

## Identifying the Meaning of a Textual Theme through a Song Based on Halliday's Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

The study is aimed to find out the textual theme meaning from the song lyrics. The problem raised in this research: What kinds of thematic meaning found in the song lyrics of "Always" by Bon Jovi?. To answer the problem, the researchers applied qualitative research. The content analysis method was adapted in this research. The method of collecting data, the researchers used documentation and literature study. The data source is the song lyrics of the "Always" song lyrics. The results of this research show that there are 64 data. The researchers finds four types are: (1) 33 data to Interjection, (2) 10 data to Causal, (3) 8 data to Additive, (4) 13 data to Adversative. The percentages in Always song lyrics are: (1) 51,56 % to Interjection (2) 15,62 % Causal, (3) 0 for Conditional, (4) 12,5 % to Additive, (5) 20,31 % to Adversative. This result of result is hoped to be useful for those who are interested in learning about functional grammar.

Keywords: **Song, Lyrics, Textual Meaning, Literature**

### INTRODUCTION

In globalization era, each people can not live independently without other's help or without adapt to the socialization. Herman and Pardede (2020:137) defined since language plays such an important role in communication, there is a thorough investigation into the topic. A language is used to communicate within a society, and it represents the character and manners of that community. Creatures primarily exist in civilization to communicate with one another. Communication denotes the most fundamental and fundamental communal procedure in human life. (Barus et al, 2020). Hence, Pardede and Herman (2020:292), language is used as a tool of communication, which means language is a meaning of communication that is used to interact and to strengthen relationships, such as getting or giving information and also to express their ideas or other activities (Hutabarat et al, 2020; Sinaga et al., 2020; Thao & Herman, 2020). This era, there are many ways to express communication such as knowing the hidden meaning from a song. Generally, music is the enjoyable thing to listen but sometimes to feel the music deeper, it needs to know the meaning in a song lyric. The meaning defined by the text or discourse is referred to as textual meaning. Textual adjustment, or finding the best equivalent of words, phrases, or sentences in the target language as required by the text or discourse, should be done during translation. The rhetoric of textual sovereignty, in which texts are seen to undermine themselves

without interference, collaborates with the textual meaning ambiguity of voices.. Textual meaning make the others meaning of a text or a song lyric and researchers asked to focus about the text. Textual meaning has its own kinds in grammar Language Meta function, in this lesson will be learnt about kinds of theme. So between the theme, there is a textual theme. It is must be given attention to the phrase or sentences that maybe make confuse. So, in the song lyric there is much ambiguity to the lyrics. We may be interested in at least three different interpretations. Others, such as Goffman's (1981) eavesdroppers and over hearers or anachronistic readers of historical texts, may have various viewpoints, and it is definitely possible that readers/recipients may have multiple interpretations of a text at different times or even concurrently. The aspect that serves as the point of departure of the message is called Theme, and it is used in song lyrics as a means of communication that has the quality of being meaningful. Theme is described by Halliday (1985:39) as the element in the textual sense that serves as "the starting point for the message: it is what the clause will be about." This study analyzes the textual meaning especially in textual theme meaning in "always" song lyrics by Bon Jovi.

## **METHOD**

Gathering information, recording evidence, and rummaging for information are all terms that are used interchangeably when it comes to research (Leedy & Ormrod, 2001). Qualitative research will apply in this research because the data is not a statistical data. Qualitative study, according to Leedy and Ormrod (2001), is less formal in definition because it formulates and constructs new hypotheses (Purba and Herman, 2020). This is a content analysis design. Document or content analysis, according to Ary et al. (2010:457), is a research tool used to analyze written or visual items with the aim of defining specific characteristics. Public records, textbooks, newspapers, emails, films, diaries, themes, studies, and other documents can be used (Nainggolan et al, 2021:366; Thao and Herman, 2021). This research is mainly investigating the Textual Theme Meaning in "Always" song lyrics by Bon Jovi.

The subject of this research is "Always" Song Lyrics. The reason that the researchers choose this song is the researchers will be able to analyze the data of Lyric in "Always" Song. The object of this research is textual theme meaning results of "Always" song lyrics by Bon Jovi. This song tells a story about a man that will do

everything for his lover and he will never leave her and will be always loving her forever.

In this research, the researchers used a laptop and dictionary to collect and classify the data. In this research, the researchers acted as the planner, data collector, data analyze and data interpreter in the analysis result. The research will be picked out in order to acquire ten strategies proposed by Halliday (1995) that has been explained before in previous point.

