

Analysis of Natural Semantic Metalanguage in “History” Song Lyrics

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Abstract

Natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) was developed to reveal meaning, both agreement and difference. Because the paraphrase meaning is expressed in a metalanguage that derives from real language, NSM theory has two advantages: first, it may be accepted by all speakers; second, NSM is constantly open to adjusting and modifying its representation of meaning. The original meaning, which has a universal lexicon, is a key NSM premise. To achieve this goal, NSM seeks universal meaning. This article analyzed the words in the lyrics of the song "history" by One Direction. This study aims to analysed song lyrics using the natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) approach developed by Anna Wierzbicka. Through cross-language semantic research, Wierzbicka has devoted many years to creating the NSM hypothesis. This analysis is related to semantic primes, allollexy and polysemy. The data from this study are the lyrics of One Direction's song entitled History. The writer analyzes the data from the lyrics of the song. After finding the lyrics of the song, the data analyzes it based on the natural semantic metalanguage approach related to semantic prime, allollexy, and polysemy. The results show that the lyric contains semantic prime, allollexy and polysemy components.

Keywords: Natural semantic metalangaue, song lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool to interact. Everyone uses it as a means of everyday communication. With language we can carry out social activities with other people. Chatting, directing ideas, expressing opinions, offering directions, and other activities fall within this category. In everyday life we cannot be separated from language. With language, it is a sign of survival. Language has an important role in life. According to Chaer (2009: 28) Language has an important role in human life, because language is able to transfer desires, ideas, wills, and emotions from one human to another.

In conveying an idea or an idea, language media and also the selection of the right words are needed. The speaker's constraints on the meaning of a term can occasionally result in poor word choice. Same with the music. Music can be beneficial for our lives. As in the classroom, using music or songs as learning media can increase students' interest in

learning. Students can have fun and can increase motivation. A ballad or lyric poem's melody is referred to as a song. The audience will be taken to a certain location by the author-written lyric. The song has a nice word structure, clear diction, and metaphors. As a result, they will be able to feel it in their hearts as well as their ears. Authors write songs based on their personal experiences that tell stories about other people. In addition, according to Wijayanto (2013:17), citing Hornby (1980:822), the song is a brief poem or number of verses that has been placed to music and is meant to be sung. Someone is usually interested in music, and then they try to understand the lyrics. Although the lyrics of a song are usually simple, we don't take it for granted; otherwise we won't get on her bright side. There is one way to do that and that is by analyzing it. It is very important to choose the right words and language in the lyrics of the song.

There is a connection among the languages spoken in this globe. In language terms, they refer to the same idea of meaning. Every word's meaning can be found in every language. This can be accomplished using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM), which is the theory developed by Polish academic Andrzej Bogusawski and presented by Anna Wierzbicka in her 1972 book *Semantic Primitives*. The NSM method is supported by evidence that there is a small set of fundamental and universal meanings, referred to as semantic primes, which may be articulated by words or other linguistic expressions in all languages. This overarching core of meaning can be utilized as a tool for linguistic and cultural study, for articulating culturally distinctive values and attitudes, and for explaining the meaning of words and complex grammatical constructions using semantic explanations. Additionally, this theory offers a semantic basis for language typology and general grammar.

A theory known as Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) places an emphasis on breaking down word meanings until the core meaning is found. A linguistic theory known as natural semantic metalanguage (NSM) condenses the vocabulary to a collection of semantic primitives. In the early 1970s, Cliff Goddard and Anna Wierzbicka of Griffith University in Australia and the Australian National University respectively formulated this theory formally. Goddard (2008) characterizes NSM as a system that deconstructs meaning using widely accepted semantic primes. Therefore, it is a method for figuring out what a word really means. Additionally, it uses a semantic prime, a commonly known notion.

