



Representation of Flowers in the Lyrics of the Songs *Bunga Maaf* and *Bunga Abadi* and the Nitizen Comment

Yurnaningsih Guzali¹, Salam², Yunus Dama³

¹²Prodi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Gorontalo, Indonesia

E-mail: yuniguzali08@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Song lyrics are not merely a sequence of words to be sung, but texts that convey values, situations, and emotional messages through figurative language such as metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, and personification. Listeners actively construct meaning based on their experiences, emotions, and backgrounds, making interpretation subjective and personal. Therefore, this study focuses on two songs that feature the flower symbol in their lyrics, namely *Bunga Maaf* by The Lantis and *Bunga Abadi* by Rio Clappy, to describe how university students and YouTube netizens interpret the symbolic meaning of flowers within both songs. This study employs the theory of literary pragmatics, which emphasizes the role of the audience as meaning-makers, showing that a song only becomes meaningful when responded to by its listeners. The analysis also incorporates the concept of symbols, the perspective that considers songs as a form of literary work, and emotional classifications reflected in the lyrics to strengthen the interpretation process. The research uses a descriptive qualitative method, with data collected through YouTube comments, semi-structured interviews with students, and note-taking related to statements from the songwriters about the intended meaning of their songs. The findings are presented by linking the interpreted meanings with relevant theoretical frameworks to explain how symbolic representation and emotional elements shape the relationship between the singer, the text, and the audience. The results indicate that in *Bunga Maaf*, flowers symbolize regret, longing, and the desire to correct past mistakes, while in *Bunga Abadi*, they represent sincerity and everlasting love. These variations in interpretation highlight the influence of each listener's emotional involvement and personal experience in constructing meaning.

Keyword: flowers, lyrics, songs, nitizen comment

Representasi Bunga dalam Lirik Lagu *Bunga Maaf* dan *Bunga Abadi* dan Komentar Nitizen

ABSTRAK

Lirik lagu tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai rangkaian kata yang dinyanyikan, tetapi merupakan teks yang merepresentasikan nilai serta pesan emosional melalui penggunaan gaya bahasa seperti metafora, simbolisme, hiperbola, dan personifikasi. Pendengar tidak sekadar menangkap bunyi, melainkan turut mengonstruksi makna yang tersirat berdasarkan pengalaman dan emosi masing-masing, sehingga pemaknaan bersifat subjektif dan personal. Atas dasar tersebut, penelitian ini memfokuskan kajian pada dua lagu yang sama-sama menggunakan simbol bunga dalam liriknya, yaitu *Bunga Maaf* karya The Lantis dan *Bunga Abadi* karya Rio Clappy, dengan tujuan menggambarkan bagaimana mahasiswa dan netizen YouTube menafsirkan simbol bunga dalam kedua lagu tersebut. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori pragmatik sastra untuk menjelaskan bagaimana pendengar dapat memberikan makna yang berbeda terhadap satu stimulus linguistik yang sama. Teori ini menempatkan pendengar sebagai penentu makna, sehingga teks lagu baru memiliki makna ketika direspons oleh penerimanya. Selain itu, penelitian mengacu pada konsep simbol, dukungan teori mengenai lagu sebagai karya sastra, serta klasifikasi emosi yang tercermin dalam lirik. Metode penelitian yang digunakan ialah kualitatif deskriptif melalui dokumentasi komentar netizen, wawancara semi terstruktur dengan mahasiswa, serta teknik simak-catat terkait pernyataan penyanyi mengenai makna lagu. Data disajikan dengan menghubungkan hasil analisis dan teori relevan untuk menggambarkan bagaimana simbol bunga dimaknai serta bagaimana pesan emosional dalam lirik membentuk relasi antara penyanyi dan pendengar. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam *Bunga Maaf*, simbol bunga dipahami sebagai representasi penyesalan, kerinduan, dan keinginan memperbaiki keadaan. Sementara itu, dalam *Bunga Abadi*, bunga dimaknai sebagai simbol ketulusan dan cinta yang abadi. Perbedaan pemaknaan tersebut dipengaruhi oleh latar pengalaman dan emosi masing-masing pendengar.

Kata kunci: bunga, lirik, lagu, komentar nitizen

Submitted
05/12/2025

Accepted
22/01/2026

Published
24/01/2026

Citation	Guzali, Y., Salam, S., & Dama, Y. (2026). Representation of Flowers in the Lyrics of the Songs <i>Bunga Maaf</i> and <i>Bunga Abadi</i> . <i>Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra</i> , Volume 5, Nomor 1, Januari 2026, 289-300. DOI: https://doi.org/10.55909/jpbs.v5i1.1034
----------	---

Publisher
Raja Zulkarnain Education Foundation

INTRODUCTION

An interesting phenomenon emerged from the differences in listener perceptions of two popular songs released in 2024: Bunga Maaf by The Lantis and Bunga Abadi by Rio Clappy. Although both use the symbol "flower" as a central element in their lyrics, the two songs evoke different emotional states, leading to varying interpretations. While most listeners interpreted Bunga Maaf as a symbol of regret and a desire to correct mistakes, there were differing views regarding who the apology was directed to. Meanwhile, Bunga Abadi was perceived as a representation of eternal love and sincerity, both in relation to current and past relationships.

