

A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF SHAKESPEARE'S "O MISTRESS MINE" USING RIFFATERRE'S SEMIOTIC THEORY

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Abstract

Analyzing literature works has been widely known as a complex spectrum because the words choice and construction in any literature works can be done in free way. However, literature is known as a free instrument for people to express their feeling. The research discussed about a song entitled "O Mistress Mine" using Riffaterre's semiotic theory. The song is chosen as signifier from Shakespeare's play Twelfth night due to it represents lead characters' situation for having unrequited love and a message for them to seize the day (*carpe diem*). O Mistress Mine might appear as a short song in the whole play but the meaning behind the lyrics convey the love line of the leads. Shakespeare's literature works has been known as a complex literature work because of his choice of words and words construction speak within his era. Meanwhile in this era people might find out that grasping meaning from Shakespeare's literature works is counted as complex work. Thus, the researcher chose Riffaterre's semiotic theory that includes three ways of analyzing the poem or song lyrics, in correlation to analyze further about figurative language and lead us to understand the meaning of the song. The research used qualitative method to find out symbols from the song and also using Riffaterre's semiotic theory. Purposive sampling is also used to pick the signs that have correlation with the message from Twelfth Night. The finding revealed there are three ways to analyze named displacing meaning, distorting meaning and creating meaning. Thus, there are 5 data used displacing meaning, 3 data used distorting meaning and 2 data used creating meaning. Furthermore, this research practically and theoretically can be used for the readers and students of English literature. this research practically and theoretically can be used for the readers and students of English literature.

Keywords: O Mistress Mine, riffaterre, semiotic, Shakespeare, Twelfth Night

INTRODUCTION

Language is the effective way for people to communicate with each other. It can be delivered through written or spoken version. People have more preparations when they write things to communicate but when they speak it, most of the cases they speak more honest. There are some forms of spoken language such as conversations, songs, film, etc. In this research, the writer chooses song as a variable to find out. Songs are commonly used to express people's emotion, to the fact

that people can be more sentimental when they write the lyrics.

Song lyrics are also form of poetry disclosure because of the similarities of its elements. In accordance with the meaning of poetry, song lyrics also use a compacted language, given a rhythm with unified sounds and the imaginative choice of words. As well as poetry, the lyrics are also created by the author to express what they feel, seen and experienced in a community. From those explanations, it can be concluded that the

language is actually not very different from the language of song lyrics. It echoes to the understanding of the lyrics of the song according to Semi's study conducted in 1988 as cited in Pauzan (2018) who stated that lyrics are short poems that express emotions.

Furthermore, when it is viewed from the form and type of poetry, the lyric of the song is included into the lyrical poetry. As has been explained above, poetry or lyrical poetry has a very solid language. Siwantoro's study in 2005 as cited in Pauzan (2018) stated the language of poetry is short, dense and full of meaning. It is able to accommodate various dimensions of meaning behind what is expressed. It makes a meaning of poems are complicated. According to this statement, it is hard to understand the meaning since the language usage is very complex. So, in understanding the meaning of the poem or lyrics, it cannot be separated from understanding the poetic signs in them. Riffaterre's study in 1978 as cited in Lesmana (2018) explained poetic sign is a word or phrase pertinent to the poem's significance. Poetic signs become very important in understanding a poetry since a poetry consists of signs. It becomes very important for the reader to interpret and elaborate the words and poetic signs in the poem for getting the clear meaning of it. Based on this fact, the researcher wants to understand the poem by analyzing the signs found in the poem and find the meaning of each sign.

In this research, the writer chooses one song from Shakespeare era named "O Mistress Mine", during his era there are many songs written to express his emotion through some plays. Meanwhile in this era there are some of Shakespeare's words choice carries hidden message. It motivates the writer to use semantic approach to find out the meaning behind "O Mistress Mine."