To decipher the meaning of words in all languages, semantic primes are required in NSM. According to Murphy (2010), semantic primes (also known as semantic primitives) are universal concepts, meaning that they can be translated literally into any known language and retain their semantic representation, and primitives, as proposed as linguistic concepts. The simplest and cannot be defined using simpler terms. Allolexy, then, is the ability of a semantic prime to characterize more than one word. As a result, no word's meaning can be separated from its variations. Each category comprises a number of semantic primes, which are the fundamental ideas or meanings of every word in every language in existence. It is clear that different semantic prime numbers fall under the same category. This will provide terms that are related or synonyms. Allolexy can be used to examine word meanings using NSM. In addition, the natural semantic metalanguage is also

related to polysemy. Polysemy is a factor in NSM. Polysemy is a word that has different meanings but there is still a relationship between these different meanings. This study aims to analyze the song "history" by one direction using the natural semantic metalanguage approach. Which are relates to semantic prime, allolexy and then polysemy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) hypothesis is regarded as a way of semantic investigation that can produce a fruitful examination of meaning. Using the commonly used semantic primes, Goddard (2008) defined Natural semantic metalanguage as a system that deconstructs meaning (p. This implies that it is a tool for determining the fundamental meaning of words. This shows that it used well-known semantic primes. Natural semantic metalanguage is a mechanism for defining indefinable entities, claims Goddard (2002: 7). This demonstrates that there are no words that are indefinable in this language since it is possible to utilize a theory known as NSM to ascertain the meaning of phrases that are intended to be indefinable.

The NSM methodology entails an empirical analysis of numerous languages. When examining languages empirically in order to discern between the accidental and the universal, Wierzbicka emphasizes the critical significance of cross-linguistic comparison. Ironically, in the search for primes, the rigidity of radical semantic analysis (RSA) has given way to polysemy, a methodological mistake that has dogged semantic research for years.

Anna Wierzbicka is a Polish linguist and lecturer at Australian National University, is credited with developing the natural semantic metalanguage theory. All meanings, including lexical, illocutionary, and grammatical meanings, are intended to be replicated according to the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) theory. This method ensures that the analysis of the resulting meaning is thorough. Words having intricate meanings can be examined using this method. As an illustration, a paraphrase made up of straightforward and understandable phrases is provided to examine a complicated word. The natural semantic metalanguage approach's basic tenet is that we should strive to convey complex meanings in straightforward terms. To explain the meaning of a semantically difficult word, for instance, we should attempt to use a paraphrase made up of words that are shorter and clearer than the original. In order for a language to work naturally, there should only be one form for one meaning and one meaning for one form, according to this viewpoint's proponents. This standard must be followed by words as well as grammatical constructions. According to this view, the definition of meaning is provided in a metalanguage that is derived from spoken language. (Wierzbicka, 1996:10; Mulyadi, 1998:34; Sudipa, 2004) This explanation is clear to all native speakers of the target language. There are several key theoretical ideas in NSM theory, including (a) Semantic Primitives, (b) Allolexy, and (c) Polysemy.

According to Goddard's (1994) definition of semantic priming, a person's inherited system of meaning cannot be altered. In other words, every person possesses the true meaning, which is present in every language. That is, the original meaning, which is shared by all people and is present in all languages, belongs to everyone. Without a set of semantic primes, all explanations of meaning will be circular, according to Wierzbicka (1996:11).

Going around in circles simply indicates that the concept being explained will be brought up again in the term being used to explain it. The basic grammar of all human language is said to be composed of semantic primes, or primitives, which are meanings that are shared by all languages. The goal is nothing less than to create the groundwork for an integrated, semantically driven approach to language typology and universal grammar.

