

# THE MEANING ANALYSIS OF “TO DIANEME” IN ROBERT HERRICK'S POEM (Semiotic Approach in Literature Analysis)

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## *Abstract*

*In this research study, the writer would like to describe “The Meaning Analysis of “To Dianeme” in Robert Herrick's Poem (Semiotic Approach in Literature Analysis)”. Descriptive qualitative method is used by the writer for the study and also received most of the source from the internet for the related subject as references. The finding of this poem there are two meaning which can be found in “To Dianeme” such as heuristic like denotative meaning and hermeneutic like connotative meaning. As the main source of data consists of one short story which entitled “To Dianeme” in Robert Herrick's Poem and the secondary data used from reference books and internet.*

*Keywords: Meaning, Semiotic, Literature, Heuristic, Hermeneutic.*

## **Analisis Makna "To Dianeme" Dalam Puisi Robert Herrick (Pendekatan Semiotika dalam Analisis Sastra)**

### **Abstrak**

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis ingin mendeskripsikan Analisis makna yang berjudul “To Dianeme” dalam puisi Robert Herrick melalui pendekatan semiotik dalam analisis sastra. Metode yang digunakan penulis pada penelitian ini adalah kualitatif deskriptif serta menggunakan media internet sebagai referensinya. Dalam puisi “To Dianeme” ini ditemukan dua makna seperti *heuristic* yang biasa disebut makna *denotative* dan *hermeneutic* seperti makna *connotatif*. Sebagai sumber data utama menggunakan cerita dari puisi “To Dianeme” karya Robert Herrick serta data pendukung lainnya berasal dari buku referensi dan internet.

Kata Kunci: Makna, Semiotika, Sastra, *heuristic*, *hermeneutic*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The subject of this study about the meaning analysis of “To Dianeme” in Robert Herrick's Poem (Semiotic Approach in Literature Analysis). As we know, meaning is related to the content of literature. By seeing the meaning we can understand deeply about the content from the literature itself. Therefore, meaning is the essential part in writing.

This study is interesting to be discussed because the writer uses "To Dianeme"'s English Poem by Robert Herrick. In this poem, it can show the variation of meaning which are appeared in this poem. There are two meaning to be looked at in the content and it more pressure sentence by sentence through the meaning.

This study is important because it may help the readers of this Poem to analyze the meaning sentence by sentence in using semiotic approach, we can find that there are two meaning of this poem such as heuristic (denotative) and hermeneutic (connotative) meaning.

1. Problem of the Research

- a. How is the analysis of meaning in Dianeme's poem by Robert Herrick through semiotic approach in literature analysis?
- b. What are the types of meaning in analyzing Dianeme's poem by Robert Herrick through semiotic approach in literature analysis?

2. Aim of the Research

- a. To describe the analysis of meaning in Dianeme's poem by Robert Herrick through semiotic approach in literature analysis
- b. To describe the types of meaning in analyzing Dianeme's poem by Robert Herrick through semiotic approach in literature analysis

3. Theoretical Review

a. Literature

According to Webster (1995: 686) literature is writing in prose or verse especially writing having excellent of form or style and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest.

Literature is a vague term, which usually denotes works, which belong to the major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, poem, short story, and ode. If we describe something as "literature", as opposed to anything else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work in question has superior qualities; that it is well above the ordinary run of written works (Cuddon, 2000:365).

Based on the definitions above, literature is vague term or writing, which belong to the major genre: epic, drama, lyric, novel, poem, short story, ode, and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest.

b. Meaning Analysis

Based on Peckham (1999:2) *Signs* are said to have something called significance, or *meaning*. A *sign*, as the French say, wants to say something. Yet it can scarcely say something unless there is somebody to receive and respond to what it wants to say.

