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# CONNOTATIVE MEANINGS IN THE SELECTED ARIANA GRANDE'S SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRACT

This research is entitled "Connotative Meaning in Song Lyrics on Ariana Grande's Album". This research aims to identify the connotative meaning in the song lyrics on several of Ariana Grande's albums, classify the types of connotations, and explain the connotative meaning. This research uses a descriptive method. In collecting data, the writer focuses on words, phrases, and clauses with connotative meanings and classifies them based on Olikova's theory in Stylistic and Social Cognition (2007) which classifies connotative meanings into positive and negative meanings. The result of this research is that thirty words, twenty phrases, and three clauses contain connotative meanings in the song lyrics, and the connotative meanings have variations in their descriptions.

**Keywords:** *Connotative Meanings; Types of Connotative; Ariana Grande; Song Lyrics*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Meaning has a very broad meaning. Meaning is the intent of speech, the influence of language units in understanding the perception or behavior of humans or human groups, the relationship in the sense of equivalence between language and nature outside the language, or between speech and all the things it addresses, how to use language symbols (Kridalaksana, 2008: 148). Meaning is the link that exists between the elements of the language itself (Djajasudarma, 2008: 5). Chaer (in Amilia & Widyaruli, 2017) explains that the relationship between words and concepts or meanings, as well as objects or things referred to by meanings that are outside the language world, is called a referential relationship. The word meaning refers to a very broad range of meanings. Although meaning involves language, its connection and attachment to all aspects of human life are very close. Therefore, no one has been able to explain it completely. There are several types of meaning, one of which is connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the addition of meaning to the actual meaning of the word.

Connotative meaning is the meaning of a word that has been added to its basic meaning, also known as additional meaning (Aminuddin, 2001: 88).

A word is said to have a connotative meaning if it has a "sense value", either positive or negative. flavor value is divided into two, namely positive and negative, there are also neutral ones (Chaer, 2009: 65). A word that has a positive meaning describes cheerfulness and enthusiasm so that it can stimulate the motivation of the reader, while a word that has a negative meaning if the meaning leads to fear, scorn, contempt, and sadness so that the reader can feel negative emotions towards something that is read or heard. Connotative meaning cannot be separated from denotative meaning because they influence each other. Connotative meanings are found in poems, short stories, novels, and songs.

A song is a combination of music and words. According to Wellek and Warren (1989: 14-15) because of this ambiguous and expressive nature, literary language tends to influence, persuade, and ultimately change the attitude of the reader. Songs are the author's medium for conveying his feelings and messages to listeners. The

word song has the meaning of various rhythmic sounds (Moeliono, 2003: 624). Songs are the result of the relationship between sound art and language art. As a work of sound art, it involves the melody and color of the singer's voice. Song lyrics are an expression expressed by someone about something they have heard, seen, and experienced.

Lyrics are a series of words arranged into several lines. Song lyrics have two meanings, namely as literary works in the form of poetry that contain outpourings of the heart, and as the composition of a song (Moeliono, 2007: 628). Lyric or song verses can be considered poetry or vice versa, including not only literary types but also advertising expressions, sayings, mottos, prayers, and pop song verses (Luxemburg, 1989).

Based on the explanation presented above, which focuses on researching positive and negative connotative meanings using the theory according to Olikova in *Stylistic and Social Cognition (2007)* which classifies connotative meanings into positive and negative meanings, then analyzes the connotative meanings of 16 song lyrics in six Ariana Grande albums.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

The use of research methods in this study is a qualitative method and descriptive analysis, namely identifying, classifying, and analyzing data regarding the meaning of the lyrics of several Ariana Grande albums. This descriptive qualitative approach argues that there are several positive and negative connotative meanings and that the meanings are contained in the lyrics of several Ariana Grande albums.

