

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the research

Language is one of the most important things in human life. Language is communication between a person and another produced by human speech tools (Goorys, 2004, p. 1). To communicate with fellow humans like expressing ideas, emotions, and something that want to convey is not only through language. Language is a human method that non-instinctively expresses emotions, options, and so on (Edward, 1921, p. 7). To understand what we are reading, we have to understand the meaning of a text. To know the meaning, we must know about semantics.

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the meaning of words and sentences (Hornby, 1972, p. 789). Sometimes we are confused about interpreting what someone said, which is listed in magazines, newspapers, and other media whether it means pleasure, disappointment, sadness, or just jokes. So we need to study semantics to understand the meaning that is conveyed either directly or through other media. So we understand what they want to convey. There are many types of meaning in accordance with experts. The types of meanings include lexical, grammatical, and contextual meanings, referential and non-referential meanings, denotative and connotative meanings, conceptual and associative meanings, and lexeme (Chaer, 2007, p. 289). There is a kind of meaning that includes referential or correspondence theory, the theory of mentalism, or conceptual and theoretical formation (Parera J.D, 1990, p. 16).

We know that communication is important for understanding human conceptualization, cognition, and thinking process (Geofray, 1983, p. 9). For

communication is smooth, the speaker and interlocutor must understand what they mean. To find out the meaning of the speaker and interlocutor messages, they have not to run from the context. Context is the knowledge between the speaker and interlocutor links to all knowledge that is not out of the topic of what they are talking about (accepted by all parties) (Lyons, 1968, p. 413). The purpose of context is to understand the speaker and interlocutor's message. Context is not only talking about something that perhaps the messages obtain is briefly, but the speaker and interlocutor may reach it broadly because the context will link to all the messages (information). Message is not only conveyed in conversation, poetry, or other media, but also the song lyric. This research is focused on analysing song lyrics.

Song lyrics are an expression of someone on something, experiences, and so on. A stylistic vocal game and deviation in the meaning of words are language games in creating song lyrics. In addition, musical notation and melodies which are adapted to the lyrics are used to strengthen the lyrics, so the listener is carried away with the song writer's mind (Awe, 2003, p. 51). Generally, the songwriter will speak their minds through beautiful words with their characteristics. Awe (2003) argues that songs are usually created under the circumstances and the songwriter's wishes. The listener will enter into the imagination's songwriter's creation. From this process, their messages will be conveyed because the song lyrics have many messages that the songwriter creates, and sometimes the listeners do not understand the messages. In that case the researcher is interested to analyse song lyrics. This research is analysed Alessia Cara's song lyrics in album "*Knew-It-All*".

To analyse song lyrics, the researcher focuses on contextual word meaning. There are many definitions of contextual meaning. The contextual meaning is the meaning of lexeme or words in context. In essence, the text does not be separated from meaning

(Chaer, 2007, p. 290). According to Pateda (2007), contextual meaning (situational meaning) appears as a result of statement and context. Context has an important role in providing meaning. That means the meaning cannot be communicated without context, and context cannot be constructed without meaning. In that case the researcher uses Dash theory is called *contextual word meaning*. Contextual word meaning focuses on the context that has the responsibility to know the actual meaning of a word (Dash, 2005, p. 21). Contextual word meaning is suitable for this research because it will scrutinize the reference of each word. The word is used as a keyword to get more than one meaning.

Briefly, Alessia Cara is a multi-talent musician who comes from Canada. She was born on July 11, 1996, in Canada. She got many awards for her songs. The researcher is interested in analysed Alessia Cara's song lyrics, especially the "*Knew-It-All*" album. Because this album is part of her life journey. In the book "*Psikologi Perkembangan*" translated by Erlangga that adolescence is a period of physical growth that begins to mature until their way of thinking becomes an adult (Harlock, 2003, p. 206). From that statement, the researcher knows that the life journey of an adolescent is different. From the Youtube channel Anne Mavity (2015) who interviewed Alessia Cara with the "*Knew-It-All*" album, the researcher believes that this album is a part of her life journeys as a teenager through one of her songs about parties. As reported from her interview, Alessia Cara wrote songs through all the parties and she experienced were very uncomfortable with the parties she attended. And she gave the perspective of all the parties she attended and poured it into a song. In her interview at 2:33, she said that:

“ It's true and I feel like at first it was kind of iffy for me because it's kind of like a misery, not miserable song but it's very it's not very uplifting and it's , it's just about making a statement and saying you what, this is my perspective and no one ever talks about that one person who's not enjoying themselves you know and if people can write about heart break and sad stuff why can't I write about not having fun at a party I think that I think you can writing about anything into a song so I thought why not it's a cool perspective”.

From her statement, the researcher argues that all the parties she attended were things that really bother her because these were horrible parties that make her uncomfortable. She made it the inspiration for one of the songs that were on the “*Knew-It-All*” album. And from her discomfort at the party, she revealed something that suited her perspective as a teenager. And this is Cara’s steps to speak up as like as her thoughts. As stated by Harlow, McGauch, and Thompson on Kayyis (2019:4), that all behavior must have a cause. Due to a slightly complex problem is experienced by the person and he has his thoughts and emotions like what he is experiencing because it is through experiences to the habit he feels. Therefore the researcher is interested to know how the life process of Alessia Cara as a teenager from her song lyrics.