These differences in perception demonstrate that the listener's personal experiences and emotional state play a significant role in shaping the meaning conveyed by symbols in song lyrics. This aligns with Satoto's opinion (in Ramadhani & Dewi, 2025) and Jufri & Elmustian (2025) states that song lyrics serve not only as entertainment but also as a reflective medium that can influence the listener's thinking and affective state. This view is reinforced by Wicaksono (2024), who argues that song lyrics are a form of literature rich in figurative language such as metaphor, personification, symbolism, and hyperbole, thus possessing both aesthetic and emotional power. In this context, the symbol "flower" as a linguistic stimulus conveys a broad spectrum of meanings, ranging from love and appreciation to sincerity and regret. However, these meanings are not singular but flexible and dynamic. Each individual constructs their own interpretation based on their life experiences and emotional backgrounds. Therefore, even when faced with the same text, the interpretations can vary depending on the listener's personal perspective.

This diversity of listener responses makes perceptual analysis relevant in literary studies, particularly within the literary pragmatics approach. This approach positions the reader as the primary element in shaping the text's meaning. Endaswara (2018) emphasizes that the literary pragmatics

perspective focuses on how readers respond to and give meaning to literary texts. Furthermore, this approach emphasizes the function of literary works as a medium for conveying values, moral messages, and specific goals that the author wishes to convey to his readers. In other words, the meaning of a literary work is not static, but rather is realized through the interaction between the text and its reader. This shows that each listener can form a different meaning even when faced with the same lyrics.

Based on this description, this study begins with the need to understand how the symbol of flowers is interpreted differently by listeners in the context of song lyrics. By analyzing the perceptions of students and netizens towards Bunga Maaf and Bunga Abadi, this discussion is directed at three main research questions: (1) how are flowers represented as symbols of emotion in the lyrics of the songs Bunga Maaf by The Lantis and Bunga Abadi by Rio Clappy?; (2) how are flowers represented as a medium of relationship between singer and listener? and (3) how are listeners' perceptions of the meaning of flowers in the lyrics of Bunga Maaf and Bunga Abadi?

Based on these research questions, this study specifically aims to describe the symbolic meaning of flowers that represent emotions, describe the role of flowers as a medium of relationship between singer and listener, and describe listeners' perceptions regarding the meaning of flowers in the context of both song lyrics.

This research provides benefits for both researchers and readers. For researchers, this study deepens their understanding of how the perception process works when listeners receive musical stimuli, while also honing qualitative analysis skills by collecting and interpreting listener responses based on internal and external factors that influence song meaning. This research also broadens insights into the relationship between language, emotion, and experience in shaping perception, thus providing a foundation for further research related to the study of language-based artistic perception. Meanwhile, for readers, the



results of this study provide an understanding of how listeners' perceptions are formed when interacting with songs, including how mood and personal experiences influence the interpretation of their symbolic meanings. Furthermore, this research helps readers see that songs function not only as entertainment but also as psychological stimuli capable of eliciting diverse emotional responses and interpretations.

Song lyrics, as a form of literature, serve not only as a complement to music but also as a medium of expression containing emotional and symbolic messages. Irdani & Mayangsari (in Ismiyatin & Huda, 2021) explain that song lyrics often represent themes of love and loyalty through the use of symbolic language. Similarly, Semi (in Betiana et al., 2023) states that lyrics are short poems that express emotions, thus possessing a poetic character dense with meaning. This definition aligns with the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, which explains that song lyrics are literary works (poetry) containing the outpouring of personal feelings sung. Thus, it can be understood that song lyrics are an aesthetic medium that connects sound and words to convey the inner experiences of their creators, including diverse emotions as classified by Krech (in Rahayu & Setiyawan, 2023), namely basic emotions, emotions related to sensory stimulation, emotions of self-assessment, and emotions related to others.

In this context, symbols become an important element in strengthening the meaning of song lyrics. According to Usman (2024), the word "symbol" comes from the Greek word "symbol," which is understood as a sensory expression of transcendent reality. Efendi et al. (2023) emphasizes that communication is essentially a process of conveying messages through symbols whose meanings are understood based on the knowledge and experience of the communicator and the recipient. Therefore, the meaning of symbols in song lyrics is not singular, but rather depends on the listener's interpretive experience. In line with the pragmatic approach to literature, Endaswara (2018) emphasizes that literary works have a communicative

function to convey certain messages or values, but their meaning only becomes concrete through the interpretation of the reader or listener. This concretization process allows for the creation of broad and dynamic meanings in literary works, so that control of meaning does not lie entirely with the text, but rather lies in the interaction between the text and its recipient.

