

MAN SACRIFICE SYMBOLS ON THE CHAINSMOKERS SONGS



TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY VETERAN

BANGUN NUSANTARA UNIVERSITY

SUKOHARJO

2026

ABSTRACT

NINGRUM, ARGY TERESYIA. NIM 1951800001. MAN SACRIFICE SYMBOL ON THE CHAINSMOKERS SONG. Thesis, of undergraduate degree of English Department. Teacher training and Education Faculty. Veteran Bangun Nusantara University of Sukoharjo. 2026. First Advisor: Mrs. Dr. Veronika Unun Pratiwi, S.Pd, M.Pd. Second Advisor: Mrs. Nurnaningsih, S.Pd., M.Pd.

The purpose of the research to determine the sign that relate to the sacrifice of man on the Chainsmokers songs that publish on Sick Boy Album and the meaning of effort that using to impress their love one.

The researcher using Qualitative method to conduct research and consist four songs on Sick Boy Album on the Chainsmokers Song.

The researcher using Theory Triangulation and consisted four songs of The Sick Album on The Chainsmokers song. The researcher uses the documentation method as the technique of data collection. The procedures are as follows, the researcher examines the content obtained from the data sources, the researcher identifies relevant information to support the research, the researcher takes notes on important aspects contained in the sources, the researcher classifies the data and understands the correlation. The analysing data used Descriptive Qualitative.

The Semiotics of Pierce and Saussure theory used for analysis data. Used code for coding the lyric of Sick Boy, Hope, Everybody Hate Me and Somebody songs. Code of data can determine the sign that relate to the sacrifice of man on the Chainsmokers songs that publish on Sick Boy Album and to determine the meaning of effort that using to impress their love one. The researcher concludes that the researcher conducted by the author was successful in determine sign and meaning of Man Sacrifice Symbol on The Chainsmokers song.

Keywords: Semiotic, Sacrifice, The Chainsmokers Song, Content Analysis, Qualitative Research

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction consist, background of choosing the study, limitation on the problem, problem statement, objective of the study and the benefit of the study.

A. Background of Choosing the Study

Sacrifice is an effort of giving something that belongs to someone else, especially to special people, with the purpose of impressing other people or getting help from someone. In addition, sacrifice is also defined as the psychological readiness to suffer and die for a cause (Belanger, 2014:34). Sacrifice is done by people who have a strong desire for someone or something. Sacrifice relates to many actions throughout history.

Sacrifice is often described in many forms. The representation of sacrifice often illustrates implicitly in songs. A song is a piece of music that has words which are linguistically meaningful and sung by a singer. Further, according to Griffie (1992:3), a song is vocally produced, linguistically meaningful, and has a melody. Therefore, it can be concluded that a song is a piece of music that has words which are linguistically meaningful and sung by a singer. A song composes words delivered by music and usually contains a hidden meaning. A song is a composition made up of lyrics and music, with the intent of the lyrics being sung for the purpose of producing a proportionate feeling or emotion in relation to a particular matter. A song also contains deeper meaning that can function as life motivation.

Song lyrics are a form of words employed to share the feelings of the author in dealing with and facing situations that insult a group of people. In forming the lyrics, the author uses many expressions that describe present situations and covers them with polite words to form the song lyrics. In addition, the researcher finds that song lyrics are useful to express hidden meanings that are implied.

Dealing with the flexibility of music, the researcher finds that music can be used to share concepts related to daily human thoughts, such as a man's sacrifice to get attention from the one he likes. Music makes audiences understand the concept of the story more easily. Therefore, in describing the hidden meaning of a song, the hidden meaning is often represented as a sign or symbol that guides the researcher to further detail of meaning.

A symbol is a mark, sign, or word that indicates or signifies an idea, object, or relationship. Symbols allow people to go beyond what is known or seen by creating linkages between different concepts and experiences (Rey, 1995:2082). In addition, according to Holman and Harmon (1968:44), a symbol is an image that evokes an objective, concrete reality and suggests another level of meaning. It is a trope that combines literal and sensuous qualities with abstract or suggestive aspects.

Based on the explanation above, it can be stated that a symbol in literature is not merely a form. A symbol contains messages that can be interpreted and analyzed to find deeper meaning behind literal meaning. A symbol often represents another meaning rather than its pure meaning.

In this undergraduate thesis, the researcher constructs an explanation to find the deeper meaning symbolized in song lyrics. The researcher finds that some songs

symbolize sacrifice, which is often represented by men. In order to construct the explanation, the researcher employs songs by The Chainsmokers.

