric "Heal the World", and explained the message delivered by a song writer by proposing two research questions such as:

1. What is the connotative meaning found in Michael Jackson's songs lyric "Heal the World"?
2. How are the message delivered in Michael Jackson's song lyric "Heal the World"?

From this mini research, hopefully the result of this research can be useful in theoretical and practical studies. In theoretically, the finding of this present study is expected to develop translators and readers knowledge about semantic meaning especially in connotative terms of a song lyric. In the other hand, this study also will be given new information about connotative meaning in Michael Jackson's song entitled "Heal the World". Meanwhile in practically, this study is expected to give contribution for the lecturer in teaching semantic in linguistic study and for foreign translator in doing translation in target language text especially in translating a song lyric. In addition, hopefully it can be used as a reference for the next researcher who wants to conduct this study under the same topic.

METHODOLOGY

This mini research used a descriptive qualitative approach. According to Suryana (2010:4), descriptive research is focused to make a systematically and accurately description based on the facts that happen in the field. Furthermore, Wahyuni (2019:18) also mentioned that descriptive method is appropriate for explaining some information and understanding the social phenomena based on the context. In addition, Rizkiyah (2017) stated that qualitative focused on interpretation and description which lead to the new theory or concept and evaluation process. In conclusion, qualitative descriptive is used in this mini research to make systematic description about the phenomena that will be investigated and given clear explanation about connotative words meaning in Michael Jackson's song lyric. Besides that, descriptive qualitative can be also used to find out the message in a song lyric by giving clear explanation.

In addition, the data were collected by downloading the song and the lyric from internet, listening to the song, reading the lyrics and choosing the connotative words in that song by write them separately. In this research, the researcher only used one song entitled "Heal the World" in him album "Dangerous" which first released in 1991. The researcher is choosed that song because it is one of popular song and can be enjoyed by all people around the world. However, these steps above were used by the researcher to answer the first question related to the kinds of connotative words meaning that found in Michael Jackson's song lyrics entitled "Heal the World". Meanwhile, the second research question will be answered by reading all the lyrics and taking the connotative words in the previous data in order to help the researchers to explain the message delivered in Michael Jackson's song lyrics.

Furthermore, the data will be analyzed and described by using Leech theory related to the connotative meaning in semantic perspective. Meanwhile, there are three steps to analyze the data based on Miles and Huberman (2014) such as data condensation, data display, and draw verification/ conclusion. Data condensation refers to the selecting or focusing the data which appear in all empirical materials such as interview, field note, document, etc. In this step, the researcher will be selected the data by only focused on connotative words in Michael Jackson's song lyrics. The second

step is doing data display. Data display refers to organize or classify the data that allowed for drawing conclusion and action. Therefore in this step, the researcher arranged and organized the connotative words which found in a song lyric by putting them in a table whether it is negative, positive or neutral meaning. The last step is drawing verification or conclusion. Conclusion also verified as an analysis process in describing or explaining the data that have been founded. In addition, it also needed data verification because the meaning of the data should be proved for their plausibility and conformability by using data validity from expert. Therefore in this last step, the connotative words will be analyzed one by one by following leech theory related to the semantic study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher will be analyzed and explained about the types of connotative meaning and the message found in Michael Jackson's song lyrics. In addition, the data was analyzed descriptively based on the theory from Leech (1981) and compared the result with the previous research. Besides that, the researcher only analyzed one song and the data was collected by downloading the song, entitled "Heal the World" by Michael Jackson. The following table below was shown the kinds of connotative meaning found:

Table 1. Types and amounts of connotative words in "Heal the World" song lyric

No	Connotative words	Connotative types		
		Positive	Negative	Neutral
1	There's is a place in your heart (L.1)	✓		
2	And this place could be much brighter than tomorrow (L.3)	✓		
3	Heal the world (L.11)	✓		
4	Then why do we keep strangling life? (L.30)		✓	
5	This world is heavenly (L.32)			✓
6	We could fly so high (L.34)	✓		
7	Let our spirits never die (L.35)	✓		
8	See the nation turn their swords into plowshares (L.39)	✓		
9	We could really get there (L.40)	✓		
10	And the dream we were conceived in will reveal a joyful face (L.28)	✓		
11	Wound this earth, crucify its soul? (L. 31)		✓	
Amount		8	2	1

From the table above, it can be seen that there were totally eleven connotative meaning which included in three kinds or types such as positive connotative, negative connotative, and neutral connotative words. Therefore, there were totally 8 positive connotative words, 2 negative connotative words, and 1 neutral connotative word that founded in Michael Jackson's song lyrics entitled "Heal the World".

