

**A CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN SELECTED RAEF'S SONG
LYRICS ON *MERCY* ALBUM**

A GRADUATING PAPER

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature**



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2020**

A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this thesis belongs to me and it is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the contents of this thesis. Other writers' opinions or findings included in this thesis are quoted and cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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ABSTRACT

A CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN SELECTED RAEF'S SONG LYRICS ON *MERCY* ALBUM

In social life, song is one of the ways to communicate with each other. Islamic English songs become popular in this era. One of them is song from Raef. Sometimes understanding the meaning of a song is not enough only use the dictionary, but also should see the context of language that is used. The aim of this research is to discover the contextual meaning in selected Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album include the kind of their contexts through a contextual meaning theory of Pateda. This research focuses on ten songs, *Alhamdu Lillah*, *Mercy*, *All About Me*, *More Than Me and You*, *Subhan Allah*, *Ramadan is Here*, *Trust*, *Dear America*, *My Life Matters* and *Who Are You* songs. The method used in this research is qualitative and the data is taken from the internet. This research uses the document and observation as the technique to collect the data. The result of the research shows that there are twenty nine words or phrases contain contextual meaning in those songs. It is also found that those songs have four kinds of context. They are the context of situation, context of mood of speaker or listener, context of time, and context of purpose.

Keywords: *semantics, contextual meaning, song lyric, Raef*

ABSTRAK

MAKNA KONTEKSTUAL PADA LIRIK PILIHAN LAGU-LAGU RAEF DALAM ALBUM *MERCY*

Dalam kehidupan sosial, lagu merupakan salah satu cara untuk berkomunikasi satu sama lain. Lagu Islam berbahasa Inggris menjadi populer di masa kini. Salah satunya lagu dari Raef. Terkadang memahami makna dalam lagu tidak cukup hanya menggunakan kamus saja, tetapi juga harus melihat konteks bahasa yang digunakan. Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk menemukan makna kontekstual pada lirik pilihan lagu-lagu Raef dalam album *Mercy* termasuk jenis konteksnya menggunakan teori makna kontekstual dari Pateda. Penelitian ini fokus pada sepuluh lagu, yaitu lagu *Alhamdu Lillah*, *Mercy*, *All About Me*, *More Than Me and You*, *Subhan Allah*, *Ramadan is Here*, *Trust*, *Dear America*, *My Life Matters* dan *Who Are You*. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif dan data diambil dari internet. Penelitian ini menggunakan dokumen dan pengamatan sebagai teknik pengumpulan data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada sebanyak dua puluh sembilan kata atau frasa yang memiliki makna kontekstual pada lagu tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menemukan bahwa dalam lagu tersebut memiliki empat jenis konteks. Konteks situasi, konteks suasana hati pembicara atau pendengar, konteks waktu, dan konteks tujuan.

Kata kunci: *semantik, makna kontekstual, lirik lagu, Raef*



MOTTO

What you focus on, grows

~Yasmin Mogahed~

كُلُّ مَيْسَرٍ لِمَا خُلِقَ لَهُ

(Everything will be easy if it is created easy)

~H.R. Muslim 4786~



DEDICATION

I dedicate this paper to my parents Supriyanto and Yuli Widi Hastuti

My little sister Sufi Rizki Lillah

All my lecturers in Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University

My second parents K.H. Jirjis Ali and Ny. Hj. Luthfiyah Baidlowi

All my teachers

**The English literature department, faculty and university of Sunan Kalijaga
State Islamic University**

My friends, students of English literature 2016

My roommates in Gedung Putih Islamic boarding house

Every English students



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Last but not least, I hope this research can be used as a reference of everyone who want to understand how to conduct a contextual meaning analysis or may be to understand something thorough contextual meaning.

