

An Analysis of Semiotic In Queen's Song "Bohemian Rhapsody"

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ABSTRACT

Analyzing data is an activity of thinking and recognizing data which is then described so that it becomes component signs. Regarding signs, in studying English several sciences need to be studied, one of which is semiotics. Semiotics is the study of signs contained in objects that have specific meanings. In this study the researcher wanted to analyze song from Band Queen, namely Bohemian Rhapsody, "Bohemian Rhapsody" is a song with various genre transitions, modulations, and tempos, changes to several genres and modulations that occur repeatedly in the song are closely related to how the structure is of the song is contained in it. This song has a hidden meaning and message, so the researcher wants to examine this song by using the theory from Roland Barthes which discusses connotation, denotation, and myth which are in line with the researcher's wishes. The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. In this study, the researcher collected primary data obtained from the lyrics of the Bohemian Rhapsody song. This data includes themes, schemes, word meanings, and word stress in the lyrics of the Bohemian Rhapsody song. After the data were categorized according to Roland Barthes' theory, the data were then analyzed descriptively to answer this research question. After that, the researcher conducted a literature study by looking for references through literature both from books, document journals, and other related sources and other topics relevant to this research. The results of the study show that there are 7 parts of the stanza which are then interpreted using the Roland Barthes method, where almost every stanza discusses the feeling of regret experienced by the songwriter.

Keywords: An Analysis, Semiotic, Bohemian Rhapsody

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INTRODUCTION

An analysis is the science of linguistics that studies the structure of language. Analysis of activity or effort to dissect, describe, solve, describe, observe, process data into smaller data or into information that can be easily understood by the general public. Analysis can be obtained by obtaining data from observations, documentation, interviews, and exploration. An analysis is a series of activities to study and describe a complete and unified whole into components that are intact and unified about one another (Mantiri, 2013). One form of analysis is to summarize large amounts of raw data into information that can be interpreted. Categorization or separation of relevant components or parts of a data set is also a form of analysis to make the data easy to organize. All forms of analysis seek to describe patterns consistently in the data so that the results can be studied and translated in a concise and meaningful way (Mantiri, 2013)

An analysis is one method that is not easy to research because the object of research is not humans, but texts. Researchers only need to use data and text sources that come from magazines, newspapers, TV shows, books, song lyrics, film stories, and advertisements. Content analysis is closely related to reception studies, namely analyzing textual meaning as criticism, which is still far from certain about the meaning that has been identified by the reader/audience/consumer (Barker, 2011).

Analyzing data is an activity of thinking and recognizing data which is then described so that it becomes component signs. Regarding signs, in studying English several sciences need to be studied, one of which is semiotics. Semiotics is the study of signs contained in objects that have certain meanings. Everything that can be observed or made observable can be called a sign, and signs are not limited to objects (Pradopo, 1998). The word semiotic comes from the Greek "seme" which means sign interpretation, or also "semeion" which means sign. Then semiotics from the English meaning "semiotics" which has the same meaning. Terminologically, semiotics can be defined as a science that studies a wide range of objects, and events throughout the culture as signs.

Semiotics is related to the meaning of various signs or other objects, one of which is the meaning of songs or art. The song is one of the effective media to convey a message. Songs can capture and evoke patterns of feelings such as hope, desire, joy, and even madness. The song is a series of tones combined with a harmonious rhythm and complemented by poetry that forms a beautiful harmonization. Songs are often used as a tool to convey a message to others. The message conveyed through the lyrics of this song or poem is an example of verbal and non-verbal communication. The song is a verbal communication when viewed from the side of the lyrics. The lyrics usually contain the message that the communicator wants to convey to the communicant.

The song conveys its message with the lyrics. Song lyrics are generally packaged lightly and are easy to remember. Every song has its meaning and purpose. The story of the song is the message that will be conveyed to others. Therefore, many people use songs as a medium to express their feelings to others.

