

**ANALYSIS OF DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION MEANINGS  
IN THE SONG LYRIC “LA LA LOST YOU”  
BY NICOLE ZEFANYA (NIKI)**

**\*Annisa Ghaisani Dzatil Hidayah<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Rayhan Bustam<sup>2</sup>**

Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Komputer Indonesia,  
Jl. Dipati Ukur 112-116, Bandung, Indonesia  
[annisa.63719006@mahasiswa.unikom.ac.id](mailto:annisa.63719006@mahasiswa.unikom.ac.id)

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to examine the meaning of denotation and connotations in the lyrics of the song La La Lost You by NIKI solo singer from Indonesia who Go International. The formulation of the problem in this study is first. How is the denotation meaning of the lyrics of the song La La Lost You by NIKI? second What is the connotation of the lyrics of the song La La Lost You by NIKI? third What is the short meaning of the lyrics of the song La La Lost You by NIKI? and the method used in this research is to use a qualitative descriptive approach to reveal the meaning of denotation and connotation. The technique of data collection was done by using sentence expression analysis. While the data analysis technique is Roland Barthes Semiotics analysis. This study concludes that first, the connotative meaning contained in the lyrics of the song La La Lost You by NIKI is to tell about the bitter taste of being in a relationship with a lover who eventually has to break up, but he is often curious about how his ex is doing. Second, the denotative meaning contained in the song is telling about enjoying the beautiful sunset and thinking if he is on the subway and if I am driving will he take the L-train.

**Keywords: Connotation, Denotation, La La Lost You lyric, Meaning, Roland Barthes**

**INTRODUCTION**

Songs are part of literary works; songs are included in poetry type literature. Literature is a work of fiction resulting from creations based on spontaneous emotional outbursts that are able to reveal aspects of beauty or aesthetics, both in terms of linguistic aspects and in terms of meaning aspects. As we know that the song cannot be separated from the discussion of meaning. Songwriters usually make songs that vary in tone and lyrics. Meaning can be interpreted as an attempt to give meaning to something that will form a separate concept. The meaning contained in the song is the songwriter's way of expressing his thoughts through a distinctive language by showing the soul and personality of the author.

Nicole Zefanya, also known by her stage name NIKI, is an Indonesian singer-songwriter and record producer. Together with Rich Brian, Niki is a singer from Indonesia who is under the umbrella of a record label from the United States, namely 88rising. Previously, Niki's songs had also successfully penetrated Go International, such as the title songs 'Lowkey', 'Indigo', and 'I Like U'. In addition, in 2019 Niki released the song 'La La Lost You' and the music video also managed to make netizens excited in one scene, namely when NIKI was eating instant noodles in practical packaging from Indonesia. In the 40th second in the music video, it looks like NIKI is reminiscing about her good times while enjoying Mie Sedaap Cup with her ex-lover. However, since being separated from her ex-lover, NIKI has only enjoyed the cup-packaged instant noodles alone. The

meaning of the song La La Lost You can be analyzed using various approaches, one of which is using a semantic study that connects the meaning of denotation and connotation. The meaning of denotation is the meaning in accordance with the original meaning, without any shift in meaning or change in meaning (Wridah, 2008: 294). While connotative meaning is the opposite of denotative meaning, while connotative meaning is figurative meaning or meaning that is not true. And myth is a message, a marker to play certain messages that may be completely different from the original meaning. Therefore, the title of this research is "Analysis of the Meaning of Denotation, Connotation, Myth in the Song "La La Lost You" by Nicole Zefanya (NIKI).

## **METHOD**

The method used in this research is a descriptive method qualitative, that is to make something that systematic, factual, and accurate regarding the facts and nature of the relationship or certain areas (Suryabrata, 2003: 75). Bustam (2020) said that this desk research method is considered the most suitable for conducting this kind of research. Techniques in this research using data analysis techniques. This data taken from the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI, this will be analyzed and solved according to the theory used by researchers. Data collection techniques that the technique used is the result of observation and listen to the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI. Observation is conduct research directly to the object research to take a close look activities performed. the format compiled containing items format that compiled containing items about events or behavior that will occur (Arikunto, 1997: 204). Data analysis techniques that carried out in this study, are by translating more first the lyrics of the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI into Indonesian with the aim is to make it easier for researchers to analyze the meaning contained in in the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI. Then, the researchers collected and analyze the meaning of each sentence contained in the lyric stanza of the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI.

