

An Error Analysis of Semantics in Maher Zain Song: “Forgive Me”

Nurhanna Harahap^{1*}, Jupriaman², Muhammad Rusli³, Anna Leli Harahap⁴,
Rizki Lestari⁵, Shopiah Anggraini⁵

Teacher Training and Education Faculty, English Education Study Program, Al Washliyah University of Labuhanbatu,
Rantauprapat, Indonesia

Email: ¹nurhanna050@gmail.com, ²jupriamannbh@yahoo.co.id, ³mrusli2804@gmail.com, ⁴annaleliharahap25@gmail.com,
⁵rizkilestari2310@gmail.com, ⁶anggrainishopiah@gmail.com

Abstrak

There were two formulation of the study, namely what are the lexical meanings in the lyrics of Maher Zain songs? and what are the contextual meanings in the lyrics of Maher Zain songs?. So there were two objectives of the study, namely to explain and find out the lexical meanings in the lyrics of “Maher Zain” songs for reader and to explain and find out the contextual meanings in the lyrics of “Maher Zain” songs for reader. The researcher used descriptive qualitative approach. The instrument of this research is an recording of Maher Zain song and the Lyrics. The data are grouped based on the type of lexical and contextual meaning. After analyzing the lyric of the song which are composed by *Maher Zain “Forgive Me”*, the researcher count in that song, there were 29 lines of sentences of the lyrics. There were 13 lines are grouped into lexical meaning (44,9%) and there were 16 lines are grouped into contextual meaning (55,1%).

Kata Kunci: Song, Lexical Meaning, Contextual Meaning

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication is the way human inform an message for others and made some friendship. By over doing this communication, human can be recognize the life and situation by itself. Communication also need some key to be practice it, and language can made this perfect by communicate with an speaking a word it is.

Communication is a basically a social process. When all people speak in a communication is a process. And then, there must be both sender and receiver. Sometimes, all people only talk interaction not only directly interact with Communicator alone, but it can communicate through songs, poems etc. Communication mainly through song means something more meaningful. When we communicate, we need to know the meaning of words or sentences we utter. Semantics is the study of the meaning of words and sentences. Semantic is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantic is the study of how language organize and express meanings (Kreidler, 1998).

In this study, the researcher want to analyze the used of Semantics itself, especially in a song. Song, in modern time is a needs, every single time the human needs something to entertained themselves, one of the answer is song. So the researcher chose Song to be more analyze. And then, we always listened and sometimes sang a song in our time, but mostly we did not know the deeply meaning in that song. It can make some ambiguity in a certain song. So, the researcher interesting to analyze the meaning of a song’s lyrics based on Semantics.

In this study, the researcher want to analyze the used of Semantics itself, especially in a song. The researcher chosen “Maher Zain” song because their song is very interesting, more information that their song contained a very great motivation for the listener, they used some Semantic meaning to explain that we must always keep spirit in our life. Motivation and believed of God can led us to the success.

1.1 Formulation of the problem

The researcher formulated the problem as follows:

1. What are the lexical meanings in the lyrics of Maher Zain songs?
2. What are the contextual meanings in the lyrics of Maher Zain songs?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the study were:

1. to explain and find out the lexical meanings in the lyrics of “Maher Zain” songs for reader
2. to explain and find out the contextual meanings in the lyrics of “Maher Zain” songs for reader.

1.3 Semantics

Semantics is one of the branched of linguistics studying about the meaning of language. Semantics is a study about language, by investigating and understanding semantics. It may seem to you that meaning is so vague,

insubstantial, and elusive that it is impossible to come to any clear, concrete, or tangible conclusions about it. We have to convince that by careful thought about the language you speak and the way it is used, definite conclusions can be arrived at concerning meaning (Hurford, R, 2007).

Semantics is the study of meaning in language (Nagari, Bagha, 2011). We know that language is used to express meanings which can be understood by others. But meanings exist in our minds and we can express what is in our minds through the spoken and written forms of language (as well as through gestures, action etc.). The sound patterns of language are studied at the level of phonology and the organization of words and sentences is studied at the level of morphology and syntax. These are in turn organized in such a way that we can convey meaningful messages or receive and understand messages. „How is language organized in order to be meaningful?“ This is the question we ask and attempt to answer at the level of semantics. Semantics is that level of linguistic analysis where meaning is analyzed. It is the most abstract level of linguistic analysis, since we cannot see or observe meaning as we can observe and record sounds. Meaning is related very closely to the human capacity to think logically and to understand. So when we try to analyze meaning, we are trying to analyze our own capacity to think and understand our own ability to create meaning. Semantics concerns itself with, giving a systematic account of the nature of meaning”.

Semantics is the study of the “toolkit” for the meaning: knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborated meanings up to the level of sentence meanings (Griffiths, 2006).