In a song, there must be a message or meaning contained in the song through the lyrics sung by musicians, one of which is in the Queen Band song entitled "Bohemian Rhapsody". This song was created in 1975 and is on the album "A Night at the Opera" which was created by the vocalist himself, namely Freddie Mercury. This song is a song that has many hidden meanings contained in it. This song has been created for 46 years and is still heard today. The song's first release was on October 31, 1975, and the second was on December 9, 1991. Bohemian Rhapsody is approximately 5:55 minutes long, the song consists of several sections: a ballad segment, ending with a guitar solo, an opera passage, a hard rock section, and the reflective coda. This song is from a 1970s progressive rock genre. Freddie Mercury created this song by himself. At the time, it was the most expensive single ever made. The song is about a man who has such religious and intrapersonal problems. According to guitarist Brian May, "Freddie was a very complex person: flippant and funny on the surface, but he concealed insecurities and problems in squaring his life with his childhood. He never explained the lyrics, but I think he put a lot of himself into that song". (Rolling Stone Magazine, September 2008).

Band QUEEN is a rock band from England. Formed in London in 1970 as the band Smile, QUEEN consists of vocalist Freddie Mercury, guitarist Brian May, bassist John Deacon, and drummer Roger Taylor. The band became popular with audiences for their hit songs, live performances, originality, and stage prowess.

In the 1970s, not many bands had access to a pure genre like Queen's music group. The band Queen, which is based on progressive rock, heavy metal, and various other genres, has succeeded in combining bombastic music and creating an opera game with guitar strains and layered vocal techniques. For years the group Queen has prided themselves on their albums with the motto "no single Queen album is engineered by synthesizer effects". Brian May and members of the band Queen stated that they did not want to be compared to the post-Led Zeppelin hard rock band, which relied a lot on synthesizer effects.

"Bohemian Rhapsody" is a song about a man who has an intrapersonal problem. On the surface, the song tells about traumas from Freddie Mercury's childhood that make him have such religious and intrapersonal problems. Freddie puts a lot of himself in the song, as mentioned in the introduction part. For the title, Freddie uses the phrase "Bohemian Rhapsody" to portray what the is about.

"Bohemian Rhapsody" is a song with various genre transitions, modulations, and tempos, transitions to several genres and modulations that occur repeatedly in the song are closely related to how the structure of the song is contained in it. The song "Bohemian Rhapsody" is one of the genres of progressive rock, progressive pop, symphonic rock, and hard rock. The song consists of an intro, piano ballad, and guitar solo followed by an opera that sounds like a chorus and a soloist. There is also a change in the basic tone and several tempo changes, starting from the slow tempo of the ballad to the fast tempo of the opera and hard rock sections, and ending again in the outro section with a slow tempo.

The song Bohemian Rhapsody is a song that has many meanings. one of them is

the word Bismillah which means Bismillah in Islam means mentioning the name of Allah or praising the creator. one of the things that made me interested in researching this song. Why did Freddie Mercury use these words in his songs and what do they mean? so I match the theory of Roland Barthes.

Therefore, prospective researchers are interested in examining the song Bohemian Rhapsody by Band Queen to find out the meaning contained in the song in semiotic studies. So that the prospective researchers raised the title "An Analysis of Semiotics in Queen's song "Bohemian Rhapsody".

RESEARCH METHODS

Research design has an important role in a study. In the research to be conducted, the type of research that will be used is a qualitative method. Research is a research method that can be used to problems humanitarian this qualitative research process involves important efforts such as: asking questions, developing procedures, and collecting specific data from informants or participants. Analyzing data inductively, reducing, verifying, and interpreting or capturing the meaning of the context of the problem under study (Nugrahani, 2014).

The design used in this study is qualitative research that produces descriptive data in the form of words and written language from the data studied or describes the data objectively according to the state of the totality of meaning in the song "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Band Queen via semiotic studies.

Types and sources of data

Sources of data used by researchers are primary data sources and secondary data. Qualitative data are in the form of words, sentences, and narratives. Data consists of two major parts seen from the way of collection, namely primary data and secondary data.

1. Primary Data is data in the form of opinions of subjects (people) individually or in groups, the results of observations of an object (physical), events or activities, and test results. The primary data of this research is the text of the lyricssong Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.
2. Secondary data is used to support primary data taken from literature or document. Secondary data was obtained by researchers through journals, books, the internet, and other references related to the song Bohemian Rhapsody to streng then the researcher's interpretation.

