

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Song lyrics are sometimes structurally confusing, especially for those not aware of the so-called *licentia poetica*. It is a specificity that belongs to the poet (songwriter) to deviate from the linguistic reality of conventional forms or rules to produce the intended effect that they want to be applied in the songs. Listeners find it hard while trying to understand the song's message and fail to follow the song writers' minds easily, especially on their first time listening. This may be due to the songwriter who prefers to use the words that contain several meanings because of some particular reason: to attract people's attention with interesting lyrics. Therefore, it will increase the confusion in capturing the real or actual meaning because of the wrong message the listener gets from the song.

Song lyric categorized as literary work that expresses personal feelings. It because song lyric is language creation. What distinguishes song lyric from a poem is that served in song form. The author creates the song lyric based on a life experience that tells about someone or another like songs from *The Greatest Show* movie. The reason why people listen to music is that they want relaxation, refreshment, and entertainment for themselves. It is following with Haupth (2016) theory that stated if music is the media that can inspire and give hope to people. Also, it can create a

dream on people or let them escape from the real world for a moment (2016). On the other side, Yuana (2017) stated if a song is a single piece of music sung by humans with a variety of different tones and patterns. It is also using sound and silence in various forms, which often include part of the repetition. The words were written in a song called lyrics to consist of verses and chorus.

The songs from *The Greatest Showman* movie were chosen for this research because they often used inspiring words in the lyrics that used some features from associative meaning such as colloquial, connotations, etc. Moreover, there is a fact about the nine songs which have a good chart position on Billboard. This fact shows if most people in the world were interested in these songs. The writer wants to provide an insight for the reader about the associative meaning in the songs based on a semantic perspective.

As the branch of linguistic, the study of semantic is essential because it focuses on changes of meaning and the relationship between words or sentences and their meaning. Also, it helps people to understand the expression of human feelings through language. On the other side, Leech (1981) stated that associative meaning has an uncertain meaning and a variety of experiences from an individual. In this study, the writer use theory from Geoffrey Leech (1981) to identify the associative meaning. According to Leech (1981), there are seven types of associative meaning. These are connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, collocative meaning. In addition, we need to understand the conceptual meaning first

to get the associative meaning. It is because, in linguistic communication, conceptual meaning regarded as the central factor. Also, it could be known after we connect or compare the language level.

Connotative meaning has a value possessed by an expression based on what it refers to above its purely conceptual content stated by Leech (1981). These categorized as referent or segment features of the real-world that not included in the conceptual meaning. It also concerned with the real world experience that depends on knowledge and beliefs owned by the speaker. Besides, it may include in any characteristics of the real, imaginary, or referent.

Different from connotative meaning, social meaning is all about the social circumstances based on the function or use of language. It means that this kind of associative meaning has many aspects to categorize the language as social meaning. These aspects are dialect (the language of social class or geographical region), time (e.g the language of the 16th century), province (language of law, advertising, science, etc), status (colloquial, slang, polite, etc), modality (the language of memoranda, jokes, lectures, etc), singularity (style of Dickens, Hemingway, etc).

Affective meaning closely related to the social meaning that deals with the way of language reflect personal feelings of the speakers may include attitude to a listener or something (Leech 1981). It can be expressed directly and indirectly that depends on the context. Reflected meaning can be explained as the one appearing in

situations or conditions of multiple conceptual meanings. It means that the word has more than one meaning (Leech 1981). Collocative meaning is a meaning that consisting of the word association. This word obtained because of the meaning that appears in their environment (Leech 1981).

The writer found some samples from the songs lyrics in *The Greatest Showman* movie. For example, in lyrics '*And buried in your bones there's an ache that you can't ignore*', we can find two connotative meanings which buried and bones. The word "buried" here is past participle as an adjective word. It derived from the word "bury". According to the dictionary, it implies putting a dead body into the ground. If it functions as an adjective, the word "buried" refers to the situation where the dead body placed in the ground. On the other side, the word "bones" that derived from the word "bone" means a hard part that forms a frame in the human or animal body while the word "bones" connotes "life" that is a period between birth and death. So, the real meaning of the underlined phrase is "stored in your life". Therefore, the lyric implies if there is a continuous pain that stored for a long time in his or her life that he or she was intentionally giving attention to.

As the references, the writer found three studies. The first related studies entitled "Associative Meaning in Hoho Lyrics of Nias Traditional song" written by Devi Kristiana Wau (2017). From the research, the writer found out if the most dominant types of meaning in those 4 hoho songs was connotative meaning because it included feelings, ideas, and thought of the singer as the speaker. The second

journal article was written by Masriyah, Zulfadli A. Aziz, Iskandar Abdul Abdul Samad (2019) entitled “An Analysis of Associative Meaning in Two Song’s album of Lorde”. In the end, the writers found that there were seven data of connotative meaning, thirty-five data of social meaning, eleven data of affective meaning, eleven data of reflected meaning, while for collocative meaning were 5 data. While the third journal is “Associative Meanings in Doel Sumbang Song Lyric “Beurit” a Semantic Study” was written by Imam Muhtadi, Wiwi Widuri S.P.S, Frando Yantoni, Sutiono Mahdi (2017). They found out if there are only four types of associative meaning. In addition, this study is similar to the current study that used Leech’s (1981) theory about associative meaning. In contrast, the current study discussed about a movie’s song rather than traditional song.

