



ANALYZING PRAGMATICS THROUGH MUSE'S SONG

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Abstract

This study examines pragmatics, namely speech acts in the lyrics of several songs belonging to MUSE. This study aims to describe the speech acts contained in the lyrics of the song. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by describing the results of the analysis of the speech acts in the songs belonging to MUSE. The data collected is in the form of text that has been classified by category. The theory used is pragmatics and speech acts. The results of this study indicate that there are several categories of speech acts contained in the lyrics of the songs. The results of this study are as follows, from several song lyrics analyzed there are differences and also similarities in speech act categories between song lyrics with one another. The use of speech acts found in the lyrics include *representative/assertive*, *directive/impositive*, *expressive/evaluative*, *commissive*, and also *declarative/estabilisif/isbati*.

Keywords: Lyrics, Muse, Pragmatic, Speech Act

INTRODUCTION

Song is one form of language use that is common in society in general. Through songs, the function of language as a communication tool can also be used to convey certain messages from the singer or the songwriter himself. The message in question can be drawn from the hidden meaning of the song lyrics created by the author. To find meaning in a text, pragmatic analysis can be used that pay attention to context. In understanding a song, a person has a different perception. This is because knowledge from one person to another is also different. The response given in listening to a song, especially one song with another not the same, depending on one's analysis which of course will also different from one listener to another. Therefore, here as a writer, the author will analyze some songs from a well-known band in England, MUSE. The songs from MUSE are interesting to study because they are often assign an ambiguous impression, especially for the audience or music listeners who sometimes don't really know about MUSE. That's because in general, the language of the lyrics is used sometimes very complicated and difficult to understand by ordinary listeners. So, really need a complete and good understanding of the message of this song and have to use the right approach.

MUSE is a British alternative rock band. The band was formed in 1994 with members consisting of Matthew Bellamy, Christopher Wolstenholme, and Dominic Howard. MUSE has a music genre that combines rock, progressive rock, classical music, and electronics. Muse is known as a band that is quite quirky thanks to its song lyrics. They tell many things through lyrics, ranging from romance to quite complicated issues such as conspiracy theories, politics, to celestial phenomena. Their songs are interesting to study because the

understanding obtained by listeners is different, this is because understanding is obtained by the way in which the listener understands this song. That is, the context used by the listener is different, according to their knowledge. And from their many popular songs, author chose five songs for analysis, namely: *Sing for Absolution, Uprising, Unintended, Knight of Cydonia, Starlight*.

To understand a song, requires the listener to analyze it from a certain context according to his/her ability to analyze. The analysis from one person to another can be different, this happens because the context they use in analyzing the song is different. Depending on the context, it is related to the study of pragmatic theory, so the author uses pragmatic theory in analyzing the songs related to the concept of meaning. This study aims to find the meaning behind the lyrics of the songs by MUSE, using pragmatic theory that focuses on the context and speech acts in it. Therefore, further this article aims gives a description and meaning that is felt right for this song. Everyone has a way see for yourself to interpret something and there is no right or wrong about it. But in an effort to understand a work, of course, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth study or study to arrive at a conclusion the accuracy or suitability of meaning with what the author wants to convey, the context and original audience. Tracing traces of biographical and socio-historical backgrounds will be able to help to achieve the accuracy of understanding the text message or the lyrics of the song.

Speech act is a theory that examines the meaning of language based on the relationship between speech and actions taken by speaker. Speech act are pragmatic element that involve speaker and listeners or writers or riders and what is being discussed. The originator of illocutionary speech act theory, Searle (1969) divided speech acts into five categories:

