



## The Meaning of Denotation and the Meaning of Connotation in the Lyrics of Song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19: Semantic Study

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the denotative and connotative meanings contained in the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19 through a semantic study focusing on the analysis of meaning in aesthetic and emotional contexts. This song was chosen because it is rich in poetic diction, metaphors, and imagery that depict the dynamics of love more deeply than its literal meaning. This study used a qualitative descriptive method with documentation techniques to collect data in the form of words, phrases, and clauses containing both denotative and connotative elements. The data were then analyzed by interpreting the basic meaning and additional meanings that emerge through the use of figurative language. The results show that connotative meanings dominate over denotative ones in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan." The seemingly simple lyrics actually convey powerful emotional messages, such as depictions of sudden love, suppressed love, emotional closeness, and heartache, depicted through the metaphors of "arrow," "fragrance," and "slicing promises." The use of imagery such as "night of a thousand stars" also reinforces the romantic atmosphere, influencing listeners' perceptions. These findings confirm that song lyrics, as a form of musical literature, possess complex layers of meaning and can be scientifically analyzed to understand how language functions as a means of aesthetic expression. This research contributes to semantic learning by presenting concrete examples of the application of meaning theory to creative texts. Furthermore, the interpretation of connotative meaning demonstrates its dynamic nature and the ability to change according to each listener's emotional experience.

*Keywords: denotation, connotation, song lyrics, semantic study*

## Makna Denotasi dan Makna Konotasi pada Lirik lagu "Roman Picisan" Oleh Dewa-19: Kajian Semantik

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan makna denotasi dan makna konotasi yang terkandung dalam lirik lagu "Roman Picisan" oleh Dewa-19 melalui kajian semantik yang berfokus pada analisis makna dalam konteks estetis dan emosional. Lagu ini dipilih karena kaya akan diksi puitis, metafora, dan citraan yang menggambarkan dinamika perasaan cinta secara lebih dalam daripada sekadar makna literalnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik dokumentasi untuk mengumpulkan data berupa kata, frasa, dan klausa yang mengandung unsur denotatif maupun konotatif. Data kemudian dianalisis dengan menginterpretasikan makna dasar dan makna tambahan yang muncul melalui penggunaan bahasa figuratif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa makna konotatif lebih mendominasi dibandingkan makna denotatif dalam lirik lagu "Roman Picisan". Lirik yang tampak sederhana ternyata menyimpan pesan emosional yang kuat, seperti gambaran jatuh cinta secara tiba-tiba, cinta yang dipendam, kedekatan emosional, serta luka hati yang digambarkan melalui metafora "panah", "wangi", dan "mengiris janji". Penggunaan citraan seperti "malam seribu bintang" juga memperkuat suasana romantis yang mempengaruhi persepsi pendengar. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa lirik lagu sebagai karya sastra musik memiliki lapisan makna yang kompleks dan dapat dianalisis secara ilmiah untuk memahami bagaimana bahasa berfungsi sebagai sarana ekspresi estetis. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi dalam pembelajaran semantik dengan menyajikan contoh konkret mengenai penerapan teori makna pada teks kreatif. Selain itu, interpretasi makna konotatif menunjukkan sifatnya yang dinamis dan dapat berubah sesuai pengalaman emosional setiap pendengar.

*Kata kunci: denotasi, konotasi, lirik lagu, kajian semantik*

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary tool humans use to convey their feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences (Mailani et al., 2022). Language enables humans to interact socially, communicate, and convey cultural values. In linguistics, language is considered a collection of sounds or grammatical structures, as well as units that convey meaning (Liyana et al., 2025). Therefore, the analysis of meaning, or semantics, is crucial for understanding how language works, especially when used in environments rich in words such as literary works and song lyrics.

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning, encompassing a broad scope encompassing word meaning, meaning relationships, sentence meaning, and meanings that emerge in specific contexts (Zahra et al., 2024). The important concepts of meaning in semantics are lexical meaning and grammatical meaning. Lexical meaning is the basic meaning of a language form and does not contain connotations or grammatical relationships with other elements, so its meaning corresponds to its reference. Meanwhile, grammatical meaning is the meaning that arises from the role or function of a word in the context of a sentence (Siregar in Triastuti, 2023). Furthermore, there are connotative and denotative meanings. According to Tudjuka (in Nasution et al., 2024), denotative meaning refers to the basic meaning, the meaning that corresponds to a word. Conversely, connotative meaning gives rise to additional meanings that are subjective, emotional, or associative in nature and related to the speaker. These two types of meaning often appear and complement each other, including in song lyrics.

