

**EXPLORING THE CONNOTATIVE LANGUAGE
IN SELECTED LOVE SONGS BY ADELE**

by

Agung Suhadi

English Education Study Program
Muhammadiyah University of Bengkulu

agunglecturer@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper explores the connotative meaning in selected love songs by Adele. The important thing that underlies this study due to her songs contain a lot of connotative language. In term of this brings researcher' intention for exploring closely the meaning of connotative language used from the lyrics of Adele' songs. In conducting this, the qualitative research by focusing on content analysis is used for interpreting the messages of connotative language from the selected songs of Adele, such as *Rolling in the Deep*, *Someone Like You*, *Set Fire to the Rains*, *He Want' go*, *Turning Tables*, and *Take it All*. The results of analysis obtained three forms of connotative meaning from the selected songs by Adele, namely describing of woman characterization who are being undergone the sadness of love, such as revenge, strong, and survival. In short, Adele through her songs implies the positive images of woman.

Keywords: *Connotative, Love, Language, Adele, Song.*

I. Introduction

Linguistics is a part of discipline that is closely related to the study of human language (Thomason, 1996). Conceptually, this area covers and reveals the forms of language used, variations of language, and language meaning (Chomsky, 1999). In term of this, language becomes an important part in human life, which has function for delivering sounds and words used by people within conducting social interaction (Borne, 2012). It is often called as communication. Communication basically refers to social process. This, as stated by Jendra, (2010), the act of communication is language process from speakers to receivers via variety of channels, both orally and written.

One of forms of media that used for delivering messages is through song. Song is written by compuser produce tones, sounds sequence, and temporal relationship to a piece of music that has unity and continuity. Jerry (2013: 1) argues music is a result of work or art in the form of sound or compositions that express thoughts and feelings with the principal elements of music. This is not only for producing the form of sound, but also expresses ideas and feelings of compuser through basic elements of music, such as rhythm, melody, harmony, structure of song. Basically, the art of music is based on the

existence of a lyric and rhythm complement to the music. This makes a song interesting, the lyrics of song are made explicit and implicit meaning. This case gives a space for listeners and readers have different opinion about meaning of song.

Furthermore, as a way to explore the language meaning (values or sense) of songs, this can be thoroughly understood from its connotative language. This can be considered as a bridge between words and meaning arbitrary, which leads the relationship between the rows phonemes of words form with its meaning (Rode, 2013). Moreover, words have a meaning from a agreement of society, the relationship between words and meaning can not change, except if there is the changing of culture and society. Chaer (2013:65), a word is called to have a connotative meaning, if the word has a "sense of values", both positively and negatively. If it does not have a sense of value, it can be called a neutral connotation.

Connotative meaning is different from another meaning, this is due to the association of feeling of language usage of word (Brade, 1998). In addition, it is related to value of the sense of people who use language (Rough, 2013), whether they feel happy, sad, repugnant and angry. Thus positive and negative meaning depend on the sentences. Its value can be

differences depend on place, time and mean. Positive and negative value of a word often also occurred a result of used that word as a symbolism. So, if people suggest a word of “fire” have a positive value, so the meaning is will be positive value. Different from connotative meaning, denotative meaning gives the meaning according to what it is (the original meaning), but there is no value of the sense, like tall and thin. For denotative meaning, the meaning of the word tall and thin show the size of human’s body, but on connotative meaning (Bradley, 2003), the word tall can have a positive meaning because tall can mean so interesting to see, especially for body of men, but it also has a negative meaning if tall means a social status or power.

Study of songs have been studied by many scholars, which have different angles. Abidardah (2010), his research about “*A Connotative Meaning Analysis on the Word Child in Five Lyrics of Songs*”, studied the connotative meaning by using semiotic theory in five lyric of songs. His finding three kinds of children regarding on their condition and history as found in five songs by White Lions. Armawansyah (2016) discussed “*An Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Maher Zain’s Songs Lyrics*”. He attempt to explored the connotative language and messages from Maher Zain’s songs. Based on his analysis results, he found some messages from the use of connotative language namely social values which stressed on the confidence feeling of someone who never desperated. Moreover, Zulaichah (2008) studied about “*Connotative and Denotative Meaning on the lyrics of Tina Arena’s Songs*”, she focussed the lexical meaning of connotative used, and denotative meaning is more dominant than others.

