

An Analysis of Semantics: Denotative and Connotative Meaning in the Song “Exile” by Taylor Swift

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Info Artikel

Submitted: 19 Maret 2026

Revised : 31 Maret 2026

Accepted: 30 April 2026

Published: 06 Mei 2026

Keywords: semantics, denotative meaning, connotative meaning, song lyrics, Taylor Swift

Kata Kunci: semantik, makna denotatif, makna konotatif, lirik lagu, Taylor Swift

Abstract

This study was designed to examine how we understand the denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of the song "Exile" by Taylor Swift. This study also aims to explore and analyze the use of denotative and connotative meanings present in the song "Exile" by Taylor Swift. Semantics, as a branch of linguistics, has an essential role in explaining how meaning is formed in language and plays a crucial role in understanding how meaning is constructed in language, both literally and figuratively. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by examining song lyrics to identify words, phrases, and expressions that carry denotative (literal) and connotative (implied) meanings. The findings indicate that while some lyrics convey clear denotative meanings, a significant number of expressions are rich in connotative meanings that reflect emotional depth. These connotative aspects enrich the interpretation of the lyrics, allowing listeners to understand the meaning beyond the surface and connect more deeply with the song's emotional storyline, such as feelings of heartbreak, misunderstanding, and separation. The connotative elements in the song contribute to deeper interpretations beyond the literal meaning, allowing listeners to connect with the emotional narrative. Therefore, this study highlights the importance of semantic analysis in understanding song lyrics and demonstrates how denotative and connotative meanings work together to enhance a song's overall message. In conclusion, this study underscores the importance of semantic analysis in interpreting song lyrics and illustrates how the combination of denotative and connotative meanings helps communicate the overall message more effectively.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dirancang untuk menguji bagaimana kita memahami makna denotatif dan konotatif dalam lirik lagu "Exile" karya Taylor Swift. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi dan menganalisis penggunaan makna denotatif dan konotatif yang terdapat dalam lagu "Exile" karya Taylor Swift. Semantik, sebagai cabang linguistik, memiliki peran penting dalam menjelaskan bagaimana makna terbentuk dalam bahasa dan memainkan peran penting dalam memahami bagaimana makna dibangun dalam bahasa, baik secara harfiah maupun kiasan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan memeriksa lirik lagu untuk mengidentifikasi kata, frasa, dan ekspresi yang mengandung makna denotatif (harfiah) dan konotatif (tersirat). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa meskipun beberapa lirik menyampaikan makna denotatif yang jelas, sejumlah besar ekspresi kaya akan makna konotatif yang mencerminkan kedalaman emosional. Aspek konotatif ini memperkaya interpretasi lirik, memungkinkan pendengar untuk memahami makna di balik permukaan dan terhubung lebih dalam dengan alur cerita emosional lagu, seperti perasaan patah hati, kesalahpahaman, dan perpisahan. Unsur-unsur konotatif dalam lagu berkontribusi pada interpretasi yang lebih dalam di

luar makna literal, memungkinkan pendengar untuk terhubung dengan narasi emosional. Oleh karena itu, studi ini menyoroti pentingnya analisis semantik dalam memahami lirik lagu dan menunjukkan bagaimana makna denotatif dan konotatif bekerja bersama untuk meningkatkan pesan keseluruhan sebuah lagu. Kesimpulannya, studi ini menggarisbawahi pentingnya analisis semantik dalam menafsirkan lirik lagu dan menggambarkan bagaimana kombinasi makna denotatif dan konotatif membantu mengkomunikasikan pesan keseluruhan secara lebih efektif.



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Publisher: Lembaga Penerbit Penelitian Nusantara

Introduction

Language is an essential tool for human communication, enabling individuals to express ideas, emotions, and experiences. In linguistics, the study of meaning is known as semantics, which focuses on literal meaning and how words, phrases, and sentences convey meaning in different contexts. Communication in language grouped into two, namely through oral communication and written communication. Meaning in language can generally be categorized into denotative and connotative. Denotative meaning refers to the literal or dictionary definition of a word, which has its actual, straightforward, or basic meaning without any figurative or additional meanings. It is not a metaphor, simile, or allusion. Connotative meaning involves emotional, cultural, or associative meanings that go beyond literal interpretation. It can also be called figurative, meaning that is not literal or contains hidden meanings.