Everything in this world is a sign, although there are some things without intrinsic meaning, they can be classified into signs if we invest them with meaning. According to Saussure in Danesi's study in 2004 as cited in Pauzan (2018), the name of semiotics or semiology is taken from the Greek language "semeion" meaning a sign. Semiology would show what constitutes signs, what laws govern them, then Saussure in Chandler's study in 2007 as cited in Pauzan (2018) also stated that semiotics studies the role of signs as part of social life. Furthermore, Umberto Eco's study in 1986 as cited in Pauzan (2018) explains semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. So, we can conclude that anything can be a sign as long as someone interprets it as "signifying", or standing for something other than itself. It means, every existing thing in our life is looked as a sign, that is something that we should give them meaning. Shortly, semiotic is study of signs, in correlation with literature works in Shakespeare's era bring many signs then the researcher will deliver the message behind

song “O Mistress Mine” by understanding the signs in better perspective

Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to be written around 1601-1602. The play focuses on the twins Viola and Sebastian who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola who is disguised as a guy named Cesario falls in love with Duke Orsino who is on the other hand falls for Olivia. Meanwhile Olivia falls in love with Cesario who is actually a woman named Viola. In Act II, Scene III opens in Olivia’s vast house. As Olivia is a rich noblewoman in step with the fashion of the day, she keeps a clown on staff whose name is Feste. Feste is a witty jester dressed in crazy clothes. His job is to say clever things, tell his mistress the truth. It is quite late at night when Sir Andrew and Sir Toby have been drinking a lot. Then, Sir Toby gives Feste sixpence to sing a love song and he sings beautiful song entitled “O Mistress Mine” is an ode to free-spirited and impulsive.

According to the explanation above, it is not an easy task to interpret the meaning behind poem or lyrics. Thus, the writer chooses to use Reffaterre’s semiotic theory in his book Semiotics of Poetry conducted in 1978 as cited in Lesmana (2018) that includes three steps of analyzing as shown in Table 1. There are several studies that are related to this research. First, Pauzan (2018) in his research “A Semiotic of The John Wick 1 Film Using Charles Peirce’s Semiotic

Theory” is talking about signs that appears in film John Wick 1. The researcher revealed that nine kinds of signs were found in the film including qualisign, sinsign, legisign, icon, index, symbol, rhyme, decisign, and argument. Second, Hadiyanto (2018) in his journal “Denmark as A Prison of Life” in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* (A Semiotic Approach in Literature)” discusses about signs that represents the characters in Shakspeare’s Hamlet. The researcher found out there were important symbols that could justify the feeling of the main leads from “Denmark as A Prison of Life”. The main leads feel that Denmark is a prison for their heart. Prison is a symbol of unpleasant place where the dwellers do not feel happy since they cannot live happily. Third, Culpeper (2009) in his journal “Keyness: Words, parts of speech and semantic categories in the character talk of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*” talked about signs from dialogues in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* by making list of words spoken by the characters to find out the message. The researcher addressed a set of issues relating to the definition of keywords and their history, the settings used in deriving keywords, the choice of reference corpora, the different kinds of keyword that emerge in one’s results and the dispersion of keywords in one's data.. However, the finding revealed there were 66% for part of speech categories and 40% for semantic categories. Fourth, Lesmana (2018) in his thesis “Love in The Beatles’ selected song lyric” is talking about

the poetic signs in The Beatles' selected lyrics through two stages of reading poetry by Riffaterre. Those are heuristic and hermeneutic reading. Heuristic is the first interpretation take place, while hermeneutic focuses on the transformation of signs into complete arrangement of semiotic system.

The result revealed five poetic signs of love. They are Honey, go to him, Honey Pie, ans I want to hold your hand. The poetic signs could appear in some different forms of words, phrases and idea but with the same kind of love.