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Yogyakarta, 14 Mei 2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	I
FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT	ii
NOTA DINAS.....	iii
APPROVAL	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ABSTRAK	vi
MOTTO	vii
DEDICATION.....	viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Research Questions	6
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	6
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Literature Review.....	7
1.6 Theoretical Approach.....	10
1.7 Method of Research	11
1.7.1 Type of Research	11
1.7.2 Data Source	12

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique.....	12
1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique	13
1.8 Paper Organization	13
CHAPTER II THEORETICAL APPROACH.....	15
2.1 Semantics.....	15
2.2 Meaning.....	16
2.3 Lexical Meaning.....	17
2.4 Contextual Meaning	18
CHAPTER III RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS.....	23
3.1 Findings.....	23
3.2 Discussions.....	25
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	56
4.1 Conclusion.....	56
4.2 Suggestion	57
REFERENCES.....	59
APPENDICES	61
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	82

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

No.	Abbreviation	Meaning
1.	L	Line
2.	S	Stanza



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is one of the most important means in social life to communicate with each other. According to Keraf (1997: 1), “language is a means of communication between members of public in the form of sounds symbols produce by a human utterance”. Communication is needed by a human to give and get the information to others. It is also used to share their ideas, thoughts, and express their feelings.

In addition, to make good communication, people should use the right language. A language is not only seen from phoneme, morpheme, grammatical, but also from the meaning. When people make communication, it involves several meanings that need to be interpreted. Not all meaning is only can be known by the dictionary, but also meaning can be seen by the context of its usage. Semantics is the study of meaning of language. Yule (2010: 127) stated that “semantics is a branch of linguistics which concerns with meaning in word, phrase, and sentence”. The study of meaning that related to a context is contextual meaning. Contextual meaning is related to several contexts as the condition, place, background of people when people use the language. According to Pateda (2010: 116), “contextual meaning or situational meaning appears as a result of the relationship between speech and context”. Chaer (2012: 290) also states that “contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context”.

The contextual meaning is proper to discover the meaning of something, for instance song lyrics because the usage of language in the literary work is not the same with the usage of language in daily conversation. The language in a song is usually full of uniqueness that does not use in daily language. Song is one of the best ways to express what people feel about anything in their life. Hornby (1995: 1133) stated that “song is a piece of music with word that is sung or music for the voice”. It means that song is a product of musical sound with a voice that has a rhythm and tone has a certain lyric and sung by a human called singer. People usually use lyric as a way to express the language in song. In the dictionary, the lyric is words of a song that about to the experience, feeling or condition of the songwriter. The songwriter usually chooses unique words to make the lyrics are good enough to listen.

Most of people are interested in a song because the music is good or they like the singer. As they focus on the music or the singer, they forget the song lyrics and meaning behind the song. Understanding the meaning is important. Beside the listeners can enjoy to the song of their favorite singer, they also able to understand its meaningful lyrics. The more they understand the meaning behind the song the more they enjoy the song.

Nowadays, the song becomes popular especially the English one. Almost all people in this world love song or music. The most written and heard song is the love themes, but lately the religious themes especially Islamic songs become a trending song. Muslim artists enter the music industry brought the Islamic themes as the power to clear out the negative stereotypes about their religion. The Islamic

themes also become one of the ways to spread (da'wah) Islam to others. There are many famous and talented Islamic singers. One of them is Raef Haggag.

According to Raef Music in *About Raef* (2019), Raef Haggag is an American Muslim singer who was born in Washington D.C. on August 8, 1982 and grew old in Maryland. His genre of music is rock, acoustic, and folk music. Besides, as a singer, he is also a songwriter. Raef has sung his songs all over the world. He used to sing tenor and play acoustic gitar in coffe shops. The world started to know him after his trio rock-band "Great Seneca" traveled through the United States as a part of the "Voices for Change". Presently afterward, Raef became a member of the "Poetic Vision Tour": a band of traveling musicians and poets presented to raising a cultural renewal.

Raef released his first album *The Path* in the summer of 2014. To promote his songs, he toured around the world included Indonesia. He brought *Home* and *You Are The One* songs from his first album. From those two songs, he succeed in getting Indonesian's attentions until he achieved an award as the best singer nasheed award 2015 in Indonesia. He has ever invited by Bandung mayor, Ridwan Kamil in Bandung Conference in 2015. Afterwards, he sang *Tala'al Badru* featuring Indonesian group band, *D'masiv*. After he was famous in Indonesia, he became a host in the *Journey of A Backpacker* Ramadan television program on Trans7 TV station in 2016. Then his second album *Mercy* released on May, 2019. Raef's songs are dedicated for Muslims and the community of Islam to against the Islamophobia in the West.