This research was compiled by referring to previous studies that discussed listeners' perceptions of song lyrics as a theoretical and conceptual basis. Abdul Malik's (2017) research showed that listeners can provide moral judgments about a song's meaning through their responses to the lyrics and the emotional impact they feel, although his study used quantitative methods and did not specifically examine symbolic meaning. Furthermore, research by Ryco Sudarjad, Mangatur Sinaga, and Elvrin Septyanti (2024) confirmed that listeners are able to understand the emotional and aesthetic messages in lyrics, but this study was limited to a general evaluation of the intrinsic elements of the song and did not focus on specific symbols in the lyrics. Muh. Aqib's (2025) research showed that the meaning of lyrics is influenced by the social context and experiences of listeners, but his research focused on the message of *da'wah* and social issues, not on the analysis of symbolic meaning. Thus, all of these studies strengthen the argument that listeners' perceptions play a crucial role in shaping the meaning of a song. However, none has specifically examined the representation of the "flower" symbol in song lyrics and the variations in its interpretation by two different groups of listeners. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by examining how students and YouTube netizens perceive flower symbolism in the songs "Bunga Maaf" and "Bunga Abadi" (Eternal Flower). This study uses a literary pragmatics approach and a descriptive qualitative method that focuses on the construction of meaning by listeners.

METHOD

This study uses a literary pragmatics approach to examine listeners' perceptions of the meaning

of flower symbolism in the lyrics of the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy. The descriptive method is used to describe the phenomenon as it is, objectively, and accurately as stated by Razak (2017) and Rukajat (in Witara et al., 203). The research locations include the YouTube platform as a source of netizen comments and the campus environment for conducting direct interviews with students. The primary data in this study are the lyrics of the two songs, while the primary data sources include 20 netizen comments, 15 student interviews, and supporting information in the form of statements from the singers via podcasts and TikTok uploads. Secondary data sources include literature related to songs, emotions, symbols, and literary pragmatics that support the analysis of listeners' perceptions.

Data collection was conducted through four techniques: documentation to obtain song lyrics and screenshots of netizen comments; Semi-structured interviews were used to explore listeners' perceptions in depth; note-taking techniques were used to derive the meaning of the songs from the singers' explanations in digital media; and literature studies were used to enrich the theoretical foundation. The selection of data was flexible, tailored to the needs of qualitative research, as emphasized by Heryana (2018), so the data obtained was deemed sufficient to meet the analysis requirements.

Data analysis was conducted following three main steps according to Sugiyono (2013): (1) data reduction by selecting and focusing on information relevant to the flower symbolism and listeners' perceptions; (2) descriptive data presentation to identify patterns and relationships between the symbolic meaning of flowers in the lyrics and listeners' interpretations; and (3) drawing conclusions in the form of final interpretations that illustrate how listeners interpret the flower symbolism as a representation of emotions and relationships with the singers in both songs. This analysis process ensures that the meanings obtained are the result of the interaction between the song lyrics and the

listeners' experiences.

RESULT

The songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis, released on November 15, 2024, and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy, released on March 1, 2024, both feature flower symbols as the central emotional message in their lyrics. These symbols serve not only as aesthetic elements but also represent expressions of emotion and interpersonal relationships, which are then interpreted in various ways by listeners. The meanings that emerge are not solely dependent on the songwriters but are formed through listeners' perceptions, influenced by their individual experiences and emotional backgrounds. Therefore, this study examines the meaning of the flower symbol and listeners' reception through student interview data and YouTube netizen comments, then analyzed using a literary pragmatics approach.

1. Representation of Flowers as a Symbol of Emotion in the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

The analysis shows that the flower symbol in The Lantis's song "Bunga Maaf" represents emotions stemming from deep regret. In "Bunga Maaf," flowers function as emotional symbols representing regret, love, and belated hope. The phrase "Accept my apology flower, it wilted, eaten by my ego" suggests that the flower is no longer beautiful but has "wilted" due to the ego that has damaged the relationship, thus making the apology itself meaningless. This symbol also emphasizes the singer's inner struggle over past mistakes, reflected in the phrase "even though I know I can't," which indicates the realization that a second chance is nearly impossible. However, the gift of flowers still contains a glimmer of hope for reconciliation, as implied in "oh, could there be longing behind that hate?" Thus, flowers become a complex representation of three primary emotions: regret, longing, and conflicting hope, while also depicting the psychological dynamics of a person dealing with hurt and the desire to mend it.

In contrast, in Rio Clappy's song "Bunga

Abadi," the word "bunga" expands in meaning from a tangible object to a symbol of eternal love and sincerity, as evident in the lyrics "Kuhadiah bunga abadi yang kupetik untuk dia," which emphasizes that the love given is not temporary. This symbol also represents the emotional dynamics of a relationship, illustrated by the phrase "tergelin galak tawa, sad, dan sejak" (twined laughter, sadness, and seduction), which encompasses joy, sorrow, and intimacy as the foundation of togetherness. Thus, flowers become a symbol that not only depicts sincerity and eternal love, but also embodies hope and an emotional commitment to maintaining a relationship that remains intact and meaningful over time.