Song lyrics have a unique way of conveying meaning. Songwriters often use certain words to evoke emotional feelings or convey implicit messages to listeners (Wicaksono, 2024). Song lyrics contain many meanings that are interesting to study due to the presence of poetic diction, figures of speech, and imagery (Apriliany & Sabardila, 2024). Semantic studies in this context are crucial for understanding how songwriters create mean-

ing through their lyrics. Song lyrics serve not only as a complement to a melody but also as a medium of expression capable of depicting inner experiences, deep feelings, and even life reflections. Each word chosen in lyrics often carries layers of meaning that can be read literally or understood through specific emotional associations. Song lyrics are a rich source of data for analysis, especially when viewed through a semantic perspective, allowing researchers to interpret meaning more deeply and systematically.

One example is the song by the band Dewa-19, "Roman Picisan." The song "Roman Picisan" has won several awards, nominations, and has been featured on film soundtracks. The song is not only popular for its musical composition but is renowned for its poetic lyrics, full of metaphors, and emotional depictions of love. The lyrics of "Roman Picisan," filled with various expressions, can be indicated by denotative and connotative meanings. The song's lyrics appear simple, but they contain profound meanings when examined semantically.

Furthermore, lyrics rich with connotative meaning indicate the composer's expressed meaning. The composer attempts to convey an emotional message that is not only understood directly but also through broader associations of meaning. This phenomenon demonstrates that song lyrics can be understood through connotative meaning, not just denotative meaning. Connotative meaning is crucial in understanding the composer's message to the listener. Each listener has a different interpretation of the song. Therefore, the presence of connotative meaning in song lyrics provides space for listeners to construct their own emotional experiences based on their background, feelings, and knowledge. This multifaceted layer of meaning makes song lyrics more vivid, as their meaning can evolve along with the context and situation experienced by the listener. Analyzing connotative meaning not only helps uncover hidden messages within songs but also demonstrates the musical work's ability to build a strong emo-



tional connection between the composer, the work, and its listeners.

Research into the denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan" is relevant because the song is loved by various generations and is frequently analyzed. The lyrics, rich in figurative language, provide an in-depth analysis of how words are chosen to create a romantic atmosphere. The use of interesting diction gives rise to different interpretations, so it needs to be studied from a semantic perspective so that the meaning can be explained scientifically and systematically. This research is also important in contributing to readers or song enthusiasts, thus increasing their understanding of how meaning works in the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan." Research that identifies denotative and connotative meanings demonstrates how song lyrics are created as a means of aesthetic and emotional expression. The results of this study can serve as reference material in Indonesian language learning, particularly in semantic studies, providing concrete examples of the application of meaning theory in song lyrics. The study of denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan" shows that linguistic elements are used creatively to construct the emotional atmosphere the songwriter wishes to convey. Research conducted through semantic analysis will provide a more focused understanding (Sinaga et al., 2021a). The study of denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan" shows that linguistic elements are used creatively to construct the emotional atmosphere the songwriter wishes to convey. Research conducted through semantic analysis will provide a more focused understanding. Based on the description in the background section, this study formulates the main problem in the form of how denotative and connotative meanings emerge and are formed in the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19. The problem formulation focuses on the process of meaning that develops in the lyric text, specifically how these two types of meaning can be identified, explained, and analyzed through a semantic approach. This

research is directed at revealing how the song lyrics convey basic meanings as well as additional meanings that are associative or emotive. This question is important because the song lyrics contain various poetic and metaphorical expressions that require a deeper analysis of meaning to understand the message the songwriter wants to convey.

The purpose of this study is to describe the denotative and connotative meanings contained in the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan" to reveal how the basic and additional meanings work together to shape the emotional atmosphere, aesthetic message, and semantic interpretation of each lyric section. This objective aligns with the research direction outlined in the abstract, which is to uncover the structure of meaning presented through the diction, imagery, and figures of speech used in the song.