## III. DISCUSSION AND FINDING

Ariana Grande was born on June 26, 1993, in Boca Raton, Florida is an American singer who has released six albums. Ariana recorded her debut album, *Yours Truly* and she completed the album in June 2013, her second album on August 25, 2014, entitled *My Everything*, her third album entitled *Be Alright* in March 2016, the fourth album was released on April 20, 2018, with the title *No Tears Left to Cry*, her fifth album entitled *Thank U, Next* was released on November 3, 2018, and the sixth album entitled *Positions* was released on October 30, 2020. There are many songs from Ariana Grande, but the author only chooses 16 songs from Ariana's album. Consists of one song from the first album entitled "*The Way*" in collaboration with Mac Miller. Four songs from the second album were titled "*Problem*" in collaboration with Iggy Azalea, "*Bang Bang*" in collaboration with Jessie J and Nicki Minaj, "*One Last Time*", and "*Break Free*". Four songs from the third album titled "*Dangerous Woman*", "*Side to Side*" in collaboration with Nicki Minaj, "*Into You*", and "*Let Me Love You*" in collaboration with Lil Wayne. Two songs from the fourth album "*God Is a Woman*" and "*No Tears Left to Cry*". Two songs from the fifth album titled "*Thank U, Next*" and "*7 Rings*", and three songs from the sixth album titled "*Positions*", "*34+35*", and "*POV*".

### Positive Connotative Meaning

#### Data 1

*Oh, so crazy you get my heart jumping, when you put your lips on mine* (Line 28, from the lyrics of the song "*The Way*").

The root word of jumping is jump. According to *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)*, the word jump means *location*. *ski jump* means *tempt loncatan ski*, *high jump* means *loncat tinggi*, *broad jump* means *lompat jauh*, and there are 23 other translations (page 421).

The connotative meaning of the word *jumping* in the context of the video means racing. The song lyrics above tell that the object of the heart becomes excited or nervous because of an action taken by her boyfriend who has kissed her. The word *jumping* is included in the positive connotative type of pleasant and good taste value because the word *jumping* from the lyrics of this song shows that the mood of the heart becomes happy and the environment becomes harmonious.

#### **Data 2**

*"But baby you're an adventure so let me come and explore you."* (Line 55, from the lyrics of the song "The Way").

In *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)*, the word *adventure* means *petualangan* (page 17). The connotative meaning of the word *adventure* in the context of the video is challenge. The song lyrics above tell that women as life partners are given the image of being a challenge to their male partners who are curious about the woman and want to get to know more. The word *adventure* is included in the positive connotative type of good and higher taste value, because the word *adventure* from the lyrics of this song shows that the feelings, thoughts, physicality, and characteristics possessed by the partner need to be learned and understood.

#### **Data 3**

*"She got a body like an hourglass, but I can give it to you all the time"* (Lines 1-2, from the lyrics of the song "Bang Bang").

In *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)*, the word *hourglass* means *jam pasir* (page 380). The connotative meaning of the word *hourglass* in the context of the video means ideal. The lyrics of the song above tell that the object of a woman's body shape is an ideal shape. The word *hourglass* is included in the positive connotative

type of refined and polite sense of meaning because the word *hourglass* from the lyrics of this song describes that the ideal body shape is a stereotype for people in general as healthy and beautiful.

#### **Data 4**

*"It's Myx Moscato, It's frizz in a bottle, It's Nicki full throttle, it's oh oh."* (Lines 24-26, from the lyrics of the song "Bang Bang").

The phrase full throttle consists of the basic words full and throttle. In accordance with *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)* the word full means *penuh*. *Please give your name in full* means *harap berikan nama lengkap Anda*, *I enjoyed the performance to the full* meaning *saya menikmati pertunjukan itu sepenuhnya*, *my heart is full* means *hati saya penuh*, and there are 66 other translations (pages 325-326). The word *throttle* means *a katup penghambat atau penutup, klep penutup, mencekek, membredel, memberangus, dan memperlambat* (page 739).

