

A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS : POSITIVE DEPICTIONS OF WOMEN IN BEYONCE'S SONG LYRICS

Prisca M. Sijabat
English Literature

friskamargarethasijabat@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper is Discourse Analysis: Positive Depictions of Women in Beyonce's Song Lyrics. Many of Beyonce's song lyrics depict a woman. Descriptive qualitative method is the method used in this study. Discourse analysis, this study analyzes the position of the subject matter in each sentence of the lyrics of Beyonce. The description clause is also used to find out how a woman is described. By analyzing the process of involving a woman in the lyrics of this song, a positive woman can be described. In broad outline, this study shows that beyonce puts a woman into the subject and portrays it positively in the lyrics of her songs.

Key words: discourse analysis, depictions women, subject position, object position, clause as representation, positive self- presentation.

INTRODUCTION

The issue of gender identity is discussed in this paper, especially gender identity for women (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Woro Kasih et al., 2019), (Aminatun, 2021), (Pratama, 2018). Women's gender identity is often built from norms created by society such as the nature, feelings or body shape of a person (Aji & Dewi, 2017), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021b), (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), (Kardiansyah, 2017). And here the researcher will discuss the gender of women, women are often mistaken for bad if their behavior or behavior is contrary to the norms that describe their gender identity, and they are treated as objects (Chavez, 2000). Thus, women who considered their behavior as an object rebelled. Many women resist the treatment through discourse.

Discourse is a language that is continuous from language and is bigger than a sentence (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), (Cahyaningsih & Pranoto, 2021). Discourse includes language, communication, information, politics and literature (Rido et al., 2017), (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021), (Kuswoyo & Rido, 2019), (Kuswoyo et al., 2020). Discourse is a set of sentences that are connected to one another by the relationship between propositions so that a unity of meaning is created (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020), (Evayani & Rido, 2019), (Eklesia & Rido, 2020). In this paper, the analyzed discourse is in the form of song lyrics, because the song lyrics have an implied meaning. The song lyrics analyzed are Beyonce's song lyrics. In this analysis we use the discourse analysis model by Sara Mills. This model focuses on the discourse about women, especially on how women are represented in a text. Mills also examines the power of narrative that gives a person or group the power to state their opinion through their point of view.

A creator and singer, Beyonce, has sung songs with the theme of a woman's independence in several of her songs. And in this paper, there are nine songs selected to be researched, namely the following songs entitled Survivor, Independent Women, Single Ladies, Listen, Grown Woman, Sorry, Run The World, Flawless and 6 Inch. Representation or description

is an important thing to analyze a discourse. Representation occurs from how an actor, opinion, and events are placed and told in a text. The focus of this research is representation or depictions analysis, especially positive representation of women in song lyrics. This article aims to prove the positive representation of women in Beyonce's song lyrics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The discourse analysis is based on the assumption that language is an indispensable part of a social life, which is dialogue interconnected with other elements of social life, so that social research and analysis must always pay attention to language (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021), (Journal & Kiranamita, 2021), (F. M. Sari & Putri, 2019), (Samanik & Lianasari, 2018), (Sinaga & Oktaviani, 2020). Discourse is more than just text because the text itself is part of discourse (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Helmy et al., 2018). Text analysis is an important part of discourse analysis, but discourse analysis is not merely a linguistic analysis of texts, so that discourse analysis is a textual analysis combined with elements of social practice (Pettersson, 2009), (Aminatun, 2016), (Tanenhaus et al., 2000).

Also, discourse analysis is a study of language use with the purpose of showing and interpreting the relation between layers and patterns expressed in the language (Aji & Dewi, 2017), (Kuswoyo et al., 2021), (Hamzah et al., n.d.). (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021a) stated that discourse analysis is language use practice, especially language politics. Language is central to object description and by using language an opinion can be reflected within it. This aspect is the main focus of discourse analysis (Novawan et al., 2020), (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019), (Karal et al., 2017), (Rido, 2011), (Mulyah et al., 2020). Song lyrics are discourse because it contains story, feeling and phenomena in life, as is in Beyonce's songs.