Theoretically, this research benefits from enriching semantic studies, particularly in the analysis of denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics as a form of musical literature. Practically, the results of this study can serve as a reference for researchers and academics in understanding how meaning works in creative texts, helping readers and listeners grasp the message and depth of meaning implied in the song "Roman Picisan," and providing alternative teaching materials for Indonesian language learning, particularly in contextual, up-to-date, and relevant semantic analysis and studies of popular culture.

According to Chaer (in Mukherma et al., 2025), denotative meaning is defined as denotational, conceptual, or cognitive meaning, which is essentially referential. Various senses, such as smell, hearing, sight, feeling, or other tangible experiences, are typically used to derive this meaning. Therefore, denotative meaning refers to objective and factual information. Connotative meaning stems from the relationships, symbols, or emotions attached to words, phrases, or symbols. This meaning is not objective and is heavily influenced by the situation, personal experience, and how a person interprets it. Connotation can evoke complex

emotions, images, or ideas. It encompasses symbolic, hidden, or indirect meanings. Connotative meaning is used in semiotic studies to explain the deeper symbolic layers of signs or symbols in various forms of communication, such as texts, songs, and other media (Mukhera et al., 2025).

Correspondingly, denotative meaning is understood as the fixed meaning of a word, which does not undergo changes or additions. Connotative meaning, on the other hand, refers to words with multiple possible meanings and is typically understood through associations or common usage within a given society (Andriani & Nurman, 2024). Denotation is typically defined as the literal or basic meaning of a word or sign. This meaning is viewed as a direct reference to the object, concept, or something the word actually refers to. Denotative meaning, therefore, emphasizes the use of language as it is, in accordance with reality or what it represents, without any additional elements of feeling or judgment. Conversely, connotation refers to a more subjective meaning or one that can be influenced by shared understanding. Connotative meaning is formed through individual experiences, cultural backgrounds, social values, and emotional associations that accompany a word, allowing interpretations to differ among language users. Therefore, connotative meaning is often more diverse and rich, as it is formed through how a particular society or group understands and uses the word in various contexts. The dominant values prevailing over a given period of time are identified and justified through a process known as connotation (Rahmawati et al., 2024).

Based on expert opinion, it can be concluded that denotative meaning is the basic, true, or literal meaning of a word as generally understood. This meaning is factual, objective, and consistent because it is obtained through sensory observation (sight, smell, hearing, feeling, or other real-life experiences). Denotative meaning is not influenced by personal feelings or judgments and refers to the original meaning of a concept without any additional emotional value. Meanwhile,

connotative meaning is an additional meaning derived from associations, symbols, emotional value, or emotions attached to a word. This meaning is subjective and can vary from person to person, and is influenced by situations, experiences, culture, and personal interpretation. Connotative meaning is used in semiotic studies to understand deeper layers of symbolic meaning, such as hidden meanings, social values, and ideas that develop within a society.

Relevant research on the study of denotative and connotative meaning in song lyrics has been conducted by many previous researchers. One such study is the study by Akhiruddin et al. (2024) entitled "Analysis of Connotative Meaning in the Lyrics of the Song "Tenang" by Yura Yunita." This study examines the connotative meanings emerging in the lyrics of the song "Tenang" using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory. The results show that the song's lyrics contain various positive and negative connotations related to feelings of anxiety, the search for inner peace, and hope in God. This study confirms that connotative meanings can convey strong emotional nuances and reflect the inner states of both the songwriter and the listener. These findings are relevant to the current study because both focus on the implicit meanings in song lyrics using a semantic approach.

Another relevant study was conducted by Sinaga et al. (2021), who examined the denotative and connotative meanings of the lyrics of Fiersa Besari's song "Celengan Rindu." This study found that the song's lyrics contain denotative meanings related to long-distance relationships, longing, and waiting, while their connotative meanings depict affection, commitment, and a deep emotional connection between two people. This study demonstrates that song lyrics often convey implicit messages through the use of metaphorical and emotive diction. The relevance of this research to the current article lies in the similarity of the research object, namely the



analysis of literal and figurative meanings in song lyrics as a form of expression of inner experience.