Song lyrics are one of the most expressive forms of language, often combining denotative and connotative meanings to create a deeper emotional and artistic effect. Through lyrics, songwriters can communicate complex feelings and narratives in a way that resonates with listeners. One example is “Exile” by Taylor Swift, which depicts themes of heartbreak, miscommunication, and emotional distance. This song's lyrics provide rich material for semantic analysis due to their layered meanings and poetic expression.

Previous studies have shown that analyzing song lyrics through a semantic approach can help uncover hidden meanings and enhance listeners' understanding of the message. However, many listeners tend to focus solely on the surface meaning of the lyrics without fully exploring the deeper connotative aspects. Therefore, it is important to conduct a detailed analysis to uncover both literal and implicit meanings within a song.

Literature Riview

Denotative Meaning

Denotative comes from the Latin "denotare" *de* which means "completely" and *notare* which means "to mark." So literally, denotative means "to mark clearly" or "to show the true meaning." In linguistics, semantics, and the philosophy of language, denotative is the starting point for people to reach a common understanding. Using a denotative definition helps avoid misunderstandings because everyone is referring to the same thing. Denotative meaning is the actual or literal meaning (original or direct meaning) of a word, namely the meaning that corresponds to reality and can be found in a dictionary. This meaning is objective and does not contain any particular feelings or judgments.

Meaning in semantics is divided into seven types of meaning, but in this analysis I only take two meanings, denotative meaning and connotative meaning. According to Riemer (2010), the manner in which we conceptualize and apply the idea of "meaning" within language is significant because it establishes the foundational framework from which semantic theory can be developed and explained. The field of semantics plays a crucial role in our daily communication by providing the tools and principles that allow us to articulate and interpret meaning clearly and effectively in ordinary language use. As Riemer stated, denotative is the starting point for building semantic theory. Linguists use denotative to map the relationships between words and real-world objects/concepts before delving into more complex meanings such as connotative, implicature, or pragmatics. for example, the word "home" means the house or flat/apartment where you live, especially with your family. whereas "flower" means the colored part of the plant where seeds or fruit develop. A denotative meaning refers to the literal definition of a word. For example, the denotative of "woman" includes human, female, adult. These traits make up the core, dictionary definition of the word, without any added feelings or associations.

Its mean Denotative meaning refers to the meaning of a word that is based on real experiences of what can be seen or heard so that it can be understood as the literal or actual meaning of a word, just like the definition found in a dictionary.

In addition, denotative meaning also has a strong relationship with the structure of language itself. In the theory of signs proposed by Ferdinand de Saussure, language is understood as a system of signs consisting of two main elements, namely the signifier (sound or word form) and the signified (concept or meaning represented by the form). In this context, denotative meaning refers to the signified part, namely the basic meaning that is directly referred to by a word without

additional sense value or subjective interpretation. In other words, denotative meaning is the core of the relationship between the form of language and the reality it refers to, thus functioning as a basis for understanding linguistic expressions objectively and systematically.

Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is a meaning that does not directly lead to the intention or something or a meaning that does not directly refer to the main meaning of a word, in other words this meaning goes beyond the conceptual meaning itself, this meaning arises from certain associations, feelings, or values attached to the word. connotative meaning is often referred to as a meaning that does not actually exist Therefore, connotative meaning is often considered an additional meaning that is not literal and is not always visible in reality.

Connotative meaning is an additional meaning that is not limited to the basic meaning of a word, but is also influenced by various factors such as feelings, personal experiences, and the social and cultural values attached to the word. This meaning arises through associations that develop in the mind of the speaker or listener, often carrying certain emotional nuances or judgments. Because of its subjective nature, connotative meaning can vary depending on the context of use, cultural background, and the experience of the individual interpreting it. Thus, a word can have various connotative meanings even though its denotative meaning remains the same.

According to Leech (1981:12), connotative meaning is the communicative value contained in an expression. This value arises from what the expression refers to, and its existence goes beyond purely conceptual content. In other words, connotative meaning can be understood as an additional meaning that evokes a certain impression, feeling, or expression in the listener or reader. This meaning is broader than its denotative meaning, as it not only explains the literal meaning but also includes emotional associations, social values, and personal experiences attached to the word.

Leech (1981:12) explains that connotative meaning is the communicative value a word or expression possesses because of what it refers to. This value differs from its conceptual or dictionary meaning. Therefore, connotative meaning is a meaning that carries additional expressive content. This meaning arises from certain associations, feelings, or impressions that are richer than its basic or denotative meaning. For example, a word not only refers to its object but can also trigger certain emotions, attitudes, or judgments in the person who hears it.