The Chainsmokers are an American electronic DJ and production duo consisting of Alex Pall and Drew Taggart. They begin by releasing remixes of songs by indie artists. The EDM-pop duo achieves a breakthrough with their 2014 song “#Selfie,” which becomes a top-twenty single in several countries. They win a Grammy Award, two American Music Awards, seven Billboard Music Awards, and nine iHeartRadio Music Awards. According to Forbes' 2019 list of highest-paid celebrities, The Chainsmokers are the highest-paid DJs, dethroning Calvin Harris after six years.

As the main data of this research, the researcher chooses three songs published under the Sick Boy album, which is released in 2018. The researcher focuses on analyzing “Sick Boy,” “Hope”, “Everybody Hates Me,” and “Somebody” These songs contain representations of effort and sacrifice that are often done by men in facing or fighting for their loved ones. The Chainsmokers also often mention representations of sacrifice in their songs.

B. Limitation of the Problem

The limitation of the research is to analyze the sign that represent sacrifice of the Chainsmokers song that included on the Sick Boy Album (2018). The researcher purpose to find the explanation of the sign of sacrifice that can be seen on the Chainsmokers song.

C. Problem Statements

1. What is the sign of man sacrifice on the Chainsmokers songs that publish on Sick Boy album?
2. How are the meaning of people effort to impress their love one?

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To determine the sign that relate to the sacrifice of man on the Chainsmokers songs that publish on Sick Boy Album.
2. To determine the meaning of effort that using to impress their love one.

E. The benefit of the study

The research is expected to provide benefits based on the following aspects:

1. Theoretically

This undergraduate thesis emphasized the future learner to outline a sign that found in a song or other media using the Semiotics approach.

2. Practically

This study helps be the references that help the next researcher to build a comprehension on making this research variable. Then, help the next researcher to get information about the complexity of understanding meaning. Therefore, the next researcher can consider the things that need to be added to be followed up in the form of subsequent research.

a. For the Student

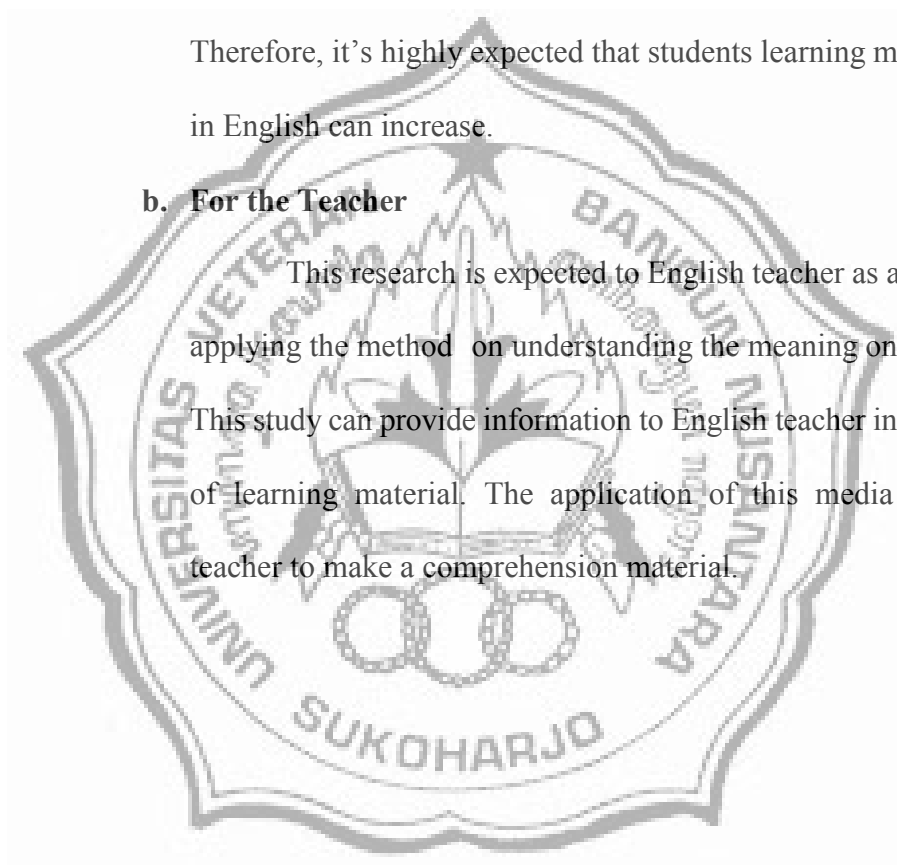
This research prepared to be fullered the learning material to students on learning English. Especially on: understanding the complexity of meaning that could be comprehend into a different-things. This is because the study can give the explanation on the steps of understanding meaning.

