

CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ALAN WALKER'S SONG "HERO": A SEMANTIC APPROACH

Ahmad Kirom
FX Sawardi
Supana

Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia
ahmadkirom@student.uns.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe the connotative meaning of the lyrics of the song "Hero" by Alan Walker using a descriptive qualitative approach. This research describes the phenomenon in depth in song lyrics to understand the implicit messages and connotative meanings contained in them. The main source of data is the lyric text "Hero" obtained from the official digital platform. The data was analyzed through the identification of key words, exploration of denotative and connotative meanings, and association with the main theme of the song. The results of the study show that songwriters use various elements of connotative language to convey messages about struggle, hope, courage, and solidarity in facing life's challenges. The connotative meaning in the lyrics of this song reinforces the main theme about the strength of the individual and the importance of collaboration in achieving common goals. This research contributes to understanding how linguistic elements in song lyrics can construct connotative meanings that are relevant to the emotional, social, and cultural context of the listener.

Keywords: connotative meaning, song lyrics, HERO, Alan Walker

INTRODUCTION

Songs are a form of artwork that has high aesthetic value and multidimensional functions. Apart from being an entertainment medium, songs also play a role as a means of emotional expression, conveying messages, and reflecting cultural values (Barthes, 1957). The creative process in song creation usually starts from a certain idea or experience which is then manifested in a combination of musical harmony and meaningful lyrics. With a planned musical structure, songs are able to evoke emotions while offering an aesthetic experience for listeners (Alviana, 2020). As a medium of emotional expression, songs can reflect the mood of their creators and listeners. In song lyrics, personal experiences, life stories, or deep

reflections on various aspects of life are often stored (Putri and Bawemenewi, 2024). Through the listening process, listeners are invited to re-experience certain emotions, be it happiness, sadness, longing, or enthusiasm (Anggraini and Marwan, 2024)

Songs can serve as a means of conveying a message. Many songs raise social, political, or environmental themes that aim to increase public awareness of current issues (Rima Damayanti *et al.*, 2024). Through poetic lyrics and touching melodies, songs are able to convey social criticism, evoke empathy, and encourage change (Lingga, Susanto and Nur, 2023). For example, protest songs are often used as a tool to voice injustice, while songs with the theme of love can encourage peace and unity. In addition, songs are also a reflection of cultural values that are a reflection of the identity of a community or nation (Luker, 2021). Through songs, we can understand the customs, traditions, and life views of a particular society. For example, regional songs contain distinctive elements such as local languages, traditional instruments, and themes related to the daily life of the local community. Thus, songs play an important role in preserving cultural heritage and introducing it to future generations (Blacking, 1973)

Many songs use words with connotative meanings to create deep and emotional lyrics. Connotative meaning can arise from the relationship between the words in the lyrics and the listener's background, such as life experiences, cultural values, or certain feelings (Cutting, 2002). One of them is the song "Hero" by Alan Walker, which contains connotative meanings in his words such as "Hero" which not only refers to a hero literally, but also symbolizes someone who gives hope and strength. The use of this kind of connotation allows listeners to feel a personal emotional experience and provides an artistic dimension that makes the song more memorable. According to Barthes, the function of understanding the meaning of connotation in a song is to identify the hidden meaning in the lyrics and music (Barthes, 1957). Through connotation, we can understand how songs reinforce or criticize certain power structures or social values.

Stephen C. Levinson, in his work on pragmatics, emphasizes the importance of context in understanding the meaning behind speech or text (2017). In songs, connotative meanings often arise from the relationship between the lyrics and the context that surrounds them, including the listener's personal experience, the emotions evoked, and the cultural values attached to certain words. Levinson shows that meaning lies not only in words literally, but also in how they are used to convey a deeper meaning (Levinson, 2017). In song analysis,

this approach allows us to explore implicit meanings that are not always explicit, but can be felt through the use of symbols, metaphors, or poetic expressions in the lyrics (Levinson, 2017). This helps explain how songs can have a mixed emotional impact and interpretation among their listeners.