A song is a medium to express feelings through message in its lyrics. Moreover, a song also contains critics toward certain phenomenon in a society (Fitri et al., 2021), (Imani & Ghassemian, 2019), (Isnaini & Aminatun, 2021). Music grew from certain social context and music is revealing basic assumption about where it came from (Pranoto, 2021), (Endang Woro Kasih, 2018). A person who writes a song is affected by the culture of where he or she came from and that culture affects what he or she writes (Kusniyati, 2016), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018).

In contrast to critical linguistics which focuses on the analysis of language structures such as words and sentences, Mills focuses on how roles affect text. Discourse is a grouping of speech and sentences are not a collection of disembodied statements, statements that are enhanced in a social context. In addition, this position is who acts as an object and who acts as a subject, which will determine how the text is structured and how the meaning is reflected in the whole text. Sara Mills focuses on the position of actors, especially women, in a text. Analysis of the actor's position will reveal certain limitations in narrating the text.

In the field of representation, the position of subject and the position of object hold certain meaning. Subject in a sentence or a clause defined as a part of clause which indicates the person who do the speaking. Meanwhile, the object is a matter or a person which act as the receiver and object is to whom its existence is described through subject's perspective. The meaning of the text will depend on the subject as the actor that do the action and describe others. A subject also have power to describe its own side

and describe opposite side because it is through a subject's point of the view a statement is stated. In this research, the position analysis is focus on the women of Beyonce's song lyrics.

(KUSWOYO et al., 2013) stated that clause as representation is one of the aspects of functional grammar in analyzing representation. There are three aspects in this theory, such as: Process, Participant and Circumstances (Halim, n.d.). Process stands for the act of doing something. In this theory, process referred to verb in a clause. Participant stands for the one who does or the one who receive a treatment in a process. In a clause, participant comes in a form of a subject or an object of the clause. Then there is circumstance which stands as complement of a process that shows place, time, manner, role, etc (Block & Mead, 2003), (Yudiawan et al., 2021). Circumstances come in the form of propositions or adverbs (Istiani & Puspita, 2020). Halliday stated that in clause as representation theory there are six processes which are material process, mental process, behavioral process, verbal process, relational process, and existential process, but in this research only appeared five processes which are material process, mental process, behavioral process, verbal process and relational process (Rossi & Rahni, 2016).

METHOD

This research was conducted using qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative methods produce descriptive data in the form of a the form of the written or spoken word about individual characters, and certain group phenomena are being observed. Descriptive method is an analysis strategy of describing data and structuring characterization based on reality (Baker & Edwards, 2012).

Analyzing the position of actors featured in Beyonce's song using Sara Mills's subject-object position theory. In order to reveal the positive representations reflected in the processes in Beyonce's song lyrics, Halliday's clause as a representation theory is also cited in this study. Data were collected from nine Beyonce songs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Depictions or Representation of Women through Subject Position

The position of women in Beyonce's song lyrics is seen through the representation analysis. There are two positions which are as subject, which is at the position that has power over giving definition about themselves or as object, which does not have power to describe themselves because their existence is described by the subject. In the analysis shown how Beyonce build women representation in her song lyrics through the position.

Most of the actors in the data are women.

- (1) *You thought that I'd be stressed without you
But I'm chillin'
You thought I wouldn't sell without you
Sold 9 million*
- (2) *I could care less what you think
I need no permission, did I mention
Don't pay him any attention*
- (3) *Me and my ladies sip my d'ussé cups
I don't give a fuck chucking my deuces up
Suck on my balls pause
I had enough*

I ain't thinking 'bout you

The first quote is from the song 'Survivor', which tells the story of a woman who continues to want to pursue her career and even people around her criticize and belittle them. Through their perspective as subject, they rebel against the statement that women cannot reach success without following critics from society. Then, there is the song 'Single Ladies' (Quote 2) which is about a woman who feels happy even without having a partner. In the song lyrics, subject is a woman who has power to narrate the story in the song. The subject describes herself and other women are happy even being single because they do not have to impress anybody (men). The third quote is from the song entitled 'Sorry'. The message is that women do not always depend on men in their life. Women in the position of women become subjects. From the subject's point of view, women are depicted as not always concerned with what men think about themselves. In the songs mentioned above, women are at the position of subjects. Subjects who are women describe their side through their point of view. Men who are at the position as object cannot interfere with what the subject describes.

