

**AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN OLIVIA RODRIGO'S
SONGS**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement to Obtain Strata One (S1)
Degree*



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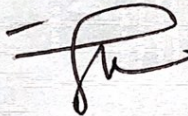
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Padang, January 2023
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ABSTRACT

Wijaya, Rivo Presti Roma. (2023). An Analysis of Contextual Meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's Songs. Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang

Contextual meaning is meaning that refers to context, or a sentence that can support the clarity of a meaning. This research was conducted to find the types of contextual meaning and changes in meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's songs entitled "drivers license", "deja vu", "good 4 u", "happier" and "traitor". This research used contextual meaning theory by from Pateda (2010) and semantic change theory by Chaer (2013). The method of this research was descriptive qualitative. The results showed that there were five out of 10 types of contextual meaning in the five songs, which context of person, context of situation, context of whether or not a formal conversation, context of speaker's mood or listener's mood and context of object with a total of 27 result, which contain nine words and 18 phrases. Also, three out of five types of meaning changes were found in words and phrases containing contextual meaning, which are widening, totally changed, and dysphemism with a total data of 17 out of 27 data, which contain of nine words and eight phrases. This research found that words or phrases that cannot be interpreted just by looking at the definitions in the dictionary, but also must be understood the context of their use.

Keywords: Contextual Meaning, Semantic Change, Olivia Rodrigo Songs

ABSTRAK

Wijaya, Rivo Presti Roma. (2023). Analisis Makna Kontekstual di Lagu Olivia Rodrigo. Skripsi. Padang: Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang

Makna kontekstual adalah makna yang mengacu pada konteks atau kalimat yang dapat membantu memperjelas makna. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menemukan tipe-tipe dari makna kontekstual dan perubahan makna yang ada di lagu Olivia Rodrigo dengan judul "drivers license", "deja vu", "good 4 u", "happier" dan "traitor". Penelitian menggunakan teori makna kontekstual dari Pateda (2010) dan teori perubahan makna dari Chaer (2013). Jenis penelitian adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya enam dari 10 tipe makna kontekstual dalam lima lagu tersebut, yaitu konteks orangan, konteks situasi, konteks formal atau tidaknya pembicara, konteks suasana hati pembicara atau pendengar dan konteks objek dengan total data yang ditemukan sebanyak 27 buah, terdiri dari sembilan kata dan 18 frasa. Juga, ditemukan tiga dari lima tipe perubahan makna pada kata dan frasa yang mengandung makna kontekstual yaitu meluas, berubah total, dan disfemia dengan total data 17 dari 27 data, yaitu terdiri dari sembilan kata dan delapan frasa. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa kata atau frasa tidak dapat ditafsirkan hanya dengan melihat definisi dalam kamus, tetapi juga harus dipahami konteks penggunaannya.

Kata kunci: Makna Kontekstual, Perubahan Makna, Lagu Olivia Rodrigo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
ABSTRAK.....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Problem.....	1
1.2 Identification of the Problem.....	5
1.3 Limitation of the Problem	5
1.4 Formulation of the Problems	6
1.5 Research Questions	6
1.6 Purposes of the Research.....	6
1.7 Significance of the Research	6
1.8 Definition of Key Term	7
CHAPTER II.....	8
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	8
2.1 Review of Related Theories	8
2.1.1 Semantics	8
2.1.2 Meaning.....	10
2.1.3 Contextual Meaning.....	12
2.1.4 Semantic Change.....	16
2.1.5 Song and Lyric	20
2.2 Previous Relevant Research	22
2.3 Conceptual Framework	24
CHAPTER III	27
RESEARCH METHOD.....	27
3.1 Research Design	27
3.2 Data and Data Source	28
3.3 Research Instrument	28
3.4 Technique of Collecting Data.....	32
3.5 Technique of Analyzing Data.....	35