One of the works that caught the writer's attention was the song HERO by Alan Walker. The song stands out through its blend of electronic music harmonies and evocative lyrics, making it one of the contemporary representations of music with a profound message. The theme carried in this song revolves around struggle, courage, and solidarity, which are relevant to the context of modern life. The message in the lyrics not only inspires listeners but also encourages reflection on the values of courage and togetherness in facing various challenges in life

As a prominent music producer, Alan Walker has a reputation for creating works that combine musical beauty with lyrical narrative depth (Ley 25,632, 2002)k. Hero songs show Alan Walker's prowess in designing musical compositions that support the lyrical message, resulting in a work that is not only entertaining but also meaningful. In this song, Alan Walker uses sophisticated production techniques to highlight dramatic elements, such as smooth but energetic transitions between parts of the song, as well as vocal play that conveys emotions strongly. This combination makes the hero feel like an emotional journey, where listeners are invited to reflect on life's struggles while finding hope and courage to keep going.

The connotative phrase that is widely found in Alan Walker's song "Hero" is the main reason why this song is interesting to analyze in depth. The use of connotative meaning not only enriches the artistic dimension of the song, but also opens up a wide space for interpretation for listeners (Rustandi, Triandy and Harmaen, 2020). The word "hero" itself, for example, has a connotation that goes beyond the literal meaning of being a hero. In the context of a song, the word can symbolize hope, support, courage, or even the role of someone who provides strength in difficult times.

In addition, the other lyrics in this song are also full of metaphorical expressions that describe struggle, fortitude, and emotional connections between individuals. By utilizing connotations, Alan Walker managed to create songs that are not only emotionally touching, but also relevant to the listener's various life experiences. This potential makes the song

"Hero" an ideal object to be analyzed in linguistic, literary, and semiotic studies, because it is able to explore the hidden meaning of each word and phrase.

Through the analysis of connotative expressions, research can reveal how the lyrics in Alan Walker's song "Hero" build an emotional connection with listeners, create a deep impression, and influence their perception of universal themes such as struggle, courage, and heroism. The song has a unique appeal to study, both from an artistic and scientific perspective, as it offers a rich variety of interpretations.

The lyrics in the song "Hero" not only serve as an aesthetic element, but also as a symbolic means of communication that reinforces the moral message. This message is able to motivate listeners to face challenges with courage and optimism, creating a deep emotional experience through the fusion of musical and language elements. The song's focus on the themes of empowerment, struggle, and resilience opens up space for the use of strong metaphors and symbolism to convey the message they want to convey.

For example, phrases like "We are heroes tonight" can be interpreted connotatively. The word "hero" not only refers to an individual who literally becomes a hero, but also symbolizes courage, determination, and struggle against life's challenges. Through this use of connotative meaning, the song "Hero" becomes more than just a piece of music; It becomes a medium that inspires and gives emotional strength to its listeners. This makes the song an interesting object to be analyzed from various perspectives, especially in linguistic and literary studies. This context provides space for listeners to explore deeper meanings, as the phrase can reflect the personal experience of each individual. In addition, the phrase "heroes tonight" also creates a collective feel, which describes solidarity and shared strength in the face of adversity. This shows that courage and struggle do not belong to individuals alone, but can be a common spirit to overcome obstacles and achieve goals.

Through simple yet meaningful word choices, the lyrics in *HERO* not only inspire listeners emotionally, but also invite them to reflect on the meaning of their own lives and struggles. As such, the song offers an aesthetic experience that is not only musical, but also intellectual and emotional, making it a work rich in connotative dimensions.

Some other phrases that are connotative and go beyond the literal meaning in *HERO* lyrics are "we are the heroes of our time" and "standing tall through the fire". This phrase represents the spirit of courage and strength of individuals in the face of obstacles, and hints

at the importance of solidarity in achieving common goals. The use of metaphors in these lyrics is interesting to analyze because it is able to convey a universal message that is emotionally and intellectually relevant.

