



Semantics Meaning Lyric in You Are The Reason Song by Calum Scott

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Abstract: This research aims to analyze the semantics meaning of *You Are the Reason* song by Calum Scott. The song tells of guilt and regret of past actions that he did to harm the lover, and he wishes to make it up by showing his eagerness and willingness to change for the better. The object of this study is to analyze the semantics meaning and to categorize the meaning into one of 7 types of semantics meaning. In theory, the researcher wishes to develop theoretical knowledge of literature and linguistics related to semantics and importance of songs. Practically, this research is useful as a reference for readers who will carry out similar research, especially in terms of linguistics and semantics, especially in songs lyrics. This research is included in the type of literary criticism, because the writer interprets and analyzes a literary work, especially songs. The data in this study were taken directly through lines of lyrics from the song, as well as from various other sources. The results of this study shows that the most dominant semantics type present in this song is the affected type, followed by conceptual type and the least is social type, which is non-existent in the song.

Keywords: semantics, songs, types of semantics

Introduction

Language and communication are crucial for human life, as they enable interaction between individuals and groups. Language is a necessary tool for fulfilling social needs, whether material or emotional. Literature, a form of art, can be presented in various forms such as songs, poetry, movies, novels, or stories. This thesis focuses on the linguistics value of songs, as they are literary works that are composed of musical instruments and human voices. Song lyrics contain deep meanings that the listener can understand. This thesis will analyze the semantic meaning of the lyrics of Calum Scott's song "You Are The Reason," focusing on the relationship between linguistic form and meaning. Language is an integral part of human behavior. It is the primary means of interaction between people (Bonvillain, 2020).

Semantics is the study of meaning and the relationship between words and the meaning behind them, allowing listeners to correctly interpret what speakers intend to communicate. Analyzing the semantic meaning of a song lyric is similar to understanding and interpreting the intended message conveyed by the singer. Semantics is often defined as the study of meaning. It might be more accurate to define it as the study of the relationship between linguistic form and meaning (Kroeger, 2023).

Calum Scott, an English singer and song writer, gained fame after winning Britain's Got Talent in 2015. Born in 1988, Scott began his career as a musician in 2013 and joined the group Maroon 4. His 2017 song "You Are the Reason" inspired a thesis on semantic meaning. This thesis aims to raise awareness of linguistics in literature work and how it can help people understand the deeper meaning behind a work. Linguistics is essential for improving communication and understanding the intended messages in speech or song. By analyzing Scott's song's semantic meaning, the writer aims to showcase the possibilities of meaning and the purposeful role of linguistics in English as a language used by the general population. Song lyrics is one of the creations has a deep meaning that try to deliver for the listener (Yastanti and Setiawati, 2018).

This research will be focusing on the linguistics aspects of the song You Are the Reason, as performed by Calum Scott and will highlight the semantic meaning behind the lyrics of the song. This research will not be highlighting the semantic meaning outside the context of this song.

Methodology

The research method that is employed in this paper is descriptive qualitative. According to (Doyle, 2020), "Descriptive qualitative research generates data that describe the 'who, what, and where of events or experiences' from a subjective perspective." The writer chose the method because the paper is based on the research on a single object, namely the *You Are the Reason* song by Calum Scott that is then analyzed through a subjective perspective of the writer herself.

The research itself is based on a literature subject which is mainly and essentially composed with words. With that in mind, the result of this research is also reported by detailed writing in order to maximize the outcome of this study. Whereas the data collection

technique is through direct observation, which is observing the song and grasping the essence of the song, which is the lyrics, and then through studying documents and records that are relevant with this paper, mainly theories about linguistics and songs.

The procedure that is done in making this paper is first, the writer listens to as many songs as possible. The writer then gets curious to the deeper meaning behind a song that the writer likes in particular, in this case, *You Are the Reason* by Calum Scott. After determining the object of research, the writer then looks up material regarding semantics and linguistics as a field of study that the writer chose, then gather material regarding other related topics such as songs and so on.

Result and Discussion

Linguistics, the scientific study of language, originated from European philologists in the 19th century, influenced by encounters with Sanskrit during British colonization of India. Wilhelm von Humboldt, a founder of modern linguistic science, viewed language as the central human science, inseparable from culture and thought.

