

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Music has a very close relationship with songs. According to Jamalus (1998: 1-2 in the journal of music art), musical art is a work that expresses the thoughts and feelings of its creator through various musical elements, such as rhythm, melody, harmony, form, song structure, and overall expression. As explained in the Merriam Webster Dictionary, a song is defined as a short musical composition consisting of lyrics and music (Webster, 2021). This definition is in line with Nugraha's statement (2016: 294) which states that a song is a rhythmic combination of human voice and musical instruments. Songs as works of art have the ability to inspire, entertain, and arouse emotions through their rhythm, melody, and lyrics. In addition, songs also play an important role in various social interactions, such as parties, concerts, and celebrations, which are able to unite individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Songs function as a medium of communication between the creator and the listener. In the song there are lyrics or arrangement of words that usually consist of verses and refrains, functioning as an expression of the writer's thoughts and feelings. Lyrics can convey messages or stories that can influence the listener's attitudes and emotions, building deeper connections through shared experiences. According to Dallin (Firdaus, 2013) "Lyrics are printed as a form of communication between the writer and the reader". In general, lyrics carry a message (whatever it is) with the

aim of inspiring the listener, at least to think about it. The purpose and form of such communication are rooted in the cultural context of the community, according to musical preferences, events, and so on. Therefore, the choice of words, themes, language styles, and musical accompaniment in creating songs should be well connected.

The relationship between songs and semantics has high significance, considering that semantics focuses on the analysis of meaning contained in language, including song lyrics. Each verse in a song not only contains denotative meaning, but also contains connotative meaning that can be understood through context and word choice. Therefore, semantic studies play an important role in helping listeners interpret the meaning and complexity of emotions that the songwriter wants to convey.

The meaning relations contained in song lyrics can be analyzed through semantic studies, which begin with an examination of the relationships between the words in them. The meaning relations between lexemes in a language are internal, indicating the existence of a meaningful relationship between the lexemes. According to Keraf (2002: 34), lexical structure includes various semantic relations found in words. The relationships between words can be synonyms, polysemy, homonyms, hyponyms, and antonyms. Every song lyric has the potential to experience a significant shift in meaning in its meaning relations. The relation of meaning in each song lyric has the potential to experience a significant shift in meaning.

The term "semantics" comes from the Greek "sema," which means sign or symbol (Sabrina et al., 2023). Verhaar (1993: 9) states that semantics is a systematic branch of linguistics that studies meaning. Thus, semantics can be considered as one of the linguistic disciplines that focuses on the analysis of word meaning. Semantics has a close relationship with cognitive meaning, because both emphasize how humans understand and interpret meaning through language. As a branch of linguistics, semantics studies the meaning of words and sentence structures, while cognitive semantics relates that meaning to mental processes and individual experiences. According to Hickey (2013: 1), "semantics is the study of meaning and is also a field that interacts with other disciplines such as philosophy, literature, and logic."

Geeraerts and Grondelaers (1995: 120-121) state that, "Cognitive jjaexperience" (Example of a Cognitive Semantic Study Proposal in a Fanfiction Collection). In discourse analysis and semantic analysis, it is important to link meaning to context. The meaning and information that we obtain and interpret cannot be separated from the context. Therefore, semantics can be understood as a science that studies meaning, both in real and cognitive aspects. In this case, cognition in semantics focuses on the study of meaning based on the thought process that develops in line with the context being discussed.

Robert Nesta Marley, better known as Bob Marley, is a figure whose name has been known worldwide since 1975 because of his talent in singing. Until now, his songs are still widely loved, especially among the

younger generation. He is recognized as one of the pioneers of reggae music, with his legendary songs becoming the best-selling albums of all time. Marley's success lies not only in his musical genius, but also in his profound lyrics that resonate with universal themes such as love, justice, and social change, as well as his simple and humble attitude. Therefore, this study is very relevant to examine in depth the cognitive semantics based on the songs released by the singer.

In the study of cognitive semantics, there are a number of previous studies that use songs as objects of analysis, such as that conducted by Kurniasih and Umamah (2021) who studied conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of the Indonesian song "Aisyah Istri Rasulullah". There is also research on the analysis of Bob Marley's song entitled *No Woman No Cry*. However, research that focuses on the cognitive semantic aspect based on meaning relations is still relatively limited. Several elements in Bob Marley's song lyrics have been discussed in previous studies, including socio-political nuances, literary sociology, and the use of metaphorical language that aims to convey deeper meanings.