Furthermore, every phrase in this song is designed to create a personal connection between the lyrics and the listener. For example, phrases like "We will fly above the sky" not only describe freedom literally, but also symbolize success in overcoming limitations and obstacles. By using symbolism that can be translated into various life contexts, the song has a universal appeal that is relevant to various individual backgrounds and experiences.

The Semantic Theory of Connotation proposed by Geoffrey Leech (1981) distinguishes the meaning of words into two types, namely denotative (literal) meaning and connotative meaning (additional emotional or cultural meaning). Denotative meaning refers to the direct and objective meaning of a word, while connotative meaning contains additional layers of meaning related to certain feelings, experiences, and social conventions. According to Leech (1981), connotative meaning can be influenced by emotional factors, personal experiences, and the social and cultural context in which the word is used ('November 2022', 2022)n. Thus, connotative meaning is not only related to the literal meaning of a word, but also includes associations, values, and connotations contained in a culture or community.

In the analysis of song lyrics, this connotation theory is very relevant because song lyrics often contain a deeper meaning than just the literal meaning. To apply this theory, the first step is to identify key words in lyrics that have multiple meanings, both denotatively and connotatively. Then, its denotative meaning is analyzed to understand the literal meaning of the word, while its connotation is explored to see additional layers of meaning that may be related to certain emotions, experiences, or cultural values. One example of the use of connotation in song lyrics can be seen in the sentence "You're my sunshine in the rain," which denotatively refers to someone who gives happiness and warmth in a difficult situation. However, in a connotative context, this phrase describes hope, emotional support, and a source of cheerfulness in the midst of adversity, which is often associated with the meaning of happiness, optimism, and recovery in popular culture.

The use of this connotation theory is not only limited to direct and explicit song lyrics. Many songs use metaphors, symbolism, or images that allow listeners to draw deeper meanings. For example, in song lyrics that contain phrases like "We are heroes tonight," the

word "heroes" not only refers to heroes literally, but also symbolizes struggle and courage in facing life's challenges. This is in line with Leech's (1974) opinion that connotative meanings in a text often include broader emotional, social, and cultural aspects, thus opening up space for listeners to relate those meanings to their personal experiences.

Leech (1974) also emphasizes the importance of context in determining connotative meaning. The connotation of a word or phrase can vary depending on the context in which the word is used. In song lyrics, the connotative meaning is often influenced by the genre of the music, the social context of the listener, and the individual's interpretation of the message that the song creator wants to convey. Therefore, the analysis of the lyrical connotations of a song should consider the cultural background and experience of its listeners, as well as how they interpret the symbolism or metaphors used.

Connotation theory can also be complemented by other perspectives from other experts, such as Barthes (1977), who argued that connotative meanings in cultural texts are often not fixed, but rather open to a wide range of interpretations. The meaning contained in symbolism or metaphor can vary depending on who interprets it, where, and in what cultural context it appears. Thus, the connotation in the lyrics of the song can provide space for readers or listeners to create a richer and more complex understanding of the message they want to convey.

This theory is also in line with the view of Eco (1976), who argues that symbolism in cultural texts can open up the possibility of deeper meanings and lead readers to understand the world through a broader perspective. In the context of a song, this means that each lyric or symbol can have a variety of meanings, which more than just meet the needs of entertainment, but also convey a moral, social, or even political message.

As such, connotative semantic analysis of song lyrics, especially those laden with metaphors and symbolism, not only helps to reveal the implied emotional meaning, but also provides deeper insights into how musical art can serve as a mirror to existing cultural and social values. For example, in the song "You're my sunshine in the rain," its connotative meaning not only provides a picture of happiness in difficult circumstances, but also reflects an important concept in psychology and popular culture regarding the search for happiness in stressful conditions (Leech, 1974; Eco, 1976; Barthes, 1977).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to describe the connotative meaning contained in the lyrics of the song "HERO" by Alan Walker. The descriptive qualitative approach was chosen because the main purpose of this research is to explore and deeply understand the implicit messages and connotative meanings in each verse of the song's lyrics. This approach allows researchers to analyze and explain the semantic aspects of song lyrics in depth without altering or manipulating existing data. This type of research is descriptive research with semantic analysis. This research aims to comprehensively describe and analyze the meanings contained in the lyrics of the song "HERO", especially those that are connotative, which can include deeper emotional, social, and cultural meanings.