Table 1. Riffaterre's Semiotic Theory

No	Steps	Definition
1	Displacing meaning	It can be said as a change in the meaning of the words that exist in the poem which is not using the actual meaning. According to Riffaterre in Lesmana (2018) displacing, when the sign shifts from one meaning to another, when one word "stands for" another, as happens with metaphor and metonymy.
2	Distorting meaning	Riffaterre in Lesmana (2018) stated distorting, when there is an ambiguity, contradiction, and nonsense. Ambiguity means that a word or phrase or even a sentence has more than one meaning. It can occur because of the usage of the word or sentence that creates the different interpretation based on the context. Contradiction is the usage of paradox, irony, and antithesis. While nonsense is the words which have no certain meaning, but it can be given the meaning when it takes on the arrangement of the poem.
3	Creating meaning	Riffaterre in Lesmana (2018) said creating, when textual space serves as a principal of organization for making signs out of linguistic items that may not be meaningful otherwise (For instance, symmetry, rhyme, or semantic equivalences between positional homologues in a stanza). In other word, it is about a process of giving the meaning towards the things that do not have a meaning in common language.

The first research done by Pauzan somehow similar with the present research, both researches analyzed semiotic approach. However the instrument of data and the semiotic theory are different. The previous research used film while the present used song lyric. Moreover, Pauzan used Charles Peirce's semiotic theory while the present research used Riffaterre's semiotic theory. Then the research is also similar to the second conducted by Hadiyanto. Both research investigated about the meaning of symbols through semantic approach. Nevertheless the instrument of the data is different. The previous one used Shakespeare's play entitled Hamlet and analyzed the whole story while the present research used O Mistress Mine, a song from Shakespeare's play entitled Twelfth Night. Moreover, the third research by Culpeper was somehow similar to the present research, both discussed about semiotic approach in analyzing the symbols. Though, the instrument of the research differs, the previous used Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet then investigated the characters' dialogue meanwhile the current one used Shakespeare's song O Mistress Mine then explored the meaning of its lyrics. Also, the research is similar to the fourth done by Lesmana, both discussed about semiotic approach in analyzing the song meanwhile the previous used The Beatles' and the current one used Shakespeare's.

Therefore, the current research used Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine and Riffaterre's semiotic theory in analyzing the lyrics, those instruments were not used in those four previous research stated beforehand. Due to the researcher's concern that people still have difficulty in catching the meaning behind literature works that mostly used figurative language in their era. Moreover, this research practically and theoretically can be used for the readers and students of English literature.

METHODS

The research uses qualitative method. Hancock (2009) explains that qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. Furthermore, Sugiyono (2014) states that a qualitative research or interpretative method is a method which is concerned with the interpretation of data collected in the field. Thus, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method because it can help the writer collect and analyze the data for this study further. Besides, this method is used to describe and interpret the results and explain about the signs or symbols expressed in the song O Mistress Mine.

The writer also uses sampling technique which is purposive sampling, which means the samples that the writer took depends on some reasons. Some of the data that the writer took in lyrics has chosen because some consideration, like the context

of situation in a scene, the hidden meaning on some sign in a scene and also the writer who wants to know some meaning of the signs in film. The main data for this study were collected from "O Mistress Mine", a song from Shakespeare's play Twelfth Night. For completing the data that the writer found, the writer used only one instrument in collecting the data namely the note taking sheet that consist of identifying and analyzing.

In collecting the data the compatible between Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine and Rifaterre's semiotic theory were applied. First of all the researcher examined the play by Shakespeare entitled Twelfth Night to make the researcher caught the meaning behind O Mistress Mine then after that the researcher made the list of the data based on the lyrics and classifying the data based on the three ways of Riffaterre's semiotic theory. Then, the researcher rechecked the classified data. In analyzing the data, the writer

analyzed the chosen data using Rifaterre's semiotic theory then provided the clearer meaning from the symbols in song lyric.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the first step the writer watches Shakespeare's Twelfth Night to get better interpretation of the whole plot then after watching it and listening to O Mistress Mine repeatedly and carefully then the writer found out that the song has important meaning to conclude all the plot in the whole play.

After knowing the importance of the song "O Mistress Mine" then the writer identifies lines from O Mistress Mine. Furthermore, the lyrics of "O Mistress Mine" are classified from line to line along with signs from some lines that represent one of the main characters named Olivia.

