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Lexical and Contextual Meanings in the Indonesian Song *Terserah* by Willy Winarko

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Abstract

Semantics is a branch of linguistics. This branch is important as semantics is related to meanings and without meanings, communication could not function. There are lexical and contextual meanings. By listening to songs, we can gain knowledge of how to appreciate literature and songs. Therefore, the researcher was interested in analyzing the meanings of the Indonesian song *Terserah* by Willy Winarko, which is a viral song focused on COVID-19. This study aimed to analyze the lexical and contextual meanings in the lyrics of this song. A descriptive qualitative research design was used. The results of this research were as follows: (1) the lexical meanings in the song are different from those in the context; and (2) the contextual meanings are oriented to the situation of COVID-19.

Keywords: Semantic, Lexical Meaning, Contextual Meaning, Interpretation

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1. Introduction

Language is the core instrument of communication, so it cannot be separated from human beings. People use language to communicate in society, sharing ideas, then languages can also be used to express their feelings. By using language, people can enrich their knowledge. For example people can write, speak, or analyze something, like sentence, song, or movie. Language can be studied. The study of language is called linguistics. Linguistic is the study of language as a system of human communication. There are several branches of linguistics. They are phonetics (the study of speech sound), phonology (the study of the patterns of speech sounds), morphology (the study of word formation), syntax (the study of phrase and sentence formation), and semantics (the study of meaning in language). Besides that, there are sociolinguistics (the study of language in social factors that is social class, educational level, age sex, etc.) and psycholinguistics (the study of the mental processes that a person uses in producing and understanding language) and this research is concerned with semantic case. According

to Kreidler (1998:3) semantic is the systematic study of language meaning. Linguistic semantics analyzes how language organizes and expresses meanings. Semantics as an important branch of linguistics and interesting to be studied especially when it is applied to literary work such as song, poem and prose.

The dimension of meaning includes the reference and denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meaning, morphemes, homonymy, polysemy, lexical ambiguity, sentence and meaning. Besides that, according to Chaer (2007:289) meaning includes lexical, grammatical and contextual meanings, referential and non-referential meanings, denotative and connotative meanings, conceptual and associative meanings, and lexemes. According to Verhaar (1983:124) in Pateda (1990:16) kinds of meanings include grammatical meaning and lexical meanings.

Semantic is a sub-discipline of linguistics which focuses on the study of meanings. Further Parera (1990) states that linguistic meaning is divided into two, lexical and contextual meanings. Lexical meaning includes the essence of meaning which includes the meaning of denotation and connotation. Contextual meaning includes synonymy, antonym, hyponymy, and homonymy. The development of meaning includes shifting meanings referring to metaphors, and the occurrence of idioms. The lexical meaning is interpreted as the meaning of lexemes depending on the meaning of sentences in which they occur. Lexical meaning is concerned with the relationship between words and meanings.

The study is limited to lexical meaning tied to a song. Song is a piece of music with words that is sung. A singer performs a song that could be sung either with or without the accompaniment of musical instruments. Singing is also done in a group. A singer conveys the message either lexically or contextually in the lyric. Lyric can be described as something from musicians' message to others (hearers). Therefore, lyrics can be used as one forms or means of communication among the people, like a person singing a song on the themes of peace, help because of starvation or about other aspects of life such as the feeling of love, sadness, happiness, etc. The message is more efficient than having to encode the information at the outset of a conversation. Therefore, every song always has a message.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Semantics

The term *semantics* is used broadly to refer to the study of meaning. It is also central to the study of communication. Though the 'meaning' or the information one can convey the message through a number of means like gesture, picture, signals, etc. According to Kreidler (1998:03) semantics is the systematic study of meaning and linguistic semantic is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. It means that meaning in linguistic semantic is highly needed for us to limit ourselves to the expression of meanings in a single language. There are three disciplines concerned with the systematic study of meaning,: psychology, philosophy, and linguistics. It means that a psychologist is interested in how individual humans learn, how they retain, recall or lose information. Philosophy of language is concerned with particular fact that we know or accept it as true related to other possible facts. Then, the last systematic study of meaning is about linguistic, to understand how language works.

The meaning of a word is fully reflected by its context. Here, the meaning of the word is constituted by its contextual relations. Therefore, a distinction between participations as well as modes of participation is made. In order to accomplish this distinction, any part of a sentence should bear a meaning and combine it with the meanings of other constituents.