The main source of data in this study is the lyric text of the song "HERO" by Alan Walker. The lyrics of this song are taken from trusted official online media, such as Alan Walker's official website or digital music platforms that provide accurate song lyrics. In addition, secondary data can be obtained through reference to relevant semantic theories, connotations, and interpretations of songs. Data collection is carried out by two main techniques; documentation and in-depth observation. At the documentation stage, researchers collected the lyric text of the song "HERO" from legitimate and verified online sources. This lyric became the main basis in connotative semantic analysis. In the in-depth observation stage, the researcher listened to the song "HERO" repeatedly to understand the musical context and emotions that he wanted to convey through the lyrics. This process also involves taking notes about musical elements that may support the meaning of the lyrics, such as rhythm, tempo, and melody.

The data analysis process in this study is carried out through several systematic steps. First, the researcher identified words or phrases in the lyrics of *the HERO song* that have potential connotative meanings. These words often contain meanings that go beyond their literal meaning, for example through the use of metaphors, symbolism, or certain cultural associations. Furthermore, each word or phrase that has been identified is analyzed to find its denotative meaning (literal meaning) as well as its connotative meaning (additional meaning related to emotion or culture). Researchers examined how the words could have multiple meanings or deeper emotional interpretations. This analysis is then contextualized with the main theme of the song, namely the concept of "hero," struggle, and the values conveyed in the song. The researcher also considers the role of musical elements in strengthening or deepening the connotative meaning contained in the lyrics. Finally, this analysis is compared

with Geoffrey Leech's (1974) semantic theory, specifically regarding the difference between denotative and connotative meanings, to provide a theoretical framework that supports the interpretation of meaning in the lyrics of the song.

FINDINGS

In this section, the lyrics of *the song HERO* by Alan Walker will be presented and analyzed to identify expressions that contain connotative meanings. Each sentence in each stanza will be analyzed to explore the meaning contained, both from the denotative and connotative aspects. Next, an interpretation will be given to each verse as a whole, by connecting it to the message that the song wants to convey. In the end, conclusions will be drawn based on the results of this analysis to provide a deeper understanding of the connotative meaning in *the song HERO* and how it supports the main theme of the song related to struggle, hope, and courage.

Lyrics of the song "Hero"

Been here before, it's in my muscle memory

I'm pretty sure I recognize you

There is somethin' in your eyes

Won't let you get away tonight

You leave me in the dark

I'm stumblin' around like I'm a question mark

Wonderin' if you're around to catch me if I fall

If I come crashin' to the wall

Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?

I need someone before the sun goes down

Who's gonna save me now?

Some kind of hero

I can't breathe

Hopin' you're here to rescue me

Before the sun goes down

Who's gonna save me now?

Some kind of hero

Been here before, it's in my muscle memory

I'm pretty sure I've felt this energy

There's somethin' in your touch
 Somethin' reminded me of us
 Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?
 I need someone before the sun goes down
 Who's gonna save me now?
 Some kind of hero
 I can't breathe
 Hopin' you're here to rescue me
 Before the sun goes down
 Who's gonna save me now?
 Some kind of hero
 Some kind of hero

According to the lyrics of the song, there are data findings regarding connotative expressions contained in the lyrics of *the song HERO* by Alan Walker. These expressions have been analyzed to identify deeper connotative meanings, which not only reflect literal meanings, but also convey deep emotions, symbolism, and cultural associations. Each phrase in this table is selected based on its ability to convey implicit messages that reinforce the song's big themes, such as struggle, hope, and individual strength in facing life's challenges. These findings are the basis for understanding how songwriters use connotative language to evoke feelings and enrich the message they want to convey to listeners.