The full lyric of O Mistress Mine that was happening on Act II, Scene III as follows:

*O Mistress mine, where are you roaming?
O stay and hear, your true love's coming
That can sing high and low
Trip no further, pretty sweeting.
Journeys end in lovers meeting
Every wise man's son doth know.
What is love? 'Tis not hereafter
Present mirth hath present laughter
What's to come is still unsure
In delay there lies not plenty;
Then, come kiss me, sweet and twenty
Youth's stuff will not endure*

The writer found eleven signs that convey the meaning behind the song to seize the day (*carpe diem*). The central of this song is Olivia's love for Cesario who is actually a woman named Viola and Olivia's naïve way to interpret love itself until she does not realize that Duke Orsino was there to love her and accept her current situation of mourning to the loss of her father and brother. The findings will be analyzed further by classifying

the lyric and the signs within.

The signs were analyzed using Riffaterre's semiotic theory that includes three ways to analyze named displacing meaning, distorting meaning and creating meaning. The signs found in Shakespeare's *O Mistress Mine* as followed: 5 data of displacing meaning, 3 data of distorting meaning and 2 data of creating meaning. The details are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2. Classification of Signs in O Mistress Mine
Riffaterre Semiotic Theory**

Displacing meaning	5
Distorting meaning	3
Creating meaning	2

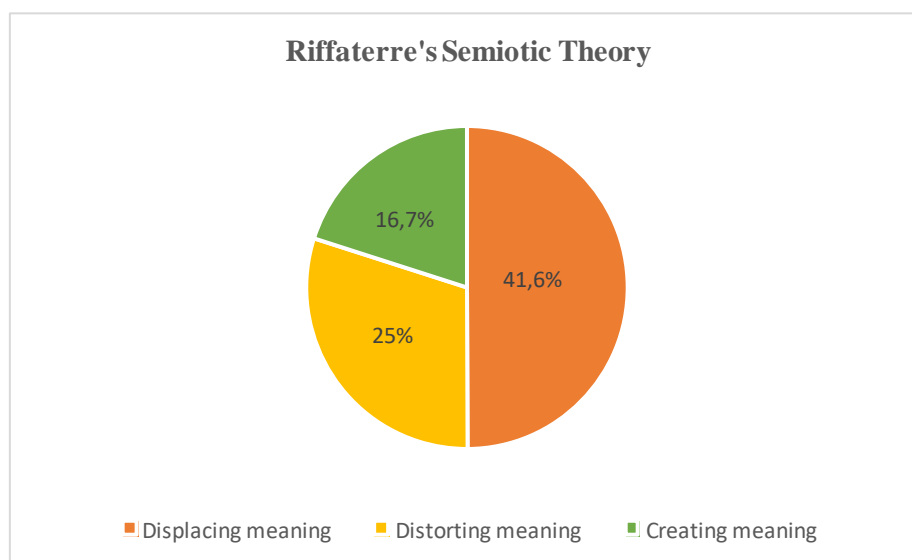


Figure 1. Riffaterre's Semiotic Theory Percentage

The data shown in Figure 1 41,6 % O Mistress Mine lyric uses displacing meaning, 25% uses distorting meaning and 16,7% uses changing meanings.

Displacing Meaning

The data that use displacing meaning means the signs shift from one meaning to another when one word “stands for” another, as happens with metaphor and metonymy. The signs from O Mistress Mine that carries another meaning besides their literal meaning are categorized as displacing

As stated in Table 3, the first line “O Mistress mine, where are you roaming?”. The word “roaming” represents the situation where the mistress named Olivia was looking

to another direction in terms of her affection. In this situation, she falls in love with Cesario who was actually Viola. On the other hand, Duke Orsino loves Olivia dearly but her roaming mind and affection cannot help her to realize the gem in front of her eyes. She spent her time to the idea that she must be the one for Cesario without knowing his real identity that was actually a woman in disguise.

