

SIGNIFIED AND SIGNIFIER ON MORALITY MEANING IN “MEMBASUH” SONG LYRICS BY HINDIA FT. RARA SEKAR

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze the moral meaning in the song lyrics of "Membasuh" by Hindia in collaboration with Rara Sekar. The method of research used in this article is interpretative qualitative research. This research used the method of analyzing symbols. Semiotic analysis applied to this research is the theory of Ferdinand de Saussure's signifier and signified. In this research, the song is analyzed based on every stanza; the signifier is the song lyrics of "Membasuh", and the signified is the interpretation of meaning from the lyrics. On the basis of the findings, the writer found the meaning of morality in the song lyrics of "Membasuh" in every stanza. The writer found a lot of messages related to morality, both good and bad. It can be seen in every stanza that the songwriter tries to portray his or her thoughts on morality, whether they are good or bad.. The song lyrics contain a lot of moral meaning, especially the good one.

Keywords: Morality meaning, Membasuh, Hindia, Rara Sekar, Semiotic

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the most important thing for humans. According to Bernard Berelson and Gary A. Steiner, communication is the process of delivering information, ideas, emotions, skills, and others using symbols such as words, images, numbers, etc. (Rinukti, 2017). Humans, as social beings, clearly need to communicate with one another to fulfill their own needs. This is important because it affects the development of human life itself. Communication is then carried out by conveying messages to other people. This is performed for other people to understand the meaning of the messages conveyed and to achieve the result of having the same understanding of something.

In its implementation, communication contains various symbol exchanges that are part of the process of conveying messages. Herustato, in his book "Semiotics of Communication," reveals that a symbol (*symbolos*) is a sign or feature that aims to tell something to someone (in Nathaniel & Sannie, 2018).

The symbol itself has an arbitrary and independent nature; it depends on the ideas and thoughts that are formed. McQuail (in Nathaniel & Sannie, 2018) stated "The transformation of information, ideas, attitudes, or emotions from one person or group to another (or others) primarily through symbols", This proves that communication means the process of conveying a message or information that is varied and can be in the form of ideas, attitudes, or even certain emotions of one person or a group.

In communicating today, the media used have become increasingly varied with the times, one of which is the massive growth of technology. The human mind also develops over time, and in conveying messages at this time, it is done through various media, such as films and music.

Music and Lyrics as a Way to Communicate

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, or KBBI (in Hidayat, 2014), music is a science or art in composing tones or sounds that are expressed, certain combinations, and

temporal relationships to create compositions (sounds) that have balance and unity, both tone and sound arranged in such a harmonious way. Therefore, it contains rhythm, song, and harmony, which can primarily create these sounds.

Music then becomes an effective medium for conveying various messages. Parker (in Hidayat, 2014) reveals that music is a product, result, or fruit of thought; the vibrational elements of frequency, shape, amplitude, and duration have not yet become music for humans until they are transformed neurologically and then interpreted through the brain. Music is one of the media used to communicate in audio form. Music is also a way of carrying out various communication activities that are conveyed through sound and are expected to be able to convey various messages in different ways. Music is considered part of a work of art. As is well known, art is an important part of human civilization, which is growing with the times in both culture and technology and science. The purpose of music, then, is to convey a message, to communicate, even to express.

Music itself is a work of art that is familiar because it is very often present in human life. Since childhood, humans have been familiar with music without realizing it. Even since they were babies, humans have often been listened to with lullaby songs sung by mothers. Then, when the children are also heard with various types of music with song lyrics that are simple, light, easy to understand, and have good values, Growing up, the songs that are heard also experience various developments, in the case of music becoming more complex and dynamic, with various messages and meanings in them. Among them, songs about life stories and even romance are genres favored by teenagers and adults.

In its implementation, music is then present as a medium to communicate; for example, songs that are heard when they are babies or songs to put children to sleep have a function as a communication medium to issue expressions of love and affection from parents to their children through songs and songs, with

the aim that children can sleep soundly and dream beautifully. Music is actually an expression that is issued as an embodiment of one's thoughts, feelings, and heart, which is manifested in the form of sound (audio). In this case, "feelings" can mean various forms of feelings, be they pleasure, sadness, anger, disappointment, and so on.