Techniques of Data Collection

Collection techniques are instruments (tools) in the context of the process of collecting real information or materials that can be used as the basis for research (Herdayati andSyahril, 2019). In this study, researchers collected primary data. Primary Data is obtained from a song Bohemian Rhapsody. This Data includes themes, schemes, word meanings, and word suppression in the lyrics of the song Bohemian Rhapsody. Once the data is categorized according to Barthes's theory,

the data is then analyzed in a descriptive order to answer the question of this research. Afterthat, researchers conduct literary studies by searching for references through the literature from either books, document journals, and other related sources as well as other topics relevant to this study.

Technique of Data Analysis

An analysis is an effort to systematically search and organize notes from observations, interviews, and others to increase the researcher's understanding of the case being studied and present it as a finding to others. Meanwhile, to improve this understanding, the analysis needs to be continued by trying to find meaning (Rijali, 2018). Data analysis is a data processing process to find useful information to be used as a basis for decision-making or solutions to a problem.

This research uses a semiotic analysis that examines the relationship between sign in text and myth analysis. Semiotics is a field of study that sees the world with understanding as a system of relations with the basic unit is a sign. Existing assumptions see that media messages are composed of a set of signs to produce certain meanings. In analyzing meaning in the song Bohemian Rhapsody, the author refers to the three stages of analysis used in the approach :

- 1. Description of denotative meaning;** It outlines and understands the denotative meaning displayed by something that appears tangible or material from the mark. The meaning of denotation is direct and can be referred to as a description of a signified.
- 2. Description of connotative meaning,** the connotative meaning will be slightly different and will be related to the culture implied in the wrapper about the inner meaning contained in it.
- 3. Description of myth meaning,** the connotative meaning of some signs will become a kind of myth or mythical clue (which emphasizes these meanings). so that in many ways (meaning) connotation becomes a very influential myth embodiment.

RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

a. Research Result.

This study has the main data from the lyrics of the song Bohemian Rhapsody along with the journals contained in the previous study.

1. Is this real life? Is this just fantasy?
Caught in a landslide, No escape from reality
Open your eyes, Look up to the skies and see,
I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy
Because I'm easy come, easy go, Little high, little low
Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me, to me

Denotation: Someone who questions whether he is really alive or just imagining. He tried to run from the avalanche thinking he was just a poor man and did not need empathy. He found it easy to come and go regardless of the wind that was blowing him.

Connotation : The first stanza or commonly called the intro, tells about someone who feels cold, confused, and depressed. It is clear that Freddie Mercury, as a songwriter, uses the first person as a point of view as shown in the line " I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy". In the first line, Mercury begins the song with the question "Is this the real life. ? Is this just fantasy?" The question is like a kind of feeling when someone wants to wake up from a dream. In the second line, Freddie Mercury describes an undeniable feeling as written in "Caught in a landslide" which means he feels cornered. Freddie tries to confirm what he feels by asking "you " to open his eyes and look up at the sky. This line says that he wants to seek approval from others, asking someone to believe what he feels. "I'm easy come, easy go, Little high, little low Any way the wind blows" which means that he accepts whatever is obtained in this world. This is also emphasized in the verse "doesn't really matter to me, to me".

Myth: Freddie felt he deserved to live so he questioned it and felt cornered. He considers himself just an ordinary person but doesn't need empathy from others, so wherever he goes it doesn't matter to him.

2. Mama, just killed a man
Put a gun against his head
Pulled my trigger, now he's dead
Mama, life had just begun
But now I've gone and thrown it all away
Mama, ooh, didn't mean to make you
cry,

If I'm not back again this time

tomorrow,

Carry on, carry on as if nothing

really

matters

Denotation: His mother just killed someone then he took his gun but put it on his head. He wanted to leave everything he had even though his life had just begun and didn't mean to make his mother cry for him. Convincing himself that if he didn't come back tomorrow it wouldn't be a problem for him.

Connotation: In this stanza, Freddie tries to tell about himself being depressed and stressed. His confession of doing bad things, is contained in the verse "killed a man". Freddie confessed his regrets to his mother "mama". The second stanza describes that he has woken up from his dream or fantasy. He was filled with

guilt and remorse. Freddie tried to brace himself and "mama", he gave the word "ooh" which meant how deep the pain of depression felt by Freddie. "if I'm not back again this time tomorrow" it's clear that Freddie wants to say goodbye, whether it's running away or dying. "carry on as if nothing really matters" the last line of this stanza is interpreted as a kind of releasing a problem that makes Freddie feel confused and depressed.