For example When we say the word "snake," its connotative meaning refers to a cunning or dangerous person, "she is a snake." Not an animal, but a cunning person (connotative meaning). and when we say "village flower" refers to the meaning of the most beautiful girl in the village.

According to Masriyah et al. (2019), connotative meaning serves as a bridge connecting real-world experiences with a person's emotional response or expression when they hear or use a word or phrase in communication. In other words, connotation not only conveys literal meaning but also evokes certain associations, feelings, and impressions related to the listener's or speaker's life experiences when the language is used. Zuhdah and Alfain (2020) explain that the concept of connotation refers to a layer of meaning that goes beyond the basic definition of a word. It carries extra associations, emotions, or implied senses that are attached to the term.

It can be concluded that connotation is a meaning that emerges in addition to the lexical meaning or the actual meaning listed in the dictionary. This meaning is not fixed, but rather formed from associations, experiences, feelings, and cultural values that accompany the use of a word. Thus, connotation provides a layer of emotional or evaluative meaning that makes a particular word feel positive, negative, neutral, or even create a specific impression for the speaker and listener. Connotation can therefore be understood as a derived meaning attached to a word beyond its official dictionary definition. This meaning arises from the context of use, social background, and psychological responses of language users, so that the same word can trigger different interpretations depending on who hears or uses it.

Language in Song Lyrics: A semantic perspective

The language used in song lyrics has unique characteristics that differ from the language used in everyday communication. This is because song lyrics function not only as a means of conveying information, but also as a medium for expressing emotions, personal experiences, and the creator's imagination in greater depth. In Semantics studies, song lyrics are often used as an object of analysis to understand how meaning is formed and conveyed through word choice, distinctive language style, and the use of denotative and connotative meanings. In contrast to everyday language, which tends to be direct and clear, the language in song lyrics is usually more poetic, full of figurative language, and symbolic, thus opening up opportunities for various interpretations of meaning by listeners. Thus, a single song lyric can be interpreted differently depending on the perspective, experience, and background of the individual listening to it. Studying the language in song lyrics through a semantic approach is important for understanding how meaning is formed and conveyed in depth. According to Geoffrey Leech (1981), meaning in language is not only limited to conceptual (denotative) meaning, but also includes associative (connotative) meaning related to certain feelings, attitudes, and values. In the context of song lyrics, these two types of meaning work together to create a message that is not only informative but also emotional and interpretive.

Therefore, through semantic analysis, researchers can reveal how word choice and language style are used to convey emotions and implied meanings, so that the message the songwriter wants to convey can be understood more comprehensively.

In the context of a song like Taylor Swift's "Exile," the language used in the lyrics doesn't always convey a direct or literal meaning. Instead, many words and phrases are used figuratively to describe complex emotional experiences, such as feelings of loss, disappointment, inner conflict, and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships. These meanings are often conveyed through the use of connotative meanings, allowing listeners to sense a depth of emotion not explicitly expressed. Furthermore, the song's choice of diction and style also enhances the dramatic and interpretive nuances, allowing each lyric to possess more than one layer of meaning. Therefore, analyzing the denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics is crucial, as this approach allows us to uncover the implied meanings and understand the emotional message the songwriter is trying to convey more deeply and comprehensively.

Furthermore, the meaning contained in song lyrics cannot be separated from the influence of the social and cultural context in which the song was created and listened to. Factors such as cultural values, social norms, and the collective experiences of a community can contribute to shaping and enriching the connotative meaning of the words used in the lyrics. As a result, a phrase in a song does not have a single, fixed meaning but can develop into various interpretations. Listeners from different cultural backgrounds, life experiences, or perspectives tend to interpret lyrics in different ways. This shows that the meaning of song lyrics is flexible and not singular, but rather dynamic and highly dependent on the personal experiences and perceptions of each individual in interpreting the message conveyed.

Thus, studying the language used in song lyrics through a semantic approach can provide a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of how meaning is constructed and conveyed. Through this analysis, not only the denotative meaning as the basic meaning can be identified, but also the connotative meaning containing emotional nuances, values, and broader interpretations can be revealed more clearly. The semantic approach allows researchers to explore how word choice, language style, and the context of language use in lyrics play a role in conveying certain messages to listeners. Thus, analyzing both types of meaning is important to understand how the emotions, experiences, and ideas that the songwriter wants to convey can be received and interpreted effectively by the audience.