a. Positive connotative meaning

As mentioned in previous part, positive connotative refers to the positive direction and deliver in fun or good manner. In addition, there were some positive connotative words which found in Michael Jackson's song. The first is the word "place". The meaning of "place" usually means to situation or position in general. However, the meaning of word "place" in lyric "There's is a place in your heart" is connoted with writer wishes of someone that is "love" in their heart. The second word is "brighter". The word "brighter" usually refers to the light or shining. Meanwhile in this song, the word "brighter" in lyric "And this place could be much brighter than tomorrow" means a place which people can life much better than tomorrow. The third word is "heal". In dictionary, "heal" means a treatment that given to the

people who have a wound. Meanwhile in this song, the word "Heal" in lyric "Heal the world" means to invite human to fix our world's life by cultivating a sense of love and peace between mankind in this world. The fourth is the word "fly". Generally, the word "fly" means move through the air by using wings. However in this song, the word "fly" in lyric "we could fly so high" means nothing is impossible in this world as long as we have empathy in our hearts, then all human beings will feel peace and happiness. The fifth is the word "die". In dictionary, the word "die" means stop living. Meanwhile in this song, the word "die" is referred to the something lost. Therefore, the lyric "Let our spirits never die" means do not lose our spirit in creating world peace. The sixth is the word "sword into plowshares". This word is related to the concept which weapons and military technology were transformed into peaceful civilian tools. This phrase is come from the book of *Isaiah*. Therefore in this lyric, this word is a unity that cannot be translated separately. The seventh is the word "there". In dictionary, the word "there" refers to the place, position, or existing of something. Meanwhile the word "there" in lyric "we could really get there" means we can achieve the world peace for all human in every country. The last is the word "dream". In dictionary, the word "dream" means a series of thoughts, images, and sensations which happen in person's mind during they are sleeping. Meanwhile in this song, the word "dream" in lyric "and the dream we were conceived in will reveal a joyful face" is indicated to the desired hope to see the joyful faces of people who are in distress. In this case, the word "dream" is not happened during sleep.

b. Negative connotative meaning

Negative connotation means words that imply emotion to negative direction. In addition, there is also found a word that have positive denotative meaning, but have negative meaning in connotative. In Michael Jackson's song, there were only 2 negative connotative words were founded by the researcher such as the words "strangling" and "crucify". The word "strangling" in dictionary means squeeze someone's neck which can cause death. Meanwhile in this song, the word "strangling" in lyric "then why do we keep strangling life?" Is referred to the unfair treat to humans and leave someone in misery. In addition, the word "crucify" that mentioned in this song also have negative connotation meaning as well. The word "crucify" means put someone to death by nailing and binding them into a cross. It also refers to the Christian religious beliefs. However, the word "crucify" in lyric "wound this earth, crucify its soul" is related to the sacrifice for something. In this case, this lyric is showed us for do not let this world be destroyed by personal interests but be the healer of the world with the love in our heart.

c. Neutral Connotative meaning

The last types of connotative word is neutral connotative. Neutral connotative is meaning that has no emotional reaction. In Michael Jackson's song, there was only 1 neutral connotative word founded such as "heavenly". The word "heavenly" in dictionary is pointed to the very pleasing and wonderful place. Meanwhile In this song, the word "heavenly" in lyric "this world is heavenly" also referred to the world is like heaven when it filled with human who have full of care and love which come from us. However, the heaven here is not related to the life after someone's death. It seem like the parable to show how wonderful the peach would be if humans helped each other in this world.

Beside the connotative words founded in "heal the world" song lyrics, the researcher also indicated the message in this song. As mentioned previously, message usually consists of meaningful information which can be delivered by speech face to face or called as verbal message and by writing a text or also called as non-verbal message. "Heal the world" is told about the songwriter's point of view about the world that destructed by humans, by environment, by racism, and by people who have no love in themselves. Therefore, the songwriter is tried to invite the listeners to fix our world in order to have a sense of love and peach.

Moreover, the researcher also founded 3 messages of this song lyric. The first message is shown that heart is a symbol of someone's sincerity where there is love and affection. Therefore, if someone already has feelings of love and affection in his heart, he will definitely be a good person, who can help others, who can save the world, and make this world better and shining. The second message in this song is, become a good person is not difficult. We just need to be considered to the life around us.

The last message is, nothing is impossible to make this world much better as long as we have the intention. From these messages, it can be concluded that the main message in "heal the world" song is invited human to keep loving, even though our body is dying. Furthermore, love in the heart is a key to human happiness to help others and empathize. Therefore, by sharing love with others, the human life will be happier and the world will be better.

