



Semiotic Analysis of *Kekal* Song by Nadin Amizah: Michael Riffaterre Study

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ABSTRACT

This analysis contains a semiotic analysis of Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal" using Riffaterre's study. The semiotic method used in this study is Riffaterre's semiotics. Riffaterre's theory explains that signs have elements of signifier and signified. The data collection techniques used are literature study, listening, and note-taking to identify parts of the lyrics that contain semiotic aspects. The data collection steps in this study are: (1) selecting song lyrics that contain semiotic aspects and using them as the data results, (2) describing the data according to the data obtained, and (3) explaining the data results with a theoretical perspective. The data analysis technique used is analysis with Riffaterre's theory, namely: 1) heuristic reading and hermeneutic reading (indirectness of expression), 2) matrix analysis, models, and variants, and 3) hypogram. The research results from the analysis of the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah are the journey of a couple's romantic relationship filled with affection and mutual acceptance of each other's weaknesses, hoping that their relationship will be eternal or eternal.

Keywords: semiotic analysis, Kekal song, Michael Riffaterre study

Analisis Semiotik dalam Lagu *Kekal* Karya Nadin Amizah: Kajian Michael Riffaterre

ABSTRAK

Analisis ini berisi tentang Analisis Semiotika dalam Lagu "Kekal" karya Nadin Amizah menggunakan Kajian Riffaterre. Metode semiotika yang akan digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah semiotika dari pemikiran Riffaterre. Dalam teori Riffaterre dijelaskan bahwa tanda memiliki unsur penanda dan petanda. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah teknik studi pustaka, simak, dan catat untuk mengetahui bagian-bagian lirik yang mengandung aspek semiotika. Langkah-langkah pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini adalah (1) memilih lirik lagu yang mengandung aspek semiotika dan dijadikan sebagai data hasil, (2) mendeskripsikan data sesuai data yang diperoleh, dan (3) menjelaskan hasil data dengan pandangan teoretis. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan yaitu analisis dengan teori Riffaterre, yaitu 1) membaca heuristik dan membaca hermeneutik (ketidaklangsungan ekspresi), 2) analisis matriks, model, dan varian, 3) Hipogram. Hasil penelitian dari analisis lagu "Kekal" karya Nadin Amizah ini adalah perjalanan hubungan percintaan sepasang kekasih yang dipenuhi rasa kasih sayang dan saling menerima kelemahan satu sama lain yang berharap hubungannya abadi atau kekal.

Kata kunci: analisis semiotik, lagu, kajian Michael Riffaterre

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool used by humans to facilitate cooperation and transactions in social life. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of a community to collaborate, interact, and identify themselves. Systematically, language is a collection of conversations or texts structured through linguistic elements, one of which is phonology (Wiratno & Santosa, 2014). Therefore, language is essential for various human activities for social communication.

Language can be used in both spoken and written forms (Junaeidi & Sugono, 2022). Furthermore, language can also be found through meaningful symbols and signs used to exchange messages between people. Examples of written language include writers expressing their ideas, such as books, poetry, and even poetry transformed into songs (Ahyar, 2019). Oral language, on the other hand, refers to everyday human communication, where people communicate their intentions and goals face-to-face. The functional purpose of language is generally to convey the speaker's ideas or thoughts in communication, according to context (Wiratno & Santosa, 2014).

Poetry is an example of written language. Poetry is often translated into songs. This is certainly inseparable from semiotics. A song is a harmonious combination of tones and music, making it enjoyable for a wide audience. A song contains elements, one of which is the lyrics. Song lyrics are not just a collection of words; they contain meaning, both explicitly and implicitly. Therefore, semiotics is needed to analyze the signs or symbols contained in a song and to interpret them.

Semiotics is the study of language. Semiotics is a science used to approach a literary work by analyzing the symbols or signs within it (Irfan & Riza, 2023; Haikal, 2021; Hamzah, 2021). Simply put, semiotics studies signs and signifieds. For example, the word "mother" serves as a signifier, signifying the woman who gave birth to us (Pradopo,

1999).