His songs have power in influencing listeners by combining unique of music tone, beautiful diction, and meaningful lyrics. It can be seen in *Mercy* album. *Mercy* is his second album released on May 5, 2019. It contains fourteen songs: (1) *Alhamdu Lillah* (2) *Mercy* (3) *All About Me* (4) *More Than Me and You* (5) *Subhan Allah* (6) *Ramadan is Here* (7) *Trust* (8) *Dear America* (9) *My Life Matters* (10) *Southern Salawat* (11) *Muhammad Noor* (12) *The Land of Light* (13) *Who Are You?* (14) *All About Me (Acoustic)*. The researcher would like to limit the data by only takes ten songs in this album. The researcher only takes ten songs is because in *Mercy* album not only uses English but also uses Arabic and Indonesian. Thus, the researcher only uses English songs. The chosen songs are (1) *Alhamdu Lillah* (2) *Mercy* (3) *All About Me* (4) *More Than Me and You* (5) *Subhan Allah* (6) *Ramadan is Here* (7) *Trust* (8) *Dear America* (9) *My Life Matters* and (10) *Who Are You?*.

There are two reasons why the researcher chooses Raef's songs as the object of the research. First, there are words in the songs that cannot be understood by lexical meaning understanding. The understanding meaning behind song lyrics is not enough if it only uses the lexical meaning. It is because the words in song lyric depend on the context used. Moreover, not all the listeners of those songs are native of English. They might get more difficult to understand the meaning of those songs. There must be a research to find out the contextual meaning of those songs in order for all the people can get the meaning in the songs. Second, there are Islamic elements in those songs. *Mercy* album is an invitation to seek Allah's mercy. It also invites people around the world to be the

source of mercy for their own self and others in order to get peacefulness in this life.

The case of this research like the example below: from *Mercy* song lyrics, there is a line with contextual meaning. It is in the sixth line of the first stanza.

I feel so lost though I can't tell

If no one, yes no one would feel my *fall*

The word “fall” is the word that has a contextual meaning. In Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, fall means “to become no longer balanced or supported and drop suddenly”. Whereas the word “feel” means to explore or perceive something by touching it or by holding it in the hands. If both of them are compared, it does not make sense that something abstract will perceive physically. It shows that there is a failure of lexical meaning understanding. So, there must be another way to discover meaning. In the contextual meaning, the meaning is the sacrifice of the speaker. If it is combined with the previous sentence, the meaning becomes nobody would see his sacrifice until he feels so lost. The lyric “fall” includes to the context of mood of speaker or listeners because the speaker feels his life is full of sorrow and suffering.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that people should use the right language to make good communication. Song is one of the ways to communicate with each other. English songs become popular in this era. Sometimes understanding the meaning of a song is not enough only use the dictionary, but also should see the context of the language that is used. The study that concerns about meaning is semantics especially the contextual meaning. This

research will analyze the contextual meaning in selected Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album. The theory of contextual meaning that will be used in this research is Pateda's theory because it mentions the kinds of context in contextual meaning.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background above, this research has a question which that be answered in this research. The question in this research is what are the contextual meanings of the Raef's song lyrics?

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the research question, this research has an objective of study. It is to find out and to interpreting the contextual meaning from the Raef's song lyrics include the kinds of their context.

1.4 Significance of Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich the study of meaning, especially the contextual meaning study and is able to help some researchers who want to analyze linguistic signs through contextual meaning.

Practically, it is expected that the result of this research would give a contribution to linguistic study, especially contextual meaning study. This research is expected to be a reference to everyone who wants to discover the contextual meaning in literary work, especially in the song lyrics. This research is dedicated to everyone who wants to understand the contextual meaning of Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album.

