A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF POLYSEMY IN THE ALBUM "ETERNAL SUNSHINE" BY ARIANA GRANDE

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Abstract

This journal examines semantic studies that focus on polysemy in an album entitled "Eternal Sunshine" by Ariana Grande. This research aims to describe the use of polysemy in Ariana Grande's album. In this study, the use of polysemy is described based on the type of polysemy, namely: verb polysemy, noun polysemy, adverb polysemy and adjective polysemy. This research is a qualitative descriptive research. In this research, the data used are words that contain polysemic meaning. The data source of this research is the lyrics of the songs in Ariana Grande's album entitled Eternal Sunshine. Data collection is done by listening, reading and recording techniques. While reviewing the text, the researcher identifies and highlights the words containing polysemy of verb, polysemy of noun, polysemy of adjective, and polysemy of adverb. The research subjects consisted of 1 album with 13 songs, which were analyzed individually. The results obtained from this study revealed a total of 16 polysemous words across all categories. Polysemy of verbs is the most dominant type, with 9 examples, followed by 4 adjectives, 2 nouns, and 1 adverb. Examples such as 'turn', 'break', and 'come' show varied meanings based on contextual usage. The study concludes that polysemy, particularly in verbs, plays an important role in enriching the depth of the vocabulary.

Keywords: semantic, polysemy, song lyrics

INTRODUCTION

According to (Zakiyah & Zakrimal, 2020) Language serves as the primary means of communication in social interactions. Language cannot be categorized as a meaningless form of communication. When a language's meanings are accepted, miscommunications will still occur even if the meaning is nebulous and unclear. The area of study known as semantics examines meaning in language and can be useful for communicating with speakers of different or similar languages (Guntar, 2022). Semantics is the literal meanings of a language in general.

In the social media era of 2025, young people are increasingly posting song notes on Instagram as a practical way and cultural trend to share their favorite songs and express their personal emotions. This phenomenon highlights the significant role of song lyrics in the emotional communication of the younger generation. According to Suryono and Afrianto, song lyrics are poetic literary works rich in emotional expression, enabling listeners to connect the meaning of the lyrics with their life experiences. However, many listeners struggle to fully understand the nuanced meanings embedded in these lyrics, particularly due to linguistic features like polysemy.

Polysemy, where a word carries multiple interrelated meanings, enriches the listener's interpretation but also poses challenges in grasping the intended message. Polysemy presents one of the most complex semantic phenomena in linguistic translation. As noted in prior research (Nasution, 2023), translators frequently encounter difficulties in accurately conveying word meanings without comprehensive consideration of sentence context. This linguistic phenomenon occurs when a single lexical unit - whether a word or phrase - carries multiple related meanings.

There are various kinds of polysemy. According to (Alwi, 2003) polysemy categorized into four types based on word classes:

1. Polysemy of verbs

Polysemy of verbs occurs when a verb, describing an action or activity, has multiple meaning in both lexical and grammatical contexts. For example:

1) He runs every morning
2) She runs a small business

In these example, , the verb "runs" has distinct meanings: in (1), it denotes physical movement, whle in (2) it implies managing or conducting a business. Both uses fall under the same word class (verb) but convey different meanings, making "run" a polysemic verb. Polysemy of verbs occurs when a verb, describing an action or activity, has multiple meaning in both lexical and grammatical contexts.

2. Polysemy of noun

A noun is a word that can serve as the subject or object in a sentence, representing living things, inanimate objects, or abstract concepts. For example:

1) I keep my money in the bank
2) We sat on the bank of the river

In these example, the noun "bank" has multiple meaning. Based on the example above, "bank" (1) refers to a financial institution where money is stored. While (2) refers to the edge or slope of a river.

This demonstrates polysemy, where a single noun has multiple related or distinct meanings.