Hence, this research was intended to identify the songs lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie. It is an American musical biographical drama film in 2017 that tells about Phineas Taylor Barnum’s life. He is the creator of the Barnum and Bailer Circus (Ellenbogen 2017). This movie tells about his journey from the beginning until he reaches his dream as the creator of the circus. In this movie, he gathered unique and diverse people from all over New York. These included the shortest man, the tallest man, the bearded woman with a beautiful voice, and some citizens who lived with talent (Indriani and Halidi 2017). This movie has nine songs that each song lyrics contain a value that tells us not to give up on our dream. This research will use songs lyrics entitled “The Greatest Shoman”, “A Million Dream”, “Never Enough”,

“This is Me”, “The Other Side”, “Come Alive”, “Tight Rope”, “From Now On” and “Rewrite the Stars”. These nine songs will be analyzed by semantic theory by Geoffrey Leech (1983).

As the writer mentioned before, it is important to address the movie’s song because it is such a huge hit in 2018 that makes them into good ranked in the chart list. Different from the other prior studies, the subject of the recent study was taken from *The Greatest Showman* with nine songs that are related to each other to support the storyline. It caused by the harmony of the songs that creates the same theme as in the movie. Thus, overall of the songs emphasized the content and theme of the movie that talked about life, such as giving tolerance and not giving up on their dream. Moreover, it is in accordance with the phenomenon if writers often used songs as the media to convey the moral value besides express the feelings. *The Greatest Showman* movie is an American musical biographical movie with nine songs that tell about Phineas Taylor Barnum’s life from the beginning until he reaches his dream as the creator of his circus.

Each of the songs lyrics has its own story. First, the song entitled ‘The Greatest Show’ tells about excitement when someone comes to the circus. ‘Come Alive’ is about passion for living in a better life that people should have. ‘A Million Dreams’ is an emotional song with magical lyrics full of hope about perfect life in the future. Also, the lyrics describe how easy it is to achieve anything in this world. ‘Never Enough’ is about a heartache because of rejection by someone we love. “This

is Me” is the most iconic song in the movie. The lyrics tell about someone’s refusal to change himself or herself just because he or she gets a rejection from the upper class. Also, it tells about how proud they are of themselves. “Rewrite Stars” tells about two people who love each other and want to be together but blocked by the complicated situations as their obstacle. ‘The Other Side’ is a song about someone who tries to convince his friend that afraid to face the shame from upper-class people because he join the circus business. ‘Tightrope’ is about someone’s love is enough to make her or him willing to sacrifice and live in a hard or happy life together with someone she or he loves. While ‘From Now On’ tells about the tender moment when someone realizes that she or he already lost his family. It represents how regretful he is or she is about what has he done or she has done before.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

This research will be drawn from semantic field. The writer wants to focus on five types of associative meaning that possibly can be found in the song lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie. So, the writer intends to formulate the statement of the problems as follows:

- a. What types of associative meaning occurred in the song lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie?
- b. What is the most dominant type of associative meaning in The Greatest Showman movie’s song lyrics?

1.2 Objective of the Study

In this part, the writer will present the purpose of the research that relates to the statement of the problems above. It will be the answer why the writer conduct this research as bellow:

- a. To identify the lyrics in the songs of The Greatest Showman movie that has associative meaning. So in the next part, the writer will show the associative meaning of the songs lyrics
- b. To identify the most dominant type of assosiative meaning in songs lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie. So in the next part, the writer will show the most type of associative meaning that can be found in the song lyrics.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study aimed to identify the associative meaning and to find the most dominat types among the associative meaning of the songs lyrics in The Greatest Showman movie. In addition, this study have theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the output of this study is expected to give valuable and beneficial contribution to the English Literature Department as the additional information, source, or reference particularly on the study of associative meaning. Also , the writer expect that this study can be useful by being a reference for the next researcher who conduct a research in semantic field especially about how to identify and analyze the types of associative meaning.

Practically, this study is expected to help the readers who would like to increase their knowledge about connotation and abbreviation that commonly used in informal conversation. This study provides the information about the collocation that is important to make our language sounds more proficient (McCarthy 2018) and natural (Luis 2019) in the target language.

1.2 Definition of Key Terms

Associative meaning : It is unstable of meaning and contains variants of individual experience. It has five types which are connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and collocative meaning. (Leech 1981).

Connotative meaning : The expression of the communicative value that has by virtue of what it refers to eventhough the meanings may not be strictly signified by any relevant definitions.

Social meaning : Social meaning is the type of meaning that includes all the social circumstances regarding the use of language (Leech 1981).

Affective meaning : The type of associative meaning that reflect personal feelings of the speakers may include attitude to a listener or something (Leech 1981).

Reflected meaning : The type of associatice meaning that appearing in situations or condition of multiple conceptual meanings.

Collocative meaning : The type of meaning that consist of association a word.