The following is an explanation of the findings of the expression of connotative meaning in the song "Hero"

NO	LYRICS	DENOTATIVE MEANING	CONNOTATIVE MEANING
1	"Been here before"	Have been in this place before.	Experiencing a similar situation or feeling in the past.
2	"It's in my muscle memory"	Stored in my muscle memory.	A familiar experience or action performed automatically without thinking.
3	"I'm pretty sure I recognize you"	I'm pretty sure I know you.	Indicates a sense of closeness or recognition of someone, not just physically but also emotionally.

4	"There is somethin' in your eyes"	There is something in your eyes.	Describes visible emotional signs or expressions, such as doubt, love, or unspoken attention.
5	"Won't let you get away tonight"	Won't let you leave tonight.	Expresses the desire to maintain the relationship or moment, showing strong feelings of not letting go.
6	"You leave me in the dark"	You leave me in the darkness.	Refers to feelings of confusion or lack of direction, both emotionally and situationally, due to uncertainty.
7	"I'm stumblin' around like I'm a question mark"	I'm stumbling around like a question mark.	Depicts confusion in a puzzling situation, searching for answers or direction with great uncertainty.
8	"Wonderin' if you're around to catch me if I fall"	Wondering if you're here to catch me if I fall.	Refers to the need for emotional support from someone during life's challenges or difficulties.
9	"Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?"	Will you light me up, revive my heart?	Asking someone to reignite lost passion, love, or hope, providing a boost to feel happiness again.
10	"I need someone before the sun goes down"	I need someone before the sun sets.	Represents an urgent need for help or emotional support before it's too late or in a state of pressure and loneliness.
11	"Who's gonna save me now?"	Who will save me now?	Reflects doubt or uncertainty about who will provide help or support in moments of hardship or difficulty.
12	"Some kind of hero"	Some type of hero.	Describes someone expected to act as a savior, offering help, inspiration, or encouragement in life's challenges.
13	"I can't breathe"	I can't breathe.	Describes a feeling of suffocation or being overwhelmed, physically or emotionally, in stressful situations.
14	"Hopin' you're here to rescue me"	Hoping you're here to save me.	Describes hope for the presence of someone who can provide help or protection in tough situations.
15	"Before the sun goes down"	Before the sun sets.	Indicates urgency and limited time to receive help or support before it's too late.
16	"Some kind of hero"	Some type of hero.	Expresses hope for someone who can provide assistance during difficulties or challenges.

In this section, each line of lyrics from a *HERO* song will be analyzed to reveal the connotative meaning contained in it. Each line will be outlined to understand the message it wants to convey through the use of deeper language, which includes the emotions and values contained in the lyrics. Next, the analysis will continue with an interpretation of each verse as a whole, to describe the broader meaning and how each part of the song is interconnected to reinforce the main theme of the song.

Verse 1

Sentence (English)	Translation (Indonesian)
Been here before, it's in my muscle memory	I've experienced this before; it's already in my memory.
I'm pretty sure I recognize you	I'm quite sure I know you.
There is somethin' in your eyes	There's something in your eyes.
Won't let you get away tonight	I won't let you leave tonight.

The meaning of the song from this verse is "I have experienced this before, it seems to have been embedded in my memory. I'm pretty sure I know you. There's something in your eyes that makes me feel as if we're connected, and I won't let you just leave tonight.

In the section "It's in my muscle memory," there is a connotation that this feeling or experience feels so familiar and has become a part of it, as if it has been embedded in his memory, like a body memory. In addition, "There is somethin' in your eyes" can be interpreted as a deeper feeling or emotional connection that is felt through eye contact, not just ordinary sights.