3. Polysemy of adjective

An adjective is a word class that modifies a noun or pronoun, offering more specific details about its characteristics. It provides additional information to describe qualities, quantities, or extents of the noun or pronoun

it relates to. For example:

1) The room is bright with sunlight
2) She is bright student

Based on the example above, “bright” (1) means to the intensity of light. While (2) means the student’s intelligence or sharpness.

A polysemy adjective is a type of adjective that has multiple meanings, each describing different attributes or qualities of a noun or pronoun.

4. Polysemy of adverb

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb at the phrases level, or it limits or specifies a syntactic function at the clause level. Typically, adverbs or adverbial phrases act as predicates. In polysemy form, polysemy adverbs are categorized into single adverbs (including base adverbial words, words with adverbial attachments, or repeated adverbs) and compound adverbs (formed by combining two base adverbs).

1) The drives fast
2) Hold fast to the rope

Based on the examples abpve, “fast” (1) means high speed. While (2)
means grip firmly or securely.

There are several reasons why the researcher is interested in exploring the polysemy present in Ariana Grande's album "Eternal Sunshine." Firstly, Ariana Grande is a highly acclaimed American singer and songwriter, recognized as one of the most prominent female artists in the industry. She has received numerous accolades, including Grammy Awards. Additionally, "Eternal Sunshine," which topped the Billboard 200 chart in 2025, has gained significant popularity among the youth, with its lyrics often shared across social media platforms. Despite its prominence, there is limited research exploring polysemy in the album’s lyrics, particularly regarding the types of polysemy and their dominance in shaping listeners’ interpretations. This study aims to address these gaps by pursuing the following objectives: (1) to identify the types of polysemy present in the lyrics of Ariana Grande’s Eternal Sunshine album; (2) to determine the most dominant type of polysemy in the lyrics of Ariana Grande’s Eternal Sunshine album.

In gathering the data, the researcher employed a documentation method consisting of the following steps: (1) Searching for Ariana Grande's songs and their lyrics on https://genius.com/albums/Ariana-grande/Eternal-sunshine; (2) Listening to the songs while reading the lyrics to grasp the overall context, particularly focusing on polysemy; (3) While

reviewing the text, the researcher identified and highlighted the words that contained polysemy of verbs, polysemy of noun, polysemy of adjectives, and polysemy of adverbs; (4) Interpreting the meanings of the polysemy found within the songs.

The sooner study that conducted similar studies comes from Falia Azizah entitled “Polysemy Analysis Of Song Lyrics In The Album “The Tortuned Poets Department” By Taylor Swift . The researcher argues that listeners sometimes misunderstand the entended message in song lyrics due to words with multiple meanings, highlighting the importance of analyzing polysemy to enhance comprehension. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of polysemy present in the album’s lyrics and to determine which type is most dominant. Using a descriptive qualitative method, the researcher analyzes the lyrics by categorizing polysemous words based on their grammatical classes such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. The findings reveal that polysemy on verbs is the most dominant in the album, with examples like left, sent, and come, followed by polysemy on nouns and fewer instances on adjectives and adverbs. This study contributes to expanding knowledge of semantic analysis in the context of popular music and provides practical insights for students and researchers interested in semantics and linguistics.

Another relevant academic article that has been investigated is from Sarleni Nasution entitled “An Analysis Of Polysemy In Songs Lyics Selected From Maher Zein”. In this study, The researcher argues that listeners sometimes misunderstand the intended message in song lyrics due to words with multiple related meanings, a phenomenon known as polysemy. This highlights the importance of analyzing polysemy to enhance understanding of song lyrics and semantic depth in language. Therefore, this study aims to identify the types of polysemy present in Maher Zain’s selected song lyrics and to describe their meanings. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this stuudy to identify the types of polysemy. The findings reveal that polysemy in verbs is the most dominant type found in the songs, with six instances, followed by adjectives with five instances, and nouns with three instances. In total, 14 polysemous items were identified.

