

## SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS LACK OF NEED BY LOOSING FATHER IN *PARLE A MON PERE* BY CELINE DION

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### Abstract:

*Language is the most important media for human's communication. By using language, human can interact, socialize, and cooperate with others, because in essence language is a means of communication. Given the importance of language as a means of communication, in the process of conveying information to others it must be clear and easy to understand, like in literary works. Literary works can also consider as a part of communication. In every literary works, including in song lyric would contain a message. Lyric songs usually contain experiences and ideas of the authors who are summarized in a particular theme, parsed and conveyed to listeners through language. Song lyrics are an expression of the author's feelings, thoughts and ideas which are realized in a special language. In this research, the researcher would like to research Parle A Mon Pere song, by Celine Dion. This research uses Roland Barthes' semiotic theory, which is collaborated with Jaques Lacan's psychoanalysis theory. Meanwhile, Barthes' myth theory is used to examine the hidden meanings which the songwriters want to convey. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The researcher would carefully note data in the form of words, sentences and speech. The choice of content analysis techniques is analyzing words. The content analysis techniques are used to understand messages, seen as unstructured data. The result of this research is that researchers can find hidden meanings, that a girl will feel empty if she loses her father. This is obtained through the translation of the signifier and the signified, which is obtained from the sentence in the song Parle A Mon Pere, by Celine Dion.*

**Keyword:** Song, Signifier, Signified, Hidden meanings, Psychoanalysis

### INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important media for human's communication. By using language, human can interact, socialize, and cooperate with others,

because in essence language is a means of communication. There two kind of language: verbal and non-verbal. Instead, verbal is more useful for communication. Without verbal language, humans cannot

communicate perfectly in delivering messages. In communication, symbol exchange is a process of delivering messages. Heru Satoto in Sobur (2009: 155) says that "a symbol is a sign or feature that tells someone something. Symbols have arbitrary and independent characteristics, depending on the ideas and thoughts that are formed. Mcquail (2011: 52) says" The transmission information, ideals, attitudes or emotion from the one person or group to another primarily through symbols. ". From quotation, it might be explain, by using language, communication is a kind of the process in delivering messages or information in the form of ideas, attitudes or emotions from a person or group. Given the importance of language as a means of communication, in the process of conveying information to others it must be clear and easy to understand, like in literary works.

Literary works can also consider as a part of communication. Therefore, literary works have a form of author's expression, who expresses someone's feeling and mind in their life. In daily activities, humans always carry out

language activities, because language provides many benefits to humans. In literary works, language produces symbols. Without those symbols, literary works are not work, or is meaningless. The authors, as a member of a particular society, have expressed his thoughts and views on the life of their community in a literary work. This make the literary works might have relation to the author's background at the time the literary work was written. In every literary works, including in a song, lyrics would contain a massage.

Lyrics song usually contains experiences and ideas of the authors who are summarized in a particular theme, parsed and conveyed to listeners through language. Song lyrics are an expression of the author's feelings, thoughts and ideas which are realized in a special language. The special form of language in question is language that tends to be uncommon or commonly used in everyday life. According to Wahyuddin et al (2022): "Song lyrics are the result of casting expressions that are strengthened by melody and musical notation so that

music lovers will be increasingly carried away in the inner nature of the author”.

With song lyrics, the song writers can communicate with their listeners. Through the song's lyrics, the songwriter wants to convey a message that expresses him to the phenomena that occurs in the world around him, where he interacts. In their creation, the songwriters use their creativity in taking diction and combining phenomena in society and the surrounding nature, including feelings.

In this research, the researcher chooses songs from France singer, titled *Parle A Mon Pere*. This song is sung by Celine Dion. Celine Dion is one of World Diva. After five years of rest, now the mother of 3 has released a new French album entitled '*Sans Attendre*'. The first single, entitled *Parler a mon Pere*, was a success he brought and has managed to rank first on the charts of several countries in Europe. Céline Marie Claudette Dion is a woman with a voice. She was born in Charlemagne, Quebec, Canada, March 30, 1968. Then, she is better known as Celine Dion, a singer and pop diva of Canadian nationality. She made her debut in the recording industry

in 1981 as a French-speaking singer, under the guidance of René Angélil, a music producer in Canada.