1.5 Literature Review

The first research is a thesis by Zainit Istanari (2014). She is a student of State Islamic Institute Syekh Nurjati Cirebon. Her research is entitled “Semantic Analysis of English Contextual Meaning in Maher Zain’s Songs”. She stated that context is how words and their meaning are connected to each other in literary work. Most words not only have one meaning. The meaning of word depends on the context of its usage. She analyzed lexical meaning, contextual meaning and the idiomatic implied in Maher Zain’s songs. The aims of her research are 1) to analyze the contextual meaning and kinds of context in Maher Zain’s songs, 2) to analyze the lexical and dimensions of meaning in Maher Zain’s songs, and 3) to analyze the idiomatic implied in Maher Zain’s songs. The method used in her research is descriptive qualitative. As a result of her research, she found three types of context as contextual meaning; they are the linguistic, syntagmatic, and paradigmatic context. The figure of speech is found in the song lyrics; the types are metaphor, symbol, personification, and simile.

The second research is a journal “Analisis Makna Kontekstual Dari Kolom Kartun *Peanuts* Pada Harian *the Jakarta Post*” by Friza Youlinda Parwis (2017). She is a student of Indraprasta PGRI University. She stated that reading is a process of thinking. In reading comprehension, people should think systematically and should have many vocabularies in all the reading they read. The aim of this research is to describe the hidden meaning behind the data in the form of *Peanuts* cartoon images daily of the Jakarta Post. She said that comprehension is one of the most important aspects of reading. She explained the reading comprehension

of a foreign language, especially English. She used the qualitative descriptive method by trying to explain the semantics and pragmatics meaning. The result of the study is all sentences in the cartoon on the Jakarta Post should be read without translating them word by word to understand the meaning behind them.

The third research is research belongs to Arif Bahtiar (2018). He is a student of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga of Yogyakarta. His research entitled “A Contextual Meaning Analysis of One Republic’s Songs Lyric *Counting Star* and *Apologize*”. In this research, he stated that meaning is an abstract thing in the human mind. Meaning can be found in literary work, such as song lyric. Song lyrics use the contextual meaning that is hard to understand the meaning. *Counting stars* and *Apologize* are the songs that have unique diction that not only can be understood by lexical meaning. The theory that is used in this research is Pateda’s contextual meaning theory. As a result of the research, he found twenty-six lyrics that have contextual meaning. There are seventeen data found in *Counting stars* song lyrics and nine data found in *Apologize* song lyrics. While according to the type of contextual meaning, there are four types of contexts in One Republic’s song lyrics. They are the context of purpose, context of situation, context of speaker or listener mood, and context of time.

The fourth research is a journal “Makna Kontekstual dalam Novel Pasukan Matahari Karya Gol A Gong” by Ika Wahyu Juniarti and Fitri Resti Wahyuniarti (2019). They are the students of STKIP PGRI of Jombang. They stated that language is a communication that it can be analyzed internally and externally. Study internally means that language can be seen from the internal structure, such

as phonological structure, morphological structure, or syntactic structure. Language does not only have one form. It can be verbal and non-verbal form. In communication, people also use the language based on the context when or where the communication happens. They analyze the contextual meaning of the context of the object in the novel “Pasukan Matahari” by Gol A Gong. They used the descriptive qualitative method. The result of their research is the novel of Pasukan Matahari contains contextual meaning in the context of the object, such as hospitals, cyberspace, Facebook, lodging, praying to God.

The last research is a journal “Analysis of Lexical and Contextual Meaning in Raef’s Song Lyric of The Path Album as the Holy Qur’an Values” by Risalatul Hasanah and Mosleh Habibullah (2020). They are students of the State Islamic Institute of Madura. They stated that the Holy Qur’an is a guide for human living. Sometimes its meaning is implied in song lyrics such as in Raef’s song lyrics. Their research is focused on analyzing the lexical meaning, contextual meaning and the Qur’an values consist of Raef’s song lyrics on The Path album. It contains twelve songs. They used Miller and Leacock’s theory of context. As an example of the result, they found the lexical meaning of “word” in *Peace&Blessings* song is languages, utterances, promises, signals and teachings. While its contextual meaning is sunnah of Prophet Muhammad SAW and the Qur’an value is in an-Nur (24): 54 that contains to follow Phophet’s sunnah.

