

Semantic Analysis on *Unstoppable* Song lyric by Sia

Luki Afanti

University of Muhammadiyah Purworejo
luckyafanti88@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study explores the semantic analysis of the song "Unstoppable" by Sia, focusing on both lexical and contextual meanings within the lyrics. Language serves as a critical tool for communication, and understanding its nuances can enhance our appreciation of artistic expressions like song lyrics. The research employs a descriptive qualitative method, analyzing specific words, phrases, and sentences to reveal deeper meanings. The findings indicate that many words in the lyrics convey themes of strength, self-confidence, and resilience. For instance, terms like "unstoppable" and "invincible" reflect an optimistic outlook, while words such as "armor" and "cry out loud" highlight the internal struggles behind the facade of strength. This contrast between lexical and contextual meanings underscores the complexity of the song's message: true strength involves acknowledging and confronting one's vulnerabilities. Ultimately, this analysis not only sheds light on Sia's artistic expression but also emphasizes the importance of delving beyond surface meanings in song lyrics to uncover richer emotional narratives. The implications of this study extend to broader applications in understanding and interpreting lyrical content across various musical genres.

Keywords: semantic, analysis, unstoppable, lyric

1.0 Background

Since language is the fundamental tool of communication, humans and language cannot be separated. Individuals utilize language to convey their feelings as well as to exchange ideas and communicate in society. Individuals can increase their knowledge by using language. People can also write, speak, or analyze a sentence, song, or movie also by language.

The study of language as a means of human communication is known as linguistics. Language science has many subfields. These include morphology which studies word creation, phonetics which studies speech sound, phonology which studies speech sound patterns, syntax which studies phrase and sentence development, and semantics which studies language meaning. In addition, there is psycholinguistics (the study of the mental processes involved in language production and comprehension) and sociolinguistics (the study of language in social factors, i.e., socioeconomic class, educational level, age, sex, etc.).

This study focuses only on a semantics case. The study of how meaning is expressed and organized in language is known as semantics (Hao, 2018). When applied to literary works like songs, poems, and prose, the study of semantics is fascinating (Asrifan, 2021). As Charles W. Kreidler states, These days, language and music that are expressed through song have a relationship to one another, and everyone is capable of creating and appreciating both language and music. People can hear the tune through music and express anything, and they can also discuss everything in the lyrics. lyric is a literary work in which a person expresses himself using words and language about anything he has heard, seen, or experienced (Adilah, 2022). According to Asrifan et al. (2021), lyrics are written words and sentences that convey messages. They might be utilized to evoke a specific mood and mental



image in the listeners as well as convey a variety of messages. Talking about the song; the lyrics are inseparable from it. A song is a method for communication and understanding the goal of meaning in it. Song lyric is words that make up a song usually consisting of verses and choruses. song lyric is the part that is very important of the song because there are a lot of meaning in song lyric. Song lyrics are written by the composers to convey their emotions. They often employ figurative language to enhance the meaning of the lyrics more beautiful and significant.

Semantic is the branch of linguistics. It includes lexical meaning and contextual meaning:

1.1 Lexical Meaning

Lexical meaning is the real meaning, the meaning that makes sense to us as observers, or the meaning that is provided. A language has several lexical systems, each of which is based on a paradigmatic and systematic approach to semantic meaning and structure. According to Septiana (2017), meaning that possesses lexicon, lexeme, and word features is known as lexical meaning. In addition, it serves as a reference, indicating which is the outcome of sensory observation, or our perception of the reality of existence. The lowest unit of meaning in a linguistic system is called lexical meaning. Meaning in lexical terms is held without alteration by the lexeme in any given situation. That interpretation is what's real. something can be seen by using human reason. One common definition of lexical meaning is "the study of terms' meanings (Murphy, 2010). In different According to Kreidler (1998), the significance comprises meaning in terms of words and grammar, reference, and meaning relationships, connotation, and denotation Morphemes polysemy, lexical homophones, and sentences, meaning, and ambiguity. The lexeme "dog," for instance, has a lexical meaning. that is a little, four-legged, hairy animal, and a back. Additionally, the lexeme "bridge" has a meaning. It is a structure designed to allow people to confronting. The coded meaning is based on what People are generally aware of this without being impacted in any given situation.

1.2 Contextual Meaning

According to Chaer (2007) cited in Septiana (2017), contextual Meaning is the connotation of a word or set of words. Moreover, contextual definition is a definition in the context in a more expansive manner with a wider justification. Here, the background information helps to encourage the clarity of meaning. Similarly According to Palmer (1976), a term can have distinct connotation depending on the distribution. For instance, in the word "head," though The meaning can be clarified by the context as "Grandma has a lot of white hair on her head." and "The Students who excel are given prizes by the headmaster. In the first sentence, the word "head" refers to the the hairy top portion of the body. However, the second sentence's use of the word "head" refers to a school's principal. One can categorize contextual meaning into interpretations of the temporal situation that clarify meaning according to location, time, and circumstance the background against which the message is explained where something occurs physically, and words context that clarifies the language's usage. Additionally that the situation's context contextual meanings

Contextual meaning can be divided into meanings of the context of time which explains meaning based on time context, based on place context which explain the meaning is based where the palce something happen, and language context which explain the language use. Besides that the context of the situation also greatly influences the meaning, like scared situation or enjoy situation and other. So, it can be concluded that the same word or the same sentence when used in different

situations or contexts will have different meanings. Contextual meaning is connected to song lyrics because singers occasionally employ terms in which the meanings are different from their dictionary definitions (Sudar et al., 2023).

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing semantics on lexical and contextual meaning of *unstoppable* song lyric by Sia. The writer will also describe the whole meaning of the song lyric. This song is played in social media very often as backsound of videos either in tik-tok or instagram. Sia – The *Unstoppable* singer in his career has a pretty interesting life story where he turns out to have written around 73 songs for other artists. Quoted from Time Magazine, Sia wrote songs such as Rihanna's 'Diamonds', Beyoncé's 'Pretty Hurts' to write songs for singer Britney Spears with the song 'Perfume'. Now Sia is quite successful in her music, especially she is synonymous with her wig that covers her face and her songs that have meaningful and uplifting stories.

2.0 Research Methods

This study used a descriptive qualitative method because the writer would analyze and interpret the research object of Sia's song. The focus of the analysis is on the form of words, phrases, and sentences, especially their lexical and contextual meaning. Bogdan and Biklen cited in (Creswell, (2018) state that there are several techniques for collecting data in qualitative research. One of them is document , which contains texts (words) recorded without the intervention of researchers. Therefore , in this research researchers used documentation as a data collection technique . Technique of collecting data is: (1) collecting sources of the data of Sia's Song from internet, (2) selecting the lyrics which contains semantic, (3) arranging the lyrics systematically according to the lines of the study (4) providing a code for each data found, for example, “ L1/S2” meaning that data found in line 1 – stanza 2 (5) interpreting lexical and contextual meaning.

3.0 Results and Discussion

The writer chose the lyric of sia's song *unstoppable* to be object of the research. The writer would analyze the semantics in lexical and contextual meaning of the song lyric. To understand the finding more clearly, the writer presents the process of analysis in the table as the following:

Table 1. words containing lexical and contextual meaning in *unstoppable* song lyric by Sia

No	Word	Code	Lexical Meaning	Contextual Meaning
1	Armor	L1/S2	Protective covering worn to prevent injury	The facade of strength and confidence the speaker wears to hide their vulnerability.
2	Unstoppable	L1/S2	Unable to be stopped or defeated	The speaker's outward expression of unwavering confidence and determination.
3	Porsche	L1/S3	A high Performance – Sport Car	A symbol of speed, power, and control.

4	Brakes	L1/S3	Devices that slow down or stop a vehicle	A metaphor for the absence of limitations or restraints.
5	Invincible	L2/S3	Impossible to defeat or destroy	The speaker's feeling of being invulnerable and capable of overcoming any obstacle.
6	Game	L2/S3	Competition or activity	A metaphor for life's challenges and struggles.
7	Batteries	L3/S3	Devices that store and provide electrical energy	A symbol of the speaker's limitless energy and stamina.
8	Cry out loud	L1/S4	To express strong emotion through vocalization	The speaker's hidden vulnerability and suppressed emotions.
9	Hiding	L2/S4	Concealing something from view	The speaker's inability to be open and honest about their true feelings.
10	Deep down	L3/S4	At the core of one's being	The speaker's innermost thoughts and emotions.
11	Afraid	L6/S4	Feeling fear or apprehension	The speaker's fear of vulnerability and rejection.
12	Show	L1/S7	To make something visible	The speaker's desire to maintain a facade of strength and control.
13	Strong	L1/S7	Having great physical or moral power	The speaker's outward projection of strength and resilience.
14	Powerful	L3/S8	Having or displaying great power or strength	The speaker's confidence in their own abilities.

After analyzing semantics on the words of unstoppable lyric by Sia, the writer finds 14 words containing lexical and contextual meaning. From the lyric, the writer can summarize the whole meaning the author want to convey. The meaning of the song Unstoppable tells about the motivation to keep going and fighting to achieve someone's dreams. This song provides motivation so that everyone who hears it believes in themselves that they can reach their goal.

3.0 Conclusion

This paper analyzes the lexical meaning of the lyrics of the song "Unstoppable" and finds that many words have literal meanings related to strength, self-confidence, and infinity. Examples include "unstoppable," "invincible," "powerful," "no brakes," and "batteries." These lexical meanings help create an initial impression of the song as a song full of optimism and determination.

The paper then explores the contextual meaning of the song lyrics, which reveal a deeper and more complex side of the singer's emotions. Words like "armor," "cry out loud," "fall to pieces," "hiding," and "afraid" reveal the singer's internal struggle hidden behind their facade of strength. These contextual meanings add depth and dimension to the song, and show that true strength comes from accepting and exposing our weaknesses.

One of the key findings of this paper is the interesting contrast between the lexical and contextual meaning of song lyrics. This contrast shows that the first impression of a song can be deceiving, and it is important to dig deeper into the lyrics to understand the deeper message. This contrast also contributes to the song's power, as it makes the listener question what is really going on beneath the surface.

The findings of this paper have implications for understanding and analyzing song lyrics in general. This paper shows that it is important to look beyond the literal meaning of words and consider how the meaning of words changes in the context of certain sentences, songs, and even musical genres.

Unstoppable

By: Sia

Lyric

**All smiles, I know what it takes to fool this town
I'll do it 'til the sun goes down
And all through the nighttime
Oh, yeah
Oh, yeah, I'll tell you what you wanna hear
Leave my sunglasses on while I shed a tear
It's never the right time
Yeah, yeah
I put my armor on, show you how strong I am
I put my armor on, I'll show you that I am
I'm unstoppable
I'm a Porsche with no brakes
I'm invincible
Yeah, I win every single game
I'm so powerful
I don't need batteries to play
I'm so confident
Yeah, I'm unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
I'm unstoppable today
Break down, only alone I will cry out loud
You'll never see what's hiding out
Hiding out deep down
Yeah, yeah
I know, I've heard that to let your feelings show
Is the only way to make friendships grow
But I'm too afraid now
Yeah, yeah
I put my armor on, show you how strong I am
I put my armor on, I'll show you that I am
I'm unstoppable
I'm a Porsche with no brakes
I'm invincible
Yeah, I win every single game**



**I'm so powerful
I don't need batteries to play
I'm so confident
Yeah, I'm unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
I'm unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
I'm unstoppable today
I put my armor on, show you how strong I am
I put my armor on, I'll show you that I am
I'm unstoppable
I'm a Porsche with no brakes
I'm invincible
Yeah, I win every single game
I'm so powerful
I don't need batteries to play
I'm so confident
Yeah, I'm unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
I'm unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
Unstoppable today
I'm unstoppable today**

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