CONCLUSION

Based on of subject-object position analysis, it can be concluded that women are always on the subject positions. Based on those positions occupied by women in the song lyrics, it can be concluded that Beyonce builds women's representation through these positions so women can hold the power of narrating the story in the lyrics and can interpret their side or others. The power gives women freedom in the song lyrics to make statements and to reject statements. While based on the choice of verbs in the lyrics the conclusion is that Beyonce often use the material process in representing women, the choice of verbs used in the lyrics are the ones with meanings that can describe women as strong and independent figures.

REFERENCES

- Afrianto, A., & Ma'rifah, U. (2020). Tubuh dan Relasi Gender: Wacana Pascakolonial Dalam Novel "The Scarlet Letter" Karya Nathaniel Hawthorne. *LEKSEMA: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 5(1), 49–63.
- Aji, G. F. S., & Dewi, N. (2017). Prosiding Seminar Nasional: Membongkar Sastra, Menggugat Rezim Kepastian. In *Prosiding Seminar Nasional: Membongkar Sastra, Menggugat Rezim Kepastian*.
- Al Falaq, J. S., & Puspita, D. (2021). Critical Discourse Analysis: Revealing Masculinity Through L-Men Advertisement. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 2(1), 62–68.
- Aminatun, D. (2016). *Eye movements and lexical access in spoken-language comprehension: Evaluating a linking hypothesis between fixations and linguistic processing*. UNS (Sebelas Maret University).
- Aminatun, D. (2021). *STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE TOWARD THE USE OF DIGITAL COMIC*. 2(2), 90–94.
- Aminatun, D., & Oktaviani, L. (2019). Memrise: Promoting students' autonomous learning skill through language learning application. *Metathesis: Journal of English Language, Literature, and Teaching*, 3(2), 214–223.
- Baker, S. E., & Edwards, R. (2012). How many qualitative interviews is enough? *National Centre for Research Methods Review Paper*, 1–42. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525822X05279903>
- Block, K. I., & Mead, M. N. (2003). *Immune System Effects of Echinacea, Ginseng, and*