Finding semantic primitives—whether they are assumed to be represented as words in natural language or as artificial symbols—is the core goal of semantics research. Three general principles that can be viewed as constituting operational principles linked to developing a strong theory of semantic primitives (Goddard and Wierzbicka 1994) principles to a wide variety of proposed primitives have been the focus of the current systematic efforts to identify semantic primitives (such as the papers in Goddard and Wierzbicka 1994a and Myhill 1996):

- a. In accordance with the "Principle of Discrete and Exhaustive Analysis" (Goddard 1994: 8), a set of semantic primitives can be utilized to fully explain meanings. Given that semantic primitives can be used to discover the meaning of every word in any language, a word's inability to be defined using the currently available set of semantic primitives is evidence that another word—or words—need to be included in this collection.
- b. Semantic primitives must be indefinable on their own ("undecomposable," "semantic primitives principle": Goddard 1994: 8); if it turns out that a specific word that is thought of as a semantic primitive can be defined using the other words thought of as semantic primitives, then this word should be removed from the list of semantic primitives.
- c. Semantic primitives ought to be universal; every language ought to have a representation for them.
- d. Since fundamental meaning cannot be defined, the conditionality of an alternation on a lexical meaning that can be defined serves as evidence that either one or both alternants do not reflect semantic primitives. In contrast, if it is possible to create a rule that automatically takes into account the alternation without referencing the meanings of the words themselves (instead, referencing, for example, tense, number, presence of complement, type of complement, politeness, etc.), then this is proof that the two or more in question words are allolexes, reflecting a single lexe.

Exponents are used to describe how semantic primes are translated into different languages. The list of English exponents—the semantic primes in English—is shown below. It's crucial to keep in mind that some of the exponents in the list below are polysemic and could be connected to meanings in English (and other languages) that aren't necessarily used simultaneously. However, only the core ideas are recognized as universal when employed as an exponent in a natural semantic metalanguage. According to Goddard (2008):19 and Goddard and Wierzbicka (2002), there are 61 different meanings for words in the English language. These describe what they are:

Substantives	I, YOU, SOMEONE, SOMETHING, PEOPLE, BODY
Relation substantives	KIND OF, PART OF
Determiners	THIS, THE SAME, OTHER
Quantifiers	ONE, TWO, ALL, MANY/MUCH, SOME
Attributes	BIG, SMALL, GOOD, BAD
Intensifiers	VERY
Mental Predicates	WANT, FEEL, THINK, KNOW, SEE, HEAR
Speech	SAY, WORDS, TRUE
Actions, events, movements	DO, HAPPEN, MOVE
Existence and possessive	THERE IS, HAVE
Life and death	LIVE, DIE
Logical concepts	NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF
Time	WHEN, NOW, AFTER, BEFORE, A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT
Space	WHERE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, NEAR, FAR, INSIDE, SIDE, TOUCHING (CONTACT)
Augmentor	MORE
Similarity	LIKE (HOW, AS)

Several universal syntactic techniques (a conceptual grammar), in accordance with Goddard (2007), are necessary to analyze the meaning of a concept. A syntactic structure known as universal syntax can be utilized to assist explain a notion because it is present in all languages. It is possible to use syntactic structures to describe new concepts in a language. It is possible to think of a clause, which is composed of a subject, predicate, and object, as the fundamental building block of universal syntax. Consider the syntactic structure of the sentence someone (X) solves something (Y), as explained in the following example. Something (Y) was harmed by (X) person. Plate is shattered by Amir. On the plate, Amir took action. It was because of this that something concurrently occurred with the plate. Previously, there was this incidence. The plate is therefore no longer intact as a result of that. If one imagines a plate, one can say with certainty that it is no longer a plate.

There is only one semantic prime that can encompass the fundamental meaning of every word in every language. Polysemy occurs when a single word expresses two distinct semantic primes. Goddard and Wierzbicka 2014: 13. Polysemy exists because certain words require more than one semantic prime to completely convey the basic meaning.

