

**AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN “COVER
GIRL” SONG LYRICS BY DEEN SQUAD**

A GRADUATING PAPER

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



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2023

MOTTO

“It’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.”

-Rocky Balboa-



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DEDICATION

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

1. Myself and my beloved parents.
2. Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum., as my paper advisor.
3. All the lectures in English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.
4. All the honorable readers of this graduating paper.



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VALIDATION



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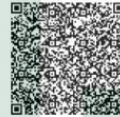
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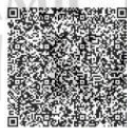
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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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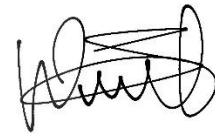
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The researcher recognizes that this graduating paper still got a lot of flaws. Thus, I'd be happy to receive constructive feedback and future improvement suggestions. I hope the readers could find value from this graduating paper.

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Yogyakarta, 9th March 2023



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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN “COVER GIRL” SONG LYRICS BY DEEN SQUAD

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ABSTRACT

This research is titled "*An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in “Cover Girl” Song Lyrics by Deen Squad*". The aim of this research is to find out the types of contextual meanings that exist in “Cover Girl” song lyrics by Deen Squad. This research uses qualitative method and the data is analyzed descriptively. The data are classified based on the theory of Contextual Meaning by Lyons (1977). According to Lyons (1977) theory, there are six types of contextual meanings. Those are, Context of Person, Context of Place, Context of Time, Context of Formality, Context of Mood, and Context of Subject-matter. The result of this research that is there are twenty two lines of the lyrics that contained contextual meaning in it. There are thirteen lines from context of person, eight lines from context of place, six lines from context of time, seven lines from context of formality, eight lines from context of mood, and eleven lines from context of subject-matter. The result of this research also shows that the lyrics of the “Cover Girl” song lyrics can't only be understood lexically. The meaning of some words of the song lyrics are regulated by the context of the song.

Keywords: *Semantics, Contextual Meaning, Song Lyrics, Cover Girl*

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AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN “COVER GIRL” SONG LYRICS BY DEEN SQUAD

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul “*An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in “Cover Girl” Song Lyrics by Deen Squad*”. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis makna kontekstual yang ada dalam lirik lagu “*Cover Girl*” karya Deen Squad. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan data dianalisis secara deskriptif. Data diklasifikasikan berdasarkan teori Contextual Meaning oleh Lyons (1977). Menurut teori Lyons (1977), ada enam jenis makna kontekstual yaitu, Context of Person, Context of Place, Context of Time, Context of Formality, Context of Mood, dan Context of Subject-matter. Hasil dari penelitian ini yaitu terdapat dua puluh dua baris lirik yang mengandung makna kontekstual di dalamnya. Ada tiga belas baris dari context of person, delapan baris dari context of place, enam baris dari context of time, tujuh baris dari context of formality, delapan baris dari context of mood, dan sebelas baris dari context of subject-matter. Hasil penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu “*Cover Girl*” tidak hanya dapat dipahami secara leksikal. Arti beberapa kata dari lirik lagu diatur oleh makna konteks dari lagu tersebut.

Kata kunci : *Semantik, Makna Konteks, Lirik Lagu, Cover Girl*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The science of language is called as linguistics and the object of it's study is language. It's very important to study linguistics, since language is the main instrument of communication in every human being. People in society use various forms of language to meet their needs in everyday life. Being able to communicate with other people is the most important human need, because humans are social beings who are interconnected and that's the fact that can't be denied. Linguistics has many branches, semantics is one of them. According to Palmer (1976, p. 1) a technical term that is used to refer to the study of meaning is called as semantics. These relationships in language and how these meanings are created are being looked by semantics, which is the main part of understanding how language works as a whole. Yule (2020, p. 129) stated that focusing on the words meaning conventionally than on the meaning that an individual speaker means or desire them to mean on a specific event is an attempt of semantic analysis. It is clearly a fact that meaning is a part of language, but this definition hasn't been understandably described and given treatment in the study of language until not long ago.

Meaning is an interesting problem in everyday life when someone talks to someone else, there must be a meaning behind the language spoken, Palimbong

(2015, p. 915). It is called meaning because there is a relationship between language and the outside features that is features which are agreed by some language users. This matter proves that meaning is not only related to the world of language, but it's existence also can be seen from the outside world of language. Every meaning is intimately related to context, which is the environment in which a scenario takes place.