- Astragalus : A Review*. 2(3), 247–267. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1534735403256419>
- Cahyaningsih, O., & Pranoto, B. E. (2021). *A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS : THE REPRESENTATION OF DONALD TRUMP IN THE REUTERS AND THE NEW YORK TIMES TOWARDS THE ISSUE OF #BLACKLIVESMATTER*. 2(2), 75–83.
- Chavez, M. (2000). Teacher and student gender and peer group gender composition in German foreign language classroom discourse: An exploratory study. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 32(7), 1019–1058.
- Eklesia, G., & Rido, A. (2020). Representation of People with HIV/AIDS in The Jakarta Post and Jakarta Globe: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *TEKNOSASTIK*, 18(2), 120–133.
- Endang Woro Kasih, E. (2018). Formulating Western Fiction in Garrett Touch of Texas. *Arab World English Journal For Translation and Literary Studies*, 2(2), 142–155. <https://doi.org/10.24093/awejtls/vol2no2.10>
- Evayani, W., & Rido, A. (2019). Representation of Social Actors in Sexual Violence Issue in The New York Times and The Jakarta Post Newspapers: A Critical Discourse Analysis. *Teknosastik*, 17(2), 43–55.
- Fitri, A., Yao, L., Pratiwi, D., Phelia, A., Susarman, Dewantoro, F., Safitri, D., & Maulud, K. N. A. (2021). Effectiveness of a groundsill structure in reducing scouring problem at Cimadur River, Banten Province. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 880(1), 012026. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/880/1/012026>
- Halim, H. (n.d.). *MODEL FREKUENSI KECELAKAAN*.
- Hamzah, I., Yufrizal, H., Simbolon, R., & Hasan, H. (n.d.). *Implementation of debate technique in teaching speaking at the second grade of sma yp unila bandar lampung*.
- Helmy, N. F., Johar, R., & Abidin, Z. (2018). Student’s understanding of numbers through the number sense strategy. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1088. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1088/1/012098>
- Imani, M., & Ghassemian, H. (2019). Electrical Load Forecasting Using Customers Clustering and Smart Meters in Internet of Things. *9th International Symposium on Telecommunication: With Emphasis on Information and Communication Technology, IST 2018*, 113–117. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ISTEL.2018.8661071>
- Isnaini, S., & Aminatun, D. (2021). *DO YOU LIKE LISTENING TO MUSIC?: STUDENTS’ THOUGHT ON*. 2(2), 62–67.
- Istiani, R., & Puspita, D. (2020). Interactional Metadiscourse used in Bloomberg International Debate. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 1(1), 13–20.
- Ivana, P. S. I., & Suprayogi, S. (2020). THE REPRESENTATION OF IRAN AND UNITED STATES IN DONALD TRUMP’S SPEECH: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 1(2), 40–45.
- Journal, L., & Kiranamita, S. (2021). *THE PORTRAYAL OF MALIGNANT NARCISSM IN THE VILLAIN*. 2(1), 33–40.
- Karal, H., Kokoc, M., & Cakir, O. (2017). Impact of the educational use of Facebook group on the high school students’ proper usage of language. *Education and Information Technologies*, 22(2), 677–695.
- Kardiansyah, M. Y. (2017). Tubuh dan Relasi Gender: Wacana Pascakolonial Dalam Novel “The Scarlet Letter” Karya Nathaniel Hawthorne. *Poetika: Jurnal Ilmu Sastra*, 5(1), 58–67.
- Kusniyati, H. (2016). Culture is a way of life that developed and shared by a group of people , and inherited from one technology as a competitive sector that can added value to the business processes that run . The development of information and communication technology make. *APLIKASI EDUKASI BUDAYA TOBA SAMOSIR*

- BERBASIS ANDROID Harni*, 9(1), 9–18.
- Kuswoyo, H., & Rido, A. (2019). Process types of transitivity system in engineering lecture introduction: A pedagogic discourse. *Lingua: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 19(2), 85–96.
- Kuswoyo, H., Sujatna, E. T. S., Indrayani, L. M., & Rido, A. (2020). Cohesive Conjunctions and and so as Discourse Strategies in English Native and Non-Native Engineering Lecturers: A Corpus-Based Study. *International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology*, 29(7), 2322–2335.
- KUSWOYO, H., SUJATNA, E. V. A. T. S., & CITRARESMANA, E. (2013). Theme of imperative clause in political advertising slogan. *Research Journal of English Language and Literature*, 1(4), 162–168.
- Kuswoyo, H., Tuckyta, E., Sujatna, S., Indrayani, L. M., & Macdonald, D. (2021). *SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES 'Let 's take a look ...': An Investigation of Directives as Negotiating Interpersonal Meaning in Engineering Lectures*. 29(1), 47–69.
- Mertania, Y., & Amelia, D. (2020). Black Skin White Mask: Hybrid Identity of the Main Character as Depicted in Tagore's The Home and The World. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 1(1), 7–12.
- Muliyah, P., Aminatun, D., Nasution, S. S., Hastomo, T., & Sitepu, S. S. W. (2020). EXPLORING LEARNERS' AUTONOMY IN ONLINE LANGUAGE-LEARNING IN STAI SUFYAN TSAURI MAJENANG. *Getsempena English Education Journal*, 7(2), 382–394.
- Nababan, R. M., & Nurmaily, E. (2021). *THE HYPERMASCULINITY AS SEEN IN THE MAIN CHARACTER IN RAMBO : LAST BLOOD MOVIE*. 2(1), 25–32.
- Novanti, E. A., & Suprayogi, S. (2021). WEBTOON'S POTENTIALS TO ENHANCE EFL STUDENTS' VOCABULARY. *Journal of Research on Language Education*, 2(2), 83–87.
- Novawan, A., Aisyiyah, S., Miqawati, A. H., Wijayanti, F., & Indrastana, N. S. (2020). Exploring the Teachers' Perspective on Morality in an English as a Foreign Language Pedagogy. *Journal of ELT Research: The Academic Journal of Studies in English Language Teaching and Learning*, 5(1), 80–93. <https://doi.org/10.22236/JER>
- Pettersson, S. (2009). *Eoin Colfer's Magical Fairies to Folklore and Other Literature Lower Elements*.
- Pradana, F. A., & Suprayogi, S. (2021). *CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS ON CHINESE AND AMERICAN NEWS WEBSITES*. 2(2), 84–92.
- Pranoto, B. E. (2021). Insights from Students' Perspective of 9GAG Humorous Memes Used in EFL Classroom. *Thirteenth Conference on Applied Linguistics (CONAPLIN 2020)*, 72–76.
- Pratama, P. G. (2018). *Transgender Personality Reflected in Buffalo Bill 'S Character As Seen in Harris ' the Silence of the Lambs*. 2, 417–423.
- Purwaningsih, N., & Gulö, I. (2021a). Representation of Reynhard Sinaga in Bbc News and the Jakarta Post. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 2(1), 50–61.
- Purwaningsih, N., & Gulö, I. (2021b). REPRESENTATION OF REYNHARD SINAGA IN BBC NEWS AND THE JAKARTA POST. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 2(1), 50–61.
- Qodriani, L. U., & Kardiansyah, M. Y. (2018). Exploring Culture in Indonesia English Textbook for Secondary Education. *JPI (Jurnal Pendidikan Indonesia)*, 7(1), 51–58.
- Rido, A. (2011). LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION: HIGHLIGHTING STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES. *Proceedings of*