She has since become a famous singer in French speaking countries. In 1990, Celine began releasing her first English-language album, *Unison*, which made her name in North America and around the world. In 1990s, Celine achieved worldwide success with a number of albums in English and French and it made her one of the most successful artist in pop music history.

This kind of this research had also been researched by Ricky Aptifive Manik, from Jambi Province. His titled “Hasrat Nano Riantiaro In A Red Mirror: A Lacanian Psychoanalysis Research”. The difference in this research is that the research conducted by Ricky Manik discusses the ego of love desire. Meanwhile, this study examines feelings of loss. the similarity is that these two studies look at the linguistic system, and use Lacan's theory. In addition, this research does not explore what is contained in the text, by collaborating Barthes and Lacan's theory, through the signifier and the signified.

The contain of this songs consider as the reasons to choose it as research data. The choice of the title is based on the observation, the researcher find that in a song lyric text often uses language style. Therefore, it will add song's value. Through this research, the researcher hopes to decipher the hidden meaning in the song texts. This research would like to elaborate Barthes' semiotic and Lacan's psychoanalysis. Those theories would find the hidden meaning in the song. Semiotics is defined as a science or analytical method for studying signs, in Barthes terms, semiology, basically wants to study how humans interpret various things in life. Based on the book *Cultural and Communication Studies*, Fiske, 2007 (118-120) argues, "from Barthes' theory is the idea of two orders of signatures, consisting of denotation, connotation, and myth. The first sign system arrangement is denotation which is the basis of Saussure's work. This order describes the relationship between the sign and the sign in the sign, and between the sign and its reference in external reality. Fiske (2007: 118) argues "Barthes himself calls this order a denotation. This refers to the

general assumptions; the meaning is clear about the sign. Related to this, Abdul Muttalib. (2022). When you want to see the elements of poetry in the aspect of meaning using semiotic analysis

The denotative meaning will be the same, and the difference will be in the connotation. Related to Fiske in Barthes' semiotics (2007, 54) "connotations are identical to ideological operations, which he called myths. Myths function to reveal and provide justification for the dominant values prevailing in a certain period. This means that connotations work in a more subjective domain compared to denotation According to Wibowo (2011: 17), this concept of connotation is certainly based not only on cognition, but also by pragmatics, namely the use of signs and their understanding situation. From the quotation above, it can be explained that semiotics is an approach, which is a study of systems that are usually considered as signs. Zaimar in Nurgiyantoro (2010: 11) states that "language is a system, meaning that language consists of a number of elements, and each element is interconnected regularly and functions,

which has rules, so that language can be used to communicate.”.

The important thing in semiotics is the sign system. A sign is something that represents something that can be experiences, feelings, thoughts and so on. Barthes' semiotics is a development of Saussure semiotics by investigating the relationship between the signifier and the signified in a sign. Related this, Kurniawan (2001: 22) states "The relationship between signifier and signified is not similar but equivalent". A sign, it self, according to Peirce (in Zaimar 2008: 2) is anything that represents someone or something else in a certain capacity. Peirce in Zaimar (2008: 4) describes three elements in signs, namely representamen, object, and interpretant. Representamen is a sign element that represents something, object is something that is represented, and interpretant is a sign that is written in the mind of the recipient after seeing the representamen. Thus the representamen forms a sign in the mind of the recipient. This sign can be a sign that is commensurate or it can also be a sign that has been more developed. There is a

condition necessary for the representation to be a sign, namely the existence of ground. Without ground, representations will not be accepted. Ground is the knowledge equation that exists in the sender and receiver of the sign so that the representation can be understood

Then, previously it has been said, that in this study, the researcher also included Jaques Lacan's psychoanalytic theory. In the Lacanian perspective, the author is a subject lacking due to the loss. The subject, in this case the lacking writer or singer, is always represented by language or a special object called the signifier, as when he speaks or writes is the subject's way of manifesting himself. Markers are constantly in motion and have the potential to become endless. This is what is meant by desire: one marker implies another marker, that marker implies another marker, and so on. Language is a locus for desire. This is in line with Lacan's opinion in Eagleton (2010, 243), that when a person enters the realm of language, it means falling prey to desire: language is' what erodes something up to desire. Thus, Lacan discusses desire in relation to language.

