

Semiotics Analysis Of The Meaning Of Power In The Song “2+2=5” By Radiohead

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ABSTRACT

Using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, this study investigates the meaning of power in the lyrics of Radiohead's song "2+2=5". Roland Barthes examines the meaning of denotation, connotation, and myths regarding the meaning of truth in the song in this semiotic analysis. The approach is interpretive qualitative. Document study is the collection technique used to obtain data from various sources relevant to the research. The research findings based on the denotative meaning indicate the existence of a condition in which a person can be made to believe anything, even when the truth is obvious. As a result, some people will take advantage of this to exert control over others. The connotation result is someone who prefers false reality to the truth every day. While the myth's meaning is that people in power believe they are not getting the attention they deserve despite having people under their control who they believe need it more. The authority figures' ideas shift from wanting to attract attention to believing their own lies. In this case, the author emphasizes that power can be extremely dangerous if not used correctly.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji mengenai makna kekuasaan pada lirik lagu yang berjudul “2+2=5” karya Radiohead dengan menggunakan teori semiotika Roland Barthes. Dalam analisis semiotika Roland Barthes ini mengkaji mengenai makna denotasi, konotasi dan mitos mengenai makna kebenaran pada lagu tersebut. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif interpretatif. Teknik pengumpulan yaitu studi dokumen dengan pemerolehan data dari berbagai sumber yang relevan dengan penelitian. Hasil penelitian yang didapatkan berdasarkan makna denotasinya adalah adanya suatu keadaan bahwa seseorang dapat dibuat percaya apa pun bahkan ketika kebenarannya jelas. Karena itu, beberapa orang akan menggunakan ini untuk keuntungan mereka untuk mengendalikan orang. Hasil konotasinya yaitu, seseorang yang merasa nyaman dengan kenyataan palsu di atas kebenaran setiap hari. Sedangkan makna mitosnya adalah bahwa orang yang merasa tidak mendapatkan perhatian yang layak mereka dapatkan meskipun mereka memiliki orang-orang di bawah kendali yang mereka rasa lebih membutuhkan. Kemudian tokoh yang memiliki pengaruh mengubah ide mereka dari hanya ingin mendapatkan perhatian menjadi perhatian tentang mereka sendiri. Dalam hal ini penulis bahwa kekuasaan bisa sangat berbahaya jika tidak digunakan dengan sebaik-baiknya.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Communication is a fundamental human activity. Humans can relate to one another at home, at work, in society, or wherever humans are. The daily advancement of human knowledge as a result of communication. Essentially, communication and society are inextricably linked. Communication and society cannot be separated because they both form a social system that depends on one another. Communication is the transfer of information, ideas, emotions, skills, and others from one location to another through the use of symbols such as words, figures, and graphics, as well as persuasive speech and writing. A song is one example of information conveyed using word symbols.

A song is an artistic composition of tones or sounds in sequence, combination, and temporal relationship (usually accompanied by musical instruments) that results in musical compositions with unity and continuity (contain rhythm). Songs can also refer to a variety of rhythmic tones or sounds. Songs can also be sung solo, duo, trio, or in a group (choir). As a result, the song can be used to rekindle the spirit during difficult times. Unifying differences, manipulating one's emotions and feelings in order to instill attitudes or values that people can then perceive as natural, right, and appropriate (Tamnge, Putra and Al Jumroh, 2021).

People want to hear songs that match their mood. Because the song itself evokes certain emotions in the listener. The song's various symbols or symbols become something that can describe what the songwriter conveys. As previously stated, this is a form of communication in which the songwriter expresses the message and meaning of the song to the listener. A song called "2+2=5" by Radiohead is one of the songs that gives messages and meanings with signs that describe each of the lyrics of the song.

Radiohead is a British experimental alternative rock band that is well-known throughout the world. Radiohead's albums have sold over 30 million copies worldwide. Radiohead, known for their complex productions and unusual themes, has managed to become one of the world's best bands. Through the explanation above, the researcher poses a question that becomes the formulation of the problem: what is the meaning of power in Radiohead's song "2+2=5"?

