

**AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ANSON
SEABRA'S SONGS**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in a partial
Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain a Sarjana Degree in English Literature
Study Program*

Written by:

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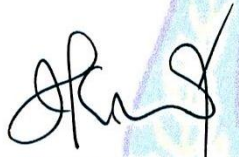

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FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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Regarding the letter of the Dean of The Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 250/UN4.9.1/KEP/2021 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Wanda Seftiani Putri (F041171018) to be examined at the English Department Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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THESIS

AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ANSON SEABRA'S
SONGS

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Friday, 18th

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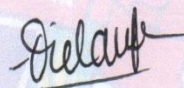
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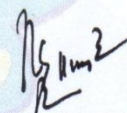
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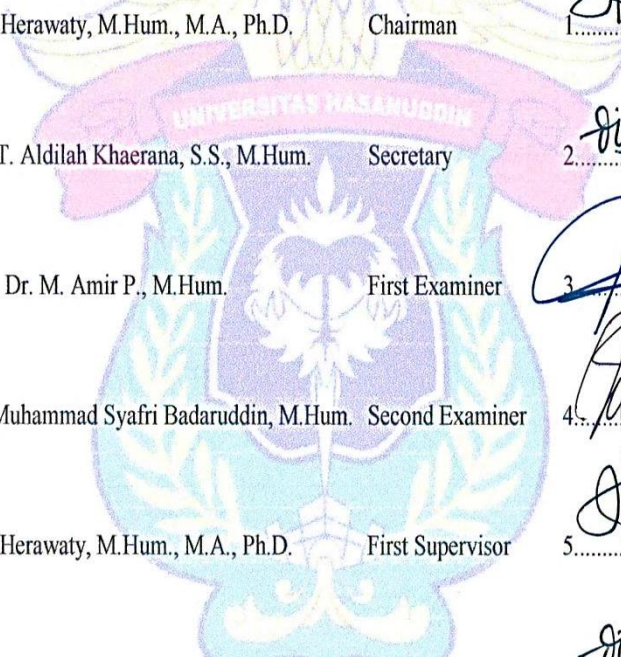






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AGREEMENT

Today, Friday 18th August 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by WANDA SEFTIANI FUTRI (F041171018) entitled, **AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ANSON SEABRA'S SONGS**, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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The thesis by **WANDA SEFTIANI FUTRI** (F041171018) entitled, **AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ANSON SEABRA'S SONGS**, has been revised as advised during the examination on Friday, August 18th 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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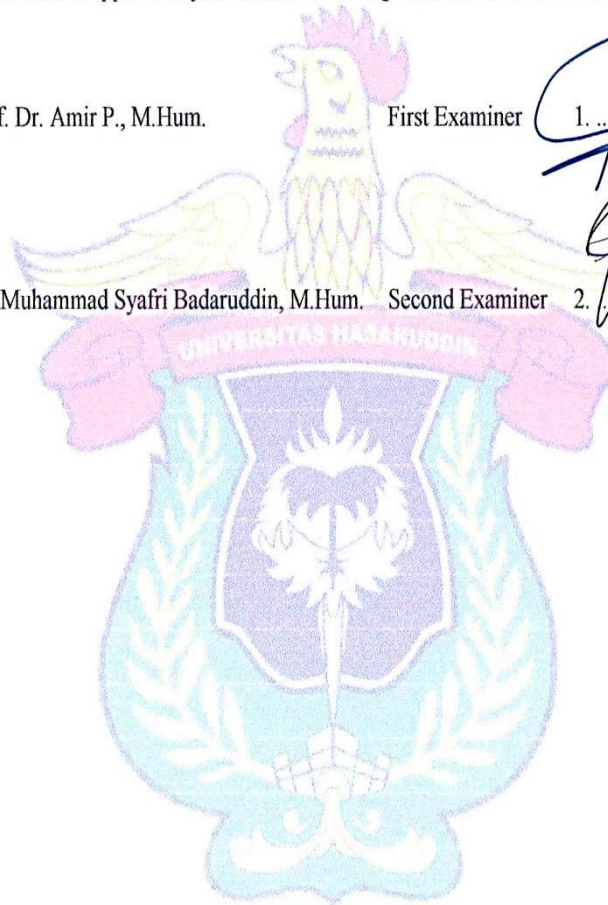
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except the quotations and references.