1. Representative / assertive, namely speech that binds the speaker to the truth of what is said. This type of speech act is also known as assertive speech act. Included in this type of speech act are utterances of stating, demanding, admitting, showing, reporting, giving testimony, mentioning, speculating.
2. Directive / impositive, which is a speech act intended by the speaker so that the listener takes the action mentioned in the speech. Directive speech acts are also known as impositive speech acts. Included in this type of speech act are the utterances of asking, inviting, forcing, suggesting, urging, ordering, demanding, ordering, urging, pleading, challenging, giving cues.
3. Expressive/evaluative. This speech act is also known as evaluative speech act. Expressive speech acts are speech acts intended by the speaker so that his speech is interpreted as an evaluation of the things mentioned in the speech, including utterances of thanking, complaining, congratulating, flattering, praising, blaming, and criticizing.
4. Commissive. Commissive speech acts are speech acts that bind the speaker to carry out all the things mentioned in his speech, for example swearing, promising, threatening, expressing ability, taking a vow.
5. Declarative / establisif / isbati, namely speech acts intended by the speaker to create new things (status, circumstances, etc.). This speech act is also



known as *isbati*. Included in this type of speech are speeches with the intention of impressing, deciding, canceling, prohibiting, granting, permitting, classifying, lifting, forgiving.

METHOD

This study was conducted by using a qualitative descriptive method by describing the results of the analysis of the speech acts in the songs belonging to MUSE. The data collected is in the form of text that has been classified by category. The theory used is pragmatics and speech acts. The results of this study indicate that there are several categories of speech acts contained in the lyrics of the songs. The pragmatic approach was chosen in this research which studies the conditions of language use which are determined by the context of the situation contained in the song lyrics. Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context which is the basis for a record or report on language understanding. To support the pragmatic approach, in this study a descriptive method was used. The theory used is the theory of Searle in pragmatics. The data collection technique uses online search and note-taking techniques, including YouTube and Google. The data analysis method used descriptive qualitative. Then, for the types of illocutionary speech acts, it was found that there were several contained in the lyrics of the song, namely *directive*, *assertive*, *expressive*, *declarative*, and *commissive*.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Song Lyrics Study

In this case, the author will describe pragmatics in the first song entitled “Sing for Absolution” by the famous British music group, MUSE. And examine the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song. Each lyric in the text contains a certain style of language, which can then be studied for its explicit or implied meaning.

Title: Sing for Absolution

Lyrics:

Lips are turning blue
A kiss that can't renew
I only dream of you
My beautiful
Tip toe to your room
A starlight in the gloom
I only dream of you
And you never knew
Sing for absolution
I will be singing
And falling from your grace
There's nowhere left to hide
In no one to confide
The truth burns deep inside
And will never die
Lips are turning blue



A kiss that can't renew
I only dream of you
My beautiful
Sing for absolution
I will be singing
Falling from your grace
Sing for absolution
I will be singing
Falling from your grace
Yeah
Our wrongs remain unrectified
And our souls won't be exhumed

In the first and second line lyrics, there are representative speech acts, namely utterance that binds the speaker to the truth of what he said. The speaker is responsible that the speech spoken is indeed a fact and can be proven by the speaker / singer. In the sentence there is an utterance *declare*. On the 3rd and fourth lines, there are also still using representative speech acts but this time using the utterance *confession*, the speaker admitted that he only dreamed of the person he called "My beautiful". Furthermore, in the sentence "Tip toe to your room" there is a directive/impositive, namely a speech act intended by the speaker to make the listener perform the action mentioned in the speech. On the sentence "A starlight in the gloom" there is also a directive/impositive speech act, which is an utterance of *pleading*. which the songwriter begs or hopes for a speck of light in the dark or perhaps it can also be interpreted as the songwriter begging for forgiveness for his sinners.

Next "And you never knew" this sentence is an expressive speech act. This speech act is also known as evaluative speech act. The sentences contained in the lyrics as if the speaker is complaining about the insensitivity of the interlocutor. Expressive speech acts it's self is speech acts intended by the speaker so that his speech is interpreted as an evaluation of the things mentioned in the speech. While in the 9th line and so on, there are several combinations of directive, expressive and commissive speech acts.