Communication events in society can be used as a means or medium for expressing ideas, thoughts, intentions, and so on. Again, in its role as a communication tool, language is able to create a sense of mutual understanding between people who send messages and those who receive messages, between writers and readers, or in music itself, between singers and listeners.

Music can be said to be a universal linguistic expression because it is considered capable of uniting many people from all walks of life and age ranges. Music has gradually entered and influenced the joints of human social life in society. Music, which is considered an expression of this feeling, is then channeled by the musicians in such a way in the form of sound, which can be divided into two parts: vocal as an expression through sound and instrumental as an expression through the sound of a musical instrument.

Musicians, as creators of music, make music so that it can be heard by many people and convey a message as a message delivery, entertainer, and disclosure of experiences and stories to others. Music is a means or a place for musicians; through music and lyrics, musicians can then convey what they want.

The relationship between music and song lyrics is then one of mass communication. The song is conveyed from the singer to the listener by using the mass media as a medium. The lyrics, as part of the music itself, act as a tool to convey the message. This lyric content is present as a language of expression from humans created through a creative process in such a way that it contains meaning behind it that needs to be interpreted. Like poetry, lyrics are also a means to describe important social conditions that are related to the reality of social life in written form. According to

Waluyo (in Lutfiana & Sari, 2021), the language found in song lyrics is a language that has been condensed, shortened, and given a rhythm with a coherent sound and a selection of figurative and imaginative diction.

Lyrics are an integral part of musical works because they are important; therefore, they cannot be separated from any other parts. The lyrics, in their role and existence, then become the most important part of a song. This is because, through song lyrics, a person can express the things they have seen, heard, or even experienced. Setianingsih (in Fauzan & Sakinah, 2020) explains that song lyrics that are created and played to the public have a responsibility to spread a belief, value, and even prejudice.

According to Sayuti (in Simanjuntak, 2021), poetic words that are often used in songs can reflect the existence of the writer, whose purpose is that listeners can learn from and feel the things experienced by the writer.

It suggests that the lyrics in a song might make it simpler for lyricists and composers to teach and communicate their emotions in an open way without needing approval or understanding from others. As a result, there are many different reasons why individuals wish to incorporate songs into their daily lives and activities. Some people wish to communicate in order to express their feelings, ideas, desires, and messages in any setting, while others need it in order to grow their business or project or to improve their abilities.

“Membasuh” Song by Hindia Ft. Rara Sekar

Hindia is a soloist with the genre of “Indonesian Indie”. One of the songs by Hindia is a song entitled “Membasuh” which is a collaboration with another Indonesian singer, Rara Sekar. “Membasuh” is included in the album entitled “Menari dengan Bayangan” which was released on July 17, 2019.

The song has been published for 3 years and it is still often being played in many places. It is widely known as a healing song, anyone can relate to this song. The lyrics of the song “Membasuh” then become interesting to study,

especially the meaning of morality which is the core of the message that the singers want to convey to their listeners.

The reason the author chose the song is because it is considered to have a deep and good message or meaning. Contains elements of morality in it. Apart from being easy to listen to by listeners, the elements of morality in this song is very strong and can be used as messages for the listeners. Music and songs in their role as messengers in this communication can touch the listeners and create a positive impression, as well as in the song “Membasuh” by Hindia and Rara Sekar.

Various messages were conveyed to portray the message of morality to the listeners. This is the reason why the writer wants to study this song, and the reason why this article is then entitled “Morality Meaning in “Membasuh” Song by Hindia Ft. Rara Sekar : Signified and Signifier Analysis by Ferdinand de Saussure”, in which the song lyrics of “Membasuh” will be analyzed by its meaning of morality through the perspective of Ferdinand de Saussure which is the signifier and signified.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this article is interpretative qualitative research. The qualitative data is in the form of words, not numbers. Qualitative data is the primary source for a broad understanding of an ongoing process. According to Rifarterre (in Simanjuntak, 2021), the unsustainability of expressions is caused by three things: (1) the existence of meaning replacement, (2) meaning deviation, and (3) the creation of meaning. Changes in meaning in metaphors can take a variety of forms: comparison, humanity, or replacement.