Semiotics in language plays a role in conveying messages through words, symbols, and body language. This also encompasses how messages can affect both parties in communication. Furthermore, semiotics serves as a medium that can be obtained from mass media and technology, such as television, radio, and other digital media. Finally, semiotics plays a role in a social and cultural context. In a cultured society, understanding symbols in everyday communication and developing works of art is crucial (Rorong, 2024; Zahro, 2022; Hidayat et al., 2021).

There are various theories that study semiotics, one of which is Riffatterre's theory. According to Riffatterre, understanding poetic literary works consists of 1) heuristic and hermeneutic reading (indirectness of expression), 2) matrices, models, and variants, and 4) hypograms (in Lutfi, 2023). Poetry contains messages that are not conveyed directly, therefore, it requires a more critical examination to understand the context of the poem. According to Riffatterre, heuristic reading is the initial stage of reading a literary work as a whole and interpreting it within its linguistic context. Hermeneutic reading is the second stage, understanding a literary work by examining the implied symbols within the text. Matrix is the science of understanding words, phrases, and sentences. According to Riffatterre, a matrix, the initial concept developed and used as a reference in creating a new literary work, is called a hypogram (in Lutfi, 2023).

Riffatterre's theory can be used not only to study poetry but also to examine the true meaning of a song. This study uses the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah as its object. Through semiotic analysis using heuristic and hermeneutic reading stages, the true meaning of the song can be discovered and the unity of language and meaning can be identified.

From the introduction above, two research questions are formulated:



1. How is the semiotic analysis of Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal" conducted using Michael Riffaterre's research?
2. How is the understanding of the implied meaning in the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah after being analyzed using Michael Riffaterre's study?

The song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah was chosen as the research object because it has interesting lyrics, both in terms of the beauty of the lyrics and the uniqueness of the semiotics. This song also stole attention because it contains many symbols of the songwriter's feelings that are interesting to analyze. In this case, Riffaterre's semiotic theory helps in understanding the structure of the language signs in the song. Therefore, the focus of this research aims to analyze Riffaterre's semiotics in the song entitled "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah which focuses on analyzing the hidden meanings in the song and the importance of understanding signs in literary works.

The results of this research are useful for: 1) analyzing the signs (semiotics) of the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah, 2) as learning material regarding the implied meaning in the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah.

A similar study was conducted by Muhammad Irfan and Yulfira Riza from the Arabic Language and Literature study program at UIN Imam Bonjol Padang, entitled "The Semiotics of Michael Riffaterre in the Poem Zahaba al-Mudawi Wa al Mudawa by Abu Atahiyah." Their research concluded that Abu Atahiyah's poem emphasizes that every living soul will surely die.

Subsequent research, conducted by Mandala, Dewi, and Dwipayanti from the Foreign Languages Department at Ganesha University of Education, entitled "Analysis of the Semiotics of Riffaterre in the Song Sakura by Naotaro Moriyama," illustrates the story of a person who separates from their best friend to pursue their dreams and hopes to reunite with them.

Finally, a similar study was conducted by Farikhathul Mahmudah from the Arabic Language

and Literature study program at UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, entitled "Analysis of the Semiotics of Riffaterre in the Lyrics of the Balinese Song by Sherine." The results of this study revealed the complexity of a person's feelings in a relationship, depicting feelings of love, longing, sadness, and sacrifice.

METHOD

This research employed a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive methods focus on explaining meaning as the result of the research (Sugiyono, 2015; Razak, 2017; Bandur, 2014). This research also employed Riffaterre's semiotic theory to analyze song meaning in depth, including symbols, signs, and the song's overall elements. The focus of this research was the lyrics of Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal," which served as the signifier, while the results of the analysis served as the signified.

The data obtained from this research consisted of primary and secondary data. The primary data in this study was Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal," while secondary data came from books, journals, articles, and other sources to support this research. The data collection technique used was a literature review, observing, and taking notes to identify parts of the lyrics containing semiotic aspects. The following steps were used in data collection: (1) selecting song lyrics containing semiotic aspects and using them as the data points, (2) describing the data based on the data obtained, and (3) explaining the results from a theoretical perspective.