Verse 2

Sentence (English)	Translation (Indonesian)
You leave me in the dark	You leave me in the dark.
I'm stumblin' around like I'm a question mark	I'm stumbling around like I'm a question mark.
Wonderin' if you're around to catch me if I	Wondering if you're around to catch me if I

fall	fall.
If I come crashin' to the wall	If I crash into the wall.

The meaning of the song from this verse is "you left me in the dark, I staggered as if it was a question mark. I wonder if you'll be there to catch me if I fall, or if I hit a wall.

In the "You leave me in the dark" section, there is a connotation of confusion or a sense of disorientation, as if the person is in a gloomy or unclear emotional state. The phrase "I'm stumblin' around like I'm a question mark" implies deep uncertainty or confusion, where the speaker feels confused and doesn't know what to do, like a question without an answer.

Bait 3

Kalimat (Bahasa Inggris)	Terjemahan (Bahasa Indonesia)
Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?	Akankah kamu menyalakan semangatku, menghidupkan kembali hatiku?
I need someone before the sun goes down	Aku butuh seseorang sebelum matahari terbenam
Who's gonna save me now?	Siapa yang akan menyelamatkanku sekarang?
Some kind of hero	Semacam pahlawan

The meaning of the song in this verse is "will you ignite my spirit, revive my heart? I need someone before the sun goes down. Who is going to save me now? A kind of hero.

In the sentence "Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?", there is a connotation that the speaker feels that he has lost his spirit or life, and he hopes that there is someone who can revive his passion for life. The sentence "I need someone before the sun goes down" adds a sense of urgency, where the speaker feels that he needs help or rescue in a very limited time. The sentence "Who's going to save me now? "Some kind of hero" describes the hope of the presence of someone who can be a savior or hero in his life.

Verse 4

Sentences (English)	Translation (Indonesian)
I can't breathe	I can't breathe
Hopin' you're here to rescue me	Hope you're here to save me

Before the sun goes down	Before sunset
Who's gonna save me now?	Who is going to save me now?
Some kind of hero	A kind of hero

The meaning of the song in this verse is "I can't breathe, hope you are here to save me before the sun goes down. Who is going to save me now? Kind of a hero."

In the sentence "I can't breathe", there is a connotation of feeling depressed or very deep difficulties, such as losing hope or being emotionally overwhelmed. "Hopin' you're here to rescue me" shows the hope of someone who can provide help or restore calm. The phrase "Who's going to save me now?" shows the despair and confusion of the speaker who feels that there is no way out, while "Some kind of hero" contains the hope of the presence of a savior who can provide solutions or help in very difficult situations.

Verse 5

Sentences (English)	Translation (Indonesian)
Been here before, it's in my muscle memory	Having been here before, it's already in my memory (physically)
I'm pretty sure I've felt this energy	I'm pretty sure I've felt this energy
There's somethin' in your touch	There's something in your touch
Somethin' reminded me of us	Something reminds me of us

The meaning of the song in this verse is "having been here before, it has been embedded in my memory, as if it has become a part of me. I'm pretty sure I've felt this energy, and there's something in your touch that reminds me of us."

In the sentence "Been here before, it's in my muscle memory", there is a connotation that this feeling is very familiar and feels like it has become a part of the speaker, like a memory embedded in his body. "There's somethin' in your touch" means that the person's touch has a deep emotional power, reminding the speaker of a relationship or past memory that is meaningful to them

Verse 6

Sentences (English)	Translation (Indonesian)
Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?	Will you ignite my spirit, revive my heart?

I need someone before the sun goes down	I need someone before the sun goes down
Who's gonna save me now?	Who is going to save me now?
Some kind of hero	A kind of hero

The meaning of the song in this verse is "will you ignite my spirit, revive my heart? I need someone before the sun goes down. Who is going to save me now? Kind of a hero."

In the sentence "Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?", there is a connotation that the speaker feels mired in despair or loses the passion for life, and hopes that someone can revive his spirit. "I need someone before the sun goes down" shows a sense of urgency, where the speaker feels that he desperately needs help before the time runs out. The phrase "Who's going to save me now?" describes confusion and despair, while "Some kind of hero" contains hope for someone who can save him from a difficult situation.

