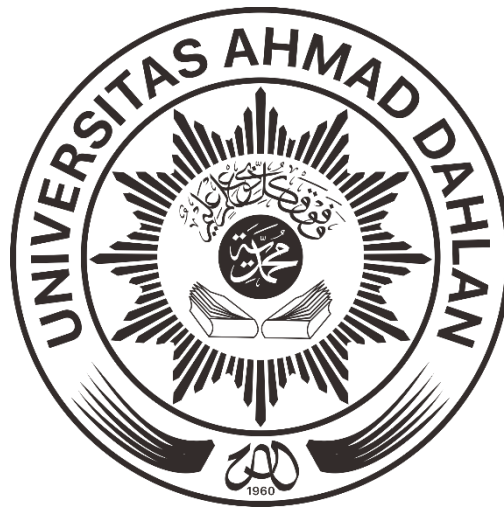


AN ANALYSIS OF APPRAISAL FOUND IN OLIVIA RODRIGO'S SOUR ALBUM

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the use of appraisal, especially the attitude system. The data for this study are song lyrics from Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" album in 2021. The analysis focuses on the identification and description of attitude resources, including affect, judgment, and appreciation, used in the song lyrics. The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative based on the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory of appraisal, which examines how language is used to express affect, judgment, and appreciation. The appraisal analysis of the album identified appraisal devices, with negative emotions dominating the affect sub-division. The results of this study contribute to the understanding of how appraisal theory can be applied to the analysis of song lyrics, expanding the scope of literary and linguistic research beyond traditional literary genres. The findings also highlight the importance of exploring contemporary musical works as a valuable source for researching the interaction between language, emotion and human experience.

Keywords: Appraisal, Attitude, Olivia Rodrigo

Introduction

Nowadays, research on song lyrics is important to do so that the object of literary research (and linguistics) is not limited to poetry, prose, and drama scripts. Literary and linguistic researchers have a responsibility to research song lyrics to show the audience the meaning and intention that a songwriter wants to convey to her listeners (Lestari, 2021).

Therefore, this research is intended to provide an analysis of song lyrics from Olivia Rodrigo's album "Sour." This study's examination of the song lyrics is grounded in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, specifically in the

framework of appraisal analysis. SFL is essentially a multi-perspective model created to give analysts complementary perspectives to evaluate language that is being used (Martin & White, 2005).

Appraisal analysis focuses attention on the meanings a text affords and the reading positions which focus on this potential in different ways (Martin & White, 2005). Appraisal consists of three parts, namely: attitude, engagement, and graduation. This research uses attitude to analyze the affect, judgment, and appreciation of the song lyrics. By using this theory, researchers can analyze and know the meaning of the song lyrics.

Research Method

The researcher used the descriptive method to guide the investigation in this study. Because the data collected in the form of sentences, phrases, clauses, and words is then categorized to draw conclusions, it is called qualitative research. The data collection step used in this research is the qualitative document method because it can provide rich insights related to the meaning and context of song lyrics. This research was analyzed using the SFL framework with a focus on discourse semantics resources named appraisal by Martin and White (2005).

Result and Discussion

The focus of the data is to identify the attitude subsystem with sub-divisions of affection, judgment, and appreciation in the song lyrics from Olivia Rodrigo's album Sour. Data that has been classified by each sub-division will be re-categorized as positive or negative. This research discusses how song lyrics are evaluated by looking at how Olivia Rodrigo expresses the experience of heartbreak or emotional conflict.

A. Attitude: Affect, Judgement, Appreciation

Below is a table containing the types of sub-divisions and the number of assessment items that have been found in the data.

1. Affect (Happiness, Security, Satisfaction)

Affect in this study relates to the emotions and feelings expressed in the song lyrics. Here are examples of each type of effect mentioned above:

a. Un/happiness

Un/happiness in the context of song lyrics relates to how a person expresses feelings such as happiness or sadness when facing a situation or someone.