The data analysis technique used in this study is the researcher using Riffaterre's theory. The steps of the analysis technique in this study are: (1) listening to the lyrics in the song to be analyzed repeatedly, (2) lyrics containing semiotic aspects are recorded and coded, (3) lyrics that are used as data are analyzed using Riffaterre's theory, (4) after analysis, re-reading is carried out using heuristic and hermeneutic methods to obtain more complex meanings, (5) analyzing the still abstract context

of the song, both in terms of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, (6) finally, drawing conclusions from all the data collected.

RESULTS

Riffaterre's semiotic analysis deepens understanding of linguistic aspects, including words, phrases, and clauses. Riffaterre's theory encompasses four aspects: indirectness of expression, heuristic and hermeneutic reading, matrix analysis, models, and retroactive analysis, and hypograms. The following is the result of Riffaterre's semiotic analysis of the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah.

1. Heuristic Reading

Heuristic reading is a reading technique that interprets the content of a text based on the context of the reading or according to its literal meaning (Suyitno et al., 2022). The subject analyzed in this technique is the linguistic context, such as words, phrases, and sentences. Heuristic reading is the initial stage in analyzing the meaning of a literary work. The purpose of heuristic reading is to provide a fundamental understanding of a text in accordance with linguistic rules.

2. Hermeneutic Reading

Hermeneutic reading, also known as retroactive reading, is the second stage of reading. At this stage, readers engage in more critical analysis to understand the meaning of a literary work, including poetry. Through this hermeneutic reading, readers better understand the signs and signifiers implied in literary works (Lutfi, 2023). The purpose of this hermeneutic reading is to discover the indirectness of expression, according to Riffaterre's theory.

3. Matrix, Model, Variant

The matrix, model, and variant are three distinct aspects of study. The matrix is ??the main idea of ??the entire song. Furthermore, the model in Riffaterre's semiotic theory encompasses the main words/sentences in the poem/song, while the

variant is an explanation of the model that will form the variant (Damayanti & Prasetyo, 2025).

4. Hypogram

According to Riffaterre (1978:23), a hypogram is the story behind the creation of a literary work. A hypogram is usually not derived from theory, but rather a statement derived from the history, social context, and experiences of the literary author. Therefore, the reader's role in this regard is crucial for a comprehensive understanding (Zahabi et al., 2025).

DISCUSSION

1. Reading Heuristics

The following are the lyrics of the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah to be analyzed using the heuristic reading method:

Between us and all those in pairs
The road to the north and the adjoining destination
to you
to you

Encountered with the end and completion
We will finish and welcome the finish line
to you
to you

Like an endless laugh
And over and over again
Like an endless laugh
And over and over again

I have witnessed your and my defeat
What has been destroyed you slowly return
to me
to me

Like an endless laugh
And over and over again
Like an endless laugh
And over and over again

Who hugged my little body



Who loves my little one
Who embraces my little soul
And all all me

Who hugged my little body
Who loves my little one
Who embraces my little soul
And all all me

From the song lyrics above, the overall meaning of this song tells the story of a couple's love journey. He testified that his love story was filled with enormous love and affection. This song also describes a relationship that feels very pleasant, as reflected in the lyrics "unfinished laughter". A man who is able to love and cherish his partner wholeheartedly. Apart from that, the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah also tells the story of a woman's past trauma which was caused by love, but which was restored by another male figure who was present in her life. This is one of the reasons this woman feels so loved in her life. The woman hopes to be able to create a lasting relationship.

2. Reading Hermeneutics

The following is an indirect expression in the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah:

1. Association Figure of Speech:

An association figure of speech is a figure of speech that uses metaphorical words such as, like, like, etc. An association figure of speech is a comparative figure of speech that states something indirectly. The following are the lyrics to the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah, which contain the figure of speech of association:

Like endless laughter (K1/NA)

These lyrics describe the feelings of someone who is very happy in their romantic relationship. Their life is filled with beautiful memories that continue to replay in their mind and can heal past trauma. Therefore, they hope their relationship will end in eternal love.