From the result above, this mini research have some differences and similarities in the previous reseach study. The first similarity is in types of connotative meaning found in the song lyrics. In this mini research, the researcher was found 3 types of connotative meaning such as 8 positive connotatives, 2 negative connotatives and 1 neutral connotative. This result has the same finding in Armawansyah (2016) research study, he also found 3 types of connotative words such as 6 positive connotatives, 4 negative connotatives, and 4 neutral connotatives. However, the result of this mini reseach also have differences by two studies by Assiddiqy (2021) and Prayitna (2015). In a study from Assiddiqy (2021), he only found 2 types of connotative meaning such as 8 negative connotative meanings and 6 positive connotative meanings. Meanwhile in a reseach study from Prayitna (2015), she did not classified the types of connotative meaning and only mentioned there were 46 connotative words that found in song lyrics. This different result is might be happened because the nature of connotative words that indetermined and open-ended based on our knowledge and beliefes about this universe. This argument also supported by Leech (1981:13), which stated that connotative meaning is vary considerably based on individual culture background and experience. It means that, even the song that translated by different translators might be have different connotative meaning because it influenced by any factor such as culture, experience, and personal's belief.

Furthermore, the result in this mini research shown the positive connotative is more dominant compared with the other 2 types of connotative meanings found. This finding is same with a study conducted by Armawansyah (2016) which found 6 positive connotative in Maher Zain's song lyrics. However, this finding is different from a study by Assiddiqy (2021) which he found more negative connotative meanings rather than positive connotative in Bon Jovi's song lyric. It might be happened because the different kind of song which selected by each researcher.

In addition, the message of this song of course have different result. It happened because this research used different song lyrics' from the previous studies. However, the message of this reseach and each previous studies still tell about the meaningful information which delivered by the songwriter. It also supported by Soemardjo in Assiddiqy (2021) which mentioned that a good literary works always give the good message for the reader as well. Therefore, there will be a reason about why a songwriter wants to present a song to the listener. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that without a message, a literary work such as music or art will be incompleted and the songwriter's purposes can not be delivered properly.

Moreover, the connotative words founded in song lyrics also have a big role in delivered the message. For example, the researcher found the word "swords into plowshares" which related to the concept of weapons and military technology were transformed into peaceful civilian tools. It means that, the war is over and replaced it into world peace. In this example, this lyric cannot be translated separately because it allowed to the wrong translation. The other example is a word "fly" in "we could fly so high". In this part, the word "fly" is not referred to the wings or fly above the clouds but related to the anything that can happen in this universe. It means that nothing is impossible in this world as long as we have empathy in our hearts. From the example above, it can be seen that connotative meaning is very important to know especially for a translator. It also supported by Leech theory (1981) which stated that connotative meaning is not specific to the language, but it is shared by the other communication systems such as visual art and music. It means that connotative meanings usually cannot be translated word by word and sometimes it is not referred to the general meaning. Therefore, it is important to know all the meaning in a word and tranlate them based on the context of the text that will be translated.

CONCLUSION

Semantic is a study of meaning in language. In addition, there were 7 types of meaning; one of them is connotative meaning. Connotative is meaning that does not go directly to the intent and refers to the not actual meaning. In addition, connotative meaning can change from time to time because connotative meaning is related to the sense of people values in positive or negative. Therefore, there

are 3 kinds or types of connotative meaning such as positive connotative, negative connotative, and neutral connotative. Positive connotative meaning refers to the positive direction and delivers in fun or good manner. In contrast, negative connotative is a word that implied emotion to negative direction. Meanwhile, neutral connotative is meaning that has no emotional reaction.

In Michael Jackson's song lyrics entitled "heal the world"; the researcher has found connotative meaning and message delivered by the songwriter. From the data finding, the researcher found eleven words that contained the connotative meaning in this song lyric which consisted of 3 types. There were totally 8 positive connotative meanings that identified in "heal the world" song lyrics such as the word "place", "brighter", "heal", "fly", "die", "swords into plowshares", "there", and "dream". In addition, the researcher also found 2 negative connotative meanings such as the words "strangling, and "crucify". Meanwhile, there was only 1 neutral connotative meaning that found in this song, that is the word "heavenly". These connotative meanings have to be interpreted based on the context. It means that, the general meaning usually cannot be used to translate a song lyric. For example, the word in lyric "swords into plowshares". In this case, the translator should know about the parable words in a language because sometimes the words cannot be translated separately in order to get the real meaning especially for literary work such as music or song. Therefore, translating connotative meaning can be influenced by individual culture background and experience about the language that will be translated.

In addition, the researcher also analyzed and explained the message delivered in "heal the world" song lyrics. This song is told about songwriter's point of view about the world that destructed by humans, by environment, by racism, and by people who have no love in themselves. Furthermore, the researcher found 3 messages that tried to deliver by the songwriter in "heal the world" song lyric. The first message is heart as a symbol of someone's sincerity. The second message is, become a good person is not difficult. The last message is nothing impossible to make this world much better as long as we have the intention. From these messages, the researcher concluded that the main message of this song is invited the listeners to fix our world in order to have a sense of love and peace even though our body is dying.

From this mini research, the researcher hopes it can help readers to understand much better about the connotative meanings that existed in a language. By knowing the types of connotative meaning, the readers will be easier to understand the message delivered in each utterance. For the next researcher, they might be used another types of literary works to analyze the connotative or even the denotative meaning in a language.

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