1) Positive

***I hope you're happy**, but don't be happier. H.23*

The bolded words in the song lyrics above show the positive meaning of happiness. The main focus is placed on the first part of the phrase, "I hope you're happy," because the phrase directly shows Olivia Rodrigo's good wishes and happiness for her ex. Although in the following lyrics there are emotions that show a desire for the ex to be happier without Olivia Rodrigo, who feels that she wants to be remembered and appreciated. However, the expression of good wishes remains the main point that puts it in this category.

2) Negative

*For the way I **hurt**, yeah. T. 33*

In keeping with the overall context of the song Traitor, the song lyrics above also reflect the emotional pain Olivia Rodrigo feels due to the betrayal in the relationship. Therefore, the bolded word in the song lyrics above shows the negative meaning of happiness, as the word "hurt" is correctly categorized as a form of deep unhappiness.

b. Dis/satisfaction

Dis/satisfaction in the context of song lyrics relates to feelings of success, feeling fulfilled and satisfied, or feelings of disappointment and dissatisfaction with what has been achieved.

1) Negative

Cause who am I, if not exploited?. B. 7

The song lyrics above show that the feeling of being exploited has become a part of self-identity that affects the way Olivia Rodrigo views herself. So the phrase "if not exploited" expresses dissatisfaction because the feeling of being exploited is accompanied by negative emotions such as disappointment, anger, and frustration from Olivia Rodrigo towards herself.

c. In/security

In/security relates to feelings of security and comfort, or feelings of anxiety and self-reliance.

1) Positive

Loved you at your worst. T. 34

The lyrics "Loved you at your worst" in the context of the song Traitor depict genuine affection and acceptance even at its worst. Therefore, this phrase is included in positive security because it shows a feeling of security and stability in the relationship, where the ex is accepted and loved unconditionally by Olivia Rodrigo.

2) Negative

*And you told me I was **paranoid**. T. 38*

In the context of the song lyrics above, the use of the word "paranoid" often describes the feeling that the ex feels suspected by Olivia Rodrigo for no good reason. This creates a negative atmosphere that affects one's perception and interaction in various aspects of life, including in terms of personal security or information.

2. Judgement (Normality, Capacity, Veracity, Propriety)

Judgement relates to an assessment of a person's character or behavior, such as whether they are good or bad, honest or lying. Here's an example of each of the judgment sub-divisions mentioned above:

a. Normality

Normality relates to the way a person assesses the behavior or character of others, whether it is in accordance with social standards or out of the ordinary.

1) Positive

*And when **the clouds are ironed out**. HO. 89*

The bolded phrase above shows the positive meaning of normality, as it describes recovery. The phrase expresses Olivia Rodrigo's view that the situation will get better when "the clouds," which in the context of the song lyrics are used as a metaphor for problems or difficulties, have been "ironed out" or resolved, returning the situation to a more desirable condition after all the problems have been resolved.

b. Capacity

Capacity refers to the assessment of one's abilities, such as how well or capable one can perform in the face of challenges.

1) Positive

*So you'd think that **I was smart**. EF. 68*

The bolded word in the song lyrics above shows the only positive meaning of capacity. The phrase "I was smart" shows appreciation for intellectual ability. Through this phrase, Olivia Rodrigo reflects her desire to be known for her intelligence, which is an important aspect of evaluating one's capacity.

2) Negative

Ego crush is so severe. B. 13

The song lyrics above evaluate Olivia Rodrigo's ability to maintain her confidence and emotional stability. This extreme drop in confidence suggests that Olivia Rodrigo is unable to maintain a healthy emotional capacity, which is a negative assessment of her abilities. Therefore, this lyric falls under the negative category as it highlights Olivia Rodrigo's lack of ability to remain confident in the midst of challenging situations.

c. Veracity

Veracity relates to assessments of honesty, such as whether or not a person is trustworthy.

1) Positive

*Guess you **didn't** cheat. T. 35*

The bolded word in the song lyrics above shows the positive meaning of veracity. Although the overall context of the song Traitor focuses on hurt and betrayal, the phrase "didn't cheat" is a positive evaluation because it is an affirmation that the ex-lover did not cheat on her. It is also a form of Olivia Rodrigo's confession that, although there is hurt, her ex is at least honest in certain respects.