2. Listeners' Perceptions of the Meaning of Flowers in the Lyrics of the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

2.1 YouTube Netizens' Perceptions

Based on data collected on YouTube netizens' perceptions of the meaning of flowers in the lyrics of "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis, flowers are understood as symbols of regret, longing, and apology. What differentiates each listener's perception is the person to whom the apology is addressed. The following netizen comments clearly illustrate the meaning of flowers



Figure 1
Netizen Comment 9 (Apology Flower, YouTube)

Comments from the account @vikajuliandry_ demonstrate the emotional impact of the song, particularly as it evokes memories of regretful personal

experiences. These comments interpret the "flowers" in Bunga Maaf as a symbol of a sincere and reflective apology. Flowers represent deep regret for having hurt another woman, as well as an attempt to correct past mistakes. The phrase "Layu terjangan egoku" (withered eaten by my ego) suggests that the sender's ego had hindered his good intentions, thus making the flowers a symbol of the tension between the desire to atone for his mistakes and inner resistance. Overall, flowers here are not simply objects, but emotional vehicles for conveying regret and the hope that old wounds can be forgiven.

Meanwhile, netizen comments regarding the meaning of flowers in the lyrics of Rio Clappy's song "Bunga Abadi" indicate that flowers are understood as symbols of sincerity, warmth, and eternal love. This perception is reflected in one of the following netizen comments:

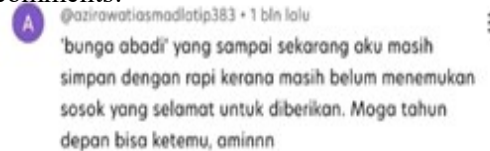


Figure 2
Netizen Comment 20 (Bunga Abadi, YouTube)

In @azirawatiasmadlatip38's comment on the lyrics of the song "Bunga Abadi," the word "bunga" is interpreted as a symbol of precious feelings, such as love, affection, and sincerity. The phrase "bunga abadi yang masih aku simpan" (eternal flower that I still keep) indicates that these feelings have not yet found the right person to express them, so they are carefully preserved and preserved for eternity. Flowers here are not physical objects, but representations of pure, precious, and hopeful emotions that can one day be given to the right person. Flowers serve as a symbolic medium for expressing hope and

loyalty to feelings, while also reflecting patience in waiting for the right time to express them to someone truly deserving of that love or affection.

2.2 Student Perceptions of the Meaning of Flowers in the Lyrics of "Bunga Maaf" and the Meaning of Flowers in the Lyrics of "Bunga Maaf"

Based on student interviews, the specific meaning of flowers did not emerge explicitly in the informants' perceptions. Students tended to interpret the song "Bunga Maaf" as an expression of apology and regret, as well as a hope for reconciling a broken relationship. One student's perception suggests a close connection to the meaning of flowers in the lyrics of the song "Bunga Maaf," although it wasn't the primary focus of the informant's interpretation.

"For me, the song "Bunga Maaf" is more about friendship."

"Yes, maybe because my ego was too inflated, it hurt her. (Informant 10, Bunga Maaf)

Informant 10's statement indicates that the song "Bunga Maaf" is understood as an expression of regret related to a friendship. The informant linked the song's message to personal mistakes arising from an inflated ego, realizing that his actions may have hurt his friend. Critically, this confirms that the symbol "bunga" in the song represents an apology and highlights how personal feelings can affect relationships with others. This informant's perception was identified as an interpretation born of the lyrics "terima bunga maafku, dengan terjangan egoku," reinforcing the meaning of the flower as a symbol of the consequences of selfish behavior as well as a means of communication that touches the listener's heart.

On the other hand, students interpreted the song "Bunga Abadi" as an expression of eternal love and sincerity for someone precious. Similar to the students' perceptions of "Bunga Maaf," the specific meaning of the flower was not found in the students' perceptions of "Bunga Abadi." Al-

though some students' statements came close to interpreting the word "bunga" specifically, the meaning given still emphasized the overall message of the song, as seen in the following student perception.

"In my opinion, The song "Bunga Abadi" is intended for a new person. The lyrics include the line "I dedicate the eternal flower I picked for him," which suggests that the song is dedicated to someone I'm currently with. (Informant 3, Bunga Abadi) Informant 3's statement indicates that the song "Bunga Abadi" is dedicated to a "new person," someone currently present and emotionally close in their life. The lyrics "I dedicate the eternal flower I picked for him" are understood to symbolize the gift of something valuable. In this case, the "flower" symbolizes something valuable, which could be interpreted as love, sincere attention, and commitment to the current relationship.

