



## An Analysis of Lexical Relations in the Song ‘Someone You Loved’ by Lewis Capaldi from a Lexical Semantics Perspective

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**Abstract.** *This research intends to examine the lexical connections present in the song “Someone You Loved” by Lewis Capaldi through the lens of lexical semantics. The study is centered on uncovering various categories of lexical relations, including synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and repetition found in the lyrics of the song. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive approach, the research gathers data from the song's lyrics and interprets it according to lexical semantics theories. The results indicate the presence of multiple lexical relations that enhance the emotional richness and significance of the lyrics. Synonymy serves to reinforce comparable concepts, while antonymy emphasizes differences in emotions, especially regarding love, grief, and isolation. Additionally, repetition is often observed, highlighting the emotional strength of the narrator's experiences. These lexical connections not only improve the song's artistic appeal but also assist listeners in grasping the deeper message. In summary, the incorporation of lexical relations within the song is crucial for transmitting meaning and emotional expression, making it a valuable topic for analysis in lexical semantics.*

**Keywords:** *lexical relations, lexical semantics, song lyrics, Someone You Loved, semantic analysis*

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji hubungan leksikal yang terdapat dalam lagu “Someone You Loved” karya Lewis Capaldi melalui lensa semantik leksikal. Studi ini berpusat pada pengungkapan berbagai kategori hubungan leksikal, termasuk sinonim, antonim, hiponim, dan pengulangan yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu tersebut. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini mengumpulkan data dari lirik lagu dan menafsirkannya sesuai dengan teori semantik leksikal. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya berbagai hubungan leksikal yang meningkatkan kekayaan emosional dan signifikansi lirik. Sinonim berfungsi untuk memperkuat konsep yang sebanding, sementara antonim menekankan perbedaan emosi, terutama mengenai cinta, kesedihan, dan isolasi. Selain itu, pengulangan sering diamati, menyoroti kekuatan emosional dari pengalaman narator. Hubungan leksikal ini tidak hanya meningkatkan daya tarik artistik lagu tetapi juga membantu pendengar dalam memahami pesan yang lebih dalam. Singkatnya, penggabungan relasi leksikal dalam lagu sangat penting untuk menyampaikan makna dan ekspresi emosional, menjadikannya topik yang berharga untuk dianalisis dalam semantik leksikal.

**Kata kunci:** relasi leksikal, semantik leksikal, lirik lagu, Someone You Loved, analisis semantik

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language acts as a vital instrument for human interaction, utilized not just for sharing information daily but also as a means of showcasing emotions, thoughts, and creative expression. Among the most emotive expressions of language can be found in the lyrics of songs. Song lyrics are regarded as a literary form that merges language elements with artistic flair, giving listeners the opportunity to derive different interpretations of meaning.

In the field of linguistics, meaning is studied through semantics, especially lexical semantics. This branch of semantics focuses on word meanings and the connections that exist between them in a given language framework. An essential component of lexical semantics is the concept of lexical relations, which illustrate how words are related based on their meanings. These relationships encompass synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and repetition. Each of these connections is crucial for influencing meaning, highlighting concepts, and establishing unity in a text.

Song lyrics often utilize lexical relations intentionally to amplify emotional expression and offer deeper understanding. By carefully choosing words and employing repetition, songwriters can successfully convey complex emotions like love, sadness, longing, and grief. Thus, examining lexical relations in song lyrics can reveal how meaning is created and how feelings are conveyed to the listener. Lewis Capaldi's song "Someone You Loved" stands out as a deeply emotional piece highlighting themes of heartbreak, solitude, and loss. The lyrics include numerous lexical components that make it ideal for analysis, especially from a lexical semantics viewpoint.

With this context in mind, the research questions for this study are: What kinds of lexical relations can be identified in the song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi? This study is designed to recognize and explore the lexical relations present in the song's lyrics. The importance of this research is anticipated to enhance the understanding of how lexical relations aid in the construction of meaning and emotional expression in song lyrics while also broadening knowledge within the realm of lexical semantics

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Relevant Theories**

Lexical semantics refers to a sector within linguistics centered around the investigation of the meanings of words and their interconnections in a language framework. As noted by Cruse (2000), this field examines not just the definitions of single lexical elements but also how meanings are formulated through their

links with other words in various contexts. Consequently, the significance of words is not a standalone concept; instead, it is dependent on relationships and contextual nuances, particularly in forms of discourse like literary works and song lyrics.

Saeed (2016) points out that lexical semantics looks into how meanings are structured at the word level, as well as how these lexical elements come together to yield a coherent understanding. From this perspective, meaning arises from the systematic connections among lexical units rather than from definitions that stand alone. This viewpoint proves crucial when dissecting expressive materials like song lyrics, where meaning is frequently subtle, emotionally charged, and constructed in relation to its context.

