

ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING CONTAINED IN CHOSEN YUSUF

ISLAM'S SONG LYRICS

A GRADUATING PAPER

**Submitted as Partial Requirement for Gaining The Bachelor Degree in English
Literature**



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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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ABSTRACT

ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING CONTAINED IN CHOSEN YUSUF ISLAM'S SONG LYRICS

In this modern era, song lyric is a way to expresses someone's feeling. It describes a hidden story behind, it can be a story about the character's singer itself, someone's special, or anything that can be described to it. One of singer that has strong characteristic in his lyric is Yusuf Islam. Occasionally, understanding several words or phrase in song lyrics cannot be understood if it is only understood by using dictionary meaning or lexical meaning. However, the context of language is used to understand the song lyrics to make it clearer. The purpose of this research is to describe the contextual meaning contained in chosen Yusuf Islam's song lyrics including types of context by applying contextual meaning theory of Mansoer Pateda. This research concentrates on five song lyrics, they are *See What Love Did To Me* and *Blackness of The Night, Where Do The Children Play, Kings of Trees, and Tuesday's Death*. Method of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Data sources are taken from azlyrics.com. This research uses documentation and observation analysis to gather data. The result of this research reveals that there are fourty words or phrases consist of contextual meaning in these songs. It also reveals types of context that those songs have, they are context of person, context of purpose, context of situation, context of formality, context of speaker or listener, context of time, context of place, context of object, context of tool, and context of language.

Keywords: *semantics, contextual meaning, song lyrics, Yusuf Islam*

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ABSTRAK

ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING CONTAINED IN CHOSEN YUSUF ISLAM'S SONG LYRICS

Di era modern ini, lirik lagu adalah cara untuk mengekspresikan perasaan seseorang. Lirik lagu menggambarkan cerita tersembunyi di baliknya, berupa cerita tentang karakter penyanyi itu sendiri, seseorang yang spesial, atau apa pun yang dapat digambarkan di dalamnya. Salah satu penyanyi yang memiliki ciri khas kuat dalam liriknya adalah Yusuf Islam. Terkadang, beberapa kata atau frasa dalam lirik lagu tidak dapat dipahami jika hanya dipahami menggunakan makna dari kamus atau makna leksikal. Bagaimana pun, konteks bahasa tetap digunakan untuk memahami lirik lagu tersebut agar lebih jelas. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan makna kontekstual yang terkandung dalam lirik lagu Yusuf Islam yang terpilih termasuk juga mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis konteks menggunakan teori makna kontekstual dari Mansoer Pateda. Penelitian ini berfokus pada lima lirik lagu, yaitu *See What Love Did To Me* dan *Blackness of The Night, Where Do The Children Play, Kings of Trees, dan Tuesday's Death*. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif. Sumber data penelitian ini diambil dari azlyrics.com. Penelitian ini menggunakan dokumentasi dan observasi untuk mengumpulkan data. Hasil dari penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa ada empat puluh kata atau frasa yang berisi makna kontekstual dalam lagu-lagu Yusuf Islam. Hasil penelitian juga mengungkapkan jenis konteks yang dimiliki lagu-lagu Yusuf Islam, yaitu konteks orang, konteks tujuan, konteks situasi, konteks formalitas, konteks suasana pembicara atau pendengar, konteks waktu, konteks tempat, konteks objek, konteks alat, dan konteks bahasa.

Kata kunci: *semantik, makna kontekstual, lirik lagu, Yusuf Islam*

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MOTTO

You cannot go forward, if you keep looking back

(Unknown)



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this paper to my parents Agus Ali Akbar and Umi Mustabsiroh

All my lecturers in Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University

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

My friends, my classmates of English literature 2016

And all student of English literature department



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

No	Abbreviation	Meaning
1.	S	Stanza
2.	L	Line



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is an arbitrary sound symbol used by members of social groups to work together, communicate, and identify themselves (Kridalaksana: 1983 also in Kentjono: 1982). Humans used to communicate with each other both individuals and individuals, groups or groups using language. Language is the only tool that humans use to communicate with others. Human language is used by humans in their life through communication. Communication is an important aspect of life to survive for humanity. Without communication it will be difficult for humans to live in this world, because humans are social beings whose lives depend on others. For example, people who are first going abroad for college or something, this person must not have known the new place. Naturally, people will certainly get to know new other people, say an introductory greeting. If speaker uses false word or diction to listener, there must be miscommunication between them. In order to get correct meaning , people must use the right word for it. From here, this is where the formation of good communication is formed.