B. Statement of Problems

According to the background of the research above that to know how the life process of Alessia Cara in the song lyrics of “*Knew-It-All*” album, some questions attracts the researcher to make them as the problem of this papers, they are as follow:

1. What contexts are used in Alessia Cara’s song lyrics of the “*Knew-It-All*” album?
2. How is the contextual word meaning in Alessia Cara’s song lyrics of the “*Knew-It-All*” album describe?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the problems above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the contexts used in Alessia Cara’s song lyrics of the “*Knew-It-All*” album.

2. To describe the contextual word meaning in Alessia Cara's song lyrics of the "*Knew-It-All*" album.

D. Research Significance

This research aims to inform that linguistics additionally has an important role in science and communication. Specifically, it hopes to have benefit as follows:

1. Practical

This study aims to help beneficial information to improve student's meaning to text in the State of Islamic Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung students, primary the English Department students. The researcher hopefully can provide the contribution of knowledge and consciousness about how important the meaning of the text.

2. Theoretical

This research can be used as an additional reference for the next researcher, mainly those who are interested in the study of discourse analysis about the contextual meaning of song lyrics.

E. Conceptual Framework

The researcher will use contextual word meaning theory and the kinds of context using Dash's theory. The researcher uses a perspective through the semantics approach. According to Lyons (1983:572), that semantics is more concerned with theoretical ideas than the context of speech. To find out the context in the text and more clearly in analysing everything in a word, the researcher took this approach. Sometimes context hides behind words (Dash, 2005, p. 22). To reveal a context, the researcher uses Dash's

theory which was originally classified by Miller and Lecoock (2000) and further developed by Dash into four types, topical, local, sentential, and global context (Dash, 2005, p. 22).

The researcher focuses on the words that have the kind of context by Dash's theory then describes these words. To find a context of a sentence, the researcher must analyse the data from the types of context by Dash. To knowing the sentence is categorized the type of contexts based on Dash's theory, the researcher has to know the terms. The first is keyword. Keyword (KW) is the actual meaning of a word. Left Word (LW) and Right Word (RW) are the neighbouring of Keyword (KW). Dash classified four types of contexts they are local, sentential, topical, and global. Local context is the immediate environment such as: preceding and succeeding words (Dash, 2005, p. 23). Sentential context is a sentence where the KW has occurred in a sentence (Dash, 2005, p. 26). Topical refers to the topic of discussion on the context of a piece of text because finding the literal meaning of KW with a strong role (Dash, 2005, p. 27). If the meaning of KW is still not found, the global context is used. It refers to the extra-linguistic reality surrounding the linguistic acts undertaken by language users (Dash, 2005, p. 28).

Sometimes, the listener as foreign people or native has failed to know what Cara wants to talk about her thoughts from her lyrics. To understanding Cara's message from her song lyrics, the researcher focuses on the contexts and meanings are found in her song lyrics. So the researcher used that theory to describe her message by dissecting the lyrics according to the contexts are used.

F. Previous Studies

There are some theses and journals that discuss semantic analysis on contextual word meaning and the thesis discusses song lyrics to support this research. They are as follows:

Risalatul Hasanah (2020) in her research journal entitled *Analysis of Lexical and Contextual Meaning in Raef's Song Lyric of the Path Album As The Holy Qur'an Values* focused on describing lexical and contextual meaning devices on the lyrics of Raef's songs in "The Path" album. She used the lexical meaning theory by Mansoer Pateda (2001) and concluded that the term lexical meaning is equivalent to term word meaning. Contextual meaning theory by Dash (2005) concluded that there were four types of contexts found on the data, such as local context, sentential context, topical context, and global context. The similarities of Hasanah's journal with this present thesis are that both theses discuss contextual word meaning and both theses analyse lyrics from music albums as the main data, but this current thesis is using non-religious song lyrics while Hasanah uses religious song lyrics, and this current thesis has different problems, a genre of song lyrics as the main data, and objectives.

Lestari (2016) in her thesis entitled *An Analysis Contextual Meaning of Songs by Shane Filan* focused on describing contexts and contextual meaning devices in the lyrics of ten Shane Filan's songs. She used the contextual meaning theory by Mansoer Pateda (2010) and concluded that there were six types of contexts found on the data, such as the context of organ, context of purpose, mood context of speaker or listener, context of the time, and object context. The similarities of Lestari's thesis with this present thesis are both theses discuss the contextual meaning and both theses analyse lyrics from music album as the main data, but this current thesis is using Dash'(2005)'s theory while Lestari uses Mansoer Pateda's(2010) theory, and this current thesis has different problems, objectives and the genre of the song lyrics.

Pauline (2019) in her thesis entitled *Contextual Meaning on My Chemical Romance's Songs: A Semantic Analysis* focused on describing the context and contextual meaning devices in the lyrics of several Chemical Romance's songs. She used the contextual

meaning theory by Lyon's (1977) theory and concluded that there were six types of contextual meaning: the context of person, the context of place, the context of the time, the context of formality, the context of mood, and context of subject-matter. The similarities of Pauline's thesis with this present thesis are both theses discuss the contextual meaning and both theses analyse lyrics from music album as the main data, but this current thesis is using Dash's theory (2005) while Pauline uses Lyon's theory (1977), and this current thesis has different problems, objectives, and the genre of the song lyrics.. The difference between these two theses is the theory used and also the music genre in the analysed data.

The difference between this research and several previous studies above, the researcher developed the studies and the object. Several previous studies use lexical and contextual meaning then applied to the song lyrics. However, this research focuses on contextual word meaning, and the object is song lyrics with non-religious. There is no study of this research before. In this case, the researcher chose Alessia Cara's song lyric in her album "*Knew-It-All*" because there are many contextual word meanings contained in her song lyrics, and many messages that Alessia Cara wants to convey.