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A Critical Discourse Analysis of Song "Easy on Me" by Adele

Putu Sukma Dewi⁰

⁰ Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, Indonesia | sukmadewi.id19@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to analyze how the role or attitude of the author towards a song that was created by examining the effect, judgment, and appreciation. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method by using three analytical processes proposed by Fairclough's CDA model. The data from this research are the lyrics of Adele's song entitled "Easy on Me". The findings shows that Adele describes her feelings in this song explicitly by using a figure of speech. In her song, Adele conveys affect about how worried and devastated she is when faced with the problem of her divorce. In the aspect of assessment, Adele admires nature through her own point of view, so that some of her song lyrics are interpreted using the beauty and serenity of nature. Based on appreciation, Adele assesses that divorce or separation in a relationship is the end of her journey, so she wants to give up and surrender.

Keywords

song, Adele, affect, judgment, appreciations

Introduction

Language is a system formed from a number of systematic components (Rabiah, 2018). Language is used as a communication tool for everyone in conveying information to the other person. The use of language as a medium of communication can be expressed verbally and in writing. According to Alsaawi (2019), language in spoken form is used more than written form because of its natural nature. One of the works in spoken form in the use of language is a song. According to Rosita et. al (2019), a song is a written literature that expresses a person's feelings and thoughts as outlined in every series of words in the lyrics of the song. When reading the lyrics of a song, a person not only reads the lines of the sentence but also tries to understand the meaning of the verse of the song's lyrics.

In times like today, there are many talented singers who bring songs that touch the heart. One of them is Adele. A senior singer whose name is very well known through her extraordinary works. This British singer whose full name is Adele Laurie Blue Adkins was first known to many people through uploading her first demo song in 2006. She then released her first album in 2008 entitled 19. This album successfully brought her name to the stage of the music world. After that, Adele received many awards in the field of music, one of which was the winner of the best newcomer singer category. Since the beginning of this success, she has re-released several albums to make her name emblazoned on the BillBoard 200. One of her most phenomenal songs is entitled "Someone Like You".

In 2021, Adele released an album called "30". One of the most famous songs on this album is entitled "Easy on Me". This song managed to bring the name of the album "30" to the top of the US charts, namely the Billboard Hots 100. Within 5 hours of its release, this song has 3.1 million streams in the United States. In general, the song "Easy on Me" implies a divorce and a message to children who feel sad because of the separation of their parents. This issue is quite interesting to investigate; moreover, the implications of the blossoming of pop culture among teens should be exposed in order to avoid any unforeseen influence on the teenagers' conduct.

Previously, there were several researchers who analyzed the meaning and intent of a song lyric that was trending among the public. This is because behind the lyrics of a song there is a meaning that the creator wants to convey from their thoughts, beliefs and feelings towards something. The meaning of the lyrics of the song was analyzed by researchers because currently music as one of the works of art that is popular with the public has a tendency to influence listeners in psychological aspects.

There are some previous studies of songs have been conducted by researchers, such as Alek et. al (2020), was examining the intended meaning of any figurative expressions delivered through the lyrics, as well as symbolic signs and gestures delivered on a popular video clip of Taylor Swift "Look What You Made Me Do" in order to determine its implication toward language learning as one of YouTube's most-watched music videos. Another research is done by Firmansyah (2016), it is a sociological method was used to investigate the social and political values of Iwan Fals' song. The study's findings

revealed the composer's views and understanding of Indonesia's social, political, educational, and nationalistic situations and challenges.

Abrahamsson (2011) investigated the gender roles in pop lyrics from Lady Gaga's album. He examined the roles and interests of those who listened to her music. Some of the research reveal the discourse analysis related to figurative expression, political issues and gender. However, the recent studies do not show or explain about the appraisal theory of song. Hence, the author wants to examine how the role or attitude of the author towards a song that was created by examining the effect, judgment, and appreciation.

Affect

Affect is a matter of assessment, both positive and negative relating to feelings about something that is said or done concerned with the expression of emotions (Martin, 1996; Martin & Rose, 2003; White, 2001, in Wiedarti, 2006: 3). Another opinion was expressed by Martin & Rose, 2003 (via Wiedarti, 2006: 1), affect is divided into three, namely the first affect as quality (taste as quality) includes describing participants (explaining general description of the character and condition of the participants), attributed to participants (explaining the inherent characteristics of participants), and manner of processes (communicating processes). Second, affect as a process includes affective sensing (feeling), and affective behaving (actions that affect). The last type is affected as a comment.

The opinion above can be concluded that affect is a matter of judgment both positive and negative which focus more on the feelings experienced by each speaker / interlocutor against something that is being discussed. For example: "Wulan is tasting her mother's cooking which turns out to be salty". The "salty" taste shows a form of affect because the salty taste arises because of The speaker judges by the feelings felt by the speaker himself.

Judgment

According to Martin, 1996; Martin & Rose, 2003; White, 2001 (in Wiedarti, 2006: 3), judgment is a matter of assessment, both positive and negative, related to behavior towards something that is being discussed. For judgment, as far as the resource is gradable, the level is related by adjusting the evaluation level- how strong/weak feelings are, i.e.force: in the context of non-gradable resources tiers have an effect adjust boundary strength between categories, construction cores, and peripheral types of one thing, which is called focus.

