

Implicit Meanings of *Jentaka* Lyrics Song and Video Clip: a Semiotic Analysis

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A B S T R A C T

This study analyzed the lyrics and music video of "*Jentaka*" by For Revenge using the semiotic approaches of Charles Sanders Peirce and Ferdinand de Saussure. This research used a qualitative approach with semiotic analysis methods. This approach was chosen because the research aimed to explore the meanings contained in the lyrics and music video of "*Jentaka*" by the band For Revenge. Through a qualitative approach, the researcher could understand and interpret the symbols and signs used in these media. The song depicted themes such as emotional suffering, identity duality, and self-introspection. The lyrics reflected the conflict between the external appearance of being an entertainer and the inner feelings of pain and sadness. Additionally, the inclusion of a Quranic verse from Surah Al-Ankabut, verse 64. The results of the study indicated that semiotic analysis could reveal complex layers of meaning in artistic works, offering a deeper understanding of the messages and themes conveyed by the artist. This research contributed to further comprehension of the use of signs and symbols in music and music videos as a medium of artistic communication.

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Introduction

In the world of communication and culture, symbols and signs played a crucial role in shaping meaning and interaction. Symbols were the most commonly used markers by society (Alfayanti in Pramudiyanto et al., 2018). Semiotics, as the study of signs, became an essential tool for understanding how these signs worked and shaped the reality around us. According to Rokhyanto (2021), a semiotic approach is one that uses a sign system as its underlying structure. In semiotics, a symbol is defined as one that is determined by its dynamic object in the sense that it must be properly interpreted. Interpretation refers to the parts of the learning process, as well as the growth or development of experiences and agreements in society. Saussure developed the concepts of signifier and signified, which formed the basis of our understanding of signs and meaning (Leeds-Hurwitz, 1993). The thoughts and approaches of these scholars inspired many other researchers in the field of semiotics, such as Roland Barthes, Roman Jakobson, and Umberto Eco.

This research focused on the semiotic analysis of the music video and lyrics of "*Jentaka* (official video) ft. Faizal Pratama" by the band For Revenge. For Revenge was an emo band formed in Bandung in 2006. They had released several albums and singles that gained widespread attention, including "*Jentaka*," which was the focus of this research. This study aimed to answer several key questions: How were symbols and signs in the lyrics of "*Jentaka*" used to convey messages and emotions? How did the visuals in the "*Jentaka*" music video interact with the lyrics to create deeper meaning?

What hidden meanings could be found through the semiotic analysis of the lyrics and music video of “Jentaka”? The objectives of this research were: To analyze the symbols and signs in the lyrics of “Jentaka” using semiotic theory. To examine the interaction between the visuals in the music video and the song's lyrics to understand how they worked together to convey messages. To discover and interpret the hidden meanings contained in the lyrics and music video of “Jentaka.”

This research was expected To contribute to the literature on semiotic analysis in the context of music and music videos, and to deepen the understanding of how signs and symbols worked in popular media. To offer insights to musicians, music video makers, and media professionals on how to utilize symbols and signs to convey more effective and profound messages. To serve as a reference for students and researchers interested in semiotic studies and media analysis, especially in the context of music and music videos. This research was expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of how symbols and signs were used in the lyrics and music video of “Jentaka,” and how these meanings could be interpreted through a semiotic approach. There was once a study that examined every word and sentence of a poem titled I want that was made by Sapardi Djoko Damono using semiotic analysis (Purwaningsih, 2023) and research that is currently going to be investigated examining every sentence in a lyric music titled a jentaka popularized by For Revenge. There is no research has been found of the lyrical meanings and the interpretation of the “Jentaka” song performed by the band For Revenge.

Research Method

This research used a qualitative approach with semiotic analysis methods. This approach was chosen because the research aimed to explore the meanings contained in the lyrics and music video of “Jentaka” by the band For Revenge. Through a qualitative approach, the researcher could understand and interpret the symbols and signs used in these media.

The data in this study were divided into two types: primary data and secondary data: 1. Primary Data: The main data analyzed in this research were the lyrics of the song “Jentaka” and the official music video of the song. The lyrics were taken directly from official sources, while the music video was obtained from YouTube or other official media platforms that released the video. 2. Secondary Data: Additional data that supported the main analysis included literature on semiotic theory, related articles about the band For Revenge, and interviews or reviews regarding the song “Jentaka.”

The data collection techniques in this research included: 1. Documentation: Collecting the lyrics of the song and the official music video of “Jentaka.” This documentation was done by downloading or noting down the lyrics from official sources and saving the music video from relevant platforms. 2. Literature Study: Reviewing literature relevant to semiotic theory, including works by Umberto Eco, Charles Sanders Peirce, and Ferdinand de Saussure. The literature study also included previous research that used a semiotic approach in analyzing music and music videos.