New Media, also known as new media, is a group of new technologies that can increase the public's access to information. According to Denis McQuail, new media is a collection of technologies that include transmission systems such as cable and satellite, miniaturization, storage, information retrieval, image presentation using a combination of images and graphics, and computer control systems (McQuail, 1987).

New media differs from digital media, which is defined by the freedom of technology as a medium, in that it is more complex, prioritizing context and contemporary cultural concepts over the function of technological devices as a medium. The complex development of New Media results in the creation of a new technology, namely Web 2.0. New technology, such as social media, allows users to freely choose their communication partners without regard for time or space constraints. Reciprocal interactions can also occur in new media because the communicant has the ability to respond to information obtained as a form of information exchange. This demonstrates the adaptability of new media because the form and content of information can change. The existence of decentralization, namely the selection of information that does not rely on communicators, distinguishes new media from old media. New media also has high capabilities because it includes delivery via cable and satellite, which reduces communication barriers that are typically caused by other broadcast transmitters.

New media has the following functions: Serves to present the flow of information that is easily and quickly accessed anywhere and anytime. Making it easier to get something that is sought or needed which usually has to be searched directly from the source of the information. As a medium for buying and selling transactions. Ease of ordering products via the internet or contacting customer service. As an entertainment medium. For example, online games, social networking, video streaming, and so on. As an efficient communication medium. Users can communicate with

anyone without being constrained by distance and time, and can even do video conferences. As a means of education with an easy and practical e-book. For students and students the delivery of learning materials can be uniformed, the learning process becomes clear and interesting, more interactive, time and energy efficient, allows the learning process to be carried out anywhere and changes the teacher's role in a more positive and productive direction.

Music as a Communication Media, The various techniques and communication media available today make it very easy to convey the meaning of the message to the second party. Music is one of the many forms of media. Music is a pattern of sound that can please our ears or communicate feelings or moods. Music has rhythm, melody, and harmony, which add depth and allow for the use of multiple instruments or sounds (Rahmat Hidayat, 2014). Music can also be used to convey a message or information as a medium of communication.

A medium can be any material. Other things can be communicated through it. Mediums are essentially technical or physical devices that convert messages into signals that can be transmitted over a channel. A physical medium is one that acknowledges the ability to transmit messages between the worlds of the living and the worlds of death. As a result, a medium of communication is any means by which messages can be transmitted. Based on an unrestricted human semiotic process. To convey a message, anything can be used. The nature of the channel or channels that can be used is determined by the technology or physical elements of the medium. The medium's elements determine the set of codes that can be transmitted.

Music as a medium of communication that is meant here is in the context of its use. For example, songs about love are always used by lovers to express their respective feelings in the hope of attracting and establishing affection between them. Although in fact the music used in this example in the context of communication is not necessarily successful as expected, but at least there has been a communication treatment, in which music is used as an intermediary medium. This means that here there has been a process of "engineering" using music as an introduction.

Roland Barthes Semiotic Analysis, The science of signs is known as semiotics. To read and interpret a sign, language must be present. Meaning is formed through a structured system of linguistic differences. Meaning is created through the selection and combination of signs arranged in a marking system around two axes: the syntagmatic axis (linear, for example sentences) and the paradigmatic axis (the arena of signs, for example synonyms). This sign is made up of a medium and a signifier (meaning). The goal of semiotic analysis is to discover the meaning of signs, including things hidden behind a sign (text, advertisements, news).

According to Roland Barthes, semiotics is a branch of linguistics because the presence of signs in these fields can be interpreted as language, which from language can express meaningful ideas, and is an element formed from the presence of signs and in a structure. Roland Barthes is a leading structuralist figure who helped develop Saussure's semiology concept by combining linguistic and semiological models from Saussure. According to Barthes, there are three types of signs: denotation, connotation, and myth (Saussure, 1960).