Research Method

Research Design

This study applies a qualitative approach with a descriptive design as the main framework in analyzing the data. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study does not focus on numbers or statistical calculations, but rather on efforts to understand and interpret the meaning contained in song lyrics in depth, especially those related to denotative and connotative meanings. By using this approach, researchers can explore how meaning is constructed through the use of language, word choice, and the context behind the lyrics. According to John W. Creswell (2014), qualitative research focuses on the process of understanding meaning constructed by individuals or groups in a particular situation or context. This shows that meaning is not fixed, but can develop according to interpretation and experience. Therefore, a descriptive qualitative approach is considered the most appropriate for use in this study, because it is able to provide a clear and in-depth picture of how meaning in language is analyzed, especially in the study of Semantics.

The research design used was descriptive qualitative, aiming to systematically describe how denotative and connotative meanings are used in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's song "Exile." This study did not use numerical data, but instead focused on text analysis (song lyrics) as the primary data source.

The data source for this study is the lyrics of the song "Exile," taken from Taylor Swift's album. The data was collected through documentation techniques, namely by identifying and recording words, phrases, or sentences in the lyrics that contain denotative and connotative meanings. Furthermore, the data was analyzed using content analysis techniques, namely by classifying the data based on their type of meaning, then interpreting the meaning according to the context of the song lyrics.

In the analysis process, the researcher used Geoffrey Leech's (1981) theory of meaning, which distinguishes between conceptual (denotative) and associative (connotative) meaning. The results of the analysis were then presented in descriptive form, explaining how both types of meaning are used to convey emotions and messages in the song.

Data collection

In this study, data collection techniques were conducted using documentation methods and various other techniques to ensure the depth, credibility, and reliability of the findings. This method was chosen because the data analyzed was in the form of written text, namely the lyrics of the song "Exile" performed by Taylor Swift. According to Sugiyono (2017), documentation techniques are

a method of data collection carried out by reviewing documents, whether in the form of writings, images, or works relevant to the research.

The data collection steps in this study were as follows. First, the researcher downloaded and thoroughly read the lyrics of the song "Exile" from a trusted source. Second, the researcher understood the overall content of the lyrics to gain an overview of the song's theme and context. Third, the researcher identified words, phrases, or sentences that contained denotative and connotative meanings. Fourth, the data collected was then recorded and classified based on their meaning type.

To ensure data accuracy, researchers also repeatedly read the song lyrics to ensure the collected data was truly relevant to the research focus, namely the analysis of meaning in semantic studies. Thus, this documentation technique enabled researchers to obtain valid data that aligns with the research objectives.

Data analysis

The data analysis in this study used the content analysis method, a technique used to systematically, structured, and in-depth study of the meaning of text. This method was chosen because the study focused on song lyrics as the primary data source, the meaning of which needed to be analyzed. According to Klaus Krippendorff (2004), content analysis is a research technique that allows researchers to draw valid and replicable conclusions or inferences from data, taking into account the context in which it is used.

In this study, data analysis was conducted through several steps. First, the researcher read and understood the lyrics of the song "Exile" in their entirety to gain a sense of context. Second, the researcher identified words, phrases, or sentences containing denotative and connotative meanings. Third, the identified data were then classified into two main categories: denotative and connotative meanings. Fourth, the researcher analyzed each piece of data using Geoffrey Leech's (1981) theory of meaning, which distinguishes between conceptual and associative meanings. Fifth, the results of the analysis were interpreted to explain how these meanings are used to convey messages and emotions in the song lyrics.

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the analysis results, researchers conducted a contextual interpretation process by considering the overall content and meaning contained in the song lyrics, not just certain parts. This approach allows researchers to understand the relationship between the lines of the lyrics and the message they want to convey as a whole. The analysis is also strengthened by using an approach in Semantics studies, especially in the aspect of lexical meaning which focuses

on conceptual (denotative) meaning and associative (connotative) meaning as proposed by Geoffrey Leech (1981). Through this approach, researchers can identify and explain the meaning of words and phrases in song lyrics more systematically and in accordance with the context of their use. so that each identified meaning, both denotative and connotative, can be explained more systematically and in accordance with the theoretical framework used in the study.

Findings and Discussion

Denotative Meaning in the Song “Exile” By Taylor Swift

Data analyzed from the lyrics of the song "Exile" indicates that the denotative meaning in the song refers to the literal or true meaning of the words, phrases, and sentences used. This meaning can be understood directly without requiring additional emotional or figurative interpretation, as it aligns with the dictionary meaning. In other words, denotative meaning provides a basic understanding of the linguistic elements used in the song's lyrics. However, the analysis also shows that the use of denotative meaning in this song is not overly dominant. This is because most of the lyrics emphasize the conveyance of emotions, experiences, and conflicts through the use of more expressive and interpretative connotative meanings. Song lyrics tend to be designed to touch the listener's emotions, so the meanings used often go beyond their literal meaning.