Sulistyo (in Simanjuntak, 2021) stated the research method is a product used to achieve the goal. The method in this research is qualitative research, which aims to conduct a complete description according to the researcher’s view. Putu (in Simanjuntak, 2021) stated that qualitative research is usually

structured to provide the same experience and meaning as the results in the research field.

The data for this research is taken from the song lyrics of an Indonesian song entitled "Membasuh" by Hindia Ft. Rara Sekar. The research on the song lyrics includes: (1) signified and signifier analysis of each stanza; (2) interpretation of the moral meaning of the song lyrics.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Morality

The word "moral" derives from the latin "mores" which means ethics, behavior. Moral means the value as the rule to control people's behavior. Therefore, when someone is said to be immoral or shows bad morality, it means what they do is considered as violating the rules of society or community Darmastuti (in Sartika, 2014). Morality also means to consider a behavior as something good or bad.

Morality is the same as ethics, in which contain the teaching of what is good and what is bad. An action is considered as a good thing or a bad thing. The judgment itself based off something intentional. To judge an action is called as giving an ethical or moral judgement Burhanuddin (in Sartika, 2014)

Sartika (2014) stated that every kind of literature must have contained a message of morality which can be taken or interpreted through the story, it is related to life problems. In this article the message is included in the song lyrics. According to Nurgiyantoro (in Sartika, 2014), most of life problems are related to values such as cultural value, religious value, heroic value, and moral value. Moral value itself is about life problems which consist of "Moral in relation between man and God", "Moral in relation between man and another man", "Moral in relation between man and nature", and "Moral in relation between man and themselves".

Semiotic Theory of Signified and Signifier by Ferdinand de Saussure

This research used the method of analyzing symbols. Semiotic analysis applied on this

research is the theory from Ferdinand de Saussure, signifier and signified.

Ferdinand Saussure is a linguist scholar who has developed the basis framework in general linguistic theory. He is well-known as a founder of modern linguist. He proposed the sign theory, he thinks that the emergence of sign theory in the scope of linguistics started when he felt that the theory of linguistic signs should be placed in a more general theory. He then proposed the term of "semiology" which eventually have been published as a book entitled "Course in General Linguistics".

The fundamental thing of Saussure's theory therefore is the idea that language is a system of signs, and that there are numerous additional sign systems in use throughout the world in addition to language. If other sign systems from throughout the world were to be compared to the linguistics system of sign, he believes it to be the most superior system. Reality is largely constructed by language.

Saussure put the sign in the context of human communication with doing classification between what is called as the signifier and the signified. The existence of Saussure's theory is a relation between signifier and signified based off of convention, the process of classifying between both of these elements are often called as signification. Signification semiotics is a sign system which is focusing on the relation between sign elements within a system based on certain rules or convention. The social agreement is needed to analyze the signs, with the basis of interpreting things, this means that objects on their function are not just to deliver message or information from the people who want to communicate, but also to restruct the structural system of sign. On this research, the writer will be more objective towards the research, with interpreting the song lyrics according to the value have been agreed in general society.

Saussure (in Rudrakumar & Venkatraman, 2022) as a pioneer in the field of semiotics stated that a sign cannot be limited to only the verbal level alone, as it also includes the non-verbal entity. Saussure's theory of sign can be

used to try to distinguish between the sign and the object.

To analyze the meaning of song lyrics “Membasuh” which will be based off of the semiotic theory which is developed by Ferdinand de Saussure which is focusing on signifier and signified, this research will focus on the meaning within the lyrics of the song “Membasuh” by Hindia and Rara Sekar. On this research the signifier is the song lyrics of “Membasuh”, and the signified is the interpretation of the meaning from the lyrics.

