

# SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF MORAL MESSAGES IN THE LYRICS OF THE SONG GHEA INDRAWARI TITLE "THE SAD SOUL" (BASED ON CHARLES SANDERS PIERCE'S SEMIOTIC THEORY)

#### Sirajul Rahman

Communication Studies, Muhammadiyah University of Palangkaraya, Palangka Raya, Central Borneo, Indonesia

email:

sirajulrahman1972@gmail.com

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#### **Abstract**

This research was motivated by the high level of mental health disorders in Indonesia, as revealed in the 2018 Basic Health Research by the Ministry of Health. Although approximately 9.8% of the population lives with an "emotional mental disorder," only 6.1% of them are undergoing medical treatment. This phenomenon indicates the need for alternative solutions to overcome this problem. The research results show that the lyrics of this song convey a message about caring, support and honesty in sharing life's burdens with others. The conclusion of this research is that the moral message in the song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" can be understood through the interpretation of the signs and symbols contained in the linguistic structure and symbolism of the song. Semiotic analysis opens a window to understand the meaning hidden behind words and see how Ghea Indrawari conveys a moral message by using semiotic elements in the song's lyrics.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" (The Sad Soul) by Ghea Indrawari has become a phenomenon in the Indonesian music industry since its release on May 19, 2023. As a piece sung and written directly by Ghea, the song reflects the significant achievement of a singer who rose from the Indonesian Idol competition, showcasing her success in finding her place in the local music scene.

In the story behind the success of this song, Anji revealed that Ghea is one of the musicians worthy of admiration for her diligence in establishing herself in the music industry. In his statement, Anji appreciates Ghea's effort in continually trying new things, emphasizing that not all songs released by a musician immediately receive positive responses from the public.

"Jiwa Yang Bersedih" is also recognized as part of a series of singles previously released by Ghea. This illustrates Ghea's artistic journey involving various works before achieving this success. This approach underscores that success in the music world requires perseverance, exploration, and creative evolution throughout an artist's career.

Anji also highlights the importance of Ghea's work as a musician enjoyed by millions, even tens of millions of people. The success of this song is not only seen in its popularity but also in the emotional impact it provides to listeners, who may feel connected to the message and melody conveyed by Ghea. The importance of creating music that can be embraced by diverse audiences is also emphasized in this narrative. Ghea is described as a musician who strives not only to create popular songs but also to produce works with broad appeal that are easily accessible to many. This

approach reflects a wise artistic policy in pursuing musical success.

The awards and congratulations from Anji demonstrate support and appreciation for Ghea's achievements. Anji encourages Ghea to continue developing her potential and creating future works. This is a recognition of Ghea's dedication to making meaningful contributions to the Indonesian music industry.

Overall, the story behind the song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" provides an insight into Ghea Indrawari's career journey marked by hard work, creative exploration, and proud achievements. Although the specific history of the creation of this song has not been detailed, the information provided highlights the importance of a musician's evolutionary process in carving their name in the music world.

Based on the background presented, the author is interested in understanding the moral message conveyed in Ghea Indrawari's 2023 song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih". Therefore, the author conducted research titled "Semiotic Analysis of the Moral Message in the Lyrics of Ghea Indrawari's Song 'Jiwa Yang Bersedih' (Based on Charles Sanders Pierce's Semiotic Theory)".

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In terms of its data type, the research approach employed by the researcher is a semiotic approach aimed at describing what is happening to the researcher. The method used is qualitative. The research location is not fixed (can be anywhere) as the researcher conducts the study by listening to Ghea Indrawari's song titled "Jiwa Yang Bersedih". The research period lasted for two months, from October to November 2023.

Primary data is the source of research data obtained directly from the original source (Sangaji E.M

& Sopiah, 2010:171). Thus, the primary data in this study comes from the main source, namely the lyrics of the song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" popularized by Ghea Indrawari. Secondary data consists of data obtained from document records and literature sources (Sangkaji E.M & Sopiah, 2010, 172).