2) Negative

You betrayed me. T. 31

Olivia Rodrigo uses the lyrics above to express the pain and disappointment that come from her ex's betrayal as a clear and damaging form of dishonesty. Therefore, the song lyrics above show Olivia Rodrigo's negative evaluation of her ex, as it shows that the trust Olivia Rodrigo has been given has been broken by her ex.

d. Propriety

Propriety relates to the assessment of one's moral and ethical behavior, whether one's actions are considered right or wrong.

1) Positive

*So find **someone great** but don't find no one better. H. 22*

The bolded words in the song lyrics above show the only positive meaning of propriety, as they indicate good wishes and propriety for the other person, i.e, her ex-partner, who emphasizes Olivia Rodrigo's good intentions despite her hurt feelings and desire to be considered special in the lyrics that follow.

2) Negative

*You used me as an **alibi**. FC. 84*

The song lyrics above show manipulation or betrayal. The lyrics show that Olivia Rodrigo's ex-partner is using her as an excuse for his own self-interest. Using another person as an alibi is generally considered an unethical act, as it is using another person to justify a wrongful act.

3. Appreciation (Reaction, Composition, Valuation)

Appreciation relates to the assessment of objects or situations, such as assessing the beauty of something, how valuable something is, or how sad something is. Below is an example of each sub-division of appreciation mentioned above:

a. Reaction

Reaction refers to assessing how something affects us emotionally, such as feelings of awe or disappointment.

1) Positive

*One more girl who **brings out the better** in you. H. 19*

The bolded lyrics above show the positive reaction. In the context of the song "happier," although the main feelings in the song are jealousy and sadness that a loved one has found happiness with someone else, the fact that the new girl can bring out the best in the ex is still a compliment and an expression of appreciation. It shows appreciation for the positive qualities or impact that the new girl has.

2) Negative

*God, **it's brutal out here**. B. 14*

The lyrics above show the negative meaning of reaction to Olivia Rodrigo's feelings towards the world around her. Olivia Rodrigo gives an evaluation of the conditions she is dealing with, which are feelings of surprise, distress, and disappointment, and also expresses a strong judgment that the conditions are very bad. Supported by the word "God" at the beginning of the lyrics, which highlights the hopelessness of her predicament.

b. Composition

Composition relates to the assessment of how something is planned, such as the aesthetic assessment of a work or object.

1) Positive

*With **paper-white teeth** and **perfect bodies**. J. 77*

The lyrics build up a strong visual image of physical beauty and perfection, which makes it fall into the category of positive composition. Although the lyrics appear in the context of a song that suggests jealousy, Olivia Rodrigo describes "paper-white teeth" and "perfect bodies" as standards of beauty that

are considered perfect, suggesting that these are recognized as positive attributes that make people feel envious or jealous.

c. Valuation

Valuation relates to the evaluation of how important something is, such as the emotional and sentimental value of an experience.

1) Positive

*And I know we weren't perfect but **I've never felt this way** for no one. DL. 48*

Although the Driver's License as a whole has a melancholic feel of separation, the bolded phrase above contains a positive element. Olivia Rodrigo admits that their relationship wasn't perfect, but the experience meant so much to Olivia Rodrigo that it was considered special and different from other relationships.

2) Negative

***Stupid, emotional, obsessive** little me. EF. 69*

The song lyrics above belong to negative valuation because the bolded words above directly express a very demeaning and negative self-assessment. In this case, Olivia Rodrigo judges herself as worthless compared to others.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that there are appraisal devices found in the lyrics of songs in Olivia Rodrigo's SOUR album. Olivia Rodrigo managed to create an emotional work through the SOUR album, using lyrics that contain various aspects of attitude, especially negative emotions. Although there are some positive emotional expressions, the dominating negative emotions reinforce the narrative of intense

and often painful emotional experiences, which can be understood by listeners who had similar experiences through the lyrics she wrote.

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