Semantic primes, which are lexical forms that express two unique starting meanings in a single word, are important in the development of the term polysemy (Goddard and Wierzbicka, 2014: 13). Wierzbicka (1996:11) asserts that without a starting set of

meanings, all descriptions of meaning will be circular. Going round and around simply indicates that the concept being presented will eventually return to the definition that was used to introduce it. The lexicon's form can be a word that does not directly reflect the original meaning but nevertheless does so. Mulyadi (2000: 81) provides a sample of the WATCH verb vocabulary, which is representative of the verbs' original meanings of SEE and THINK. Polysemy exists because some words need more than one semantic prime to completely convey the meaning that is crucial to them.

The notion of polysemy is essential for contrasting lexical meanings that have overlapping meanings. Polysemy is a term that is analogous to the NSM concept of allolexy, which refers to two starting meanings that express the same meaning (Goddard and Wierzbicka, 2014: 13). Multiple tenses used to communicate a single meaning in complementary settings are referred to as allolection. Allolexy, a phenomena where many words or word forms (allolexes) communicate a single meaning in complementary situations, is even introduced by NSM as a new tool. I and ME are taken to stand for the same prime in English. Whatever the truth or falsity of Goddard's claim that it is impossible to state any semantic difference between I and me in the form of a substitutable paraphrase, I and me do not exactly mean the same thing in English, just as do and did are semantically distinct; and obviously, therefore, not in an allolexical relationship.

The Natural Semantic Metalanguage approach, particularly in the investigation of inflection, places a lot of emphasis on the idea of allolection. Like the English words me and i. While both words have the same meaning, their placement in a phrase differs. Another illustration English uses the words "do" and "did" interchangeably, although "do" refers to the present tense and "did" to the past tense. Allolexy, as described by Goddard (2008) in his book, is the circumstance in which more than one word reflects a single semantic prime (p. 6). After realizing that word meanings don't always match up with their literal translations, Wierzbicka came up with the term "allolexy" in 1980, according to Goddard (2002: 20). Allolexy is the capacity of a semantic prime to explain numerous words, to put it another way. It therefore follows that linguistic variation always affects the meaning of a word.

METHOD

The researcher employed a descriptive qualitative approach for carrying out this investigation. The qualitative research is an approach that highlights characteristics of a deeper knowledge of a situation rather than only observing a problem. Comparative research is descriptive in character, frequently uses analysis, and illuminates the meaning making process more than qualitative research. Ratna (2004), referenced in Sopa (2015: 24), claims that the "descriptive analysis method is done by describing the facts then followed by analysis." Analysis that is thorough analysis, or separation, examination, or other suitable analysis. The data that are generated throughout the process of quantitative data analysis are written in words rather than numbers. Analytical research aims to determine why or how something happened, whereas descriptive research just attempts to define, describe, or identify what is. Surveys and different kinds of fact-finding studies are

included in descriptive research, according to Kothari (2004:2-3). A description of the situation as it is right now is the primary goal of descriptive research. The natural semantic metalanguage (NSM), developed by Anna Wierzbicka, was used as the research methodology in this study. Semantic primes, polysemy, and allolexy are thus the sets of meaning employed in the song lyrics to explain a notion. One Direction's song History's lyrics serve as the study's primary source of data. In order to generate and assess concepts and relationships in research data analysis, researchers must examine and understand these relationships. It focuses on dissecting something in detail to identify its constituent components, their connections, and how they relate to the whole. The researcher conducts an analysis of information found in song lyrics. Once the song's lyrics have been located, the data analyzes them using a natural semantic metalanguage technique based on semantic prime, allolexy, and polysemy.

FINDINGS

In the lyrics of the song One Direction, includes several semantic primes, including the following:

