

Religion Issues in Sam Smith Song's Lyrics (A Pragmatic Analysis on La La La Song)

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Abstract: This research is a pragmatic study which focused on the context. Pragmatics is study about meaning that listener has different meaning from speaker. The object of this research is; first, understanding the role of pragmatic theory in analyzing the *La La La* song lyrics, the second is determine the religion issue on *La La La* song lyrics and the last is identifying the moral value of *La La La* song lyrics. The data of this research are song lyrics entitled *La La La* by Sam Smith. The data are analyzed based on their meaning. The main source of data in this research is the song lyric of Sam Smith's song, with the data collecting technique is Documentation. This paper is qualitative research based on Pragmatic Analysis. The researcher analyze the lyric song entitle *La La La* by Sam Smith mainly from Context which focus on Religion Issues. The results of this research are (1) The role pragmatic theory is to make it easier for researcher to interpret the lyrics and connect each stanza with the meaning of a particular context. Recently, researcher infers the meaning of the lyrics. (2) The religion issues in the *La La La* song lyrics are the words that have been underlined from the analysis table in Chapter 4, 1 of "Hiss", 1 of "Preach", 1 of "New Messiah", 2 of "silver lining", 2 of "your speech", 4 of "my ears", and 1 of running of the time. (3) The moral value in the *La La La* song lyrics are do not cover ears on a good advice. The researcher suggests to anyone who interested in doing research with a similar topic to listen to it and pay more attention to the content of the lyric.

Key words: Context, Pragmatics, Religion Issue, Song Lyrics

Introduction

People can express their ideas, wishes, thought, and desires through language. Language plays an important role in human life. With language, we can communicate and express our ideas, our feeling and also share information with other people. In social life, the functions of language keep developing and they are used for some activities, such as education, religion, culture, or as entertainment.

Based on the function above, entertainment is includes expressive and aesthetic

function because they are used for the song or drama, so that it will be so artistic. Talking about entertainment, they are not far from music and song. By using song, people also can communicate and express ideas with others.

Nowadays, many musicians or singers sell their songs to other countries and it aims to make them famous in the world. Besides, the lyrics are sung by using foreign language. For example, Taylor Swift promotes their songs to Indonesia and their language was absolutely different for Indonesian people. Lyrics which they used make the listeners curious. Of course people want deeply understand what the real meaning on those lyrics.

One of the famous singers is Sam Smith. Sam Smith is an English singer- song writer. He started his career on 2012. He has hits single on 2013, which is *La La La*. This song is so attractive because the understanding which listeners get and their point of view are different. That is the contexts used by listeners are different, according to their knowledge. The researcher finds some lyrics that contain religion issues. As example, *about your new messiah on lyrics make the listeners have different meaning, they define new messiah as the name of God (Jesus Christ). But the researcher have different point of view and try to associate the lyrics to one another. About your new messiah can't be literally defined. New messiah means new messages, messages that were given by God.*

To understand the meaning and message from the song deeply, we should know about language study. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics, which is the study of language. Pragmatics focuses on conversational implicature, which is a process in which the speaker implies and a listener infers. Simply put pragmatics studies language that is not directly spoken. Instead, the speaker hints at or suggests a meaning, and the listener assumes the correct intention.

Selection of pragmatic studies in this research is based because this study provides a framework for analyzing the function of language in editorial cartoons through a pragmatic approach. The function and meaning of language that cannot be analyzed in a structural approach can be described through a pragmatic approach. Analysis of the structural level only sees a linguistic form (form). Shape in this case the units lingual (linguistic units) sounds, syllables, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and so on. Although there is a meaning behind units lingual it, but the science of language with a structural approach can only discuss the meaning in the literal sense or explicit level, while the level of function (function), the meaning of language can be studied, analyzed until the non-literal meaning, implicit or implied.

This research analyzes *La La La song lyrics* from Sam Smith. There are some words on the lyric that have certain meanings, and the researcher focuses on analyzing the lyric use pragmatic theory. All in all the researcher will do research with title "*Religion Issues in Sam Smith Song's Lyric (A Pragmatic Analysis on La La La Song)*"

Problem Formulation

The formulation of the problem in this research is determined as follows:

1. How are the roles of pragmatics theory applied in La La La song lyrics?
2. What are the Religion issues on the *La La La* song lyrics?
3. What is the moral value from *La La La* song lyrics?

