

EDUCATIONAL VALUE THROUGH SEMIOTICS: ANALYZING SONG *A MILLION DREAMS* TO IAIN PAREPARE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore how 8th-semester English Education (PBI) students at IAIN Parepare conducted a semiotic analysis of the song *A Million Dreams*, performed by Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams, and to understand their perceptions of the educational values within the lyrics. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the research involved 30 randomly selected students as participants. Data were collected through interviews and voice recordings. The findings revealed that students identified various types of semiotic signs in the lyrics: one lyric represented an icon, six were categorized as indices, and three were recognized as symbols. Regarding educational values, students highlighted several moral lessons conveyed through the song. The values identified included religiousness (1 student), responsibility (6), hard work (13), friendliness (4), appreciation (1), creativity (11), love for reading (7), environmental awareness (2), peace (2), independence (4), curiosity (2), and discipline (2). These responses suggest that *A Million Dreams* contains a wide range of educational messages that resonate differently with each student, with hard work and creativity being the most frequently recognized. The study underscores the song's effectiveness in communicating positive values through music and lyrical content.

Keywords: Educational Value, Semiotic Analysis, Song of *A Million Dreams*

INTRODUCTION

In understanding the content of a work, both visual and audio, a separate ability or skill is needed in capturing the meaning contained in a work, so an appropriate learning process is needed, which must be evidence of the creativity of educators in learning. implementation of the process of receiving knowledge. The process of teaching and learning for the next generation or the next generation requires strategy, anticipation, and most importantly

awareness that is expected to increase rather than decrease (Wallace et al., 2004). The same is true with English language teaching. There are four skills in English that we need to know, namely: speaking, writing, listening, reading and even writing. One of the main focuses of this issue is listening skills. Generally, in the acquisition or initial process. By embracing language, people have learned to listen and then speak, read and write. People cannot speak before they listen. Wallace et al. (2004: 13) write that listening skills are very important skills, because these skills enable people to gain insight, understanding, knowledge, information and achieve successful communication with others. Therefore, auditory ability is a very important language skill. (Wallace et al., 2004).

One of the reasons why there are so many fans of Western songs, rather than Indonesian songs or songs from other countries, is currently the learning method (Born & Hesmondhalgh, 2000), but there is much about the question of why a simple explanation is needed. The reason that can be made as a basis for causation is one of the main issues, as contemporary music is originally from the West (Hatt, 2018). We know that all the technological developments associated with the world of artists, particularly the world of music that has produced different genres over the past centuries, emerged from the west.

In relation to this idea, he argues that the industry is not the same compared to songs produced in Indonesia. What is being discussed are pop songs that were originally supposed to come from foreign languages. Despite the scope of worldwide marketing, the number of albums in Indonesia is produced every year. With the increase in production that can be produced, competition and appearance are not surprising. It can capture the taste of many people.

For another explanation, it is one of the current trends that is still marching in the West, and there are also all the lyrics in foreign languages and English being learned in all countries, including Indonesia. Many production and marketing strategies can compete with Asian competitors in developed countries.

This can be seen in the Indonesian music industry worldwide (Baulch, 2020), but it is found worldwide in terms of genre, experimentation, quality and abundance of advertising, but it is still determined by some market tastes, not each other. Despite these several explanations on the question of why this is happening, it may be more appropriate if the question is addressed to the residents of Metropolitan cities. In some major powers, including Asia.

The realization of the importance of education for future hope and better opportunities, and therefore ensuring the encouragement of various possibilities for all societies of the world's education-enhancing societies in Indonesia. Different types of emerging possibilities can

trigger the development of education. In this case, the government will improve the quality of education in Indonesia. One of them is the government that makes new changes, the capacity-based curriculum (KBK) (Pratama & Yuniawan, 2015). In this case, the focus of use in addressing language skills: (1) listening skills. (2) reading skills. (3) speaking skills. (4) Writing skills.

Examining the difficulty and uniqueness of unique poetry actually conveys a subtle meaning (Valéry, 2014). This is based on the fact that the language structure used by poets is generally a language that is different from everyday language. Usually, the poet's ideas and thoughts are derived from various events in people's lives related to the social environment. These often occur during a certain period around the poet's perspective. From some of these events, the poet then unfolds in poetry, which is organized in the most beautiful way possible with language. Of course, it's about attracting readers and making friends.

