An Analysis of Denotative and Conotative Meaning on Weird Genius Song's Lathi Lyrics: A Semantic Perspective

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Abstract.

Because language contains so many distinct kinds of meaning, semantic science is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning. This research aims to look at the denotative and connotative meanings of song lyrics, which are a typical way of expressing one's feelings or ideas through song lyrics. The Weird Genius song "Lathi" was chosen as the study's soundtrack. The qualitative descriptive approach was used in this study, which is a way for examining everyday phenomena and assessing word usage, such as determining the meaning of song lyrics. I used Geoffrey Leech's core semantics theory to solve this analytical problem. The findings of this study reveal that Weird Genius song lyrics have more connotative than denotative connotations. Weird Genius song lyrics had eight connotative interpretations and four denotative meanings, according to this analysis. The majority of the words in this song have hidden meaning since the number of connotative and denotative meanings fluctuates.

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

Introduction

In everyday life, language is the fundamental means of communication; the goal is to transmit information and ideas through meaningful sentences and words that can be understood in a variety of ways. Oral communication and written communication are the two modes of language communication. Speeches, interviews, and other kinds of expression are examples of oral communication, whereas news publications, advertisements, and slogans are examples of written communication. According to Riemer (2010), the ability to articulate meaning is the most significant feature of language learning, and without it, language loses one of its most important aspects. From a semantic standpoint, the author will discuss the meaning that exists in song lyrics, specifically the denotative and connotative meanings.

Songs have now become an integral component of human life. To construct a piece of music with unity and continuity, song composers use tones or sounds in sequence, combination, and temporal relationship (typically accompanied by musical instruments) (containing cadence). The words of a song are usually given apparent and implied meaning to make it interesting. However, the meaning of a song might alter depending on who is listening to it and who is reading the lyrics (Purnamasari, 2018:1).

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Linguists are interested in understanding how language works, which is why semantics is one of the branches of linguistics. What common knowledge do two individuals have when they share a language and can give and receive information, as well as convey their feelings and intents to one another? (Setiani, 2020:4).

In general, there are two types of meanings for words: denotative and connotative. Connotative meaning is the additional meaning or sense value contained in a word, whereas denotative meaning is the meaning that does not contain any other meanings or values (Saifudin, 2018:1).

In this case, the writer uses analysis data from Weird Genius' song, which was quite popular in 2020. Weird Genius released a song with the title "Lathi" with secret meanings in the lyrics. "An Analysis of Denotative and Conotative Meaning on Weird Genius Song's Lathi Lyrics: A Semantic Perspective," stated the study's problem. The purpose of this research is to look into the hidden meanings in Weird Genius's song Lathi.

Literature Review

Semantics

The study of meaning is the subject of semantics, a branch of linguistics. According to Yule, semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences (1996:114). According to Kreidler, semantics is the systematic study of meaning, while linguistic semantics is the study of how language organizes and expresses meaning (2002:3). Hurford and Heasely (2007:1) define semantics as the study of meaning in language. To put it another way, semantics is the study of meanings in words, phrases, and sentences with the goal of comprehending a text.

Semantics is a discipline of linguistics that studies meaning, sentence structure, and language in general. According to Cole, "semantics is concerned with the determination of conventional (or literal) meaning" (1981). According to Recanati (2004), semantics deals with the literal meaning of words and phrases as determined by language norms.

Fromkin (2001) defines semantics as "the study of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences in terms of their linguistic meaning." Two subfields of semantics are lexical semantics, which deals with the meanings of words and their relationships, and phrasal or sentential semantics, which deals with the meaning of syntactic units larger than the word. As a result, semantics is defined as the study of the meaning of words (lexical semantics) and fixed word combinations (phonology), as well as how these two factors interact to form sentence meanings. This study is founded on (Leech, 1981)'s basic thesis, which claims that semantics is the study of meaning and the heart of language communication. Yule (1985) defines semantics as the study of meaning in words, phrases, and sentences.

Denotative

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The use of language that has the same meaning as what is being stated is commonly referred to as the denotation significance process. When someone says "dog," for example, the concept of illnesses such as four feet, mammals, biting, and barking is indicated by the word's pronunciation. According to Afuzan and Sakinah, in Barthes' semiotics, denotation is the first level of the signification system, followed by the connotation system of signification at the second level (2020:4).

According to Isnainah and Agustina, denotation is a signifier that explains how signifier and signified interact in reality, that is, about specific meaning in a signified picture (actual). Denotation uses simple, objective language to convey meaning (2020:5).

Denotative meaning, also known as conceptual meaning, is concerned with a phrase's literal or fundamental meaning. We can check up a word's definition in a dictionary and gain a direct meaning, allowing us to understand the term without having to search it up (Zuhdah and Alfain, 2020:3).

Connotative

Barthes uses the term "connotation" to express the significance of the second stage. The term "connotation" comes from the Latin word "connotare," which means "to be a sign," and refers to cultural ideas that cannot be communicated through words or other means. The definition of connotative, according to Afuzan and Sakinah, is "a combination of denotative meaning with all the ideas, emotions, and experiences that arise when our senses engage with a sign" (2020:4).

