

How to Identify Context on Song Lyrics? A Case on Discourse Analysis on Eminem's Song Entitled "When I'm Gone"

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyzing a song lyric entitled "When I'm gone by eminem", The theme of the song is about Eminem's relationship between his daughter and his fans. Eminem's daughter feels disappointed towards his father because Eminem is always busy with his music business and barely spend his time with his family. Descriptive qualitative research was implemented in this research. The data used was a song entitled 'When I'm Gone'. This song was selected from internet randomly. This research focused to finding the four context, those are physical, epistemic, social context and Linguistics context. This research used the qualitative approach and the lyric as the data. The result show that all of the pragmatics context are found in this song.

Keywords: Context, discourse analysis, song, lyrics

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INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to express ideas in communication. For example: Spoken language, written language, sign language, body language. Humans cannot live without language because language is the medium of interaction and information transmission in life. As a means of communication, language allows speakers to talk about what is happening in a particular communicative situation. Moreover, language allows us to express almost everything: thoughts, ideas, feelings, desires, messages.

Hornby defines that language is a system of sounds and words used by humans to express their thoughts and feelings (Rao, 2021). According to Ramelan Language is an arbitrary system of sounds or sequences of speech sounds which is used or can be used to interpersonal communication. (Risdianto, 2016) In other word language is a system of sounds that function to convey feelings, thought and tool communication to interact with other people. The main role of language is to interact between people in a group. Therefore, language is never separated from humans. If not use language human activities will be difficult to understand.

According to Webster "Music is the science of art ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination and in temporal relationship to produce a composition having unity and continuity as well as rhythm, melody, and harmony as its elements" (Setyawan,

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2016). Music is a complex social behaviour and universal that contained an expression of human thoughts, ideas, opinion, and others (Debi, 2014). Music has become a part of everyday human life. In fact, there are people who make music a necessity of life.

Lyrics are words that make up a song usually consisting of verses and choruses. Lyrics. According to (Yang, 2014) 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. The singer sent some messages from their songs to the listener with general context. Moeliono (explained that song lyrics has two meanings as follows song lyrics as a literary work in the form of poetry which contains: outpouring of the heart and as the composition of a song. As a result of the connection between language and sound art, a solid work is formed in which the colour and melody of the singer's voice depend on the word of the word. In other words, lyrics are important in a song because they are the expression of the musician's stillness, what the musician sees, hears, and experiences. Lyrics not only convey the message the song wants to convey, but also play an important role in conveying the state of the listener. The lyrics there can ultimately be divided into good and bad songs. (Ravenek & Rudman, 2013)

To be more specific, researchers deal with discourse analysis because it is important in life. Researchers chose "When I'm Gone" to be analysed. Van Dijk (1997a) mentioned that discourse is usually identified as a form of spoken language, what is said in public speeches for example, or it could also refer to the ideas certain school thoughts, for instance the discourse of contemporary philosophies.

Marshall Bruce Mathers III, known globally as Eminem, is an American White rapper that was born on October 17, 1972 in St. Joseph Missouri. He is credited with popularizing hip hop in middle America and is critically acclaimed as one of the greatest rappers of all time. To deal with the inescapable racial barriers as a white rapper, Eminem decided to take his best approach by becoming a quality rapper and earning respect from the bottom-of-the-wall hip hop audience. The lyrics of rap song identically with the personal expression of a singer or songwriter. The song lyrics often contain rude words which is actually the expression of feeling of the singer. One of his songs "When I'm Gone" is a song about his daughter Hailie and his family about his status as a musician and a celebrity. This song released on 6th December 2005 that is part of his greatest hits compilation album entitled "Curtain Call: The Hits (2005).

The reason why researchers choose the song lyrics of "When I'm Gone" by Eminem is because researchers are interested in conducted analysis of discourse in this song lyrics. Besides, there are many people that love this song, but some of them didn't understand the meaning. The results of this study is expected to be useful as a reference for learning discourse analysis in pragmatics context in the song "when I am gone" by Eminem.

METHOD

This study used the qualitative approach which means that the data were analyzed qualitatively. Denzin and Lincon explained that qualitative research is conducted in a natural setting and involves a process of a building a complex and holistic picture of the phenomenon of interest as well as being inductive in nature (Ravenek & Rudman, 2013). Qualitative research involves the collection and analysis of non-numeric data about text, video or audio to understand concepts, opinions or experiences.

The data of this study were the song entitled "When I'm Gone by Eminem". The data includes by understanding the lyric which is taken from the relevant sources from the internet that may support the analysis and find the answer from the problems.

The methods used in collecting data were as follows:

1. Listening, Researchers listens to the lyrics of the song repeatedly and carefully to get the meaning and the feeling.
2. Analyzing, Researchers pay attention to each song lyrics to find out the meaning.

