

Denotative and Connotative Meanings in the Religious Song “Angel” by Libera: A Semantic Perspective

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Abstract. *This study explores the song Angel by Libera through a semantic perspective. The main aim of this research is to identify and explain the denotative and connotative meanings found in the lyrics. Semantics is used as the main theory to understand how meaning is formed in language, especially in song lyrics. The data used in this study come from the lyrics of the song Angel. The analysis shows that the lyrics contain both literal meanings (denotative) and implied meanings (connotative). The denotative meanings refer to words like angel, light, voice, and wings in their direct sense, while the connotative meanings reflect deeper ideas such as protection, hope, spiritual guidance, peace, and emotional comfort. The findings indicate that the song does not only communicate simple messages through words, but also conveys emotional and spiritual meanings that can be interpreted in different ways by listeners. Therefore, semantic analysis helps uncover the hidden meanings behind the lyrics and shows how language is used to express human feelings and spiritual values.*

Keywords: *Semantics; Denotative Meaning; Connotative Meaning; Song Lyrics; Angel*

Abstrak. *Penelitian ini mengkaji lagu “Angel” karya Libera dari sudut pandang semantik. Tujuan utama penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan makna denotatif dan konotatif yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu tersebut. Semantik digunakan sebagai teori utama untuk memahami bagaimana makna terbentuk dalam bahasa, khususnya dalam lirik lagu. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini berasal dari lirik lagu “Angel”. Analisis menunjukkan bahwa lirik tersebut mengandung makna literal (denotatif) dan makna tersirat (konotatif). Makna denotatif merujuk pada kata-kata seperti malaikat, cahaya, suara, dan sayap dalam arti harfiahnya, sedangkan makna konotatif mencerminkan gagasan yang lebih dalam seperti perlindungan, harapan, bimbingan spiritual, kedamaian, dan hiburan emosional. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa lagu tersebut tidak hanya menyampaikan pesan sederhana melalui kata-kata, tetapi juga menyampaikan makna emosional dan spiritual yang dapat ditafsirkan dengan berbagai cara oleh pendengar. Oleh karena itu, analisis semantik membantu mengungkap makna tersembunyi di balik lirik dan menunjukkan bagaimana bahasa digunakan untuk mengekspresikan perasaan manusia dan nilai-nilai spiritual.*

Kata kunci: *Semantik; Makna Denotatif; Makna Konotatif; Lirik Lagu; Angel*

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Music is not only created for entertainment, but it can also be a way to express feelings, thoughts, and even spiritual messages. Many people enjoy listening to songs because they feel connected to the meaning behind the lyrics. In semantics, meaning becomes an important thing to discuss since every word or expression can have different interpretations. Some meanings are clear and literal, while others carry deeper emotions, beliefs, or personal experiences.

In semantic studies, meaning is usually divided into denotative and connotative meaning. Denotative meaning refers to the direct or dictionary meaning of a word, while connotative meaning relates to the implied, emotional, or symbolic meaning behind it. Song lyrics often use connotative meaning to make the message more touching and meaningful for listeners.

One song that contains many emotional and spiritual expressions is *Angel* by Libera. Although the lyrics seem simple and gentle, several words and phrases actually have deeper meanings connected to hope, protection, guidance, peace, and faith. The song also builds a sacred and calming atmosphere through expressions like “angel,” “light,” “heaven,” and “voices from above,” which are commonly linked to spirituality and religious values.

For this reason, the song is interesting to analyze from a semantic perspective, especially through denotative and connotative meaning. Through this study, the writer aims to understand how the lyrics convey emotional and spiritual messages through language and symbolic expressions.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, the research questions in this study are:

1. What denotative meanings can be found in the lyrics of the song *Angel* by Libera?
2. What connotative meanings are expressed through the lyrics of the song *Angel*?
3. How do the lyrics convey emotional and spiritual messages through semantic meaning?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, this study has several objectives. First, it aims to identify the denotative meanings found in the lyrics of the song *Angel* by Libera. Second, this study aims to analyze the connotative meanings contained in the lyrics. Finally, the study also seeks to understand how the song conveys emotional and spiritual messages through semantic meaning.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Denotative and Connotative Meaning

In semantics, meaning becomes the main thing discussed in language. People usually do not understand words only from their literal meaning, but also from the feelings, ideas, and messages behind them. Because of that, semantics is important in analyzing song lyrics, since many songs use words and expressions that contain deeper emotional and symbolic meanings.

Basically, meaning can be divided into two types: denotative and connotative meaning. Denotative meaning refers to the direct or dictionary meaning of a word. This meaning is clear and easy to understand because it does not involve personal interpretation. In song lyrics, denotative meaning helps listeners understand the basic message that the songwriter wants to deliver.

Meanwhile, connotative meaning relates to the implied or hidden meaning behind certain words or expressions. This type of meaning is often connected to emotions, experiences, beliefs, and imagination. Because of this, one lyric can sometimes give different interpretations to different listeners depending on how they understand the song.

The song *Angel* by Libera contains many expressions that can be understood both literally and emotionally. Several words in the lyrics describe angels, light, voices, and protection, but at the same time they also create deeper meanings related to peace, guidance, hope, and spirituality. These elements make the song interesting and suitable to be analyzed through denotative and connotative meaning.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section discusses the denotative and connotative meanings found in the lyrics of the song *Angel* by Libera. The analysis focuses on how the lyrics express emotional and spiritual meanings through words, phrases, and symbolic expressions. Besides their literal meanings, several lyrics in the song also carry deeper interpretations related to hope, guidance, protection, peace, and spirituality.