2.2. Lexical Meaning

Meaning is highly complex, the multifaceted phenomenon involving relationships between a language and the minds of the speakers, between a language and the world, and also between a language and the practical uses to which it is put. A sentence which is the product of the words or phrases has meaning. Talking of a lexeme, or dictionary-words, the noun lexeme relates to the words 'lexical' and 'lexicon' (Lyons, 1995: 47). The term lexical meaning is equivalent to term word meaning. Lexical meaning (semantic/external meaning) is the meaning of the word when it stands alone, and it is free from other aspects such as its usage and context (Pateda, 2001: 119). Lexical meaning will have the correlation to the dictionary because every meaning in the dictionary will be the example of lexical meaning.

According to Chaer (1990: 62), lexical meanings are an adjunctive form derived from the form of a *noun lexicon* (vocabulary). The unit of the lexicon is lexeme which is a meaningful unit of language. If we compare the lexicon with vocabulary, we can equate lexeme with word. Thus lexical meaning can be interpreted a lexicon, lexeme, or word.

A lexical word or meaning is the meaning that corresponds to its referent, meaning that it is in accordance with the results of observation of the senses, or meaning that is truly real in our lives, in other words, a lexical meaning of a word is a real picture of a concept as the word symbolizes it (Chaer, 1990: 63). Lexical meanings can also be considered as the meaning contained in a dictionary (Chaer, 1990: 63). Lexical meaning is also 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 be occurring in many different forms of actual spoken or wrote sentences, and regarded as the same lexeme even when infected.

2.3. Contextual Meaning

Contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context. A contextual definition is also a definition in which the term is used by embedding it in a larger expression containing its explanation. According to Parera (2004), contextual meaning could be regarded as a situational meaning. It arises as a result of the relationship between speech and context. Chaer (2012: 290), states that expressing contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word that is in one context.

Contextual meaning (situational meaning) appears as the result between statements and context (Pateda, 2001: 116). Thus, the context has its role to give the meaning. The meaning of words cannot be separated from cultural environment and ecology of the speaker (Parera, 2004: 47). This statement is supported by Malinowski who states that the word will not have meaning when it is separated from its context (Parera, 2004).

2.4. Song

A song is a material composition on other sets of word adapted for singing or intended to be sung. It is a poem (Hornby, 2015). Song is any poem; a poem may be called a song. A song composer interprets a poem, translating the mood atmosphere and imagery into music. Stressed tones or melodic climaxes emphasize important words. The voice shares this interpretative task with the piano or guitar.

2.5. Message

Message is a spoken or written communication sent from one person to another. Message is a note, letter, report, bulletin, cable, word, news, or information. The function

of message is to understand or to transmit something by signaling the object. Message is something that the author conveys to the readers. Message is communication in writing, in speech, or by signal or it is an important theme and idea intended to inspire, urge, and warn, advice, and so on.

Message in literary works is not shown explicitly by the author but the reader can find it after having a complete understanding of the works. On the other hand, in written form, the author writes his idea in which the reader finds the message directly from the work. Usually, the message is at the end of story. It might be sadness, happiness, motivation or even failure. Talking about message, it sometimes cannot be separated from communication. Communication is related to verbal and non-verbal system. It means that the author's thoughts on messages may be in spoken or written language (Djajasudarma, 1993).

3. Research Method

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative. Qualitative research is related to describing the common elements of the various forms of qualitative methods. Creswell (2014: 254) states that the descriptive qualitative study is aimed at investigating the detailed rendering of people, places, or events in a setting in a qualitative approach.

The qualitative method is a research procedure which results in descriptive data including written and oral words from the research objectives whether it is from society or books. The researcher studies lexical and contextual meanings. Therefore, this research is descriptive qualitative design because it depends very much on description.

4. Result and Discussion

After collecting the data from *Terserah* lyrics, the researcher analyzes them according to the research focuses. The lyrics show the feelings of the composer. There are many terms that have different meanings, lexically and contextually. This research has codes on words. The researcher gives a code for the first stanza, that is S1. For the lines in the stanza, the researcher gives a code of L1. Then, the next word is continued with codes. Thus, the readers understand to read this literary work. The data are presented and analyzed based on Parera's theory of lexical and contextual meanings. The song is presented below.