The data analysis used in the research is Charles Sandres Pierce's semiotic analysis. This analysis is employed to provide a clear depiction of the meaning of Ghea Indrawari's song titled "Jiwa Yang Bersedih". It aligns with Charles Sandres Pierce's statements regarding the three signs: Sign or Representamen, Object, and Interpretant.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Ghea Indrawari was born on March 10, 1998, in Singkawang, Central Kalimantan, as the eldest of two siblings. Her mother, Endang Winarni, and Ghea have a younger brother named Rezza Rahmawan who is 11 years her junior. Ghea's singing talent is inherited from her grandmother. She displayed an interest in singing from the age of two, participating in karaoke and memorizing melodies, despite never taking formal music lessons. Her mother preferred to enroll Ghea in swimming lessons due to her preference for sports, at a time when her musical talent was not yet prominent according to her mother's observations.

During high school, Ghea's music teacher recognized her significant potential. Her music arts teacher, Dedy Ridiansyah, personally guided Ghea in developing her musical talent. Ghea was exposed to various musical materials and invited to perform at events such as weddings and coffee shops. She began receiving professional music education, including sheet music notation, singing techniques, and musical instrument skills. She even became a vocalist alongside her music teacher in the band Liquid. Ghea attended SD

Pertiwi Kota Pontianak for elementary school, SMPN 3 Kota Singkawang for junior high school, SMA Negeri 3 Singkawang for senior high school, and pursued a Bachelor's degree in Music Education at Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta from 2015 to 2023. On December 2, 2023, Ghea successfully completed her studies and earned a Bachelor's degree in Education upon graduation.

In 2016, Ghea Indrawari participated in the singing talent competition Rising Star Indonesia Season 2, broadcasted on RCTI. During her audition, she performed Sia's song "Cheap Trills" and received 4 "yes" votes from the judges, advancing to the next stage. During the "Live Audition" stage, Ghea performed Zara Larsson's "Lush Life" and although she received 60% support in the vote, she was eliminated due to not reaching the required 70%. In 2018, Ghea participated in the ninth season of Indonesia Idol. During her audition, she sang Julia Michaels' "Issues" and earned a golden ticket, ensuring her progression to the next stage. After progressing through the auditions and competition process, Ghea was eliminated on March 19, 2018, precisely in the Top 5 Spectra round. As a former finalist, Ghea was automatically represented by the artist management company owned by MNC Group, Star Media Nusantara, and also joined the recording label owned by PT Star Media Nusantara, Hits Records.

Following her time on Indonesian Idol, Ghea released her debut single titled "Rinduku" on August 31, 2018. Ghea collaborated with Febrian Nindyo and Ezra Mandira in writing the lyrics for this song, which was completed in just a few hours. The lyrics were combined with musical elements reflecting the styles of the 80s and 90s. Ghea created music arrangements that suited her slightly rough vocal character. Ghea revealed that "Rinduku" was inspired by her personal

experiences, where she often felt nostalgic about the stories of those around her. As part of the promotional campaign for her debut single, Ghea also launched a web series of the same title, consisting of 3 episodes available on her private YouTube channel. This marked Ghea's acting debut, where she played the lead role as a character named Rindu, acting alongside Glenn Samuel and Diza Refengga.

After releasing ten songs during her musical journey, Ghea released her eleventh song titled "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" on May 19, 2023. However, this time, the song introduced a different concept compared to her previous works. In terms of lyrics, "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" tells the story of someone going through the lowest phase of their life, unlike her earlier songs that focused more on romance. Musically, Ghea made significant changes by replacing the usual sequencer with a dominance of acoustic guitar sounds. On August 14, 2023, "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" reached the top of the Spotify Indonesia (National) chart with over 38 million streams. Subsequently, the song also topped the weekly Indonesia Songs chart compiled by Billboard on the week of August 19, 2023. By early September 2023, "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" had surpassed 50 million streams on Spotify, making it Ghea's first song to achieve this milestone.

Waluyo in Friandy stated that the inner structure reflects what the poet wants to convey through feelings and soulful atmosphere, elements not directly seen in the physical poem. According to them, the theme is the main idea supporting the poet's expression, with Ghea Indrawari's song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" raising themes of sadness and weariness in life. Feelings, as explained by Waluyo in Friandy, encompass a variety of expressions in poetry, including sadness, disappointment, touchiness, dislike, longing, love, admiration, happiness, and loyalty to friends. This

song specifically creates a melancholic and emotional ambiance (Hasibuan et al., 2023).

Additionally, Waluyo in Friandy emphasizes the importance of tone as the poet's attitude towards the reader, closely related to the reader's emotional state after reading the poem. "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" by Ghea Indrawari has a melancholic tone that creates a mood of sadness. Lastly, Waluyo in Friandy states that the message of the poem is the message or purpose the poet wants to convey, and this message can be understood after understanding the theme, feeling, and tone in the poem. The message in this song invites listeners to understand that everyone carries burdens in life, and crying is a valid way to express emotions. This song also encourages mutual support and fighting against any sense of despair that may exist within oneself (Hasibuan et al., 2023).

