

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ENTAILMENT APPLIED IN SONG LYRICS BASED ON NIKI'S RECENT FULL ALBUM: "NICOLE"

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ABSTRACT

The topics discussed in this research were types of entailment in song lyrics of Niki's full album, "Nicole", and the order of entailment applied. The objectives were to identify the types of entailment and to describe the orders of entailment applied in the song lyrics in Niki's recent full album "Nicole". This research used a descriptive qualitative approach that employed the theory of Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2011); Lakoff and Johnson (2003); and Yule (2000). The data found in this research were 43 data within the song lyrics sentences and the results showed there were 30% (13 data) for one-way entailment; negative entailment 30% (13) of the data; mutual entailment 26% (11 data); meanwhile metaphorical entailment percentages only 14% (6 data). A significant void exists in the use of entailment orders. Background entailment occurred frequently in the data used, as it took 95% of the percentage which was equivalent to 41 data, while in the other orders; foreground entailment reached only 5% or two of the data.

Keywords: *Semantic, Entailments, Song Lyrics, Nicole*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a set of rules for how people communicate with one another. It is the most important means of human communication and can be transmitted by voice (spoken) sign language, or writing. Language is a person's utterance that conveys meaning to others. Thus, language is a system of meaning and it is critical to understand how language works. The system of meaning refers to the process by which meanings are generated and meanings exchanged.

Semantics is the scientific study of meaning. It is one of the five linguistics subfields. The aim of this research is the analysis of language meaning. Linguistics and language serve the same purpose, which is to communicate. The main essence of language is facilitating communication to convey feelings, moods, and attitudes. The achievement of meaning is the pinnacle of language's function as

a medium for communication. Many characteristics of language can contribute to the construction of meaning. Despite the fact that there is meaning in intonation and words and meaning in context, one discipline in language, namely linguistics, is concerned with meaning. There is semantics as well as pragmatics. However, semantics is one of the subfields of linguistics that focuses on the fundamental meaning of a phrase and is independent of the surrounding context. The scope of semantic analysis is limited to individual words, phrases, and sentences. Therefore, the purpose of the study of semantics is to comprehend the language's primary meaning, known as the literal meaning.

This research engaged to discuss semantics as the use of language. To understand semantics, people need to look closer at the sentence's proposition, compositionality, and entailment. But for this research, the

writer only focuses on entailment form in semantics. Entailment is a form to understand the true value in semantics that attempts to analyze the propositions. Entailment is claimed as one of the strong meaning-based inferences besides the presupposition form in pragmatics. Unlike presupposition that could cause infelicitous pragmatically, entailment is purely one of the semantic terms. It happened because entailment doesn't depend on the context of the situation. Entailment is frequently produced in daily utterances, and this phenomenon could be found in the literature. In literature, the author usually captures their ideas based on reality.

The song is one of the most popular literary works; it is also the most preferred and near to people in society since it not only brings them into big, close, and new relationships with life, but is also used to express points of view, talk about history, society, or someone's life which could also be based on the idea of reality. Song lyrics are usually filled with emotions and figurative language; more often than not, they have layers of meaning with some intention. Hence, song lyric is one of the literature kinds that the writer chooses to be discussed as the source of data.

The writer only focuses on the song lyrics included in Niki's recent full album, "Nicole". Nicole is the sophomore studio album by Indonesian artist; Niki. It was released on August 12, 2022, via 88rising and coming two years after the debut LP, MOONCHILD. The album's title refers to the artist's full name, Nicole Zefanya. The song lyrics on this album have meaningful lyrics and raw stories covered. Therefore, the writer decides to use the song lyrics on this album, which contains a lot of entailment phenomena to be analyzed as data instruments.

This research discussed about the meanings of individual words, statements, and sentences (Yule, 2010, p. 112). As one of the major linguistics disciplines, semantics analyzes words' meaning regardless of context (Finegan, 2007, p. 179). In contrast to the branch of pragmatics in the linguistic field, Bach (Carston, 2008, p. 41) defined pragmatics more in a broad context, while semantics more in a narrow context. Furthermore, semantics is a part of language structure that is related to an expression's meaning or a sentence's meaning structure. Its meanings are derived according to grammatical structures, and contexts of the use.