DISCUSSION

The Hero song by Alan Walker is loaded with connotative meanings that are very significant in building emotional and thematic messages. In the first verse, the song describes an emotional experience full of nostalgia and deep recognition through phrases such as "*Been here before*" and "*It's in my muscle memory*". These sentences indicate that the speaker is dealing with familiar feelings, while phrases such as "*There is somethin' in your eyes*" signify a strong emotional connection, showing a desire to maintain the presence of someone meaningful in his or her life.

In the second stanza, the theme of uncertainty and hope becomes dominant with lyrics such as "*You leave me in the dark*" and "*I'm stumblin' around like I'm a question mark*". This phrase uses metaphors to describe the speaker's deep confusion, as if he is looking for an answer to a difficult situation. The connotative meaning is further felt through the phrase "*Wonderin' if you're around to catch me if I fall*", which emphasizes the need for emotional support amid a sense of vulnerability in humans.

The third stanza continues the plea for the presence of a savior with lyrics such as "*Will you light me up, jumpstart my heart?*". This sentence has the connotation of hope to revive the dying spirit of life. The urgency for help is further emphasized by the phrase "*I need someone before the sun goes down*", which reflects the limitation of time. In the lyrics "*Some*

kind of hero", the speaker expresses hope for someone who can be an inspiration and protector, a symbol of the strength needed to face life's challenges.

In the fourth stanza, the song reaches the peak of despair with lyrics like *"I can't breathe"*, which expresses heavy and urgent emotional distress. The phrase *"Hopin' you're here to rescue me"* further reinforces the speaker's great hopes of being rescued from a stressful situation. With the repetition of *"Before the sun goes down"*, the song creates an urgent atmosphere that depicts the speaker's desperation.

The fifth stanza provides a reminder of the past through phrases like *"There's somethin' in your touch"*, which revives the speaker's emotional memories with someone who once had a great influence in his life. Overall, the song reveals a big theme about the struggle against loneliness, uncertainty, and emotional vulnerability.

Connotative meaning plays a central role in reinforcing these themes by conveying deep emotions and universal symbolism (Luker, 2021). Phrases like *"I can't breathe"* and *"You leave me in the dark"* build a strong emotional connection with listeners, while metaphors like *"jumpstart my heart"* create a more symbolic visualization of life's struggles. In doing so, the song manages to keep listeners' imaginations alive, inspire them to face their own life challenges, and make *Hero* more than just entertainment—it's a work full of meaning and emotional power.

The song *Hero* by Alan Walker contains a deep connotative meaning, which is the main force in conveying his emotional message. Each element of the lyrics depicts a universal human experience, such as hope, vulnerability, struggle, and the need for support. Through the use of metaphors and symbolism, the song is able to reach the listener's emotions and create a powerful resonance. For example, phrases like *"Before the sun goes down"* not only imply time constraints, but also contain a universal message of urgency in facing life's challenges before it's too late.

The connotative meaning in this song is also very important in building an emotional connection with the audience (Blacking, 1973). The lyrics make use of relatable human experiences, such as feelings of confusion, disorientation, or looking for someone who can provide help. In addition, this song presents an interesting duality between weakness and strength. Although the lyrics highlight emotional vulnerabilities, such as hopelessness or

heavy pressure, the song also implies the courage to seek hope and move on with life. With symbols such as "*Hero*" representing savior or inspiration, the song suggests that courage often comes in the form of hope and a need for support.