Context has two distinct meanings: context within the language and context outside the language. The term "language context" refers to a context whose focus is on language (linguistics), which has set norms and components that affect how meaning is understood. While the external context, which typically contains a statement, is a context factor external to the language. This setting, also known as the communicative context, is one where language components are used in texts or speeches as well as information from outside the language. A context and a concept are closely related. One of the factors to consider when determining meaning is the context. Thus, contextual meaning plays an important role in understanding things. Contextual meaning arises as a result between speech and the situation in which the utterance is used. Thus, the researcher wants to analyze song lyrics using contextual meaning analysis.

Song lyrics are a person's expression of something that could have been seen, heard, experienced, or felt. In expressing their experience, the poet or songwriter needs to play the words and language to create attraction and uniqueness to the lyrics. The definition of lyrics or song lyrics can be considered as poetry and vice versa and

appropriate, such as the definition of poetry texts not only suffices for types of literature but also advertising expressions, proverbs, slogans, prayers and pop song lyrics. The author choose to analyze song lyrics because lyrics play an important role in a song because they can help listeners convey what they are feeling and thinking at the moment even to give them motivation. Deen Squad's songs are one of them.

'Deen Squad' is a duo group consisting of Jae Deen and Karter Zaher preaching in a unique way. They changed the lyrics of a famous hip hop song that was full of harsh words and which lead to things that smelled of sex and drugs into religious and meaningful lyrics, so they called it 'Halal Remix' (Genius.com, n.d.). This duo group was formed because of their concern for the large number of people who judge Islam as a terrorist religion and to eliminate 'Islamophobia' which is currently rife in the community and western media. Karter Zaher is one of the singers was born in Ottawa, Ontario and is of middle eastern descent, while Jae Deen is a Ghani-Canadian was born and brought to Ottawa, Canada.

Apparently Deen Squad have more than 30 songs, 38 to be exact. Most of their songs are basically talking about being a good muslim and Islamic stuff like ramadan and tawba. The author chooses the lyrics of the song "Cover Girl" instead of other songs because the lyrics of this song is so relatable for Muslim women all over the world, the lyrics of the song "Cover Girl" by Deen Squad are very strong with elements of Muslim women empowerment that require an encouraging message to not be afraid to dream as the beginning of achieving success for Muslim women. Music and songs as a communication message can convey motivational messages in

the context of life to encourage and encourage individuals (in the case of the song “Cover Girl” by Deen Squad) to do something to achieve a better goal. The lyrics in the song "Cover Girl" can also provide inspiration and messages to the audience, especially hijabi Muslim women.

Thus, talking about contextual meaning of "Cover Girl" song lyrics is so interesting because there are not so many songs talking about hijabi Muslim women thus the author hopes that by doing this research there will be no more hijabi Muslim women who feel that hijab will stop them from doing the thing they love or even stop them from achieving their dreams. Several words in this song lyrics also has lexical meaning but it's not appropriate to be used for this research. Several words or sentences in this song lyrics got different meaning with the dictionary. Thus contextual meaning is the suitable one. It can deliver the messages from this song to those who hear this song especially hijabi Muslim women. The aim of this research is to find out the context and contextual meanings in “Cover Girl” song lyrics. The theory that will be used by the author in this research is Lyons theory (1977).

This song contains lyrics that has to be analyzed using contextual meaning analysis thus the listeners could understand the meaning better.

Here is one of the examples from “Cover Girl” song lyrics by Deen Squad:

2017, she ain't tryna' be oppressed (Musixmatch, 2017)

Without contextual meaning analysis, it'll be hard for listeners to understand what does that lyric means. Why the singer picks 2017 instead of any other year? Who's the she the singer means? Why she's oppressed? Thus, in order to understand the

actual meaning of that lyrics, contextual meaning analysis is needed to analyze this song. There are also so many contextual meanings exist and can be found from this song. The lyrics of this song got lots of messages and elements which the singer wants the listeners to listen. Apparently this song also have given big impact for the targeted listeners who are hijabi Muslim women.

1.2 Research Questions

The research problems of this research is what are contextual meaning in the "Cover Girl" song lyrics?

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the research questions above, the objective of this research is to explain the contextual meaning in the "Cover Girl" song lyrics.

1.4 Scope of the Study

There are many types of meanings that could be analyzed from literary works. Thus in order to get a comprehensive result, the author will focus on the contextual meaning from the lyrics of "Cover Girl" by Deen Squad. The data of this research will be limited because the author only want to focus in one song. The theory that the author preferred is Lyon's Theory (1977). This theory classifies contextual meaning into six types. Those are Context of Person, Context of Place, Context of Time, Context of Formality, Context of Mood, and Context of Subject-matter.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By doing this research, the author expected some practical and theoretical benefit from this study.