The morality meaning in the song lyrics of “Membasuh”

This is the song lyrics of “Membasuh” by Hindia ft. Rara Sekar :

*Selama ini
Kunanti
Yang kuberikan datang berbalik
Tak kunjung pulang
Apa pun yang terbilang
Di daftar pamrihku seorang*

*Telat kusadar hidup bukanlah
Perihal mengambil yang kau tebar
Sedikit air yang kupunya
Milikmu juga bersama*

*Bisakah kita tetap memberi
Walau tak suci?
Bisakah terus mengobati
Walau membiru?
Cukup besar 'tuk mengampuni
'Tuk mengasihi
Tanpa memperhitungkan masa yang lalu
Walau kering
Bisakah kita tetap membasuh?*

*Kita bergerak dan bersuara
Berjalan jauh, tumbuh bersama
Sempatkan pulang ke beranda
'Tuk mencatat hidup dan harganya*

*Mengering sumurku
Terisi kembali*

Kutemukan

Makna hidupku di sini

The writer will analyze the morality meaning included in the song lyrics on every stanza by using the theory of Ferdinand de Saussure which is the signifier and signified.

Table 1. Signifier and Signified on the 1st Stanza

Signifier	Signified
<i>Selama ini Kunanti Yang kuberikan datang berbalik Tak kunjung pulang Apa pun yang terbilang Di daftar pamrihku seorang</i>	On this stanza, the songwriter states the nature of human, which is selfishness. The narrator in this song has been waiting for people to give back whatever it is that the narrator has given to them. The songwriter uses the phrase “ <i>Tak kunjung pulang</i> ” as the amount of time the narrator spent to wait for people to return the favor.

Every human on this earth must have had their own selfishness. On this song, the songwriter tries to emphasize the selfishness of people with wanting their favors to be returned. The way the narrator wait as expressed on the phrase “*Selama ini*” and “*Kunanti*” shows bad morality, the narrator also expressed their selfishness explicitly on the phrase “*Di daftar pamrihku seorang*” which means they have a list of things the narrator wants people to do for her/him as a return of his/her favors. This is related closely to the morality of people, sometimes people tend to expect others to return their favor when clearly, it is not something that people should do.

Table 2. Signifier and Signified on 2nd Stanza

Signifier	Signified
<i>Telat kusadar hidup bukanlah Perihal mengambil yang kau tebar Sedikit air yang kupunya Milikmu juga bersama</i>	On the second stanza, all the lyrics signified a realization. The songwriter tries to portray a realization and somewhat regret of the narrator towards himself/herself. The narrator came to a realization that life is not all about taking what you have given to others, but rather to share with each other. The word “ <i>Sedikit</i> ” signified something little, in this case it means to give even though we do not have much. This contains a message of a good morality.

On the theory of Verhaar (in Nathaniel & Sannie, 2018) there is a concept of meaning expression, in which there is information and means. Both of these aspects are beyond letters or utterances. The only difference is that information is something beyond utterance if it being viewed from the object perspective or the things being spoken; meanwhile means are seen from the perspective of the speaker, or in this case, the subject. This means that the person who is talking says something whether they are sentences or phrases, but the things they mean are not the same with their literal meanings.

As explained above about meaning expression and how the things the speaker mean are not the same with their literal meanings, it is also the same with the song lyrics. The songwriter uses the phrase “*Hidup bukanlah perihal mengambil yang kau tebar*”

this is not to be understood as in their literal meaning, “*tebar*” that is usually used for “seed” or something that we spread, rather it is to be understood as taking what has been given, in this sense it can be anything. It can be in the form of sympathy, help, support, and so on. And the message is that life is not about getting the same thing that you have given to others, life is about giving with sincerity and not expecting people to do the same thing.

Table 3. Signifier and Signified in 3rd Stanza

Signifier	Signified
<i>Bisakah kita tetap memberi Walau tak suci? Bisakah terus mengobati Walau membiru? Cukup besar 'tuk mengampuni 'Tuk mengasihi Tanpa memperhitungkan masa yang lalu Walau kering Bisakah kita tetap membasuh?</i>	The lyrics portray the narrator’s emotions and feelings implicitly. The way it is expressed through the sentences “ <i>Bisakah kita tetap memberi walau tak suci?</i> ”, “ <i>Bisakah terus mengobati walau membiru?</i> ” and also on “ <i>Walau kering, bisakah kita tetap membasuh?</i> ” they all indicate that the narrator has shown their feeling of sympathy and sincerity. The word “ <i>Membasuh</i> ” comes up on this stanza is the title of the song, it signified people to do things for each other with sincerity, even though it may not be a lot.

