

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study. The explanations are elaborated below.

1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are social creatures who need communication to survive. Humans use language to communicate with others. Communication serves a very important function in our existence. Humans communicate with other humans through language, gestures, and expressions. With language, humans convey their thoughts, feelings, and needs. But sometimes some humans have deep feelings and want to make that feeling into an art that can be shared with everyone. Usually, these humans pour out their feelings through literary works such as poems and songs. Songs usually are easily accepted by the public because they have beautiful melodies and they are easy to remember.

Song lyrics can mean more than just the existing lyrics, there are hidden meanings that the writer does to beautify the song and to adjust to the melody of the song. Therefore, it is important to analyze song lyrics with the theory of Semantics, especially denotative meaning and connotative meaning.

Semantics includes the analysis of various aspects of meaning, including meaning in the broad sense and meaning in the narrow sense (Carkic, 2008). In addition, the study of meaning is a central part of understanding language. This means that meaning cannot be separated in language analysis (Sankaravelayuthan, 2018).

Denotative meaning and connotative meaning are equally important aspects of linguistics and the study of meaning. They both refer to the way in which words, phrases, and sentences are used in communication both explicitly and implicitly. An understanding of denotative and connotative meanings is also important in the

analysis of literary texts such as song lyrics.

Denotative meaning often called conceptual meaning, is the meaning that has the actual meaning. This meaning is also often referred to as dictionary meaning because it has a meaning that matches the meaning contained in the dictionary (Leech, 1981). Meanwhile, Connotative meaning is the informative value of an expression according to what it refers to, outside of its conceptual meaning (Leech, 1981).

This meaning relates to the associations, feelings, or thoughts that a word can represent. An example of the use of denotative meaning is in the sentence:

"I want to buy a book."

The word "book" in this sentence according to the Cambridge Dictionary (1995) is a set of pages that have been bound together inside a cover for reading or writing.

On the other side, an example of the use of connotative meaning in everyday life can be seen in the sentence:

" I have already found a home."

The word "home" has the denotative meaning of a building to rest and shelter from the heat and rain, while the connotative meaning in this sentence has a different meaning. In the connotative interpretation, the word "home" has connotative meanings, which can take the form of love, comfort, and family (Setiani, 2020). With the knowledge of denotative and connotative meaning, we not only understand the literal meaning that is found in the dictionary but, can also understand what emotions, feelings, and expressions the songwriters put into their lyrics. So, it is important to learn about denotative and connotative meanings which will be useful to understand the literal meaning and the meaning with emotion, self-expression, and the implied message of the song.

In this study, the selection of song lyrics as the main data source is due to several strong reasons. First and foremost, analyzing song lyrics offers insights into the culture of a particular region. Songs often embody the essence of a culture, reflecting its unique values, traditions, and expressions. In addition, song lyrics can

serve as a mirror of the social conditions that prevailed at the time the song was created. The themes and messages embedded in songs often summarize the social issues of the time.

In addition to cultural significance, song lyrics also provide a deep window into the emotions and inner thoughts of the songwriters. Songs are an art form where individuals often pour their hearts out, expressing their personal experiences, joys, sorrows, and desires. By analyzing the meaning of these lyrical expressions, writers can obtain a better understanding of the complex mental state of human beings. In essence, song lyrics serve as a source of data that the writer seeks to obtain a better understanding of how the meaning of each song lyric is perceived.

This study focuses on the words that contains denotative and connotative meaning in lyrics of five songs by the Japanese girl group XG, which stands for Xtraordinary Girls, which is a global girl group originating from Japan and under the XGALX label AVEX. They produce a global music genre called X-POP, where the letter X is often used to describe something unknown or special. The group was formed as part of the X-GALAXY project and consists of Jurin, Chisa, Cocona, Hinata, Maya, Juria, and Harvey. They have been preparing for their debut since 2017, and on March 18, 2022, they released their first single, *'Tippy Toes'*. The group itself is based in Korea, XG promotes in Korea and at Korean music events, while they have never promoted in Japan or performed at Japanese music events. K-pop fans are the only ones who know them, while J-pop fans don't know them (Irem, 2022). XG's first album since their debut in March 2022 was titled New DNA. On September 27, 2023, the album became available through their label, Xgalx. R&B and hip-hop genres are used in this English-language album. Six singles - *Grl Gvng*, *TGIF*, *X-GENE*, *New Dance*, and *Puppet Show* - as well as an instrumental album interlude called *Hesonoo* became New DNA's supporting tracks. The album was certified gold for shipments of over 100,000 copies by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ), peaked at number one on the Billboard Japan Hot Albums and number two on the Oricon Albums Chart. The reason behind selecting XG songs as the data source is twofold. First, it is an attempt to expand recognition of the group and promote their work on a wider scale.

Secondly, this study aims to contribute to the linguistic field, specifically through the Semantic approach, by delving into the lyrics of these selected songs to analyze the nuances of their denotative and connotative meanings.

Thus, this study analyzed the lyrics of five songs in XG's NEW DNA Album which are *Hesonoo*, *X-GENE*, *TGIF*, *New Dance*, and *Puppet Show*. The selection of these songs as data sources aims to provide an analysis of the denotative and connotative meanings contained in the lyrics.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of this study above, it is formulated the following research questions.

1. What are the denotative meanings found in the XG's *NEW DNA* Album?
2. What are the connotative meanings found in the XG's *NEW DNA* Album?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions above, it can be ascertained that there are also several objectives of this study.

1. To find out and explain the denotative meanings in XG's *NEW DNA* Album.
2. To find out and explain the connotative meanings in XG's *NEW DNA* Album.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to increase readers' knowledge about analyzing denotative and connotative meanings in song lyrics. In addition, this study is also expected to be an inspiration and reference for other writers who want to analyze the same topic.

2. Practical Significance.

The results of this study are expected to be applied by readers in

everyday life when listening to songs that aim to understand more deeply the meaning of each song heard. It can also be expected to be used for readers who want to write song lyrics with beautiful words and deep meaning.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

1. Scope of the Study

This study used a semantics approach and focused on analyzing the denotative and connotative meanings. The theory used in this study is from Leech (1981).

2. Limitation of the Study

This study focused on examining the words that contains denotative and connotative meanings in the five songs on XG's *NEW DNA* album which include *Hesonoo*, *X-GENE*, *TGIF*, *New Dance*, and *Puppet Show*.