

Connotative Meaning in The “Four” Album by One Direction

¹Risma Rahmawati, ²Ida Zuraida Supri
^{1,2}Universitas Widyatama Bandung, Indonesia

Abstract

This research aims to identify the words containing connotative meanings based on the context and to analyze the types of connotative meanings in the “Four” album by One Direction. This research uses the qualitative descriptive method. The steps of collecting the data are reading, identifying, categorizing, analyzing the data containing connotative words, and finally, drawing the conclusion. The theory of connotative meaning and types of connotative meaning is based on the theory proposed by Leech (1974). The results of this research show that there are 49 connotative words found in the “Four” album by One Direction. The words containing connotative meanings are categorized into 3 types of connotative meanings. All three types of connotative meanings found are as the following distribution: 22 (45%) data for negative connotative meanings, 19 (39%) data for positive connotative meanings, and 8 (16%) data for neutral connotative meanings. In conclusion, the dominant types of connotative words found in the “Four” album by One Direction have negative connotative meanings.

Keywords: *connotative meaning; lyrics; semantics;*

Ethical Lingua

Vol. 9, No. 2, 2022

ISSN 2355-3448 (Print)

ISSN 2540-9190 (Online)

Corresponding Email

Risma Rahmawati

rahmawati.risma@widyatama.ac.id

Article’s History

Submitted 28 October 2022

Revised 26 December 2022

Accepted 26 December 2022

DOI

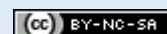
10.30605/25409190.475

Copyright © 2022

The Author(s)

This article is licensed under

CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 License



Connotative Meaning in The “Four” Album by One Direction

Introduction

Understanding the meaning of words or sentences can be difficult for some people. The meaning of the word is the relationship between the utterance and the meaning in a word. The meaning of the word is simply the meaning contained in a word. Each term is connected to its object so that it can be used to describe particular situations, things, or events. However, if it cannot be connected, the word is meaningless. In this thought, Aminuddin (2015) claims that meaning is the mutually agreed-upon relationship between language and the outside world by language users in order for them to understand mutually. In other words, the meaning is a bridge between language and the outside world so they can communicate.

Every word humans speak must have meaning, but sometimes many individuals are unconcerned about it, particularly in daily conversations. On some occasions, determining the meaning is required to determine the word's purpose. Leech (1974) defines the meaning of a speech form to do with some matter about which one has scientific knowledge; the meaning of it can be accurately expressed. To be specific, there are seven types of meanings in Semantics. Leech (1974) states denotative, connotative, social, affective, reflected, collocative, and thematic. Even though there are seven types of meaning in Semantics, in this study, the writer will concentrate on discussing connotative meaning in selected songs in the "Four" album by One Direction that was released in 2014. This research chose this album because there are many connotative meanings found in the song lyrics of this album. Hamdiana (2015) states that the song's lyrics that the singer intends to convey to the listener must also be understood by the public. Therefore, the researcher hopes the reader can comprehend the meaning of the selected song lyrics. There are two research questions composed as follows: 1) what are the words containing connotative meaning found in One Direction in the "Four" album? 2) what types of connotative meanings does it categorize in the "Four" album by One Direction?

Literature Review

Semantics

The branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of a word is semantics. Leech (1974) stated that semantics is also central to the study of the human mind—thought processes, cognition, and conceptualization are all inextricably linked with how we classify and convey world experiences through language. Semantic research involved thinking about how each word has meaning and how there are occasions when words relate to something inferred. Semantics discusses meaning as it is implied by language or what words mean Simatupang, E. C., & Supri, I. Z. (2020). According to Fromkin (2001), people do not need to know whether a sentence is true or false to understand its meaning. In other words, an ungrammatically structured sentence still has its meaning.

Meaning

Meaning is a collection of events and stories organized into paragraphs or sentences. According to Leech (1981), meaning can be taught not as something outside of language but as a linguistic reality. Meanwhile, Sujarwati & Sari defines the term meaning can also be expressed from the speaker to the listener in the form of one or more languages. In other words, not everyone can understand a meaning. Therefore, the audience needs to have good insight to ensure their knowledge.

Types of Meanings

According to Leech (1974), there are seven types of meaning: denotative meaning (meaning by lexicon), connotative meaning (meaning by expression), social meaning (social relation), affective meaning (personal feeling), reflected meaning (multiple sense), collocative meaning (word combination), and thematic meaning (deliver the message).