In this study, the researcher attempted to discussed about the connotative language in Adele’ love songs by using content analysis. The chosen of Adele’ song, because her songs explicitly and implicitly contain a lot of connotative meanings as described from her lyrics. This research can lead listeners or readers to explore what the meaning behind of her connotative used in five songs; *Rolling in the Deep*, *Someone Like You*, *Set Fire to the Rains*, *He Want’ go*, *Turning Tables*, and *Take it All*.

II. Methodology

This research used qualitative method with content analysis approach, which emphasized on depth analysis toward the use of connotative language in selected love songs by Adele. According to Moleong (2004:3), qualitative method concerns on descriptive data in the form words or behavior (Miles, 1984). Q. Under content analysis approach, this research attempt to analyze the certain words and words as described from Adele’s lyrics. Donald (2002) through this approach, the researcher quantifies and interpret the presence of meanings and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts partially or bias words used. Thus researchers can make inferences about the messages within the lyrics, and even the culture of surrounding the lyrics.

For data collection technique, this study reads closely the texts or lyrics of Adele’s love songs. The data further will be interpreted with several phases; firstly, grouping of words phase. It identifies and classified the connotative language from the lyrics of Adele’ songs. Secondly, understanding the relationship of connotative words. Thirdly, interpreting phase. The researcher interprets the messages from the connotative language. Lastly, taking conclusion phase. The researcher draws conclusion after interpreting the messages of connotative language as used from the selected love songs by Adele.

III. Findings and Discussions

A. Findings

This section presents the findings of analysis toward the forms of connotative language as described in selected love songs by Adele. After reading closely the lyrics of her songs namely *Rolling in the Deep*, *Someone Like You*, *Set Fire to the Rains*, *He Want’ go*, *Turning Tables*, and *Take it All*, this study is narrowed down on the three forms of connotative meaning of Adele’s songs; revenge, strong, and survival characters. Adele vividly describes all from the relation of words or sentences to emphasize her messages.

B. Discussion

1. Never Desperated Character

This character of never desperated is clearly depicted from her two songs “Rolling in the Deep” and “Someone Like You”. This describes the failure of love, it is about a girl who leaved by his boyfriend. From her lyrics, “*And you played it to the beat*” and “*The scars of your love remind me of us*” describes female’ situation (broken heart and sadness). Through this song, the researcher found out the meaning of connotative language, which indicates as a great character, a female who never gives up toward her life. It is as shown from the following quotation;

There’s a fire starting in my heart,

This quotation implies the connotative word of Adele’s lyrics, the word “fire” is not refer to true meaning, but it is just figure of speech on the strengthen of a great character. The use of “fire” implies the devour of all problems are being faced without any revenge. It could burn everything around or everything. Here, Adele addresses her sound the ex-boyfriend who left female alone in the sadness. She shows female never fights back by revenge her boyfriend, althought her feeling is being suffered and regret. Moreover, through her lyrics on “Someone Like You”, Adele closely gives intention on emotional of female who had hurt her in the past time. She exalts positive image of femela character who faced the similar situation, it is divorced of love. She depicts from her quotation below;

*I hate to turn up out of the blue, uninvited
Never mind, I’ll find someone like you*

Her connotative language of “never mind, I’ll find someone like you” literally relates to the patience attitude. In this song, she repeats many of this words to emphasize her sound and empower the character of patient female character. Adele evokes her female through her lyric “I’ll find someone like you” to describe how patient of female after getting divorced or leaved married by her boy friend. Her female told full of patience to her ex-boyfriend that

everything, which became the man’s decision was the best for the man and she could appreciate it.

2. Strong Character

Another character as explored from Adele’s lyric is strong female character. Her songs; “Set Fire to the Rain” and “Don’t you remember”, are fully describe the strong character of female who never doesn’t want to give up on her life situation. This occurs from her stanze of lyrics;

*My hands, they were strong
I set fire to the rain*

The love songs above told us about the woman’s life after being leaved by a man who went away and she did not know when the man would be back to her. Under oscillation, Adele’s female must be stronger to prepare herself in undergoing her husband back to her again. The connotatian words “set fire” and “rain” symbolize strong female to face sadness of life and a chance (hope) for someone who has hurt her life. Similarly, as depicted through “Don’t You Remember Lyrics”, Adele shows her listeners about the same case, it is a woman who leaved by her boyfriend. Female had a fickle of heart due to the man leaved her lonely. Adele forces her lyrics “*Baby, please remember me once more, When will I see you again?*”, which emphasize the sound that female will never surrender on the state of her love and she will prove a great regret for someone who leaved her.