Another relevant journal article that has been investigated is from Desri et al. entitled “Polysemy in Frozen (2013) Movie”. This study aims to identify the types of polysemy found in the Frozen (2013) movie script and interpret their meanings in context. The researchers focus on distinguishing between regular polysemy (systematic relationships between meanings) and irregular polysemy (non-systematic or isolated meaning shifts). Using a qualitative descriptive method, the researchers analyzed the Frozen movie script sourced from

the IMSDb (Internet Movie Script Database). The analysis was conducted using Apresjan's theory (1974) to classify types of polysemy and Lyons' theory (1981) to

interpret meaning. The findings reveal a total of 26 polysemous word pairs, consisting of 20 regular polysemy and 6 irregular polysemy instances.

METHOD

The research method used is descriptive qualitative. It examined the information created in the text using this way. In an effort to understand events that are difficult to quantify, the descriptive-qualitative method generates descriptive data in words and linguistic forms (Ariska1 et al., 2020).

The purpose of this study was to find the types of polysemy are found and identify the most dominant types of polysemy in the lyrics of Ariana Grande's Eternal Sunshine album. In this study using theory by Alwi and supported several other journals. In that theory, Alwi purposed four categories type of polysemy: polysemy of verb, polysemy of noun, polysemy of adjective, and polysemy of adverb.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

To answer first research question about the types polysemy in the album "eternal sunshine" by Ariana Grande, the writer used Alwi's theory to analyse the data about polysemy. Alwi mentioned polysemy consists of four types, they are polysemy of verbs, polysemy of noun, polysemy of adjectives, and polysemy of adverb. The result is shown in diagram as follows:

Table 2.1 Dominant types of polysemy

Category of polysemy	Frequency
Polysemy of verb	9
Polysemy of noun	2
Polysemy of adjective	4
Polysemy of adverb	1
Total	16

According to the information above, the most common kind of polysemy in the "eternal sunshine" album by Ariana Grande is polysemy of verb. There a total of 16 polysemy: 9 polysemy of verbs, 2 polysemy of noun, 4 polysemy of adjectives, and 1 polysemy of adverbs, which is the least common in the album "Eternal Sunshine".

Discussion

Following providing of the data, it is crucial to analyze each of these kinds of results in the manner described below:

Table 2.2 Polysemy of Verb

No	word	Lyrics	Title	Meaning
1	Turn	1. just turn the music up 2. just turn on your green light and be like 3. turning like a dime	Bye Yes, and? True story	Researchers have shown that the term "turn" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means increase, adjust something to make it louder. (2) it means (3) it means rotate, to move around a central point
2	move	1. I can't believe I'm finally moving through my fears 2. Keep moving like, "what's next?"	Bye Yes, and?	Researchers have shown that the term "move" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means producing or transferring motion or action. In sentence (2) it means stirring deeply in a way that evokes a strong emotional response
3	die	1. Just wanna let this story die 2. My tongue, yeah, I think I'd rather die	We can't be friends We can't be friends	Researchers have shown that the term "die" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means to end in failur. In sentence (2) it means to become indifferent/ to cease functioning
4	Look	1. maybe someday we'll look back with love 2. now, it's like I'm looking in the mirror 3. but at least I look this good	Supernatural I wish i hated you	Researchers have shown that the term "look" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means Looking back on the past or reminiscing about something.in sentence (2) it means seeing physically or observing something visually.in sentence (3) it means Looks or appears good, Which means it is in good condition.
5	Break	1. it's breaking my heart 2. to keep breaking yours again 3. I don't wanna break up again	Don't wanna break up again Don't wanna break up again Don't wanna break up again	Researchers have shown that the term "break" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1)it means emotionally hurt or cause deep sadness.in sentence (2) it means to destroy something or make somebody/something weaker; to become weak or be destroyed. In sentence (3)it means end the relationship.
6	Come	1. baby, come over 2. my girls, they always come through in sticky situation 3. come on and walk this way through the fire	The boy is mine The boy is mine Yes, and?	Researchers have shown that the term "come" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means move closer or come closer. In sentence (2)it means provide support or successfully overcome problems. In snetence (3) it means expressions of invitation or encouragement to do something.
7	Play	1. yet you played me like atari 2. I know you play 3. I'll play the villain if you need me to	Supernatural Supernatural Supernatural	Researchers have shown that the term "play" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means to play with or deceive someone. In sentence (2) it means to behave as though you are a particular type of person. In sentence (3)it means Deceiving or tricking someone.
8	Sit	1. My face is sitting, I don't need no disguise 2. Me and my truth, we sit in silence	Yes, and? We can't be friends	Researchers have shown that the term "sit" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1)it means to feel so satisfied with what you have already achieved that you do not try to do any more. In sentence (2) it means to do or say nothing to help somebody or deal
9	Keep	1. to keep breaking your again 2. and I learn to keep me in one place	Don't wanna break up again I wish i hated you	Researchers have shown that the term "sent" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means to continue doing something; to do something repeatedly. In sentence (2) it means Maintaining or preserving a position or condition