The concept of Pragmatics

Pragmatics began to develop in the field of linguistic studies in the 1970s. Its presence is motivated by their dissatisfaction with the structuralists who only examines the language in terms of form, without considering that the units of language that is actually present in a context that is both lingual and extra lingual.

Pragmatics (pragmatics) is an emerging study or meaning in language use. Pragmatics is defined differently depending on the views of various experts. Pragmatics is the study of the meaning conveyed or communicated by the speaker and interpreted by the listener. In other words pragmatics including the study of meaning is communicated by users of language. The meaning convey by the speakers of languages spoken in excess of meaning in the text.

Based on Yule in Wardani(2011) state that:

Pragmatic is concerned with study of meaning as communicated by speaker (or researcher) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has, consequently, more to do with analysis of what people mean by their utterance than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. Pragmatic is the study of speaker meaning.

That statement above tells about Branch of linguistics which studies aspects (of meanings) is pragmatics. It deals with how speakers use language that is unpredictable by linguistics knowledge. Pragmatics is type of research that should involve the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how context influences what is being said. This requires consideration of how the speaker set up what they want to say according to who they are talking to, where, when, and under the circumstances. Pragmatic is the study of meaning in context. Besides, in other research of Yule(2006) Communication clearly depends on not only recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance, but recognizing what speakers mean by their utterances. The study of what speakers mean, or „speaker meaning“, is called pragmatics. While Horn and Ward (2005) uttered that pragmatics is the study of those context-dependent aspects of meaning which are systematically abstracted away from in the construction of content or logical form

The other definition comes from Mei(2001) Pragmatic studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the condition of society.

Implementation Pragmatics in everyday life can be determined by analyzing the forms of language use both orally and in writing tangible utterances. According to Cruse in (Cummings, 2007), pragmatics can be considered to deal with aspects of the information (in the broad sense) is delivered through a language that

(a) are not encoded by the conventions generally accepted in the linguistic forms are used, but (b) also arises naturally from and depending on the meanings encoded conventionally by the context in which the use of these forms (emphasis added).

Based on the theories above, researcher concludes that pragmatics is the study of language usage from a functional perspective and is concerned with the principles that account for how meaning is conveyed by the speaker (researcher) and interpreted by the listener (reader) in a certain context. Pragmatic approach is also always explores how listeners can conclude about what was said in order to arrive at what the speaker meant. This type of research explores how a lot of what is unsaid is recognized as part of the meaning of the invisible. Pragmatic is the study of how much will be communicated than is said.

The Concept of Lyric

Lyric comes from poetry that expresses strong personal emotions, imagination, mind, idea, rhythm, impression, figurative language, and feeling's composer that are written by using language. So, language in lyric of song and language lyric in poetry are not different. In addition, both of them are include art. What we have to understand about art is not only an object which comes from particular ideas, but also from various ideas that are realized in concrete from (Kartika & Prawira , 2014). According to Awe (2013), Lyrics are the words that describe something experienced or perceived from the author. The lyrics are an expression of someone about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. In expressing his experience, the poet or songwriter performs a play on words and language to create attraction and distinctiveness of the lyrics or poems. The role of language can be either vocal, the style of language and meaning of the word irregularities and strengthened by the use of melody and music notation tailored to the lyrics of the song so that the listener is getting carried away with what they thought of the author.

The lyrics have a message in the form of written forms of words and phrases that can be used to create an atmosphere and a certain picture to the audience's imagination so that it can also create diverse meanings. In its function as a communication media, the song is also often used as a means to encourage sympathetic about the reality that is happening and on imaginative stories. The song is made up of a relationship between elements of music with elements of poetry or song lyrics are a form of mass communication. The song is a media to submission the message by the communicator to the communicant in large numbers through the mass media (Kondoahi, 2013).

From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. It has a message with the purpose to motivating the listeners, at least, to think about it.

The Concept of Religion Issues

Religion has always been with us. Throughout history, it has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures. As we think all the way back to the dawn of human consciousness, we find religion everywhere we turn. (Endowment)

According to Yandell(2000), Religion is a conceptual system that provides an interpretation of the world and the place of human beings in it, bases an account of how life should be lived given that interpretation, and expresses this interpretation and lifestyle in a set of rituals, institutions and practices”

Religions have some basic elements (Calhoun, Keller, & Light, 2000):

- a) Religious belief, which is the principle that is assumed to be true without a doubt.
- b) Religious symbols, namely the identity of the religious affiliation of the community.
- c) Religious practices, the vertical relationship between man and God, and horizontal relationships or relationships among religious adherents in accordance with religious teachings
- d) Religious experience, various forms of religious experience faced by personal adherents.
- e) A religious person, the followers of the religion.
- f) From (Cambridge Dictionaries), Issue means a subject or problem that people thinking and talking about.