Furthermore, Sari's (2023) research on the song "Ada Gajah Dibalik Batu" by Wali also makes an important contribution to this study. The study examined the denotative and connotative meanings emerging in the song's lyrics, which are rich in metaphorical and proverbial elements. The results show that the song not only conveys literal meaning but also contains connotative meanings related to quality, caution, and moral messages about the hidden intentions behind actions. This research demonstrates that song lyrics often use symbolic expressions to communicate specific social messages. The relevance of this research to the current article lies in the similarity of the analytical approach to meaning and the object, namely the song text as a medium for cultural expression and implicit messages.

Based on these three studies, it can be concluded that numerous studies have been conducted on denotative and connotative meaning in song lyrics, yielding findings that demonstrate that song lyrics are a meaningful form of literature. All three studies demonstrate that the use of diction, metaphor, and symbolism in song lyrics can convey implicit messages that can only be understood through in-depth analysis. Therefore, all of these studies are highly relevant as conceptual foundations and comparisons for this article, particularly in understanding how connotative and denotative meanings operate within song lyrics and how emotional and moral messages are represented through word choice.

## METHOD

This study aims to systematically describe the denotative and connotative meanings that emerge in the lyrics of Dewa 19's song "Roman Picisan." To achieve this goal, the researcher employed a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative descriptive method is a research approach used to examine an object in its natural state, with a foundational understanding rooted in postpositivism philosophy (Rukin, 2019). In its

application, the researcher is designated as the key instrument (Sugiyono in Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023). A qualitative approach was chosen because the meaning of song lyrics requires in-depth analysis and cannot be expressed through numerical data. This approach aligns with the characteristics of qualitative descriptive research, which produces data in the form of verbal descriptions—both spoken and written—and observable behavior (Moleong in Safarudin et al., 2023).

The data source for this study came from the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa 19, obtained through a Google search and then analyzed as a written text. The data examined included linguistic elements such as words, phrases, and clauses contained in the lyrics. Each linguistic element was selected because it contains potential denotative and connotative meanings relevant for analysis. Therefore, this study focuses on deciphering the meanings that emerge through the choice of diction and language structure in the song lyrics. The data collection technique used was the documentation method, which is a method of obtaining information by tracing and collecting various relevant written and recorded evidence (Waruwu, 2023). Through this technique, researchers search for and collect accurate data that is in accordance with the focus of the problem being studied, so that the information obtained can support the analysis process appropriately. The documentation technique is carried out by collecting song lyrics, noting relevant lyrics, and identifying lyrics that are in accordance with the focus of the research. Next, the data is classified according to the criteria of denotative meaning and connotative meaning based on semantic theory. This study analyzes the data by reading the song lyrics carefully, then marking relevant lyrics, then interpreting them according to their meaning, and the results are presented descriptively. The results of the analysis are then concluded to determine how denotative meaning and connotative meaning are constructed in the lyrics of the song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa 19.

## RESULT

Based on the analysis of the lyrics of Dewa-19's song "Roman Picisan," findings emerged regarding the denotative and connotative meanings emerging through the use of diction, metaphor, and figurative language. Each line of lyrics was carefully analyzed to identify the basic, literal meaning as well as additional emotional, symbolic, and interpretive meanings. These findings were then systematically presented in tabular form to facilitate readers' understanding of the differences and relationships between denotative and connotative meanings in each lyric. The tabular presentation also aims to provide a more structured picture of how the songwriter constructs meaning through poetic and emotionally nuanced word choices. Therefore, the following section presents the results of mapping the denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan," the focus of this research.

### 1. Lyrics of the Song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19

The song "Picisan" by Dewa-19 conveys a powerful expression of emotion through the use of symbolic and imaginative words. The lyrics depict the intensity of love, portrayed through touching and dramatic imagery. The unique style of language in this song makes it interesting to explore from a semantic perspective. Here are the lyrics.