Language as object of linguistic that contain meaning in it. Analysing meaning in language is important so semantic is needed for it. Semantic is one branch of linguistic that studies about systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings (Kreidler: 1998).

In all language, words always mean something. It constructs an understanding about indefinite thought called meaning. Meaning is part of language or communication that is crucial. According to Ullman (Chaer: 2012) said that meaning is a relationship between meaning and understanding. Ferdinand de Saussure (as cited in Chaer: 2012) also revealed

that meaning is an understanding or concept that is owned or contained in a linguistic sign. As mentioned above, in some conversation, speakers need to use right words to communicate with speaking partner. Choosing wrong words can lead into wrong meanings that cause communication misunderstanding. On other hand, choosing right words will lead into good conversation. The study that identify meanings in language is semantic.

Semantics is one important part of linguistic whose role cannot be separated. Semantic studies about meaning of language. According to Palmer (1976:1) Semantics is referred to the study of meaning, meaning is part of language, study of how to organize, arrange, and express meaning. It shows that semantic is not only discuss about meaning, but also studies how to define and interpret the meaning. There are four kinds of meaning in semantic: cognitive meaning, ideational meaning, denotational meaning, and proportional meaning (Palmer, 1976: 34). Beside that, Chaer (2012: 59-77) divides the types of meanings in pairs according to several angles of view: lexical meaning and grammatical meaning, referential meanings and non-referential meanings, denotative meanings and connotative meanings, meaning of terms or general meanings and meanings specifically, associative, collocative, reflective, idiomatic meanings.

Understanding a meaning using apprehension of lexical meaning is not sufficient . Understanding lexical meaning is necessary between speaking partner, but when there is a word linked together with other words in a sentence, it may causes different meaning. The differences in meaning can be caused by many reasons, one of that reason is because of contextual meaning. Sometimes some speaking partner use a word that seems not to have significant meaning that related to the point of coversation. If speaking partner understands contextual meaning that is said by another speaker, there will be no misunderstanding. On another hand if speaking partner does not understand about contextual meaning, the opposite will happen.

Contextual meaning is meaning of word or lexeme which is related to context that can contain or add to the clarity of meaning, which is influenced by the situation, place, time, environment. According to Chaer (2012: 290) contextual meaning is the meaning of word or lexeme that is exist in a context. Pateda stated that contextual meaning or situational meaning appears as a result of the relationship between speech and context (Pateda, 2010: 116). It can be concluded that contextual meaning is meaning that depends on context or situation. Contextual meaning may be found in a conversation when humans speak each other or in some literary works like poem, novel, song and so on.

One function of contextual meaning can be seen in song especially song's lyrics. Song lyrics are expressions of something that someone sees or hears or experiences. By doing word play and language to create attraction and distinctiveness of song lyrics performed by a songwriter. Language style vocal games and word meaning deviations are language games in creating song lyrics. In addition, musical and melodic notations adapted to the lyrics are used to strengthen the lyrics, so that listeners are increasingly carried away with what the author thinks (Awe, 2003: 51).

In this modern era, song lyric is a way to expresses someone's feeling. It describe a hidden story behind it. It can be a story about the character's singer itself, someone's special, or anything that can be described to it. Some singers or song writers are likely choose easy words to make the listeners easily understand, yet some of them prefer to choose words that make the listeners must think twice or deeply about the meaning. On other hand, they choose literary word or diction to make the listener is confused about the lyric because the meaning of words in literature is much different with the meaning in dictionary. That is what makes some singers have strong characteristic in their lyric which make them unique.

One of singer that has strong characteristic in his lyric is Cat Stevens or Yusuf Islam .Yusuf Islam is one of famous islamic singer at the present. This singer is known as a band

that has elaborated in understanding song lyric which make it has strong feature. Cat Stevens (as cited in catstevens.com). (born Steven Demetre Georgiou, London, July 21, 1948 and now Yusuf Islam) is known as a songwriter from the United Kingdom. Early in his music career, Georgiou took the name Cat Stevens. As Cat Stevens, he managed to sell 40 million albums, mostly in the 1960s and 1970s. The most popular songs include *"Broken Morning Has"*, *"Peace Train"*, *"Moonshadow"*, *"Wild World"*, *"Father and Son"*, *"Matthew and Son"*, and *"Oh Very Young"*. In December 1977, Cat Stevens converted to Islam and adopted the name Yusuf Islam the following year. In 1979, he auctioned all of his guitars for charity and left his musical career to devote himself to educational and philanthropic causes in the Muslim community. In 2006, he returned to pop music – releasing his first new studio album of new pop songs in 28 years, titled *"An Other Cup"*. With that release and subsequent ones, he dropped the surname "Islam" from the album cover art using the stage name Yusuf as a mononym. However, before An Other Cup album he launched *"I Look, I See"* album in 2003 which means he already rejoined to his music career as a moslem. Until now he already released 3 others album: *Roadsinger* in 2009, *Tell 'Em I'm Gone* in 2014, and *The Laughing Apple* in 2017.