3. Representation of Flowers as a Relationship Between Singer and Listener in the Lyrics of the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

3.1 Lyrics of the Song "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis

In "Bunga Maaf," the symbol of flowers serves as an emotional medium that bridges the experiences of the singer and listener, as many people can identify with the regret and longing depicted in the lyrics. This is reinforced by a statement by The Lantis via the Tribunews YouTube channel on December 13, 2024, explaining that the song is based on Ravi's personal story as an apology to his grandfather for a dispute and lack of time together that led to his grandfather's illness. By featuring flowers as a symbol of forgiveness and regret that is "too late," the song not only expresses the composer's personal emotions but also encourages listeners to recognize the importance of apologizing before time runs out. In line with the composer's message, netizen comment data on YouTube indicates a strong emotional connection between the singer and listener. One comment from the account @RASmenolaktua, for example, ex-

presses pent-up regret for not having the opportunity to apologize to his mother and partner who died from Covid-19.



Figure 3
Netizen Comment 4 (Bunga Maaf, YouTube)

These netizen comments indicate that "Bunga Maaf" serves as an emotional bridge between the singer and the listener. The symbolism of the flower, as an expression of apology, touches on the listener's personal experience of losing a loved one due to COVID-19 and harboring regret for not having the opportunity to apologize. This aligns with the singer's message, who hopes the song will raise awareness of the importance of apologizing before it's too late. Thus, the flower in the song is not only understood as a literal symbol of regret, but also experienced as an emotional experience related to memory, loss, and unrepeatability of opportunities. This finding is further supported by the results of student interviews, as exemplified by the following informant:

"Because when I hear the song Bunga Maaf, as the song is about apologizing, I interpret it as something I'm saying to someone in my past, because it reminds me of the mistakes I've made." (Informant 4, Bunga Maaf)

Informant 4's perception indicates that Bunga Maaf is interpreted as a reminder of past mistakes made toward someone they've hurt. The apology lyrics in the song trigger personal memories, making the song a medium for self-reflection and emphasizing the need to repair unresolved relationships. These findings demonstrate that the song has the emotional power to connect listeners with their own experiences of regret. Consistent with the singer's narrative, the personal meaning, stemming from a personal story, then develops into a

universal message about the importance of apologizing before it's too late, a message also felt by informant 4.

3.2 Lyrics of the Song "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

In the song "Bunga Abadi," the flower symbol serves as an emotional bridge between the singer and listener, as it is interpreted as representing the sincerity and eternity of love, capable of creating emotional closeness. Rio Clappy, via TREBEL Music's official TikTok account (August 31, 2024), explained that the song stems from his own experiences of love and emphasizes the importance of appreciating the presence of a loved one, as reflected in the lyrics, "what is the meaning of everything created without their presence here?" Analysis of netizen comments on YouTube also indicates an emotional connection formed through the flower symbol, where listeners feel the song's message of eternal love resonates with their own emotional experiences.



Figure 4
Netizen Comment 18 (Bunga Abadi, YouTube)

Comments from the @azizcontentcreator account indicate that listeners don't just passively accept the song's message, but rather reinterpret it based on personal experiences. Rio Clappy's phrase "eternal flower," a symbol of sincerity and hope for eternal love, is brought to life by listeners through their individual memories and reflections, creating an interactive relationship between singer and listener. The singer emphasizes that nothing is meaningful without the presence of a loved one, and listeners respond to this message in a harmonious yet subjective manner. This finding is further supported by student interviews, which also linked the symbol of "eternal flower" to experiences of love and personal relationships in their

lives.

"In my opinion, Eternal Flower represents a love that is eternal and unchanging, because the lyrics say 'it transcends space and time.'" (Informant 9, Eternal Flower).

This informant's statement demonstrates a strong connection between singer and listener in the song "Eternal Flower." Listeners understand the phrase "eternal flower" as a symbol of love that is unchanging, aligning with the singer's explanation that the song depicts two people meeting, making a promise, trusting each other, and being able to transcend space and time. This demonstrates how the singer's emotional message is fully received by the listener, creating a deep connection of meaning. In other words, the flowers in this song are not only an aesthetic symbol, but also a medium of emotional communication that bridges the singer's feelings with the listener's experiences and imagination.

DISCUSSION

1. Representation of Flowers as Emotional Symbols in the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

The meaning of flowers in the songs "Bunga Maaf" and "Bunga Abadi" shows that flowers are not presented as concrete objects, but rather as symbols constructed through social agreements and emotional experiences. This aligns with Usman's (2024) view that symbols are forms of sensory expression of abstract and profound meaning, and therefore cannot be understood solely based on their physical form. Therefore, in both songs, flowers become symbols representing various emotions such as regret, love, sincerity, and eternity.

In the phrase "bunga maaf" in the lyrics of "Bunga Maaf," the flower undergoes a shift in meaning from simply a symbol of love to a symbol of regret and acknowledgment of mistakes. This phrase reflects an apology delivered gently but fraught with fragility, like a flower that easily wilts. This is evident in the lyrics "Aku bunga

maafku, kering terjangan egoku" (Accept my apology flower, wilted eaten by my ego), which depicts a damaged relationship caused by ego dominance. In accordance with the concept of symbolic communication according to Efendi et al. (2023), symbols can influence a person's thoughts and emotional responses, so the wilted flower in this song represents a broken relationship that is difficult to repair.