Therefore, it's highly expected that students learning motivation in English can increase.

b. For the Teacher

This research is expected to English teacher as a guide in applying the method on understanding the meaning on English.

This study can provide information to English teacher in the form of learning material. The application of this media pursued teacher to make a comprehension material.



CHAPTER II

RELATED STUDIES AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Theoretical Review of Semiotic

1. Definition of Semiotics

Semiotics is noted as the scientific study of signs. Semiotics aims to analyze the meaning behind signs. Semiotics appears in word composition when the creator uses certain elements to explain something else. In this research, semiotics relates to signs found in sentences, pictures, gestures, music sounds, objects, and entertainment media that produce information about meaning in song lyrics. In sentences, there are word markers that are understood by everyone. Semiotics aims to understand signs or symbols as well as knowledge activities created in scientific works to be understood by others.

Semiotics comes from the word *semeion*, which means mark or sign (Sebeok, 2001:4). Chandler (2002:2) confirms that semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as “sign” in everyday speech, but also of anything that stands for something else.

Based on the definition above, the researcher understands that the nature of semiotics is to reveal everything used as a sign. A sign represents something else. The existence of signs enriches the code system in communication. Semiotics consists of visual and verbal elements, as

well as tactile and auditory elements, which can be accepted by human senses (Pribadi, 2002:7). In the worlds of academics, there are many experts that deliver the terms of semiotics.

2. Variant of semiotics

Charles Sanders Peirce's that explain about a sign which consists of three elements: representamen, object, and interpretant (Peirce, 1940:101).

A sign represents something to somebody in some respect or capacity. The sign creates an interpretant, which is the understanding produced in the mind of the interpreter. The sign stands for an object, not in all aspects, but in relation to a certain idea, which Peirce sometimes calls the representamen (Peirce, 1940:58).

Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotics explain about semiotics that known as a science that studies the life of signs within society is conceivable. It would be a part of social psychology and consequently of general psychology. (Leeds-Hurwitz, 1993:4) Saussure's theory is the principle that emphasized language as a system of sign, and besides language there are many other sign systems that exist in the world of mankind. However, in his opinion the system of linguistic sign or language is the most superior sign system compared to other system that exist in the real world because it plays an important role in constructing reality. (Yakin, Totu, 2021:6)

Saussure framed that the principle that emphasized language as a system of sign and besides language there are many other sign systems that

exist in the world of mankind. Saussure's mention that semiotics is a view of a sign as an inseparable unity between the signifier (marker/physical form) and the signified. Signs are arbitrary and are interpreted based on the social system, not a direct relationship to real object.

3. Purpose of semiotics

Peirce's semiotics, signs consist of icons, indexes, and symbols. An icon refers to something by virtue of similarity to the object. An index refers to something by virtue of being directly connected or affected by the object. A symbol refers to something by virtue of law, convention, or agreement among people.

On explaining Pierce semiotics, the researcher provides an example using the term "mobile phone." The icon refers to the physical object of the mobile phone itself. The index refers to its practical use, such as communication through messages or calls. The symbol refers to the idea of prestige and modern lifestyle associated with mobile phones. These three elements relate to each other. The icon leads to the index, the index expands to the symbol, and the symbol returns to the icon as part of interpretation.

The structure can be summarized as follows:

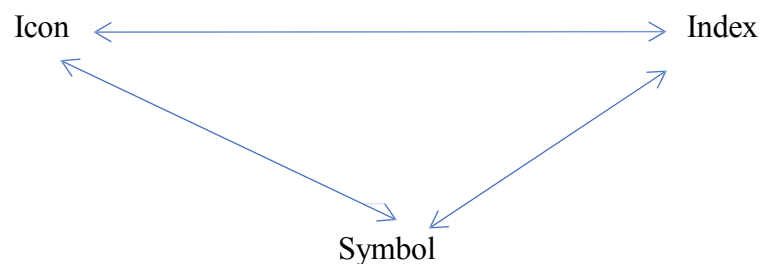


Figure 1.1 Three fundamental categories by Peirce

Based on the diagram above, the researcher put the words “*Mobile Phone*” as an example. The words “*Mobile phone*” is a reference as the Mobile phone itself. Then, it indexes the casual use of mobile phone such as communication like messages or call. Furthermore, it symbolizes that Mobile Phone is a prestige and modern lifestyle for people now. These three are related each other. The icon takes the readers to understand the index, index expand to symbol, symbol back to the icon.

The researcher summarize that Icon is term that refer to some similarity or the exact things that describe with the things. Index is used to explain a thing that affected directly to the object. Then, symbol is an explanation of representation or assumption that occurs after setting the law.