Connotative meaning, on the other hand, is described as meaning that is not directly tied to the objective or purpose. Connotation, according to Isnainah and Agustina, is a signifier that describes how signifier and signified link to inexplicit, indirect, and ambiguous meaning, or it can be regarded the meaning component of one or more texts depending on speaker and listener feelings (2020:5).

The additional meaning or sense value inherent in a word is frequently referred to as connotation. It refers to the interaction that occurs when a sign interacts with the users' sentiments or emotions, as well as the values of their culture (Zuhdah and Alfain, 2020:3).

Song Lyric

Song lyrics are a creative expression of poetry and emotional content created with the objective of having the listener experience more of what is in the lyrics in order for the message to be felt more deeply in the heart (Pratiwi, et all., 2020:3). Song lyrics convey a variety of signals to the audience, yet they frequently have numerous meanings that are not conveyed, such as in Weird Genius's song Lathi. The lyrics' content must be perplexing to listeners. Culture, as well as the author's or others' personal experiences, are intrinsically related to song. This song, like many others, contains the writer's idea and point of view. The author wants to go deeper into the song's lyrics to determine what signals they represent.

Method

In this study, the authors used a qualitative descriptive analysis method, which entails collecting data, inspecting an object, and then characterizing it. The qualitative descriptive method is used to characterize occurrences that occur on a daily basis, according to (Creswell, 2014); in this case, the researcher used the Lathi Lyric from Weird Genius Song. The purpose of this descriptive study is to examine the words' denotative and connotative meanings.

Finding and Discussion

Findings and Discussion

The data taken from this analysis was taken from several lyric of the song Weird Genius, the title of this song is "Lathi".

1.1 *The Analysis of Data 1*

I was born a fool

In the data above, the lyric tell as that she was born as a fool person, "a fool" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is everybody has their own life but she in the lyric is described as a fool person when she was born.

1.2 *The Analysis of Data 2*

Broken all the rules

In the data above, the lyric illustrate that this women broke the rules. The meaning contained in "Broken all the rules" is a denotative meaning, because the meaning refers to the real meaning if the women or even all type of gender in the world can broke all the rules.

1.3 *The Analysis of Data 3*

Seeing all null

In the data above, the lyric tell that the women can't see anything in life. The lyric " seeing all null" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is everybody has a perspective of life. There will be a hope to life without thinking a love.

1.4 *The Analysis of Data 5*

Everything has changed

In the data above, the lyric illustrate that everything has changed. The meaning contained in "Everything has changed" is a denotative meaning, because the meaning refers to the real meaning if everything can happened, and it is real life.

1.5 *The Analysis of Data 6*

It all happened for a reason

In the data above, the lyric illustrate that everything can happened with some reason. The meaning contained in "It all happened for a reason" is a denotative meaning, because the meaning refers to the real meaning if everything can happened, and it has some reason.

1.6 *The Analysis of Data 7*

Down from the first stage

In the data above, the lyric " Down from the first stage" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is you shoudn't be down of your life.

1.7 *The Analysis of Data 8*

It isn't something we fought for

In the data above, the lyric "It isn't something we fight for" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is we should fight for something in thereal life.

1.8 *The Analysis of Data 9*

Never wanted this kind of pain

In the data above, the lyric " Never wanted kind of this pain" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is in real life we will get something that pain in our journey.

1.9 *The Analysis of Data 10*

Turned myself so cold and heartless

In the data above, the lyric " Turned myself so cold and heartless" in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because the real meaning is you shoudn't being cold and heartless person.

4.10 The Analysis of Data 11

But one thing you should know

In the data above, the lyric illustrate that you should know in real life. The meaning contained in "But one thing you should know" is a denotative meaning, because the meaning refers to the real meaning if you should know one of the important thing in life.

4.11 The Analysis of Data 12

'Kowe ra iso mlayu saka kesalahan

In the data above, the lyric tell that you cannot run away from mistakes. *The lyric " Ajining diri ana ing lathi' " in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because there ia hidden real meaning* that ypu can't run away from your problems.

4.12 The Analysis of Data 13

Ajining diri ana ing lathi'

In the data above, the lyric tell that your characteristic is shown on your tongue. *The lyric " Ajining diri ana ing lathi' " in the lyrics above is included in the connotative meaning because there ia hidden real meaning* a person's self-esteem is on the tongue (his words).

Conclusion

The forementioned analysis concludes that this analysis contains many connotative meanings, or meanings that are not truly present. Many of the song's lyrics use figurative language and have connotations that are inaccurate. Lathi is a song about a love connection that is full of falsehoods and egos, which pretends to love but actually ruins the relationship. Despite focusing on the negative aspects of the relationship, the lyrics imply courage and a firm stand in the face of "a toxic relationship. Some of the Javanese lyrics (like "Kowe ra iso mlayu saka error. Ajining myself an ing", meaning "You cannot run away from mistakes. A person's self-esteem is on the tongue (his words)"), are taken from the old Javanese proverb "Ajining diri ono ing lathi, ajining rogo soko busono."

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