A key element of lexical semantics involves lexical relations, which denote the structured connections among words grounded in their meanings. Lexical relations are crucial for comprehending texts as they link lexical elements into coherent networks of meaning.

The main types of lexical relations relevant to this study include:

- Synonymy, which refers to a relationship between words that have similar meanings.
- Antonymy, which refers to words that have opposite meanings.
- Hyponymy, which refers to hierarchical semantic relationships.
- Repetition, which emphasizes meaning and emotional intensity.

In addition, Leech (1981) states that language in literary and artistic texts is often used creatively to achieve aesthetic and expressive effects. Therefore, lexical relations are significant in analyzing song lyrics as they reveal how meaning and emotion are constructed.

## **2.2 Types and Functions of Lexical Relations in Song Lyrics**

In the world of song lyrics, the connections formed through lexical relationships not only link meanings between words but also help to create emotional significance and artistic expression. Each specific type of lexical

relationship has a particular function that assists in how the song's message is communicated and perceived by its listeners.

Incorporating synonyms in song lyrics often introduces variety in expressing similar emotions, preventing the monotony of using the same phrasing. This variety enriches the lyrics and avoids tediousness while maintaining the core emotional feeling.

On the other hand, antonyms play a crucial role in highlighting contrasts. In songs that generate intense emotions, oppositions like love against loss or presence versus absence draw attention to emotional transitions and enhance the audience's understanding of the narrative.

Hyponymy contributes by organizing meaning in a hierarchical format. General emotional concepts can be broken down into more specific expressions, allowing listeners to grasp both abstract and concrete interpretations within the lyrics.

Repetition emerges as a prominent feature in song lyrics. It emphasizes key ideas, intensifies emotional impact, and helps establish both rhythm and memorability. Furthermore, repetition enhances textual cohesion by linking different parts of the song together.

Consequently, lexical relationships in song lyrics operate not just as elements of language, but also as creative and expressive instruments that enhance significance and emotional resonance.

### **2.3 Language and Meaning in Song Lyrics**

Song lyrics represent a unique form of expression that combines sentence structure with emotion and artistic flair. As noted by Halliday and Hasan in 1976, the arrangement of language within a discourse is designed to foster unity and clarity, which are essential for creating meaning. This concept applies equally to song lyrics, where significance arises from the relationships between terms and phrases.

Although song lyrics frequently make use of simple and familiar language, the meanings conveyed can be complex and profoundly emotional. Writers of lyrics carefully select their words to share their experiences, emotions, and social concerns.

As a result, the messages contained in song lyrics are often nuanced and require interpretation.

Additionally, song lyrics frequently incorporate strategies such as repetition, contrast, and diverse word selections to express emotions like love, sadness, loneliness, and sorrow. These attributes make song lyrics an ideal topic for exploring lexical semantics, as they demonstrate how meaning is formed through language in a highly affective context.

## **2.4 Previous Studies**

Numerous past studies have explored the relationships between the words found in song lyrics and different forms of communication. These studies usually show that lyrics contain a significant number of semantic connections that contribute to meaning creation and emotional expression.

Investigations focused on English pop songs indicate that one of the most common linguistic patterns employed by songwriters is repetition. This method is frequently used to emphasize emotional states, highlight key themes, and improve the memorability of the lyrics. Further examinations have shown that the use of synonyms and antonyms is frequent in musical compositions, adding depth and contrast to emotional experiences.

These linguistic patterns help depict complex emotional experiences and make the lyrics more powerful and meaningful. Additionally, research in discourse analysis suggests that these linguistic connections are essential in promoting unity and clarity in written content, including song lyrics. They aid in connecting ideas throughout the verses, thus forming a cohesive meaning.

However, most previous studies generally approach various songs in a broad context rather than conducting an in-depth analysis of a specific song. Therefore, this research will focus specifically on the song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi, with the goal of providing a more comprehensive and detailed investigation of lexical relationships.

## **2.5 Conceptual Framework**

This study is based on the principles of lexical semantics, particularly the concept of lexical relationships as defined by Saeed in 2016. The framework focuses on four main types of lexical relationships: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and repetition.

The study suggests that the significance found in song lyrics arises from the interaction among lexical components. Each type of lexical relationship has a unique role in shaping meaning:

- Synonymy highlights similar meanings
- Antonymy creates distinctions
- Hyponymy categorizes meaning in a structured form
- Repetition emphasizes emotional intensity and cohesion

Through this framework, the study aims to investigate how lexical relationships contribute to the creation of meaning and the expression of emotions in the song "Someone You Loved." This model also provides a systematic way to understand how language expresses deep emotional experiences in song lyrics.