3. Reporting, The data which had been analyzed the researchers classified the data accordance with the formulation of the research problem.

One of the significant step of this study was data summarizing. This was conducted to know the result of the study. After all the data collected and classified in to language pragmatics in physical context, social context, epistemic context and linguistics context found in the song entitled When I'm Done.

The theme of the song is about Eminem's relationship between his daughter and his fans. Eminem's daughter feel disappointed towards his father because Eminem is always busy with his music business and barely spend his time with his family. In this song, Eminem wants to make the balance between his music career and his family.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting the data from the song lyrics "when I'm Gone by Eminem. The researchers analyze the data based on Discourse analysis context. Discourse analysis divided into situational context, grammatical context, and lexical context.

Song Lyrics of "When I'm Gone" by Eminem.

Yeah, it's my life

My own words, I guess

Have you ever loved someone so much

You'd give an arm for

Not the expression, no

Literally give an arm for

When they know they're your heart

And you know you are their armor

And you will destroy anyone who would try to harm her

But what happens when karma

Turns right around and bites you

And everything you stand for turns on you to spite you

What happens when you become the main source of her pain

"Daddy look what I made"

"Dad's gotta go catch a plane"

"Daddy where's mommy?"

I can't find mommy, where is she?"

"I don't know, go play, Hailie baby, your daddy's busy

Daddy's writing a song, this song ain't gon' write itself"

I give you one underdog, and you gotta swing by yourself

Then turn right around in that song and tell her you love her

And put hands on her mother who's the spittin' image of her

That's Slim Shady, yeah baby Slim Shady's crazy

Shady made me

But tonight, Shady's rock-a-bye baby

And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn

Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that

I'm lookin' down on you smilin'

And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back

And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn

Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that

I'm lookin' down on you smilin'

And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back

I keep havin' this dream

I'm pushin' Hailie on a swing, she keeps screamin', she don't want me to sing

"You're makin' mommy cry, why, why is mommy cryin'"

"Baby, daddy ain't leavin' no more, daddy you're lyin'
 You always say that, you always say this is the last time
 But you ain't leavin' no more daddy, you're mine"
 She's pilin' boxes in front of the door tryin' to block it
 "Daddy please, daddy, don't leave, daddy, no, stop it"
 Goes in her pocket, pulls out a tiny necklace locket
 It's got a picture, "This will keep you safe daddy, take it with ya"
 I look up, it's just me standin' in the mirror
 These fuckin' hwalls must be talkin', 'cause man I can hear 'em
 They're sayin', "you got one more chance to do right
 And it's tonight, now go out and show 'em that you love 'em before it's too late"
 And just as I go to walk out of my bedroom door
 It turns to a stage, they're gone and the spotlight is on and I'm singin'
 And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn
 Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that
 I'm lookin' down on you smilin'
 And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back
 And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn
 Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that
 I'm lookin' down on you smilin'
 And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back
 Sixty thousand people all jumpin' out their seat
 The curtain closes, they're throwin' roses at my feet
 I take a bow, and thank you all for comin' out
 They're screamin' so loud, I take one last look at the crowd
 I glance down, I don't believe what I'm seein'
 "Daddy, its me, help mommy, her wrists are bleedin'"
 But baby we're in Sweden
 How did you get to Sweden?
 "I followed you daddy
 You told me that you weren't leavin'
 You lied to me dad, and now you made mommy sad
 And I bought you this coin, it says number one dad
 That's all I wanted, I just want to give you this coin"
 "I get the point, fine, me and mommy are goin'"
 "But baby wait, it's too late dad, you made your choice
 Now go out there and show 'em that you love 'em more than us
 That's what they want
 They want you, Marshall
 They keep screamin' your name
 It's no wonder you can't go to sleep
 Just take another pill, yeah I bet you you will!
 You rap about it, yeah word, kid keep it real"
 I hear a applause, all this time I couldn't see
 How could it be, that the curtain is closin' on me
 I turn around, find a gun on the ground
 Cock it, put it to my brain, scream, "Die Shady!" And pop it
 The sky darkens, my life flashes
 The plane that I was supposed to be on, crashes, and burns to ashes
 That's when I wake up
 Alarm clock's ringing, there's birds singin'
 It's spring and Hailie's outside swingin'
 I walk right up to Kim and kiss her tell her I miss her

Hailie just smiles and winks at her little sister almost as if to say
 And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn
 Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that
 I'm lookin' down on you smilin'
 And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back
 And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn
 Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that
 I'm lookin' down on you smilin'
 And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain, just smile back

Situational Context

Situational context divided into three parts namely physical, epistemic, and social context.

1) Physical Context

These are some aspects of physical context and analysis from the lyrics. Based on the locational interpretation, in the music video and in the lyrics of this song it tells that takes place in Eminem's house while arguing with his daughter and also a big stage in Sweden when he perform in front of his fans.