Theoretically, this study is expected to be useful and give knowledge to the semantic study especially contextual meaning of “Cover Girl” song lyrics by Deen Squad. Practically, this research would contribute on giving information for the students of Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, specifically for English Literature department. Additionally, the author hopes people able to get the benefits from this research that they could be closer to Allah and become a better Muslim person. The author also hopes that especially hijabi Muslim women will always be confident on everything because they are beautiful and amazing human being that nothing should be able to stop them. Last but not least, the author also hopes to be able gain more knowledge about contextual meanings in song lyrics.

1.6 Literature Reviews

The author has searched about other researches collated with this research. There are similarities and differences among them. The author did choose five researches because these five researches are already given enough information for the author to write this research.

The first research that the author choose is *An Analysis of Contextual Meaning In Irfan Makki's Song Lyrics In I Believe Album* researched Yasha Rizqi Fauza (2020) from English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. In this research she chooses three songs from *I Believe album*. The songs that she chooses are *I Believe*, *Al-Amin*, and *Waiting For The Call*. She chooses those three songs because those songs have many words that got implied meanings in them. Based on the research, the problem statement that she makes is how to find the

contextual meaning in Irfan Makki's song lyrics. Thus, the researcher finds an objective of the study that is to explain the contextual meaning in Irfan Makki's song lyrics. The theory that she uses is Mansoer Pateda's theory. From the research, she finds that there are 23 lyrics that have contextual meanings in them.

The second research is *An Analysis of Contextual Meaning In A New Day Has Come Song Lyrics by Celine Dion* and researched by Riska Getty Anindya (2018) from English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. In this research she chooses Celine Dion's because she thinks the song is aesthetics and has contextual meaning also several words of the song lyrics have different meaning with the meaning in dictionary. Based on the research, she makes two problem statements. Those are, (1) What are the context in the A New Day Has Come song lyrics? (2) What are the contextual meaning in A New Day Has Come song lyrics?. Thus the researcher also finds two objective study, those are (1) The Context in the "A New Day Has Come" song lyrics. (2) The contextual meaning in A New Day Has Come lyrics. The theory that she uses is Mansoer Pateda's theory. From the research, she finds that there are 65 words that have contextual meaning.

The third research is *Contextual Meaning On My Chemical Romance's Songs: A Semantic Analysis* researched by Putri Pauline Stefani Napitulu (2019) from English Department of State University of North Sumatera. In this research she chooses five songs by Chemical Romance's. The songs that she choose are *Welcome To The Black Parade*, *Teenagers*, *Famous Last Words*, *I Don't Love You*, and *Disenchanted*. She chooses to analyze those five songs because she thinks that the

songs are a part of a concept album to deliver messages. Based on the research, she makes two problem statements. Those are, (1) What types of contextual meaning are found in My Chemical Romance's songs? (2) What is the most dominant type of contextual meanings used in My Chemical Romance's songs? Thus, the researcher also found two objective study, those are (1) To find out the types of contextual meaning found in My Chemical Romance's songs. (2) To find out the most dominant type of contextual meaning in My chemical Romance's songs. From the research, she found that there are 256 contextual meanings in those songs.

The fourth research is entitled *An Analysis Of Contextual Meaning In Selected Sami Yusuf's Song Lyrics On Wherever You Are Album* researched by Mr. Suphandee Yalaha (2018) from English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. In this research he chooses three songs from *Wherever You Are album*. They are *Wherever You Are*, *In Every Tear He is There*, and *No Word is Worthy*. He chooses songs in *Wherever You Are* album because Sami Yusuf indicated popular music and interesting songs in 2003 using Islamic style. Based on the research, the he makes two problem statements. Those are, (1) What are the contexts in the Sami Yusuf song lyrics? (2) What are the contextual meanings of the Sami Yusuf's song lyrics?. Thus the researcher also find two objective of study. Those are, (1) To find out the context from the Sami Yusuf's song lyrics. (2) To find out the contextual meaning from the Sami Yusuf's song lyrics. The theory that he uses is Mansoer Pateda's theory. From this research, he finds that there are 37 lyrics that have contextual meanings in them.

The last research is a thesis entitled *A Contextual Meaning Analysis of One Republic's Songs Lyric Counting Stars and Apologize* researched by Arif Bahtiar (2018) from English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. In this research he chooses two songs. Those are *Counting Stars* and *Apologize*. He chooses those two songs because those songs have various diction, and the meaning only can be understood by their contexts. Based on the research, he makes two research questions. Those are, (1) What are the contexts in the Counting Stars and Apologize song lyric? (2) What are the contextual meaning in Counting Stars and Apologize song lyric? Thus the researcher also find two objective study. Those are context in the Counting Stars and Apologize song lyric and the contextual meaning in the Counting Stars and Apologize song lyric. The theory that he uses is Mansoer Pateda's theory. From this research, he finds that there are 26 lyrics that are word, phrase, and sentence which have contextual meaning.