The data analysis in this research was conducted through the following stages: 1. Identification of Signs and Symbols: Identifying the signs and symbols found in the lyrics and music video of “Jentaka.” This process involved a thorough reading of the lyrics and detailed observation of the visual elements in the music video. 2. Classification of Signs: Classifying the identified signs based on semiotic theory. In this case, the researcher used Peirce’s concepts of sign (representamen), object, and interpretant, as well as Saussure’s concepts of signifier and signified. 3. Interpretation of

Meaning: Interpreting the meanings of the classified signs and symbols. This interpretation process referred to relevant semiotic theories and related them to the context of the lyrics and music video of "Jentaka." 4. Contextual Analysis: Analyzing how the signs and symbols interacted within the context of the lyrics and music video as a whole. This analysis also considered the background of the band For Revenge and the themes often addressed in their works.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this research used data source and theory triangulation. Triangulation was done by comparing the analysis results with relevant literature and theories, as well as with reviews or interviews from credible sources. Additionally, the researcher cross-checked secondary data to ensure consistency and accuracy of the findings. The research procedure consisted of several stages: 1. Preparation Stage: Collecting and studying relevant literature, as well as identifying primary and secondary data sources. 2. Data Collection Stage: Documenting the lyrics and music video of "Jentaka," as well as collecting secondary data that supported the analysis. 3. Data Analysis Stage: Conducting semiotic analysis of the lyrics and music video, identifying and interpreting signs and symbols, and analyzing the meanings in the overall context. 4. Reporting Stage: Compiling the analysis results into a research report, which included the introduction, literature review, methodology, analysis and discussion, and conclusions and recommendations.

With this systematic methodology, the research was expected to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the use of symbols and signs in music and music videos, particularly in the work "Jentaka" by For Revenge.

Result and Discussion

Semiotic Analysis of the Song Lyrics "Jentaka"

In the semiotic analysis of the song lyrics "Jentaka" by For Revenge, we used concepts from Charles Sanders Peirce and Ferdinand de Saussure to identify and interpret the signs and symbols embedded in the lyrics.

Identification of Signs and Symbols

The lyrics of "Jentaka" contained various signs and symbols reflecting themes such as suffering, appearance, and the duality between happiness and sadness. Some key lines from the lyrics that illustrated these signs and symbols were:

- "*Aku adalah penghibur sejati / Ku kan taklukan dirimu dengan tawa*": This line showed the duality between the role of being an entertainer and personal suffering.
- "*Kejenakaan mengalir dalam darahku / Sejenak ku mengirikan luka*": This line depicted the contradiction between the humor presented and the internal wounds felt.
- "*Aku tak mau diketahui / Saat menangis dan terjatuh lagi*": This line indicated a desire to hide one's weaknesses and sadness.

Classification of Signs

According to Peirce, signs were divided into three aspects: representatum, object, and interpretant.

- Representatum: The physically visible or audible sign. In this case, words in the lyrics such as "penghibur" (entertainer), "tawa" (laughter), "luka" (wound), and "menangis" (crying) served as the representatum.
- Object: The concept represented by the sign. For example, "penghibur" (entertainer) represented someone who tried to make others laugh and be happy.

- Interpretant: The meaning derived from the interaction between representatum and object. For example, the meaning behind "penghibur sejati" (true entertainer) was someone who hid personal suffering to entertain others.

According to (Saussure, 1966) a sign consisted of a signifier and a signified:

- Signifier: The physical form of the sign, such as the words "*penghibur*" and "*tawa*".
- Signified: The concept or meaning associated with the sign, such as the role of an entertainer and the visible happiness.

Interpretation of Meaning

Through semiotic analysis, we observed that the lyrics of "*Jentaka*" reflected an internal struggle between outward appearance and inner feelings. "*Penghibur sejati*" who "conquered with laughter" signified that the singer tried to hide pain and sadness behind the appearance of an entertainer. The lyrics indicated that although someone appeared happy and funny on the outside, they might be harboring deep wounds and sadness.

Contextual Analysis

For Revenge, as an emo band, often addressed themes such as emotional suffering and the complexity of human life. The song "*Jentaka*" was a clear example of these themes. By using lyrics rich in symbolism, the band succeeded in conveying a message about the duality of life—between the happiness shown and the sadness felt.