Linguistics is a scientific field that studies language and its use as a communication tool. It is divided into macrolinguistic and microlinguistic studies, each with its own divisions. Macrolinguistic studies include Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics, and Ethnography, while microlinguistic studies include Morphology, Phonetics, Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, Sociolinguistics, and Pragmatics. Literature, including poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction, is a common area of study. Linguistics is a deep and complex field of science, making it an essential subject for English students.

Semantics is a division of microlinguistics, focusing on the study of meaning and the relationship between linguistic form and meaning. It focuses on the meaning of words, which can be divided into lexical and contextual meaning. Lexical meaning is based on dictionary words, while contextual meaning depends on the context. Semantics is concerned with the inherent meaning of words and sentences as linguistic expressions. As a microlinguistic and macrolinguistic division, semantics is crucial in understanding the meaning behind words, sentences, and utterances, with a focus on lexical or contextual meaning depending on the situation.

1. Types of Semantic Meaning

1. Conceptual Meaning

Also known as denotative meaning and cognitive meaning, the ordering of conceptual meaning is extremely intricate and sophisticated. The two structural principles in particular are contrastive and constituent structure.

2. Connotative Meaning

It is the expressive value of a phrase that extends beyond its merely conceptual substance. Additional properties, whether physical, psychological, or social, are mentioned in the connotative sense.

3. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning is a meaning that is obtained by a word and is caused by the meaning of words that tend to emerge in their environment. Collocative meaning is made up of associations formed by a word as a result of the meaning of words that frequently appear in its surroundings.

4. Affected Meaning

Affected meaning conveys the speaker's own feelings, such as his attitude toward the listener or something he is discussing. The conceptual or connotative content of the words used is frequently explicitly realized.

5. Social Meaning

Social meaning is what it expresses about its users' social milieu. This meaning reveals something about the speaker's and listener's social interaction, such as everyday language, family, language, and so on, which reveals a specific relationship between the two.

6. Reflected Meaning

Reflected meaning appears in the case of multiple conceptual meanings or meanings that appear in a word due to the existence of multiple concepts in the word. Meaning that arises as a result of many conceptual meanings, such as when one sense of a word is part of our reaction to another.

7. Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is the meaning transmitted by the order in which the speaker or writer arranges the message in terms of emphasis and focus.

2. Song Lyrics

Lyrics play a crucial role in creating a song's atmosphere and conveying the author's intended message. They are a form of literature with intrinsic elements like poetry, containing special meanings and feelings within the harmonious melody and lyrics. Song lyrics use short, concise language, often accompanied by music, to express ideas and thoughts to the audience. They often use words less common in daily speech, containing aesthetic value to enhance the listener's experience. Song lyrics are creations from the song writer with deep meanings to be delivered to the listener, enhancing the overall experience.

3. The Song's Profile

"You Are the Reason" is a romantic song by Calum Scott, released in 2017 and included on his 2018 album *Only Human*. The song reached number 4 on the UK Albums Chart and was later re-released with Leona Lewis in a duet version. The song features a soft piano melody, a violin in the chorus, and strong vocals, expressing Scott's commitment to his love.

The song ends with a choir singing in the background, showcasing Scott's heartfelt apology and readiness to prove himself.

4. Semantic Analysis of *You Are the Reason*

The writer will analyze Calum Scott's song *You Are the Reason* by dissecting each line and categorizing it into one of seven Semantic Meaning categories: conceptual, connotative, collocative, affected, social, reflected, and thematic meaning. If a single line does not fit, the writer will categorize it honestly.

