

Semantic and Semiotic Analysis of "Rere Mana Rere" Song in the Culture of Mandailing

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Abstract

This study is aimed to analyze the interrelation of semantic and semiotic meaning in traditional Mandailingnese wedding song. The researcher studied lexical meaning and metaphor meaning in the song and the bridal gift which indicates has semiotic meaning. This study was a descriptive qualitative research. In conducting the research, the researcher has chosen Rere Mana Rere song. The result of the data analysis showed that the lexical and the metaphor meanings were used in Rere Mana Rere as traditional Mandailingnese wedding song. There were terminologies in lyrics that have interrelation of semantic and semiotic meaning. The speech function which dominantly used was noun. Understanding the relation of semantic and semiotic meaning of the song is important to listeners so they will get real meaning of the song. This study provided the analysis of both kinds of semantic and semiotic meaning and their relation were found in the Rere Mana Rere song.

Keywords: semantic, semiotics, Rere Mana Rere, Mandailing

1. Introduction

Language is one of the crucial tools of human beings to communicate with one another. It may represent the explicit and implicit feelings and thoughts. Language could either be in the written or spoken form. Language has been described as the vehicle of thought. It is indeed almost the sole means we employ for communicating our thoughts or feelings. A language is a resource for making meaning, an indefinitely expandable source of meaning potential; (Halliday, 1994: 16) and when it talked about meaning is must be related to semantic.

Semantic is the study about meaning. Kreidler (1998:3) stated that semantic is the systematic study of meaning and linguistic semantic is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Its means that, meaning in linguistic semantic was very needed for us to limit ourselves to the expression of meanings in a single language. Metaphor is a part of figurative language which is as one of topic in semantic field. It is most commonly used figures of speech, but things like hyperbole, simile, synecdoche, puns, and personification are also figures of speech. Metaphor has traditionally been viewed as the most important form of figurative language use. Metaphor is an essential element in the human categorization of the world and in the human thinking process (Lakoff and Johnson, 2003). Lakoff and Johnson asserted that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language, but also in thought and action process (Lakoff and Johnson, 2003). Metaphor is defined as understanding and expressing one conceptual domain in terms of another. While, it is stated the dimensions of meaning in semantics include reference and denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meaning, morphemes, homonymy, polysemy, lexical ambiguity, sentence and meaning (Kreidler, 1998:41). In this research, the researcher focused on the use of lexical meaning. Lexical meaning is a unit of purely semantic knowledge which relates to grammaticallization directly motivates language change in metaphor concepts (Lakoff and Johnson, 1999).

In this research, the researcher chose literary works like songs. Song is any poem even there is an attention of it being set to music. Songs have special characteristic in their lyric. Song generally conveys message and meanings. The composer needs time to think, to choose the words, to read, what researchers or he writes, to rethink, revise and arrange it. Then he or researchers considers its effect on the listener. There are two kinds of song related to the era, modern and traditional song. Traditional song which is analyzed in this study comes from Mandailingnese. The Mandailingnese is one of the regional languages in Indonesia. Mandailing people are mostly live in South Tapanuli, Padang Lawas Utara, Padang Lawas Selatan, and Mandailing and the other area in North Sumatra Province. They use this language for their daily activity or other cultural ceremony. There are some ceremony in Mandailingnese, such as wedding ceremony and funerals. Mandailingnese convey their ideas, feeling, and experience through song lyrics.

The researcher chose Rere Mana Rere song because this song is very interesting to examine and analyze in more detail. There are many words in these song lyrics which can be analyzed. Rere mana rere as one of traditional song in Mandailingnese is frequently used in traditional wedding ceremony. This song is usually played when the bride wants to leave her house, so it

is a kind of bride's farewell song to her family. While the song is played there are some gifts or Barang Boru Marbagas which parents give to the bride. In line with this, it is important to correlate the study of semantics with semiotic cause the each items of the gift has specific meaning as symbols to give a clearer perspective of this Mandailingnese tradition. Semiotics is the primary means of signs. Most fundamental concept of semiotics, signs is a distinctive sign may be verbal, visual, phonetic or tactility to them but obviously this does not mean that these things alone is something that we increased (Zeimaran, 2004). This study was limited on metaphor and lexical meaning which has correlation with semiotic meaning.

In conducting this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method. The qualitative method was a research procedure which results in descriptive data including written and oral word from the research objectives whether it is from society or books. The researcher studied the correlation of semantic and semiotic meaning in Rere Mana Rere song.