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Wanda Seftiani Futri

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The writer realizes that this thesis is far for being perfect, but it is expected that it will be useful not only for the writer but also for the readers. For this reason, constructive criticism and suggestion are welcomed.

Makassar, 21th September 2022

The writer

ABSTRACT

WANDA SEFTIANI FUTRI. 2022. *An Analysis of Connotative Meanings in Anson Seabra's Songs*. (Supervised by Herawaty Abbas and A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana)

This research study is about the connotative meaning in the lyrics of Anson Seabra's song. The purpose of this study is to determine the connotative meaning contained in the lyrics of the songs Anson Seabra. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The data sources used in this study were taken from several Anson Seabra songs, including *Welcome to Wonderland*, *Trying My Best*, *I Can't Carry This Anymore*, *Dawning of Spring*, *Robin Hood*, *Walked Through Hell*, and *It's Raining It's Pouring*. By using the theory of connotative meaning by Leech (1981), the writer made observations by observing the lyrics of the Anson Seabra songs and taking words or sentences that contain connotative meanings. From all these songs, the writer finds that in Seabra's songs there are many words have connotative meanings. There are 38 words in the song lyrics that contain connotative meanings. There are four connotative meanings in *Welcome to Wonderland* song, five in *Trying My Best* song, eight in *I Can't Carry This Anymore* song, four in the *Dawning of Spring* song, six in the song *Robin Hood*, four in *Walked Through Hell* song, and seven in *It's Raining It's Pouring* song.

Keywords: Connotative Meaning, Semantics, Song

ABSTRAK

WANDA SEFTIANI FUTRI. 2022. *An Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Anson Seabra's Songs* (Dibimbing oleh Herawaty Abbas dan A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana)

Kajian penelitian ini mengenai makna konotatif dalam lirik lagu Anson Seabra. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui makna konotatif yang terkandung dalam lirik lagu Anson Seabra. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini diambil dari beberapa lagu Anson Seabra diantaranya *Welcome to Wonderland*, *Trying My Best*, *I Can't Carry This Anymore*, *Dawning of Spring*, *Robin Hood*, *Walked Through Hell*, and *It's Raining It's Pouring*. Dengan menggunakan teori makna konotatif oleh Leech (1981) penulis melakukan observasi dengan mengamati lirik lagu Anson Seabra dan mengambil kata atau kalimat yang mengandung makna konotatif. Dari semua lagu tersebut, penulis menemukan bahwa dalam lagu Anson Seabra terdapat banyak kata yang mengandung makna konotatif. Ada 38 kata dalam lirik lagu yang mengandung makna konotatif. Ada 4 makna konotatif pada lagu *Welcome to Wonderland*, 5 pada lagu *Trying My Best*, 8 pada lagu *I Can't Carry This Anymore*, 4 pada lagu *Dawning of Spring*, 6 pada lagu *Robin Hood*, 4 pada lagu *Walked Through Hell* dan 7 pada lagu *Its Raining Its Pouring*.

Kata Kunci: Makna Konotatif, Semantic, Lagu

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five parts: background of the study, focus of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

A. Background of The Study

Human living in society cannot be separated from the use language as a means of communication in daily life. Human always communicate with other people, both verbally and non-verbally, including gestures or facial expressions. Language has an important role in human life for socializing with each other, so that other people cannot interact without it. Therefore, humans need language to convey ideas, messages, intentions, feelings, and opinions to others.