Although its role is not dominant, denotative meaning still plays a very important role in the analysis. This meaning serves as the basis or starting point for understanding the overall content of the song, as it helps both researchers and listeners recognize the true meaning of the words used before moving on to deeper interpretations. Thus, denotative meaning serves as a foundation for more complex meaning analysis processes.

To clarify the results of the analysis, the following table presents the denotative meaning data found in the song lyrics:

No	Lyrics	Meaning Types	Explanation
1	“So I’m leaving out the side door”	Denotative	Door refers to a door as a physical object for entering and exiting.
2	“I can see you standing”	Denotative	Standing indicates a physical standing body position.
3	“With his arms around your body”	Denotative	Arms and body refer to literal human body parts.
4	“Laughing, but the joke’s not	Denotative	Laughing is the act of laughing for real.

	funny”		
5	“I can see you standing, honey”	Denotative	See means the activity of seeing using the sense of sight.
6	“Like you’d get your knuckles bloody”	Denotative	Bloody means bleeding or physically injured.
7	“You didn’t even hear me out”	Denotative	Hear means hearing using the sense of hearing.
8	“I gave so many signs”	Denotative	Signs literally means signs or signals.
9	“So I’m leaving”	Denotative	Leaving means going or leaving a place physically.

The use of denotative meaning in this song serves to provide a concrete picture of the situation and help listeners directly understand the context of the story. However, the use of denotative meaning in this song is relatively less than that of connotative meaning, as the majority of the song's lyrics are expressive and emotional.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the denotative meaning in "Exile" serves as a foundation for building an initial understanding of the song's content, before listeners interpret deeper meanings through connotative meanings. The use of denotative meaning in this song serves to provide a concrete picture of the situation and help listeners directly understand the context of the story. However, the use of denotative meaning in this song is relatively less than that of connotative meaning, as the majority of the song's lyrics are expressive and emotional.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the denotative meaning in "Exile" serves as a foundation for building an initial understanding of the song's content, before listeners interpret deeper meanings through connotative meanings.

Connotative Meaning in the Song “Exile” By Taylor Swift

The connotative meaning found in the song “Exile” by Taylor Swift refers to meanings that go beyond the literal definitions of words, encompassing emotional nuances, personal associations, and context-dependent interpretations. Rather than simply reflecting dictionary meanings, these connotations are shaped by the experiences, feelings, and relational dynamics conveyed in the lyrics. In this song, connotative meaning is used extensively as a primary tool to express complex emotions such as loss, disappointment, inner conflict, and the breakdown of a relationship.

The analysis further indicates that a significant portion of the lyrics in “Exile” relies on connotative meaning. This can be observed in the frequent use of words and expressions that do not directly point to their literal meanings but instead require deeper interpretation to fully understand

the intended message. The lyrics often employ figurative language and symbolic expressions, allowing listeners to interpret the emotional depth and underlying themes of the song. As a result, understanding the song requires not only recognizing the surface meaning of the words but also exploring the implied meanings shaped by context and emotional resonance.

To clarify the results of the analysis, the following table presents the denotative meaning data found in the song lyrics:

No	Lyrics	Meaning Types	Explanation
1	“I think I’ve seen this film before”	Connotative	Describes the experience of relationships that repeat and end the same
2	“You’re not my homeland anymore”	Connotative	Symbolizes the loss of comfort and home in a relationship.
3	“So what am I defending now?”	Connotative	Shows confusion in maintaining relationships
4	“You were my town”	Connotative	Describes a person as the center of life
5	“Now I’m in exile seeing you out”	Connotative	Shows feelings of alienation and exclusion from the relationship
6	“Like you’d get your knuckles bloody for me”	Connotative	Depicting great sacrifice or emotional struggle
7	“Second, third, and hundredth chances”	Connotative	Shows a relationship that is given a chance to continue to be repeated even though it is problematic
8	“You never gave a warning sign”	Connotative	Describes a lack of communication in the relationship
9	“I never learned to read your mind”	Connotative	Shows failure to understand partner's feelings
10	“I gave so many signs”	Connotative	Refers to the attempt to give emotional signals
11	“You didn’t even hear me out”	Connotative	Shows no desire to understand
12	“So step right out”	Connotative	Describes separation or emotional distancing
13	“You never gave a warning sign (I gave so many signs)”	Connotative	Describes miscommunication in a relationship, not a physical sign.
14	“So many signs, so many signs”	Connotative	Shows repeated emotional attempts to provide guidance in the relationship.
15	“I’m not your problem anymore”	Connotative	Depicts emotional separation and abdication of responsibility in a relationship.