## **RESULTS**

Analysis of the meaning of the song La La Lost You by NIKI using the semiotic theory of Roland Barthes to determine the meaning of denotation and connotation. Analysis of the denotation and connotation of the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI. The analysis of the meaning of denotation and connotation in the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory is as follows:

**Table 1. Translation of The Song "La La Lost You" by NIKI**

<b>In English</b>	<b>In Indonesia</b>
While I'm on Sunset, are you on the subway?	<i>Saat saya di Sunset, apakah Anda di kereta bawah tanah?</i>
While I drive, are you gettin' on the L-train?	
I mean, Manhattan's nice, but so are Malibu nights	<i>Saat saya mengemudi, apakah Anda naik L-train?</i>  <i>Maksudku, Manhattan bagus, tapi begitu juga malam Malibu</i>
You would know if you stayed	<i>Anda akan tahu jika Anda tinggal</i>
You would know if you put up a fight	

In English	In Indonesia
Your toes turn blue in winter, I'm gettin' red, rum	<i>Anda akan tahu jika Anda melakukan perlawanan Jari kakimu membiru di musim dingin, aku jadi merah, rum</i>
Does the trick for all of the things left unsaid, I'm Missin' our drunken 2 A.M. strolls in K-Town Now you're chasing fake highs in the Upper West Side	<i>Apakah trik untuk semua hal yang tidak terungkap, saya Merindukan jam 2 pagi kami yang mabuk jalan-jalan di K-Town Sekarang Anda sedang mengejar harga tertinggi palsu di Upper West Side</i>
And fuckin' on Brooklyns in Brooklyn Your Chelseas in Chelsea Hope that eases the pain, so you remember to miss me	<i>Dan sialan di Brooklyns di Brooklyn Chelsea Anda di Chelsea Semoga itu meringankan rasa sakit, jadi kamu ingat untuk merindukanku</i>
And you sold your car, now you walk for miles Bet your feet feel numb (Crosswalks in my mind are shaky, so please hold on tight)	<i>Dan Anda menjual mobil Anda, sekarang Anda berjalan bermil-mil Taruhan kakimu mati rasa (Persimpangan dalam pikiranku goyah, jadi tolong pegang erat-erat)</i>
All my demons run wild All my demons have your smile In the city of angels, in the city of angels	<i>Semua iblis saya menjadi liar Semua iblisku memiliki senyummu Di kota bidadari, di kota bidadari</i>
Hope New York holds you Hope it holds you like I do While my demons stay faithful In the city of angels	<i>Semoga New York memelukmu Semoga itu memegang Anda seperti yang saya lakukan Sementara iblis saya tetap setia Di kota bidadari</i>
Summer's endin' now and the nights are coolin' down Remember last winter when we would drive around? Silverlake, Hollywood, pretty little white lies got me good	<i>Musim panas berakhir sekarang dan malam semakin dingin Ingat musim dingin lalu ketika kita akan berkeliling? Silverlake, Hollywood, kebohongan putih kecil yang cantik membuatku baik</i>
Thought this was love, I was misunderstood, mmm Feelin' low on the low, drivin' through NoHo If I'm honest, I'd call, but I'm trying to let go	<i>Kupikir ini cinta, aku salah paham, mmm Merasa rendah di bawah, mengemudi melalui NoHo Jika saya jujur, saya akan menelepon, tetapi saya mencoba untuk melepaskannya</i>

In English	In Indonesia
And I hope you're happy, livin' life in taxis But you'll always have me, you'll always have me	<i>Dan saya harap Anda bahagia, menjalani hidup dengan taksi</i>  <i>Tapi kamu akan selalu memilikiku, kamu akan selalu memilikiku</i>

## DISCUSSION

After the song "La La Lost You" is translated into Indonesian as shown in the table above, the next step is to interpret the meaning of denotation and connotation in the form of a table as follows:

**Table 2. The Meaning of Denotation and Connotation in the song "La La Lost You"**

Song Lyrics	Denotation Meaning	Connotation Meaning
While I'm on Sunset, are you on the subway?	Between Los Angeles and New York. These lyrics explain how he is very different from his ex-girlfriend, analogous to Los Angeles and New York. The lyrics mention Sunset, not the literal meaning of sunset, Sunset here refers to the boulevard in central and western Los Angeles. Los Angeles is a city with a stereotype of a city full of cars, in contrast to New York, a business city with public transportation access, namely the subway. That's how he stated how he and his ex had separated from a distance.	The bitterness of the relationship between lovers where the girl who broke up with her ex asks about her ex and she hopes her ex is okay because the girl is fine.
While I drive, are you gettin' on the L-train?		
I mean, Manhattan's nice, but so are Malibu nights		
You would know if you stayed	This lyric explains that Niki reminisces about the time with her ex-lover, how her lover should be able to stay with her if some effort is made. Talking about their memories of being drunk in K-Town, LA at 2 am. Now you're chasing fake highs in the Upper West Side, it can be interpreted that the ex-lover is looking for things that are uncertain on the Upper West Side, a settlement in New York.	His ex stays away from him but unfortunately the ex doesn't feel the love like when he was with Niki. Remembering things we often do together.
You would know if you put up a fight		
Your toes turn blue in winter, I'm gettin' red, rum		
Does the trick for all of the things left unsaid, I'm		
Missin' our drunken 2 A.M. strolls in K-Town		