There are differences and similarities between this research and those researches above. The first research, it is similar to the focus analysis, but the object is different with the object of this research. The second, the similarity is in

the theory, but it is different in its object with this research. In the third research, the similarity is in the focus analysis, but the object is different with the object of this research. The fourth research is similar to the focus analysis, but it is different in the object of this research. The last, journal is similar to the focus analysis, but it is different in object and theory. From the explanation above, Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album have not used before. The researcher would like to find the contextual meaning in selected Raef's song lyrics.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

This research is concerned with the study of meaning that is called semantic. According to Yule (2010: 127), "semantics is a branch of linguistics which concerns with meaning in word, phrase, and sentence". Related to Yule, Saeed (1997: 3) said that "semantics is the study of the meaning of words and sentences". Lyons (1971: 1) stated that "semantic is generally defined as the study of meaning". This research uses Pateda's theory. It is because Pateda's theory clearly shows the way to solve the problem of a song lyric that has contextual meaning. In Pateda's theory not only explains the contextual meaning but also there are kinds of context that are supporting to conduct this research. Pateda (2010: 97) stated that there are several kinds of meaning. Those are affective meaning, denotative meaning, descriptive meaning, extensional meaning, emotive meaning, gerefleeteerde meaning, grammatical meaning, ideational meaning, intentional meaning, special meaning, figurative meaning, cognitive meaning, collocation meaning, connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, construction meaning, contextual meaning, lexical meaning, speech act meaning, extended

meaning, pictorial meaning, propositional meaning, central meaning, referential meaning, specialized meaning, stylistic meaning, textual meaning, thematic meaning, and general meaning. Based on what has been explained above, this research is a concern with contextual meaning. “Contextual meaning or situational meaning appears as a result of the relationship between speech and context” (Pateda, 2010: 116).

There are eleven kinds of context in contextual meaning. Those are “the context of person, context of situation, context of purpose, context of formal or informal, context of mood of speaker or listener, context of time, context of place, context of object, context of fitting, context of linguistics and context of language” (Pateda, 2010: 116).

1.7 Method of Research

Method of research is a more systematic activity pointed toward the invention and the perfection of an organized body of knowledge. Kesuma (2007: 1) stated “method is a way of work based on a certain system or rule”. “Method of research has a function to lead the researcher to do the research rationally to get the best result of analysis” (Bakker, 1986: 10). In the method of research, the researcher explains what type of research used, the data source, how to collect the data and to analyze the data.

1.7.1 Types of Research

This research is a qualitative research. Qualitative research is multi-method in focus, implicating an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural

settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them (Denzim and Licoln, 1994: 2).

1.7.2 Data Source

“Data is an object of research with the context” (Sudaryanto, 1988:10). “There are two kinds of data, the main data and supporting data as the source. The main data is the data that analyzed, while the supporting data is the data that is used to support the analysis” (Kesuma, 2007: 26). This research uses the main of data. The main data of this research is the transcript of Raef’s song lyrics on *Mercy* album that taken from the internet (<http://www.azlyrics.com/r/raef.html>).

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

As the explanation before, this research is qualitative research that uses the song lyrics as the object of research. This research uses the document and observation as the technique to collect the data. “Documents (Yin, 2003) are written instruments, sometimes prepared by a school or organization. These could include syllabi, schedules, minute of meetings, letters, email, or evaluation reports. Sometimes documents are prepared by outside agencies, for example newspapers, magazine articles, pamphlets that contain institutional purpose, goals, and direction” (Griffie, 2012: 124). On the other hand, Sudaryanto (1993: 133) stated “The observation technique is data serving by observing the using language of data”.

The data will be collected by using a qualitative approach because the data is song lyric. There are several steps to collect the data: the first, the researcher collected the data by downloading the songs from the Youtube channel. Then, the

researcher finds the lyrics on the internet. After that, the researcher listens to the songs to find the lexical meaning and contextual meaning of the song lyrics.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

“The data analysis technique is a process in searching and arranging the data systematically which is accumulated from interview transcript, field note, and the other materials to increase the understanding of the researcher” (Sugiyono, 2012: 244).