In addition to the statements above, Borg (2006, p. 19) argued that semantic theory is not interested in the speaker's meaning, but in the meaning of the sentence. The meaning of a sentence means the literal meaning of a sentence in the conversation. It focused on certain words and grammatical features that contribute to the meaning. Otherwise, the meaning of the speaker is the meaning of the words conveyed by the speaker; it is far from the literal meaning.

To understand the semantic meaning, Fasold and Linton (2006) used four main components; the contexts used in the sentence, the meanings of every word found in the sentence, the syntactic structure, and the morphological structure. It also plays a huge role in the study of meaning, inherent at the level of words, phrases, sentences, and larger units.

Pedersen (2015, pp. 587-588) also defined that semantics emphasize signs and symbols that have meaning and the interaction between the meanings of one another and how this affects humans and society. The deals are semantics and also study the subject of representation, reference, and denotation.

It can be concluded that semantics is a linguistic branch discipline that analyzes the meaning of the sentence precisely in the form of literal meaning, in accordance with its structural components as in the context used and grammatical structure as a representation.

Entailment is a semantic relation to comprehending the truth value of a sentence (whether true or not) by looking at its relationship to another sentence since it demonstrates people's mastery of the language (Rambaud, 2012). Entailment strictly doesn't hold between sentences, because sentences do not have truth values. The relation in entailment is not determined by context, since it has to be an independent constituent meaning, and the truth of the entailed sentence is inextricably linked to the reality of the entailed sentence (Cruse, 2000, pp. 29-30).

Ibadata (2021, p. 25) added that entailment demonstrates the link between speech and meaning as an absolute. The first assertion is required for the second statement to be true. The example of entailment as inserted by Cruse (2000, p. 28-29):

It is a dog. (*p*)

It is an animal. (*q*)

According to the pattern defined by Cruse above, the relationship that exists between the propositional relationship of the first statement (*p*) and the second statement (*q*) is associated. The instance is that the pair refers to the same entity. If it is true that it is a dog, then it ineluctably is an animal.

This is also aligned with the statement uttered by Griffiths (2006, p. 25) that entailment is a notion that connects one proposition to another; the most significant sort of inference in semantics. The proposition is the frequent reason why entailment is oftentimes considered a strict implication. On the other hand, it is also

the thing that distinguishes entailment from strict implication; the propositional relationship.

In conclusion of the notions above, entailment is the most significant sort of inference study in semantics that comprehends the relation of statements with their literal linked meaning or referring to the same entity context meaning in the absolute associated form of the first assertion with the following statement.

Types of Entailments

According to the book "An Introduction to Language", entailments are differentiated between two distinct varieties in the form of one-way entailment, mutual entailment, and negative entailment or contradictory, respectively (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, pp. 141-142). In addition to the previous statement, Lakoff & Johnson (2003) included the category of entailment that they consider to be metaphorical entailment in their work. The researcher used both theories to identify the types of entailments in the song lyrics.

One-way Entailment

In most cases, entailment can only work in one particular direction (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, p. 141). One-way entailment refers to; if one phrase is true, the other sentence must also be true, and if one sentence is wrong, the other sentence must also be false.

One-way entailment can also be called strict entailment detection (Zanzotto, Paziienza, & Pennacchiotti, 2005). Therefore, there is no way to paraphrase one sentence from the other. The other one might be understood as the conclusion of the other one. It is the entailment that can only function in one particular direction.

The illustration drawn by Kreidler for this kind of entailment is

when two propositions are labeled as “p” and “q”. If “p” is true, “q” must also be true, but if “q” is true, it does not necessarily follow that “p” is also true since it can be false (1998, p. 86).

An example of one-way entailment or strict entailment detection:

Jack swims beautifully. (*p*)

Jack swims. (*q*)

(Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, p. 141).

Mutual Entailment

Murphy refers to mutual entailment, as a collection of not just words but also propositions that are synonyms for one another (2003, p. 248). The propositions are synonymous due to the fact that mutual entailment ensures that all contexts have the same truth value (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, p. 142).

