

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of writing. The study focuses on analyzing denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of Parachutes by Coldplay through the theories proposed by George Yule and (Geoffrey Leech, 1981).

1.1 Background of Research

Denotative and connotative meanings are important topics in semantic studies because they help people understand meanings contained in words, phrases, and expressions more deeply. In literary works such as song lyrics, meanings are often delivered indirectly through symbolic, poetic, and emotional language. Songwriters frequently use figurative expressions to represent emotions, experiences, and personal perspectives. As a result, listeners cannot always interpret song lyrics only through literal meanings because many expressions contain implied meanings and emotional associations. Therefore, semantic analysis becomes important to reveal how meanings are constructed and represented through language in song lyrics.

In semantic studies, (George Yule, 2006) explains that denotative meaning refers to the literal or dictionary meaning of a word, while connotative meaning refers to the additional meanings associated with emotions, experiences, cultural values, and personal interpretations. Denotative meaning helps readers understand the direct meaning of language expressions, whereas connotative meaning allows readers to interpret implied meanings beyond the literal sense. In song lyrics, these two meanings are closely related because songwriters tend to combine literal expressions with symbolic and emotional language in order to create aesthetic effects and deeper emotional impressions. Therefore, the analysis of denotative and connotative meanings is necessary to interpret not only the literal meaning of the lyrics but also the emotional and symbolic messages represented through the

language.

This research also applies the theory proposed by (Geoffrey Leech, 1981) to support the interpretation of emotional meaning in song lyrics. According to Leech, meaning is not only limited to conceptual meaning but also includes affective meaning, which reflects the speaker's feelings, attitudes, and emotional responses conveyed through language. In this study, Leech's theory is used as a supporting framework to interpret the emotional representations reflected through denotative and connotative meanings found in the lyrics. Therefore, the integration of Yule's theory of meaning and Leech's affective meaning provides a more comprehensive understanding of how meanings and emotions are constructed in song lyrics.

Furthermore, this research is related to semantic compositionality because meanings in song lyrics are not produced solely by individual words but also by the relationships among words, phrases, and contexts. In song lyrics, a single expression may convey different meanings depending on its contextual use and emotional association. Therefore, understanding denotative and connotative meanings requires interpretation beyond dictionary definitions. This study emphasizes semantic interpretation to examine how linguistic expressions contribute to the construction of emotional representations within the lyrics.

Previous studies discussing semantic meaning in song lyrics have generally focused on identifying denotative and connotative meanings in various musical works. However, research specifically examining Coldplay's album *Parachutes* through the integration of George Yule's denotative and connotative meaning framework and Geoffrey Leech's affective meaning framework remains limited. While previous studies have successfully identified literal and implied meanings in song lyrics, few studies have explored how those meanings contribute to the construction of emotional representation within an entire album. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by providing an integrated semantic analysis of denotative meaning, connotative meaning, and emotional representation in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes*.

The album *Parachutes* by Coldplay was chosen as the object of this research because the lyrics in this album contain many symbolic, emotional, and poetic expressions that are rich in denotative and connotative meanings. The album is widely recognized for its melancholic atmosphere, emotional lyricism, and symbolic representation of love, loneliness, sadness, hope, and emotional conflict. Many words and phrases in the album cannot be interpreted literally because they contain associative and emotional meanings related to human emotional experiences. In addition, the lyrics in *Parachutes* frequently represent emotional symbolism and melancholic discourse through metaphorical and poetic expressions, making the album relevant to be analyzed through a semantic approach.

This research is important because it contributes to semantic studies by providing deeper analysis of denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics through emotional and symbolic interpretation. This study is also expected to enrich semantic research, particularly in the discussion of associative meaning, emotional representation, and symbolic construction in literary works in the form of song lyrics. Moreover, this research can help readers and listeners understand how language in songs represents emotions, experiences, and symbolic messages beyond literal meanings.

Previous studies have widely discussed semantic analysis in song lyrics, particularly the study of denotative and connotative meanings as parts of semantic meaning. Song lyrics are frequently used as research objects in semantic studies because they contain various linguistic expressions that represent emotions, experiences, imagination, and symbolic messages. Through semantic analysis, researchers are able to identify not only literal meanings but also deeper implied meanings represented through diction, figurative language, and emotional expressions. In addition, song lyrics often contain associative meanings that cannot be interpreted literally because the meaning is strongly influenced by emotional context, cultural background, and personal interpretation. Therefore, previous studies related to denotative and connotative meanings become important references in supporting the present research.