Denotation is a representation of the relationship in an external reality between a signifier and a sign, and a sign and an object. According to Barthes, this order refers to the general concept of signs. As a result, the use of denotative meaning can be identical, with the difference being in the connotation. Connotation is a visual representation of an interaction that occurs when a sign meets a user's feeling or emotion. In this case, the connotation is typically framed and focused. According to Fiske, connotation is subjective, and we are often unaware that we are aware of it.

A myth is a story that a particular culture uses to explain a natural reality. According to Roland Barthes, myth works by naturalizing a history (Fiske, 2007).

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher employed a qualitative method based on semiotic analysis in this study. The research method is generally understood as a scientific activity carried out in stages, beginning

with determining the topic, collecting data, and analyzing data, in order to later obtain an understanding and understanding of a specific topic, symptom, or issue. It is called 'gradual' because this activity follows a specific process, so there are steps that must be completed in stages before moving on to the next stage (Raco, 2010).

According to Morrison, the nature of this research is interpretive. Interpretive research believes that scientific research is insufficient to explain the "mystery" of human experience, so a strong human element is required in research. The majority of those in this group are more interested in specific cases than in general cases. Meanwhile, interpretive research, according to Sugiono, focuses on the subjective nature of the social world and attempts to understand the frame of mind of the object being studied. Individual meanings and human perceptions of reality are prioritized over independent realities that exist outside of them.

The semiotic analysis of the Roland Barthes model was used by the researcher in conducting this research. According to Roland Barthes, semiotics is a branch of linguistics because the presence of signs in these fields can be interpreted as language, which language can express meaningful ideas and is an element formed by the presence of signs and in a structure.

Document study techniques were used in this study to collect data. Which is a method of obtaining data about Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis by conducting a search on various relevant sources. In this case, the researcher did not conduct interviews to gather information about the field of study. Because, according to Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, document studies can be conducted by thoroughly analyzing song lyrics based on the researcher's interpretation. Then there's secondary data, which was used in this study to get more in-depth information about the problems studied, namely Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis, which includes documentation, books, journals, and the web based on the theory in question.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Meaning of Power in the Song "2+2=5" by Radiohead

The song "2+2=5" is by the British rock band Radiohead. This song is the first track on Radiohead's sixth studio album, "Hail to the Thief." The title of this song is a reference to a novel slogan that means something false but forced dogma to believe in. This study examines the meaning of denotation, connotation, and myth using semiotic analysis of Roland Barthes' theory and the lyrics of the song "2+2=5" as the object of this research. So that the general public can understand the nature of the power contained.

Denotation Definition

The researcher's method of determining the denotative meaning in analyzing the lyrics of Radiohead's song "2+2=5" employs Roland Barthes' theory by referring to the understanding of the meaning contained in the KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary). Several words and sentences in the lyrics of the song "2+2=5" have denotative meanings, such as "you," which means "who is spoken to; addressed (in a familiar or rude manner)" according to KBBI. There is also the term "dreamers," which means "people who like to dream even though they don't sleep" or "people who like to fantasize about things" according to the KBBI. These two words appear in the sentence "Are you a dreamer?" and have the denotative meaning "the lyricist of the song asks the interlocutor or listener if he is a dreamer."

Following that sentence is another sentence with a denotative meaning, namely, "Now there is only a devil's way, there is no way out," which means that "the author feels that he is in a situation that is not right and cannot do anything to improve it."

Connotation Meaning

Connotative meaning is an emotional or cultural meaning that has a subjective nature and has meaning in addition to the meaning itself. The connotative meaning in the lyrics of the song "2+2=5" is analyzed based on the phrases that make up the lyrics of the song.

From the whole lyrics of the song "2+2=5" it can be interpreted according to the connotation meaning which in this song describes a person who feels comfortable with false reality over the truth every day. They seem to be speaking to someone who refuses to believe lies and wants to try to stop them, to bring back the truth and make the world right. This makes them dreamers to the speaker for them an impossible task. People can be made to believe anything even when the truth is obvious. Because of that, some would use this to their advantage controlling people. In this case, the songwriter is someone who is expressing his anxiety about what is happening in the world so far. The author feels the chaotic world, politics and exploited society are under control and feels safe in their lies and the authorities that control them continue to lie to make people feel safe.