Data	Line	Category
1	There goes my heart beating	Conceptual
2	'Cause you are the reason	Conceptual
3	I'm losing my sleep	Affected/Collocative
4	Please come back now	Affected
5	And there goes my mind racing	Connotative
6	And you are the reason	Conceptual
7	That I'm still breathing	Conceptual
8	I'm hopeless now	Affected
9	I'd climb every mountain	Thematic, Connotative, Reflected
10	And swim every ocean	Thematic, Connotative, Reflected
11	Just to be with you	Connotative
12	And fix what I've broken	Connotative
13	Oh, 'cause I need you to see	Conceptual/Affected
14	That you are the reason	Affected
15	There goes my hands shaking	Conceptual
16	And you are the reason	Affected
17	My heart keeps bleeding	Connotative
18	I need you now	Affected
19	And if I could turn back the clock	Connotative
20	I'd make sure the light defeated the dark	Connotative/Thematic
21	I'd spend every hour, of every day keeping you safe	Affected
22	I don't wanna fight no more	Conceptual
23	I don't wanna hide no more	Conceptual
24	I don't wanna cry no more	Conceptual
25	Come back I need you to hold me (you are the reason)	Affected
26	Be a little closer now	Affected
27	Just a little closer now	Affected
28	Come a little closer	Affected
29	I need you to hold me tonight	Affected

Discussion

1. Conceptual Meaning

Leech's concept of denotative and cognitive meaning, derived from Calum Scott's song *You Are the Reason*, includes nine data elements.

Calum Scott: *There goes my heart beating*

The song's first line, "There goes my heart beating," signifies Scott's life and vitality. This line is conceptually simple, referring to the heart as an internal organ that pumps blood throughout the body, demonstrating the natural rhythm of a heartbeat.

2. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is the expressive value of a phrase or sentence that extends beyond its merely conceptual substance. Additional properties, whether physical, psychological, or social, are mentioned in the connotative sense.

Calum Scott: *And there goes my mind racing*

The fifth line of Calum Scott's *You Are the Reason* lyrics expresses his mind racing, a concept that transcends physical speed. The mind, stored in the head, can quickly switch thoughts during distress or emergencies, highlighting the connotative meaning of mind racing.

3. Collocative Meaning

As stated in the previous paragraph, collocative meaning is a meaning that is obtained by a word and is caused by the meaning of words that tend to emerge in their environment. Collocative meaning is made up of associations formed by a word as a result of the meaning of words that frequently appear in its surroundings. There are 1 datum in this category, and the datum will be presented below.

Calum Scott: *I'm losing my sleep*

The writer places this data in the collocative category due to the association of sleep with luxury and precious time. Scott's loss of sleep is understood as losing his treasure, as it is an important and precious activity that many cannot afford due to work or illness.

4. Affected Meaning

Affected meaning, as previously described in the previous chapter, conveys the speaker's own feelings, such as his attitude toward the listener or something he is discussing. The conceptual or connotative content of the words used is frequently explicitly realized.

Calum Scott: *I'm losing my sleep*

The data falls in the collocative meaning and is included as a dual-category due to its versatility. It demonstrates the importance of sleep and the value it holds for the speaker, while also expressing Scott's plea for affection and his attitude towards the listener.

5. Reflected Meaning

As have previously described in the second chapter of this thesis, reflected meaning appears in the case of multiple conceptual meanings or meanings that appear in a word due

to the existence of multiple concepts in the word. Meaning that arises as a result of many conceptual meanings, such as when one sense of a word is part of our reaction to another.

Calum Scott: *I'd climb every mountain*

The ninth line of the song lyrics shares thematic, connotative, and reflected meanings. Scott promises to climb every mountain to prove his seriousness to his lover, often invoking images of majestic terrain requiring skill and proper equipment. This sense of danger and seriousness reflects Scott's readiness for forgiveness.

6. Thematic Meaning

Just like what Leech said before, thematic meaning is the meaning transmitted by the order in which the speaker or writer arranges the message in terms of emphasis and focus.

Calum Scott: *And swim every ocean*

The tenth line of the song lyrics uses the word "ocean" to convey a theme of Scott's seriousness in winning his lover's heart. The theme is built on the promise of swimming every ocean available, demonstrating his bravery and determination to win his love. This data can be considered a thematic meaning example.

Conclusion

Language is crucial for human expression, communication, and social relationships. Understanding linguistics can improve society for future generations. Semantics, a branch of linguistics, studies meaning behind words and comprehends it. Leech's seven types of meaning include conceptual, connotative, collocative, affected, social, reflected, and thematic meaning. This thesis analyzes Calum Scott's song "You Are the Reason" to understand its semantics. With 35 data points, it is concluded that the most dominant meaning in the song is affected, involving the singer's emotion and attitude towards the subject and audience. This is expected due to the romantic nature of the song.

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