"Look into your eyes like a bow"  
"You released it into my heart"  
"Even though you keep your love still"  
"My breath still smells fragrant, decorating the atmosphere"  
"When I kiss your sweet lips"

"My love doesn't have to be yours"  
"Even though it hurts to cut"  
"Slices all promises"

"I dance on the edge of restlessness"  
"Accompanied by the gentle, sweetness of your actions"  
"You spread the graceful seeds of your soul"  
"But you don't reap the fruit of my love"  
"There's only a flower of longing"

"My love doesn't have to be yours"  
"Even though it hurts to cut all promises"  
"My nights are like a night of a thousand stars"  
"Stretched in the sky when you're here"  
"Just to accompany you across the fragrance"

"Always present on one side of my heart"  
"My nights are like a night of a thousand stars"  
"Stretched in the sky when you're here"  
"Just to accompany you across the fragrance" "fragrant"  
"Always present on one side of my heart"

"My nights are like nights of a thousand stars"  
"Spread across the sky when you're here"  
"Just to accompany me across the fragrance"  
"Always present on one side of my heart"

"My love doesn't have to be yours"  
"Even though it hurts to sever all promises"  
"My love doesn't have to be yours"  
"Even though it hurts to sever all promises"

### 2. Denotative Meaning Analysis

Based on the analysis of the song's lyrics, a number of findings were obtained that show how denotative and connotative meanings are manifested through the choice of words and expressions used. The data from the analysis are presented as follows.

Table 1  
Denotative Meaning of the Lyrics of the Song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19

Lyric of Song	Denotation Meaning
"Tatap matamu bagai busur panah"	Looking someone in the eye is like a bow and arrow.
"Yang kau lepaskan ke jantung hatiku"	It's as if the arrow is shot through the heart.
"Meski kau simpan cintamu masih"	Someone keeps their love hidden, not expressing it clearly.
"Tetap nafasmu wangi hiasi suasana"	Someone's breath smells good and brightens the atmosphere.
"Saat kukecup manis bibirmu"	Kissing someone on the lips.
"Cintaku tak harus miliki dirimu"	Expressing love for someone, but not necessarily possessing or being in a relationship with them.
"Meski perih mengiris"	Saying that it hurts, like something is cutting.
"Iris segala janji"	Literally means cutting or breaking promises.
"Aku berdansa diujung gelisah"	A person dances when they are anxious.
"Di iringi syahdu lembut lakumu"	The dance is accompanied by a person's gentle and calming attitude or actions
"Kau sebar benih anggun jiwamu"	Someone scatters beautiful or graceful "seeds" from their soul.
"Namun kau tiada menuai buah cintaku"	That person receives no love from themselves
"Yang ada hanya sekuntum rindu"	All that remains is a single "flower" of longing
"Malam-malamku bagai malam seribu bintang"	A beautiful night is like a starry sky.

Lyric of Song	Denotation Meaning
“Yang terbentang di angkasa bila kau di sini”	The stars are in the sky when someone is present.
“Tuk sekedar menemani, ’tuk melintasi wangi”	Accompanying and passing something fragrant.
“Yang s’lalu tersaji di satu sisi hati”	Accompanying and passing something fragrant.

### 3. Connotative Meaning Analysis

Based on the analysis of the song lyrics, a number of findings were obtained that demonstrate how connotative meaning is manifested through the choice of words and expressions used. The data from this study are presented as follows.

Table 2  
Denotative Meaning in the Lyrics of the Song "Roman Picisan" by Dewa-19

Lyric of Song	Connotation Meaning
“Tatap matamu bagai busur panah”	A sharp, strong, and captivating gaze capable of shaking the heart; a symbol of powerful attraction or charm.
“Yang kau lepaskan ke jantung hatiku”	It signifies sudden and intense falling in love; a feeling of being emotionally touched or captivated by someone.
“Meski kau simpan cintamu masih”	It signifies love that is hidden, unspoken, or not yet ready to be expressed; an emotional distance.
“Tetap nafasmu wangi hiasi suasana”	It signifies tranquility, intimate closeness, warmth, and comfort when near a loved one; the beauty of a romantic atmosphere.
“Saat kukecup manis bibirmu”	It is a feeling of intimacy, physical closeness filled with warmth and love; a symbol of an intimate romantic relationship.