In this study, the semiotic system in the lyrics of "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" by Ghea Indrawari will be elucidated, referring to the concept of the sign triangle introduced by Charles Sanders Peirce. According to Peirce's statements on the three signs—Sign or Representamen, Object, and Interpretant—the researcher will analyze the understanding of these signs and the moral message within Ghea Indrawari's song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih". This research aims to depict how these elements are reflected in the song lyrics, understanding how these signs play a role in conveying meaning in the context of Ghea Indrawari's song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih".

# Lyrics of the song "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" (Sad Soul) - Ghea Indrawari

Verse 1

Come here

Stop for a moment

Your journey is far

There's no shelter

Verse 2

Cry

Because you're human too

Who can't

Prolong it

Pretend to be perfect

Chorus 1

Convey to the saddened soul

So cold is the world you inhabit

If there's no place to return

Bring your wounds, let me heal them

Aren't your feet tired of running?

There are things they don't understand

Take time to lean for a moment

All this time you've been great

Only you're not heard

Ho oh

Verse 3

Cry

Because you're human too

Who can't

Prolong it

Pretend to be perfect

Chorus 2

Convey to the saddened soul

So cold is the world you inhabit

If there's no place to return

Bring your wounds, let me heal them

Aren't your feet tired of running?

There are things they don't understand

Take time to lean for a moment

All this time you've been great

Only you're not heard

Interlude

Huuuhuuuu Hooohoooo

Chorus 3

Convey to the saddened soul

So cold is the world you inhabit

If there's no place to return
Bring your wounds, let me heal them
Aren't your feet tired of running?
There are things they don't understand
Take time to lean for a moment
All this time you've been great
Only you're not heard ah
Not heard
Aren't your feet tired of running?
There are things they don't understand
Take time to lean for a moment
All this time you've been great
Only you're not heard
Outro
All this time you've been great

# **Research Findings**

This research focuses on the analysis of word choices in the lyrics of "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" composed by Ghea Indrawari. Overall, this song depicts the feelings, emotions, and motivations of someone trying to comfort others who are experiencing fatigue from life, sadness, and lack of someone willing to listen to their grievances. The analysis of the meaning of Ghea Indrawari's lyrics for "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" can be summarized as follows:

You surely will be heard

# Analysis of the First Verse "Jiwa Yang Bersedih"

Come here

Stop for a moment

Your journey is far

There's no shelter

Sign Object Interpretant

Meaning of moral message

(Qualisign) Your journey is far, there's no shelter

(Index) Your journey is far and there's no shelter

(Argument)

In the first verse above, the author finds signs in the lyrics that represent the meaning of a moral message. "Your journey is far, there's no shelter" conveys the message that life, which is a long journey, isn't always smooth and there might be no place to seek refuge from sadness. Like the preceding lyrics "Come here, stop for a moment," it seems to explain that if you're on a difficult and sad journey, there are times when you must bravely rest first before continuing that long journey.

In this verse, the songwriter also seems to invite listeners to take a moment to rest from the exhausting journey they are experiencing. The songwriter wants listeners to not always be overwhelmed by that exhausting journey. Even though there's no shelter on that journey and it's difficult to pour out complaints and sorrows, there are certainly kind people who provide positive energy to lift the spirits of someone who is sad.

# Analysis of the Second Verse "Jiwa Yang Bersedih"

Cry

Because you're human too

Who can't

Prolong it

Pretend to be perfect

Sign Object Interpretant

Meaning of moral message

(Qualisign) Cry because you're human too

(Index) Cry and human

(Argument)

In this second verse, the author finds signs in the lyrics that represent the meaning of a moral message. "Cry because you're human too" sends the message that it's okay to cry because it's human to cry when sad. As in the continuation of the lyrics "Who can't prolong it, pretend to be perfect," it's human and normal to cry when sad because you can't always pretend to be fine.

In this verse, the songwriter also delivers a moral message to listeners to dare to express their feelings. There's no need to be ashamed to cry when feeling sad because humans are given the gift of instincts and feelings to be expressed. It's true that there's currently a trend for people to pretend to be happy when their situation is actually difficult. The songwriter cares about mental health and encourages listeners not to suppress negative feelings; channel them through crying.