One previous study was conducted by (Zulaichah, 2008), entitled *Denotative and Connotative Meanings in Tina Arena's Song Lyrics*. The study focused on identifying literal and implied meanings found in several song lyrics by Tina Arena. The findings showed that connotative meaning appeared more dominantly because the lyrics contained emotional expressions, symbolic language, and figurative diction related to love and personal experiences. The study successfully explained the differences between denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics. However, the analysis mainly focused on identifying meanings at the lexical level and did not deeply explore how emotional representation and symbolic construction were formed through associative meaning. In addition, the study did not discuss melancholic discourse and thematic emotional patterns represented in the lyrics.

Another previous study entitled *An (AN ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING IN ADELE'S SONG LYRICS*, 2022) analyzed the representation of literal and implied meanings in songs by Adele. The research revealed that denotative meaning functioned as the literal meaning of the lyrics, while connotative meaning reflected emotional experiences such as sadness, heartbreak, loneliness, and love. The study also explained that many expressions in the songs symbolized emotional conditions experienced by the songwriter. Although the research discussed emotional elements in the lyrics, the analysis remained descriptive and mostly dictionary based. The study did not comprehensively interpret how emotional symbolism and associative meanings construct melancholic representation and emotional discourse within the lyrics.

Furthermore, (Pratiwi et al., n.d.) and her colleagues conducted a study entitled *Denotative and Connotative Meanings in Ariana Grande's Song Lyrics*. The research examined semantic meanings in songs by Ariana Grande using a semantic approach. The findings showed that the lyrics contained many figurative and symbolic expressions representing emotional and associative meanings beyond literal interpretation. The study emphasized the importance of connotative meaning in understanding emotional messages conveyed through song lyrics.

However, the research mainly identified semantic meanings without analyzing how the meanings contribute to emotional representation, symbolic construction, and thematic emotional patterns in the songs. The study also did not combine denotative and connotative meaning analysis with associative and affective meaning theory in a deeper interpretative framework.

Several previous studies (Sinagal et al., 2026) have discussed denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics through semantic analysis. One of the previous studies entitled “A Semantic Analysis of Denotative and Connotative Meaning in the Song Lyrics of ‘Mirrors’ by Justin Timberlake” analyzed how literal and implied meanings are represented through figurative and symbolic language in the song lyrics. The study revealed that many expressions in the lyrics contain emotional and symbolic meanings beyond their literal interpretation. The research mainly focused on semantic meaning and figurative expressions represented in the lyrics. However, the study did not specifically analyze how denotative and connotative meanings construct emotional representation and symbolic messages in a deeper interpretative perspective. Therefore, the present research attempts to provide deeper analysis related to emotional symbolism and melancholic discourse represented in song lyrics.

Other studies also (Sari & Kusumawardhani, n.d.) discussed denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics from different semantic perspectives. A study entitled “Denotative and Connotative Meaning in One Direction’s Songs Lyric: A Semantic Perspective” examined literal and implied meanings represented in several song lyrics by One Direction. The study found that connotative meanings were more dominant because many expressions contained symbolic interpretation and emotional association.

In addition, another study (Dari et al., 2026) entitled “An Analysis of Denotative and Connotative Meaning in Adele’s Song Lyrics ‘My Little Love’: A Semantic Analysis” analyzed emotional interpretation represented through denotative and connotative meanings in Adele’s song lyrics. The findings revealed that connotative meanings reflected emotional experiences such as sadness,

loneliness, vulnerability, and love. However, those studies generally focused on descriptive semantic analysis and did not emphasize critical interpretation related to emotional symbolism, thematic emotional patterns, and symbolic representation in song lyrics.

Based on the previous studies above, it can be seen that most researchers primarily focused on identifying denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics through semantic analysis. Although several studies discussed emotional aspects of song lyrics, research specifically examining Coldplay's album *Parachutes* through the integration of denotative meaning, connotative meaning, and emotional interpretation remains limited. Furthermore, previous studies generally analyzed individual songs rather than investigating emotional patterns across an entire album. Therefore, this study attempts to fill this gap by analyzing denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes* using George Yule's theory of meaning and Geoffrey Leech's affective meaning framework.