	In "history" lyrics	
Substantives	I-ME, YOU, SOMEONE, SOMETHING, PEOPLE, BODY	You, I, me
Relation substantives	KIND OF, PART OF	
Determiners	THIS, THE SAME, OTHER	This
Quantifiers	ONE, TWO, ALL, MANY/MUCH, SOME	Some, All
Attributes	BIG, SMALL, GOOD, BAD	Good
Intensifiers	VERY	
Mental Predicates	WANT, FEEL, THINK, KNOW, SEE, HEAR	Feel, Want, Know
Speech	SAY, WORDS, TRUE	
Actions, events, movements	DO, HAPPEN, MOVE	Do
Existence and possessive	THERE IS, HAVE	
Life and death	LIVE, DIE	Live
Logical concepts	NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF	Not, Can
Time	WHEN, NOW, AFTER, BEFORE, A LONG TIME, A SHORT TIME, FOR SOME TIME, MOMENT	Now
Space	WHERE, HERE, ABOVE, BELOW, NEAR, FAR, INSIDE, SIDE,	

	TOUCHING (CONTACT)	
Augmentor	MORE	More
Similarity	LIKE (HOW, AS)	Like

DISCUSSION

Through music, one can convey their emotions. There are several words in the song. The lyric of song History by One Direction served as the study's primary source of data. The author examines the information in the song's lyrics. After the writer locates the song's lyrics and then analyzes them using the natural semantic metalanguage theory. Anna Wierzbicka created the hypothesis in its official form. A lecturer at the Australian National University who is a linguist from Poland. Wierzbicka looks into how various languages originally meant things. There are certain fundamental ideas in the theory of Natural Semantic Metalanguage that scholars should be familiar with. They are allolexy, polysemy, and semantic primes.

A meaning that is static is called semantic prime. According to Goddard (1994) defined semantic primes as collections of meaning that are inherited by people and that are immutable. In other words, the true meaning is inherent to every human being and is present in every language. And it has conveys a universal message. Semantic primes are concepts that have universal meaning, but for a statement or message to be significant, these concepts must be integrated in a way that allows them to speak for themselves. The syntax of a language is made up of these meaningful pairings in their most basic forms, like sentences.

One Direction is a British-Irish boy band, and their song "History" is from them. The third and final single from their fifth studio album, Made in the A.M. (2015), was made available on November 6, 2015. It was also the band's last song to be released before going on sabbatical in January 2016 to work on individual solo projects. The lyrics to One Direction's song "History" describe their relationship with their fans, who they have regarded as their own family for the five years since they were founded. Nobody can predict with certainty when they will be reunited, but even though they will take a hiatus, that does not mean everything will cease. However, one thing is certain the reason they took a hiatus while their careers were at their height was so that their followers would always talk about and remember them. It is unlikely that they will be able to retain their current level of fame in the future.

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Speech	SAY, WORDS, TRUE	
Actions, events, movements	DO, HAPPEN, MOVE	Do
Existence and possessive	THERE IS, HAVE	
Life and death	LIVE, DIE	Live
Logical concepts	NOT, MAYBE, CAN, BECAUSE, IF	Not, Can
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Similarity	LIKE (HOW, AS)	Like

In the lyrics of the song "history" almost all types of prime semantics are present in the lyrics of the song. There are 16 types of semantic primes and in the lyrics of this song there are 11 types of semantic primes. There are substantives, determiners, quantifiers, attributes, mental predicates, actions, events, movements, life and death, logical concepts, time, augmentor, and similarity.

The term "semantic primes," sometimes known as "semantic primitives," refers to a collection of semantic concepts that some contend are widely understood yet cannot be described in clearer language. They signify concepts or statements that can be mastered via repetition but that lack clear definition. *Semantics: Primes and Universals* by Anna Wierzbicka played a significant role in popularizing the idea of universal semantic primes. A natural semantic prime language, also known as a natural semantic metalanguage, is actually made up of a set of semantic primes that each stand for a different basic concept, are found in minds that are prone to picking up those concepts, and a common set of rules for combining those concepts into meaningful messages.

Due to the universality of the list of semantic primes and of the grammar, each language has essentially the same natural semantic metalanguage, despite the fact that

each semantic prime sounds different across languages and the syntax may have distinct appearances.