Semantics is a sub discipline of linguistics which focuses on the study of meaning. Semantics tries to understand what meaning is as an element of language and how it is constructed by language as well as interpreted, obscured and negotiated by speakers and listeners of language.

Meaning is a sign and both natural and conventional, sign that indicated something that is happening or will happen, or something that has to be done. Such signs provide information or give instructions, and it is easy to assume that language consist of signs of a similar kind (Palmer, 1967).

Meaning refers to phenomenon (or phenomena) appear to have a distinct meaning, by in statement, fact or believe (Evans, 2009).

Meaning is the information or concepts that a sender intends to convey, or does convey, in communication with a receiver. Meaning seems at once the most obvious feature of language and the most obscure aspect to study. It is obvious because it is what we use language to communicate with each other, to convey what we mean effectively. But the steps in understanding something said to us in a language in which we are fluent are so rapid, so transparent, that we have little conscious feel for the principles and knowledge which underlie this communicative ability. Kind of meaning or type of meaning can distinguish between descriptive and non-descriptive meaning (Goded, Rambaud, 2012).

1.4 Lexical Meaning

Lexical meaning refers to the real meaning, meaning that proper with our sense of observation, or granted meaning. Lexical meaning is the smallest meaning unit in the meaning system of language that could be distinguished from other similar units. A lexeme is an abstract unit. It can occur in many different forms of actual spoken or written sentences. It is regarded as the same lexeme even when inflected. Lexical meaning is the meaning of the word when the word is seen in isolation, either in form or shape lexeme affixes whose meaning more or less fixed, as can be read in a particular language dictionary.

Lexical meaning refers to the real meaning, meaning that proper with our sense of observation, or granted meaning. It has been known that a language has amount of lexical system by which the semantic with structure could be based its meaning on paradigmatic and systematical. The researcher said that lexical meaning could be defined as a meaning which has a characteristic of lexicon, lexeme and word. It also has a meaning as it reference, meaning which is result of our observation through our sense, or the reality in our life. Not all lexeme were word-lexeme or lexeme whose forms are words forms. Many of them would be phrasal lexeme whose forms were phrases.

Lexical meaning is also smallest meaning unit in the meaning system of language that could be distinguished from other similar units. A lexeme is an abstract unit. It can be occurring in many different forms of actual spoken or wrote sentences, and regarded as the same lexeme even when inflected.

Therefore, many people who say that the lexical meaning is the meaning in the dictionary or that of the lexeme meaning even without any contexts. For example, “horses” have similar lexical meaning ordinary a quadruped ridden. This example, the lexical meaning is the exact meaning or meanings that accord with the observation of our senses. In the dictionary, usually contains only lexical meaning possessed by the word described.

1.5 Contextual Meaning

Contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context. Contextual meaning could be regarded as a situational meaning. It arises as a result of the relationship between speech and context. It took the form of a lot of things. There are some contexts in here is the first context organs, including those relating to gender, position the speaker, the speaker or the listener age, socio-economic background speaker or the listener. The second context of the situation, such a situation is safe or noisy situations. The third context purposes, such as asking or expecting something. The fourth context of whether or not a formal conversation. The fifth context of the speaker or the listener's mood such as afraid, excited, upset or angry. The sixth time context, for example, night or day. Context seventh place, for example where at school, at home, in the field, etc. Eighth object context, mean what the focus of the conversation. Ninth context fittings speak or hear the speaker or the listener. Tenth linguistic context that does meet the rules of the language used by both sides. Eleventh context of language, meaning the language used.

2. PEMBAHASAN

This is the lyrics of the song:

I'm about to lose the battle and cross the line
 I'm about to make another mistake
 And even though I try to stay away
 Everything around me keeps dragging me in
 I can't help thinking to myself
 What if my time would end today, today, today?
 Can I guarantee that I will get another chance
 Before it's too late, too late, too late
 Forgive me.... My heart is so full of regret
 Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...
 Am I out of my mind
 What did I do? Oh I fell so bad
 And every time I try to start all over again
 My shame comes back to haunt me
 I'm trying hard to walk away
 But temptation is surrounding me, surrounding me
 I wish that I could find the strength to change my life
 Before it's too late, too late, too late
 Forgive me... My heart is so full of regret
 Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...
 I know O Allah you're the most forgiving
 And that you've promised to
 Always be there when I call upon you
 So now I'm standing here
 Ashamed of all the mistakes I've committed
 Please don't turn me away
 And hear my prayer when I ask you to...
 Forgive me... My heart is so full of regret
 Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent

Here are the lexical and contextual meaning which are found in Maher Zain "Forgive Me" lyrics. The data are grouped based on the type of lexical and contextual meaning. The lexical and contextual meaning in these following tables are printed in bold.