## c. Semiotic Approach In Literature Analysis

The term '**Semiotic**' was coined in the late nineteenth century by the American pragmatist philosopher, Pierce (1839-1914), to denote 'the formal doctrine of *signs*, and Saussure (1990:5) argued that linguistics was only part of a general science of *signs*, which he called *semiology*. The basis of semiotics is the *sign*, that is, any configuration to which there is a conventionalized response. *Semiotics* investigates the various *systems of signs* that create the *shared meanings* that constitute any culture. In *semiotics*, the **meaning** of a **sign** is its place in a *sign relation*, in other words, the set of roles that it occupies within a given sign relation. Two aspects of *meaning* that may be given approximate analyses are the *denotative relation* or *heuristic* meaning and the *connotative relation* or *hermeneutic* meaning. The difference between the denotative and connotative meaning of words same as the difference between heuristic and hermeneutic. This is a bit similar to what we learned about in our last Instruction: the difference between words literal and figurative meanings. The denotative meaning of a word is its literal meaning "the definition you can find in the dictionary. Take the word mother, for example. The dictionary would define mother as a female parent. OK, but the word mother probably creates emotions and feelings in you: it paints a picture in your mind. You may think of love and security or you may think of your own mother. The emotions and feelings that a word creates are called its connotative meaning. Let us give you another example, the word cat. The denotative meaning (how the dictionary defines cat is: carnivorous mammal, domesticated as a rat catcher or pet. But what is its connotative meaning? It depends. If you like cats, the word cat may suggest graceful motion, affectionate playfulness, noble reserve and admirable self-sufficiency. If you don't, the word might suggest stealthiest, spitefulness, coldness and haughty disdain. This brings up an important point about connotation, because there are two different kinds of it -- personal connotation and general connotation ([https://www.etap.org/demo/englishhs/instruction\\_last.html](https://www.etap.org/demo/englishhs/instruction_last.html))

Hermeneutic is the study of the interpretation of written texts, especially in literature and religion. What Alvesson described as the orientation: interpretive meaning is singular, fixed and handed down from above. Heuristics: enquiry-based method of research that relies on experimentation and the examination of subjective experience and results. The emphasis on subjectivity and qualitative results places it in opposition to the Scientific Method. The *denotative* relation or *heuristic* is the relation between signs and objects. In *semiotics*, *denotation* is the surface or *literal meaning* encoded to a signifier, and the *definition* most likely to appear in a *dictionary*. The *connotative* relation or *hermeneutic* is the relation between signs and their *interpreting signs*. These meanings are not objective representations of

the *thing*, but new usages produced by the language group. Connotative meanings are context-dependent, i.e. the addressee must learn how to match the meaning intended by the addresser to one of the various possible meanings held in memory. Connotation is concerned with how the sign system is used in each message. ***Hermeneutics***, the science of ***interpretation***, had its origins in the work of sixteenth-century German theologians (Friedrich Schleiermacher: 1768-1834). ***Hermeneutics*** interest includes also ***recognition*** and ***explanation*** of ***parables***, ***metaphors***, ***similes*** and ***personifications***. ([http://blog.ocad.ca/wordpress/as11pb/2011/11/hermeneutics-heuristics-2-different-words/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1392295028.3372550010681152343750](http://blog.ocad.ca/wordpress/as11pb/2011/11/hermeneutics-heuristics-2-different-words/?doing_wp_cron=1392295028.3372550010681152343750))

#### 4. Research Method

In arranging the research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research method to collect the data. In descriptive qualitative method, data are analyzed by classifying the types into several categories. Here, based on the meaning analysis which is found in "To Dianeme" by Robert Herrick's poem, there are two types of meaning such as heuristic (denotative) and hermeneutic (connotative) meaning. The writer also uses reference book, encyclopedias, dictionaries, literary criticism about Robert Herrick.

The sentences by sentences in the poem, which shows the meaning "To Dianeme" are taken as primary sources.

#### 5. Result Of Study

##### To Dianeme

By: Robert Herrick

SWEET, be not proud of those two eyes  
Which star like sparkle in their skies;  
Nor be you proud that you can see  
All hearts your captives, yours yet free;  
Be you not proud of that rich hair  
Which wantons with the love-sick air;  
Whereas that ruby which you wear,  
Sunk from the tip of your soft ear,  
Will last to be a precious stone  
When all your world of beauty's gone.

## B. DISCUSSION

**Analyze the meaning “To Dianeme” in heuristic and hermeunetic theory:**

**The meaning of heuristic in this sentence:**

This sentence explains that as women, she may not proud of her **two eyes** although she has beautiful eyes inher face. The literal meaning of ‘eyes’ is an organ of sight.

SWEET, be not proud of ‘**those two eyes**’

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, ‘**two eyes**’ is a symbol of the ornament of the women’s face. So that, the ornament of the women’s face is similar to women’s eyes. It connotes Her eyes are very sharp, and she has a beautiful black eyeball. The woman is described as being very flirtatious and sexually attractive.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of ‘**star**’ is natural luminous body visible in the sky especially at night.