Table 2.3 Polysemy of noun

No	word	Lyrics	Title	Meaning
1	Boy	1. Bye-bye, boy, bye 2. The boy is mine	Bye The boy is mine	Researchers have shown that the term “boy” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means male. In sentence (2)it means boyfriend/ a male romantic partners.
2	Light	1. just turn on your light and be like 2. you hit just like a green light when i’m stuck runnin’ real late	Yes, and? Ordinary things	Researchers have shown that the term “light” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means an expression in somebody’s eyes that shows what they are thinking or feeling. In sentence (2) it means a particular type of light with its own colour or qualities

Table 2.4

Polysemy of adjective

No	word	Lyrics	Title	Meaning
1	Good	1. And I'll be good in it too 2. I found a good boy, and he's on my side	True story Supernatural	Researchers have shown that the term “good” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) All right, good deeds. It is good for a person to do something. In sentence (2)it means, the type in which a person's personality is good or tends to be good
2	Dark	1. if the moon went dark tonight 2. and if you find yourself in a dark	Into (the end of the world) Yes, and?	Researchers have shown that the term “dark” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means devoid or partially devoid of light : transmitting, or radiating light. In sentence (2) it means without any hope that something good will happen.
3	Late	1. now it’s just too late to choose me 2. you hit just like a green light when i’m stuck runnin’ real late	Bye Ordinary things	Researchers have shown that the term “late” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) it means being something or holding some position or situationship recently but not now. In sentence (2) it means meaning Not on time, past the deadline.
4	Worse	1. than make it worse for you 2. wish there was worse to you	Intro (the end of the world) I wish i hated you	Researchers have shown that the term “worse” has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) It means worse, referring to worsening

someone's situation or condition. In sentence (2) it means more ill or unhappy.

Table 2.5 Polysemy of adverb

No	Word	Lyrics	Title	Meaning
1	Back	1. Boy, just turn the music up, maybe someday we'll look back with love 2. Throw your guitar and your clothes in the back seat	Bye Imperfect for you	Researchers have shown that the term "back" has multiple meanings, in the sentence (1) in means in or into the past: backward in time.in sentence (2) it means to, toward, or at the rear.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of polysemy within Ariana Grande's album "Eternal Sunshine" reveals the intricate relationship between language and emotional expression in contemporary music. As highlighted, language serves as a vital tool for communication, and the nuances of polysemy can significantly impact listeners' interpretations of song lyrics. The study identifies various types of polysemy verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, demonstrating how each contributes to the richness of meaning in the lyrics. The findings indicate that polysemy of verbs is the most prevalent, followed by adjectives, nouns, and adverbs. This research not only fills a gap in the existing literature on semantic analysis in popular music but also provides valuable insights for both students and researchers interested in the complexities of language and its role in conveying emotions. By understanding the polysemous nature of words in song lyrics, listeners can enhance their comprehension and appreciation of the artistic expressions found in music.

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