Myth Meaning

From all the interpretations of the connotative meanings that have been explained, this can be related to the mythical meaning in the lyrics of the song "2+2=5". The meaning of the myth that can be obtained is that the lyricist of the song "2+2=5" talks about how people in power feel they don't get the attention they deserve even though they have people under their control who they feel need more. Then the authority figures change their ideas from just wanting to get attention to believing their own lies. In this case the author emphasizes that power can be very dangerous if it is not used properly.

Table 1. Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis of the lyrics of the song "2+2=5" by Radiohead

Song Lyrics	Meaning Of Denotation	Meaning Of Connotation	Meaning Of Myth
Are you such a dreamer To put the world to rights?	Explains the writer who questions about people who want to fix the chaos of the world	Asking about someone who wants to change the world for the better	People in power feel they are not getting the attention they deserve even though they have people under their control who they feel need it more. Then the authority figures change their ideas from just wanting to get attention to believing their own lies. In this case the author emphasizes that power can be very dangerous if it is not used properly.
I'll stay home forever Where two and two always makes up five	Explains the desire to stay home and remain brainwashed and the despair over certainty in the most destructive and destructive of truth.	Someone who is comfortable with false reality over truth. Instead of stepping out of your comfort zone and questioning what you are told to believe.	
I'll lay down the tracks Sandbag and hide	Describes a person who goes and hides and listens for fear of what will happen if he doesn't listen	Rulers who see peace and equality as something to be avoided.	
January has April's showers And two and two always makes up five	Describing an unusual phenomenon	There is an unusual event that occurs but considers it like a normal thing	
It's the devil's way now There is no way out You can scream and you can shout It is too late now Because you have not been payin' attention	Describes when you are in a situation that is not right and cannot get out of that state. All one can do is regret what happened.	When he realized that he had been lied to and exploited. The world has also turned into a corrupt place. This is a point of no return, where nothing can stop the world order except the most	

		catastrophic natural disaster that will bring it down.
I try to sing along But the music's all wrong	Describes the situation when you're singing but the music that accompanies it sounds so chaotic	When trying to act but the circumstances around are not supportive and as if not realizing that something is wrong around him.
I swat 'em like flies But like the flies the buggers keep coming back	Describes when repelling an annoying fly but they keep coming back again and again	Trying to silence the dreamers who want to change the world but they always seem to come back to oppose the corrupt world
All hail to the thief	Describes people who love a thief or a character who lies to them	There is a character who is very manipulative and corrupt but is loved by many people for telling lies to make them believe
Don't question my authority or put me in a box	Describes a person who has the power to control everything	About an authority that can control everyone and make people believe lies even though the truth is obvious
Oh go and tell the king That the sky is falling in	Explaining about a complaint to a king that there will be a disaster	Then in the end lies to make an authority figure believe an impossible lie because he has given up on believing that the world he created, i.e. lies, exists and believes in their imaginations that he creates

IV. CONCLUSION

According to the semiotic analysis, the overall denotative meaning of the song lyrics in Radiohead's "2+2=5" illustrates a situation in which a person can be made to believe anything, even when the truth is obvious. As a result, some would take advantage of this to exert control over others. This song is about people being exploited by those who control them through mind control, and how people are unaware of what is going on even when it is obvious. Furthermore, the connotation meaning that can be derived from the analysis of the lyrics of the song "2+2=5" as a whole is that someone who prefers false reality to the truth every day. They appear to be speaking to someone who refuses to believe lies and wishes to put a stop to them in order to restore the truth and make the world right. This makes them dreamers to the speaker an impossible task for them.

While the mythical meaning of the entire lyrics of the song "2+2=5" is that people in power believe they do not receive the attention they deserve despite having people under their control who they believe need it more. The authority figures' ideas shift from wanting to attract attention to believing their own lies. In this case, the author emphasizes that power can be extremely dangerous if not used correctly.

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