The difference between the present research and previous studies lies in its object and analytical framework. While previous studies mainly focused on identifying denotative and connotative meanings in individual songs, this research examines the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes* as a complete body of work. In addition, this study integrates George Yule's theory of denotative and connotative meaning with Geoffrey Leech's concept of affective meaning to explore how literal and implied meanings contribute to emotional representation in the album. Through this integrated approach, the study provides a more comprehensive semantic interpretation of meaning and emotion in song lyrics.

1.2 Research Question

Research questions are formulated to analyze denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of *Parachutes* by Coldplay and to identify the emotional and symbolic messages represented in the lyrics.

1. What denotative and connotative meanings are found in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes*?
2. How do the denotative and connotative meanings represent emotional and

symbolic messages in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes*?

1.3 Research Objectives

The research objectives are formulated to answer the research questions and to provide deeper understanding regarding denotative and connotative meanings represented in the lyrics of *Parachutes* by Coldplay.

1. To identify and classify the denotative and connotative meanings found in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes* based on the theory proposed by George Yule.
2. To describe and analyze how denotative and connotative meanings represent emotional and symbolic messages in the lyrics of Coldplay's album *Parachutes* by applying Geoffrey Leech's theory of associative, affective, and thematic meaning.

1.4 Research Significances

Theoretically, this study contributes to the development of semantic studies, particularly in the analysis of denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics. By applying the theories proposed by (George Yule, 2006) and (Geoffrey Leech, 1981) to the lyrics of *Parachutes* by Coldplay, this study enhances theoretical understanding of how literal and implied meanings are represented through emotional and symbolic expressions in song lyrics. The findings of this research are expected to provide deeper insights into how denotative and connotative meanings contribute to emotional representation, melancholic discourse, symbolic construction, and representation of love in musical texts. Moreover, this study is expected to become a relevant reference for future linguistic research, especially studies related to semantic analysis, associative meaning, and emotional interpretation in contemporary popular music.

Practically, this study provides benefits for students, researchers, and language learners by offering a clearer understanding of how meanings are constructed and interpreted in song lyrics. Through the identification and analysis of denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of *Parachutes*, this research helps readers improve their analytical and interpretative skills in understanding semantic elements within literary and musical texts. In addition, the findings of this study

help readers recognize how emotional expressions, symbolic language, and implied meanings are conveyed through song lyrics. Furthermore, this study encourages more critical, contextual, and interpretative approaches in understanding language use in music and popular culture.

1.5 Definition of key terms

Denotative meaning and connotative meaning refer to the meanings represented through words and expressions in language. According to (George Yule, 2006), denotative meaning explains the literal or dictionary meaning of a word, while connotative meaning explains the implied, emotional, and associative meanings related to personal experience, culture, and context. In this study, the analysis focuses on the denotative and connotative meanings found in the lyrics of *Parachutes* by Coldplay.

1.5.1 Connotative

Connotative meaning refers to the associative or implied meaning attached to a word beyond its literal definition. According to (Geoffrey Leech, 1981), connotative meaning is related to the emotional, cultural, and associative values connected to language expressions. This type of meaning is influenced by personal experience, social context, and emotional interpretation. In this research, connotative meaning is analyzed to uncover symbolic messages, emotional representation, and implied meanings embedded in the lyrics of *Parachutes* by Coldplay.

1.5.2 Denotative Meaning

Denotative meaning is the literal or dictionary meaning of a word which is understood objectively without emotional or associative interpretation. According to (George Yule, 2006), denotative meaning refers to the basic meaning of a word that is commonly recognized and directly related to its real reference. In this research, denotative meaning is used to identify the literal meanings represented in the lyrics of *Parachutes*

before interpreting their deeper emotional and symbolic meanings.

1.5.3 Affective Meaning

Affective meaning refers to the emotional attitudes, feelings, and personal emotions expressed through language. (Geoffrey Leech, 1981) explains that affective meaning reflects how speakers or writers convey emotional conditions and emotional responses through particular expressions. In this research, affective meaning is used to analyze how emotional expressions such as sadness, loneliness, hope, and love are represented in the lyrics of *Parachutes*.

1.5.4 Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning refers to how messages are organized and emphasized in linguistic expressions. According to (Geoffrey Leech, 1981), thematic meaning is related to the arrangement of information and the way language emphasizes particular emotional or symbolic ideas. In this research, thematic meaning is used to identify thematic emotional patterns and symbolic constructions represented in the lyrics of *Parachutes*.