The meaning of the apology flower as a symbol of regret stems from the flower's fragile nature, which requires care to survive. If left uncared for, the flower will fade, wither, and eventually lose its beauty. This image aligns with human relationships, where mistreating someone can damage trust and lead to later regret.

Unlike the meaning of the previous song, the phrase "eternal flower" in the lyrics of "Bunga Abadi" (Eternal Flower) represents a symbol of sincerity and timeless love. This meaning stems from the positive stigma and traditions that have developed in local culture. Flowers are often given as a meaningful gift to someone deemed valuable, conveying a sense of deep emotional respect and appreciation. Through this custom, an unspoken agreement has been formed that flowers symbolize sincere love that endures in memory. Therefore, in the song "Bunga Abadi," listeners tend to interpret the flower symbol as a representation of feelings that remain alive and well despite the passage of time, while also reflecting the hope for love that remains eternally preserved. In line with Ernst Cassirer's perspective (in Efendi et al., 2023), humans, as symbolic beings, construct meaning through communication and social interaction through mutually agreed-upon symbols. Therefore, the symbol of eternal love in the song is understood and felt by listeners.

In the lyrics of "Bunga Maaf" and "Bunga Abadi," the flower symbol is used to depict two types of emotions: those related to others and those related to self-evaluation. Based on Krech's theory of emotion (in Rahayu & Setiyawan, 2023), emotions arise from social interactions and interpersonal relationships, such as feelings of love, as depicted in the song "Bunga Abadi." Meanwhile,



the emotions depicted in the song "Bunga Maaf," as stated by Krech (in Fadillah & Harahap, 2023), are emotions that stem from reflection on one's own behavior, such as pride, guilt, regret, success, or failure. Therefore, the flower symbolism in both songs demonstrates that a single symbol can evoke different emotions depending on the experience and purpose of its delivery.

2. Listeners' Perceptions of the Meaning of Flowers in the Lyrics of "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

Research findings indicate that the flower symbolism in both songs has varying meanings depending on the listener's interpretation. In "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis, listeners generally interpret flowers as a symbol of regret, longing, and a desire to correct past mistakes. Meanwhile, in "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy, flowers are interpreted as a symbol of sincerity, love, and eternal warmth. This variation in meaning indicates that listeners respond based on their individual experiences and emotional states.

From a pragmatic perspective, which emphasizes meaning for the reader or listener, this interpretation is highly relevant. Endaswara (2018) explains that a literary work is considered good if it has utility for the reader. In the context of this research, utility is evident in how song lyrics can evoke a sense of emotional connection and encourage listeners to reflect on personal experiences related to regret or sincere love. Thus, the meaning of flowers is not fixed as the author intended, but is interpreted flexibly according to the listener's needs.

Furthermore, song lyrics contain symbolism and ambiguity, which are characteristic of literary language. This aligns with Irdani & Mayangsari's view (in Ismiyatin & Huda, 2021), that song lyrics often convey themes of love and loyalty through symbolic language. Conversely, Endaswara (in 2018) states that symbols and connotative language expand the possibilities of meaning. The flower symbolism in both songs creates an empty space, as Damono (in Endaswara, 2018) points out, that

must be filled by the listener through interpretation. This empty space allows the meaning of the flower to be directed to a specific figure, such as a lover, family member, or even oneself. Interview findings indicate that some students did not explicitly mention the word "flower" but still captured the emotional message associated with the symbol. This means that the concretization of meaning does not have to be through explicit signifiers, but can be through emotional associations captured by the listener. This aligns with Roman Ingarden's theory (in Endaswara, 2018), which states that literary works possess an incomplete meaning structure and only become meaningful through the reader's actualization. In this study, song lyrics, as musical texts, require the listener to refine their meaning through individual interpretation. In other words, it is the listener who makes the flower symbolism come alive and relevant.

Furthermore, Jausz (in Endaswara, 2018) states that interpretation is influenced by the reader's perspective, both derived from the text and from experiences outside the text. The findings of this study indicate that listeners experiencing regret tend to reinforce the meaning of flowers as a symbol of forgiveness, while those in a loving atmosphere affirm flowers as a manifestation of eternal love. Thus, the flexibility of the meaning of the flower symbol provides strong evidence that both songs, through a pragmatic literary approach, successfully deliver a personal and meaningful aesthetic experience for their listeners.

3. Representation of Flowers as a Relationship Between Singer and Listener in the Lyrics of the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy

In the process of interpreting songs, the relationship between singer and listener is not one-way, but rather reciprocal. Analysis of the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy shows that flower symbols serve as a medium for conveying the emotional message the singer wishes to convey to the listener. From a

literary pragmatic perspective, this aligns with Endaswara's (2018) statement that pragmatic studies focus on how literary works function as a means of communication, bridging the author's message to the reader and how literary works have a specific effect on the reader. The message constructed through flower symbols enables the listener to feel and grasp the emotional value the singer wishes to convey.