The Lyrics of Terserah Song

S1: *Ada konser lagi di Jakarta*

Thamrin area kebal Corona

Eh kena denda 10 juta

Nanti harus nyapu jalan raya

Terserah terserah

Lo tuh kebal Corona

Terserah terserah

Kebal sekeluarga

Terserah terserah

Ibu bapak semua

Terserah terserah

Gue ikutin aja

S2: *Tiba-tiba PSBB dilonggarkan*

Kendaraan sudah mulai mau penuh di jalanan

Tiba-tiba undang-undang Minerba juga disahkan Tiba-tiba BPJS dinaikkan

Terserah terserah

Mau apa gua bukan siapa-siapa

Ya sudah terima aja di rumah tiga bulan semoga ada gunanya

S3: *Seribu orang mati semoga nggak sia-sia*

Adaptasi bisnis jungkir balik dijalankan Pernikahan streaming online

Jual makan di Instagram

Jual surat bodong demi dapat keuntungan

Cuma Rp 60.000 dapat tiket jalan-jalan

S4: *Katanya mudik sudah dilarang*

Mudik di truk nggak diperbolehkan

Tapi di bandara kok banyak orang?

Ada celah ada seribu alasan

S5: *Tiga bulan di rumah ngaduk kopi dalgona*

Itu ngaruh atau cuma sia-sia

Tiga bulan di rumah Tiktokan sampe gila

Itu ngaruh atau cuma sia-sia

Terserah terserah

Ibu bapak semua

Terserah terserah

Gue ikutin aja

Terserah terserah

Ya sudah mau gimana

Terserah terserah

Gua ikutin aja

The researcher analyzes the lyrics with one or two words haviing a specific meaning. Not all words are analyzes by the researcher. The researcher takes lexical meanings or of the first data. "*Ada konser lagi di Jakarta, Thamrin area kebal Corona*", there are S1, L1 and L2. The word *"kebal"* is a noun. The lexical meaning of *"kebal"* based on the *kbbi* online dictionary is something bad or not working, and hurting; free from pain. The contextual meaning of *"kebal"* in this context is a group of people in Jakarta who are gathering at the time of the co-19 pandemic is underway and they ignore the danger and this actually threatens themselves but they think that they are not exposed to the corona virus and also they assume that their immune system will be resistant to the spread of the corona virus that is happening right now.

"Terserah terserah, Ibu bapak semua", there are in S1, L9 and L10. The word "*terserah*" is a verb. The lexical meaning *"terserah"* is not caring.. The contextual meaning of "*terserah*" is a word stating the someone could easily give up to a certain situation or challenge. Here the situation is dangerous so the song writer describes that paramedics do not care about people who obey the rules from Jakarta Government.

The contextual meanings from the lyrics "*Ya sudah terima aja di rumah tiga bulan semoga ada gunanya*" are concerned with the issues of *Minerba* Law and the raising of *BPJS* fees. For the public these issues do not give any benefit to the people; even people get lost by these two issues. This is caused by the situation, where people are suffering from lacking of income, while the government seems not caring about the welfare of the people. People are asked to stay at home but at the same they also need food and other necessities. The next lyrics are: "*Ya sudah terima aja di rumah tiga bulan semoga ada gunanya*", there are S2 and L6 here. The word *"terima"* is a verb and the contenxtual meanings are people are asked to stay at home at least for three months; and people could not anything, except attending to the rules passed on them, though they know they would find difficulty in all matters. Then, "*Jual makan di Instagram, Jual surat bodong demi dapat keuntungan"*, there are S3 and L4, and

the contextual meanings are concerned with crimes. A lot of criminals appear in this situation and a lot of people become victims.

"Tapi di bandara kok banyak orang?, Ada celah ada seribu alasan", there are S4 and L4. The word *"celah"* is a noun. The contextual meanings show that there is a sort of confusion among people concerning the rules given by the government. From one side, the physical distancing is strictly implemented; people are not allowed to go out of home but on the other hand, the airport is crowded and it seems that those who are coming in and out of the country are not prohibited.

Overall, the composer is trying hard to give a real picture of the present situation where the rules are not properly implemented and the rules are only for some people. This is also a sort of criticism to the government. The feelings of the composer are well exposed through the lyrics of the song and finally there is no way out except giving up to the situation.

5. Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the researcher concludes that the lexical meanings used in the lyrics of "Willy Winarko"'s song describe lexicons of dictionary, fairly different from the contextual meanings. The contextual meanings are the terms explained according to the situation (COVID-19). This song is a criticism for the government as well as for the citizens in Jakarta. Most of the people in Jakarta do not obey the rules concerning this pandemics; but from another side, no one could easily blame the people and they are struggle for life in this situation. They are brave enough to take the risk of facing danger, all is due to the necessities of life.

Acknowledgments

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