Allollexy is a different lexical usage but has the same meaning. In the history of song lyrics there are many allollexy. As in the word "You, I, me" describes someone, someone, in prime semantics related to substantive. I and YOU are "semantic primitives" in 1976 terminology; in more recent years, they have been referred to as semantic primes. They cannot be eliminated in favour of some arbitrary indices, such as those employed in symbolic logic's artificial languages, nor can they be defined away in terms of other primes. On the basis of empirical semantic studies, their status as semantic primes can be verified. Likewise, the word "some, all" describes numbers. "Feel, Want, Know" describes mental predicates. The lyrics also explain the concept of logic through the words "Not, Can". The term "Now" was used to describe time in the historical song. The phrase "More" followed, which described augmentor, and the word "Like" concluded, which described likeness. In line with Goddard (2008) defined allollexy as the situation in which more than one word represents a single semantic prime on page 6 of his book. Wierzbicka developed the idea of allollexy in 1980 after seeing that word meanings are not constant. This was further elucidated by Goddard (2002: 20). Allollexy is a term used to describe circumstances where many words or word forms (allollexes) communicate the same meaning in different settings. The allollexy idea is significant in NSM, particularly for inflection language. Positional allollexy, combinatorial allollexy, and inflectional allollexy are a few examples of allollexy.

Using polysemy is another technique for determining a word's meaning using NSM. Although the semantic prime is the fundamental meaning of every word in every language in the world, not every word can employ one semantic prime and accurately represent the meaning. When two different semantic primes are expressed by the same word, this is known as polysemy (Goddard & Wierzbicka, 2014: 13). A single lexical form called polysemy can express two distinct original meanings. When two different semantic primes are expressed by the same word, this is known as polysemy. It appears more difficult to deal with several meanings in a word in the case of polysemy. As a result, a strategy is needed to identify the range of meanings that a word can have. Understanding word meaning is essential for communication for speakers of any language. (2014) Goddard and Wierzbicka: 13. Because each semantic prime has a different grammatical frame from the others, it is possible.

For example in lyric *"So don't **let** it go"* and *"So don't **let** me go"* the word *"let"* have different meaning. In the lyrics *"So don't let it go"*, the word *"let"* means *let go*. Whereas in the lyrics *"So don't let me go"*, the word *"let"* means *let*. There are some words that require more than one semantic prime in order to fully communicate the essential meaning, which is why polysemy exists. Likewise with the lyrics *"you **gotta** help me"* and *"you and me **got** a whole lot of history"*. The word of *"got"* here has a different meaning. Where, in the lyrics *"you gotta help me"*, we know that the word of *"gotta"* stands for *"got to"*. So, the word of *"got"* means *must*. Whereas in the lyrics *"you and me got a whole lot of history"*, the word *"got"*

means to have. This is an example of polysemy, where the words have the same word but have different meanings.

CONCLUSION

The natural semantic metalanguage or NSM is a system that breaks down meaning by using semantic primes that are broadly accepted. Natural Semantic Metalanguage is a technique that can be used to distinguish between words, even though many of them appear to be similar. The Natural semantic metalanguage theory can assist in providing explanations that accurately convey each word's meaning. There are several key theoretical ideas in NSM theory, including semantic primitives, allolexy, and polysemy. A limited core of fundamental, universal meanings, referred to as semantic primes, is supported by evidence for the Natural semantic metalanguage method. Semantic primes are sets of meaning that people inherit and that are unchangeable. In other words, every person possesses the true meaning, which is present in every language. The most basic idea in NSM is semantic primes, which cannot be further reduced to simpler language because they are simple lexical meanings. Furthermore, the foundation of linguistic meaning is laid by semantic primes, which are the key components of semantic analysis in any language. Then, two beginning meanings that express the same idea are referred to as allolexy in NSM. When two distinct semantic primes are expressed by the same word, this is known as polysemy. One lexical construction known as polysemy can express two different original meanings. With polysemy, it seems more challenging to deal with a word's several meanings. According to the study, allolexy, polysemy, and semantic primes may all be found in the lyrics of One Direction songs.

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