

**A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF SONG LYRICS IN
*AVRIL LAVIGNE'S ALBUM LET GO***



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are many ways to express ideas among people in communication, for instance: spoken language, written language, and gesture. People cannot live without language because it is really to communicate and convey information in life. The word language here is applied to language as a system of human communication. As a means of communication, language allows its speakers to talk about anything within their communication in any situation. Moreover, language is really rich. Hence, through language people can express almost everything such as thought, ideas, emotion, desire, message, etc.

Lyrics are not only the arrangement of words into sentence, but also the representation of the composer's emotion and intention to describe their feelings such as love, struggle, trouble, jealousy, peace, antisocial, feeling etc. There are some messages sent by the singer or composer to the listener with specific situation or context in song lyrics.

Related to the previous paragraph, the lyrics of song become a way of communicating. The following example will be given as the illustration. It is taken from the first couplet of song "Losing Grip" in *Avril Lavigne's album Let Go*.

Are you aware of what you make me feel, baby//Right now I feel invisible to you, like I'm not real//Didn't you feel me lock my arms around you//Why'd you

turn away?//Here's what I have to say//I was left to cry there, waiting outside there//Burning with a lost stare//That's when I decided

Based on the researcher's background knowledge, the singer and the composer refer to the same person. Because the singer is girl, this song is dedicated to boys. Therefore the word "you" refers to a boy.

The song tells about a girl who is disappointed with her boyfriend because her boyfriend left her lonely. Whereas the girl loved and needed him very much. She is just disappointed and crying in her loneliness. There is intention of the singer in warning the listeners not to be sad and surrender in life although they are losing grip or losing someone beloved.

Basically, song lyrics could be said as a part of discourse. Therefore, it is possible to analyze discourse of song lyrics. One starting point is the following quotation of Stubbs (1983:1) who maintained that "discourse analysis is something concerned with language use beyond the boundaries of an utterance", then "something concerned with the interrelationships between language and society", and the last one is "something concerned with the interactive or dialogic properties of everyday communication".

The researcher chooses discourse analysis on song lyrics because songs represent a typical discourse which has a purpose to entertain any one who hears them. Since songs are basically interpretive and deconstructing texts, they have purpose to expand the singers or composers horizons, and make the audience realize to the singer or composer acknowledgement and the motivations. Through a song, composers can express their feelings such as expressing kindness, giving suggestion, or solving love affairs.

In her research of discourse analysis on song lyrics, the researcher not only describes the data but also explains the data in order to find out the composer's intentions towards song lyrics. In Lyman's term, a discourse and especially a text are sequences of connected sentences or utterances. It means the form by which a sender communicates a message to a receiver or the function (Renkema, 1993:32). A text is non-communicative if the criteria do not apply to it. Viewed from this topic, seven criteria are given for textuality. They are criteria that a sequence of sentences must meet in order to be qualified as a text.

Seven criteria of textuality consist of cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativeness, situationality, and intertextuality. Cohesion is the connection result when the interpretation of textual element is dependent on another element in a text. Coherence is one part of aspect that supports the unity receiving in a text. It is a logical sequence that is understandable by the readers. Coherence texts make sense to the reader. Intentionality refers to the composers intentions in the song. Acceptability and informativeness constitute a sequence of utterance be acceptable to the intended audience that contain information. Situationality considers the situation deals with a sequence related by form or meaning to other sequences of sentences. The criteria are important to discourse analysis the researcher has to make an analysis based on both formal aspect and function aspect.

Based on phenomena above, the researcher is interested in conducting an analysis of discourse toward the lyrics in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go viewed from the elements that support the lyrics as a discourse and from the composer's intention in song lyrics used in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go.

B. The Previous Study

Discourse analysis is an interesting matter to be studied so that it is possible for some people to conduct research on this problem. The following are researches related to this study. First is "Discourse Analysis of Cinderella Story" written by Arifianti (2005). Arifianti's research finds out the aspect forming a discourse in the Cinderella story. Arifianti's research used the forms of words, phrases, clauses and sentences taken from Cinderella story as the data. It is only aimed to find out the aspects forming a discourse in the Cinderella story as the objective.

Second, "The Use of Deixis in Gladiator Movie's Manuscript" written by Hasanah (2006). Hasanah's researcher has the aim to find deixis devices and clarify the meaning of deixis devices used in movie's manuscript. Hasanah's research used movie's manuscript as the data and clarifies deixis devices based on pragmatic meaning.

Third, "A Discourse analysis of "Your Letters" in the Jakarta Post Newspaper" written by Purnasari (2007). Purnasari's research uses components in the making letter to analyze them. Purnasari's research uses "Your Letters" used in the Jakarta Post Newspaper as the data to be analyzed.

In this research, the researcher uses Song Lyrics in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go as the data and determines the configurations of discourse analysis towards song lyrics based on seven criteria of textuality, and applies the speech act theory to justify the composer's intentions.

C. Problem Statement

The research formulates the problems of the study as follows:

1. What are the configurations of discourse of song lyrics in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go?
2. What are the purposes of the composer in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go?

D. Objective of the study

Based on the problem statement mention above, the researcher has the following objective:

1. To identify the elements of song lyrics as discourse in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go.
2. To describe the composer's intention in Song Lyrics used in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go.

E. Limitation of the Study

The researcher has limitation in analyzing the discourse of song lyrics in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go. This study is intended to help the readers comprehend the discourse analysis of song lyrics by using seven criteria of

textuality, and find out the real meaning of song lyrics and also the composer's intention of song lyrics in Avril Lavigne's album Let Go through pragmatics approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Academic Benefit

This study can give contribution for readers to development of discourse study especially discourse analysis in song lyrics. This study also gives knowledge about discourse analysis for readers.

2. Practical Benefit

This research will help the readers to understand the use of seven criteria for textuality that are formulated by Robert de Beaugrande (1980) in discourse analysis, especially in analyzing discourse of song lyrics. Beside that, the readers will get more knowledge of information that a song is not only being listened but also being known the real meaning of the song itself and the intention of the composers.

G. Research Paper Organization

In order to give the guidance for the researcher and the readers in reading the research paper, the researcher makes an outline about the contents of the research as follows:

Chapter I is introduction that consists of background of the study, the previous study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory including the review of notion of song, discourse, text, and context, and discourse, seven criteria for textuality, pragmatics, and speech act theory.

Chapter III is research method which deals with type of research, object of the research, data and source of data, method of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is the data analyzing including analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.