Language is a communication tool that cannot be separated from the meaning or meaning of every word spoken. The study of meaning in language is called semantics (Hufford & Halsey, 2007). Every word in the sentence has a meaning. According to Lyons (1995:136), meaning is an idea that can be transferred from the speaker's mind to the listener's mind by applying it to the form of one language or another. There are various meanings in semantics. Leech (1981), divided seven types of meaning in semantics, including:

- 1) Denotative meaning (as defined by a dictionary)
- 2) Connotative meaning (meaning advanced by the mind)
- 3) Social meaning (social context)

- 4) Affective or emotional meaning (expressing personal feelings)
- 5) Reflective meaning (double conceptual meaning)
- 6) Collocative meaning (word association)
- 7) Thematic meaning (message meaning)

This research focuses on connotative meaning research. Connotative meaning is a meaning that is not directly related to the intention or anything else; in other words, it goes beyond the conceptual meaning itself. Connotative meaning is also known as the incorrect meaning. According to Leech (1981:12), connotative meaning is a connotative value that is expressed based on what it refers to, above and beyond what its conceptual meaning has. The connotative meaning is different from other meanings because this meaning arises from the association of feelings when using language with words that are heard or read. A word can be said to be connotative if it is in a sentence and has a reference depending on the context of the sentence. Connotative meaning refers to how a person feels when using language, regardless of whether they feel happy, sad, or angry. Connotative meaning can be found in a poem, short story, novel, or song.

Music cannot be separated from human life. Nowadays, music has become a part of human life. Both young and old people like music. Music greatly affects human life because music is fun entertainment because variety and enjoyment of music can relax the human mind from exhaustion. Some people even feel empty if they don't listen to music for one day. Music can also help humans carry out various activities, such as sports, doing work, doing assignments, reading books, or doing other activities. Everyone can enjoy a variety of music. The Internet,

television, and radio make music from all over the world available anywhere and anytime.

Music is part of the song. according to Jamalus (1988:5) songs can be considered works of art if they are performed (sung) with the accompaniment of musical instruments. Songs assume a variety of forms, some of the song are rich, imaginative, and are elaborated in the play of words, rhythm, and melody (Akporobaro in Sharndama & Suleiman, 2013). The song is based on the composition of the music and has a rhythm and tempo so that the feelings of the listeners also drift into the meaning of the song. Sometimes, through a song humans can express what they feel. The important part contained in a song is the lyrics.

According to Nugraha (2016:290), a song lyric is a verbal communication tool that has meaning in it. Song lyrics in music are components that are able to spread messages to the public. This message can be an outpouring or aspiration regarding the songwriter's background. Therefore, someone can feel various kinds of emotions in a song, such as sadness, joy, or longing, by listening to a song. A song lyric has thousands of meanings about an event that is packaged by the songwriter to capture the public's attention. However, not everyone who listens to a song can understand the meaning behind the lyrics. In fact, some people only enjoy a song because they like the type of music that is popular at the time, regardless of the meaning contained in it.

Anson Seabra is a singer who is also well known as songwriter. There are seven popular songs from Anson Seabra such *Welcome to Wonderland*, *Robin Hood*, *Trying My Best*, *I Can't Carry This Anymore*, *Dawning of Spring*, *Walked Through Hell* and *It's Raining It's Pouring*. In his songs, he combines carefully crafted melodies with emotional lyrics and the music has qualities that make someone is interested to hear it. Seabra's songs are inspired by fairy tale, heartbreak, depression, and romantic relationships. Most of the songs he write relate to human life, especially young adult.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing song lyrics particularly Anson Seabra's selected songs. To understand the meaning contained in a song, the lyrics must be interpreted first. The words in the lyrics might be interesting because the words chosen by the songwriter for special meanings. So the meaning of the song lyrics can be understood especially by those who know the method to find the meaning in the song. The writer chooses Anson Seabra's songs as the object of research because in his songs he tends to use feeling to express his emotions in the song so that the meaning of the song contained in the lyrics is so deep which contain connotative meaning.

The writer has studied intensively about the lyrics of Anson Seabra's songs in research entitled *Analysis of the Connotative Meaning in Anson Seabra's Song Lyrics*.

B. Scope of Study

Based on the background above, the writer focuses on the connotative meaning in Anson Seabra's selected songs lyrics: *Welcome to Wonderland*, *Robin Hood*, *I Can't Carry This Anymore*, *Dawning of Spring*, *Trying My Best*, *Walked Through Hell*, *It's Raining It's Pouring*.