Mutual entailment, described as two-way entailment by Griffiths is a kind of entailment that is considered a form of paraphrase in the sense of relations between sentences (2006, p. 27). It has a semantic link between the proposition and is in contrast to one-way entailment, the sentences are paraphrasing each other. Kreidler illustrates the condition when sentences are said to paraphrase one another if one assertion, *p*, is true, then the second assertion, *q*, must also be true; conversely, if one proposition is wrong, then the other must also be false (1998, p. 86). An example of two-way entailment or mutual entailment:

The students gave money to the beggar. (*p*)

The students gave the beggar money. (*q*)

(Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2003, p. 197).

Negative Entailment

According to Murphy's definition, entailment that is stated in a negative manner is known as “negative

entailment” (2003, p. 98). Despite the fact that the second phrase is worded in the form of a negative expression, the first and second sentences both include truths that are semantically related to the concept of entailment.

The explanation of negative entailment is said to be contradictory (Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, p. 142). Two propositions are said to be contradictory if, if one is true, the other is false or, to put it another way, if there is no circumstance in which they can both be true or both wrong at the same time. An example of negative entailment:

Jack is alive. (*p*)

Jack is not dead. (*q*)

(Fromkin, Rodman, & Hyams, 2011, p. 142).

Metaphorical Entailment

Metaphorical entailment is the last kind of entailment. According to Lakoff and Johnson (2003), the process of imparting a characteristic of the source domain to the target domain is known as metaphorical entailment. The picture that serves as the metaphor's source is referred to as the source domain, while the idea that is being portrayed by the metaphor serves as the target domain. It is the interpretation connection between the source domain and the target domain that is considered to be an entailment. An example of metaphorical entailment:

God, I give myself to You.

I am Your vessel.

(Sa'adah, 2014, p. 53).

Orders of Entailment

George Yule (2000, p. 33) performed an analysis of the order of entailments and classified them into two distinct categories: background entailment and foreground entailment. The differentiation between entailment in the background and entailment in the foreground, with background

entailment contributing to the determination of the context and foreground entailment assisting to contribute to the primary point of the utterance.

Background Entailment

Rahmawati (2017, p. 19) described the indication of a background entailment occurs when the truth of a statement is inevitably connected to the veracity of a number of entailments. It is considered a logical idea to count the number of background entailments that come after the primary statement (Yule, 2000, p. 33). Example of when the first statement (p) entails the background entailment (q):

Charlie eats like he's trying to get it over with and like there won't be enough food for everyone. (p). A sandwich is to be strangled while devoured. (q)

(Putri, 2021, p. 37).

Foreground Entailment

Foreground entailment is the second order of entailment, following background entailment. According to Yule, foreground entailment is the primary assumption being made by the speaker (2000, p.33). There are two distinct language tools that may be used to indicate the foreground entailment. They are clefting and stressing. Clefting is a technique that is employed to draw attention to a certain portion of a phrase and to underline the meaning of what is being communicated. In the meantime, stressing is utilized to aid in the interpretation of the speaker's intended meaning by the audience. Clefting is denoted by the inclusion of the "it-cleft" structure, whereas stressing is marked by the use of capitalized key terms. Examples of foreground entailment in accordance with clefting and stressing are shown respectively below.

Clefting:

And then I went to New York to meet a director for a space movie, but one where they take space seriously. Sex trafficking in space. It was political, or they wanted us to think it was. It was actually just fulfilling the same need certain fucked up porn does.

(Putri, 2021, p. 36).

Stressing:

You have to STOP loving him, Mom. You can't be his friend anymore.

(Putri, 2021, p. 34).

Song Lyrics

Hornby defined a song as a musical composition consisting of a brief piece of music with words that can be sung (2015, p. 1440). Songs, like poetry, rely on wordplay to convey their messages to listeners. Songs are distinct from other art genres, yet they share features with spoken word and poetry. Both may be sung or played on an instrument, are often written down before being published, and are enjoyed by readers and listeners alike.

Therefore, in addition to the fact above, Tankaruba (2016, p. 21) defined song as lyrical poetry. In other words, song is a composition that consists of lyrics and music, with the intention that the lyrics be sung, with the aim of eliciting a feeling or emotion that is appropriate to a particular matter as to convey a message or convey an emotion (Guerra, 2015). Lyrics, as a sequence of the song, are described as any pretty short poetry, consisting of the speech by a single speaker who communicates a state of mind of a process of observation, cognition, and feelings (Abrams in Siregar, 2017, p. 13).