Therefore, according to Faruk (2012: 197) understanding literary works from a Lacanian perspective is an attempt to find a state of unconsciousness, which is filled with feelings of lack and loss which at the same time accompanies the desire for self-fulfillment. This unconscious condition is something that is difficult to know other than through language.

Jacques Lacan does several breakthroughs from Freud's ideas, including the psycho-sexual trajectory of the Oedipus complex to the language or linguistic-structural area Sarup (2011: 18) explains, that "Lacan formulated the Oedipus complex trajectory that the baby must take to get a conception. Self-hood is closely related to the three human psychic registers, namely the pre-oedipal stage in the Real order, the mirror stage in the Imaginary order, and the oedipal stage in the symbolic realm. In the Real-stage, which is similar to the pre-Freudian phase, the child, especially the baby, is still a lump, which cannot be separated from the material object or the mother. In this condition, there is no concept of difference, that is, there is no difference between the child and the mother or

others, there is only need, and things that satisfy these needs through the mother, such as eating or breast milk.

For Lacan, it is called as mirror stage. It is an important thing happens, namely when the child realizes his separation from the mother. This makes the child feel lost, lacking, and want to be reunited with the mother, caused human's emotion. According to Janinta Br Ginting (2020). "Emotions are reactions or feelings nature directed at someone. Emotions are basically closely related to a person's perspective in thinking and doing things".

At this stage, the child begins to realize that there is someone else in his life besides the mother figure. In this context, the need becomes shifted demands. Because their needs are no longer always met, eventually the child has to demand them. However, because the child has not been able to articulate his demands properly, the result is the mother, who will not properly meet the demands of the baby. Lacan in Slavoj Žižek said (2006: 76) that "The mirror stage is a process of identification when the child begins to get an image of

himself". The following quotation can provide a clearer understanding of the identification according to Lacan.

After reading the background, so the researcher finds two problems that can be analysed in this research. First, how can signs and markers describe psychology in songs? Then, what is the

myth behind the song?. Moreover, the purpose of this study is to find out, why women in the *Parle A Mon Pere*, by Celine Dion, song express her feeling. In addition the research would also like to find out the hidden meaning in the song.

## METHOD

This research uses a descriptive-qualitative method with a content analysis approach because the data to be examined requires a descriptive explanation. Related to this, Denzin and Lincoln in Komariah (2012: 23), qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting, with the intention of interpreting the phenomena that occur and is carried out by involving various existing methods. The focus of this research is to analyze the song and the meaning of the lyrics contained in the song by the band Be Seven Steady. Therefore this study uses a qualitative descriptive method, because the focus is on the analysis of the song and the meaning of the lyrics contained in the *Parle A Mon Pere* by Celine Dion.

In qualitative research of songs, the researcher would carefully note data in the form of words, sentences and speech. The choice of content analysis techniques, is analyzing words. The content analysis techniques are used to understand symbolic messages as unstructured data.

The objects of this research are the intrinsic elements of the lyrics of the song "*Parle A Mon Pere*" by Celine Dion. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make descriptions, pictures, or paintings systematically, factually and accurately regarding the facts, characteristics and relationships between the phenomena being investigated. The data in this research is the French text song, sung by Céline Dion.

The pupose of this research is to find the hidden meaning. In semiotic, it would be analysed by myth. Myth is a process of a marking system, as a semiotic system, myth can be described as three elements, namely the signifier, the signified and the sign in the first level system. or primary system. In the

secondary system, Barthes (1977: 85) uses different terms for the three elements, namely, form, concept and signification. Barthes schemes the mythical system as illustrated in the chart below:

Signifier	Signifier
<b>Denotation</b>	
<b>Signifier</b>	<b>Signifier</b>
<b>MYTH</b>	

## RESULT AND DISCUSION

### Result

As for the object in this study is the meaning of the feeling of losing a father figure, from the songwriter, which is contained in Parle A Mon Pere. The signs, which describe the songwriter's feeling of loss in the song, will be analyzed using the semiotic method of Roland Barthes through the signifier and the signifier to describe the myth. To get the explanation of the myth, the researcher also involved Lacan's theory of Lack. The unit of analysis in this research

is sentence sentences, which are contained in the song. Analysis of the sentences in this song will produce a meaning, how the feeling of being deprived of the father figure, due to the death of his father

### Discussion

Language in song lyrics is resembled with language poetry. It contains beautiful words and rhythm to express feelings or ideas by the songwriter. Song lyrics are also intended to provide an entertaining effect, like in



the song *Parler A Mon Pere*. Sometimes the use of song lyrics in a foreign language makes the reader not a native speaker, confused as to the intention and message to convey. This prompts the writer to analyze in more detail the semiotic structure contained in the lyrics of this song.

