The Meaning of Denotation, Connotation, and Myth used in Ariana Grande's *God is A Woman* Song Lyrics

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Abstract

The theory used in the study is semiotics, in particular, is the theory used by Roland Barthes. Roland Barthes developed his theory into two levels, namely Denotation as the first level in the sign, connotation as the second level in the sign which is accompanied by a myth (marking a society). The result of this study based on Roland Barthes Semiotic's theory in a way of denotative it is about sex and how she claims the chemistry will be so incredible that the guy is going to think she is God and in a way of connotative Ariana Grande campaigned for a struggle for gender equality and she showed off women's energy and independence. While the myth is God is a woman which this sentence represents about gender differences in life. The answer to dismantling patriarchy is not raising a matriarchy in its place. But building our understanding of, as Ariana Grande puts it, "God as a woman," will help counterbalance almost every human's internalized beliefs that our creator is a man, a father, a guy in the sky. God is our mother, our father, our parents. Come to think of it, if God can be referred to with the masculine pronoun "he", why is it not okay for us to also use the female pronoun "she" when referring to God.

Keywords: ***connotation, denotation, myth, semiotics, song lyrics***

INTRODUCTION

Language is essentially a sign system that has meaning to express thoughts and feelings. According to Walija (1996: 4), Language is the most complete and effective communication to convey ideas, messages, intentions, feelings and opinions to others. Some people still find some difficulties in understanding the feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences expressed in a language. Sometimes people say something without saying the literal meaning of it. Instead, they choose some languages that need interpretation of the hearers to understand what the people mean. If the listeners understand the meaning of the language, they can take more pleasure and receive the message contained in the language. Denotation and connotation are two principal methods of describing the meanings of words. Denotation is the objective definition of the word, while connotation is the subjective or emotional meaning of Alex (Sobur, 2003, p. 263).

Denotation is the precise, literal definition of a word that might be found in a dictionary whereas connotation refers to the wide array of positive and negative associations that most words naturally carry with them, Roland Barthes put forward a new concept of sign called the concept of denotation and connotation. Denotation is the first meaning system that has been conventionally agreed upon. Denotation explains the relationship between signifier and signified to reality, producing explicit, direct, and certain meanings. The connotation is the second hidden meaning system. This stage describes the interactions that occur when signs meet with feelings or emotions. In addition, Barthes also revealed that there is a myth in the concept of semiotics. Myth is a form of message or speech that must be believed to be true but cannot be proven. In myth, there is an ideology that is conveyed. According to Barthes, myth in semiotics is not a concept but a way of giving meaning Sobur (2016, p. 71). The use of myth, in this case, does not refer to myth in the everyday sense as well as traditional stories. In this study, researchers used song lyrics as the object of study.

Song lyric is one of elements that often can have multiple levels of meaning. Song lyrics will often convey ideas and thoughts. Sometimes people find difficulties to understand what is conveyed, since the current context may lead to different interpretations of meaning. There are many ways people do in delivering their ideas to other people. One of the ways that can be used is by song. The song usually consists of meaning. The meaning is a kind of language that the speaker says less than what they mean, by giving them meanings that are different from their literal sense. Generally, it is an object representing another, to give an entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant.

Song is a literary work. Song consists of musical notes and words which are known as lyrics. The aim of a song is to entertain the listener with its composition and when it is played. The lyric writer tries to deliver the feeling or idea to someone else by lyrics. Currently a lot of songs could express feelings such as love, social, political, and others. When the listeners do not understand the meaning of the lyrics, it is hard for them to understand the messages. Ade and Okuyene (2008, p. 190) state that "lyrics is a short poem that can be sung or that is musical." Therefore,

lyrics are included in the poetic function since it focuses on the message which is derived from the meaning of the lyrics.

These days there are so many good singers, one of them is Ariana Grande. Ariana Grande (born June 26, 1993) is an American actress, singer and songwriter. A multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning recording artist, she is known for her wide vocal range, which critics have often compared to that of Mariah Carey. Born in Boca Raton, Florida, Grande began her career in 2008 in the Broadway musical. She rose to prominence for her role as Cat Valentine in the Nickelodeon television series, Victorious (2010–2013) and in its spin-off, Sam & Cat (2013–2014). As she grew interested in pursuing a music career, Grande recorded songs for the soundtrack of Victorious and signed with Republic Records in 2011 after the label's executives discovered videos of her covering songs that she uploaded onto YouTube. After much anticipation and excitement, Ariana Grande's God is a Woman came out for everyone to hear. Her new music dropped on Friday, August 17th 2018, and fans could not be more thrilled about the song they finally get to listen to. There is definitely a lot to take in with the song, but one thing fans should pay attention to are the meaning from the song lyrics. Ariana Grande, the 25 years old songwriter sings about relationships, love, and dating, and through it all, there are moments meaning spread throughout. Whether she is preaching about her success, and empowering others to fight their way to the top or encouraging women to embrace their sexuality. Her new song “God is a woman” is loaded with meaning. This god is a woman song lyrics have much deep meaning.