A song lyric is an example of a type of written work that may be classified as literature since it is a component of a literary work and has components that are fundamental,

similar to poetry. It is the expression of a person's personal ideas and feelings, and it is tied to music that was composed for singing (Rosita, Purwanto, & Rosyidi, 2019, p. 61).

Given the information drawn from the previous description above, it can be concluded that song lyrics are musical compositions consisting of spoken poetical words that can be sung in order to communicate personal feelings or emotions in the form of literary work.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used the qualitative descriptive method. A qualitative method is a research approach that generates descriptive data in the form of written or oral data from the research that is being conducted

(Moleong, 2002, p. 3). Bogdan and Biklen asserted that descriptive qualitative research concerns describing a phenomenon that occurs naturally without any intervention of an experiment or an artificially contrived treatment (Khairunnisah, 2016, p. 3). The source of data in this research is Niki's song lyrics in her full studio album, "Nicole". In collecting data the researchers used techniques by performing several steps, identifying, reading, coding, and classifying the data. And then, the researcher analyzed those data with the following steps, collecting, analyzing, and concluding the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result of Research

Types of Entailments

Table 3.
Types of Entailments in Niki's album, Nicole

No.	Types of Entailments	Frequency	Percentage
1.	One-way Entailment	13	30%
2.	Mutual Entailment	11	26%
3.	Negative Entailment	13	30%
4.	Metaphorical Entailment	6	14%
Total		43	100%

Table 4.
Order of Entailment in Niki's album, Nicole

No.	Order of Entailment	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Foreground Entailment	2	5%
2.	Background Entailment	41	95%
Total		43	100%

Discussion

Types of Entailments

In the discussion of the theories of semantic entailment, the researcher used four indicators of types of entailment and two indicators for the order of entailment. However, this research only consists of one, out of two orders of entailment, and completes

four types of entailment. The findings analysis is presented below.

One-way Entailment

High school in Jakarta, sorta modern Sparta.

High School in Jakarta (*p*)

Sorta modern Sparta (*q*)

(Datum No. 9/High School in Jakarta)

Based on datum number nine above, the second proposition (q) in the song lyric above is defined as a further description idea of the first proposition (p), as the pattern of one-way entailments, p entails q.

The first phrase of the lyric stated about High School in Jakarta, and the second phrase of the lyrics (q) explains how it (High School in Jakarta) was some kind of modern Sparta. According to Hornby (2015, p. 1447), Sparta is a powerful city in ancient Greece, where the people were not interested in comfort or luxury. Sparta was also known for its militaristic government and for its educational system designed to train children to be devoted citizens and brave soldiers (Hirsch, Kett, & Trefil, 2002, p. 215). Thus, in the song's lyrics, Niki describes how High School in Jakarta feels like a modern version of the city of Sparta. Hence, this line of Niki's lyric in the song High School in Jakarta relates to one-way entailment, because one-way entailment is a relation between a pair of sentences where the truth of one sentence is followed by the truth of another sentence.

Mutual Entailment

You were all I'd ever known And now I'm supposed to love you from a distance

Like it's nothing, like it's instant.

Like it's nothing, (p)

Like it's instant. (q)

(Datum No. 3/Before)

Based on datum number three above, the sentences are virtually interchangeable with one another. The word nothing (p) is substituted for the word instant (q). As stated by Hornby (2015, p. 790) instant means happening immediately or in a very short period of time. This is in line with the notion of nothing, as quoted in the Cambridge Dictionary, which is defined as

something that has no importance or value. So, the above type of lyrics sentence is meant in two-way entailment, because the first sentence (p); *Like it's nothing*, and the second sentence (q); *like it's instant*, represent the same idea or meaning, which reflects the way Niki described loving someone from a distance.

Negative Entailment

*Freshman's year's about to plummet just a little harder
But it didn't 'cause we kissed on that Halloween night*

Freshman's year's about to plummet just a little harder (p)

But it didn't 'cause we kissed on that Halloween night (q)

(Datum No. 4/High School in Jakarta)

Based on datum number four above the first proposition (p) states "Freshman's year's about to plummet just a little harder" which is related to the second sentence (q), "But it didn't 'cause we kissed on that Halloween night". Niki in the song of High School in Jakarta, claims that Freshman's year's about to plummet just a little harder, but in contradiction, it didn't because they kissed on Halloween night. The conclusion of this entailment relation is that the year of freshmen is not going to fall any harder.