C. Research Question

Based on the background that the writer has explained above, the writer formulates the problems of this research as follows:

1. What are the words that containing connotative meaning in song lyrics by Anson Seabra?
2. What are the connotative meaning of the words?

D. Objective of The Study

A study conducted must have a goal to be achieved. The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the words that contain connotative meaning of Anson Seabra's song lyrics.
2. To find out the connotative meaning of the words.

E. Significance of The Study

Theoretically, this research is expected to develop students knowledge about semantics, especially the connotative meaning. Furthermore, this research provides new information to readers about the connotative meaning through song lyrics.

F. Sequence of Writing

This research contains five chapters. First, Chapter one is an introduction. It covers the outlook of the whole writing which includes, namely background of the study, scope of study, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study and sequence of writing. Second, Chapter two explain the literature review which provides review of some previous studies and applies some theories to support this analysis. Third, Chapter three consist of the kind of methods the writer uses in analyzing the novel, including method of collecting data and method of analyzing data. Fourth, Chapter four is the analysis of connotative meaning in Anson Seabra's song lyrics. Fifth, Chapter five is the conclusion and suggestion for the readers is involved in this chapter of the study.

In practical terms, this research expected can give additional information or knowledge to readers in order to understand the meaning used in song lyrics, especially the connotative meaning of semantic analysis.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of important literature review related to this study's theoretical background including, the explanation of semantics, the types of meaning, definition of connotative meaning and previous study.

A. Previous Studies

There are some previous studies which are related to this topic.

The first is the study by Muttaqien (2011) entitled *The Denotative and Connotative Meanings in the AXE Advertisements*. This research is aimed to explore the meaning of signs which consists of denotative and connotative levels. The writer used descriptive qualitative as a method and to analyze the data he used theory of Roland Bathers which is the development of the concept of the Saussure (1961) signifier (signifiant) and signified (signifie) to be dynamic. The result shows that each sign of AXE Advertisements has a system and it is supported by object, context, and text in the advertisements. As the conclusion, these elements contribute to the meaning of the denotative and connotative level product.

The second previous related study is a research by Nadia Aprilia Prayitna (2015) entitled *An Analysis on Connotative Meaning and Message in Linkin Park's Songs in A Thousand Suns Album*. This research analyzed the data by using Leech's theory and the research method that she used is qualitative approach. The research is aimed to show the interpretation of the connotation found in the song lyrics, the messages of the songs, and the contribution of the

connotations to the message. The result shows that there are 46 utterances containing connotative meanings in the song lyrics carried within words, phrases, and also sentence.

The last related previous study is by Armawansyah (2016) entitled *An Analysis of Connotative Meaning In Selected Maher Zain's Song Lyrics*. This research focused on analyzing connotative meaning in Maher Zain's song lyrics and also to find the message that delivered by Maher Zain. In this research he used qualitative descriptive as a method and theory of John Lyons to analyzed the data. The result shows that some kinds of connotative meaning were found, such as positive connotation, neutral connotations, and negative connotations. As the conclusion, the writer assumes that Maher Zain used positive connotation in his lyrics to deliver the message to the listener in an encouraging way, used neutral connotation to change something that makes the listener easy to understand what the author mean to and used negative connotation to deliver something bad and hated in Islam.

The previous studies give much input in conducting the current research because they have the same topic. The researches above also help the writer of this undergraduated thesis to get and to find the right references and sources to support this research. The writer ensures that this research is different from previous studies. The first is the object of study. The second one is the theory that used in the research. This research will find out the connotative meaning and explains about connotative meaning that contain in the lyrics.

B. Theoretical Background

1. Semantic

Semantics is the study of meaning in linguistics. The study of the meaning contained in a language, code, or other kind of representation is known as semantics. Semantics is the study of meaning in different languages. Kreidler (1998:3), believes that semantics is a systematic study of meaning, while language semantics is the study of how language organizes and expresses meaning. Semantics is the study of the toolkit for meaning: knowledge contained in the language's vocabulary and patterns for constructing more complicated meanings, up to the level of sentence meanings, according to Griffith (2006:1). In addition, Yule (2010:112) added that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that semantics is the study of how to express the meaning of the language consisting of words, phrases, and sentences. Human beings interact with each other by use of word, and it is crucial to comprehend what is being talked about. So that way semantics is the study of big role and the primarily point to study of the meaning.