According to Sudaryanto (1993: 14), the method used in this research is an equivalent method. This analysis is categorized in referential an equivalent sub-method, which is determinant is the reality to which the language refers.

After the data has been collected, the researcher analyzes the data as follows: the first is the researcher identifies each word of the lyrics based on the type. The second is the researcher classifies words into the contexts based on Pateda’s theory. The next is the researcher explains the lexical meaning uses the dictionary. After that, the data will be analyzed use contextual meaning theory. The last is the researcher draws a conclusion based on the result.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction to the research. This chapter consists of a background of the study, research questions, objective of the study, scope of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is a theoretical background. This chapter consists of the explanation of the theory that is used; semantics, lexical meaning,

contextual meaning, kinds of context. The third chapter is the discussion chapter. This chapter is to analyze the data use the theory that is chosen. The fourth chapter is the final chapter. It consists of the conclusion and suggestions for the research.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion from the findings of the research and suggestion for the reader and the next researchers.

4.1 Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher will present a conclusion of the research. The purpose of this research is to discover the contextual meaning in selected Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album used Mansoer Pateda's theory. The songs that become the object of this research are *Alhamdu Lillah*, *Mercy*, *All About Me*, *More Than Me and You*, *Subhan Allah*, *Ramadan is Here*, *Trust*, *Dear America*, *My Life Matters*, *Who Are You* songs. As a result of the analysis, the researcher found twenty nine words or phrases contain contextual meaning in Raef's song lyrics. It is also found that those songs have four kinds of context. Those are context of situation, context of mood of speaker or listener, context of time, and context of purpose.

In the first song, *Alhamdu Lillah* can be found three words contain contextual meaning that include to the context of mood. The second song, *Mercy* can be found four words contain contextual meaning. There are found three contexts of mood and one context of situation. The third song, *All About Me* can be found four words contain contextual meaning. There are three contexts of mood and one context of purpose. The fourth song, *More Than Me and You* can be found three words contain contextual meaning. There are two contexts of mood and one

context of situation. The fifth song, *Subhan Allah* can be found two words contain contextual meaning. There are one context of mood and one context of time. The sixth song, *Ramadan is Here* can be found two words contain contextual meaning. There are one context of mood and one context of time. The seventh song, *Trust* can be found five words contain contextual meaning. There are found two contexts of mood, two contexts of situation and one context of purpose. The eighth song, *Dear America* can be found one word contains contextual meaning that includes to the context of situation. The ninth song, *My Life Matters* can be found four words contain contextual meaning. There are two contexts of mood, one context of situation, and one context of purpose. The last song of this research, *Who Are You* can be found one word contains contextual meaning that includes to the context of mood.

However, it can be concluded from the explanation above the context mostly used in ten songs of Raef on *Mercy* album are the context of situation and context of mood of speaker or listeners because his songs are influenced by the situation and the mood.

4.2 Suggestion

This research is analyzing the contextual meaning in selected Raef's song lyrics on *Mercy* album. The researcher will give some suggestions for the reader of this research. This research is expected to help people to clearly understand the songs of Raef through the contextual meaning of the song. The meaning of some literary works such a song not only can be seen from lexical meaning or the

meaning in the dictionary, but also can be seen from the context. The background of person, context of time and place are the things that can influence the meaning of the language used by people, include in the song lyrics.

The researcher expects that there will be the next researchers who are conducting the research in a similar field of contextual meaning to take more interesting objects which bring Islamic themes for their research. They can use short stories, novels, movies, etc. to be their data resource. In addition, the researcher also suggests to applying the different focusing on such just focus on in one context of eleven contexts such as apply the context of mood of speaker or listeners. The next researcher also can use another theory to analyze the new songs in the future. For instance, they can use figurative language theory or associative meaning theory to analyze the song lyrics. The researcher hopes everyone who read this research that they could get the benefit from this research about contextual meaning.

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