This song is a storytelling where Eminem mostly tells about his relationship with his daughter. The song tells how much he loves his daughter although he is far away from his daughter. From the lyrics we know that there are a lot of conversation between Eminem and his daughter Hailie.

2) Epistemic Context

Based on Epistemic context, it can be seen from the lyrics that the song is a storytelling by Eminem. There is a common understanding between the singer/the writer of the song lyrics and the listener/reader that Eminem is trying to find the balance between being a responsible father and his music career.

3) Social Context

By listen to the lyrics or watching the video of the song, the social context that can be found in the song is the relationship between Eminem and his daughter Hailie, his relationship with his wife and also the relationship between Eminem and his fans.

a. Eminem's relationship with his daughter

The song lyrics that show his relationship with his daughter can be seen in the line 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 which means that heart here is Hailie's self while armor is Eminem's self. The metaphorical relationship between the two means that Eminem wants to protect his daughter Hailie who is part of his heart by becoming a protective shield for her. But Eminem realize that he is also becomes the main source of pain to his family especially his daughter Hailie. It can be known from the conversation between Eminem and his daughter Hailie that shows in line 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43 where Eminem is having a dream that he is arguing with Hailie. Hailie doesn't want Eminem to leave and perform she wants his father to stay with her. She even peeling the box in front of the door to block his father from leaving. In the other lines that show Hailie's disappointment towards his father can be seen in line 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 Which tell that Eminem having a dream that he perform in Sweden but Hailie suddenly appear in the middle of the crowd in Sweden. Hailie said 'And I bought you this coin, it says 'Number One Dad', Hailie loves her father so much that she bought a coin that says 'Number One Dad' to show her love for him. But Hailie gradually understood that her father prioritised his music career more than anything else over his role as a father and husband to his wife. In Hailie's perspective, her father is more concerned with money than her, as evidenced by the amount of time Eminem spends with fans rather than her.

b. Eminem's relationship with his wife

It can be seen in line 22, 23, and 24 which tells Eminem admitted that he once did something that should not be done to his wife, namely violence. Eminem tried to explain to Hailie that the one who committed the violence was not him, but the other side (Eminem's dark side) named Slim Shady. This 'Slim Shady' is what made him rich and famous.

c. Eminem relationship with his fans

Eminem's relationship with his fans can be seen in line 58, 59, 60, and 61. In these lyrics, it tells his relationship with his fans where Sixty thousands of his fans attend his performance in Sweden and his fans are throwing roses at his feet after a performance which is a great sign of appreciation and scream loudly.

Grammatical Analysis

The part of grammatical that we analyze is Conjunction. Conjunction is a form of word that in a sentence has a function to connect sentence. So it has the ability to link or combine clauses with clauses, sentences with sentences, and also between paragraph and paragraphs. There are some conjunction For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So, Then, That, etc. We found that the analysis of conjunction there are 6 kinds of conjunction namely; and, but, that, when, so, and then.

The most conjunction that is used in this song lyrics is "And" with total 27 line it can be found in line 8,9,11,12,20,21,22,26,29,30,33,49,50,53,60,68,69,71,73,83,85,88,90,91,94,95 and 98. The least conjunction that is used in this song lyric is "Then" just one in line 21.

Lexical Analysis

The part of lexical that we analyze is repetition. Repetition is the repeating of word, sentence, and phrase two or more times in a written work. The sentence "And when I'm gone just carry on don't mourn" is repeated in line 26,30, 50, 54, 91, and 95. The sentence "Rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice, just know that" is repeated in line 27, 31, 51, 55, 92, and 96. The sentence "I'm lookin' down on you smiling" is repeated in line 28, 32, 52, 56, 93, and 97. The sentence "And I didn't feel a thing so baby, don't feel no pain just smile back" is repeated in line 29, 33, 53, 57, 94, and 98.

CONCLUSIONS

The song lyrics "When I'm gone" by Eminem talks about Eminem's actual relationship with his daughter where His daughter feels disappointed towards his father because Eminem is always busy with his music business and barely spend time with his family. Eminem released this song to express his feeling where he wanted to make the balance between his family life and his music career. After analysing the song lyrics "When I'm Gone by Eminem" there are several contexts of discourse analysis that researchers analysed. Discourse analysis divided into situational context, grammatical context and lexical context. Situational context divided into three parts namely physical, epistemic, and social context. In grammatical context, the researchers analyse the conjunction. There are 6 kinds of conjunction namely; and, but, that, when, so, and then. The most used conjunction in the song lyrics is "And" with total 27 lines. And the least conjunction is "then" with only one line that is found in line 21. In lexical context, the researchers analyse the repetition. In the song lyrics, there are four sentences that are repeated six times in the chorus.

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