It indicates that language is meaningless if it lacks meaning. Meaning is important for human to express what they feel, think and do.

2. Types of Meaning

Leech (1981:9-19) states that there are seven types of meaning, those are:

- Conceptual Meaning

Conceptual meaning is also known as denotative or cognitive meaning, and is considered the most important aspect of linguistic communication. To gain a better understanding, conceptual meaning is the same as literal meaning, real word, logical meaning and refers to definitions found in dictionaries.

For example: Boy = +human +male +adult

Woman = +human +female +adult

- Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is to express the communication value of the referring content, beyond its pure conceptual meaning. This means that the connotative meaning depends entirely on the words in the context of the sentences.

- Affective Meaning

The speaker's personal feelings or attitudes are related to affective meaning. Affective meaning is only indirectly linked to conceptual representation in way that is similar to social meaning. According to Leech (1981:15) affective meaning is frequently expressed explicitly through the conceptual or connotative meaning of the words used.

- Collocative Meaning

According to Leech (1981:17), collocative meaning is composed of word associations, because the meaning of words often appears in their environment.

For example, the words “Pretty and Handsome”. Pretty and handsome have similarities in the meaning of “good-looking”, but they can be distinguished by the range of the nouns they like to appear or match; pretty women and handsome men. Although the ranges may be similar, they reflect a different type of beauty in the adjectives.

- **Reflective Meaning**

Reflective meaning is the meaning that appears in the context of multiple conceptual meanings, when one meaning of word forms part of our response to another meaning.

- **Social Meaning**

According to Leech (1981:14), social meaning is the meaning conveyed by a language about the environment in which it is used. This means telling us some social relations between the speaker and the listener.

- **Thematic Meaning**

Leech (1981:19) believes that thematic meaning is the meaning conveyed by the way the speaker or author organizes information, focus, and emphasis. This means meaning is the communication between speakers and authors with different language structures but similar meanings.

3. Connotative Meaning

According to Leech (1974), connotative meaning is subjective and not shared in the same way by all speaker of a language. The degree of the connotative value

will be different for everyone since the way one perceives something in this universe and his or her individual experience of language is different: it depend upon the culture, geographical area, and historical period.

Also Leech (1981) explains there are three characteristics of connotative meaning. Firstly, connotative meaning talks about the real word experience one associates with expression when one uses or hears it. It means that connotative meaning completely depends on someone's perspective and what someone identifies with another phrase. Connotative meaning is not limited to language; it can be also found in other forms of communication as well, such as visual art and music. In other word connotative meaning not limited to spesific word of language, it can include word of visual and art.

A second characteristic of connotative meaning by Leech (1981:13) is different with conceptual meaning. The connotations are relatively unstable that is they vary considerably. An individual experiences, culture, and historical period can be the factors that influence inintepreting connotative meaning. It means that conotative meanings are very universal meaning, it can be correlated by culture, background, history, and phenomenon.

The last characteristic of connotative meaning from Leech (1981:13) is indeterminate and open-ended in the sense in which conceptual meaning is not. It means that connotative meaning is open-ended in the same way as our knowledge and beliefs about the universe are open-ended. Other word connotative meaning is open-ended mind by individual opinion.

From the explanation above, connotative meaning refers to the experience of real words associated with an expression when someone uses or hears it. The definition of words is determined by the experience or perspective of the individual and what they associated with other expressions. It means that connotative meaning depends on people's feeling and experiences and is also a universal meaning that can be associated with culture, history and phenomena.

3. Music

Music is the strains of tones, rhythms, and songs that have various genres or parts of tones that have their own characteristics, assisted by the strains of various musical instruments so as to produce rhythms and are then presented to the public in the form of art. According to Sunarko (1985:5) music is the appreciation of the contents of the human heart, which are poured out in the form of regular sounds with melodies, rhythms, and elements of beautiful harmony. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that music is an art that depicts human thoughts and feelings through the beauty of sound in the form of melody, rhythm, and harmony. Just as humans use words to transfer concepts, they also use sound compositions to express their inner feelings. Music is the result of human creativity and a sense of the life of the world.