2. Parallelism

Parallelism is a figure of speech that completely repeats sentence patterns (words, phrases, clauses). The purpose of this figure of speech is to emphasize the author's emotions and emphasize the meaning in a literary work. The following are the lyrics to the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah, which contain the figure of speech of parallelism:

Who hugged my little body
Who loves my little one
Who embraces my little soul
(K2/NA)

The piece of lyric above which contains the figure of speech of parallelism is found in the word "Yang...". This word is repeated 3 times. The word "Yang" in this song refers to someone who accepts all of their partner's shortcomings, including all of their partner's fragile sides and trauma. A person's affection, love and affection for their partner is poured out wholeheartedly without exception. These lyrics refer to the word "Eternal", describing the warmth of a romantic relationship filled with affection.

3. Rhetorical Figures of Speech

In the indirectness of expression in the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah, there is a rhetorical figure of speech in the lyrics. Rhetorical figures of speech are figures of speech that are used only to beautify writing without requiring answers from readers or listeners of literary works (Mazaya, 2022). Rhetorical figures of speech are usually used by repeating to emphasize a statement. The following are the lyrics to Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal," which contain rhetorical figures of speech:

(1) Encountering the end and completion
We will end and welcome the finish line
To you
To you

(K3/NA)

(2) I have witnessed your defeat and mine
Encountering the end and completion

To me

To me

(K4/NA)

In the lyrics of Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal," there are two pieces of rhetorical figure of speech. The first piece is the word "To you," which is repeated twice. The second piece is the word "To me," which is also repeated twice. These two words are used simply to enhance the writing and emphasize the lyrics.

The first piece implies that every relationship inevitably has challenges and shortcomings. However, the sense of optimism that the relationship can overcome these trials is conveyed by the phrase "we will end and welcome the finish line." The word "to you" which is used as data, refers to the writer's lover who is considered a place to return to and complain about after going through the shortcomings and challenges in their relationship.

In data 2, it means that after going through various trials in a relationship, the next phase is recovery. The phase of destruction, damage and fragility in a relationship can make a person feel inner conflict and sad feelings. However, all these disturbing feelings can be recovered if they are filled with love by loved ones. The words "to me" repeated twice refer to trust in your partner as a medicine that can slowly restore feelings that have been destroyed. The author also hopes that the relationship will grow better and end up lasting.

3. Matrices, Variants, and Models

In the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah, the matrix as the main main idea is found in the meaning of the process of a couple's relationship which

is filled with love and affection and hopes that the relationship will be eternal or everlasting. The model in the song "Kekal" by Nadin Amizah depicts the struggle against fear, fragility and anxiety felt by one side. However, he still has hope that he can maintain his relationship, because the presence of his lover is able to restore all his feelings of anxiety.

Variants are closely related to matrices. The purpose of analyzing variants is to deepen the meaning contained in a poem or song. Variants in this song are found in various emotions described by the author, such as happiness, gratitude, fear of loss, and anxiety, which add to the song's complexity. Variants are found in the following lyric excerpts:

- 1) Encountering the end and completion
- 2) We will end and welcome the finish line
- 3) Like endless laughter
- 4) I have witnessed your defeat and mine
- 5) What has been destroyed, you slowly restore

4. Hypogram

In Riffaterre's theory, a hypogram is divided into two parts: potential and actual. The hypogram found in Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal" is a potential hypogram related to the matrix. Therefore, the song's hypogram is "the process of a relationship between two lovers filled with love and affection and hoping for an eternal or everlasting relationship."

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of Nadin Amizah's song "Kekal," the song depicts a very impressive relationship between two lovers. The presence of the lover is able to restore the writer's world, which was once shattered and full of anxiety. With love, she is able to restore her world to a better place, and she hopes that the relationship they build can be eternal or everlasting.



In this research, the author realizes that this analysis still has many shortcomings and is far from perfect. Therefore, the author welcomes constructive criticism and suggestions from readers so that in the future, the author can improve in conducting other semiotic analyses based on Riffaterre's theory.

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