*Parle A Mon Pere* is a song, sung in 2012 by Celine Dion. This song tells about a girl, who lost her father. Compassion is an energy or force that can make a person feel calm and comfortable. Love is an emotional counterweight, which enables humans to think clearly in making decisions. Affection can also be interpreted as caring for yourself, others, and concern for the environment in creating peace, tranquility, and happiness in life. As the head of the family, the father has a very big responsibility, includes giving love to the child and making each child feel that he is loved and loved. This is also stated by Allen, S., & Daly, K. (2007), who said that: father can be both tenderness and a touch of affection. In addition, compassion is also able to explain what is good and bad. Then, love can also give attention. One of

the ways parents treat their children is by appreciating the children's talents and potential.

*Parle A mon Pere* is a song, tells about is a huge problem for kids, by losing father's love. This is caused by the love of a father is a source of security for a child in facing the struggles of life that he will have to live later. If we find a lot of people, who are easily discouraged, selfish, cruel, etc, they can consider as children who have a lack of love from their a father. In the world of children, father's love is very dominant, especially for girls, whom those involved in regular childcare. The father's figure in the song *Parle a mon Pere* is a father will always try to provide peace and comfort to his family members. This is shown by several lyrics, namely by giving tenderness and a touch of affection, explaining what is good and bad, pay attention to, and appreciate the talents and potential of children. From the title we can analyze, the sentence "Parler Amon Pere" which means I want to talk to my father. So from the title alone, we can see the meaning that the singer used to complain to her father since childhood.

If a family lost the father's figure, so the children, especially girls, would not only lead into social marginalization, but are also considered to be at risk for the development of deviance due to the absence of a strong male figure. In this sense, mirrors and language are the root causes of the subject discovery process.

### Signifier

The strong male figure is considered always capable of protecting his family, especially their daughters. Then, in girls' lives, they can go anywhere or achieve whatever they want to have. However, they will definitely miss their family, especially their father figure. It is like the saying goes, as far as the bird flies, then one day it will return to its nest. For this reason, if a daughter loses her father figure, then not a few of them experience deep pain, even depression. This thing is depicted in:

*Je voudrais oublier le temps*  
*Saya ingin melupakan waktu*  
*Pour un soupir pour un instant,*  
*Untuk menghela nafas sejenak,*

The quotation above, the words: *Je voudrais oublier le temps* consider and *Pour un soupir pour un instant* consider as a sign, that she need a fresh air to forget something, that is horrible. Relating to the song, the researchers see, that there are three perspectives about

The act of reflecting begins by examining the body, then from that body self-identification is produced. "As stated by Monika (2020), self-identification in literary works is through language which is part of the 'act of mirroring' itself.

fathers described as follows: first, the generativity perspective put forward by Snarey in Marsiglio et al (2000), that "The term generativity comes from Erikson, which is applied in the form of a psychosocial phase. a male individual". A good father representation according to Snarey in Marsiglio et al (2000) is a generative father, namely a man who contributes the generation cycle as a biological father, the role of fathers as child care and cultural fathers.

Women are unique in building relationships with those around them through emotions. Not all women easily express their feelings verbally. There are some women who are better able to express what they are feeling through direct actions. For example, when a woman feels happy because she meets someone, it will be easier for her to express her happiness with a big smile, or a hug. Likewise, when women are feeling sad, crying can be one way to express their sadness.