The research aimed to investigate the semantic and semiotic meaning used in Rere Mana Rere song and the interrelation the meaning of bridal gift or Barang Boru Marbagas as a symbol from semiotic meaning. This research study was planned to analyze the correlation of semantic and semiotic meaning in Rere Mana Rere song.

2. Review of Literature

2.1 Semantic

According to Charles W. Kreidler (1998:3) semantics was one of the branched of linguistics which study about the meaning of language. The systematic study of meaning and linguistic semantic is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. It means that, meaning in linguistic semantic is very needed to limit human's expression of meanings in a single language. There were three disciplines were concerned with the systematic study of meaning, in itself: psychology, philosophy and linguistics (Kreidler, 1998:3). It means that, psychologist were interest in how individual humans learn how they retain, recall or loss information. Philosophies of language were concerned with how a human knows, how any particular fact that humans know or accept as true was related to other possible facts. And then, the last systematic study of meaning is about linguistic, linguistics want to understand how language works.

2.2 Semantic Meaning

The study of linguistic meanings of morphemes, word, phrases, and sentence is called semantics. Semantic is considered with aspect of meaning in language. Dealing with the meaning, it could be categorized into some reference. According to Charles W. Kreidler (1998:41) the dimensions of meaning include reference and denotation, connotation, sense relations, lexical and grammatical meaning, morphemes, homonymy, polysemy, lexical ambiguity, sentence and meaning.

2.2.1 Lexical Meaning

Lexical meaning is the smallest meaning unit in the meaning system of language that could be distinguished from other similar units. In line with this, it is also that lexical meaning is a unit

of purely semantic knowledge which relates to grammaticallization directly motivated language change in metaphor concepts (Lakoff and Johnson, 1999).

According to Chaer (1982:103), it is stated that lexical meaning is the meaning of the word when the word is seen in isolation, either in form or shape lexeme affixes whose meaning more or less fixed, as can be read in a particular language dictionary.

Lexical meaning refers to the real meaning, which is proper with our sense of observation, or granted meaning. It has been known that a language has amount of lexical system by which the semantic with structure could be based its meaning on paradigmatic and systematical. The researcher said that lexical meaning could be defined as a meaning which has a characteristic of lexicon, lexeme and word. It also has a meaning as it reference, meaning which is result of the observation through human's senses, or the reality in human's life. Not all lexemes were word-lexeme which forms are words forms. Many of them would be phrasal lexeme which forms were phrases. Lexical meaning is also smallest meaning unit in the meaning system.

2.2.2 Metaphor

There are many kinds of figurative meaning. Leech (2010:2) has classified figurative meaning into eight types. They are: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy and oxymoron. This research is focused on the use of metaphor. Metaphor is a kind of figurative meaning which is an implicit comparison in which two unlike objects are compared by identifying or substituting one with other. It is stated that a figure of speech which makes a comparison between two seemingly unlike things is called Metaphor (Macmillan, 1987:702). It can be stated that a metaphor is figure of speech in which a word or phrase is taken out of its usual setting and placed with another word to suggest a likeness. It is made more vivid by transferring to it the name or attributes of some other objects.

2.3 Semiotics

Semiotics is closely related to the field of linguistics, which, for its part, studies the structure and meaning of language more specifically. The semiotic tradition explores the study of signs and symbols as a significant part of communications. The aim of semiotics is to understand both human's capacity to make and understand signs and symbols, the knowledge-making activity this capacity allows human beings to carry out (Seobok, 2001).

3. Research Questions

1. What semantic meanings are used in Rere Mana Rere song?
2. What semiotic meanings are used in Rere Mana Rere song?
3. How does interrelation between semantic and semiotic meaning in Rere Mana Rere song?

4. Methodology

This study was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative research method. Descriptive qualitative method is used when the researcher wants to describe the condition and situation of something specifically (William, 2007). The problem was about the semantic meaning in

Rere Mana Rere song in correlation with semiotic meaning for bridal gift while the song played. The meaning which is metaphor and lexical meanings used in Rere Mana Rere song and interrelated the meaning of bridal gift or *Barang Boru Marbagas* as a symbol from semiotic meaning.