the 58th TEFLIN International Conference.

- Rido, A., Sari, F. M., Suri, R. A. M., & Duantoro, H. (2017). Discourse Structure of Lecture in L2 in the Indonesian Tertiary Context. *Proceedings of ISELT FBS Universitas Negeri Padang*, 5, 11–20.
- Rossi, F., & Rahni, A. A. A. (2016). Combination of low level processing and active contour techniques for semi-automated volumetric lung lesion segmentation from thoracic CT images. *ISSBES 2015 - IEEE Student Symposium in Biomedical Engineering and Sciences: By the Student for the Student*, 26–30. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ISSBES.2015.7435887>
- Samanik, S., & Lianasari, F. (2018). Antimatter Technology: The Bridge between Science and Religion toward Universe Creation Theory Illustrated in Dan Brown's Angels and Demons. *Teknosastik*, 14(2), 18. <https://doi.org/10.33365/ts.v14i2.58>
- Sari, F. M., & Putri, S. N. (2019). Academic Whatsapp group: Exploring students' experiences in writing class. *Teknosastik*, 17(2), 56–65.
- Sari, K., & Pranoto, B. E. (2021). *Representation of Government Concerning the Draft of Criminal Code in The Jakarta Post : A Critical Discourse Analysis*. 11(2), 98–113.
- Sinaga, R. R. F., & Oktaviani, L. (2020). The Implementation of Fun Fishing to Teach Speaking for Elementary School Students. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Learning*, 1(1), 1–6.
- Tanenhaus, M. K., Magnuson, J. S., Dahan, D., & Chambers, C. (2000). Eye movements and lexical access in spoken-language comprehension: Evaluating a linking hypothesis between fixations and linguistic processing. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 29(6), 557–580.
- Woro Kasih, E., Adi, I., & Saktiningrum, N. (2019). *Border as Post Space in Reyna Grande's The Distance Between Us*. January 2019. <https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.27-4-2019.2285322>
- Yudiawan, A., Sunarso, B., Suharmoko, Sari, F., & Ahmadi. (2021). Successful online learning factors in covid-19 era: Study of islamic higher education in west papua, indonesia. *International Journal of Evaluation and Research in Education*, 10(1), 193–201. <https://doi.org/10.11591/ijere.v10i1.21036>