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study utilizes a descriptive qualitative research method. This method is chosen because the aim of the research is to explain and clarify the linguistic features found in song lyrics, particularly focusing on word connections, without incorporating quantitative statistics. The qualitative descriptive approach effectively addresses the interpretations and associations among words from the perspective of lexical semantics.

The lyrics of the song "Someone You Loved," sung by Lewis Capaldi, are the focal point of this research. The focus of the analysis is on linguistic aspects like words, phrases, and clauses that highlight lexical connections, including synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and repetition. This song was selected for its deep emotional impact and its comparatively simple language that provides numerous opportunities for semantic analysis. The method for gathering data in this research is documentation. Data is gathered through meticulously reading the lyrics, listening to the song multiple times to grasp the context, and documenting

significant linguistic elements found in the lyrics. Subsequently, the data is arranged and categorized according to the types of lexical relations explored in this research.

The research tool utilized in this study is the researcher personally acting as a human instrument. The researcher actively engages in the tasks of gathering, identifying, categorizing, and examining data grounded in the theory of lexical semantics. Additionally, a basic classification table is employed to systematically arrange the data and ensure uniformity during the analytical process.

Data analysis occurs through a series of steps: (1) reviewing and comprehending the complete lyrics to capture the context, (2) spotting words or phrases that demonstrate lexical connections, (3) sorting the data into categories of lexical connections such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and repetition, (4) assessing the significance and role of these lexical connections in conveying the song's emotional message, and (5) forming conclusions from the results.

Therefore, this study aims to offer a more profound insight into the utilization of lexical relations in the song "Someone You Loved" to create meaning and enhance emotional expression.

## **4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Results of the Study**

The examination of the track "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi indicates that lexical connections play a significant role and are systematically employed to convey meaning and emotional depth throughout the lyrics. The various types of lexical connections highlighted in this analysis consist of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy, which collaborate to create a unified semantic framework.

Among these, repetition stands out as the most pronounced lexical connection. It primarily manifests through the frequent appearance of personal pronouns like "I" and "you," along with repeated emotional expressions. This prevalence suggests that the speaker's emotional condition is ongoing and profoundly rooted. Repetition underscores the central motif of emotional reliance and emphasizes the enduring nature of loss and yearning.

Synonymy occurs with words that convey similar meanings associated with absence, sorrow, and emotional void. These terms enhance the semantic structure by expressing similar feelings in different ways, thereby making the lyrics more impactful.

Antonymy introduces contrasts between conflicting emotional conditions such as love versus pain, presence against absence, and emotional strength versus fragility. This opposition captures emotional fluctuations and intensifies the song's dramatic impact.

Hyponymy, while less common, arranges meanings in a hierarchical manner by linking broader emotional themes to more detailed expressions. This demonstrates the transformation of abstract emotions into more tangible experiences within the lyrics.

In summary, the results suggest that lexical connections serve as vital instruments in shaping meaning and emotional richness in the song.

#### **4.2 Data Analysis**

The analysis of the data was performed using qualitative methods by detecting, categorizing, and understanding linguistic elements in accordance with the principles of lexical semantics. This evaluation centers on recognizing not just lexical connections but also exploring how they contribute to the formation of meaning.

A notable pattern is seen in the constant use of "I" and "you," which underscores the emotional bond between the speaker and the individual who is not present. This recurrence generates a strong emotional charge and indicates the speaker's struggle to move on from previous experiences. Phrasing like "I need somebody" reinforces feelings of emotional reliance and susceptibility.

Synonymy can be observed in terms like "lost," "gone," and "away," which all convey ideas associated with absence and separation. These terms emphasize the concept of loss and illustrate how various words can convey similar meanings.

Antonymy is evident in opposing pairs like "love" and "pain," as well as "day" and "night." These contrasts emphasize emotional shifts and enhance the meaning expressed in the lyrics.

Hyponymy is present in the connection between broader concepts like “feeling” and more specific emotional states such as sadness, loneliness, and heartbreak. This hierarchical connection helps make abstract emotional ideas clearer and easier to grasp.