In order to collect the data, the researcher analyzed the lyrics' transcription, bride farewell ceremony video in Mandailingnese, and interviews the native speaker of Mandailingnese in line with Rere Mana Rere song. The interview was done between researcher, Mr. A.M Dasopang and Mrs. Dra. S. Harahap (the native speakers of Mandailingnese) which were about the meaning of rere mana rere song and parents' gift for bridal farewell ceremony. The researcher prepared some interview questions to the subject. The researcher carried out and asked questions and recorded the interview. The researcher taken data from recording of traditional wedding song of Mandailingnese Rere Mana Rere which was taken from Youtube, books and journal which related to semantic and semiotic meaning and also transcript of the song's lyric.

In analyzing the data, the researcher used the theory of Lakoff and Johnson about the relation of Lexical and Metaphor meaning and related it with the concept of semiotic by Seobok theory. Especially for lexical meaning, researcher also analyzed it with Merriam Webster dictionary.

5. Result and Discussion

5.1 Result

5.1.1 Metaphor and Lexical Meanings in Rere Mana Rere Song

1) Rere *au baya* narere *silalat* kian disugumurung

In these song lyrics the word *au baya* is considered as noun. The lexical meaning of *au baya* is used as the subject of a pronoun refer to the person which compares with *silalat* means one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig.

From metaphor, the word *au baya* compare with *silalat* to show bride's sadness same like a *leaf* the older the age of the leaf, it will locate on high place. While a girl also if she is getting older, a girl will move to a higher step namely marriage.

2) Tinggal mabaya *bilik podoman* sangape *paccur paridian*.

There is a unique case of these song lyrics. Both of *bilik podoman* and *paccur paridian* metaphorically implies to one meaning which is *bride's house*. These two words aim to show the bride's sadness and fear about the one step in marriage. She has to enter a new house and a comfortable home that she already has. In lexical meaning, *bilik podoman* is a noun which means a room used for sleeping while *paccur paridian* also a noun means a room with a sink and toilet and usually a bathtub or shower.

3) *Ilu nimata* namar saburan nagiot mengayunkon *habujingan*

The word *Ilu nimata* is a noun which means a drop of clear saline fluid secreted by the lacrimal gland and diffused between the eye and eyelids to moisten the parts and facilitate

their motion, it compares *habujingan* is a noun means virginity. Metaphorically, *ilu* which is dropped from eyes represents the virginity of a girl who will unvirgin after marriage.

4) Sanari au giot kehe *lakka matobang*, *namdapotkon jodoh* nasian Tuhan.

Lexically *lakka matobang* is a noun phrase which means a movement made by lifting foot and putting it down to a far different place.

While *namdapotkon jodoh* is a verbal phrase which means to gain possession of mate for life. Comparing both of these words in metaphor, they have same meaning which is a marriage.

5) *Bulung ait* na dungdung na madungdung tu bonana, totop doi baya *Au* maulungung.

Lexically *Bulung ait* is a noun which means one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig. *Au* used as the subject of a pronoun refers to the person. While in metaphor, these two words mean the bride.

The metaphor and lexical meanings in Rere Mana Rere song were shown in the following table:

Table 1. Metaphor and Lexical Meanings in Rere Mana Rere Song

No	Lyrics	Possision	Lexical Meaning	Metaphor Language
1	Rere <i>au baya</i> narere <i>silalat</i> kian disugumurung	Noun Noun	<i>au baya</i> is used as the subject of a pronoun refer to the person. <i>silalat</i> means one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig	<i>au baya</i> compare with <i>silalat</i> to show bride's sadness same like a <i>leaf</i> in the song. A girl will move to a higher step namely <u>marriage</u>
2	Tinggal mabaya <i>bilik podoman</i> sangape <i>paccur</i> <i>paridian</i>	Noun Noun	<i>bilik podoman</i> is a room used for sleeping. <i>paccur paridian</i> means a room with a sink and toilet and usually a bathtub or shower.	Metaphorically implies to one meaning which is <u>bride's house</u>
3	<i>Ilu nimata</i> namar saburan nagiot mengayunkon <i>habujingan</i>	Noun	<i>Ilu nimata</i> means a drop of clear saline fluid secreted by the lacrimal gland and diffused	Metaphorically, <i>ilu</i> which is dropped from eyes represents the <u>virginity</u>

			between the eye and eyelids to moisten the parts and facilitate their motion. <i>Habujingan</i> means virginity	
4	Sanari au giot kehe <i>lakka matobang, namdapotkon jodoh</i> nasian Tuhan	Noun phrase Verbal phrase	Lexically <i>lakka matobang</i> means a movement made by lifting foot and putting it down to a far different place <i>namdapotkon jodoh</i> means to gain possession of mate for life	Comparing both of these words in metaphor, they have same meaning which is a <u>marriage</u>
5	<i>Bulung ait na dungdung na madungdung tu bonana, totop doi baya Au maulungung</i>	Noun	<i>Bulung ait</i> means one of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig. <i>Au</i> used as the subject refer to the person	In metaphor, these two words mean the <u>bride</u> .