Denotative Meaning

According to Pakpahan (2020), meaning that emphasizes logical meaning is called denotative meaning. Denotative meaning, also known as conceptual or cognitive meaning, is often considered the most important aspect of linguistic communication. Briefly, denotative is not accompanied by feelings and thoughts without evoking a sense of worth. Hence, the nature of denotative is straightforward and literal. In denotative, the five senses, sight, smell, hearing, feeling, and other physical experiences, are frequently used to derive meaning. For example, blue has meaning as a color in the denotative, "Her t-shirt is blue." It means that the t-shirt she wears has a blue color, using one of the five senses, sight. Meanwhile, in connotative, the word blue has meaning as a feeling that is being expressed, "She is feeling blue." It signifies that she is sad.

Connotative Meaning

In semantics, there is a study, namely connotative meaning. Leech (1981) explained that connotative meaning refers to an expression's communicative value based on what it refers to and is purely conceptual content. In other words, connotative meaning is the relationship between feeling and expression, which refers to the personal aspect. Supporting theory that gives three different types of connotative meaning based on Chaer (1994), composed as follows:

Positive

A word with a positive connotation elicits a positive response.

For instance: "This place feels like *home*." The word home refers to something about family members, full of warmth, safety, and comfort, because it illustrates a person who is comfortable being in that place until she feels at home. A feeling of comfort and belonging is connoted in the word "home."

Negative

A word with a negative connotation elicits a negative response.

For instance: "I do not expect more from *politicians*." Politicians refer to something with negative connotations, selfishness, wickedness, and disloyalty, because it describes individuals who participate in party politics and governance and occasionally express pros and cons opinions regarding the laws they make.

Neutral

A word with a neutral connotation does not attach a positive or negative response. For instance: "She loves the scent of this perfume." The word scent refers to something that does not consist positive or negative response because it does not show strong emotion in the sentence above.

Social Meaning

The social meaning is the meaning provided by a piece of language concerning the social context in which it is used. The decoding of a text is based on our understanding of stylistics and other linguistic variances. Some words may have the same conceptual meaning as others, but their social meanings differ. According to Pakpahan (2020), a word's "social meaning" is its meaning concerning the social context in which it was used. In other words, the use of language to develop and control social relationships and preserve social roles is referred to as social meaning. For instance, "Come on, yaar. Do not be Lallu." It can be concluded that the speaker is an Indian who is talking to an Indian friend. It means that only Indian people will understand the meaning of the sentences.

Affective Meaning

The speaker's attitude toward the listener or the topic of the statement is more directly reflected in affective meaning. Typically, such feelings or attitudes are negative or insincere. Insults, flattery, hyperbole, and sarcasm are common examples of how they are communicated in language. For instance, "I am sorry to interrupt, but I wonder if you would be so kind as to lower your voice a little" in this case, intonation is important to express the attitude towards the listener. Therefore, intonation and voice quality is also important in this situation.

Reflected Meaning

Reflective meaning is the meaning that occurs when one sense of a word forms part of a response to another

sense in circumstances of multiple conceptual meanings. It is the result of people's perceptions and imaginations. Sometimes it can cause ambiguity. For instance, in western supermarkets, chicken thighs are referred to as drumsticks, and chicken breast is called white meat. As a result, words with prohibited connotations are frequently replaced.

Collocative Meaning

According to Leech (1974), collocative meanings are generally associated with using certain words in the same context. The meaning of a word formed in a certain context is referred to as collocative meaning. In other words, it is the portion of a word's meaning provided by the words that precede or follow the word in question. For instance, the phrase "fast food" is a common collocation. *Fast food* is defined as food that can be cooked and served quickly.

Thematic Meaning

According to Lyons (1995), thematic meaning is one aspect of sentence meaning that is not part of their proportionate substance, according to how sentences are typically characterized. In other words, thematic meaning is the meaning that arises from the way the speaker organizes the message. For instance:

1. *Tomorrow, I plan to go shopping.*
2. *I plan to go shopping tomorrow.*

Sentence A appears to respond to the question: When will you go shopping? While sentence B appears to respond to the question: What will you do tomorrow?

Method

The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method in this study to analyze the types of connotative meaning. What types of connotative meanings are dominant in One Direction's "Four" album? Ufie (2013) defines a descriptive method as one that explains an objective situation to make general statements about it based on these facts. The data were taken from the "Four" album by One Direction; there are 16 songs on the album. The title of the song lyrics is composed as follows: 1. Once in a Lifetime, 2. 18, 3. Steal My Girl, 4. Fool's Gold, 5. Spaces, 6. Night Changes, 7. Fireproof, 8. Change Your Ticket, 9. Where Do Broken Hearts Go, 10. Act My Age, 11. Stockholm Syndrome, 12. Illusion, 13. Girl Almighty, 14. Ready to Run, 15. Clouds, 16. No Control. The researcher chose. The researcher used various instruments to help this research get the data. There are laptops, internet, and song. Furthermore, the data collection technique is reading, analyzing the data, and then describing the results. In addition, there are several steps in this research to analyze the data:

1. Reading the song lyrics while listening to the songs.
2. Identifying the words in the lyrics that have connotative meaning.
3. Categorizing the data, whether they are positive, neutral, or negative.
4. Analyzing the connotative meaning.
5. Drawing conclusion.