There are differences between all those research studies above and the present research. The similarity of the present research and the researches above is the focus of the research that is contextual meaning analysis while the difference between this research and the researches above is the object. However, there is another difference that is four of the researches above are using the same theory that is Mansoer Pateda's theory while this research is using John Lyons (1977) theory. Furthermore, the other one research which is using the same theory that is John Lyon's theory is different in the object. What makes this research is really interesting is because it talks about important issues of a community that is muslim community.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

In this research, qualitative approach is the method that will be used to analyze "Cover Girl" song lyrics by Deen Squad. The aim of this research is to acquire the answers of the research questions about contextual meaning of "Cover Girl" song lyrics. According to the topic of this research, this research is categorized as semantic content analysis.

There are linguists who contributed in semantics, John Lyons is one of them. Lyons, (1971, p. 1) stated that semantic is generally defined as the study of meaning. Abdul Chaer (2012, p. 289) says that dimensions of meaning are divided into lexical, grammatical, and contextual meaning, referential and non referential meaning, decorative and connotative meaning, conceptual and associative meaning, and lexeme.

Nevertheless, the theory that will be used for this research is Lyons Theory. Lyons theory is suitable for this research because he describes about many kinds of contexts especially for song lyrics thus this theory will be really appropriate. As Lyons (1977) stated that context as a theoretical construct which linguist and any participant of linguistic-event then use any factors that could influence the meaning of utterances into a consideration in delivering points across.

Refers to Lyon's theory (1977), there are several kinds of context. The first one is context of person, the second is context of place, the third is context of time, the fourth is context of formality, the fifth is context of mood, and the last one is

context of subject-matter. Additionally (Lyons 1977, p. 1) said that semantics is generally designed as the study of meaning.

1.8 Research Method

In order to get the answer of the research problem, it's needed to use research method. According to Kesuma (2007, p. 1), method is a way of work, based on a certain system or rule. In order to understand something, people need to study in analytical, systematical, and many other ways which is called as research method. There are four steps in it. The first one is to decide the type of research, the second one is data source, the third one is data collection technique, and the last one is data analysis technique.

1.8.1 Type of Research

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative method. The study is also can be called as qualitative research because the data of this research is from words. Creswell (2014, p. 32) states that an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups assign to a social or human problem is called as qualitative research. The process of deductive and inductive inference as well as on the analysis of the dynamics of the observed relationship using scientific logic would be better by using qualitative research because it's worth more pointing up on it's analysis. According to Creswell (2014, p. 32), the difference between qualitative research and quantitative research is framed in term of using words (qualitative) rather than numbers (quantitative). The use of this method is suitable for this research that is explaining contextual meaning in "Cover Girl" song lyrics by Deen Squad.

1.8.2 Data Source

The data source of this research is from “Cover Girl” song lyrics by Deen Squad and the object of the study is contextual meaning of itself. The source of the lyrics is taken from the musixmatch website. While the lyrics was written by Joshua Asare and Kodor Zaher. In order to decide or discuss something, data as an information or facts is really needed.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

The collecting data technique used in this research is documents. Lyrics are considered as document because lyrics are a part of written literary works which is sung to give messages to the listeners as the purpose as Griffiee (2012, p. 129) stated in *An Introduction to Second Language Research Methods Design and 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".

Moreover, the data that is collected by this technique is written instruments, that is a group of words that join together to convey something.

These are the several steps of collection the data since the data is song lyrics using qualitative approach:

- a. The author download the data from the internet in the form of song and it's lyrics

- b. The author listen, watch, and read the data couple times to find the contextual meaning in it.
- c. At last, the author will analyze, explain, and conclude the data with contextual meaning.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

In this research the research tries to analyze song lyrics with contextual meaning. Thus after collected the data, the researcher will analyze and observe the song lyrics based on the research questions and using the theory that will be used for this research.

The problem of this research is related to how it's really needed to analyze the song lyrics using contextual meaning analysis. To achieve this goal, the method used is the equivalent method which is supported by the song lyrics. According to Sudaryanto (1993, p. 13) the equivalent method is a method of data analysis whose determinants are outside, apart, and do not become part of the language concerned or researched. The basic technique used is the determining element sorting technique. Determining element sorting technique is a sorting technique where the tool used is a mental sorting power that is owned by the researcher himself. This method identifies linguistic units according to the resultant reactions that occur.