The reason why the researcher chooses Yusuf Islam's song lyrics as object of this research because his song lyrics are interesting to be examined and has deep aesthetic islamic nuance in it. Several words or phrase in song lyrics cannot be understood if it is only understood by dictionary meaning or lexical meaning. The meaning or point in those songs have implicit meaning. Therefore, there must be research in findings the contextual meaning of those songs so that meaning of them can be understandable.

In addition, the contextual meaning that Yusuf Islam included in the lyrics of his songs is a substantial study problem since it necessitates a thorough investigation into the many layers of his poetic expressions. Although Yusuf Islam is well known for his

inspirational and thought-provoking music, there is little study on the contextual meaning of the words he has selected for his songs. Therefore, understanding the underlying metaphors, themes, and cultural allusions in Yusuf Islam's songs might help one better understand his creative goals and the lasting effects of his music on listeners.

The researcher takes an example for the case. For the example this is one of his song's lyric "*See What Love Did To Me*"

Just like the wind

My heart's rushing fast

A piece of dust

Too hard to catch

The lyric "*My heart's rushing fast*" there is a word *rushing* that came from word *rush*. The lexical meaning of *rushing* means "to move or to do something with great speed". While word *heart* means the place in a person where the feeling and emotions are thought to be. In that lyric, if word *rush* and word *heart* is combined it does not make sense because there is contradiction. It shows that the meaning should be discovered by another way. In contextual meaning, that lyric means the writer's heart is beating fast. To make it clearer, if previous lyric combined, the meaning becomes the writer's heart is beating fast like the wind blows.

However, this research is focused on analyzing the contextual meaning in selected songs from Yusuf Islam. The research topic was concentrated on a particular collection of selected Yusuf Islam song lyrics. The data in this theory is taken from several songs from various albums. The researcher takes songs from first album *See What Love Did To Me* and *Blackness of The Night*. From the second album the researcher chooses *Where Do The Children Play*, *Kings of Trees*, and *Tuesday's Death*. These songs are difficult and have no sense if it is only comprehended by lexical meaning so it is necessary to comprehend these

songs using contextual meaning. The theory that researcher uses to analyze the contextual meaning in this research is Mansoer Pateda's contextual meaning theory. .

1.2 Research Question

Based on the description of background above, the researcher constructs the research question: what are the contextual meaning Yusuf Islam's song lyrics?

1.3 Objective of Study

According to research question, the objectives of study is to describe the contextual meaning Yusuf Islam's song lyrics.

1.4 Significance of Study

As mentioned above, this study is linguistic research, focus on contextual meaning in Yusuf Islam's song lyrics. The researcher hopes that this research will give a contribution to linguistic study, particularly contextual meaning study. This study is expected to give more explanation and understanding about contextual meaning by Mansoer Pateda. It also can be reference for English Literature or some researcher who want to analyze literary or linguistic work through contextual meaning. In addition, this research is presented to anyone who wants to study or understand the contextual meaning of The Laughing Apple and Majikat album through this research.

1.5 Literature Review

The first research is "*An Analysis of Contextual Meaning of songs by Shane Filan*" by Maya Desi Lestari (2016) graduating paper English department Faculty of Letters and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel. The objective of the study are to describe the contexts used in the lyrics of Shane Filan songs and the contextual meanings that are found in the contexts used in the lyrics of Shane Filan songs. This research deals with the analysis contextual meaning of songs by Shane Filan for explains the context found in his song. This research constructed by some problems whether described types of context used

and explained it into contextual meaning of song by Shane Filan.. This research used descriptive method because it is used to describe the context found in song of Shane Filan. The data were taken from two albums of Shane Filan, *You and Me* (2013) and *Right Here* (2015), those are *Everything to Me*, *About You*, *Knee Deep in My Heart*, *Everytime*, *You and Me*, *I Could Be*, *Right Here*, *Beautiful To Me*, *I Can't Get Over You*, and *Me and The Moon*.