The connotative meaning of the phrase *full throttle* in the context of the video means high speed. The song lyrics above define that the sentences spoken by singer Nicki Minaj are very fast. The phrase *full throttle* is included in the positive connotative type with a higher sense of value because the phrase *full throttle* from the lyrics of this song defines the special skill of singer Nicki Minaj in singing lyrics very quickly.

#### **Data 5**

*It's me, Jessie, and Ari, If they test me they're sorry.* (Lines 36-37, from the lyrics of the song "Bang Bang").

In *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)*, the word *sorry* means *maaf*. *I'm sorry it happened* means *saya menyesal bahwa hal itu terjadi*, *you will be sorry for it* means *kau akan menyesalinya atau menyesalkannya*, *It*

*was a sorry sight* means *itu merupakan pemandangan yang menyedihkan*, *sorry to have kept you waiting* means *maaf membiarkan tuan menunggu lama*, *to feel sorry* means *jatuh hati*, *I feel sorry for him* means *saya merasa kasihan kepadanya* (page 677).

The connotative meaning of the word *sorry* in the context of the video means regret. The lyrics of the song above tell that if someone tests or challenges their abilities, they will regret it. The word *sorry* is included in the positive connotative type of good and gentle feeling, because the word *sorry* from the lyrics of this song tells that do not underestimate something or someone or you will regret it in the future.

### Negative Connotative Meaning

#### Data 1

“*Head in the clouds, got no weight on my shoulders, I should be wiser, and realize that I've got.*” (Lines 9-10, from the lyrics of the song "*The Problem*").

The phrase *head in the clouds* consists of the words head, in, the, and cloud. According to *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)* the word head means *kepala*. *My head aches* mean *kepala saya sakit*, *head of an office* means *kepala kantor*, *head of the family* means *kepala keluarga*, and there are 90 other translations (pages 365-366). The word in means *kedudukan atau pengaruh*. *Ins and outs* mean *seluk beluk*, *I know the ins and outs of the matter* means *saya tahu duduknya perkara*, *in New York* means *di New York*, and there are 64 other translations (page 393). The word the means *artikel*, and *kata penunjuk*. *The elephant is an animal* means *gajah adalah seekor binatang*, *the Browns* means *keluarga Browns*, *the show* means *pertunjukan itu*, and there are 14 other translations (pages 732-733), and the word cloud means *awan*. *To be in the clouds* means *melayang-layang bahagia sekali*, *she seems to live in the clouds* means

*kelihatannya ia bahagia sekali*, *to be under a cloud* means *dalam keadaan yang dicurigai*, and there are 18 other translations (page 150).

The connotative meaning of the phrase *head in the clouds* in the context of the video means that the head feels lighter. The song lyrics above tell that a person feels that his head feels lighter because he doesn't feel the burden anymore. The phrase *head in the clouds* is included in the negative connotative type of bad and unpleasant taste value, because the phrase *head in the clouds* from the lyrics of this song tells that a person who is not wise in thinking makes a decision so that he gets into trouble.

#### Data 2

“*Smart money betting I'll be better off without you.*”  
(Line 23, from the lyrics of the song "*The Problem*").

The clause *smart money betting* consists of the root words smart, money, and betting. According to *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)* the word smart means *pintar*. *Smart boy* means *anak yang cerdas*, *to walk at a smart pace* means *berjalan dengan langkah yang cepat*, *she thinks it's smart to...* means *disangkanya baik untuk...*, and there are 14 other translations (page 668). The word money means *uang*. *Pay no money down* means *tidak perlu membayar uang panjar*, *to make money* means *memperoleh banyak uang*, *paper money* means *uang kertas*, and there are 13 other translations (page 479), and the word betting means *bertaruh*. *Betting is legal* means *bertaruh diizinkan* (page 78).