Myth: Problems cannot be left alone, they are faced, not avoided. As seen at the end of this verse Freddie tries to avoid his problems by leaving or wanting to end his life.

3. Too late, my time has come,
Sends shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time
Goodbye, everybody, I've got to go,
Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth
Mama, oooh
I don't want to die,
I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all.

Denotation: He said the time was too late and had come, he felt his whole body shiver. He wanted to leave everything behind and face reality but he also didn't want to die and wished he had never been born.

Connotation: this verse explains that Freddie was getting a little frustrated with the problems he was facing and accepted everything that would happen. "Too late, my time has come" explained that his punishment had come, and Freddie accepted his punishment. "Send shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time" explains Freddie was scared for what was to come, he was anxious and shaking but he had to take responsibility anyway. "Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth" Freddie admits his mistake and bears all the consequences for what he has done. "I don't want to die" as a denial of the death penalty faced by Freddie so that he shouted "mama" that he did not want to accept his destiny and he emphasized a regret that "I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all" signifies the regret that so big that he regretted ever being born and had the gift of living in this world.

Myth: In the end, Freddie tries to face the problems he has but he feels afraid and regrets his life.

4. I see a little silhouette of a man,
Scaramouch, Scaramouch, will you do the fandango!
Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very frightening me
(Galileo). Galileo. (Galileo). Galileo. Galileo Figaro magnifico
I'm just a poor boy nobody loves me (He just a poor boy from a poor family)
Spare him his life from this monstrosity

Denotation: He saw the shadow of a man and wanted to dance the fandango dance which originated in Italy. He is afraid of lightning and lightning so he continues to call Galileo's name, Galileo here is interpreted as a role model for Freddie because of Galileo's intelligence as a scientist. He felt himself just a

poor man who no one liked and hoped for someone to save his life from something bad.

Connotation: "Scaramouch" meaning Scaramouche (Italian Scaramuccia) is a character in the 17th-century Commedia dell'arte, a popular improv comedy show of his time. Usually, a Scaramouch character dressed in all black is known for creating difficult situations, but gets out of that, only often to the detriment of others. Scaramouch also means mockery and cowardice about something. Cowardice is directed at people who make mistakes but do not dare to take responsibility for their mistakes. While "fandango" means a dance originating from Spain, a dance that expresses the spirit of the dancers. The meaning of fandango in this song means to perform a show to entertain someone who is being punished for his wrongdoing. "Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very frightening me" Freddie used the word "very" 2 times which meant he was very scared like when he was in the middle of a thunderstorm. Freddie felt he couldn't do anything about it. "Galileo" "Galileo" refers to Galileo Galilei, an Italian physicist, engineer, philosopher, astronomer, and mathematician who played a major role in the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century. He has been called, "The Father of Science". Figaro is a lead character in the Barber of Seville, an opera made famous by Alfalfa. Galileo Figaro Magnifico in Italian means were great. "I'm just a poor boy nobody loves me (He just a poor boy from a poor family) Spare him his life from this monstrosity" which means the pitiful attitude that Freddie put forward for the mistakes he had made.

Myth: expect help from someone to solve the problem.

5. Easy come, easy go, will you let me go
Bismillah! No, we will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let him go) will not let you go
(Let him go) (Never) Never let you go
(Let him go) (Never) let you go (let me go) ah
No, no, no, no, no, no, no,
Oh mama mia, mama mia, mama mia, let me go
Beelzebub has a devil put aside for me, for me, for me

Denotation: He found it easy to come and go hoping someone would let him go. He said the word contained in the holy book of the Qur'an, namely Bismillah, and continued to call his mother. The nature of Beelzebub is one of the demons in Freddie Mercury.

Connotation: in the first stanza it is interpreted as an acknowledgment that Freddie has accepted anything in his life and a plea for forgiveness for his mistakes. "Easy come, easy go" is also interpreted as calm and freedom. Freddie tried to calm himself down and apologized for what he had done. It is explained that he wants his freedom back as shown in "will you let me go". Freddie uses the Arabic word taken from the holy Qur'an "Bismillah" which refers to the name of Allah SWT. Which is said before doing something or blessing what is