Results and Discussion

The findings of the data show that out of 14 songs that are analyzed, there 49 words containing connotative meanings are found. Furthermore, the data are categorized into three types of connotative meaning; they are positive, negative, and neutral. Following is the table showing the distribution of words containing connotative meanings:

Table 1 The Percentages of Connotative Meaning in "Four" Album by One Direction

No.	Song Title	Number of words containing connotative meaning	Percentage
1.	Once in a Lifetime	3 (landslide, riptide, stars.)	6,12%
2.	18	-	-
3.	Steal My Girl	6 (queen, love, heart, jaw-drop, steal, cream.)	12,24%
4.	Fool's Gold	7 (fly, boat, waves, star, gold, lost, feet.)	14,28%

5.	Spaces	2 (drive, fire)	4,08%
6.	Night Changes	5 (red, moon, crazy, running, hides.)	10,20%
7.	Fireproof	2 (fireproof, wind)	4,08%
8.	Change Your Ticket	2 (shade, messes)	4,08%
9.	Act My Age	1 (joke)	2,04%
10.	Where Do Broken Hearts Go	2 (running, feet.)	4,08%
11.	Stockholm Syndrome	3 (whisper, free, light)	6,12%
12.	Illusion	3 (illusion, lifted, sleeve.)	6,12%
13.	Girl Almighty	5 (ambulances, floats, toast, knees, lightning.)	10,20%
14.	Ready to Run	5 (lightning, sinking, free, devil, sun)	10,20%
15.	Clouds	-	-
16.	No Control	3 (pedal, gun, burn.)	6,12%
Total	16 Songs	49	99,99%

The researcher used 5 data to explain the meaning of the selected song lyrics and categorize which types of connotative meaning appear in the "Four" album by One Direction. The researcher used the songs Night Changes, Once in a Lifetime, Illusion, and Ready to Run. It is as follows:

Data 1

*Going out tonight changes into something **red** (Verse 1: line 1-3)*

Her mother does not like that kind of dress

Everything she never had, she is showing off

The data above is taken from Night Changes song lyrics in One Direction's "Four" album. This song tells about growing up with someone. The daughter had a difficult childhood and did not have much time to enjoy it. She can show off things she never had before when the time comes. However, her mother does not like the red dress she wore that night because it represents her daughter's maturation and her mother seems like she is not ready yet to see her daughter growing up. From the lyric above, the word "red" has a connotative meaning that illustrates a dress. The word **red** can have a positive or negative connotative meaning based on the topic being talked about. This lyric has a negative connotative meaning because it causes a negative response from a mother to her daughter by wearing that dress.

Data 2

*Driving too fast, **the moon** is breaking through her hair (Verse 1: line 4-6) She said it was something she won't forget*

Having no regrets is all that she wants

The data above is taken from Night Changes song lyrics in One Direction's "Four" album. Still with the same title as the previous data. To escape her sadness, the daughter drives around wherever she wants. She needs to erase her difficult time and does not want to forget her happiness. She is taking her time to a location and expects that it will make her difficulties disappear and leave her with no regrets. From the lyrics above, the word "moon" has a connotative meaning and refers to night-time. It illustrates that the daughter is driving in the night-time. The word **moon** in the lyric seems to accompany her while she is driving around the location. The word **moon** has a positive connotative meaning because it causes a positive response in her even though she was having a hard time, but she enjoyed how she was driving at that time.

Data 3

Once in a lifetime, it is just right (Verse 1: lines 1-4)

We make no mistakes

*Not even a **landslide** or riptide*

Could take it all away

The data above is taken from Once in a Lifetime song lyrics in the "Four" album by One Direction. The perfect

love experience, which occurs once in your life, is described in the lyrics. Once in a lifetime, love happens in which no errors are made. In the end, the relationship ended after the problems they had. The songwriter tells about the beautiful love story that happened at least once in a lifetime and keeps the good memories in mind. From the lyrics above, the word **landslide** has a connotative meaning and represents something that can break someone's love if it happens. The word **landslide** has a negative connotative meaning because it shows something bad which can break someone's love.

Data 4

Tell me you believe in love (Intro: lines 1-2)
*It is not an **illusion***

The data above is taken from Illusion song lyrics in One Direction's "Four" album. The lyrics describe two people's belief that love is not an illusion and would last forever. This song represents someone who wants to ensure the love is real. From the lyrics above, the word **illusion** has a connotative meaning and refers to something that will be gone quickly, which is love, but the song implies that it will not go that fast, so the singers convince the listener to believe in their perspective. The word **illusion** has a neutral connotative meaning because it does not show something good or bad. It is just neutral.