# Analysis of the Third Verse "Jiwa Yang Bersedih"

Convey to the saddened soul

So cold is the world you inhabit

If there's no place to return

Bring your wounds, let me heal them

Sign Object Interpretant

Meaning of moral message

(Qualisign) If there's no place to return, bring your wounds, let me heal them

(Index) If there's no place to return and bring your wounds, let me heal them

(Argument)

In this third verse, the author finds signs in the lyrics that represent the meaning of a moral message. "If there's no place to return, bring your wounds, let me heal them" has the message that "you're not alone; if no one can help you, then I'm here to help you heal." In the preceding lyrics as well "Convey to the saddened soul so cold is the world you inhabit" seems to give the message "tell someone who's sad about their world

that might be empty and not okay, I'm here to understand that feeling."

# Analysis of the Fourth Verse "Jiwa Yang Bersedih"

Aren't your feet tired of running
There are things they don't understand
Take time to lean for a moment
Sign Object Interpretant
Meaning of moral message
(Qualisign)
There are things they don't understand
Take time to lean for a moment
(Index) They don't understand and lean
for a moment
(Argument)

In this fourth verse, the author finds signs in the lyrics that represent the meaning of a moral message. "There are things they don't understand, take time to lean for a moment" has the message that not everyone understands your condition, so give yourself time to rest for a moment from the exhausting life, from the things you pursue, and from the things that make you sad. The songwriter invites listeners to take a moment to rest from the worldly pursuits because not everyone understands your difficult situation. So love yourself and take a break for a moment.

# Analysis of the Fifth Verse "Jiwa Yang Bersedih"

All this time you've been great
Only you're not heard
All this time you've been great
You surely will be heard
Sign Object Interpretant
Meaning of moral message
(Qualisign) All this time you've been great
You surely will be heard
(Index) Great and heard
(Argument)

In this fifth verse, the author finds signs in the lyrics that represent the meaning of a moral message. "All this time you've been great, you surely will be heard" has the meaning that you've been great all this time but just haven't found someone willing to listen to you yet; someday you will surely be heard. You will find someone willing to listen to you and say "you're great, you've fought this far."

These song lyrics summarize a deep moral message about empathy, support, and awareness of others' suffering. Firstly, the song emphasizes the importance of empathy towards the difficulties and suffering of others, urging listeners to appreciate and voice support for those who are struggling. Secondly, the lyrics highlight the reality that life isn't always easy, reflecting a moral message about awareness of human limitations and acknowledging that each individual carries their own burdens and struggles.

Thirdly, the moral message may emphasize the importance of not pretending to be perfect or hiding feelings, inviting listeners to share their imperfections, creating a more open and supportive environment. Fourthly, there's a message about the importance of offering help and understanding to those in need, with a call to support each other, be friendly, and provide a place for people who feel marginalized.

Fifthly, the lyrics reflect the importance of listening and providing space for people to talk about their feelings, showing that everyone has value and their voice is important to be heard. Overall, these song lyrics depict a moral message about caring, support, and honesty in sharing life's burdens with others.

# **CONCLUSION**

Through semiotic analysis of the song lyrics "Jiwa Yang Bersedih" by Ghea Indrawari, we can conclude that the moral message in the work is reflected through the use of signs and symbols. Semiotic analysis allows us to uncover layers of hidden meanings in words, delve into linguistic structures, and interpret the symbolism used by Ghea Indrawari. The use of specific symbols, such as metaphors or connotations, can provide a profound understanding of the feelings of a saddened soul, while figurative language and other stylistic elements can weave narratives that enrich the moral message conveyed. Furthermore, semiotic analysis also opens doors to understanding the cultural, social, or personal contexts of Ghea Indrawari reflected in the song lyrics. The chosen symbols may have deeper connotations related to life experiences or values held by the artist.

Recommendations for further research suggest expanding on this research idea by analyzing lyrics of other songs by Ghea Indrawari or even other artists using a similar semiotic analysis approach. This step is expected to significantly contribute to a broader understanding of the use of semiotics in musical art. These recommendations not only serve as a starting point for further research development but also provide a foundation for applying the research findings in various contexts, both academic and practical. By involving more musical artworks in semiotic analysis, research can yield deeper and more general insights into how artists communicate moral messages through signs and symbols in their song lyrics.

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