If interpreted broadly, the writer of this song is a dying sinner and sings for forgiveness. Absolution is closely related to sin. "You" here can be interpreted in various ways, it can be a lover who is hurt (because of betrayal) or God. The lines "starlight in the gloom" and "falling from your grace" can be used as reasons why "you" = God. But the "and you never knew" array gets blurry again. How could God "never know?". The results of this study indicate that the meaning contained in the lyrics of their songs, one of which is about the expression between Matt Bellamy as a speaker to his God as his interlocutor, where the speaker indicates that he in the song Sing for Absolution is a dying sinner and sings to ask for forgiveness. Therefore, further this article aims gives a description and meaning that is felt right for this song.

Title : UPRISING

Next is analyzing pragmatic in the second song, MUSE is one of the many western bands who famous for being brave and openly against one eye organization (Illuminati Fremansory), MUSE strongly opposes secret



organizations this, and they are against it through lyrics and video clips in the song, here are the uprising song lyrics that are very blatant to oppose the Illuminati.

Lyrics:

Paranoia is in bloom
The PR transmissions will resume
They'll try to push drugs that keep us all dumbed down
And hope that we will never see the truth around
(So come on)
Another promise, another scene
Another packaged lie to keep us trapped in greed
And all the green belts wrapped around our minds
And endless red tape to keep the truth confined
(So come on)
They will not force us
They will stop degrading us
They will not control us
We will be victorious
(So come on)
Interchanging mind control
Come, let the revolution take its toll
If you could flick the switch and open your third eye
You'd see that we should never be afraid to die
(So come on)
Rise up and take the power back
It's time the fat cats had a heart attack
You know that their time's coming to an end
We have to unify and watch our flag ascend
(So come on)
They will not force us
They will stop degrading us
They will not control us
We will be victorious
(So come on)
They will not force us
They will stop degrading us
They will not control us
We will be victorious
(So come on)

Next, see the meaning of a snippet of lyrics below:

Interchanging mind control
Come let the revolution take its toll
If you could flick the switch and open your third eye
You'd see that we should never be afraid to die

They will not force us!
They will stop degrading us!

They will not control us!
We will be victorious!

The meaning of the lyric above is a signal of resistance from us to fight "THE NEW WORLD ORDER" They will not fight us, so in that sentence there is a category of directive speech which is a speech act intended by the speaker to make the listener perform the action mentioned above in that speech. One thing that attracts attention is that all words use the word will, which means this fight is new or not even implemented. So, in the sentence there is a commissive speech, namely a speech act that states ability.

Rise up and take the power back
It's time the fat cats had a heart attack
You know that their time's coming to an end
We have to unify and watch our flag ascend

In the lyrics of the song there is also the word "fat cats" which can be interpreted as a corrupt official. Here there is representative/assertive speech, namely speech that binds the speaker to the truth of what is said, namely giving testimony or perhaps speculating about these corrupt officials and in the lyrics it seems to mention/state a hidden message if there is a conspiracy and a conversation behind a story and "fat cats" became the power behind the throne. They aim to be the strongest among the crowd, control people, and not give them freedom, wealth, and so on. And another name for this group of people is "The New World Order". Political leaders are just puppets in a game of political power struggle. Many of these people are members of a social group such as the Freemasons, Illuminati etc. The broader meaning is the existence of a group of people who are secretly massively corrupt, dark, honorable, and rich behind a state government that can control the people through hidden messages through the media, politics, economy, and through propaganda. So, in the song there are several combinations of speech acts, but over all they use more directive categories of speech acts. The indicator of directive speech is the existence of an action taken by the speech partner after hearing the speech.

Title : Unintended

Lyrics:
You could be my unintended
Choice to live my life extended
You could be the one I'll always love
You could be the one who listens
To my deepest inquisitions
You could be the one I'll always love
I'll be there as soon as I can
But I'm busy mending broken
Pieces of the life I had before
First there was the one who challenged
All my dreams and all my balance
She could never be as good as you
You could be my unintended
Choice to live my life extended
You should be the one I'll always love
I'll be there as soon as I can

But I'm busy mending broken
Pieces of the life I had before
I'll be there as soon as I can
But I'm busy mending broken
Pieces of the life I had before
Before you
Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh
Ooh, ooh

The lyrics of this song have an interesting story. In the song Unintended written by Matt Bellamy, it turns out that it has a love story that the author himself has experienced.