CHAPTER IV	38
FINDING AND DISCUSSION	38
4.1 Data Description.....	38
4.2 Data Analysis	38
4.2.1 Contextual Meaning.....	38
4.2.2 Semantic Change.....	44
4.3 Findings	48
4.4 Discussion	51
CHAPTER V.....	53
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	53
5.1 Conclusion.....	53
5.2 Suggestion	53
REFERENCES.....	55
APPENDICES	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework.....	25
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LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1 Sheet of Contextual Meaning Analysis.....	28
Table 3.2 Indicator of Contextual Meaning.....	29
Table 3.3 Sheet of Semantic Change Analysis.....	31
Table 3.4 Indicator of Semantic Change.....	31
Table 4.1 Types of Contextual Meaning Found.....	49
Table 4.2 Types of Semantic Change Found.....	50

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is closely related to all aspects of human life. It is used to convey thoughts, emotions, and feelings and to form relationships with others. People cannot carry out their activities without using language to communicate with others. It will be challenging to reply or react to what someone tries to say unless the meaning must be written or spoken, verbal or nonverbal. Krech (1962) mentioned three aspects of the significant function of language. First, language is the primary vehicle of communication. Then, language reflects an individual's personality and society's culture. Last, language facilitates the creation and transmission of culture, the continuation of societies, and the effective functioning and management of social groups. Thus, language is interconnected to human life in the sense of meaning.

In semantics and pragmatics, meaning is the message transmitted by words, sentences, and symbols in a context. Meaning is the connection between words in a language and their real-world referents. Meaning appears to be the most evident and challenging component of language to study. It is evident since that is what the use of language is for, to interact with one another and effectively convey "what people mean".

Furthermore, Pateda (2010) said there are 29 kinds and types of semantic meaning. One of them is contextual meaning. Contextual meaning relates to the situation, namely the place, time, and environment in which the language is used. Thus, it is impossible to know the meaning and its definition clearly except by paying attention to other word units located side by side. Contextual meaning is an exciting type of meaning to study. It is interesting because this meaning will be known after connecting the sentence with its context or situation. The situation can be related to the place, time, and environmental influence of language use, so this meaning is not only seen from understanding the word or sentence. Still, it must also be related to the context or situation in the sentence. Thus, any literary work can include contextual meaning, such as poems, newspapers, song lyrics, novels, short stories, movies, and advertisements.

Moreover, several studies have conducted contextual meaning in song lyrics. Anindya (2018), Napitupulu (2019), Lestari (2016), and Wardani (2019) conducted studies that researched contextual meaning in song lyrics. These researchers used different theories and objects in analyzing contextual meaning so that the results are different in each study. Some of them analyzed the contextual meaning of the word and then explained the contextual meaning of the word, while others analyzed the contextual meaning based on its type and categorized it by its type. However, some points are missing from the studies above. The studies focused more on the types of contextual meaning in the research. Also, the studies mentioned have not discussed semantic change found in words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in the research.

This current research was analyzed the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics, the type of contextual meaning found in the words, the phrases or the sentences in song lyrics, and the semantic change found in the words, the phrases or the sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics. Pateda's theory (2010) was used to analyze contextual meaning found in song lyrics. Pateda (2010) divides contextual meaning into ten types, which are Context of Person, Context of the Situation, Context of Purposes, Context of Whether or not a Formal Conversation, Context of Speaker's Mood or Listener's Mood, Context of Time, Context of Place, Context of Object, Context of Completeness of Speech and Hearing Devices, and Linguistic Context. Chaer's theory (2013) was also used to analyze the semantic change found in the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics, which classifies semantic change into five types: Widening, Narrowing, Totally Changed, Euphemism and Dysphemism. Pateda's theory (2010) and Chaer's theory (2013) are suitable for this research because they significantly explain classifying words, phrases or sentences that undergo contextual meaning and semantic change found in song lyrics based on their types.