Saussure semiotics explain about two components of a Sign (Dyadic). There are Signifier: A sound, Visual image, or written form (physical form), Signified: The concept, idea, or meaning that comes to mind when seeing/hearing the signifier. Example, the word “table” (sound/written) is the signifier, while the concept “furniture with legs and flat” is the signified. Arbitrary (Manasuka): the relationship between the signifier and the signified does not have a logical or natural bond, but is based on social convention/agreement of language users. Saussure emphasized that the meaning of a sign is derived from other sign in the system, not from the sign itself. Relational System there are, Syntagm is horizontal relations of sign that form a sequence. Paradigmatic is vertical relations or associations of signs that can be substituted for each other.

Semiotics is a field of study involving many different theoretical stances and methodological tools. In commercial or advertisements, semiotics act as a tool that employ the exact scale of cultural aspects. Linguistic and Cultural semiotics are branch of communication theories that investigate sign network and concept of representation that people use to express feeling, ideas, concept and ideologies. In short, semiotics is a study of meaning that focus on all that can see as a sign significantly can be used to chance for something else.

Saussure stated semiology purposed to aims on a point and use on limits of portray images, gesture, musical sounds, objects and complex association to all these that contain all form the content of ritual, convention or public entertainment; these constitute; if not language at least of signification. (Barthes, 1977) Semiology concern to the general concepts of language and other sign forms, it makes an obvious that semiotics is sciences of sign that proceed to proliferation of a number on perspectives and the line to other culture phenomena and increase the study of sign based on denotation and connotation.

B. Sacrifice

Sacrifice defines as multifaced concept spanning religious, anthropological, and psychological contexts, generally referring to the voluntary surrender, destruction, or offering of something of value ranging from tangible goods to life itself to higher power or for a greater purpose.

Sacrifice is a neglecting of the basic needs for freedom and choice as they force themselves to achieve for their goals.

Sacrifice often understands as both the loss of the self and the gift of the self for the goodness of others. Sacrifice often implies potential harm of a negotiation it-self. It considered as self-sacrifice is the denial of self-love. Men would have no space for their dignity and self-respect when they continually sacrifice for others for the sake of self-sacrificial act rather than as agents.

Based on the explanation, the researcher defines that sacrifice to man as the act of interest of man to employ their effort to impress the woman that he likes. On these contexts, the researcher would imply to find the meaning on the sacrifice that has been done by man to woman.

C. Previous Study

There are some previous studies related to this research that the researcher uses as references, as follows:

1. This undergraduate thesis relates to Rachmawati (2018). Her research purposes to outline the signs and meanings in a semiotic analysis of John Green's novel *Paper Towns*. Her research aims on describes the signs found in *Paper Towns* and to explain their meanings by using Peirce's semiotic theory. The signs found in *Paper Towns* are reflected in the clues left by the main character, Margo Roth Spiegelman. The meanings of the signs relate to the concept of interpretant in Peirce's semiotic theory. Furthermore, these research focus on examine the Chainsmokers

songs under sick boy album. These research uses two variants of semiotics theory (Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotics and Ferdinand De Saussure Semiotics.) Then, the sign that found on the research focus on sacrifice and the meaning of effort that has been done by the author on impressing their love one.

2. This undergraduate thesis also relates to Pribadi's research. His study deals with semiotic analysis of the song lyrics of *Born This Way* by Lady Gaga. His study aims to investigate the denotative meaning, connotative meaning, and myth meaning contained in the song lyrics. His research examines on how semiotic meaning is realized in the lyrics of *Born This Way*. His research applies a descriptive qualitative method. His data consist of written transcripts of the song lyrics. He found that 116 signs collected and analyzed through the application of Miles and Huberman's theory, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification. The results show that the lyrics contain denotative, connotative, and myth meanings. The song conveys a motivational message that defends minority groups who are victims of discrimination. In general, the meaning of the song emphasizes self-acceptance and self-love despite deviation from prevailing social norms. Three semiotic terms are manifested in the lyrics: divinity, sincerity, and simplicity. Further, based on the explanation above, the researcher realizes that many elements in Pribadi's research are similar to the comprehension built in this paper. Both studies use semiotic theory to

examine hidden meanings behind symbols found in song lyrics. Both also use songs as research data. However, there are differences between the studies. Then, the difference lies in the object and theoretical framework. Pribadi uses *Born This Way* by Lady Gaga as the object and applies Roland Barthes' theory, which focuses on representation and myth. Pribadi applies a listing method to collect signs found in the lyrics. In contrast, this research uses Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory, which focuses on examining the relationship among icon (physical representation), index (causal relationship), and symbol (conventional meaning). Synchronic is the study language at a specific point in time (descriptive) and Diachronic is the study of language over time (historical).