16	"So what am I offending now?"	Connotative	Shows conflict and misunderstanding in communication.
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The connotative meaning in this song appears very dominant because the language used tends to be emotional, poetic, and rich with certain symbols. This means that most of the lyrics cannot be understood solely through literal or dictionary meanings, but rather require deeper interpretation, taking into account the overall context of the song. In other words, the meaning contained within often goes beyond the basic meaning of the words used.

This indicates that the song's lyrics focus more on conveying emotions, inner conflict, and experiences in interpersonal relationships through symbolic and interpretive expressions. Each utterance conveys not only its direct meaning but also carries a more complex and profound emotional meaning. Therefore, to fully understand the intended message, contextual interpretation is necessary, connecting the meaning of the language to the situation, feelings, and experiences that underlie it.

This aligns with Geoffrey Leech's (1981) view, which explains that meaning in language is not limited to conceptual or literal basic meaning, but also encompasses broader associative meaning. This associative meaning is closely related to the emotional aspects, personal experiences, and values held by both the speaker and the listener. Thus, an utterance is understood not only based on its dictionary meaning, but also through the various associations and feelings that accompany it, resulting in a more complex and profound meaning.

Another finding is that the connotative meaning contained in the song lyrics is also useful to support the perfection of the song with a troubled context with a relationship that is on the brink of disaster so that people can feel the vibes conveyed by the song emotionally.

Discussion

Based on the analysis of the lyrics of Taylor Swift's song "Exile," it was found that denotative and connotative meanings play different yet complementary roles in constructing the song's overall meaning. Denotative meaning serves as the basis for understanding because it provides the literal or true meaning of the words used in the lyrics. Through this meaning, listeners can grasp the situation directly without requiring in-depth interpretation.

However, connotative meaning appears to be more dominant in this song. This is because the lyrics focus more on conveying emotions, inner conflict, and experiences in interpersonal relationships. Many of the utterances in the lyrics cannot be understood solely through dictionary definitions but require interpretation based on the context and feelings involved. In other words,

connotative meaning provides a depth of meaning that denotative meaning lacks.

This finding aligns with the theory proposed by Geoffrey Leech (1981), who distinguishes between conceptual (denotative) and associative (connotative) meaning. According to Leech, conceptual meaning is a basic, objective meaning, while associative meaning is related to specific emotions, experiences, and values. In the context of the song "Exile," these two types of meaning work together, with denotative meaning providing the basic structure, while connotative meaning enriches the meaning with emotional nuances.

Furthermore, the dominance of connotative meaning indicates that the language in the song's lyrics tends to be poetic and symbolic. This allows listeners to not only understand the song literally but also feel and interpret its deeper meaning based on their own experiences. Therefore, analyzing both types of meaning is crucial for gaining a complete understanding of the song's message. Thus, it can be concluded that denotative and connotative meanings have a complementary relationship, with denotative meaning forming the basis for understanding, while connotative meaning provides depth and emotional power to the message.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of Taylor Swift's song "Exile," it can be concluded that the song's lyrics contain two types of meaning: denotative and connotative. Denotative meaning refers to the literal or dictionary meaning of words, phrases, and sentences, which serves as a fundamental basis for understanding the song's overall content. Through denotative meaning, listeners can understand the explicit and surface meanings conveyed in the lyrics.

However, findings indicate that connotative meaning is more prevalent throughout the song. This is due to the nature of the song's lyrics, which tend to emphasize emotional expression, personal experiences, and interpersonal conflicts through symbolic and figurative language. Connotative meaning allows for a deeper interpretation of the lyrics, allowing listeners to grasp implicit messages that go beyond the literal meaning.

Furthermore, both denotative and connotative meaning function complementary in constructing the song's overall meaning. While denotative meaning provides a basic semantic framework, connotative meaning enriches the interpretation by adding emotional depth and contextual nuance. The interplay between these two types of meaning highlights the importance of semantic analysis in uncovering the song's intended message. Furthermore, this study shows that context plays a crucial role in determining meaning within the semantic domain. Therefore, the

interpretation of song lyrics cannot rely solely on the literal meaning but must also consider contextual and experiential factors. Through this approach, a more comprehensive understanding of the meaning contained in the lyrics can be achieved.

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