### 4.3 Data Presentation

The classification of lexical relations found in the song is presented in the following table:

**Table 4.1 Classification of Lexical Relations in the Song “Someone You Loved”**

No.	Data (Word/Phrase)	Type of Lexical Relation	Context in Lyrics	Function in Meaning Construction	Explanation
1	<i>I</i>	Repetition	Throughout lyrics	Emphasizing speaker perspective	First-person pronoun repeated to highlight emotional focus
2	<i>You</i>	Repetition	Throughout lyrics	Showing emotional attachment	Refers to the person being addressed repeatedly
3	<i>Now the day bleeds into nightfall</i>	Repetition (theme)	Opening line	Creating emotional atmosphere	Suggests continuous sadness and transition of time

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4	<i>I need somebody to heal</i>	Repetition	Chorus	Expressing emotional need	Repeated idea showing dependency and vulnerability
5	<i>Lost</i>	Synonymy	Verse	Reinforcing theme of loss	Similar meaning to “gone” and “away”
6	<i>Gone</i>	Synonymy	Verse	Strengthening absence meaning	Indicates emotional and physical absence
7	<i>Away</i>	Synonymy	Verse	Emphasizing separation	Represents distance and detachment
8	<i>Lonely</i>	Synonymy	Chorus	Expressing emotional state	Reflects isolation and sadness
9	<i>Love</i>	Antonymy	Chorus	Showing emotional contrast	Opposes “pain” and “loss”
10	<i>Pain</i>	Antonymy	Chorus	Highlighting suffering	Contrasts with positive emotional state
11	<i>Night</i>	Antonymy	Opening line	Creating contrast in time	Opposite of “day”

12	<i>Day</i>	Antonymy	Opening line	Showing time transition	Opposite of “night”
13	<i>Somebody</i>	Hyponymy	Chorus	Generalizing emotional need	Superordinate term referring to a person
14	<i>Someone you loved</i>	Hyponymy	Chorus	Specifying emotional object	More specific reference of “somebody”
15	<i>Feeling</i>	Hyponymy	General context	Abstract emotional concept	General category of emotion
16	<i>Love / sadness / loneliness</i>	Hyponymy	Throughout	Detailing emotional states	Specific types under “feeling”

Based on Table 4.1, repetition appears as the most dominant lexical relation, indicating strong emotional emphasis throughout the song. Synonymy and antonymy contribute to enriching meaning and creating contrast, while hyponymy helps organize meaning hierarchically.

#### 4.4 Discussion

From the viewpoint of lexical semantics, meaning arises from the interplay among lexical items instead of from single words in isolation. The results indicate that relationships between lexical items are vital in influencing both the structure of meaning and the emotional resonance found in the song “Someone You Loved”.

Repetition serves as a fundamental method for highlighting emotional depth and preserving thematic unity. The frequent use of pronouns and emotional phrases signifies the narrator’s mental condition, marked by attachment, grief, and emotional reliance.

Synonymy adds to the semantic complexity by offering diversity in articulating similar ideas. This variety enhances the expressiveness of the lyrics while ensuring consistency.

Antonymy deepens interpretation by introducing a contrast between different emotional experiences. The juxtaposition of love and sorrow reveals internal struggles and emotional evolution.

Hyponymy categorizes meaning by linking broad concepts to particular emotional expressions, thus making abstract sentiments more tangible and easier to connect with.

In summary, the interplay of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy reveals that lexical relationships are crucial for the formation of meaning and emotional communication in song lyrics. From the standpoint of lexical semantics, the song exemplifies how language can be utilized to express intricate emotional experiences in a coherent and significant manner.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

This research focuses on exploring lexical connections in Lewis Capaldi's song "Someone You Loved" using a lexical semantics viewpoint. The analysis reveals that lexical connections significantly contribute to meaning formation and emotional expression within the lyrics.

The results indicate the presence of four kinds of lexical relationships: repetition, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy. Among these, repetition stands out as the most prevalent, especially through the recurring use of personal pronouns like "I" and "you," along with repeated emotional phrases. This prevalence suggests that the speaker's emotional journey is profound, ongoing, and deeply entrenched, signifying a powerful sense of attachment and loss.

Synonymy enhances the emotional depth by conveying similar meanings with varied lexical terms like "lost," "gone," and "away." These differences bolster the theme of absence and emotional alienation without causing redundancy. Conversely, antonymy is crucial for emphasizing contrasts, particularly between opposing

feelings like love and sorrow .This contrast amplifies the dramatic intensity of the lyrics and illustrates the emotional evolution experienced by the speaker.

Hyponymy, while not as commonly encountered, establishes a hierarchy of meanings by linking broad ideas such as "emotion" to more particular feelings like sorrow, isolation, and heartbreak .This process makes complex emotional concepts more tangible and relatable.

In summary, the way these linguistic relationships interact shows that the meaning in lyrics is generated not from standalone words, but through the connections among lexical items within a specific context .Viewed through the lens of lexical semantics, the song effectively portrays how language can express intricate emotional experiences in an organized, clear, and significant manner .Thus, lexical relations serve not just as features of language but as crucial instruments in enhancing emotional depth and interpretive richness within song lyrics.

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