



Semiotic Analysis of the Song Lyrics "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out and analyze the meaning of the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" in collaboration between Suara Kayu and Feby Putri. This research uses the Semiotics method developed by Roland Barthes. Semiotics developed by Roland Barthes is the concept of order meaning. The first sequence, which Barthes calls denotation, describes the relationship between the signifier and the signified in the sign and the relationship between the sign and its reference in external relations is called connotation. The finding in the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" is that the writer of this song wants to convey that in life, humans must observe their surroundings, where there are still people who want to be a place to lean on when in life they get cursed at, people don't care about them, but there are still people who wants to make himself a place to come home to. The lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" have a deep meaning, namely someone who is abroad far from family then gets hurt, disappointment, and sadness. The lyrics of this song want to convey that we are never alone, there are always people who are ready to be our home. However, we are less aware of and appreciate its existence. The songwriter wants to convey that the wounds received from the journey can be healed by returning to a place that makes us safe and peaceful to calm down. Convenience is what a person needs in living life, comfort can be obtained from oneself and others.

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Introduction

Communication is a prerequisite for human life, human life seems empty or even dry and lifeless when there is no communication. Without communication there will be no interaction between humans individually, in groups or organizations (Yasir, 2020). Two people communicate when each exchange meaning through symbols they create or by performing actions and reactions. In communication science the actions and reactions between people are referred to as communication acts. Communication acts can be done in many ways, both verbal (words) and non-verbal (gestures or significant symbols), communication acts can also be done directly or indirectly. Chatting face-to-face, making a phone call, writing or commenting on Facebook or Twitter, posting a photo on Instagram, or writing an email are direct communication acts (Waluya, 2007). Indirect communication activities are defined as communication activities carried out through certain media or intermediaries such as newspapers, magazines, radio, movies, television, artistic activities, online media, music and others.



Indirect communication activities are defined as communication activities carried out through certain media or intermediaries such as newspapers, magazines, radio, movies, television, artistic activities, online media, music and others (Rumapea, 2022). Music is an art that arises from human feelings or thoughts as an expression of self-expression, created from tones or sounds arranged by rhythm or numbers and contains elements of harmony or harmony. Music is a means of entertainment for the community. Listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, pain, improve sleep, music can also stimulate the brain and increase intelligence for those who hear it. Music is the science of arranging tones or sounds in order, combination, and temporal relationships to produce sound compositions that have unity and continuity.

Songs are a type of music that has non-musical elements that play a very important role in giving a certain effect to the music, namely song lyrics. Songs are music that has lyrics so that it can be sung, while according to Gabelan (2014) songs are a variety of rhythmic sounds in conversation, singing, reading or singing. Songs are written to convey messages and what the author and singer feel, from each song has its own meaning or message. In a song there are song lyrics, song lyrics are essentially a language whose preparation must be in accordance with the rules of language (Suharto, 2006). Song lyrics are verbal communication with meaningful messages in them. Song lyrics if chosen correctly can be made valuable by thousands of words or events that are equally possible by individuals. The power of song lyrics is a necessary ingredient for the success of music, because the message conveyed from the songwriter clearly does not come from outside but from within the songwriter, the message comes from circumstances, thoughts and from interactions with the social environment.

The function of songs can be used to boost morale, such as uniting differences during a quarrel, playing on feelings and emotions with the aim of conveying attitudes or values that can then be perceived by the public reasonably, correctly and appropriately. Therefore, the words used in the lyrics do not resemble everyday conversation and have ambiguous characteristics, which makes it possible to ascertain the meaning of the lyrics through the semiotic method, which is the study of sign systems, how signs are interpreted along with culture and perception, and how signs interpret the surrounding situation. Similar to the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang", a collaboration between Suara Kayu and Feby Putri, the lyrics have a deep meaning that the author wants to convey to the audience with the aim that the audience can perceive the song naturally, correctly and appropriately according to the listener's situation.

One of Jakarta's folk-pop duo songwriters, Suara Kayu, released a song titled "Kembali Pulang" in collaboration with Feby Putri. Suara Kayu consists of vocalist and ukulele player Ingrid Tamara and guitarist Dewangga Elsandro. Suara Kayu was formed in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, on May 7, 2020. Suara Kayu is a cover (song) musician who has the desire to have original works. The ukulele and guitar made of wood are the dominant instruments in their work, which is the reason behind the group name Suara Kayu, which is funny, easy to pronounce, easy

for people to understand, and simple. The song *Kembali Pulang* is a collaboration between Suara Kayu and Feby Putri. Feby Putri, whose full name is Feby Putri Nilam Cahyani, is a songwriter and singer who started her career by covering songs, her career began to get great attention in 2016, then in 2019 Feby established a Youtube channel and has been an active content creator until now. Feby Putri often collaborates with several Indonesian singers, such as Fiersa Besari, Alffy Rev, Naradira, Luthfi Aulia and also Suara Kayu. Although Feby is still relatively easy in the music industry, her works are favored by the public, especially young people.