Based on the explanation above the researcher concludes that *Religion issue* is the problem which related with religion context. It will be a topic for discussing.

Research Design

According to (Hancock, Ockleford, & Windrigde, 2009) Qualitative research concerns with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are.

Sarwono(2006) provided the urgencies of using qualitative approach to research if the concerned want to do the following things:

- a. Understand the underlying meaning of the behavior of participants.
- b. Describe the background and partisan interaction.
- c. Exploration to identify new information.
- d. Understand the limited circumstances and would like to know in depth and detail.
- e. Describe the phenomenon to create a new theory.
- f. Focusing on human interaction and processes they use.

Object of the Research

In undertaking this research, the researcher needs to decide the object of this

research. The object of this study is pragmatics analysis on *La La La* song lyrics. *La La La* is song which written and sung by Sam Smith. *La La La* with Smith's lead vocal, the song became an instant No. 1 single in the United Kingdom in the spring of 2013. The lyric is about 568 words, 9 stanzas, and the original video clip's length is 4 minutes and 3 seconds. The reason why the researcher takes that lyric to research is because this kind of research is still rare to do in this university. Moreover, on this object is the hits single of the famous singer on 2013 in the UK.

Data Collecting Technique

Methods of data collection in qualitative research is very diverse, because the characteristics of qualitative research is open and flexible, as well as the types and methods of data collection in qualitative research as diverse adjusted to the problem, research objective, and the character of the object under the research. Data collecting technique is very important in the research.

According to Arikunto (2006) states that data collecting technique is important to be done in research. Moreover, if the researcher uses the method which has a big enough gap to be entered by researcher. From the statement above, it can be said that data collecting technique is a way to get the data.

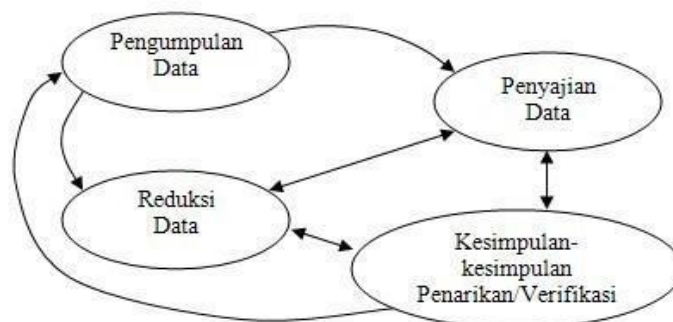
Meanwhile, the method of data collection in this study is documentation. Based on Sugiyono (2010:329) states that document is a note of the past. Document can be in form of letter, picture, text, script, or masterpiece.

The researcher defines that documentation is a data collecting technique which gets the information from various sources or document of something. There are two types of data in this study: the first is the main data. This is taken from the lyrics of a song by Sam Smith, secondary data drawn from relevant sources on the internet that can support the analysis and find the answer from the problems.

Data Analysis Technique

In this research, the data is in the form of song *La La La* is analyzed use qualitative descriptive analysis, by describing the state of the subject / object of one's research, institutions, communities and others at the present time based on the facts as they are. In connection with this, the researchers used an interactive model of Miles and Huberman (1988).

Picture 1. Interactive Model Analysis (Miles and Huberman in Sutopo 2002:96)



In the data analysis model consists of three components: The first is the data reduction, the process of selection, focusing and simplification and abstraction of raw data performed during the research process. The second is data display, a series of information to facilitate the understanding systematically arranged based on the reduction carried out previously. Data display in addition can be done in the form of narrative sentences, it can also include the trending type matrix, drawings / schematics, network connection activity and table also support the narrative, and the last is conclusion and verification, the final process in the data analysis in order to obtain answers to research questions. In this case needs to be verified in order to steady and accountable. This verification can be done by repetition for stabilization purposes, search the data back quickly. The form of three components activities has interaction with the data collection. The three components are involved in the analysis process and inter-related as well as determining the final of the analysis.