Furthermore, various linguistic perspectives, including transitivity processes and social critique, have been applied in the analysis of Bob Marley's works. This research reveals that his lyrics address issues such as structural injustice and the search for identity, and serve as a medium for conveying social commentary. However, there is a lack of comprehensive semantic analysis in the literature that specifically highlights the cognitive meaning of the songs. Through this study, it is hoped that it will contribute

to a deeper understanding, not only of Bob Marley's creative legacy, but also of the broader implications of his work in the field of cognitive semantics.

The writer chose the title "Semantic Analysis of Cognitive Meaning in Bob Marley's Songs" because Bob Marley's song lyrics are full of deep meanings and messages that reflect human experience, social values, and the struggle for justice. Through a cognitive semantic approach, this study aims to explore how these meanings are articulated and understood in a broader cultural context.

In conclusion, this study will investigate how Bob Marley's songs can serve as a significant source for exploring cognitive meaning, as well as providing deeper insights into how language can reflect and influence human experience in social and cultural contexts.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the research background, the formulation of the research problem is as follows :

1. What are the cognitive meaning contained in Bob Marley's song lyrics?
2. How are Bob Marley's song lyrics articulated based on meaning relations in the cognitive meaning ?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the identified problems, the objectives of this study are as follows :

1. To investigate the cognitive meaning contained in Bob Marley's song lyrics.

2. To find out how Bob Marley's song lyrics are articulated based on the relationship of meaning in the cognitive meaning.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

There are many things that can be analyzed from Bob Marley's songs, so the writer limits his study. In this study, the writer only focuses on the relationship of meaning in cognitive meaning contained in Bob Marley's song lyrics, including: One love, Three little birds, and Could you be love. This study attempts to find out how Bob Marley's song lyrics are articulated in a cognitive meaning. This analysis not only focuses on identifying the relationship of meaning in the lyrics, but also emphasizes the importance of cognitive understanding in interpreting the messages conveyed by Marley.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research is expected to provide significant contributions to the study of music and linguistics, as well as enrich the understanding of the social and emotional impact of Bob Marley's works. Theoretically, this research aims to deepen the understanding of cognitive semantics and its application in the analysis of song lyrics. By utilizing relevant semantic theories, this research will provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing cognitive meaning in works of art, especially in the field of music. The results of this research are expected to be a reference for further research interested in analyzing song lyrics or other literary works from a cognitive semantic perspective.

Practically, this research is expected to provide new insights for Bob Marley's music listeners. The analysis of cognitive meaning in song lyrics is expected to help listeners understand the messages and values that Bob Marley wants to convey through his song. This research also has the potential to increase appreciation for works of art and the ability to interpret deeper meanings in song lyrics.

This research has the potential to provide theoretical and practical benefits for the academic community in the fields of linguistics, literature, and culture. In particular, the results of this study can be used as a reference in the development of teaching materials and discussions in the classroom environment. In addition, this study is expected to motivate students to engage in further research on crucial issues in cognitive semantics and song lyrics analysis, which will ultimately enrich science and understanding of the complexity of the relationship between language, cognition, and culture.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### 2.1 Cognitive Meaning

Cognitive, according to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), refers to things related to or involving the process of cognition. Cognition itself is an activity or process carried out to obtain knowledge, which includes individual awareness, feelings, and experiences. Djajasudarma (1999:9) explains that "cognitive meaning," also known as descriptive or denotative meaning, is a meaning that shows the relationship between concepts and reality. Cognitive meaning is clear and reflects the meaning as it is.

Cognitive meaning can be defined as a mental process related to understanding, processing, and storing information. In the realm of psychology and cognitive science, cognitive meaning includes how individuals interpret and give meaning to the experiences, concepts, and phenomena they encounter in everyday life. This process involves various elements, such as perception, attention, memory, and problem solving, which overall contribute to how individuals understand their surroundings.

Consider one example of a sentence that reflects the cognitive in semantic concept: "He is stuck in a routine." Explanation: The phrase "stuck in a routine" describes a person's condition who feels trapped and unable to break free from a monotonous lifestyle. This shows how the use of language can shape the understanding of a person's life experiences.

In a linguistic perspective, cognitive meaning can also be understood as a mental representation formed in a person's mind when interacting with language. This includes how words and phrases are interpreted based on the experience and knowledge possessed by the individual. Thus, cognitive meaning is not only limited to linguistic aspects alone, but also involves social and cultural contexts that influence how individuals understand and use language.