The word “roaming” stands for another meaning in this context. It refers to a situation of love and someone’s heart which keeps looking to the opposite direction instead of catching what is standing in front of her eyes. Thus, the word “roaming” applies the step of displacing meaning.

Table 3. Displacing Meaning

Lyric	Sign
O Mistress mine, where are you roaming? (Line 1)	Roaming

Table 4. Displacing Meaning

Lyric	Sign
That can sing high and low (Line 3)	High and low

Table 4 explained the third line “That can sing high and low”. Through this “high and low’ is a sign of unconditional love. Olivia was currently mourning over her loss of his father and brother. Although Duke Orsino knew her lowest state after losing two important persons in her life but that fact did not change an inch of his affection for Olivia. He was still there showing and showering her with care. That situation describes Duke Orsino can accept Olivia’s hardest situation. Thus, the sign high and low was used to describe Duke Orsino’s unconditional love for Olivia, although she did not realize at all. The word “high and low” is not standing for the literal meaning which is something high and low but it has metaphorical meaning. High and low represents the condition of Olivia that is currently mourning the loss of two important persons in her life then Duke Orsino is going to accept her through the happiest and saddest moments of her life. Thus, “high and low” is using the step of

displacing meaning from Riffaterre’s semiotic theory.

As stated in Table 5, the sixth line “Every wise man’s son doth know”. Through “Every wise’s man” is a sign where every people know that the journey can reach the ending when two lovers or people meeting. It means if Olivia realizes her condition that Duke Orsino is so close to her and currently offering sincere love for her then her journey to find the true love can be ended. This situation is common but Olivia is clueless on what is happening on her side. Due to she focuses on getting Cesario’s love instead of looking at Duke Orsino.

The word “every wise man’s son” in this lyric is standing for another meaning. It does not hold the literal meaning of the word wise but it refers to people in general know how to realize the existence of their true love. Thus, “every wise man’s son” is using one step from Riffaterre’s semiotic theory named displacing meaning.

Table 5. Displacing Meaning

Lyric	Sign
Every wise man’s son doth know (Line 6)	Every wise man’s son

Table 6. Displacing Meaning

Lyric	Sign
What is love? ‘Tis not hereafter (Line 7)	Hereafter

As stated in Table 6, the eleventh line “What is love, ‘Tis not hereafter. In this line the word “hereafter” is a sign for life after death. It is better for Olivia to stop thinking too far for having infinity love that exists until afterlife. Olivia’s character was known as a rich woman who was naïve when it came to affection or give a score for love. In correlation to Olivia situation to consider catching a lover who would accompany her until the afterlife which her belief went to Cesario. In this situation, Olivia believed her love for Cesario is a love that will exist for a long time. She thought that Cesario was worth to wait. In contrary Olivia’s thought brought her missed the chance to realize Duke Orsino’s love and his sacrifice to show his love for her.

The word “hereafter” is having a methaphorical meaning in this context. It does not stand for its literal meaning but it represents the meaning of afterlife love. Love that exists for a long period. Thus, the word “hereafter” is applying one step from Riffaterre’s semiotic theory namely displacing meaning.

As explained in Table 7, the tenth line “In delay there lies not plenty”. The word “delay” is counted as sign where stands for Olivia’s situation for wasting her time chasing after Cesario’s love instead of looking at Duke Orsino. Moreover, Cesario’s real identity as Viola which got skipped by Olivia’s sight in this context. While wasting her true love to chase for someone else, Olivia does not realize that there are many lies lying within. This lyric wants Olivia to get thing which is standing right in front of her rather than something which is uncertain and brings many lies that might hurt her in many ways after figuring it out.

The word “delay” is having a methaphorical meaning in this context. It does not stand for its literal meaning but it represents the meaning of wasting time.

The condition where Olivia does not grab a chance that is standing right on her reach but he is chasing a love that does not refer to her. Thus, the word “delay” is applying one step from Riffaterre’s semiotic theory namely displacing meaning.