Song lyrics are words or sentences that could be utilized to create a specific mood and imagery for the listener and multiple interpretations. Through contextual meaning, the songwriter pours out his heart in the form of lyrics by paying attention to the form or structure of the words in each line and interpreting the contents of the lyrics with contextual meaning to obtain a particular effect. This state follows the idea of Semi (2012), which states that the reliability of the author in choosing the right and evocative words is another aspect that must be analyzed. A writer's or author's success depends not only on the brilliance of finding ideas, but more than

that, it is also determined by the ability to choose words. The ability to select words creates contextual meaning due to the relation among speech and context. The meaning of song lyrics is determined by the setting or circumstances of the songwriter. Since many words in song lyrics have contextual meaning, the researcher is interested in examining them. There are many songs in the entire world. Olivia Rodrigo's songs are among them.

Olivia Rodrigo's songs were chosen in this research because the songs provide relevant data for this research to analyze contextual meaning. One example of data that provides contextual meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's songs is in "drivers license" lyric:

"Red lights, stop signs, I still see your face in the white cars, front yards"

It can be seen that the phrase "red light, stop signs" contains contextual meaning, which belongs to the type of context of object. The phrase "red light" and "stop signs" relates to context based on the object because red light and stop signs are objects that symbolize of stopping. In this song lyric, "red light, stop signs" symbolizes the ending of the writer's relationship.

Then, five of Olivia Rodrigo's songs were chosen to be analyzed in this research. The songs are considered to apply to semantics theory analysis because the songs create meanings to convey from the relationship of the linguistics parts, one of which is contextual meaning.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, some problems related to song lyrics are the word containing contextual meaning, the contextual meaning types found, and the meaning of the words based on the context of the lyrics. Many pieces of research have discussed contextual meaning in song lyrics generally. Thus, this research analyzed song lyrics, not only words containing contextual meaning and their type, but also the semantic change in words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning found in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics. Semantic changes also needed to be investigated in examining contextual meanings in order to find out whether words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning undergo semantic change or not. If they do, this study analyzed semantic changes types found in word, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problem above, the problem was limited to contextual meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's top five songs based on Spotify and Apple Music, which are "drivers license", "deja vu", "good 4 u", "happier", and "traitor". This research applied Mansoer Pateda's theory (2010), which divides contextual meaning into ten types: Context of Person, Context of the Situation, Context of Purposes, Context of Whether or not a Formal Conversation, Context of Speaker's Mood or Listener's Mood, Context of Time, Context of Place, Context of Object, Context of Completeness of Speech and Hearing Devices, and Linguistic Context. This research also used Abdul Chaer theory (2013), which classifies semantic change into 5 types: Widening, Narrowing, Totally Changed, Euphemism and Dysphemism.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

From the limitation above, the problem formulation; what was the contextual meaning and semantic change found in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics?

1.5 Research Questions

1. What types of contextual meaning were found in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics?
2. What types of semantic change were found in the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics?

1.6 Purposes of the Research

1. To find contextual meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics.
2. To find semantic change in the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics.

1.7 Significance of the Research

This research was meant to make a significant theoretical and practical contribution to the reader. Theoretically, this research was supposed to contribute to a better understanding of semantic studies, specifically about contextual meaning in song lyrics. Practically, this research was anticipated to broaden the researcher's understanding of contextual meaning in song lyrics. Moreover, this research would be able to help future researchers as reference to conduct research on contextual meaning, especially in song lyric.

1.8 Definition of Key Term

Some definitions were provided to help understand the important words used in this research.

1. Semantics is a field of linguistics concerned with the meaning of language.
2. Meaning is the message transmitted by words, phrases, sentences, and symbols in context, also known as lexical or semantic meaning.
3. Contextual Meaning is developed due to a connection with other words in the text.
4. Semantic Change is a study of how the meaning of the words or phrases might change to a different meaning.
5. Song lyric is the words composing a song that is generally consisting of verses and choruses.
6. Olivia Rodrigo is a singer-songwriter and actor from the United States. She appeared in the television programs "Bizaardvark" and "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series." In January 2021, she launched her heartbreaking debut single "drivers license." The song debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and became the first song to surpass one billion streams in 2021. She then released the critically praised album "Sour" (2021).