Lyric of Song	Connotation Meaning
“Cintaku tak harus miliki dirimu”	Describes love that is sincere, mature, willing to let go even though it loves. Contains the meaning of sincerity and surrender to circumstances
“Meski perih mengiris”	Symbolizes a very deep feeling of heartbreak. "Slicing" connotes a sharp, cutting emotional wound, not just ordinary sadness.
“Iris segala janji”	It represents the shattering of hopes, the breaking of commitments, and the loss of a future once planned together. It symbolizes the letting go of all memories and dreams.
“Aku berdansa diujung gelisah”	Depicting the destruction of hope, the breaking of commitment, and the loss of time.
“Di iringi syahdu lembut lakumu”	Describes the presence of someone who gives a sense of peace, calm, or comfort through their gentle demeanor. “Lakumu” symbolizes charm and a calming presence.
“Kau sebar benih anggun jiwamu”	It means someone who shows kindness, attention, or charm that captivates the heart. "Graceful seed" is a metaphor for good nature, sincerity, and warmth that affect the feelings of others.
“Namun kau tiada menuai buah cintaku”	It signifies unrequited love, where all the kindness and charm offered does not yield love in return. Not reaping the rewards reflects a failure to receive reciprocity.
“Yang ada hanya sekuntum rindu”	Expressing a deep but hidden feeling of longing; unrequited love, leaving only the remnants of an unrequited emotional connection. "A flower of longing" is a metaphor for longing that grows but never develops into love.

Lyric of Song	Connotation Meaning
"Malam-malamku bagai malam seribu bintang"	Depicting the happiness, serenity, and wonderful feelings that arise when you are with a loved one; life feels more radiant.
"Yang terbentang di angkasa bila kau di sisi"	The presence of a loved one makes life feel expansive, bright, and radiant; a symbol of someone's positive influence.
"Tuk sekedar menemani, tuk melintasi wangi"	Symbolizing a simple, beautiful togetherness; "wangi" is a metaphor for a loving, comfortable, and happy atmosphere.
"Yang s'lalu tersaji di satu sisi hati"	The meaning of sweet memories, affection and beautiful feelings stored in the heart; love that is present and settles in someone's inner space.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Denotative Meaning Analysis

Based on the denotative meaning analysis of the lyrics of Dewa-19's song "Roman Picisan," several literal meanings were found that directly describe events and actions, as reflected in the language structure used. Each line of lyrics conveys a concrete representation without any expansion of meaning or additional emotional elements. For example, in the lyrics "Tatta matamu bagai luka panah" and "Yang kau rilis ke jantung hati," the denotative meanings that emerge describe a gaze likened to a bow and arrow as if shot into the heart. Despite the use of comparative figures of speech, the lyrics can still be understood denotatively through concrete physical descriptions and actions, namely the gaze being likened to the curved shape of a bow and the movement of releasing an arrow toward a target. Thus, the meaning remains centered on the process of depicting objects and actions directly recognized through sensory experience.

In general, several sections of the lyrics in Roman Picisan also exhibit denotative meaning, as they clearly describe actions and situations with-

out eliciting more complex emotional or symbolic interpretations. For example, in the lyrics "Even though you still keep your love" and "Your fragrant breath still adorns the atmosphere," the meanings are literal. The first lyric simply states that someone still harbors feelings of love, while the second describes the state of fragrant breath that creates a pleasant atmosphere. Neither exhibits any distortion of meaning or a shift in meaning toward metaphor, remaining at the level of factual depiction as understood through everyday language. The lyric "When I kiss your sweet lips" presents a concrete image of the act of kissing lips with a sweet taste. Denotatively, this lyric depicts a physical activity that can be clearly imagined without requiring additional interpretation. There is no expansion of meaning that requires symbolic interpretation, as the words used directly refer to concrete actions.

The same is evident in the lyric "My love doesn't have to have you," which literally states that someone doesn't have to have the person they love. This statement, in its denotative meaning, simply describes an attitude of acceptance or let-



ting go without emphasizing more complex emotional feelings. In other lyrics, the denotative meaning still refers to the reality of the action or situation directly described. For example, "Mesih memperutikan" (Even though it's painful to cut) evokes the image of physical pain, like being cut by something sharp. The lyrics of "Iris Segala janji" also suggest the literal act of cutting or breaking a promise. Although in certain contexts it can develop a symbolic meaning, in a denotative reading it remains a concrete action.