Table 7. Displacing Meaning

Lyric	Sign
In delay there lies not plenty;(Line 10)	Delay

Table 8. Distorting Meaning

Lyric	Sign
O stay and hear. Your true love’s coming (Line 2)	True love

Distorting Meaning

The data that use distorting meaning, when there is an ambiguity, contradiction, and nonsense. Ambiguity means that a word or phrase or even a sentence has more than one meaning. It can occur because of the usage of the word or sentence that creates the different interpretation based on the context.

Contradiction is the usage of paradox, irony, and antithesis. While nonsense is the words which have no certain meaning, but it can be given the meaning when it takes on the arrangement of the poem. As explained in Table 8, the second line “O stay and hear. Your true love’s coming.” The sign in this line refers to the phrase “true love”. The part of the story where Duke Orsino came to offer true affection for Olivia. The lyric conveys the situation where Olivia should stop having wandering thought and try to see what was happening around her. If she was able to cherish than expecting, in this situation she could realize that her true love was actually Duke Orsino.

The term “true love” in this song is ambiguity or something that has more than one meaning. “True love” is commonly used

by many people in this world to express their preference about true love. Due to that situation where people generally can make their assumption about the term true love but in this context, it stands for Duke Orsino’s love for Olivia that has not recognized yet by her. Thus, “true love” is counted using Riffaterre’s semiotic theory in terms of distorting meaning.

As shown in Table 9, the eleventh line “Present mirth hath present laughter”. In this line the word “present” is counted as a sign for Olivia to seize things that she has around her. The previous line stated about her thought to catch a love that stayed until afterlife and because of the way of she formed her thought then she missed a chance to stay happy and loved by Duke Orsino. It would be better if she stops thinking too far and loving someone whose feeling was vague and if that person must open his real identity that happened to be a woman, Olivia’s love for Cesario would remain invisible. Moreover, the present situation was easier to catch, in this term Duke Orsino was actually standing right in front of her while offering the most ideal affection. So, Olivia should have cherished the present rather than the uncertain future.

Table 9. Distorting Meaning

Lyric	Sign
Present mirth hath present laughter (Line 8)	Present

Table 10. Distorting Meaning

Lyric	Sign
Youth’s stuff will not endure (Line 12)	Youth’s stuff

The term “present” in this song is ambiguity or something that has more than one meaning. “Present” is commonly used by many people in this world to express any event that is happening in front of their sight. Due to that situation where people generally can make their assumption about the term present but in this context, it stands for Olivia’s situation where she should cherish someone who is in front of her and stop wandering. Thus, “present” is counted using Riffaterre’s semiotic theory in terms of distorting meaning.

Table 10 stated the twelfth line “Youth’s stuff will not endure”. In this line the word “youth’s stuff” is counted as a sign where was mentioned previously that Olivia’s perspective about love was not something that could come up from people in their 20s. Thus, the word youth’s stuff is highlighting her current situation and all the problematic sides about giving meaning to the word love. As a matter of fact, she was only focusing on her love for Cesario (Viola) to the point where she once missed many things during her youth including, she missed the opportunity to be loved dearly by Duke Orsino. As stated on the lyric that youth’s stuff will not endure, it means what was happening on Olivia’s youth got no guarantee that it would happen again the next time. Shortly It implies that Olivia stumbled upon unnecessary hardships, she could find her way to avoid it all but she chose Cesario over Duke Orsino as well as waiting over accepting.

The term “youth’s stuff” in this song is ambiguity or something that has more than one meaning. “youth’s stuff” is commonly used by many people in this world to express their youth’s stuff. Due to that situation where people generally can make their assumption about the term youth’s stuff but in this context, it stands for Olivia’s situation where she should love a person in her youth perspective Thus, “present” is counted using Riffaterre’s semiotic theory in terms of distorting meaning.