3.1 Lyrics Analyzed

The following lyrics from the song “Angel” by Libera are analyzed in this study:

Angel, take your wings and fly
As you watch over me
Guide me through my dark of night
And be my guiding light

Angel, you have found a way
Never fearful to stay
You will be a friend to me
Angel, spread your wings and fly
Angels' voices, in glory
Grant them peace
For you're always near to me, in my joy and my sorrow
For you're always caring for me and you lift my spirits to the sky
Where a million angels sing, in amazing harmony
And they bring the words of love
To the never-ending story
A million voices sing
To the miracle of light
So I hide beneath your wing
You're my guardian, my angel
Sing, heavenly choir of angels
Come, let us adore Him forever
Sing the psalms to all eternity
Praise God in glory
Can you be my angel now, watching over me?
Encourage and inspire me, to endure our journey
If I truly can be your friend, from all cares set free
Would the clouds pass away, and then I'd be an angel too.
Angels' voices in glory
Grant them peace
For you're always near to me
In my joy and my sorrow
For you're always caring for me
And you lift my spirits to the sky
Where a million angels sing, in amazing harmony
And they bring the words of love
To the never-ending story

A million voices sing
To the miracle of light
So I hide beneath your wing
You're my guardian, my angel
My angel

3.2 Analysis of Denotative and Connotative Meaning

First Stanza

“Angel take your wings and fly, watching over me”

Denotatively, this line describes an angel flying while watching over someone. Literally, the word “angel” refers to a spiritual being, and “wings” symbolize the ability to fly. Connotatively, the lyric represents protection, comfort, and divine care. The phrase “watching over me” gives the impression that the speaker feels protected by a higher spiritual presence.

“See me through my night time and be my leading light”

Literally, this line asks the angel to guide someone during the night and become a source of light. Connotatively, “night time” symbolizes fear, sadness, confusion, or difficult moments in life. Meanwhile, “leading light” represents hope, guidance, and faith. The lyric suggests that the speaker needs spiritual support to face struggles and uncertainty.

“Angel you have found the way, never fear to tread”

Denotatively, this line describes the angel knowing the right path without feeling afraid. Connotatively, it symbolizes confidence, faith, and spiritual guidance. The lyric shows the angel as a figure that gives reassurance and safety to the speaker.

“You'll be a friend to me, angel spread your wings and fly”

Literally, the lyric describes the angel becoming a friend and flying with its wings. Connotatively, the line represents emotional comfort and companionship. The angel is not only described as a heavenly being, but also as a symbol of peace and support during emotional struggles.

Second Stanza

“Voces angelorum gloria, dona eis pacem”

Denotatively, this Latin phrase means “Glorious voices of angels, grant them peace.” Connotatively, the use of Latin creates a sacred and spiritual atmosphere that is often associated with church hymns and prayers. The phrase emphasizes peace, holiness, and divine presence.

“For you're always near to me, in my joy and my sorrow”

Literally, this line means that someone is always present during both happy and sad moments. Connotatively, it symbolizes unconditional spiritual support and comfort. The lyric suggests that divine presence remains constant through every human experience.

“For you ever care for me, lifting my spirits to the sky”

Denotatively, this line describes someone caring for another person and lifting their spirit upward. Connotatively, “lifting my spirits” symbolizes encouragement, emotional healing, and hope. The phrase “to the sky” also carries spiritual meaning connected to heaven and peace.

“Where a million angels sing, in amazing harmony”

Literally, this lyric describes many angels singing together harmoniously. Connotatively, it creates an image of heaven, peace, and spiritual unity. The harmony of angels symbolizes purity and divine beauty.

Third Stanza

“And the words of love they bring, to the never ending story”

Denotatively, this line talks about words of love being brought into an endless story. Connotatively, it symbolizes eternal love, hope, and spiritual continuity. The phrase “never ending story” may represent everlasting faith and the continuous journey of human life.

“A million voices sing, to the wonder of the light”

Literally, the lyric describes many voices singing about light. Connotatively, “light” symbolizes holiness, hope, truth, and divine guidance. The phrase creates a peaceful and sacred atmosphere throughout the song.

“So I hide beneath your wing, you are my guardian, angel of mine”

Denotatively, the line describes someone hiding beneath an angel’s wing. Connotatively, it symbolizes safety, protection, and trust. The expression “guardian angel” reflects the belief that a spiritual figure protects and guides humans through life.

Repeated Lines

"For you're always near to me, in my joy and my sorrow"

This lyric is repeated in the song to emphasize the feeling of comfort, peace, and spiritual presence experienced by the speaker during both joyful and difficult moments.

"A million voices sing, to the wonder of the light"

The repetition of this lyric strengthens the spiritual atmosphere of the song and highlights the ideas of harmony, hope, and divine light.

"Angel of mine"

This repeated phrase emphasizes the emotional closeness and spiritual connection between the speaker and the angel figure. It also strengthens the themes of protection and guidance that appear throughout the song *Angel* by Libera.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the song *Angel* by Libera contains many expressions that can be understood through both denotative and connotative meaning. Denotatively, the lyrics describe angels, voices, light, harmony, and protection. Meanwhile, connotatively, the song carries deeper meanings related to hope, peace, spiritual guidance, faith, and emotional comfort.

Several expressions in the lyrics symbolize spiritual experiences and divine presence rather than only their literal meanings. Phrases such as "leading light," "voices from above," and "guardian angel" help create a sacred and emotional atmosphere throughout the song. These meanings also show how the lyrics reflect feelings of protection, safety, and closeness to a higher spiritual power.

Through a semantic perspective, this study shows that song lyrics can deliver messages not only in a direct way, but also symbolically and emotionally. Therefore, denotative and connotative meanings play important roles in helping listeners understand the deeper messages contained in the song.

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