Furthermore, the interpretation of flower symbols in both songs demonstrates the function of literature as a medium for conveying certain values. In "Bunga Maaf" (Sorry), flowers signify a moral message about the importance of admitting mistakes before it's too late, while in "Bunga Abadi" (Eternal Flower), flowers symbolize sincerity and eternal love. Thus, this finding is in line with Endaswara's (2018) view that literature is used to convey moral messages, teachings, or certain values to readers. Prodokusuno (in Endaswara 2018) also emphasized that literary works are created "within the framework" of a specific purpose, so that the meaning of the flower symbol indicates a clear communication goal from the singer to the listener.

In addition to conveying values, literary works are also influenced by readers' responses in determining their success. In this case, listeners play an active role in reviving the song's meaning through their own personal experiences. This aligns with Darma's opinion (in Endaswara, 2018) that the quality of a literary work is determined by the reader's response, where readers concretize the meaning according to their mood or motivation. Concretization is a subjective and non-coercive process of assigning meaning (Endaswara, 2018). The diverse meanings of flowers in these two songs demonstrate that the singers' emotional messages become stronger when listeners are able to relate to them in their own personal situations.

Thus, based on the theory of literary pragmatics, it can be understood that the flower symbolism in both songs is not only an aesthetic element but also a means of communication capable of providing effect, influence, and utility to listeners. The

songs' meanings develop through the interaction between the singers' messages and the listeners' experiences, so that the work does not stop at the creator's initial intent but continues to live in diverse concretizations of meaning. This emphasizes that control of meaning rests entirely with the listener. Ultimately, these two songs serve not only as musical entertainment, but also as a medium for emotional and social reflection that provides practical benefits for the listeners' lives.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of flower symbolism and listeners' perceptions in the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy, the following conclusions are drawn.

First, representation of Flowers as a Symbol of Emotion in the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy. The symbolism of flowers in the songs "Bunga Maaf" and "Bunga Abadi" demonstrates that a single symbol can evoke different meanings and emotions depending on the context of the lyrics and life experiences. Both The Lantis and Rio Clappy use the word "bunga" to express deep emotions. The difference lies in the meaning of the symbol. In "Bunga Maaf," flowers represent regret, the fragility of relationships, and the desire to correct mistakes. Conversely, in "Bunga Abadi," flowers symbolize sincere love and the hope for the eternity of a relationship. Thus, the symbolism of flowers in these two songs demonstrates that a single symbol can evoke different emotions depending on the experience and purpose of its expression.

Second, listeners' Perceptions of the Meaning of Flowers in the Lyrics of the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy. The symbolism of flowers in the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy demonstrates the flexibility of meaning, depending on the listener's interpretation and emotional experience. In "Bunga Maaf," flowers are understood as symbols of regret, longing, and the desire to improve the situation. Meanwhile, in "Bunga Abadi," flowers are interpreted as sin-



cerity and eternal love. This difference in perception emphasizes the freedom of listeners to connect the flower symbol to their own personal experiences. A pragmatic literary perspective demonstrates that the meaning of a work is not solely determined by its creator, but rather concretized by the reader or listener. The usefulness of both songs is evident in the lyrics' ability to convey emotional effects in the form of self-reflection, close interpersonal emotional relationships, and a deep understanding of forgiveness and love. Thus, the symbolism of flowers in both songs serves as a medium for conveying messages that come to life through the listener's interpretation, making the works more relevant, touching, and possessing a strong pragmatic function in the listener's life.

Third, representation of Flowers as a Relationship between Singer and Listener in the Lyrics of the Songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy. The symbolism of flowers in the songs "Bunga Maaf" by The Lantis and "Bunga Abadi" by Rio Clappy demonstrates a strong and mutually influential relationship between singer and listener. Through these symbols, both The Lantis and Rio Clappy not only convey emotional messages about regret and sincere love, but also create space for listeners to interpret and experience the meaning based on their own life experiences. This relationship is reciprocal, as the song's meaning becomes more vivid when listeners concretize it through emotional responses and personal understanding. In line with the pragmatic perspective of literature, the success of a work lies in its perceived utility, making these two songs not merely musical works but also communication vehicles that unite the singer's message with the listener's inner experiences.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The researcher would like to thank the supervisor, interviewees, and all parties who provided support, assistance, and contributions throughout the research process, leading to the successful completion of this article.