On October 28, 2022 Suara Kayu in collaboration with Feby Putri released a song titled "*Kembali Pulang*" on Suara Kayu's official Youtube. This *Kembali Pulang* song tells about the journey in accepting every wound then looking for happiness to the unattached and ending in disappointment. Then finally realized that there is a door that is always open, not knowing the distance and time of someone who is possible to return home. Based on the meaning of the song conveyed in this song, listeners can find out what Suara Kayu and Feby Putri want to convey. However, there are many listeners who do not know the deep meaning contained in this song. For this reason, the author is interested in researching, how the meaning of the song "*Kembali Pulang*" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri.



Figure 1: Poster of the song "*Kembali Pulang*"
Source : Instagram, 2023

The method used to analyze the meaning contained in the song "*Kembali Pulang*" is Roland Barthes' Semiotic analysis. Semiotic analysis is a qualitative data analysis technique whose purpose is to find or analyze signs in the text systematically. Barthes said in the book *Cultural and Communication Studies*, the idea of two orders of meaning consisting of denotation, connotation, and myth (Fiske, 2007).

Some previous studies that have analyzed song lyrics with similar methods, including research conducted by David Ardhy Aritonang and Yohannes Don Bosco Doho with the title "*Roland Barthes Semiotics Analysis of Noah Band Song Lyrics*



"Adinda's Poetry" published in the journal of communication and business science vol. 4 No. 2 April 2019, this study uses the Roland Barthes semiotics method and the theory of Love Interpersonal Relationship, the research method used is descriptive qualitative. In this study, it was found that the main character poured out his heart to his partner and the continuation of his love story. The choice of the word "Poetry Adinda" as the title of the song represents the character of the woman he loves. The songwriter hopes that this song will be remembered and used as a learning experience as one of the life events that must or will be faced in all walks of life. As long as the main character is still breathing in this world, he always tries to be the ideal man for the woman he loves. In addition, he invites his partner to jointly become a patient, patient and loyal person. The mythology encountered concerns the role of humans in solving problems in love relationships. Then the research conducted by Axcell Nathaniel and Amelia Wisda Sannie with the title "Semiotic Analysis of the Meaning of Loneliness in the Lyrics of the Song "Ruang Sendiri" by Tulus" published in the *unej journal* vol.19 No. 2 July 2018, this research uses Roland Barthes semiotic analysis with interpretive qualitative methods. The results of the semiotic study of the song lyrics "Ruang Sendiri" in this study are the denotation meaning of the song lyrics "Ruang Sendiri" is the songwriter's desire to feel alone, free, and without a lover with him. The result of the connotation study is that the writer feels bored with his partner, no longer knows how he feels about his partner. And the mythical meaning contained is that the songwriter wants to convey that solitude, time to do things alone not always with their partner is something that is needed by everyone who is in a romantic relationship.

Theoretical Basis

Semiotika Roland Barthes

Semiotics is the study of signs and everything related to signs, such as sign systems and processes related to the use of signs. In other words, everything in our lives is seen as a sign, something that we must give meaning to. The definition of sign states that meaning arises when there is a relationship between signifier and signified. Semiotics deals with signs, their functions, and the production of meaning. Teeuw defines semiotics as the science of literature that really tries to find the conventions that make meaning possible.

Semiotics is the study of many types of objects, events, and all cultures as signs. Literary scholar Teeuw defined semiotics as a communicative activity and later refined it into a literary model that takes into account all the essential factors and aspects to understand the phenomenon of literature as a unique means of communication in every society. Every sign is always given an initial meaning known as denotation which Barthes calls the primary system of signification (Harnia, 2021), then the development is called the secondary system. The secondary system of expression is called metabasic, the secondary system is sucked into the content. This concept of meaning is of course based on the understanding of cognition, but also with the understanding of pragmatics, namely the use of signs and the understanding of the situation. In connection with the sign user, we can also express feelings (such as emotional appearance) as one of the connotative factors.

Barthes has two forms of signs consisting of denotation, connotation and myth (Fiske, 2007).