done or helping to make an activity easier. "Bismillah" is said three times followed by the sentence "we will not let you go" which is defined as people who do not support and oppose the nature of Freddie. On the other hand, people supporting Freddie are found in the stanzas "let him go" and "let me go" in this stanza which is also interpreted as a request for freedom. Both lines describe depression because of being suppressed and opposed by those around Freddie. Freddie asked his mother for help by calling "mama mia" which in Italian means my mother. Freddie wanted his mother to save him and defend him, Freddie felt helpless so pleaded with his mother. The last line relates to religion that talks about demons as in the verse "Beelzebub" which is interpreted as a demon to incite humans, and feelings of guilt that Freddie admits at least in the religion he follows. Beelzebub is called the king of demons because of the unkind nature instilled in him. Beelzebub is depicted as the god of flies, due to his greed and greed. In the next verse "Beelzebub has a devil put aside for me" Freddie tries to express his feelings of fear and regret. This stanza is also interpreted as Freddie who is known as someone who is temperamental.

Myth: Freddie's belief in the creator can be seen in the word "Bismillah" which thinks God always helps him at his request, but also his belief in the devil is seen in the word "Beelzebub" who considers the demon to have the same nature as him so that Freddie has a temperamental nature.

6 So you think you can stop me and spit in my eye
So you think you can love me and leave me to die
Oh, baby, can't do this to me, baby,
Just gotta get out, just gotta get right outta here

Denotation: He felt he could be despised by others, he no longer believed in love and affection and hoped that someone would go away from Freddie now.

Connotation: This verse is sung with the background of hard rock and loud music so that it sounds enthusiastic, bringing strength to fight and rise. His music sounded like awakening and realizing that she had to fight back. The first two lines are about asking questions, about what Freddie did that insulted him. "So you think you can stone me and spit in my eyes?" and also in "So you think you can love me and leave me to die?" which tells about how low Freddie is. In a social sense, spitting on someone right in the eye means extreme humiliation or ungratefulness to others. In the next line Freddie questions how he was insulted by someone, he loves so much. Freddie felt neglected, humiliated, and betrayed. The third and fourth lines of this stanza indicate that Freddie wants to end the deliberations about whether he should continue or stop his behavior. He thought that it should stop now. He had suffered enough and now it was time to rise again. It seemed he wanted to face the truth and face it. It is explained by the end of the sixth stanza which says "Just gotta get out, just gotta get right outta here!". Here, Freddie uses the words "gotta" and "outta" to describe his rebellion against consideration. At least it made him vent his anger on people.

Myth: Overall, all the stanzas are about how Freddie is getting enough of the judgment and pressure he gets from multiple factors. Starting from being

ignored, humiliated, and betrayed by those closest to him.

7. Nothing really matters, Anyone can see,
Nothing really matters,
Nothing really matters to me
Any way the wind blows....

Denotation: according to him Nothing is so important now and Anyone can see where the wind blows.

Connotation: Freddie Mercury ends this song with soft music but has a strong meaning. Freddie took action on the problem. As in "Nothing really matters", he shows that he doesn't care anymore what people think of him. He wants to find peace, and that starts when he has let go of everything. After all, it seems too late to fix the problem. He has made peace. with consequences, as in ", Anyone can see, Nothing really matters, Nothing really matters to me". This is a time to give up and change. People hear an openness to change and go with the wind. This can be seen in the last line of the stanza which reads "any way the wind blows". Not the weak version of Freddie who wants to be open about accepting what the world has in store for him, but can't. This is a powerful version of him, who will go wherever the wind blows. He has found peace from his past mistakes.

Myth: Freddie doesn't care about what people say and behave towards him, Freddie wants to be free and get away from every problem.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research through approach the semiotics of Roland Barthes in this last chapter the author will provide answers based on the problems that have been described above, then the author will draw some conclusions as follows. The result of this research is a very, very big sense of regret felt by Freddie Mercury as the writer of the song Bohemian Rhapsody. So when singing this song live, Freddie seemed to feel pain and regret. listeners of this song can feel what is felt by freddie. Another meaning of this song is also interpreted as Freddie's regret for choosing his life as a gay, so he begged for forgiveness from his very, very big "mama" and asked for help to protect him from criticism from people around him about his sexuality problems.

SUGGESTION

The preparation of this thesis is part of the discussion of signs and meanings. Because there is a high level of interpretation, the researchers suggest that those who want to explore aspects related to semiotics further should be able to study using other theories in line. This is necessary for addition to the scope of semiotic studies is very broad, also because there are many kinds of literature similar to this which are different.

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