The data uses in this research are all will be taken from lyrics in the “Always” song. The researchers will use documentation and interviewing to collect the data. The observation will do by listening the song and identifying the textual theme meaning found in the song lyric. The data was analyzed by the following procedure: 1) The researchers listen to “Always” Song by Bon Jovi. 2) The researchers analyze the textual theme meaning in each sentence that will be classified based on the strategies by Halliday. 3) After Analyzing, The data will be classified and gathered based on Halliday’s Textual Theme Meaning. 4) After having classified, the data will be counted to know the frequency and percentage of each meaning. 5) Analyzing the textual theme meaning used and the percentage of each strategy.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Finding

After analyzing data by using Halliday’s classification of Textual Theme Meaning, the researchers finds 64 data which used in “*Always*” Song Lyrics

**Table 1. Frequency of Textual Theme in the Song**

No.	Types of Thematic	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Interjection	33	51,56 %
2.	Causal	10	15,62 %
3.	Conditional	-	-
4.	Additive	8	12,5 %
5.	Adversative	13	20,31 %
Total		64	99,99 %

### The Textual Theme Meaning Used in “Always” Song Lyrics

In this research, the writer is focused on the textual theme meaning used in *Always Song Lyrics*. This research, the writer found four textual theme meaning from five types textual theme meaning, there are Interjection, Causal, Additive and Adversative.

**Interjection**

The term "interjection" refers to a statement that emphasizes what is currently happening. It is a term used to describe a current phenomenon.

**This Romeo is bleeding,  
but you can't see his blood  
It's nothing but some feelings  
That this old dog kicked up**

In this lyrics, the man described as Romeo is getting hurt but his lover left him and she can't see how hurt Romeo is, this lyrics included to interaction because the interjection is tragedy or phenomenon that is happening.

**Causal**

Another type of continuative is the causal form, which describes the motive or cause between clauses.

**It's been raining since you left me  
Now I'm drowning in the flood  
You see I've always been a fighter  
But without you I give up**

In this lyrics, the "cause" of his lover left him is he give up, he always sad (drowning in the flood) and now, he's nothing without her.

**Additive**

Additive refers to a type of relation that links one clause to the next and connects the context or adds information between clauses.

**Now I can't sing a love song  
Like the way it's meant to be  
Well, I guess I'm not that good anymore  
But baby, that's just me**

In this lyrics, there are some lyrics addition because he just wanted to express his feelings by song even he won't be able to sing a love song anymore cause he's not fine.

**Adversative**

Adversative, on the other hand, is a relative that connects the opposite meanings of clauses and links one clause to the next.

**When he holds you close, when he pulls you near  
When he says the words  
You've been needing to hear, I'll wish I was him**

**'Cause these words are mine, to say to you'Til the end of time**

In this lyrics, he shows the conversely feelings or jealousy feelings which known as the conversely meaning. He is jealous because there is other man who takes care of his lover and he wishes it was him

**Discussion**

From the research, the researchers found 64 data that consist in four types of textual theme meaning from five types of textual theme meaning from “*Always*” Song Lyrics. The method of collecting data, the researchers uses documentation and interviewing study. The data source is the song lyrics of the “Always” song lyrics. The results of this research show that there are 64 data. The researchers finds four types are: (1) 33 data to Interjection, (2) 10 data to Causal, (3) 0 for Conditional, (4) 8 data to Additive, (5) 13 data to Adversative.

Previous study by Edwan Ali Firdaus Indonesia University of Education. The study, entitled “Textual Meaning in Song Lyrics”. The aim of the study was to determine the most common Topical Theme in song lyrics. The research questions were answered using Systemic Functional Grammar. The information was gathered from three Dream Theater lyrics on dreamtheater.net. The Halliday Theme and Rheme analytical frameworks were used to analyze the data. According to the findings, the most common theme is Topical Theme, which occurs 70 times (68.63 percent of the time), accompanied by Textual Theme, which appears 28 times (27,45 %), and Interpersonal Theme, which appears four times (3,92 %). The messages in the lyrics are all about love, which is divided into three separate perspectives, namely, love for an opposite sex, love for a son, and love for life.

**CONCLUSIONS**

From the song lyrics, the total number of data was 64 data, with the details: (1) 33 data to Interjection, (2) 10 data to Causal, (3) 8 data to Additive, (5) 13 data to Adversative. The percentages in Always song lyrics are: (1) 51,56 % to Interjection (2) 15,62 % for Causal, (3) 0 for Conditional, (4) 12,5 % to Additive, (5) 20,31 % to Adversative, movie is enjoyable way to be a research. Last but not least, the researchers hope that by this research, it can enrich knowledge about textual theme meaning and also song lyrics analysis. This is hoped that this research also can be as reference for English students in doing a research.

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