Data 5

There's a lightning in your eyes, I can't deny (Verse 1: line 1-4)
*Then there's me inside a **sinking** boat*
Running out of time
Without you I'll never make it out alive

The data above is taken from Ready to Run song lyrics in One Direction's "Four" album. The lyrics represent the situation where a person wants to reach out to his or her love but worries that they cannot do so. However, they may miss the opportunity if they do not try it. From the lyrics above, the word **sinking** connotatively refers to something that will disappear in recent times. The word **sinking** has a negative connotative meaning because it causes a negative response in someone; if he does not do it better, he will lose someone he loves.

Table 1 contains 16 songs in One Direction's "Four" album. On that album, 15 songs contained 49 connotative meanings. The researcher found the three highest ranked that used connotative meaning. There are Fool's Gold 7 (14,28%), Steal My Girl 6 (12,24%), Night Changes, Girl Almighty, and Ready to Run 5 (10,20%).

Table 2 The Percentages the Types of Connotative Meaning

No.	Types of Connotative Meaning	Total	Percentage
1.	Negative Meaning	22	44,8%
2.	Positive Meaning	19	38,7%
3.	Neutral Meaning	8	16,3%
	Total	49	99,99%

Table 2 indicates 49 connotative meanings in One Direction's "Four" album. The dominant types that can be found are negative meaning with a total of 22 (45%) data, positive meaning with 19 (39%) data, and neutral meaning with a total of 8 (16%) data.

Conclusion

As a result, song lyrics' connotative meaning could help interpret or illustrate the feelings and emotions of the songwriters through their music. The researcher can conclude based on the results and discussion that have been analyzed. The total of songs in the "Four" album is 16 songs. The researcher found 14 songs with connotative meaning. The song title that does not have a connotative meaning are "18" and "Clouds". As a result, based on a semantics study, there are three types of connotative meaning on that album, there are

Negative Meaning 22 (45%), Positive Meaning 19 (39%), and Neutral Meaning 8 (16%). The dominant type found in One Direction's "Four" album is Negative Meaning, with 22 (45%). By learning connotative meaning, the researcher could comprehend the expression and feeling that implied in the song lyrics.

References

- Aminuddin. (2015). *Semantik; Pengantar Studi Tentang Makna*. Bandung: Sinar Baru Algesindo
- Baiq Herina, H. (2015). *An Analysis of Hyperbolic Expressions used in Love Songs' Lyrics*. A Thesis, Mataram University.
- Christianto, D. (2020). *Compound Words in English*. *LLT Journal: A Journal on Language and Language Teaching*, 10.
- Fromkin, V. A. (2001). *An Introduction to Linguistic Theory*. (F. Victoria A, Ed.) Wiley, 2001.
- Hamdiana, B. H. (2015). *An Analysis of Hyperbolic Expressions used in Love Songs' Lyrics*. A Thesis.
- Leech, G. (1974). *Semantics*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
- Leech, G. (1981). *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*. London: Penguin Books, 1981.
- Simatupang, E. (2020) *The Meaning of Idiom "Eye(S)" in The Corpus of Contemporary American English: Semantic Study*.
- Simatupang, E. C., & Shendy Amalia. (2016). *A Sociolinguistic Study of Code Switching Among Overseas Indonesian Students on Facebook Comments*. 8 th Widyatama International Seminar on Sustainability, Universitas Widyatama.
- Simatupang, E. C. (2019). *Syntactic and semantic analysis on slogans of aviation companies in ASEAN countries*. *English Journal Literacy Utama*, 3, 123-131. <https://doi.org/10.33197/ejlitutama.vol3.iss2.2019.273>
- Lobner, S. (2002). *Understanding Semantics*. London: Arnold Publisher.
- Lyons, J. (1995). *Linguistics Semantics: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Pakpahan, D. P. (2020). *An Analysis of Connotative Meaning on Westlife Song Lyrics Based on Semantics*. *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (AJHSSR)*, 44.
- Sitorus, E. a. (2019). *A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in Calum Scott "You Are the Reason"*. *International Journal of Science and Qualitative Analysis*, 24-28.
- Supri, E. C. (2020). *Compound Words that Occur During the Global Pandemic Covid-19: A Morphosemantic Study*. *English Review: Journal of English Education*, 8
- Todd, J. T. (1987). *Perception of Three-Dimensional Form From Patterns of Optical Texture*.
- Ufie, A. (2013). *Kearifan Lokal Budaya Ai Ni Masyarakat Kei*. Bandung: Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia.