AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN OLIVIA RODRIGO'S SONGS

Rivo Presti Roma Wijaya[1], Nur Rosita [2]
English Department
Faculty of Languages and Arts
Universitas Negeri Padang
email: rivowijaya1201@gmail.com

Abstract

Contextual meaning is meaning that refers to context, or a sentence that can support the clarity of a meaning. This research was conducted to find the types of contextual meaning and changes in meaning in Olivia Rodridgo's songs entitled "drivers license", "deja vu", "good 4 u", "happier" and "traitor". This research used contextual meaning theory by from Pateda (2010) and semantic change theory by Chaer (2013). The method of this research was descriptive qualitative. The results showed that there were five out of 10 types of contextual meaning in the five songs, which context of person, context of situation, context of whether or not a formal conversation, context of speaker's mood or listener's mood and context of object with a total of 27 result, which contain nine words and 18 phrases. Also, three out of five types of meaning changes were found in words and phrases containing contextual meaning, which are widening, totally changed, and dysphemism with a total data of 17 out of 27 data, which contain of nine words and eight phrases. This research found that words or phrases that cannot be interpreted just by looking at the definitions in the dictionary, but also must be understood the context of their use.

Key words: Contextual Meaning, Semantic Change, Olivia Rodrigo Songs

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is closely related to all aspects of human life. It is used to convey thoughts, emotions, and feelings and to form relationships with others. Krech (1962) mentioned three aspects of the significant function of language. First, language is the primary vehicle of communication. Then, language reflects an individual's personality and society's culture. Last, language facilitates the creation and transmission of culture, the continuation of societies, and the effective functioning and management of social groups. Thus, language is interconnected to human life in the sense of meaning.

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[1] English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on June 2023
[2] Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang

In semantics and pragmatics, meaning is the message transmitted by words, sentences, and symbols in a context. Meaning is the connection between words in a language and their real-world referents. Meaning appears to be the most evident and challenging component of language to study. Pateda (2010) said there are 29 kinds and types of semantic meaning. One of them is contextual meaning. Contextual meaning relates to the situation, namely the place, time, and environment in which the language is used. Thus, it is impossible to know the meaning and its definition clearly except by paying attention to other word units located side by side. Contextual meaning is an exciting type of meaning to study. It is interesting because this meaning will be known after connecting the sentence with its context or situation. The situation can be related to the place, time, and environmental influence of language use, so this meaning is not only seen from understanding the word or sentence. Still, it must also be related to the context or situation in the sentence. Thus, contextual meaning can be found in any literary work, such as poems, newspapers, song lyrics, novels, short stories, movies, and advertisements.

Moreover, several studies have conducted contextual meaning in song lyrics. Anindya (2018), Napitupulu (2019), Lestari (2016), and Wardani (2019) conducted studies that researched contextual meaning in song lyrics. These researchers used different theories and objects in analyzing contextual meaning so that the results are different in each study. Some of them analyzed the contextual meaning of the word and then explained the contextual meaning of the word, while others analyzed the contextual meaning based on its type and categorized it by its type. However, some points are missing from the studies above. The studies focused more on the types of contextual meaning in the research. Also, the studies mentioned have not discussed semantic change found in words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in the research.

This current research was analyzed the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics, the type of contextual meaning found in the words, the phrases or the sentences in song lyrics, and the semantic change found in the words, the phrases or the sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics. Pateda's theory (2010) was used to analyze contextual meaning found in song lyrics. Pateda (2010) divides contextual meaning into ten types, which are Context of Person, Context of the Situation, Context of Purposes, Context of Whether or not a Formal Conversation, Context of Speaker's Mood or Listener's Mood, Context of Time, Context of Place, Context of Object, Context of Completeness of Speech and Hearing Devices, and Linguistic Context. Chaer's theory (2013) was also used to analyze the semantic change found in the words, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning in song lyrics, which classifies semantic change into five types: Widening, Narrowing, Totally Changed, Euphemism and Dysphemism. Pateda's theory (2010) and Chaer's theory (2013) are suitable for this research because they significantly explain classifying words, phrases or sentences that undergo contextual meaning and semantic change found in song lyrics based on their types.

Song lyrics are words or sentences that could be utilized to create a specific mood and imagery for the listener and multiple interpretations. Through contextual meaning, the songwriter pours out his heart in the form of lyrics by paying attention to the form or structure of the words in each line and interpreting the contents of the lyrics with contextual meaning to obtain a particular effect. This state follows the idea of Semi (2012), which states that the reliability of the author in choosing the right and evocative words is another aspect that must be analyzed.

Since many words in song lyrics have contextual meaning, the researcher is interested in examining them. There are many songs in the entire world. Olivia Rodrigo's songs are among them. Olivia Rodrigo's songs were chosen in this research because the songs provide relevant data for this research to analyze contextual meaning. Five of Olivia Rodrigo's songs were chosen to be analyzed in this research. The songs are considered to apply to semantics theory analysis because the songs create meanings to convey from the relationship of the linguistics parts, one of which is contextual meaning.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive analysis with qualitative method. Data collection procedures are as follows; first, look for song lyrics on the internet site, print the song lyrics, and finally analyze all the words, phrases or sentences context data found in the song lyrics. Then the data were analyzed to find out the context of the words, phrases or sentences used in the song lyrics, to explain the contextual meaning used in the song, and to explain the semantic change in the words, phrases and sentences containing contextual meaning. The data for this research were lines of lyrics from Olivia Rodrigo's songs that have contextual meaning in terms of words, phrases and sentences. The songs were "drivers license", "deja vu", "good 4 u", "happier" and "traitor". The data were analyzed using contextual meaning theory by Pateda (2010) and semantic change theory by Chaer (2013). Source of data was taken from Genius.com website.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

In this chapter, the researcher discussed in further depth the findings of the analysis of contextual meaning types found in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics and the semantic change types found in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics that contains contextual meaning.

a. Contextual Meaning

1) Context of Person

Context of Person is a context in words whose meaning is understood by the interlocutor according to gender, age, socioeconomic background, and educational background. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) Another *actress*, I hate to think that I was just your type

This is the song lyric of deja vu. The context of actress in this lyric is a girl, another girl. Actress refers to the girl that is having a new relationship with the singer's ex-boyfriend.

(Datum 2) Like a damn *sociopath*

This lyric is from good 4 u. The context of sociopath in the lyric refers to the singer's ex. The singer equalizes her ex with a sociopath because of his ignorance to her.

(Datum 3) Brown *guilty eyes* and

This line is from traitor. The context is guilty eyes. In this lyric, it refers to her ex-boyfriend that look at her with a guilty look.

(Datum 4) Show her off like she's a new *trophy*

This is the lyric of traitor. The context of trophy in this lyric is the new girlfriend of the singer's ex. The singer equates the girl to a trophy because the singer's ex always brags about his new girlfriend.

2) Context of Situation

Context of Situation is a context in words whose meaning is related to the situation. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) I *still see* your face in the white cars, front yards

This is the lyric of drivers license. The context is still see. The singer does not actually see her ex in the white cars and front yards, but it means that the singer is in situation of missing her ex. So, when the singer see white cars and front yards, those remind the singer of her ex because they had memories in white cars and front yards.

(Datum 2) I *still hear* your voice in the traffic, we're laughing

This is still the lyric from drivers license. The context is still hear. It indicates the situation of the singer thinking about her memories with her ex.

(Datum 3) Do you get *déjà vu* when she's with you?

This is the lyric of deja vu. In this lyric, the context is déjà vu. It means the situation of the singer's ex living the same live they lived with a new partner.

(Datum 4) And good for you, I guess that you've been *workin' on yourself*

This is a line from good 4 u. The context is workin' on yourself. In this lyric, working on yourself is a situation of the singer's ex moving on from the singer.

(Datum 5) I've *lost my mind*, I've spent the night

This lyric is from good 4 u. In this lyric, the context lost my mind means that the singer is in frustrated situation because of the new relationship of her ex and another girl.

(Datum 6) But your apathy's like a *wound in salt*

This line is still from good 4 u. The context wound in salt refers to an unpleasant situation, which is suffering, that the singer feels because of her ex's ignorance to her.

(Datum 7) And I thought my heart was *detached*

This is the lyric from happier. The context is detached. In this lyric, detached means get over or stop thinking. The singer says that she thought she stopped thinking or forgot her memories with her ex while she does not.

(Datum 8) I *played dumb*, **but I always knew**

This line is from traitor. The context is played dumb. Played dumb in this lyric means pretended. The singer pretended she did not know anything about her ex special relationship with another girl when they were still together while she knew the fact.

(Datum 9) The second that we *called it quits*

This is still from traitor lyric. The context is called it quits. In this lyric, called it quits is a situation that the singer breaks up with her ex-boyfriend.

      3) Context of Whether or not a Formal Conversation

Context of Whether or not a Formal Conversation is a context in a word which is appropriate or not to use. In this research, the data analyzed is song lyrics, not conversation. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) 'Cause I still *fuckin'* **love you, babe**

This is the lyric from drivers license. The context found is fuckin'. Fucking is a curse word, which is not appropriate to use. In this lyric, fucking means really. It is an adverb to emphasize how much the singer still love her ex.

(Datum 2) Now it sure *as hell* **don't look like it**

This line is from traitor song lyric. As hell is an informal word. It means very or really. In this lyric, as hell is used by the singer to express that she really believes and assures that her ex said he was not only friends with another girl but also had special relationship.

      4) Context of Speaker's Mood or Listener's Mood

Context of the Speaker or The Listener's Mood is a context that words can impact the term and its meaning. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) God, I'm so *blue*, **know we're through**

This is the lyric of drivers license. The context is blue. In this lyric, blue is not a color, but it means sad. The singer is sad that she breaks up with her ex.

(Datum 2) Well, *good for you*, **I guess you moved on really easily**

This line is from good 4 u. The context is good. In this lyric, good is not a positive meaning. Otherwise, it means unhappy. The singer becomes sarcastic saying she is happy that her ex moved on easily while she is not actually happy for him.

(Datum 3) Baby, *what the fuck* **is up with that? (Ah)**

This lyric is still from good 4 u. The context is what the fuck. It is a curse phrase. In this lyric, it is an expression of the singer's anger. She complains about her ex moving on too fast.

(Datum 4) Like a *damn* **sociopath**

This line is still from good 4 u. The context is damn. Damn is a curse word. In this lyric, the singer uses word damn to express her annoyance because of her ex's ignorance to her.

(Datum 5) She probably *gives you butterflies*

This is the lyric of happier. The context is gives you butterfly. In this lyric, gives you butterfly means that the new girlfriend of the singer's ex makes him feeling excited and happy about her.

5) Context of Object

Context of Object is a context used as a reference in expressing something. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) *Red lights, stop signs*

This lyric is from drivers license. The contexts are red light and stop signs. Those are the symbols of stop. In this lyric, those symbolize the ending of the singer's relationship.

(Datum 2) Don't act like we didn't do that *shit*, too

This is the line from deja vu. The context is shit. Shit is a curse word. In this lyric, shit refers to the activities that the singer used to do with her ex-boyfriend.

(Datum 3) Remember when you said that you wanted to give me *the world?*

This is the lyric of good 4 u. The context is the world. In this lyric, the world refers to everything the singer wants.

(Datum 4) From all the *sunlight* of our past

This lyric is from happier. The context found is sunlight. In this lyric, sunlight refers to all good memories that the singer and her ex have.

(Datum 5) An eternal love *bullshit* you know you'll never mean

This lyric is still from happier. The context found is bullshit. In this lyric, bullshit means promises that the singer's ex has made to her.

(Datum 6) And ain't it funny? All the *twisted games*

This is the lyric from traitor. The context found is twisted games. In this lyric, twisted games refers to the unpredictable actions of the singer's ex.

(Datum 7) You gave me your *word*, but that didn't matter

This is still from traitor. The context is word. In this lyric, word refers to promises that the singer's ex has made.

b. Semantic Change

In analyzing semantic change, the data were taken from the word, phrases or sentences containing contextual meaning.

1) Widening

Widening is a type of semantic change that a word change to other meanings that are still related to the original meaning. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) Another *actress*, I hate to think that I was just your type

This is the lyric from deja vu. The word containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is actress. The original meaning of actress is a woman who performs on the stage, television or in movies. In this lyric, actress means girl, another girl which is the new girlfriend of the singer's ex.

(Datum 2) And *good for you*, I guess that you've been workin' on yourself

This line is from good 4 u. The word containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is working. Working means doing work or a job. In this song lyric working means taking care.

(Datum 3) Brown guilty *eyes* and

This is the lyric of traitor. The word that experiences semantic change is eyes. Eyes are part of body. In this lyric, eyes mean a look or stare.

(Datum 4) The second that we *called it quits*?

This lyric is from traitor. The word that undergoes semantic change is called it quits. The original meaning of call it quits is stop doing something. In this lyric, it means break up.

   2) Totally Changed

Totally Changed is a change in the meaning of a word or lexeme that has nothing to do with its original meaning. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) 'Cause I still *fuckin'* love you, babe

This is the lyric of drivers license. The word containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is fuckin'. The original meaning of fucking is having sex. In this lyric, fucking means really.

(Datum 2) God, I'm so *blue*, know we're through

This is still from drivers license. The word containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is blue. Blue is a color. In this lyric, blue means sad.

(Datum 3) Don't act like we didn't do that *shit*, too

This the lyric of deja vu. The word containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is shit. The original meaning of shit is feces. In this lyric, shit means activity.

(Datum 4) Remember when you said that you wanted to give me the *world*?

This line is from good 4 u. The word containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is world. Based on Oxford Dictionary, world means the earth. In this song lyric, world means will, wish or desire.

(Datum 5) But your apathy's like a *wound in salt*

This line is still from good 4 u. The phrase containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is wound in salt. The original meaning of wound in salt is putting salt into wound which sounds weird and painful. In this song lyric, wound in salt means causing suffering.

(Datum 6) I've *lost my mind*, I've spent the night

This lyric is still from good 4 u. The phrase containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is lost my mind. The original meaning of losing mind is no longer having mind or brain. In this song lyric, it means becoming frustrated.

(Datum 7) And I thought my heart was *detached*

This lyric is from happier. The word containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is detached. The original meaning of detached is separated. In this lyric, detached means forget, get over or stop thinking.

(Datum 8) From all the *sunlight* of our past

This lyric is still from happier. The word containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is sunlight. Based on Oxford Dictionary, sunlight means the light from the sun. In this lyric, sunlight means good memories.

(Datum 9) An eternal love *bullshit* you know you'll never mean

This line is still from happier. The word containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is bullshit. The original meaning of bullshit is feces of bull. In this song lyric, it means promises.

(Datum 10) She probably *gives you butterflies*

This line is still from happier. The phrase containing contextual meaning that experiences semantic change is gives you butterfly. The original meaning of giving butterfly is letting someone having butterfly. In this song lyric, giving butterfly means making someone feeling excited.

(Datum 11) And ain't it funny? All the *twisted games*

This is the lyric of traitor. The phrase that experiences semantic change is twisted games. The original meaning of twisted games is games that are crooked, which sounds weird. In this lyric, twisted games means unpredictable actions.

(Datum 12) Now it sure *as hell* don't look like it

This is still from traitor. The phrase that experiences semantic change is as hell. The original meaning of as hell is like a hell. In this lyric, as hell means very or really.

3) Dysphemism

Dysphemism is a concept of replacing words or forms that are considered to have a more subtle meaning with forms that are considered to have a coarser meaning. The data are shown in the following data:

(Datum 1) Well, *good for you*, I guess you moved on really easily

This the line of good 4 u. The phrase containing contextual meaning that undergoes semantic change is good for you. Good for you means feeling happy and proud of someone. In this lyric it means otherwise, unhappy. It means the singer is unhappy for her ex new relationship.

2. Discussion

From the result finding above, there are 27 words and phrases of the lyric of five Olivia Rodrigo songs, which contain of nine words and 18 phrases. Five types of contextual meaning found in the song lyrics out of ten types. The types found are context of person, context of situation, context of whether or not a formal conversation, context of speaker's mood or listener's mood and context of object. There are three words and one phrase found including context of person in the song lyrics. Then, the most dominant context found is context of situation, which has one word and eight phrases including. Yet, the song lyrics only has one word and one phrase including context of whether or not a formal conversation. Data including context of speaker's mood or listener's mood found are two words and three phrases. Lastly, context of object has two words and five phrases in the song lyrics.

Then, there are 17 words and phrases containing contextual meaning that undergo semantic change of the lyric of five Olivia Rodrigo songs, which contain of nine words and eight phrase. Only three types out of ten of semantic change found in the words and phrases containing contextual meaning in five Olivia Rodrigo song lyrics. The types found are widening, totally changed and dysphemism. There are two words and two phrases containing contextual meaning which belong to widening types. Totally changed is the most dominant type found in the words and phrases containing contextual meaning which has seven words and five phrases. The least type found in the lyrics is dysphemism which only has one phrase.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that there are five types of contextual meaning found in five Olivia Rodrigo song lyrics. This research analyzed words, phrases and sentences in the song lyrics. However, this research only discovers words and phrases containing contextual meaning, sentences does not include. This research found that words or phrases that cannot be interpreted just by looking at the definitions in the dictionary, but also must be understood the context of their use. For example, the five songs in this research have sad and broken heart context or situation. Word blue in drivers license lyric can be interpreted as sad instead of a color because the whole lyric talks about heartbroken. It is aligned with Bahri (2016) statement which says that context has a very important contribution in determining the meaning of a language. Without knowing and understanding context, a person will experience difficulties and errors in understanding the meaning of a word because the meaning of a word is inconstant and tends to change according to the context behind the word.

The result of this research is in line with Lestari (2016) and Wardani (2019) which found several types of contextual meaning in song lyrics with different results because of different objects. Yet, this research is different from what in in Anindya (2019) which only analyzed terms with contextual meaning without analyzing contextual meaning types. However, those previous research mentioned did not analyze semantic change in words and phrases containing contextual meaning, which this current research did.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

According to the research finding and discussion, this research can be concluded Five types of contextual meaning were found in the song lyrics out of ten types in five Olivia Rodrigo song lyrics. The types found are context of person (4), context of situation (9), context of whether or not a formal conversation (2), context of speaker's mood or listener's mood (5) and context of object (7). Total data found were 27 words and phrases. Three types were found out of five types of semantic change in the words and phrases containing contextual meaning in five Olivia Rodrigo song lyrics. They are widening (4), totally changed (12) and dysphemism (1). Total words and phrases containing contextual meaning that undergo semantic change were 17 out of 27. This research found that words or phrases that cannot be interpreted just by looking at the definitions in the dictionary, but also must be understood the context of their use.

The researcher realizes that this research is not a perfect opus because of a lack of experience and knowledge of the researcher. As the result, the researcher would like to suggest future researchers to undertake research in the field of semantics, particularly contextual meaning using various objects, such as advertisements, novels, poems, and other literary works, in order to expand information about contextual meaning.

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