Furthermore, the lyrics "I dance on the edge of restlessness" denotatively depict someone dancing in a state of anxiety, while "Accompanied by the gentle, calming movements or behavior of yours" conveys a situation where the dance is accompanied by someone's gentle, calming movements or behavior. Similarly, the lyrics "You spread the graceful seeds of your soul" indicate the act of spreading something referred to as the "seeds" of the soul's elegance. Literally, the phrase refers to the activity of scattering seeds, considered a symbol of graceful qualities, but in its denotative meaning, it remains understood as the activity of spreading something originating from oneself.

In the subsequent lyrics, the meanings that emerge remain denotative or literal. For example, the lyrics "But you don't reap the fruits of my love" literally depict someone who does not receive the results of love from another person, as "reaping" means obtaining something after a certain process. Similarly, the lyrics "What there is is only a single flower of longing" literally indicate that only one form of longing remains. The word "sekuntum," which is usually used to denote a single flower, is still understood as indicating quantity in the context of this sentence.

The lyrics "My nights are like a thousand stars" describe a very beautiful night, as if filled with starlight in the sky. This imagery is still considered literal in terms of denotation because it directly shows the visualization of a starry night without any additional interpretation. The next lyric, "What stretches in the sky when you are

here," also emphasizes the presence of stars visible in the sky when someone is present, thus still conveying a general picture of the condition of the sky. In the closing section, the lyrics "Tuk hanyalah menemani, 'tuk lintas wangi" contain a literal meaning about the activity of accompanying someone and passing by something fragrant. Both actions still include direct meanings without layers of abstract meaning. Meanwhile, the lyrics "Yang s'lalu tersajian di satu sisi hati" describe something that is always present or available in a certain part of a person's heart. In a denotative reading, the phrase only indicates the presence of something in the heart, without entering into a broader symbolic interpretation.

Overall, the denotative meaning in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan" shows that each section of the lyrics has a basic and concrete image of a specific action, situation, or object before being expanded into connotative meaning. This analysis provides an important foundation for understanding how subsequent layers of meaning are formed, especially when they are then linked to the emotional, symbolic, and aesthetic elements of connotative meaning.

## 2. Connotative Meaning Analysis

An analysis of the connotative meaning in the lyrics of Dewa-19's song "Roman Picisan" shows that the lyrics are imbued with emotional, symbolic, and aesthetic nuances that cannot be understood solely from their literal meaning. In the lyrics "Tatta matamu bagai luka panah" and "Yang kau rilis ke jantung hati" (Look at your eyes like a bow and arrow) the meaning constructed is no longer literal but entirely connotative. This poetic expression creates the image of a person's gaze possessing extraordinary power, as if capable of penetrating physical boundaries and directly touching the deepest emotional core. The comparison of a gaze to a bow and arrow emphasizes the swift, precise, and inevitable power of fascination, thus conveying the image that feelings of falling in love can arise suddenly and unexpectedly. Meanwhile,

the phrase "heart of my heart" does not refer to a literal bodily organ, but symbolizes the center of a person's feelings, sensitivity, and emotional vulnerability. Therefore, a gaze is no longer understood simply as the act of seeing, but rather becomes a symbol of magnetic power capable of arousing, shaking, and even shaking the soul. This connotative meaning demonstrates how figurative language works to reinforce the romantic atmosphere and intensity of feelings conveyed in the song's lyrics.

The connotative meaning is also evident in the lyrics "Even though you keep your love still," which not only depicts hidden love but also indicates the presence of suppressed and unexpressed feelings. This situation creates an emotional distance between the two characters in the song, creating a relationship filled with uncertainty. Meanwhile, the lyrics "Tetaphanuh air wangi hirai atmosfer" convey a sense of warming physical and emotional closeness. "Fragrant" breath connotatively depicts the romantic atmosphere, comfort, and intimacy felt when close to someone. This nuance is reinforced by the lyrics "Saat kukekis manis bibirmu," which connotatively depicts affection and a relationship full of intimacy.

Elsewhere, the lyrics "Cintaku tak "must have you" displays the connotation of mature and sincere love. This expression reflects the understanding that love does not always have to be realized by possessing, but rather accepting reality with an open heart. On the other hand, the lyrics "Even though it hurts to cut" and "Iris semua janji" bring up nuances of disappointment, inner wounds, and the destruction of hope in a relationship. This expression connotatively describes a feeling of being cut due to the discrepancy between expectations and reality. The pain described is not only physical, but more of a deep and painful emotional experience.