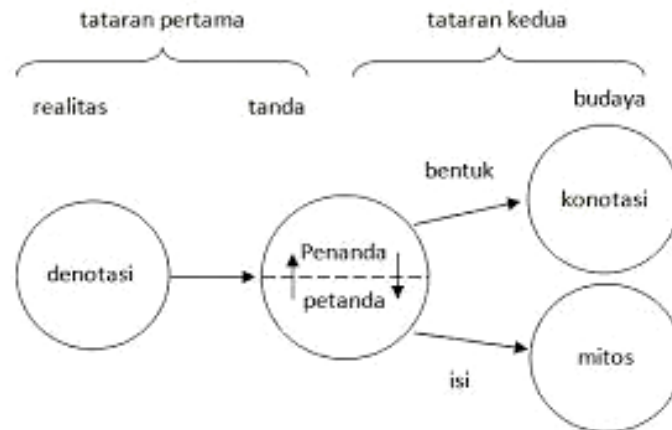


Figure 2: Roland Barthes Signification

Connotations are descriptions of interactions when characters meet the user's feelings or emotions, connotations are usually framed and refined (N & Sannie, 2018). According to (Fiske, 2007) connotations are subjective and often not realized that we are already aware of them. Barthes also explains that there are three ways signs work in the connotative phase, namely, the meaning of the character, the interaction that occurs when the character faces feelings or emotions, and the values in his culture. In semiology, connotation is the meaning that emerges from a code (which cannot be rearranged), the articulation of sounds woven into a text. Then, structurally, connotation is a meaning that exists in two different systems of denotation and connotation, which allows the text to appear as a game. Connotation and denotation cannot be separated, this is because the text is like a game or relationship between connotative meaning and denotative meaning. The meaning is determined by the general meaning that is certain or still has a limit, which is cultural (cannot be separated from the concepts made by society). Barthes formulated that the meaning of connotation is ERC: if E is the expression, C is the content and R is the relationship between the two (E-C) represented by the sign.

According to the Greek dictionary, myth comes from the word muthos, which is defined as a story or something told by someone (Antika et al., 2020). A myth is broadly a statement, a story in a drama. Myths according to Fiske are stories that certain cultures use to explain natural reality. Barthes says that myth works by naturalizing history. Etymologically, myth is a type of speech or discourse (type of speech), myth is something that is understood as an object, concept or idea; myth is a mode of signification, a form. The understanding of different perspectives refers to the intellectual and critical view it takes of the material it represents. Barthes considers myth as a semiological system and defines semiology as the science of form because it studies signs independently of their content.

Song Lyrics

Lyrics are part of music, a means of conveying a message in a text of words like poetry. The words of the song itself can be used to describe an important social reality, meaning that it is useful for people to control their existence and their relationships in the reality of social life. According to (Nugraha, 2016) argues that song lyrics are meaningful verbal media. Song lyrics have thousands of meanings about events that are wrapped by the author to attract the attention of the audience. Therefore, the words of the song are meaningful expressions that come from the human mind.

Song lyrics are based on the fears that a person experiences, which are embellished for the audience to enjoy. The arrangement of words can be called quatrains and other poems. Lyrics allow songwriters to communicate indirectly with their listeners. This is because the songwriter conveys a message written in the lyrics about the anxiety he feels or even his listeners who face similar problems, so lyrics can create interaction even if indirectly. Therefore, lyrics are a way of socializing and maintaining certain attitudes or values (Fitriana, 2019:106). The language of song lyrics can be condensed, abbreviated and then woven into the rhythm, aided by the use of imaginative words. Therefore, songs are often said to be an expression of the author's feelings about feelings sung with musical accompaniment (Aritonang, 2019).

Method

The research method used in this research is interpretive qualitative method. The interpretive paradigm according to Sarantakos is a paradigm that tries to understand human behavior. This paradigm emphasizes the role of language, interpretation and understanding (Menzelati, 2017). Qualitative research provides interpretative information that presents details of the phenomenon under study. According to Sobur, the research methodology used in semiotic analysis is interpretative, while according to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong, qualitative research is a research technique that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words about people and observable behavior. According to Moleong, qualitative research is research that aims to describe phenomena related to subject experiences, such as behavior, observation, motivation, action, and others, comprehensively and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language in a language in a certain natural context by utilizing various natural methods.

Strauss and Corbin (1998:3) consider methodology as the researcher's way of thinking when approaching and understanding social reality. This study utilizes a qualitative approach that incorporates the researcher as a participant and research tool. The study also integrates secondary data collection and semiotics as a tool for analysis and development of outcome-based understanding. Data collection is carried out by direct observation of the research subject and supporting documents to validate the results, at this stage the researcher listens and replays the song to map any known meaning. Based on the explanation above, the interpretative



qualitative method is suitable for this research, namely semiotic analysis of the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri which emphasizes language or words.

This research aims to find out and analyze the meaning of the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri. The object of this research is the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri. This research uses semiotic analysis, which is non-field, therefore the research location is not like field research. Semiotic analysis is a science that examines signs in human life, the semiotic analysis that will be used is based on the thoughts of Roland Barthes.