This part of the data obtained from the data sources. The data presentation is divided into two categories which were in accordance to the number of the song used as the data sources of this research

2.1 Lexical Meaning

The analysis of lexical meaning are described below:

Tabel 2.1 Lexical Meaning Analysis

Lyric	Part
I'm about to make another mistake	Line: 2
And even though I try to stay away	Line: 3
I can help thinking to my self	Line: 5

What if my time would end today, today,	Line: 6
Can I guarantee that I will get another chance	Line: 7
Before it's too late, too late, too late	Line: 8
Forgive me...My heart is so full of regret	Line: 9
Am I out of my mind	Line: 11
And every time I try to start all over again	Line:13
Before it's too late, too late, too late	Line: 18
Forgive me...My heart is so full of regret	Line: 19
I know O Allah you're the most forgiving	Line: 21
Forgive me...My heart is so full of regret	Line: 28

Bellow is the explanation of the table:

1. I'm about to make another mistake
The word literally means that the human easy to put the mistake and another mistakes too do in their life. So the lyrics tell to us that as the human being, we also can make some mistakes in our life.
2. And even though I try to stay away
The word literally means which the human also avoid their sin, we always did it after at all. Because, human always tempted to do that things.
3. I can help thinking to my self
The lyrics tell to the listener that if the human made a mistake, sometimes their did not realize that. And when it happened, as a human, we can not help ourself to figure it out by ourselves. We just did it.
4. What if my time would end today, today
As the based lyrics has a literally meaning, as a human being we did not know, how long our time in this world. So this lyric drew what if our time is running away in this world while we did the sin. Wem can not explain and think about that.
5. Can I guarantee that I will get another chance
The word has a real meaning that we can guarantee or assure that as a human, we still have much time to do anyting. So as the contrary we can not guarantee about our lifetime in the world. No one and n body can get it.
6. Before it's too late, too late, too late
The word has a real meaning that we must repent and beg a pardon of our sin before our time end and it is too late to make a pardon to Allah. If we realize what our did in the wold that is wrong, so realize that before late.
7. Forgive me my heart is so full of regret
The lyric of the song has a meaning who the human felt the wrong of that self, so we must beg and pardon in the deep of our heart to Allah. And Allah will forgiving ourself.
8. Am I out of my mind
The sentence literally has a meaning that if we did a sin, we did not realize that because we in devil influence to did and made a wrong side in ourlife in the world.
9. And every time I try to start all over again
The lyric of the song has a meaning that every single time we try to realize of our sin, we got stuck in same place. we did not do anything.
10. Before it's too late, too late, too late
The word has a real meaning that we must repent and beg a pardon of our sin before our time end and it is too late to make a pardon to Allah. If we realize what our did in the wold that is wrong, so realize that before late.
11. Forgive me my heart is so full of regret
The lyric of the song has a meaning who the human felt the wrong of that self, so we must beg and pardon in the deep of our heart to Allah. And Allah will forgiving ourself.

12. I know O Allah you're the most forgiving
The lyric literally has a meaning that even the human did the sin but if their realize and make the pardon to Allah with a deep of heart, so Allah will forgive the human because Allah loved the huma who realize their mistake.
13. Forgive me my heart is so full of regret
The lyric of the song has a meaning who the human felt the wrong of that self, so we must beg and pardon in the deep of our heart to Allah. And Allah will forgiving ourself.

2.2. Contextual Meaning

The analysis of contextual meaning are described bellow:

Tabel 2.1 Contextual Meaning Analysis

Lyric	Part
I'm about to lose the battle and cross the line	Line: 1
Everything around me keeps dragging me in	Line: 4
Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...	Line: 10
What did I do? Oh I fell so bad	Line: 12
My shame comes back to haunt me	Line: 14
I'm trying hard to walk away	Line: 15
But temptation is surrounding me, surrounding me	Line: 16
I wish that I could find the strenght to change my life	Line: 17
Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...	Line: 20
And that you've promised to	Line: 22
Always be there when I call upon you	Line: 23
So now i'm standing here	Line: 24
Ashamed of all the mistakes i've committed	Line: 25
Please don't turn me away	Line: 26
And hear my prayer when I ask you to	Line: 27
Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...	Line: 29

Bellow is the explanation of the table:

1. I'm about to lose the battle and cross the line
The lyric has a meaning that the word "battle" battle of the experts is a general term for a "battle" played out in front of a jury in which the prosecution and defence each have paid experts who may express different or, in some situations, diametrically opposite opinions about the facts of a case. The case may thus be decided not on their merits or the truth, but rather which expert presents the more compelling argument in front of the jury.
But in this lyric has a meaning is a way to made his self always did a sin, so the lyric wrote by "battle" it is not the real race, but an explanation of a thinking in his mind of his sin that always he did before. And the word "cross" in literally has a meaning is to go across from one side of something to the other :
It's not a good place to cross the road.
Look both ways before you cross over (= cross the road).
Cross the bridge and turn right
But in this lyric has a meaning that if his did the mistake he is not in his way or lne anymore. He life in the wrong side. And that cross the right side whe he did it.
2. Everything around me keeps dragging me in
The word literally means that the human can not avoid to do the mistake sometimes, or to take (someone) to or from a place or event, despite their reluctance. Oneself Go somewhere wearily, reluctantly, or with difficulty.
But in this song the word has meaning that because anyone and everybody around as influencing us and push us to the sin everytime.
3. Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...