Furthermore, cognitive meaning can be seen as an essential link between language and thought processes. In the dynamics of communication, individuals not only convey information literally, but also actively construct meaning through a series of complex cognitive interactions. Therefore, a deep understanding of cognitive meaning has crucial significance in various disciplines, including education, psychology, and linguistics. This is because such understanding has the potential to significantly influence the way individuals acquire knowledge, communicate, and interact with other individuals in a social environment.

## 2.2 Meaning Relations

The issue of meaning is an interesting issue to discuss in everyday life. Therefore, studying meaning is also part of linguistics. The meaning of words that are related to each other is called a meaning relation. In every language including Indonesian, we often find a relationship of meaning or semantic relation between a word or other language unit. The relationship or relation related to meaning has many varieties, so the focus of the study of meaning that is studied includes the similarity of meaning

(synonym), the opposite of meaning (antonym), multiple meanings (polysemy), the inclusiveness of meaning (hyponymy) and multilevel meaning (homonymy).

Meaning relation is a meaningful relation or semantic relation between a word or other language unit with another word or language unit (Sarwiji Suwandi, 2011: 47). Chaer (2009: 83) also said that "Meaning relation is a meaningful relation or semantic relation between a word or other language unit". Meaning relations include contingency (adjacent relation), synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, homonymy/homography. The research conducted discusses meaning, so the research uses semantic studies.

Meaning relations are one of the important studies in semantics. In this context, the relationship between words, phrases, and sentences that interact with each other can produce various meaning phenomena, such as conflict, expansion, similarity, and meaning coverage. Meaning relations can be defined as semantic relationships that occur between a word or language unit with another word or language unit.

In this study, the writer will use the theory of meaning relations proposed by Subroto (2015:59). Subroto said that meaning relations are divided into: contingent, synonymous, antonymous, hyponymic, polysemy, homonymous, homographs and homophones. In this study, the writer took research on. However, in this study, the writer only focuses on studying : synonymous, antonymous, hyponymic, and polysemy. Here is the explanation :

### 2.2.1 Synonym

Wijana (1999, page 2) explains that synonymy is a relation of similarity of meaning. A linguistic unit may have the same meaning as another linguistic unit. Synonyms are known as words that have the same or almost the same meaning. For example, the word father is synonymous with the word father, mother with mother, brother with brother. Another example, the words "big" and "wide" can be considered synonymous in certain contexts, although they are not always interchangeable.

### 2.2.2 Antonym

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. The most effective tool in linguistics is antonyms, which allow people to communicate the opposite nature of many things, including complex phenomena that occur in nature and in society. Antonyms are a semantic structure that highlights the relationship of opposing meanings, for example: The antonym of "hot" is "cold", the antonym of "big" is "small".

According to Sarwiji Suwandi (2011: 129) referring to Chaer (1985: 35), the term "antonym" comes from Ancient Greek, namely "onoma" which means 'name' and "anti" which means 'against'. Thus, antonyms can be understood as terms that refer to different objects. In semantic studies, antonyms are often defined as expressions—usually words, but can also be phrases or sentences—whose meanings are considered to be the opposite of other expressions. This shows that antonyms are not always absolutely opposite, but are only considered to be

opposites. The meaning relation between two antonymous words is reciprocal or two-way.

### 2.2.3 Hyponym

In semantic studies, there is a close relationship with the relation of meaning, one of which is hyponym. Hyponym refers to words that have a more specific meaning in a more general category, known as hypernym. Thus, hyponym can be understood as a subcategory of hypernym.

The relationship between hyponym and hypernym can be illustrated as the relationship between part and whole. Semantically, Verhaar (1978:137) in Chaer, 1990: 98) states that "hyponym is an expression - which is generally a word, but can also be a phrase or sentence - whose meaning is part of the meaning of another expression."

Consider the following example, "fruit" is a hypernym of the following hyponyms: Dates, watermelon, grapes, bananas, and apples. This shows that hyponym is a specific part of hypernym, or the fruits mentioned are specific types of fruit.

### 2.2.4 Polysemy

In language studies, there is a term known as polysemy. Etymologically, the word "polysemy" in Indonesian is taken from the term "polysemy" in English, where "polysemy" itself comes from Greek, namely "poly" which means many or various, and "semy" which means meaning (Pateda, 2001). Polysemy is a linguistic phenomenon in which a word has more than one meaning or understanding, but all of these

meanings are interrelated and relevant to each other. In the context of polysemy, different meanings usually come from the same basic concept.

As an example of polysemy, the word "bank" has two meanings. First meaning : A financial institution where people save money (example: "I need to go to the bank to withdraw money"). Second meaning: The edge of a river or lake (example: "We had a picnic on the edge of the river bank").