Song texts are one of the evidences or examples of literary works. The song text, taken from several poetry text units (Bailey Shea, 2021), is the format in which the outcome of the poem is put forward. before.

Song text also applies to the use of solid language that accepts rhythms with integrated sounds, noble words or imaginative choices. Song texts are created by the writer. The writer wants to express what is felt (Hamdiana, 2015) based on a perspective that affects whether it is seen and felt in society or whether some people feel it. The content of the song text allows the songwriter to convey feelings, opinions, and even daily events. However, not everyone can communicate in simple language (Sari, 2015). To create a beautiful song poem, the author uses language that contains meanings that can be interpreted in the semiotic realm.

Semiotics is the science that discusses symbols and the ability to read symbols. In this diagram we find different types of symbols, but we do not know that they are symbols because they are often interpreted automatically. When it is pointed out that symbolic expression is required at the end of the symbolic code, regardless of age or greater need. Therefore, we can see that one of the fields involved in the distribution of symbols as indicators is art (Sovič & Hus, 2016).

Signs are physical things that can be recorded with the five senses, and are connected to expressions, and are different from the signs themselves. A sign in this case is a condition that is absorbed or recorded by interpretation. In addition, an object can be a statement or a social context that can be a reference to a sign or a reference to a sign.

Therefore, according to Pradopo, establishing a connection based on the relationship of the signifier of the signifier, there are three important indications in this study. Namely, icon, index,

and symbol (Pradopo, 1987). An icon is a sign that the relationship between its signifier and symbol is similar to a sign that occurs in a natural form or physical representation. The index in this case is a sign that leads to a natural relationship between the marker and the sign of causal causality. Second, a symbol is a sign that does not show a natural relationship between the signifier and the symbol. A relationship is a referee contract, convention, or society.

Symbols or signs are usually forms of oral and nonverbal objects that are agreed with each other. Three different properties are in the signifier-signified relationship, so icons, indexes, and symbols are interesting to look at (Setiawan, 2019). Based on some statements by some students who can investigate that some of them still exist. This often leads to boredom, so only a few texts and information can be found. After making observations from one of the student organizations engaged in the arts, when we are able to capture the meaning of a sign or symbol, both displayed and heard, then we can understand and be able to produce thoughts that always think critically in various matters. To create this through a process that is fairly fun and easy and is often done by everyone. It is used for an art in this case of listening to a literature that certainly has a system or is rich in signs and symbols in terms of disclosing meaning, for more details It is focused on one of the literatures, namely song lyrics.

The selection of songs in this case is one of the songs that is widely played from various circles in the modern era today, namely pop songs originating from the west, which is one of the songs from the musical drama film "the Greatest Showman" played by a well-known Hollywood actor, Hugh Jackman as the lead in the film. for the lyrics of the song, this time choosing the song found at the beginning of the opening of the film, namely A Million Dreams - Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams which has become the original soundtrack of the film.

Based on the explanation and some causal reasons, the author tries to find out and try to attract the attention of each student in interpreting a song that has been played to express the feelings he experiences through one of the songs that have been worldwide.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the researcher applied a descriptive qualitative method to describe the findings related to the analysis of the ability to interpret the meaning of words in song lyrics. This method is also used to examine the various aspects and educational values present in the song "Sejuta Impian". The data collected is in the form of narrative descriptions reinforced by documentation of interview results, in contrast to quantitative research that uses numerical data. Data collection is done through various sources such as dialog, print media publications, and articles relevant to the research topic (Ag, 2006).

Researchers using a qualitative approach process information in a verbal descriptive format, not in the form of statistical or numerical data (Merriam & Grenier, 2019). The information collected includes the experiences and perspectives of participants, where qualitative researchers seek to produce a picture that reflects meaning, symbolism, communication, values, educational aspects, and interaction. Referring to this description, this research emphasizes the presentation of precise explanations in analyzing and describing the content contained in the song lyrics that have been chosen as the object of study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. The Students done on a Semiotic Analysis of the lyrics of *A Million Dreams* by Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams

In this study, the researcher focuses on the semiotic theory of philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914), who introduced the concept of semiotics or semiosis as the study of signs (Greenlee, 2018). Recognized as the father of modern semiotics, Peirce classifies signs into three types: icons, indices, and symbols. The relationship between the signifier and the signified is categorized into three forms. First, the icon, where the signifier directly represents the signified, such as a photo reflecting a real person. Second, the index, where the signifier is the result of the signified, like smoke indicating fire. Third, the symbol, where the signifier and signified are linked by social convention, as seen in words representing meanings or a red light signaling to stop. To make it clearer how to distinguish icons, indexes, and symbols, seen in the table below.