A more reflective connotative meaning is evident in the lyrics "Aku berdandang di tepi khawatir" (I dance on the edge of restlessness). This phrase suggests a person's efforts to perse-

vere, maintain balance, and remain strong despite a state of inner anxiety. "Berdandang" (dancing) is not merely understood as a bodily movement, but also symbolizes the struggle to remain strong amidst emotional instability.

A sense of serenity emerges in the lyrics "Diiringi syahdu lembut lakumu" (Accompanied by the gentle grace of your actions), which describe the presence of someone with a gentle demeanor that can bring calm. This phrase connotatively suggests that a person's behavior and presence can be a source of peace for the characters in the song. Furthermore, the lyrics "Kau sebar benih elegan jiwamu" (You spread the graceful seeds of your soul) depict a person's kindness and sincerity that subtly influence, warm, and enrich the feelings of others. "Senih elegan" (graceful seeds) suggests that these good qualities grow and spread throughout their emotional relationships.

However, this series of kindness and sincerity is not always equally reciprocated. This is illustrated by the lyrics "Namun kau tidak reap the fruits of my love," which connote unrequited or unrequited love. The character in the song offers love and kindness, but doesn't receive the expected emotional return. Furthermore, the lyrics "Yang ada hanya sekuntum rindu" (What exists is just a flower of longing) suggest that the feelings that arise are merely isolated longing—longing that grows, but never develops into complete and complete love. This connotation suggests emotional emptiness, a sense of loss, and a subtle sadness due to the unrequited hope for love.

A soft, romantic nuance is evident in the lyrics "My nights are like nights of a thousand stars" and "What stretches across the sky when you're here." Both lyrics convey the connotation of feelings of happiness, serenity, and light when being by the side of a loved one. The image of a star-filled night serves as a beautiful and calming metaphor for togetherness, as if the presence of that person can make the world seem brighter and more meaningful. The simple yet meaningful connotation of togetherness is evident in the lyrics "Tuk



hanyalah menemani, 'tuk lintas wangi." The word "wangi" here refers not only to a literal fragrance, but also symbolizes the loving, comfortable, and tender atmosphere felt when with someone who holds a special place in one's heart. This expression signifies that being together in seemingly trivial moments can be a deeply emotional experience.

In the final section, the lyrics "Yang s'lalu tersajian di satu sisi hati" describe sweet memories and the affection that lingers in one's heart. The connotative meaning indicates a love that remains emotionally enduring, even though it may not always be realized in a real relationship. These memories become part of an inner space that is always stored, indicating the presence of a gentle, calm, and unfading love.

Overall, the connotative meaning in the lyrics of "Roman Picisan" demonstrates how the songwriter uses figurative language to convey rich layers of emotion, from the charm of love, longing, warmth, to heartbreaking wounds. This demonstrates that song lyrics function not only as a series of words, but also as a representation of profound inner experiences.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the denotative and connotative meanings of the lyrics of Dewa-19's song "Roman Picisan," it can be concluded that the lyrics not only contain basic meanings that describe literal actions or circumstances, but also contain additional emotional, subjective, and symbolic meanings. Through the use of metaphors, imagery, and poetic diction, the songwriter presents expressions that represent feelings of love, longing, warmth, and even emotional pain. This demonstrates that the language in the song's lyrics functions not only to convey a direct message but also to stimulate the imagination and provide an aesthetic experience for the listener. Furthermore, a semantic analysis of the song's lyrics shows that connotative meanings are more dominant than denotative ones. The connotations in the lyrics create a deeper sense of emotion, such as sup-

pressed love, captivating charm, sincerity in letting go, and the happiness that comes from the presence of a loved one. These layers of meaning reinforce that each word choice in the song's lyrics plays a role in creating a specific emotional atmosphere and influencing the listener's interpretation. Thus, this study emphasizes that the study of denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics can provide a deeper picture of the message and aesthetic values that the creator wants to express. The results of this study prove that song lyrics, as a form of art, contain layers of meaning that can be analyzed academically and serve as a concrete example in semantic learning to understand the process of meaning formation in literary works through music. If viewed more broadly, song lyrics such as "Roman Picisan" show that language has a great ability to express human emotions in a rich, deep, and nuanced way.

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