Qur'anic Verse in the Lyrics

An interesting element in the lyrics was the inclusion of a Qur'anic verse, Surah Al-Ankabut verse 64, which read in English: "And the worldly life is not but amusement. But the home of Hereafter is best for those who fear God. So are we listening?" This verse was delivered with a scream and emotional tone, illustrating the message that worldly life was merely a game and amusement. The use of this verse reinforced the main theme of the song about duality and the deeper meaning of life. It added a spiritual and existential dimension to the lyrics, emphasizing that worldly suffering and joy were temporary and that a greater purpose should be sought.

Semiotic Analysis of the Music Video "*Jentaka*"

Besides the lyrics, the music video for "*Jentaka*" also played a significant role in conveying the song's meaning. A semiotic analysis of the visual elements in the music video helped us understand how the visuals and lyrics worked together to create meaning.

Identification of Visual Elements

Key visual elements in the music video included:

- Lighting and Color: The use of contrasting lighting and dark colors created a melancholic and introspective atmosphere.
- Facial Expressions and Gestures: The facial expressions and body movements of the main actor in the video clip depicted deep feelings and complex emotions, shown through frequent smiles and laughter despite many challenges.
- Symbolism of Objects: The use of objects such as masks or mirrors, which often appeared in the video, could be interpreted as symbols of hidden identity or self-reflection.

Classification of Visual Signs

According to Peirce's theory in Chandler, 2017, visual elements in the music video could be classified as follows:

- Representatum: The visible elements, such as masks or mirrors.
- Object: The concept represented by these visual elements, such as the mask representing a hidden identity.
- Interpretant: The meaning derived from these visual elements, such as understanding the duality of identity and self-introspection.

Interpretation of Visual Meaning

The interaction between visual elements and lyrics in the "*Jentaka*" music video created deeper layers of meaning. For instance, when the lyrics mentioned "*Aku tak mau diketahui / Saat menangis dan terjatuh lagi*", the visual of the vocalist wearing a mask reinforced the meaning that the singer hid his true feelings from the outside world.

Contextual Analysis of Visuals

Overall, the visual elements in the "*Jentaka*" music video supported and enhanced the message conveyed by the lyrics. The somber lighting, dark colors, and symbolism of objects all contributed to the profound and complex emotional atmosphere highlighted by the song.

The analysis showed that the lyrics and music video of "*Jentaka*" by For Revenge were full of symbols and signs reflecting themes of suffering, duality, and introspection. The use of semiotic theory from Peirce and Saussure helped identify and interpret the hidden meanings within this work.

Interaction of Lyrics and Visuals

The lyrics and visual elements in the "*Jentaka*" music video interacted in a mutually supportive way to convey a profound message. The symbolism in the lyrics, such as "true entertainer" and "laughter", accompanied by visual elements like masks and mirrors, created a powerful depiction of the duality between outward appearance and inner feelings.

Hidden Meanings

The analysis also revealed hidden meanings about the emotional struggles often not visible on the surface. The song portrayed how someone could appear happy and entertain others, while actually hiding deep wounds and sadness.

Relevance to For Revenge's Work

The themes raised in the song "*Jentaka*" were highly relevant to For Revenge's other works. The band was known for exploring complex emotions and difficult life experiences, which was clearly reflected in their lyrics and music videos.

Thus, this study not only provided insights into the use of signs and symbols in lyrics and music videos but also affirmed the importance of semiotic analysis in understanding the deeper meanings in artistic works.

Conclusion

The analysis showed that this song and its music video were full of signs and symbols reflecting themes such as suffering, duality, introspection, and deeper meaning of life.

The lyrics of "Jentaka" illustrated the duality between the outward appearance of an entertainer and the inner feelings of wounds and sadness. Key lines such as "Aku adalah penghibur sejati / Ku kan taklukan dirimu dengan tawa" indicated the contradiction between the role played by the singer and the actual inner feelings. These symbols helped to reveal deeper meanings about emotional struggles often hidden behind outward appearances.

The music video for "Jentaka" reinforced the message of the lyrics through the use of visual elements such as contrasting lighting, dark colors, and symbolism of objects like masks and mirrors. These visual elements created a melancholic and introspective atmosphere, supporting the main theme of the song about duality and self-introspection.

Additionally, the inclusion of the Qur'anic verse Surah Al-Ankabut verse 64 in the lyrics added a spiritual and existential dimension to the meaning of the song. The verse, delivered with a scream and emotional tone, reinforced the message that worldly life was temporary and that a greater purpose should be sought.

In conclusion, the semiotic analysis of the lyrics and music video of "Jentaka" by For Revenge revealed complex and deep layers of meaning about emotional suffering, duality of identity, and the search for the meaning of life. This study showed the importance of understanding signs and symbols in artistic works to uncover hidden messages and meanings. Therefore, semiotic analysis can be a valuable tool in exploring and understanding complex and meaningful artistic works.

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