## Signified

One of the way, the song writer show her emptiness is through a song. Then, the song writer's feeling of attachment to his father to he father is more depicted in:

*Je voudrais décrocher la lune.  
Aku ingin menurunkan rembulan  
Je voudrais même sauver la terre.  
Aku ingin menyelamatkan Bumi.  
Mais avant tout.  
Tetapi sebelum melakukannya,  
Je voudrais parler à mon père.  
Aku ingin bicara pada ayahku*

In the sentence *Je voudrais décrocher la lune*. would be consider as a prove, that women can also have willpower and able to do anything. In this part, it is considered as signifier. Signifier, that she is a strong woman. In the next sentence, *Mais avant tout and Je voudrais parler à mon père*. In this part, the signified indicates the existence of her, by using expressive function is the lingual unit *Je* or *I*. The thing is also seem in:

*Je voudrais décrocher la lune  
I would like to do the impossible,  
Je voudrais même sauver la Terre  
I would even like to save the Earth  
Mais avant tout je voudrais  
But above all I would like  
Parler à mon père  
Talk to my father,  
Parler à mon père.  
Talk to my father,*

The lingual unit is centered on the singer, Céline Dion, and the message content is personal. In the lyrics of the song shows that she is a child, who always talks about everything to her father before doing the things she wants to do. This analysis is an analytical effort at the first level, by finding several connotative markers such as: *décrocher la lune* and *sauver la terre*. These connotative signs considers as signified, that encourage the researcher get broader meaning to find the hidden meaning behind the object of the word *mon pere*, that is mention twice. From the song excerpt above, listeners can imagine as if we are present in the picture as a subject, we are people who realize that he is able to do all things, helping by his father's thoughts. By seeing words *Parler à mon père*, it analyse as signified. The signified goes to the prove, that all she has done is not because of her great capability.

## Myth

From the song lyrics above refers to the hidden message. The singer wants to convey to the listeners, that she was very sad and almost collapsed, when she lost her father. This is what is called a myth. This is a prove, that myth signs are then associated with myth signs, so that myth formatively stands as language at the second level, in other words myth can be called language over language or metalanguage. In the other hand, related to psychology, this is called Lacan (1977, 65) as the mirror phase, in which the

subject looks for the object "a". The letter "a" is the French acronym *autre*, which can be interpreted as the other. Lacan's theory of the subject is that humans are represented by language, by special objects, which he calls words. The Lacan technical term for a word, used is signified. Whenever a person speaks or writes, he always manifests itself in language, with signifieds. This analysis would be divined in chart below:

From the chart above, it can be seen that the researcher captures the myth, how the songwriter lost his father, with our vocabulary of connotative signified, that this ad is trying to subtly tell readers that Mon Pere is a person

capable of being a woman. the strong one. The meaning of the signifier, which is obtained from these lyrics as a whole, has a meaning about a situation, when the songwriter wants to feel its own taste. The songwriter realizes that without a father she must be able to through her life. Through this loneliness, there can be feelings of longing that she has not felt so far. The verse shows that the woman in this song feels less confident, because she feels that all her success is thanks to her father. The myth that appears in this stanza is about emptiness or lack, which is expressed verbally, can drown in the past with her father.

Oublier le temps	Pour un instant,
Try to hide her sadness	
Feel Lost	Parler à mon père.
The witer feels deep sadness by losing her Father, so she hope she can wake up from her nightmare	

## Conclusion

From the discussion of the song Parle A Mon Pere, it can be concluded that

1. This song is a feeling of a daughter's lack of her father's figure. In the lack of formation, the song writer himself becomes the subject, because he

loses the object "a", i.e her father. The song Parle A mon Pere indicates self-anxiety, that the girl will not be able to do anything anymore. This is because, for him, everything he has accomplished so far has been the result of his father's thoughts and support. The description of lack,

which is always moving in this song, proves that the subject in Lacan's thought will encounter a void, because there is no symbolic thing. Thinking about a self-concept *on behalf of the father* is a representation of all forms of cultural networks that determine the identity of children, especially girls.

2. Second, the myth of girls who are buried in this song is full of strands of meaning. It can also be seen from the verb *voudrais* which comes from the infinite *vouloir* which means the desire to do something. The verb is common. In the passage of the lyrics, the songwriter wants to convey that he wants to live life with someone he loves, namely his father. So, through this research, the researcher found the truth, that one of the functions of language is a communication tool to express feelings, thoughts, desires. The poetic function is the use of language for the sake of beauty itself, or in relation to the value of a message. This function is usually found in is to show the value in the literary work.

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