3. Survival Character

Other love songs by Adele like “Turning Tables”, “Wan’t Go”, and “Take it All” also show the similar characterization of female as previously, it is about survival character. Generally, these songs told the listeners about female’s resilience in her painful love, which depict the culture way of Western where female life together with her homemate but they were unmarried yet. Female must keep her strong resilient and she did not want to fight, even though she man leaves her alone.

*o, I won't let you close enough to hurt me
No, I won't rescue you to just desert me
I can't give you what you think you gave me
It's time to say goodbye to turning tables
Turning tables
Next time I'll be braver
I'll be my own saviour
When the thunder calls for me
Next time I'll be braver
I'll be my own saviour
Standing on my own two feet*

Reading the lyrics above, the researcher underlines some connotative words which stresses on the sound of survival character; "I'll be braver, standing on my own two feet". This indicates that female's feeling toward her man or home mate (culture of west life for living together in one home but they were unmarried yet) where the woman felt that her love and survive was only, because she did not want to fight anymore and she wanted to go out of the man's life for being alone so that the man would not hurt her anymore like what that man done before. Then, this lyrics depict the feeling of female;

*Some say, I'll be better without you
But they don't know you like I do
Or at least the sides I thought I knew
I can't bear this time
It drags on, as I lose my mind
Reminded by things I find
Like notes and clothes you left behind
Wake me up, wake me up when all is done
I won't rise until this battle's won
My dignity's become undone*

These told listeners about the struggle of a woman who could survive even though the man who she lived with was not as kind as the people think. In this bad situation, she tried to survive or she would not go and leave her man because she loved her husband very much. And this song had three words which then categorized as connotation meanings.

*will change if I must
Slow it down and bring it home, I will adjust
Oh if only, if only you knew
Everything I do, is for you*

*But go on, go on and take it, take it all with you
Don't look back at this crumbling fool
Just take it, take it all with you
Don't look back at this crumbling fool
Just take it all, with my love
Take it all with my love
You take it all with my love*

This song told listeners about the woman's assumption to let her boyfriend taking all with him if he wanted to go. Took her love, care, soul, and everything of that man wanted to take. And from the analysis done by researcher, so the researcher got only one connotation meaning, this happened because whole parts of that sentence written or organized by the original words which far of unilateral meanings.

*I dare you to let me be your, your one and only
I promise I'm worthy
To hold in your arms
So come on and give me the chance
To prove I am the one who can walk that mile
Until the end starts
If I've been on your mind
You hang on every word I say
Lose yourself in time
At the mention of my name
Will I ever know how it feels to hold you close
And have you tell me
Whichever road I choose, you'll go?*

This song told listeners about the woman's willing who wanted to be a man's girlfriend because she dared the man to let him be his own because he was one and only. Then she promised that she was worth it to hold in the man's arms to make the man gave her chance to prove that she was the one who could walk that mile until the end starts.

*Whenever I'm alone with you
You make me feel like I am home again
Whenever I'm alone with you
You make me feel like I am whole again
Whenever I'm alone with you
You make me feel like I am young again
Whenever I'm alone with you
You make me feel like I am fun again*

This song told that about a woman's feeling when she was being leaved by her boyfriend where she would love the man

however their distance was far away, however long she stayed, and whatever words she said she would love him because whenever she was alone with the man, he made her feel like she was free again, and whenever he was alone with her, so he made the woman feel like she was clean again.

IV. Conclusion

After reading the selected love songs by Adele, there are three forms of messages that can be learnt from the use of connotative language, they are the characters of never give up, strong, and survival characters. Through her songs, Adele seemingly depicts as low, weak, object within her romance. However, Adele exacts the image of female who is strong and never be deseperated to endure the painful of love. She reinforces the survival, resilient, and strong characters for empowering her life never gives toward male dominant.

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