Research Discussion

Context behind the song lyric La La La from Sam Smith

Context covers the occurrence of language use in a communication and objects presented in the communication event. Here, the researcher sees the clip video because the lyrics have a close relationship with her music videos. The La La La song that has clarity setting, participants, and objective are as follows.
The Room.

The video starts with the camera entering a room numbered 1111. Symbolically, the number 1111 is used to represent a spiritual doorway, an opportunity for change and communication with spirits:

Whenever you see the sequence 111 or 1111 show up, it is a great sign of a golden opportunity. Both sequences mean that a "door" has opened up in which your intentions and goals will manifest extremely quickly. <http://www.angelscribe.com/1111.html>

This room can, therefore, be taken to represent the spiritual realm, the realm of the Devil. Inside we see an almost gangster style man shrouded in darkness and shadow. Note how he is clearly shown as being an evil kind of guy, angry and maybe slightly alcoholic. He then goes to see the little boy- who lives in this spiritual world- and shouts at him, gesticulating to his gold watch, apparently telling him it's time for him to leave. The boy looks down to the physical world and sees a shaman-type man holding a dog.

As the boy is being shouted at he responds with the theme of the video: singing 'La La La', putting his fingers in his ears. This hypnotic theme is a satanic spell, a way of entrancing people to the ways of the devil (note how it has no effects on the first man but has effects on all others the boy tries it on). He then dutifully runs down to the street, through the door of room 1111 and collects his dog from the shaman guy that disappears. Note how this scene takes place at night, symbolizing evil intent. This passage of the boy from the spiritual to the physical realm symbolically shows the release of the Devil's son into the world to do

his will- the anti-Christ is born!

Note that the first thing the boy does is to collect his dog as some, 'familiar' (traditionally thought of as the must-have demonic accessory). In the Bible, dogs almost always represent evil, perdition, low-life's and generally depict situations and characteristics that are un-Godly. <http://www.openbible.info/topics/dogs> .

As the boy runs to fulfill his mission, note how the man representing the Devil throws eggs from a nest at the boy's feet. Symbolically, nests with eggs inside them represent safety and hope- all completely smashed with the arrival of this anti-Christ.

Collecting Familiars

The boy is not a victim in this video. On closer inspection, it is he who makes decisions and leads others to where he wants to go. When he gets to the street he moves directly to a gym where he beckons a creepy looking man to his side. At first, the man resists the boy and gestures that he wants to watch the ladies do their aerobic dance. This man is representative of the lustful, the lost sinful folk who are interested in the wicked (albeit sexy) ways of the world. This man is not looking at nice ladies, their spiritual brokenness is apparent through their streaming makeup and anger when the man stops giving them attention.

Let's go back to the 'la la la's'. Note how the boy can't get the man's attention at first, he's not interested! But with the magic spell of 'la la la' (that infectious hypnotic theme throughout the song) the man then tunes in his radio to the 'frequency' of the spirit world and quickly becomes hypnotized too, ready to abandon his ladies and follow the boy.

On the street, the boy uses silver coins (just look at Judas and how silver represents treachery and colluding with the Devil) to buy a bloody heart that is placed in the man's jacket. Look how the man doesn't seem too happy about this but accepts his burden and continues to follow the boy. This is symbolic of satanic blood sacrifices that are prevalent in the occult. In order to be with the Devil, one is required to spill blood and carry the burden of guilt (a guilt that is designed to permanently keep one from turning to God out of shame).

The next familiar that the boy collects is the creepy bloke in the mask who is dancing with the flow of traffic- a symbol of the anonymous flow of modern human life- and is also hypnotized by the boy's 'la la la's'. Note how this man, this anonymous 'sheeple' man, is very quickly hypnotized and ready to follow the Devil's minion.

In Satanism, there are two kinds of people most likely to follow the Devil: those who sin and embrace evil and those who keep their ears and eyes shut to the way of Truth.

The Temple

The boy then leads his companions (the Devil can't operate without some kind of cooperation from man) through the wilderness to a temple.

The scenery is that of rust and decay, suggesting that the Devil lives on the outskirts of humanity (which he does). Again, another quick reference to the Bible will show you that the

salt lands which the four companions cross are symbolic of an absence of God, a

place of perdition: <http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/17-6.htm>

When they arrive at the temple the dog is tied up outside as the boy now has to leave behind his earthly and spiritual help and go it alone. He is about to mature and fulfill his task on Earth.