The second research is "*A Contextual Meaning Analysis of One Republic's Songs Lyric Counting Star and Apologize*" by Arif Bahtiar (2018) graduating paper English department Faculty of Adab and Cultural Science State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. This research aims to discover the contextual meaning through songs using Pateda's Theory. The objective of the study are contexts in *Counting Stars* and *Apologize* song lyric and the contextual meaning in *Counting Stars* and *Apologize* song lyric. The researcher takes two songs, *Counting Stars* and *Apologize*. Seventeen data in *Counting Star* are classified into three context, they are context of situation, purpose, and mood's speaker or listener. While the other nine data in *Apologize* are classified into three types of context, they are context of purpose, mood's speaker or listener, and time.

The third research is "*An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in A New Day Has Come Song Lyrics*" by Riska Getty Anindya (2018) graduating paper English department Faculty of Adab and Cultural Science State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The objective of the study is to explain contexts in the "*A New Day Has Come*" song lyric and the contextual meaning in the "*A New Day Has Come*" song lyric. This research used Mansoer Pateda theory. The researcher found 65 words that have contextual meaning. Those words are *miracle*, *strong*, *tear*, *darkness*, *good time*, *it*, *world*, *all*, *light*, *sky* etc.

The fourth research is “*Makna Kontekstual dalam Novel Diary Pramugari Karya Agung Webe*” by Daud Rodi Palimbong (2015) journal Christian Indonesia Toraja Univesity. The goal of this research is to describe contextual meaning in Diary Pramugari novel by Agung Webe. The researcher used qualitative method. The result of the study is the contextual meanings contained in the words contained in Diary Pramugari novel by Agung Webe made the statement clearer, and more interesting. The contextual meaning can be known from the markers that appear in the sentence. The markers are contexts that can be viewed based on the context of the person, the situation, the purpose, the time, the place, the objects that refer to the focus of the conversation and the similarity of the language. This research used theory of contextual meaning of Mansoer Pateda.

The fifth research is “*Contextual Meaning on My Chemical Romance’s Songs: A Semantic Analysis*” a graduating paper by Putri Pauline Stefani Napitupulu (2019) State University of Sumatera Utara. The purposes of this research are to find out the types of contextual meaning and to find out the most dominant types of contextual meaning in five of *My Chemical Romance* songs. This research applies qualitative method and the data are analyzed descriptively. The result of this research shows that there are 256 contextual meaning found in five of *My Chemical Romance* song’s lyric. Context of person is the most dominant type of contextual meaning that is found in the lyrics of *My Chemical Romance* songs. This research used theory of contextual meaning from Lyons.

The sixth research is “*Contextual Meaning Study of Translation of Children’s Story: The Lion King from English into Indonesian*” a journal by Djuria Suprpto (2010) Bina Nusantara University. The purpose of this study is to explain translation of words, phrases, and sentences contained in children’s story *The Lion King* in terms of contextual meaning. This journal applies concept method. The result of this journal shows that there are 41

contextual meaning found in *The Lion King*” story. This journal used translation theory from Newmark.

After exploring these related researches above, the researcher considers that the similarities of this research with those researches establish a range that most of them primarily discuss about contextual meaning. These researches also discuss about semantics that focus on contextual meaning in song lyrics except the last research from Djuria Suprpto which mostly discusses translation with aspects of contextual meaning in it. A journal by Putri Pauline Stefani Napitupulu also uses contextual meaning theory but it uses Lyons’s theory not Mansoer Pateda’s. There are no object material similarities between this research and other researches’ object materials that are mentioned above. The research aims to understand the contextual meaning of Yusuf Islam’s song in the scope of linguistics. The researcher uses contextual meaning theory by Mansoer Pateda. The researcher will look for words or phrases that are contained with contextual meaning, then identify, classify, and explain with Pateda’s context.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In linguistics, the study of meaning is semantics. Semantics is a suitable theory for this research because it studies about meaning. In semantics there are many kinds of meaning, Pateda (2010: 96-131) stated kinds of meaning: affective meaning, descriptive meaning, denotational meaning, extensional meaning, emotive meaning, grammatical meaning, intentional meaning, figurative meaning, cognitive meaning, collocative meaning, connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, construction meaning, contextual meaning, lexical meaning, locution meaning, extended meaning, pictorial meaning, central meaning, referential meaning, narrowed meaning, stylistic meaning and textual meaning. However in this research focus on contextual meaning. Contextual meaning or situational meaning appears as a result of the relationship between speech and context (Pateda, 2010: 116).

Context has many forms, they are: context of person, context of purpose, context of situation, context of formality, context of mood's speaker or listener, context of time, context of place, context of object, context of tool, and context of language (Pateda, 2010: 116).