Social sanctions are "mortal" while social esteem is "venial" consisting of: positive and negative, including normality, capacity, and tenacity. In conclusion, judgment is a matter of assessment that is more emphasized on the moral behavior of the speaker/opponent than assessment of both positive and negative about what is being said. For example: "Tono was reprimanded by the teacher because there are many people in the class". The

word "rebuked" is a form of negative judgment or judgment due to Tono's behavior of lots of people in class.

Appreciation

Martin, 1996; Martin & Rose, 2003; White, 2001 (in Wiedarti, 2006:3), argues that appreciation is a matter of assessment in the form of appreciation of a thing or object for something that is being discussed. Hope & Read (via Wiedarti, 2006: 4) argues that appreciation consists of positive and negative, including reaction, composition, and valuation. Reaction (reaction) is divided into impact (strong influence) and quality (nature). Impact (influence) is indicated by an exciting reaction or boring, while quality is in the form of positive/negative reactions. Composition is divided into balance and complexity.

It can be concluded that appreciation is a matter of positive good assessment or negative that is given in the form of a thing or object to something discussed. For example: "Tika got a new bike from her father for going to class." In the context of "getting a new bike" is a positive form of appreciation because of Tika's achievements as indicated by being promoted to next grade.

Lyric of Song "Easy on Me"

There ain't no gold in this river
That I've been washin' my hands in forever
I know there is hope in these waters
But I can't bring myself to swim
When I am drowning in this silence
Baby, let me in

Go easy on me, baby
I was still a child
Didn't get the chance to
Feel the world around me
I had no time to choose
What I chose to do
So go easy on me

There ain't no room for things to change
When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways
You can't deny how hard I have tried
I changed who I was to put you both first
But now I give up

Go easy on me, baby
I was still a child
Didn't get the chance to
Feel the world around me
Had no time to choose
What I chose to do
So go easy on me

I had good intentions
And the highest hopes
But I know right now
That probably doesn't even show

Method

The method used by the author in this study is a qualitative method in the form of descriptive analysis. The data from this research are the lyrics of Adele's song entitled "Easy on Me". The researcher used three analytical processes proposed by Fairclough's CDA model. The first stage is to analyze the text of the lyrics of the song "Easy on Me" based on the effect, judgment, and appreciation. Then interpret the findings in the analysis of the lyrics of the song and present it in a descriptive form.

Results & Discussion

As explained earlier, Adele's album entitled "30" is an expression of Adele's heart and thoughts in her story of turning 30 years old. Unlike the previous albums, in this album Adele expresses herself when she was going through a difficult time in her life, when she had to divorce her husband, Simon, in 2019, so divorce became a big theme of the album. Adi, apart from being commercial, Adele's goal in making this album is to remind herself of the feelings she once had in her life.

Affect

Since the beginning, researchers have realized how affect is in the lyrics of the song "Easy on Me" through the choice of words chosen by Adele in conveying her heart to this song. In every lyric of this song, Adele tries to convey negative affection. Through the lyrics of the song, she wants to show how worried and devastated she is when faced with the problem of her divorce. She conveys it explicitly through these lyrics "I know there is hope in these waters. But I can't bring myself to swim". She actually knew there was still hope for her relationship to improve but she could not continue. So Adele chose to express her feelings in this song explicitly through figure of speech.

Judgment

Based on the results of the author's analysis, there are judgments in the form of personal and moral judgments in this song. In personal judgment, Adele tries to convey her criticism indirectly about her relationship with her ex through the lyrics "Had no time to choose what I chose to do". Then, in a moral judgment, Adele conveyed her heart through the lyrics "There ain't no gold in this river. That I've been washin' my hands in forever". From these two judgments, it can be concluded that the composer admires nature through her own point of view, so that some of her song lyrics are interpreted using the beauty and serenity of nature.

Appreciation

The result of the writer's analysis regarding the lyrics of this song is that some of the lyrics of this song show negative appreciation. This is evidenced through several expressions in the lyrics of the song such as "I changed who I was to put you both first, but now I give up". The lyrics reveal that the composer had struggled to change himself before to be together but now he has given up. Another lyric is "I had no time to choose what I chose to do". These lyrics show that the composer is tired and does not know what to do. Well, this shows that the composer assesses that divorce or separation in a relationship is the end of her journey, so she wants to give up and surrender.

Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the song entitled "Easy on me" by Adele is a song that tells of a divorce or separation and a message to the child who is sad because of his parent's separation. Adele describes her feelings in this song explicitly by using a figure of speech. In her song, Adele conveys affect about how worried and devastated she is when faced with the problem of her divorce. In the aspect of assessment, Adele admires nature through her own point of view, so that some of her song lyrics are interpreted using the beauty and serenity of nature. Based on appreciation, Adele assesses that divorce or separation in a relationship is the end of her journey, so she wants to give up and surrender.

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