Which ‘**star like sparkle**’ in the skies

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

This poem uses a simile to describe the women’s eyes above. Simile can be identified by using the word ‘**like**’ ‘**star like sparkle**’. The women’s eyes connotes like a star since they are bright and twinkle or which sparkle in the skies. This poem also uses personification, personification means a non human thing is look like a human thing, e.g. ‘**star like sparkle**’. Although ‘**star**’ is non human thing, but it can be described as if it is a human thing.

**The meaning of heuristic :**

The literal meaning of this sentence ‘*you can see*’ means that she can look everyone especially man through her organ of sight which is her eyes.

Nor be ‘**your proud**’ that ‘**you can see**’

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, the sentence ‘*you can see*’ is a symbol of having the beautiful **eyes** which star like sparkle in the skies, it connotes she can attract the men. So, her eyes are the key of success to get the men. But, actually she may not proud of her beautiful **eyes** if there are so many man which captived her.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of this word ‘*hearts*’ is the essential or most vital part of something in body.

All ‘**hearts**’ your captives, yours yet free

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, the word ‘*hearts*’ connotes that the woman is very appealing to men and many men have opened their **hearts** to her but get rejected. So, the word ‘hearts’ is a symbol of **love** and **affection** which has meaning “the woman to

open her **heart** and experience love before she losses her beauty and is unattractive to men".

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of '*the lovesick air*' means that languishing with love: yearning or expressing a lover's longing.

Be you not proud with '**the lovesick air**'

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, the word '*lovesick air*' is a symbol of love which connotes she may not proud of her love from the man, the reason is the man loves her because of her beautiful eyes and face.

Whereas, their loves to the woman are not forever.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of '*ruby*' means that a transparent deep or vivid red variety of corundum used as a gemstone and in lasers or the precious stone which is a red corundum.

Whereas that '**ruby**' which you wear

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, '*ruby*' is a symbol of the jewelry of her ear which she wear, but ruby is still becomes ruby permanently.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of '*soft ear*' means that the characteristic vertebrate organ of hearing or the soft sense or act of hearing without physical defect.

Sunk from the tip of your '**soft ear**'

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

The words '*soft ear*' in the sentence above is a symbol of her beautiful ornament without flawed which connote she wear ruby in her soft ear, and she also wear ruby to beautify herself.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of '*precious stone*' means that jewel or gem.

Will last to be a '**precious stone**'

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

Here, the word '*precious stone*' is a symbol of jewelry which connotes ruby as a precious stone will eternal and ruby becomes a precious stone permanently, although her beautiful will loss because of her age.

**The meaning of heuristic:**

The literal meaning of '*beauty*' means that the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the sense or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit or seductive looking woman.

When all your **world of 'beauty's gone'**

**The meaning of hermeunetic:**

The word '*beauty*' is a symbol of her face that she has, it is related to '**world of beauty's gone**' connotes the poem is warning the lady that the beauty of her ruby will remain but her beauty will not remain. This poem also feels that love is very important and she should experience in love before life runs out.

The word '**beauty's gone**' uses personification, for example; beauty can be identified as non human thing, but here, beauty is identified as a human thing, because it uses personification.

### C. CONCLUSION

The writer can conclude that in the poem '*To Dianeme*' by Herrick means that the poem is addressed to one woman. "*To Dianeme*" means that the writer gives something to *Dianeme* (the name of the women) through advice, suggestion, even critique. This poem '*To Dianeme*' expresses that the woman have to share her love and beauty with men before **her beauty deteriorates as time passes**. The issue of time passing is about beauty not lasting. In Herrick's poem '*To Dianeme*', there is also an emphasis that beauty is not everlasting. e.g. '**world of beauty's gone**', this sentence expresses that the beauty of a ruby is everlasting but the beauty of a person or *Dianeme* is deteriorates. So, in my opinion, the real theme of this poem "*To Dianeme*" is about '**Youth and beauty are not everlasting**'.

To have a better understanding of the poem interpretation we should read other source as well. To find out whether the work has reflected the meaning, this poem will give a clear description of the work. It can be used as our basic thought to analyze it. Therefore, the writer hopes this research useful for student of faculty of letters. The writer also hopes that it can give more knowledge and advantages for the reader.

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