The reason why the writer chose this title is that there are still many users of the meaning of denotation, connotation, and myth that have not been revealed by other researchers in Ariana Grande’s God is a woman song lyrics. In addition, because in everyday life, humans are inseparable from meaning. Meaning serves to convey thoughts and intentions of what is expressed by someone. Denotation is used to convey what he wants directly. The connotation is used to convey the contents of his mind indirectly. Barthes (Hoed, 2011, p. 12) sees humans in interpreting a matter not up to the level of meaning of denotation, but rather humans use their cognition through several meanings and interpretations so as to give rise to connotation meaning. Myth is inseparable from human life because in myth there is a mass culture that underlies the creation of the myth.

The meaning to be analyzed by the writer in the song lyrics invited us to understand an implied and explicit meaning in God is a woman song lyrics. The theory used in the study is semiotics, in particular, is the theory used by Roland Barthes. Roland Barthes is the successor of Ferdinand de Saussure's thoughts. The aspects studied are the identification of meaning in song lyrics. Roland Barthes developed his theory into two levels, namely Denotation as the first level in the sign, connotation as the second level in the sign which is accompanied by a myth (marking a society). Structurally, the lyric writer creates the lyrics of the song with deep meaning.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive methods are procedures that produce descriptive data, including written and oral words of research objectives whether it is from the community or books. According to Creswell (2009, p. 3) research design is plans and the procedures for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. The function of a research design was to ensure that the evidence obtained enabled us to answer the research question as unambiguously as possible. In this study, the writer used a qualitative approach because this study focuses on the analysis or interpretation of the written material in song lyrics. In this study, the writer took on song lyrics as primary data and using qualitative research also explains descriptively how the meaning of denotation, connotation and the meaning of myth are used in Ariana Grande's God is a woman song lyrics. The writer used a descriptive method to attempt to describe and interpret the objects in accordance with reality. The descriptive method was implemented because the data analysis is presented descriptively.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Roland Barthes developed his theory into two levels, namely Denotation as the first level in the sign, connotation as the second level in the sign which is accompanied by a myth (marking a society). Based on the finding data that have been analyzed the writer found those symbolic meaning namely:

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No	Types of Symbolic Meaning	Data	Data Interpretations
1	Denotation	***God is a woman***	Ariana Grande is referring to the spiritual and almost religious feeling some may have from sex, emphasising the fact that although she might be great in bed, she is so great that you'll believe you've just encountered God.
2	Connotation		God is a woman' a sex symbol derives her power from the pleasure she can give to men, the warm-bodied incarnation of female empowerment with a kind of celestial supremacy. Ariana Grande goes on to portray the feeling of feminist themes of woman empowerment, sexual liberation, and spirituality in its lyrics. "God Is a Woman" is a strong lyrical feast that fosters why Ariana feels the women are important in this universe and what is into them that makes them so special. Ariana Grande seems to tell people women/they are God's gift to men. A person who thinks that they are particularly good at something or who thinks that somebody will find them particularly attractive.Women seem to think they are God's gift to men.
3	Myth		God has no gender. If you are a truly religious or spiritua should find it blasphemous to refer to God as a male this l down to human levels. Why should God be diminished ju language is limited? And why should generation after gen up believing that the supreme force who created and contr is male? Children internalize God's maleness long before understand nuanced adult beliefs about God's non-binary answer to dismantling patriarchy is not raising up a matria place. But building our understanding of, as Ariana Grand "God [as] a woman," will help counterbalance almost eve internalized beliefs that our creator is a man, a father, a gu with a beard.God is our mother, our father, our parent. Wh is inherently lacking, God is limitless. The abilities we ha each other are blinkered and binary, but God can see us as

This part presents the discussion of the research findings. There are two research questions proposed in this study. The discussion focused on the finding of the two proposed research questions. The first discussion is about the meaning of denotation and connotation according to Roland Barthes's semiotics contained in Ariana Grande's God is a woman song lyrics. Meanwhile, the second discussion focuses on the myth according to Roland Barthes's semiotics contained in Ariana Grande's God is a woman song lyrics. In Roland Barthes's theory, the role of

the reader is the most important thing to study. The role of the reader is what will bring up various perceptions about the meaning of a text. This meaning can be seen from two aspects, namely denotation, and connotation which are coupled with myth. The meaning of denotation is the basic meaning that exists in the text without relating it to the socio-cultural values contained therein. This meaning is the meaning that is at the first level of the semiotic system. While the meaning of connotation is the subjective meaning that arises when we relate it to the emotions and feelings of its readers with the cultural values they have. The meaning of this connotation is the second level of the semiotic system. The connotation is identical to the operation of ideology which he calls a myth and has the function of justifying dominant values that apply at a certain period.

Based on the findings above, the writer found the meaning of denotations, connotations and myths contained in the lyrics of the song Ariana Grande entitled God is a woman consisting of 7 data meaning denotation and connotation in each data is divided into four 4 lines. While for myth, there is only one phrase that is 'God is a woman. The study that uses semiotic analysis is a research technique for communication studies that tends to lead more towards receiving messages and sources. Categorized into interpretive and subjective research because it relies heavily on the ability of writers to interpret texts or signs that can be associated with ideological, cultural, moral and spiritual values.