Based on the previous description, it can be concluded that the relation between propositions of the song lyrics above are in negative entailment relation, as q explains the further description of the p. Thus, the last proposition entailed a phrase, "But it didn't" which contains the word 'not' as it indicates negative sentence.

Metaphorical Entailment

*And I love you but with you
It's heartache I breathe*

And I love you but with you (p)

It's heartache I breathe (q)

(Datum No. 33/Autumn)

Based on datum number 33 above, the second proposition (q) states “It’s heartache I breathe”, this line of Niki’s song lyric relates to Metaphorical entailment. Metaphorical entailment is imparting a characteristic of the source domain to the target domain. The sentence above illustrates the source domain by using the metaphorical image “It’s heartache I breathe” because it is impossible for humans to breathe when they got “heartache”. Breath according to Hornby (2015, p. 176) is the process of taking air into the lungs and sending it out again through the nose or mouth. While heartache is a strong feeling of sadness or worry (Hornby, 2015, p. 707). In other words, the sentence explains a metaphorical image and its meaning in relation to metaphorical entailment.

Orders of Entailments

Out of two order categories of entailment according to Yule (2000), the researcher only found two data on foreground entailment and 41 data on background entailment in this research.

Background Entailment

*Darlin', we're getting older
In less than eight months you'll wash
tear stains off of your shoulder
And drenched in alcohol and conceit*
(Datum No. 41/On the Drive Home)

According to the datum presented above, Niki reflected that they’re getting older. The first proposition is the statement as they’re getting older, and then she puts two more explanatory sentences to describe the latter situation. The two sentences that follow the first statement are present to strengthen the first sentence’s main idea. That after they reach the phase of being older, they would later dry tear stains off of their shoulder, and be drenched in alcohol and conceit. Thus, the entailment order of the datum

above is in relation to background entailment.

Foreground Entailment

*It was Halloweekend, I just flew across
the globe Twenty-two hours just to see
you*
(Datum No. 42/Before)

Datum number 42 above is categorized as foreground entailment because it concluded the indicator of it-cleft; it was in the first proposition; “It was Halloweekend, I just flew across the globe”. Niki in the song lyrics above portrayed that she has spent twenty-two hours flight just to see someone, on Halloween weekend. By using the it-cleft expression, Niki expects the hearer to focus on the next sentence exactly after the clefting. Hence, Niki highlighted the part where she had to spend twenty-two hours flying aboard just to see someone.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results of the research in chapter four, there are 43 data found concerning types and order of entailments figured in the process of analyzing song lyrics of Niki, in her full studio album; *Nicole*. Each of these data branched into complete four types of entailment, and two orders of entailment proposed by Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2011) in the book “An Introduction to Language”; Lakoff and Johnson (2003) in the book “Metaphors We Live by”; the last is “Pragmatics” by George Yule (2000).

Distributions of the following types are 30% (13 data) for one-way entailment; mutual entailment 26% (11 data); negative entailment 30% (13) of the data; meanwhile metaphorical entailment percentages only 14% (6 data) for each of the types. There is a big gap in the application of orders of entailment. Background entailment dominantly leads with the majority of data used as it took 95% of the

percentage which is equivalent to 41 data, while the other orders; foreground entailment reached only 5% or two of the data.

It is important for linguistics students to acknowledge language phenomena, especially the phenomenon of entailment. Therefore, the researcher suggests more students conduct research on semantics, especially on meaning relation which is important to be understood to build a successful conversation.

Identifying the types and orders of entailment can be complex when a datum requires a lot of analysis work just to be classified into one of the types. Understanding the form of entailment is also necessarily important. Entailment is a semantic relation for understanding the true value of a sentence (whether true or false) by examining its relationship to another sentence, as it demonstrates language proficiency.

The researcher is well aware of the weakness of this study. Likewise, the deficient outcomes and certain aspects still need to learn further. Nevertheless, the researcher hopes that this research will eventually be of value to future researchers, English learners, lecturers, or a person interested in this study field who wants to explore the comparable subject matter.

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