The connotative meaning of the clause *smart money betting* in the context of the video means confidently betting money. The song lyrics above tell that a person feels confident in betting money he feels better without his partner. The clause *smart money betting* is included in the negative connotative type of bad taste value, because

the phrase *smart money betting* from the lyrics of this song tells that gambling is a good thing.

### Data 3

“*In no time I'll be forgetting all about you.*” (Line 24, from the lyrics of the song “*The Problem*”).

The phrase *no time* consists of the root words *no*, and *time*. According to *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)* the word *no* means *tidak*. *I'm not going* means *saya tak akan pergi*, *why not?* means *mengapa tidak?* *not everybody come* means *tidak semua orang datang*, and there are 22 other translations (pages 493-494), and the word *time* means *waktu*. *To learn to tell time* means *belajar mengenal waktu*, *it's time to go* means *tiba waktu untuk pergi*, *this time next year* means *tahun depan pada waktu ini*, and there are 112 other translations (pages 742-743).

The connotative meaning of the phrase *no time* in the context of the video means as soon as possible. The song lyrics above tell that a person feels that soon he forgets someone. The phrase *no time* is included in the negative connotative type of disrespectful taste value, because the phrase *no time* from the lyrics of this song tells that trivializing or underestimating someone.

### Data 4

“*She got a booty like a Cadillac, But I can send you into overdrive (oh)*”. (Line 4, from the lyrics of the song “*Bang Bang*”).

In *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)*, the word *overdrive* means *gir tambahan dan alat penambah kecepatan* (page 515). The connotative meaning of the word *overdrive* in the context of the video means enjoyment. The song lyrics above tell the story of a woman who can give pleasure to a man. The word *overdrive* is included in the negative connotative type of

lower taste value and is not good, because the word *overdrive* from the lyrics of this song tells of an affair.

### Data 5

“*She might've let you hold her hand in school, But, Imma shows you how to graduate, No, I don't need to hear you talk the talk, Just come and show me what your momma gave.*” (Line 19, from the lyrics of the song “*Bang Bang*”).

The phrase *the talk* comes from the root words *talk* and according to *An English-Indonesian Dictionary (2023)* the word *talk* means *pembicaraan, percakapan, dan perbincangan*. *The talks between the two leaders* means *pembicaraan-pembicaraan*, *have a talk with him* means *bicaralah dengan dia*, *he gave a good talk* means *Ia mengadakan ceramah yang baik*, and there are 46 other translations (page 724), and the word *the* means *artikel, and kata penunjuk*. *The elephant is an animal that* means *gajah adalah seekor binatang*, *the Browns* means *keluarga Browns*, *the show* means *pertunjukan itu*, and there are 14 other translations (pages 732-733).

The connotative meaning of the phrase *talk the talk* in the context of the video means bullshit. The song lyrics above tell that a woman doesn't want to listen to a man with his confidence in speaking who is considered nonsense or doesn't match his words. The phrase *talk the talk* is included in the negative connotative type of bad taste value, because the phrase *talk the talk* from the lyrics of this song tells that talking does not match the reality and cannot prove the truth.

## IV. CONCLUSION

In this chapter the author draws overall conclusions based on the data analyzed in the previous chapter. After analyzing the context of Ariana Grande's song lyrics in six albums entitled *Yours Truly*, *My Everything*, *Dangerous*



*Woman, Sweetener, Thank U, Next, and Positions*, it can be concluded that the use of positive and negative connotative meanings in song lyrics is to convey the message of the song. Positive and negative connotative meanings are used in writing the lyrics to make the song interesting for music listeners or readers to read the lyrics or listen to the song. Although there are many words, phrases, and clauses that are very difficult to interpret their true meaning, many song lyrics include positive and negative connotative meanings by the author to make the lyrics sound very interesting. Based on the results of the research, it was found that out of five albums, positive connotative meanings amounted to 31 lyrics, and negative connotative meanings amounted to 22 out of 16 songs.

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