Song Lyrics	Denotation Meaning	Connotation Meaning
Now you're chasing fake highs in the Upper West Side		
And fuckin' on Brooklyns in Brooklyn	This lyric describes a woman who is incredibly beautiful and Brooklyn as a city in New York, NIKI tells of a lover who has moved on to a woman in Brooklyn.	The ex had found another woman in another city. But niki hopes that her ex still misses her. And ease the pain
Your Chelseas in Chelsea		
Hope that eases the pain, so you remember to miss me		
And you sold your car, now you walk for miles	This lyric explains that selling a car can be a metaphor that the ex-lover leaves NIKI and is empty. The ex-lover who walked on regret left him.	Sell valuables without a second thought. The ex walks with regret and empty.
Bet your feet feel numb		
(Crosswalks in my mind are shaky, so please hold on tight)		
All my demons run wild	This lyric explains that the shadow of an ex-lover still haunts NIKI, she still remembers the smile of her ex-lover. He prayed for his lover to be comfortable and at home in New York. Although, the shadow of her former lover still haunts NIKI in the city of angels, namely Los Angeles.	The image of the former still haunts Niki's mind. Niki in her city of angels still can't forget her ex's smile. With the distance, Niki still prays for her ex to be comfortable and at home in that city.
All my demons have your smile In the city of angels, in the city of angels		
Hope New York holds you		
Hope it holds you like I do		
While my demons stay faithful In the city of angels		
Summer's endin' now and the nights are coolin' down	This lyric describes the summer passing, the night is a very hard thing to remember. How about winter, NIKI and her ex-lover together go around the city. Silverlake, Hollywood is the part of Los Angeles where the lover's lies that give NIKI pleasure, which in fact she misunderstands it all.	Summer has passed. Every night is a very hard thing for Niki because every winter comes, Niki and her ex always go around town together. But behind it all there is a happy lie that in fact misunderstands it all.
Remember last winter when we would drive around?		
Silverlake, Hollywood, pretty little white lies got me good		
Thought this was love, I was misunderstood, mmm		

Song Lyrics	Denotation Meaning	Connotation Meaning
<p>Feelin' low on the low, drivin' through NoHo</p> <p>If I'm honest, I'd call, but I'm trying to let go</p> <p>And I hope you're happy, livin' life in taxis</p> <p>But you'll always have me, you'll always have me</p>	<p>This lyric explains that not only he feels down, but his lover also feels sorry for his choice. NoHo, short for North of Houston Street (as SoHo, South of Houston) is a neighborhood in the borough of Manhattan, New York City. NIKI still hopes for the happiness of her ex-lover.</p>	<p>Niki feels down and it turns out that her ex also feels sorry. Regret is always at the end. But NIKI still hopes for the happiness of her ex-lover.</p>
<p>All my demons run wild</p> <p>All my demons have your smile</p> <p>In the city of angels, in the city of angels</p> <p>Hope New York holds you</p> <p>Hope it holds you like I do</p> <p>While my demons stay faithful</p> <p>In the city of angels</p>	<p>This lyric explains that NIKI reveals again, that this is hard for her because again there are still shadows of her ex-lover in the city of Los Angeles where she lives.</p>	<p>Once again, remembering the shadow of someone you once loved is the hardest thing, especially considering you still live in the city of angles.</p>

It can be seen that the meaning of denotation can be taken from each stanza. In the first stanza there is the word fool in Indonesian, which is stupid in the Big Dictionary Indonesian language (KBBI) online means having no knowledge. Furthermore, the word truth in Indonesian is the truth which in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) online means honesty. Furthermore, the word changed in Indonesian is changed which is in the Big Language Dictionary Indonesia (KBBI) online means to be Something else. next, said reason in Indonesian is the reason that in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) online means things that become impetus to action. Furthermore, the word pain in Indonesian is taste in the Big Language Dictionary Indonesia (KBBI) online means response sense of nervous stimulation. Next word deep error Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) online means unintentionally doing something. Next the word love in Indonesian language is deep love Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) online means really like it. Furthermore, the word bless in Indonesian is a blessing in the Big Language Dictionary Indonesian (KBBI) online means gift God who brings good to human life. And the last one namely the word curse in Indonesian i.e. the curse that is in the Great Dictionary Indonesian (KBBI) online means oath.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research using the study of Semiotics Roland Barthes on the meaning of denotation and connotation in the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI researchers found the following conclusions:

1. The meaning of denotation in the lyrics of the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI is about the bitterness of his lover for leaving him and the place where they built their relationship. On the other hand, in this song, he expresses all his emotional feelings after breaking up from a toxic relationship.
2. The meaning of connotation in the lyrics of the song "La La Lost You" by NIKI is that moving on is not easy, but that doesn't mean we can't move on. This song also teaches us that we should be grateful for what we have, love those who have loved us completely because we will not know that out there we will not necessarily find the same person as before.
3. Songs have contextual meaning, denotative meaning, and connotative meaning. Every song that has this meaning must be motivated by several aspects of life.

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