Creating Meaning

The data use creating meaning, when textual space serves as a principal of organization for making signs out of linguistic items that may not be meaningful otherwise (For instance, symmetry, rhyme, or semantic equivalences between positional homologues in a stanza). In other word, it is about a process of giving the meaning towards the things that do not have a meaning in common language.

As explained in Table 11, the fourth line “Trip no further, pretty sweeting”. In this line “trip no further” is counted as a sign where Olivia stumbled upon wrong situation and love. In this state she should stop looking to further direction and begin to realize the man who was waiting in front of her. In fact, Olivia was currently tripping to the further direction by loving Cesario who is actually a woman in disguise.

Table 11. Creating Meaning

Lyric	Sign
Trip no further, pretty sweeting. (Line 4)	Trip no further

Table 12. Creating Meaning

Lyric	Sign
Then, come kiss me, sweet and twenty (Line 11)	Twenty

On the other hand, she could avoid to stumble further if she could limit her sight to catch what was nearer to her than wasting time to think about a person whose feeling was vague. Furthermore, if Olivia knew about Cesario's real identity then her stumbled feeling might get worse than it used to be.

The term "trip no further" in this context is a process of giving a meaning towards the thing that do not have deep

Table 12 showed the eleventh line, "Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty". In this line the word "Twenty" is counted as a sign where explained the image of love which most likely to happen during people 20s. To highlight the fact that Olivia was failed to cherish love who was standing right in front of her, waiting without any terms conditions, underlined that her character wanted a love which would definitely exist for a long time. Meanwhile, the current situation that once made her tripped, happening around her 20s. The lyric conveys the idea that she should not think too far when it comes to love, she could be there enjoying the idea of love based on

meaning in the common language. "Trip no further" can be explained literally where people should not trip but in this song, it has particular meaning that is not literal. Furthermore, the one who is tripping in this context is Olivia but she is not tripping on the way she walks but more likely to the way she loves. She is tripping far from her love Duke Orsino who is so close to her direction. Thus, the term "trip no further" is using Riffaterre's semiotic theory namely creating meaning. her age and grab the opportunity to be happy and loved. Thus, Olivia's current situation of interpreting love did not represent the youth.

She should come and realize that Duke Orsino was waiting her to respond. In conclusion, the word twenty represents people on their youth tend to fetch things that exist in front of their sight.

The term "twenty" in this context is a process of giving a meaning towards the thing that do not have deep meaning in the common language. "twenty" can be explained literally as the number only but in this context, it has something to do with the lead characters' situation. "Twenty" refers to

Olivia's situation where she should enjoy what she has within her reach and think within her age and stop finding uncertain thing to be caught. Furthermore, the one who represents the term "twenty" is Olivia, if she follows her intuition to love as if she is on her 20s, she can meet Duke Orsino and realizes what the guy has for her, the ideal love.

Shortly, the term "twenty" has different meaning in this song, it is applied for a special message to Olivia for grabbing the opportunity to love that exists in front of her eyes. Thus, the term "twenty" is using Riffaterre's semiotic theory namely creating meaning.

In conclusion, the findings confirmed that analyzing literature works need better understanding because one simple symbol can carry multiple meanings. That is shown from the discussion above that Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine has several symbols which might appear as simple things but after getting to know the meaning behind those using Riffaterre's semiotic theory, the researcher figure out the wide meaning behind one song.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the researcher found out ten symbols in Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine lyric and based on Riffaterre's semiotic theory the data were classified into 5 data using displacing meaning, 3 data using distorting meaning and 2 data using changing meaning. In percentage the finding revealed

41,6 % O Mistress Mine lyric uses displacing meaning, 25% uses distorting meaning and 16,7% uses changing meaning. The most used semiotic theory in analyzing Shakespeare's O Mistress Mine was displacing meaning.

It can be concluded that to understand the literature works, people need to examine the deeper meaning of each word because the word choices and construction have been done in free way without any strict rules. The aim of literature is the freedom of people to express their emotion. Thus, if people want to understand the meaning behind any literature works, they should know the symbols and the meaning behind those.

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