What is a little boy doing guiding strangers and a mysterious dog to an underground temple that is dedicated to a Baphomet statue? After dismissing his disciples it becomes clear: he needs to commune with the Devil with that same hypnotizing 'la la la' spell.

This scene where the boy is kneeling before the statue reinforces the idea that he knows what he's doing and the 'la la la's' are hereby given as proof that they were some kind of demonic form of communication all along.

The last shot shows that the foreboding underground temple is under a pyramid, a slap in the face allusion to the occult/paganism/Illuminati whatever.

The main point of this video is to confuse the viewer. At first it seems that we need to support the cute little boy and feel for his weird situation. However, it is clear that it is actually the boy that is running the show. He is guiding the creepy adults to the satanic shrine in the middle of nowhere, it is he who uses that hypnotic spell and gathers others to his presence.

Essentially, this video is just like 'The Omen' where the son of the Devil uses his innocent child's exterior to gain the trust of adults and help him in his quest to unleash the plan of Satan- so beware!

Based on the explanation can be concluded that the occurrence of the event / setting the language use is the physical context of the most frequently used and have a strong bond in the song La La La. Besides the presence of the context can help us to understand the purpose and use of language to avoid misunderstandings.

Moral Value of *La La La* Song Lyric

Before the researcher answers what the moral value on La La La song lyric is, the researcher defines moral value itself. Moral value is moral lesson or message of an event, experience from literatures such as song, poem, movie, etc. which can provide life lessons for audiences.

Researchers interested in discussing a song lyric and a video filled with 'solicitation' under the title "La La La," sung by Sam Smith. When researchers listen to youtube with random "All Play", at first glance sounds like a song amusing with their lyrics La La La, but since the beginning of the video shows the numbers 1111 on a door, I immediately remembered about the ritual in 1111 that is used by certain groups to enter the world spiritual.

The video begins in 1111 numbered witj door open and showed a long-haired man wearing red shirt who was angry with the little boy pointing kapada watch as if to say, "It's time."

Then the effect of La La La started. The boy closes his ears and shook his head over the man speak. Did you know that the lyrics contain those who say that Shhh, stop talking about the Messiah (in Islam, Imam Mahdi), I would cover my ears like a child.

When the boy finally go and travel with a dog. There were two people he spoke on the way. That a man of cement that was in place aerobic woman and a masked man who was in the middle of the bustle of the streets. Initially the cement man to say no to a boy but when the boy showed the effects of his La La La, in persons cement was finally on my way.

Next is the old man selling Frigo hat and gave it to the heart of the human which created by cement. The effects La La La also managed to distract the man mask in order to follow the journey of the boy.

There is a second type of speculation about the person. The human which created from cement is the interpretation of those who love the world through fun, symbolized by a woman. This type will be difficult to be invited because it puts the fun.

The second type is a masked man in the middle of the bustle of the streets, shows the type of man hedonist who does not care about the circumstances. Choosing closed my eyes and ears to the truth. This type will be younger affected.

Finally, the three of them came to a cave. The dog was abandoned. I was strange why there was a dog on this trip. Remind us of the ashab kahfi. But what makes this strange is the statue of Baphomet in the cave.

The essence of the lyrics of the song La La La along with a music video that is on you to cover your ears, then you will easily invited by bad people. We believe that in times of Ghazwul Fikri (war thinking). The meaning Ghazwul is attack, raid or invasion, and Fikri is thinking. So Ghazwul Fikri can be interpreted as offensive to change the mindset that no longer compatible with earlier guidance that it holds, partiality of those who is on what we think. We have logic and the goals they are to win their movement. So when we close our ears to what has been delivered by the Prophet Muhammad through the Quran and Hadith, then that is their weapon to win this Ghazwul Fikri.

Conclusion

Based on analysis of pragmatic song La La La which is sung by Sam Smith, it can be concluded that:

To analyze the lyrics of the song La La La by using a pragmatic approach is the numbering of each song, and then analyze each temple. Making it easier for researchers to interpret the lyrics and connect each stanza with the meaning of a particular context. Recently, researchers infer the meaning of the lyrics.

The context behind the lyrics of the song La La La is a religious context. Because the wording selected in the lyrics contain or relate to matters of religion. For example Hiss, Preach, New Messiah, silver lining, and La La La.

Moral that can be taken from the lyrics of the song La La La is not cover ears on a good advice. Because if someone does not want to hear and ignore a good news then that person would lose. As Muslims, we should not be someone who is losing, because every day we have to turn into a better person.

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