You could be my unintended
Choice to live my life extended
You could be the one I'll always love

In the lyric above, it can be seen that the speaker uses a representative/assertive speech act because there the speaker tries to express or admit his feelings to the interlocutor. The speaker also mentions the word 'unintended' which this word is an implicature whose real meaning is to refer to the interlocutor, namely a woman, but because the woman doesn't come from anywhere, and she doesn't want that to happen, and the speaker doesn't really care about everything. About his feelings for the woman, the speaker calls the interlocutor unintended.

First there was the one who challenged
All my dreams and all my balance
She could never be as good as you

In the lyric above, we see that the speaker indirectly tells about his past with his previous partner to the interlocutor. The last sentence contains an expressive/evaluative speech act in which the speaker flatters the interlocutor with a comparison.

I'll be there as soon as I can
But I'm busy mending broken
Pieces of the life I had before

In the lyrics above the speaker uses commissive speech acts, namely speech acts that bind the speaker to carry out all the things mentioned in his speech and in the lyrics the speaker expresses an ability. And the next line is an expressive/evaluative speech act intended by the speaker so that his speech is interpreted as an evaluation of the things mentioned in the speech, namely the speaker who accidentally has a relationship with a woman or you could say human's "accidental"-love life. A woman / interlocutor has finally found the right love, at the right person, but at the wrong time. Because the guy is not ready and still can't forget his past. So if it is understood broadly in the lyrics of the song, there are several combinations of speech acts used in it, although the speaker uses representative/assertive speech acts more often. If you look closely, this song tells about the speaker meeting a woman and accidentally establishing a relationship with her. Speakers feel comfortable with the woman, the woman understands him very well and loves him sincerely. However, even though the speaker has been with the right person, the speaker is still busy repairing his heart that had been



broken into pieces by his past. The speaker tries to forget his past, but his past still haunts him. And the speaker is completely blinded by his past and tells the woman he is in a relationship with now that he will be with her once he has made up his mind.

Title: Knight of Cydonia

Lyrics :

Come ride with me
Through the veins of history,
I'll show you how God
Falls asleep on the job
And how can we win,
When fools can be kings?
Don't waste your time
Or time will, waste, you...
No one's gonna take me alive
Time has come to make things right
You and I must fight for our rights
You and I must fight to survive
No one's gonna take me alive
Time has come to make things right
You and I must fight for our rights
You and I must fight to survive
No one's gonna take me alive
Time has come to make things right
You and I must fight for our rights
You and I must fight to survive

The lyric content of this song tells about the journey of turning back history, criticism of “stupid kings”, proverbs to make the best use of time and teach one to rely on one's own abilities and determine their own destiny.

Come ride with me
Through the veins of history,
I'll show you how God
Falls asleep on the job

In the lyric fragment above, there are directive speech acts in the first and second lines where the sentence means an invitation from the speaker to the interlocutor. However, in the next line, the speaker uses representative/assertive speech acts in delivering his sentence, namely speech that binds the speaker to the truth of what is said. The speaker wants to show testimony to the interlocutor if God is sleeping but this might be interpreted if the speaker does not believe in his God. This is interesting because in Greece the level of distrust in God is indeed high.

How can we win, when fools can be king

What is even more interesting is the lyrics, which seem to invite war with God, "How can we win, when fools can be king". Here there is an expressive/evaluative speech act in which the speaker complains and also criticizes the ignorant kings.