In this study, the writer has guidelines that are relevant from previous studies. The previous studies have a different perspective in interpreting a song's lyrics. However, they have the same goal to describe a meaning or message from a song's lyrics. The fact that in the previous study they directly provide direct meaning to every lyric of the song. While in this study, in seeking to find a meaning of denotation, connotation, and myth, the writer decapitates his words and explains the meaning of those words clearly.

The development of Barthes's theory of semiotics sees no signs of being of limited denotation meaning. But look at the sign deeper to find out the meaning connotation. For Barthes, the meaning of connotation denotes something else, called a myth. From here, certain cultural or ideological relations are affected. As can be found in this song lyrics based on the theory of

semiotic Roland Barthes, The meaning of the denotation contained in the lyrics of this song from all data analysis that is it is about sex and how she claims the chemistry will be so incredible that the guy is going to think she is God. Another song where we are safe to assume this is about Pete and her since she didn't exactly keep quiet about their sex life and how good it is going. While she does claim this though she does not fail to mention that not everyone gets this treatment and she thinks she is quite special (her one) to receive the best she learned from her experiences. Also if it configures presumably, that means something else then the inevitable will occur. In more graphic terms sperm will meet an egg. This could be likened to how women are the ultimate providers because it deserves what comes next and that is a baby or their baby while rightly recognizing female sexuality as a gift.

While the connotation of meaning here the writer found that Ariana Grande campaigned for a struggle for gender equality. Nowadays, the bad stigma about women that they cannot be equal to men is still present even some of us or groups of people still consider women only as sexual objects or only as satisfying men. But women are not only limited to that. The fact is that Ariana Grande alone can become an artist who can be a role model and is loved by many people. It does not stop with Ariana Grande but there are still many other female artists such as Adele, Demi Lovato, Jessie J, Rihanna, Agnez Mo, etc. Then through the song, Ariana Grande shows off women's energy and independence. A real anthem for women around the world especially since she is also saying women are the providers and creators of basically everything as well and how impactful they can be. So, if there is equal recognition of gender equality, then life will be better. That is, if men recognize gender equality then they will be blessed with happiness. The highest happiness is when we can give goodness to others, namely to let others live their life goals and potential. It would be far better if we could give honor to that person with the nature of being able to forgive and uphold peace.

The myth contained in the lyrics of this song is 'God is a woman'. The writer found the mythology about God is a woman which this sentence represents about gender differences in life. God, the Torah makes clear again and again, is not a woman but God is a mother. The answer to dismantling patriarchy is not raising a matriarchy in its place. But building our understanding of, as Ariana Grande puts it, "God [as] a woman," will help counterbalance almost every human's

internalized beliefs that our creator is a man, a father, a guy in the sky with a beard. God is our mother, our father, our parents. While the language is inherently lacking, God is limitless. The abilities we have to see each other are blinkered and binary, but God can see us as infinite. God calls on us fettered, ignorant humans, to see eternity in each other. So it can't hurt, as Ariana Grande sings it, if, "When all is said and done that will believe God is a woman."

In the production and consumption of texts in song lyrics, it is not easy to ascertain the communicative value of a text due to the diversity of cultural paths. Because Song lyrics are a form of text the use of signs in the song is in the form of a combination or collection of a set of signs that are combined in a certain way (code) in a series that produces a certain meaning. Likewise, the writer used Roland Barthes's semiotic theory to understand the meaning of song lyrics well, because the writer found many meanings implied in the song. The meaning of meanings can be understood by understanding the concept of Roland Barthes's semiotics, namely understanding at the level of denotation can be interpreted with the same meaning as the author. In a degree of connotation, it will probably be different because cultural backgrounds are different then Barthes also sees operating deeper meaning. The meaning that is built from a social convention, operates an ideology or culture behind it which is called a myth. When the writer used the theory of semiotics Roland Barthes in analyzing the lyrics of this song, the writer found the meanings contained therein.

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the meaning in Ariana Grande's God is a woman song lyrics, some points are concluded are the meaning of the denotation contained in the lyrics of this song from all data analysis that is it is about sex and how she claims the chemistry will be so incredible that the guy is going to think she is God. In more graphic terms sperm will meet an egg. This could be likened to how women are the ultimate providers because it deserves what comes next and that is a baby or their baby while rightly recognizing female sexuality as a gift. While the meaning of connotation Ariana Grande campaigned for a struggle for gender equality and she shows off women's energy and independence. So, if there is equal recognition of gender equality, then life

will be better. Then, the myth contained in the lyrics of this song is 'God is a woman' which this sentence represents about gender differences in life. God, the Torah makes clear again and again, is not a woman but God is a mother. The answer to dismantling patriarchy is not raising a matriarchy in its place. But building our understanding of, as Ariana Grande puts it, "God [as] a woman," will help counterbalance almost every human's internalized beliefs that our creator is a man, a father, a guy in the sky with a beard. God is our mother, our father, our parents.

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