5.1.2 The Semiotic Meaning from Mandailingnese Bridal Gift (Barang Boru Marbagas)



Figure 1. Bridal Gift (Barang Boru Marbagas)

There are various things which symbolized as parents' gifts for bride in Mandailingnese which have semiotic meaning in the table below:

Table 2. Semiotic Meaning in Mandailing Bridal Gift

No	Bridal Gift	Meaning
1	<i>Kasur</i> or mattress	As a provision for bride during the trip to her new house
2	<i>Kopor</i> or suitcase with clothes	
3	<i>Beras</i> or rice	
4	<i>Pira Manuk</i> or chicken egg	
5	<i>Manuk daboru</i> or virgin hen	As symbol of a bride's virginity
6	<i>Aek ni harambir</i> or coconut water	A symbol of parents' caring for new couple if they feel thirsty during their travels wander

5.1.3 The Interrelation Between Semantic Meaning and Semiotic Meaning in Rere Mana Rere Song

After analyzing the data, researcher found that there are two lyrics in the song which related to bridal gifts in semantic and semiotic meaning perception. Below are the finding states in the column:

Table 3. The Interrelation Between Semantic Meaning and Semiotic Meaning in Rere Mana Rere Song

No	Lyrics	Semantic Meaning	Semiotic Meaning	Interrelation Meaning
1	Tinggal mabaya <i>bilik</i> <i>podoman</i> sangape <i>paccur</i> <i>paridian</i>	<i>Nouns</i> which means a part of <i>bride's house</i>	<i>Kasur</i> or mattress relates to <i>bilik podoman</i> and <i>Kopor</i> or suitcase relates to with clothes as bride's provision	Both of these nouns which explain brides gift that as a "provision" for bride during the trip to her new house. It is also as the symbol of caring and love from parents.
2	<i>Ilu nimata</i> namar saburan nagiot mengayunkon <i>habujingan</i>	<i>Nouns</i> which means a something that will disappear in a process, it refers to <i>virginity</i>	<i>Manuk daboru</i> or virgin hen as symbol of a <i>bride's virginity</i>	The relation can be seen which both of the lyrics and bridal gift has same meaning refers to bride's virginity.

5.2 Discussion

Based on the research findings, from semantic meaning there are five lyrics in Rere Mana Rere song which have lexical meaning and metaphor. For lexical meaning, part of speech which dominantly found is noun while there is only one verbal phrase while for metaphor there are four meanings identified; marriage, bride's house, virginity, and bride herself. For semiotic related to Seobok theory who stated semiotic aims to understand both human's capacity to make and understand signs and symbols, there are five bridal gifts given divided into three meanings, namely a provision for bride, symbol of a bride's virginity, and symbol of parents' caring for new couple. So, based on the semantic meaning which are lexical meaning and metaphor language there are an interrelation between the lyrics and semiotics in the bridal gifts Barang Boru Marbagas.

The Interrelation meaning of semantic and semiotic in Rere Mana Rere song was found in Rere Mana Rere song lyric which identified have similar meaning. The symbol of the gifts are for new couple provision which explained about parents' caring and love, especially to resolve bride's fear and sadness when she wants to go further to the next step of her life.

6. Conclusion and Suggestion

6.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data with semantic and semiotic meaning theory, the findings of this study are:

- 1) The results show that the lexical and the metaphor meanings were used in Rere Mana Rere as traditional Mandailingnes wedding song.
- 2) There were terminologies in lyrics that have interrelation of semantic and semiotic meaning.
- 3) Related to lexical meaning, the speech function which dominantly use is noun.
- 4) The symbol of the gifts explains about parents' caring and love to resolve bride's fear and sadness.

6.2 Suggestion

In relation to the conclusions above, suggestions are drawn as follows.

- 1) For the readers, who are interested to do the study about semantic and semiotic meaning of Mandailingnese traditional wedding song, are suggested to analyze the problem more detail in order to develop the analysis of utterances in correlation of both meaning
- 2) It is suggested for other researcher to study interrelation with semantic and semiotic meaning from another traditional ceremony source, like *upah-upah* or *traditional dances*.

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