Don't waste your time



Or time will waste you
No one gonna take me alive
Time has come to make things right
You and I must fight for our rights
You and I must fight to survive

From the lyrics of the song above, we can clearly see if the speaker uses a directive speech act, namely the speaker suggests to the interlocutor that only we can change our destiny, and there will be times when no one will help us, when everything goes away no one will help us. more reliable than ourselves. The conclusion from the lyrics of the song is that the people of Cydonia want to destroy God under the leadership of the "Knight of Cydonia". If translated into the current situation, let's say that "God" is the government, it fits like this, it means that the government is asleep in its work and is getting more and more compatible. How are we going to win if the leader is very stupid, "How can we win, when fools can be king", this means that the lyrics of this song invites us to make a massive revolution in this world. Destroy the corrupt government, so the whole of the lyrics refers more to or uses more directive speech acts, namely speech acts intended by the speaker so that the listener does the action mentioned in the speech, namely to revolutionize the world, but of course before revolutionizing the world we must also revolutionize ourselves. Be a person you can rely on yourself, maybe that's the message from Matthew Bellamy as a speaker.

Title: Starlight

Far away
This ship is taking me far away
Far away from the memories
Of the people who care if I live or die
Starlight
I will be chasing a starlight
Until the end of my life
I don't know if it's worth it anymore
Hold you in my arms
I just wanted to hold
You in my arms
My life
You electrify my life
Let's conspire to ignite
All the souls that would die just to feel alive
I'll never let you go
If you promise not to fade away
Never fade away
Our hopes and expectations
Black holes and revelations
Our hopes and expectations
Black holes and revelations
Hold you in my arms
I just wanted to hold
You in my arms



Far away
This ship is taking me far away
Far away from the memories
Of the people who care if I live or die
I'll never let you go
If you promise not to fade away
Never fade away
Our hopes and expectations
Black holes and revelations, yeah
Our hopes and expectations
Black holes and revelations
Hold you in my arms
I just wanted to hold
You in my arms
I just wanted to hold

Muse's song Starlight after being translated contains the meaning of love. This man feels that the person he likes is too far to reach. He will do anything to get it even if he has to chase the starlight.

Far away
This ship is taking me far away
Far away from the memories
Of the people who care if I live or die
In the lyric fragment, the speaker uses expressive/evaluative speech acts in which the speaker complains about the speaker's own condition.

Starlight
I will be chasing a starlight
Until the end of my life
I don't know if it's worth it anymore
Then look at the lyric fragment above, where there are declarative speech acts, namely speech acts intended by the speaker to create new things (status, circumstances, etc.). In the lyrics, the speaker decides that he will do whatever it takes to get what he wants even if he has to chase the starlight.

If you promise not to fade away
Never fade away
Our hopes and expectations
Black holes and revelations
In the lyric above there is a declarative speech act, namely the speaker forbids the interlocutor or will not allow the interlocutor to leave him. But in the last two lines, are representative speech acts in which the speaker expresses hope or perhaps speculates. The lyrics of this Starlight song are very simple but exude the power of hope about the future. In addition to the future, the lyrics of this song also provide indir indirect instructions about how we should respond to the past and present. So, over all in this lyric uses representative speech acts in which the speaker states or may speculate on himself.

KESIMPULAN

The researcher found that almost all of the lyrics used the speech acts



described above, the analysis used in the research the speech act used is illocutionary speech act. In his speech, MUSE songs use more speech illocutionary because in the lyrics, an utterance will not never separated from the context in the form of action or invitation. Pragmatic studies themselves are also an important part of study linguistics, because in communicating with other people, everyone must pay attention to his speech / speech so that the speech does not hurt other people's feelings. Besides, when communicating with other people, there are things which must be considered. For example, the situation and relationship that exists between the speaker and the speaker speech partner. From each strategy used by speakers, they can make speech partners understands that the interlocutor must do everything he is told. From several strategies used by the speaker, the speaker succeeded in making his speech partner understand that the speaker wants the interlocutor to do something for him. Even when the speaker instructs the speech partner indirectly by using the off strategy record, the speech partner succeeded in capturing the intent of the speaker and doing what he said ordered by the speaker. Likewise in song lyrics, often the speaker or singer does not say his speech clearly and in detail, so that the listener usually begins to speculate about what meaning is actually conveyed in the lyrics of a song. Therefore, semantic and pragmatic sciences are very useful in solving these problems so that the listener or the interlocutor can clearly understand what the speaker really wants to convey.

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