Overall, "*Hero*" is not only a musical work, but also a representation of the emotional journey of humans. Through its rich connotative language, the song is able to provide a deep and meaningful experience for listeners, inspiring them to bravely face life's challenges and find strength in emotional relationships with others. The meaning conveyed by this song is relevant in various cultural and emotional contexts, making it a universal and valuable work.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Alan Walker's *song Hero* is a deeply emotional representation of struggle, hope, and need for support. With a rich connotative meaning, the song not only depicts human vulnerability but also highlights the courage to seek hope in the midst of adversity. Through the universal use of metaphor and symbolism, the song creates a strong emotional connection with the listener, allowing them to feel and reflect on the experiences depicted in the lyrics. The message conveyed is universal, reminding us that in the journey of life, strength is often found through relationships with others and the determination to keep fighting. As a work of art, *Hero* is not only entertainment, but also an inspiration that evokes emotions and provides hope for anyone who hears it.

Connotative meaning in the song enhances its emotional appeal, allowing listeners to deeply feel the messages conveyed in each line. This use of connotation brings the theme of vulnerability and hope to life, making the lyrics more relatable and touching. By employing metaphors such as "light me up" and "before the sun goes down," the song delivers a deeper and more powerful visual and emotional impact beyond the literal meanings. The connotations within the lyrics also make the song's message universal, enabling listeners from diverse backgrounds to connect with its themes of struggle, support, and interpersonal relationships. Furthermore, the connotation strengthens the connection between the song and its audience, as it portrays feelings and situations that resonate emotionally. Ultimately, the connotation transforms the song into a medium of inspiration, allowing it to serve not only as a musical piece but also as a source of motivation and relevance to listeners' lives.

REFERENCES

- Alviana, L. (2020) 'Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyrics'.
- Anggraini, E.F. and Marwan, I. (2024) 'Makna Konotatif Lirik Lagu " Berisik " Karya Dere dan Tulus'.
- Barthes, R. (1957) *Mythologies*. MYTHOLOGIES Roland Barthes Selected and translated from the French by ANNETTE LAVERS THE NOONDAY PRESS - NEW YORK: MYTHOLOGIES Roland Barthes Selected and translated from the French by ANNETTE LAVERS THE NOONDAY PRESS - NEW YORK FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX 2.
- Blacking, J. (1973) *How Music is Man?*
- Cutting, J. (2002) *Pragmatics and Discourse, Sustainability (Switzerland)*. Florence, KY, USA: Routledge. Available at:
<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/keris/Doc?id=10016807&page=1>.
- Leech, G. (1981) 'Semantics, The Study of Meaning'.
- Levinson (2017) 'Pragmatic', *The Fragmentary Latin Poets* [Preprint]. Available at:
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oseo/instance.00076667>.
- Ley 25.632 (2002) 'Analisis Makna Konotatif Pada Kumpulan Puisi Ketika Cinta Bicarakarya Kahlil Gibran', 2(1).
- Lingga, N., Susanto, A. and Nur, T. (2023) 'Analisis Ragam Makna Denotatif Dan Konotatif Film " Ayat - Ayat Cinta " Karya Hanung Bramantyo : Kajian', *Jurnal Perspektif*, 2(2), pp. 205–213.
- Luker, M.J. (2021) *Tango As Intangible Cultural Heritage: , Audible Empire*. Available at:
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11smhd0.14>.
- 'November 2022' (2022) *TAPPI Journal*, 21(11), pp. 204–207. Available at:
<https://doi.org/10.32964/tj21.11>.
- Putri, E. and Bawemenewi, S. (2024) 'Analysis of figurative language in "Rewrite the Stars" song lyrics', *Pragmatica*, 2(1), pp. 1–8. Available at:
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.60153/pragmatica.v2i1.53>.
- Rima Damayanti *et al.* (2024) 'Analisis Makna Konotatif Dalam Lagu Cundamani Karya Denny Caknan : Kajian Semiotik', *Jurnal Onoma: Pendidikan, Bahasa, dan Sastra*, 10(1), pp. 933–942. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.30605/onoma.v10i1.3398>.
- Rustandi, A., Triandy, R. and Harmaen, D. (2020) 'Analisis Semiotika Makna Kerinduan pada Lirik Lagu "Hanya Rindu" Karya Andmesh Kamaleng', *Jurnal Metabasa*, 2(2), pp. 64–71.