These are the steps of analyzing the data:

- a. Observing the lyrics
- b. Finding out the words that has contextual meaning
- c. Recognizing the contextual meaning derived from the context

d. Concluding the result based on the analysis result

1.9 Paper Organizations

There are four chapters in this paper. There are background of study, research question, objectives of study, significance of study, literary review, theoretical approach, research methodology, and paper organization in the first chapter. Second chapter explains about linguistic, semantic, meaning, contextual meaning and the kinds of contexts. The third chapter is about data analysis and for the last one, it's about conclusion and suggestions from this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

This research focuses on semantics analysis as a whole and using one of the theories of semantics. This research is titled An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in “Cover Girl” Song Lyrics by Deen Squad. This research is analyzed by using Lyon's (1977) theory. The author found many lines from “Cover Girl” song lyrics that considered as contextual meaning of the song. The meaning of the lines of the song influences the meaning of the entire lyrics of the song.

The author picks some lyrics from the whole lyrics of the song because some other lyrics got similarities and already can be understood easily by reading thus some lyrics don't need to be analyzed. The author found 22 lines that have contextual meaning in them. One of the examples is from the lyric “*This is for my sisters in the west*”. This part of lyric is considered as context of place because it's written there **in the west** which refers to a location that is western countries. For more details, there are 13 from context of person, 8 lines from context of place, 6 lines from context of time, 7 lines from context of formality, 8 lines from context of mood, and 11 lines from context of subject-matter.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the used of words in some lines from “Cover Girl” song lyrics can't only be understood lexically. The meaning of some

words of the songs that exist in the song lyrics are regulated by the context of the song.

4.2 Suggestion

After getting result from this research, the researcher would like to give some suggestions for those who want to do analysis with song. Song is one of kinds literary work thus don't just look for the meaning of the song lyrics in dictionary or lexically. Many words that exist in songs have their own special meanings that really need to be understood.

If there's anyone who's interested in doing analysis in semantics study, they can analyze songs or poems to find out the meanings of the sentences or words that exist there. If they're interested in the same song like the researcher used, it'd be amazing and better if they analyze the lines of this song that got stylistical word in it. The researcher wish that this research will be useful for the next research, especially for English Literature students in State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

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APPENDIX

“Cover Girl” song lyrics :

She's a righteous woman
And they don't like it
No, no...
Yeah
They try to conceal her
But deep down there
They fear her
My cover girl
Oh woah!
She's the true cover girl

DEEN SQUAD

For all my sisters around the world man

She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab
She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab

She be rockin' it, she be, she be rockin' it
She be rockin' it, hater why you talkin' ish?
She a modest girl, homie don't be mad cuz
(She be rockin' that hijab)

Its that cover girl trap, cover girl rap
Sister stand up, where my cover girls at?
Dear Islamophobes, let me put you on blast
You wanna kick the Muslims out, but you know we got class
This is for my sisters in the west
2017, she ain't tryna' be oppressed
She represents peace and she got her own voice
And She's not forced to wear it, cause she made her own choice
OHHH YEAH

She got her hair covered
That means you can't judge her
She got class, she don't flirt, she don't exchange numbers
And she a boss, she ain't rollin' with these lame brothers
And when she rockin' that hijab she remain humble

She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
 She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab
 She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
 She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab

When she put it on
 Her heart is growing strong
 But that won't take nothing away from her
 Yeah
 So go and put the crown on
 Ladies stand up when I sing this song
 She be rockin' that, she be rockin' that, she be rockin' that Hijab

To all my sisters in the place, with style and faith
 Allow me to say, you shine when you're miles away
 They better say SALAMS if they cross your way
 Or I'mma show 'em who's boss today (Hey, hey!)
 Why you're messing with the righteous sisters?
 Why you acting like the head-scarf
 Wasn't worn by the Jews and Christians?
 Cover girls got dreams with no limits
 That's why Ibtihaj done made it in the Olympics
 And she braver and alot more
 Women in the prophet's days even fought wars
 She striving, she keep believing
 She rock that head-scarf like the Mother of Jesus
 And that's her freedom. She knows her reason
 She reppin' Islam and she gives it a meaning
 AMEEN!

You struggled through a test on earth
 Now your spot in Heaven is reserved

She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
 She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab
 She be rockin' that. she be rockin' that, she be rockin that, she be, she be rockin that
 She be rockin' that. she be, she be rockin' that, she be rockin that Hijab

She's my cover girl
 WOAAAH!
 YEAH!