1.7 Method of Research

According to Sugiyono (2013: 1) method of research is scientific ways of obtaining data for specific purposes and uses. Scientific means that research activities are based on scientific characteristics, namely rational, empirical and systematic. Rational means that research is done in ways that make sense, making it possible for human reasoning. Empirical means that the ways in which it is practiced can be observed by the human senses so that others can observe and know the ways in which it is used. Systematic means that the process used in the study uses specific steps that are logical. In this chapter the the researcher explains about the type of research, data sources, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

1.7.1 Type of Research

This research used descriptive qualitative method. According to Sugiyono (2013: 13) descriptive method is a method which is done to determine the value of the independent variable, either one variable or more independently without making comparisons, or relating to other variables. The purpose of this descriptive study is to make a description, or drawing systematically, factually and accurately of the facts, characteristics and relationships between phenomena.

1.7.2 Data Sources

The data sources for this research are taken from various sources. There are two kind of data. The first is main data the second is supporting data. The main data of this research is transcript of Yusuf Islam's song lyrics taken from A-Z lyrics.com. The supporting data of this research is Yusuf Islam's *youtube* channel YusufCayStevens.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses documentation and observation analysis. Document is a record of past events. Documents can be in the form of monumental writings, drawings, or works. Documents also can be in the form of writing such as daily records, life histories, stories, biographies, regulations, policies (Sugiyono, 2013: 240) . Sutrisno Hadi in Sugiyono (2013: 145) stated that observation is a complex process, a process composed of various biological and psychological processes. The researcher did several steps to collect the data, those steps are: First, Choose appropriate song from Yusuf Islam that can be analyzed using the theory. Second, listen to Yusuf Islam's song for several times to find the data in the lyric. Third, Collect the lyric that is contained with contextual meaning then analyzes it.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

According to (Sudaryanto 1993), there are two method data analysis technique in linguistic research, they are identity method and distributional method. However, the research uses identity method. The researcher does several steps to analyze data. First, look for words or sentence that is contained with contextual meaning. Second, identifies and classifies the contextual meaning based on Mansoer Pateda's context. Third, explains and interprets and Mansoer Pateda's context. The last, makes conclusion based on the result of analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which presents background of study, research question, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter discusses about explanation of theory used by researcher. The third chapter is about research findings and discussions. The last chapter is about conclusion and suggestion from whole research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the research findings and discussions of the study, the researcher will show the formula of conclusion and suggestion.

4.1 Conclusion

The objective of this research is to describe the contextual meaning contained in Yusuf Islam's song lyrics using Mansoer Pateda's theory. The object of this research is Yusuf Islam's song, they are *See What Love Did To Me*, *Blackness of The Night*, *Where Do The Children Play*, *King Of Trees*, and *Tuesday's Death*. As the result of this research, researcher found forty words or phrases consist of contextual meaning in Yusuf Islam's song lyrics. Contexts that included are context of person, context of purpose, context of situation, context of formality, context of mood's speaker or listener, context of time, context of place, context of object, context of tool, and context of language.

In song *See What Love Did To Me* contained eight words or phrases that is included in contextual meaning. The contexts are one context of person, one context of purpose, one context of situation, one context of formality, one context of mood's speaker, one context of time, one context of place, and one context of language. The second song, *Blackness of The Night* contained eight words or phrases of contextual meaning. The contexts are one context of person, two context of purpose, one context of situation, one context of mood's speaker, one context of time, one context of place, and one context of language. The third song, *Where Do The Children Play* consisted of eight words or phrases of contextual meaning. The contexts are one context of person, one context of purpose, one context of situation, one context of mood's speaker, one context of time, one context of place, one context of object, and one context of language. The fourth song, *Kings of Trees* contained seven words or

phrases of contextual meaning. The context are one context of person, one context of purpose, one context of situation, one context of mood's speaker, one context of time, one context of place, and one context of language. The last song, *Tuesday's Dead* consisted of nine words or phrases of contextual meaning. The context are one context of person, one context of purpose, one context of situation, one context of formality, one context of mood's speaker, one context of time, one context of place, one context of tool and one context of language.

4.2 Suggestion

There are several suggestions which can be given to further studies in analyzing the contextual significance of songs:

1. Future studies should examine the ways in which cultural context affects how songs are viewed and understood as well as how contextual meaning in songs changes among cultures as many songs have universal themes, yet different cultures may represent those themes in different ways according to a cross-cultural examination
2. Future studies might study in terms of lyrical content and contextual significance, in which several musical genres may have their own traditions and expectations. The expression of contextual meaning in various musical genres, as well as how these norms and expectations may affect how songs are interpreted, might be the subject of future study.

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