Basically the word “repent” signifies sincere and faithful repentance, free from pretense and hypocrisy. The first sign of Tawba is to regret and to determine not to repeat those acts again. The word literally means that as the human being always doing to is to realize the mistake of ourselves and beg a pardon of Allah before it is too late to us to do.

4. What did I do? Oh I fell so bad
The word literally means that the singer of that song felt his mistake and made him so bad in Allah in his life. And he was wondering and ask to his self, what is going on? What I must do? Oh I felt so bad? I am wrong. I want a bless for you oh Allah, I beg to you.
5. My shame comes back to haunt me
The word “Haunt” to cause repeated suffering or anxiety in literally mean. But in this song has a meaning that the lyric has a meaning that he felt so bad, he regret. And he felt that his sin always remembered him. And always pass in his mind. So the word “haunt” is like always in his mind, remembering him, and made him felt bad.
6. I’m trying hard to walk away
The lyric has a meaning that as a human being always try to compare oursel and sometimes made us bad. But we always trying to avoid the sin as well as we can do.
7. But temptation is surrounding me, surrounding me
The lyric has a meaning that the sin always made us bad again. And finally we just like around that. But, we must avoid that everytime and avoid the sin from ours.
8. I wish that I could find the strength to change my life
The lyric has a meaning that when the human felt so bad because of their sin, we will feel so bad of ourself. And we try to pray to Allah, we want some help from him and we beg for his bless. The word “strength” has a mean like bless and mercy from Allah.
9. Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...
The word literally means that as the human being always doing to is to realize the mistake of ourselves and beg a pardon of Allah before it is too late to us to do.
10. And that you’ve promised to
The word literally means that Allah said in Al-Qur’an that he always guided us to the right side and this lyric tell to us that Allah will help us if we really pray and realize our sin.
11. Always be there when I call upon you
The word literally means that Allah always by our side, Allah will always guided us into the right line. We just have to keep in our mind to believe in Allah. That Allah is the most powerfull in the world. If we remember of Allah we will find him and Allah will help us.
12. So now i’m standing here
The word literally means that we must stand in our way. And do the things because of Allah and beg for the bless and mercy from Allah. The word “Stand” has a meaning like a pray. As a human we just can pray to Allah in our weakness.
13. Ashamed of all the mistakes i’ve committed
The word literally means that human always have a time for regret and be repent of our sin. And this lyric has a meaning that human must realize of his sin and to change his life.
14. Please don’t turn me away
This lyric has a meaning that human begged to Allah to always guided his. Because human always need the help of Allah.
15. And hear my prayer when I ask you to
This lyric has a meaning when the human repent of his sin they hope that Allah will answer that and give us the pardon.
16. Forgive me.... Now is the right time for me to repent, repent, repent...

The word literally means that as the human being always doing to is to realize the mistake of ourselves and beg a pardon of Allah before it is too late to us to do.

After analyzing the lyric of the song which are composed by *Maher Zain "Forgive Me"*, the researcher count in that song there are 29 lines of sentences of the lyrics, the meaning of Lexical and Contextual are found which consisted of :

1. Lexical Meaning

There are 13 lines of Lexical meaning in Forgive Me song, it becomes.

$$\text{Lexical Meaning} = \frac{13 \times 100}{29} = 44,9 \%$$

Based the result above, Lexical Meaning is the ranks second, it constitutes 44,9 %. Lexical Meaning is applied to describe the based menaing of the sentence to used. So, meaning is same with the basic literally in that song.

2. Contextual Meaning

There are 16 lines of Contextual meaning in Forgive Me song, it becomes.

$$\text{Contextual Meaning} = \frac{13 \times 100}{29} = 44,9 \%$$

Based the result above, Contextual Meaning is the most dominant type in the lyric of Forgive Me. In this meaning, there is no only one idea to show. The meaning has some meaning to show.

3. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the research, the researcher concludes some conclusions. First, there were 29 lines of sentences of the lyrics. Second, there were 13 lines are grouped into lexical meaning (44,9%). Third, there were 16 lines are grouped into contextual meaning (55,1%).

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