Table 1. Pierce's Trichotomy Chart (Relationship of Signs to Their Objects)

Sign	Icon	Index	Symbol
Sign relationship with source the reference	Signs are designed to represent or express reference sources on objects through simulations or equations (that is, the reference source can be seen, heard, etc.)	Signs are designed to indicate a reference source or to interrelate a reference source	Signs are designed to provide a source of reference through agreement or agreement (having an initial concept or description of the object in question)
Marked by	Equation (similarity) returns to its own object/function	Cause-and-effect relationship, the relationship between the influencer and the	Conventions, can also be initial concepts or initial images of objects but do not meet

		affected	face-to-face
Example	Icons/logos, traffic symbols or figurative words in Literature	smoke/fire, Cloudy/Rain	Sign words, Symbols/Codes or Math formulas
Process	Look / form	Predictable	Must learn

From the explanation of the table above, the researcher can conclude that "An icon is a sign that shows a natural or similar relationship between a marker and a signified in terms of an expression that returns to the object itself, for example a picture of a fish or a fishing rod as a marker that marks a fish as its meaning. Index is a sign that shows a causal/causal relationship between the signifier and the signified in the sense that there is an influence and someone is influenced, for example, smoke, which would mark fire. A symbol is a sign that shows that there is no natural or arbitrary relationship between the signifier and the signified as long as the relationship does not differ much from the meaning.

2. Students' Perceptions of the Value of Moral Education which Contained in the Lyrics of The Song *A Million Dreams*, Sung By Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams

Based on the findings, the researcher conducted interviews with respondents who are teacher candidates and had completed their PPL practice. The lyrics of *A Million Dreams*, performed by Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams, were found to carry significant educational value. The song communicates meaningful messages not only through its narrative but also through its lyrics, actions, and scenes, making it a valuable reflection of educational principles.

This study highlights eight key educational values identified by respondents: hard work, discipline, responsibility, creativity, love of reading, friendliness, independence, and religious belief. The first is religious value, seen in the main character's firm faith, which acts as the foundation for all other values. Next is hard work, demonstrated through consistent effort to achieve goals, particularly evident in the male character's journey from childhood to adulthood. The video portrays hard work as a form of modern struggle relevant to today's professional world. Discipline follows, defined as actions aligned with rules and norms (Sardi et al., 2025). This is shown through the main character's consistent behavior aimed at bringing happiness to the female character, emphasizing disciplined commitment. The value of responsibility is also prominent, described as the willingness to accept and resolve problems. This includes fulfilling promises and obligations, much like spiritual responsibilities, such as daily prayers. Creativity appears in the second verse of the song, encouraging innovation and resilience against criticism. Referencing historical thinkers, the song promotes new ideas that can inspire others

and drive progress. The value of reading is seen as the act of seeking and processing information from written sources—an often underappreciated but vital habit. Friendliness refers to accepting others' differences in opinion, culture, or social status, as shown by the supportive relationship between the two main characters. Lastly, independence is portrayed through the male character's self-reliance in pursuing his dreams, emphasizing the importance of individual effort over dependence on others. These insightful findings, in line with research, conclude that students want an English learning experience that is interactive, meaningful, and supports holistic competency development(JN et al., 2025).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analyzed interviews, the semiotic study of the song “A Million Dreams” shows three categories of relationship between the signifier and the signified. The first category is icon, which describes the direct resemblance between the sign and its object, such as photography that represents a particular individual. The second category is index, where the sign appears as a consequence of the object, for example, smoke that indicates the presence of fire. The third category is symbol, which has an arbitrary relationship and is based on mutual agreement, such as the use of language to convey meaning or a red light signal as a sign to stop.

The lyric of the song “A Million Dreams” sung by Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams attracts attention because they contain educational values that are interrelated and relevant to today's generation. These values serve as a foundation for life that can be clearly understood by the listeners. This piece is highly recommended as a medium for language learning through music. Research respondents identified eight key educational values: Religious values as the main basis, work ethic as a form of struggle, creativity to generate new ideas and provide inspiration, interest in reading to obtain and disseminate knowledge, discipline in complying with social rules and norms, independence through independent attitudes, and tolerance in respecting views and cultural diversity.

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