Results and Discussion

This research aims to analyze and know the meaning of the song lyrics "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri, which will be analyzed using Roland Barthes semiotic analysis. Here are the lyrics of the song Kembali Pulang:

*Sekedar berandai menetapi diri ini
Berpencar pergi tuk mencari apa yang lama dicari
Pergi tanpa pamrih pergi tanpa pamit akan
Ke sana kemari tanpa arah serta ratusan makian*

*Kembali pulang tuk menenangi
Banyaknya luka yang berantakan
Peluk hangat sikap tuk sembuhkan
Kembali pulang bersama terang
Menghiasi diri merayakan
Genggaman tangan yang masih ada*

According to Barthes, the denotation or true meaning of a word can be recognized as described in the dictionary. Therefore, to know the meaning of words in the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" refers to the meaning written in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI). There are several words that must be known for their denotation meaning to avoid confusion. For example, the word "sekedar" according to the KBBI means as necessary, as much as possible. The word "menetapi" means always being (staying, standing in place), the word "berpencar" KBBI means scattered everywhere (not gathered or grouped), the word "pamrih" means hidden intentions in fulfilling desires for personal gain, the word "pamit" means permission to leave (depart, return), the word "makian" means a vile word spoken in anger. The word "menenangi" has the meaning of making calm, easing. The word "berantakan" means scattered, and the word "merayakan" means to honor, commemorate, solemnize, an important event.

The connotation in the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" comes from the interpretation of the lines that make up the words of the song. From the whole line and the relationship between them, the connotation in the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" is interpreted, which states that someone who is overseas away

from family or closest people gets hurt, disappointment, and sadness. The songwriter wants to convey that we are never alone, there are always people who are ready to be home for us. But we are less aware and appreciate their existence. The songwriter wants to convey that the wounds received from the travel process can be healed by returning to a place that makes us safe and peaceful to calm down.

After analyzing the entire text of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri, the connotations related to the myths of the lyrics of this song are obtained. The overall analysis of the words of the song gives the meaning that through this song the songwriter reveals how someone who goes away from home then gets sad. The songwriter wants to convey that there are still people who want to be a home, people who are ready to listen to complaints, people who want to hug when others hurt their hearts. Therefore, the findings of the meaning of the song lyrics "Kembali Pulang" using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory are presented in the table below:

Table 1.1 Findings of the meaning of the song lyrics "Kembali Pulang"

Song Lyrics	Meaning of the Song
Sekedar berandai menetapi diri ini	A person's thoughts on how he establishes himself, then he supposes
Berpencar pergi tuk mencari apa yang lama dicari	About the self that goes in search of something long sought after, and what is sought is identity
Pergi tanpa pamrih pergi tanpa pamit akan	A person who leaves with the intention of searching and finding himself, but he leaves without saying goodbye to his parents and family
Ke sana kemari tanpa arah serta ratusan makian	It explains that someone who leaves to find himself is not easy, on his journey to find himself he gets hurtful words that make him become undirected
Kembali pulang tuk menenangi	Explaining that after all the chaos outside the home, this self needs calmness
Banyaknya luka yang berantakan	he wounds acquired out there are devastating, make one's mind cluttered, and make one's heart unsettled
Peluk hangat sikap tuk sembuhkan	A hug is a gesture that allows the self to heal from wounds, disappointments and makes the self calm
Kembali pulang bersama terang	Going home to the most comfortable place will bring us happiness and peace of mind for all the problems we face out there



Menghiasi diri merayakan

Beautify yourself, improve yourself, honor the people who are still there and willing to accept yourself back home and don't forget to celebrate with love. Celebrating in the sense of being grateful for everything that has happened

Genggaman tangan yang masih ada

Has the intention of keeping people who are still there to give us peace of mind, comfort of soul and so that we appreciate whoever is still there and ready to be a home in any situation.

Based on the analysis of Roland Barthes Semiotics, the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri obtained the meaning "When we are outside our comfort zone to find what we want and then get discomfort from others (hurtful words), then look around us there are still people who are ready to be a comfortable place to be a backrest to win ourselves".

Conclusion

This research discusses the semiotic analysis proposed by Roland Barthes, on the lyrics of the song "Kembali Pulang" by Suara Kayu and Feby Putri. The lyrics of this song illustrate that the songwriter wants to convey that we have to look around us, and it turns out that there are still people who want to be a place to lean on when we get cursed, when we are far away. Someone who is overseas away from family or closest people gets hurt, disappointment, and sadness. The songwriter wants to convey that we are never alone, there are always people who are ready to be home for us. But we are less aware and appreciate their existence. The songwriter wants to convey that the wounds received from the travel process can be healed by returning to a place that makes us safe and peaceful to calm down. Comfort is what a person needs in living life, comfort can be obtained from oneself and others. remembering that there are still people who are ready to be a place where we lean to calm down from all problems.

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