REFERENCES

- Abdussamad, Z. (2021). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Makassar: Syakir Media Press.
- Agustina, D., & Wijaya, G. S. (2024). Membaca Simbolisme dan Mitos: Analisis Semiotika pada Lirik Lagu "Bunga Abadi" Karya Rio Clappy. *Jurnal Prosiding Konferensi Nasional Mahasiswa Sastra Indonesia (KONASINDO)*, 1(9), 576-595.
- Amaruddin, dkk. (2020). *Metodologi Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif*. Bandung: Media Sains Indonesia.
- Aqib, M. (2025). Analisis Semiotika Persepsi Mahasiswa terhadap Lirik Lagu "God Allow Me Please to Play Music" Oleh VOB di Era Disrupsi (Doctoral dissertation, UIN KH Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan).
- Arifin, H. S., Fuady, I., & Kuswarno, E. (2017). Analisis faktor yang mempengaruhi persepsi mahasiswa untirta terhadap keberadaan perda syariah di Kota Serang. *Jurnal Penelitian Komunikasi dan Opini Publik*, 21(1), 88-101.
- Betiana, Cuesdeyeni, P., Asi, Y.E. Nurachmana, A., & Jumadi. (2023). Ketidaklangsungan Ekspresi Dalam Lirik Lagu Album Manusia Karya Tulus Dan Implikasi Pada Pembelajaran Sastra di SMP. *Bhinneka: Jurnal Bintang Pendidikan dan Bahasa*. 1(4), 208-216.
- Efendi, E., Fatika, A., Harahap, Z. M., & Deansyah, R. M. (2023). Komunikasi Simbolik Dalam Masyarakat. Da'watuna: Journal of Communication and Islamic Broadcasting, 3(4), 1753-1761.
- Endaswara, S. (2018). *Metodologi Penelitian Pragmatik Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Textium.
- Ismiyatin, L., & Huda, M. (2021). Analisis Hermeneutika Lagu Rossa yang Mewakili Suara Hati Perempuan. PARAFRASE: *Jurnal Kajian Kebahasaan & Kesastraan*, 21(1), 57-65

- Jufri, R. A., & Elmustian, E. (2025). Intertekstualitas dalam Lagu Melayu: Analisis Ekserp pada Lirik Lagu Melayu di Hati Karya Al Hafzh. *EDU Research*, 6(3), 2696–2702.
- Kadir, H., & Pakaya, P. (2017). Respons Emosional Pembaca terhadap Novel Surga yang Dirindukan 2 Karya Asma Nadia. *Jurnal Ikadbudu*, 6(1), 51–58.
- Malik, A. (2017). *Persepsi Remaja terhadap Pesan yang Terkandung pada Lagu Bad Younglex Feat Awkarin*. Skripsi. Universitas AS Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara.
- Nafis, A. M. (2024). *Musik dan Representasi Emosi Negatif (Analisis Semiotika Roman Jakobson Pada Lirik Lagu Dalam Album Musik “Berjalan Mundur” Karya Fiersa Besari)*. (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Islam Indonesia).
- Rahayu, E., & Setyawan, A. (2023). Bentuk Emosi pada Album Lagu “Riuh” Karya Feby Putri Sebagai Individu Dewasa Awal (Kajian Psikologi Sastra). *Journal of Educational Language and Literature*, 1(2), 12–18.
- Rahmah, Z., Eliastuti, M., Ayu, N. V. W., Putri, U. A., Candra, H. M., & Sibarani, F. P. A. (2023). Analisis Gaya Bahasa dalam Lirik Album Lagu Nadin Amizah “Kalah Bertaruh”. *Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi Dan Media Sosial (JKOMDIS)*, 3(2), 345–350.
- Ramadhani, A.P & Dewi, D.W.C. (2025). Nilai Moral dalam Lirik Lagu “Untuk Perempuan yang Sedang dalam Pelukan” Karya Payung Teduh (Sebuah Kajian Sosiologi Sastra). *Jurnal Bima: Pusat Publikasi Ilmu Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra*, 3 (3), 91–103.
- Razak, A. (2017). *Menggapai Mixed Methods Bidang Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia*. Pekanbaru: Ababil Press.
- Sudarjad, R., Sinaga, M., & Septyanti, E. (2024). Persepsi Mahasiswa Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia terhadap Trilogi Garis Cinta Karya Rizky Febian. *JHIP-Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan*, 7(6), 5723–5731.
- Sudaryanto, S. (2015). *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Sugiyono, S. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- The Lantis. (2024). *Bunga Maaf*. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wn05Kgt73HA?si=ORT9w0j_j6ZUSBbT
- Trebel Music (Indonesia). 2024, 31 Agustus. *Lagu dan Maknanya Sama-sama Deep. Pantasan Nyaman Banget di Dengerin Berkali-kali*. Tiktok <https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSSNMFW6e/>
- Tribunnews. 2024, 13 Desember. *Bunga Maaf Viral Tembus 1 Juta Streams! The Lantis Ungkap Makna Lirik Sebenarnya*. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/live/gJcHg4WZbl?si=UKNYooOsbrfpqzpm>
- Wicaksono, R. A. (2024). Penggunaan Gaya Bahasa dalam Lirik Lagu Sal Priadi. *Studi Administrasi Publik dan Ilmu Komunikasi*, 1(4), 51–60.
- Witara, K., dkk. (2023). *Metodologi Penelitian Bidang Pendidikan: Panduan Praktis*. Jakarta: Green Pustaka Indonesia.