Music has several different types, commonly referred to as "genres". There are several genres of music that are popular around the world, including:

- Pop music is or stands for popular music, which is a type of music genre that has a broad appeal and is usually distributed through the music

industry. Pop music is a general term for music of all ages that appeals to popular tastes.

- Rock music is music that is synonymous with electric guitar, bass, and drums being the main instruments. Rock music also combines other genres such as blues, jazz, country, and classical. From the 50's until the early 70's, the rock music genre developed into several types, mixed with folk music and the amalgamation of other musical genres.
- R&B, or rhythm and blues, is music that combines several genres into it, namely jazz, gospel, and blues. R&B music was first introduced by African American musicians. This genre of music was popular in America around the 90s, aimed at black people. The hallmark of this music is the more thematic lyrics and prominent musical beats.
- Jazz music is a musical genre known in the 19th century that was adopted from the musical culture of West Africa and Europe. Jazz music includes several genres of music, such as blues, rhythm and European band music. Violin, piano, saxophone, bass, drums, guitar, trombone, and trumpet are common instruments used in jazz music.
- EDM music, or Electronic Dance Music, is music that emerged around the 80s and is getting more and more popular nowadays. This genre tends to be favored by millennials. This genre of music can be called modern music because it uses electronic musical instruments. EDM music is usually played by a DJ (Disk Jockey).

4. Song Lyrics

A song is a harmony composed of poetry that is pronounced according to tone, rhythm, tempo, and certain melodies. The composition of the tones,

A song is a poem that is pronounced according to tone, rhythm, tempo and specific melodies to form a harmony. A song is also referred to as song which means the composition of tones art or sound in order, combination, and temporal relationships to produce musical compositions that have and perfection (using rhythm). Song is a useful tool for learning a foreign language. Because the song contains multiple vocabulary words, it can be useful to teach vocabulary. Songs are considered magical because they have ability to make people cry, laugh, or become sad or angry when they listen to them. Songs are one of the most popular literary works and it is also the most popular and appropriate in society, because they can not only have fun with them, be brought into a big, close and fresh relationship with life, but can be used in many different ways depending on the situation. Songs express opinions, talk about history, talk about society or about someone's life. Songs are also used to motivate people who are listening to them and even change their minds.

In one section of the song, there is one crucial point which is called the lyrics. Lyrics are a combination of sentences or multiple words with deep meaning. Lyrics is a relatively short poem that expresses the strong feelings, thoughts, or perceptions of a single speaker in a mediative way. In addition, Awe (2003: 51) lyrics are an expression of someone about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. Dallin (1994) conveys that lyrics are written as a form of interaction

between the writer and the listeners. Lyric poetry is any fairly short poem composed of the words of a single speaker, which expresses a mental state or process of perception, thought, and feelings (Abrams 1999:146). In line with this, Wehmeir (2000:802) defines that lyric is the expression of one's personal feelings and thoughts as well as writing or singing. In addition, Hornby (2000: 802) states that lyrics is expressing someone's personal feeling and thoughts.

In short, lyric is the feeling that people write based on experienced by people, such as love, sadness, confusion, disappointment, etc. Lyric is an inclusive purpose of emotions from songwriter to lyrical writing. The singer's mood can be seen in the lyrics and through the lyrics listeners can understand how a sad melody accompanies a sad story, or how a happy melody actually contains a sad story. The lyrics provide the listeners with the clearest description of how the song says something.

5. Anson Seabra

Anson Seabra is an American Pop Singer who is also well known as songwriter. Anson Seabra was born on August 25, 1994 in Kansas City, Missouri USA. Anson Seabra learned music by playing piano in 6 years old and playing in the school band as a teenager. Anson Seabra extremely popular on YouTube platform where his personal music channel has gained more than 500,000 subscribers. In 2018, he posted his song on YouTube and became viral. He has the color of the music genre because his inspiration for making a song is a children's fairy tale. He also released a mini album which consists of music that he wrote and produced in his own room.