This stanza shows good morality even though it expressed in interrogative form. The lyrics show certain expressions, such as sympathy and sincerity. It conveys the message of giving and caring. This stanza emphasizes the good value of sincerity. As it shows on the lyrics “*Bisakah terus mengobati walau membiru?*” the word “*membiru*” refers

to the wound that is still not fully healed, it means to heal other’s wound even though we are still wounded.

“*Cukup besar ‘tuk mengampuni, ‘tuk mengasihani tanpa memperhitungkan masa yang lalu*” The phrase “*cukup besar*” refers to the heart of people, it is big enough to sincerely forgive and love, despite everything that happened in the past. Whoever you are, whatever you did in the past, it does not matter. The message portrays in the lyrics is to help each other despite their background.

The main thing being emphasized on this stanza is about sincerity. To forgive people without considering whatever happened in the past and to give others what we have, even though maybe it is not much.

Table 4. Signifier and Signified on 4th Stanza

Signifier	Signified
<i>Kita bergerak dan bersuara Berjalan jauh, tumbuh bersama Sempatkan pulang ke beranda 'Tuk mencatat hidup dan harganya</i>	This stanza signified the things people do in their daily lives. People move, talk, walk, and grow with each other. “ <i>Beranda</i> ” signified somewhere people live, or it can also be called as “ <i>home</i> ”. “ <i>Mencatat hidup dan harganya</i> ” means to remember how valuable life is.

As can be seen on the table above, this stanza delivered the message as a reminder for people, that we do everything with each other, people grow together in the place they called home. People should remember that place and people that they grow up with, it means that human cannot live without each other.

People will always need someone to do things in their lives, therefore they should not forget where they came from, it surely shows good morality as people should always

remember and grateful for the people they live with and realize how valuable life is.

Table 5. Signifier and Signified on 5th Stanza

Signifier	Signified
<i>Mengering sumurku Terisi kembali Kutemukan Makna hidupku di sini</i>	The phrase “ <i>Mengering sumurku</i> ” signified the narrator’s state psychologically. The word “ <i>Sumur</i> ” shows the concept of heart, and soul of the narrator. It was in the empty state before the narrator realized how valuable people in his/her life and therefore it is being filled up. “ <i>Di sini</i> ” on the last line refers to the place the narrator called home, it means to be surrounded with people she/he loves.

The last stanza shows that eventually the narrator found the meaning of his/her life. In this case, the lyrics show that even an empty heart can be filled up with people we love, with doing the best of giving and caring for each other. The songwriter used the word “*Disini*” refers to the place called “*home*”, to be with people we love. This stanza also shows good morality as explained above, people will feel complete as they do good things to each other.

CONCLUSION

After doing an analysis of morality meaning in the lyrics song of “Membasuh” by Hindia and Rara Sekar with the theory of signifier and signified from Ferdinand de Saussure, the writer came up with the conclusions below :

From the research, the writer found the morality meaning in the song lyrics of “Membasuh”. The writer found a lot of messages related to morality, both the good and bad. It can be seen on every stanza that the songwriter tries to emphasize his/her thought of morality, either it is a good one or even a bad one. The songwriter portrays how is morality in people through the lyrics, also delivers messages of good morality. There are also meanings on every stanza :

1st Stanza: On this stanza the songwriter tries to emphasize the selfishness of people with wanting their favors to be returned which is an example of bad morality.

2nd Stanza: The songwriter tries to portray a realization and somewhat regret of the narrator towards himself/herself. The narrator came to a realization that life is not all about taking what you have given to others, but rather to share with each other even though we do not have much.

3rd Stanza: The main thing being emphasized on this stanza is about sincerity. To forgive people without considering whatever happened in the past and to give others what we have, even though maybe it is not much.

4th Stanza: This stanza shows that people will always need someone to do things in their lives, therefore they should not forget where they came from, it surely shows good morality as people should always remember and grateful for the people they live with and realize how valuable life is.

5th Stanza : The lyrics on the last stanza show that even an empty heart can be filled up with people we love, with doing the best of giving and caring for each other. The songwriter used the word “*Disini*” refers to the place called “*home*”, to be with people we love. This stanza also shows good morality that

people will feel complete as they do good things to each other.

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