The Meaning of The Song *Sayonara no Imi* By Nogizaka46

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Abstract

This study discusses the meaning of the song Sayonara no Imi by Nogizaka46. The song Sayonara no Imi is the 16th single by Japanese idol girl group Nogizaka46. This song was written by Yasushi Akimoto who is also the founder of the group. The song Sayonara no Imi tells about the process of parting with someone you love. The meaning of the song will be found by using the semiotic theory put forward by Charles Sander Peirce. The method used to collect data in this research is the discourse analysis/observation method which focuses on the data source for the lyrics of the song Sayonara no Imi. This research also makes used of Chatgpt to get the information dealing with the references needed to support the analysis. Moreover, the information provided by chatgpt dealing with the analysis is also used as the supporting argument for the analysis. The data was analyzed using a qualitative descriptive to find the meaning of the song Sayonara no Imi with the help of the ChatGPT application. The results of this study are the meaning of the lyrics of the song Sayonara no Imi through ChatGPT, namely separation from someone you love and accepting the fact that separation is an unavoidable part.

Keywords: *Semiotics;Sayonara no Imi,Song*

A. Introduction

Songs are a very special literary work because the tempo of the song reflects every depth of meaning. The lyrics of the song are sweet, making people feel as if they are flying, slipping, light, and naive. The lyrics of a song, according to Cahyo et al. (2020), usually consist of a series of words and sentences that have meanings and structures similar to the language used in everyday life. Song lyrics are a form of poetry, as Semi (1988: 106) puts it: 'Lyrics are short poems that convey emotions'. Both song lyrics and poetry are types of literary works that use artistic language. This study analyzes the lyrics of the song 'Sayonara no Imi' by Nogizaka46.

This research discusses the lyrics of 'Sayonara no Imi,' the 16th single by the Japanese idol group Nogizaka46, released on November 9, 2016. This song reached number one on the Oricon Weekly Singles Chart

and also topped the Billboard Japan Hot 100. The song 'Sayonara no Imi' is the first Million single by Nogizaka46 certified by RIAJ.

This song has a catchy melody and beautiful arrangement, but its meaning reflects sadness, the farewell to a loved one, and the strength gained from that separation. This song is significant as it is both the first and last time Hashimoto Nanami serves as the center, since she will be graduating from Nogizaka46. This song serves as a message from Hashimoto Nanami to her fans and fellow Nogizaka46 members, encouraging them not to feel sadness over her graduation. Based on these reasons, the author is interested in exploring the deeper meaning contained in the song 'Sayonara no Imi' and its message for the fans.

Based on the issues mentioned above, this research aims to understand and study the form of Japanese literary works. Specifically, this research aims to understand the meaning of the song 'Sayonara no Imi' by Nogizaka46 using ChatGPT and the researcher's perspective.

The theoretical benefit of this research is that the findings are expected to enhance knowledge in the field of semiotics, particularly in the study of literary works in the form of song lyrics. Practically, the results of this research can benefit readers in understanding the hidden meanings in the song lyrics that the songwriter wishes to convey. Additionally, this study can serve as a reference or resource for similar future research.

To tackle the issues and meet the research objectives, this study utilizes semiotic theory, which focuses on the study of sign systems.

Semiotics, in general, is a science or analytical method for studying signs. Signs are tools used to navigate the world, among people, and together with humanity (Sobur, 2017:15). For Pierce (Pateda, 2001:44), a sign "is something which stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity." Something used for a sign to function is called Ground by Pierce. Consequently, a sign (or representamen) always exists in a triadic relationship, namely ground, object, and interpretant. Based on this relationship, Pierce (Pateda, 2001:44) classifies signs.

Semiotics in C.S. Peirce's theory explains the triadic relationship between signs in literary works. This relationship involves the connection between the object, representamen, and interpretant.

In the triadic relationship, the connection between signs is viewed based on conventions among sources. According to this triadic relationship, it is divided into three parts:

1. An icon is a sign that contains a similarity (or resemblance) between its elements and their referents, establishing a relationship based on the quality of that similarity.
2. An index is referred to as a sign that indicates a causal relationship between the signifier and its signified.
3. A symbol is a sign that is designed to be associated with and used as a reference agreed upon collectively.

A similar previous study was conducted by Fifi Lathifah Zahronah, Sri Oemiati (2022) Di Universitas Dian Nuswantoro dengan judul *Makna Lagu Sakura no Hanabiratachi karya AKB48:* *Analisis Semiotika Riffaterre* yang meneliti tentang makna lagu pada lirik lagu band AKB48 yang berjudul sakura no hanabiratachi.

The similarity between the previous research and this study lies in both examining the meaning of a song within its lyrics. Furthermore, both studies utilize a qualitative descriptive research method for the literature review. The difference between this study and previous research is that this study focuses on the meaning of the song "Sayonara no Imi" by Nogizaka46, analyzed through the semiotic theory of C.S. Peirce.

B. Research Method

Research methodology refers to the systematic procedures, processes, or steps taken to carefully address problems in order to yield results from the subjects being studied. The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive research. Mukhtar (2013: 10) states that qualitative descriptive research is a method employed by researchers to discover knowledge or theories related to a specific study at a given

point in time. Qualitative descriptive research is a method based on post-positivist philosophy, used to study objects in their natural conditions, according to Sugiyono (2016:9).

The method used in this study, particularly for data collection, involves listening to the song "Sayonara no Imi" by Nogizaka46, followed by marking and recording data relevant to icons, indices, and symbols. Next, the data will be reduced, analyzed according to the research objectives, and the results of the analysis of the Japanese song lyrics titled "Sayonara no Imi" by Nogizaka46 will be concluded.

C. Results and Discussion

Lirik lagu *Sayonara no Imi*

Lirik	Arti
電車が近づく気配が好きなんだ	I like the feeling of a train approaching
高架線のその下で耳を澄ましてた	Under the elevated tracks, I strained my ears
柱の落書き数字とイニシャルは	The graffiti on the pillars the numbers and initials
誰が誰に何を残そうとしたのだろう	I wonder who left them and for whom?
時の流れを	The passage of time (The

（時の流れを）	passage of time)
教えてくれる（教えてくれる）	Teaches us (Teaches us)
過ぎ去った普通の日々が	That the ordinary days that have passed
かけがえのない足跡と	Are irreplaceable footprint
サヨナラに強くなれ	Become stronger in saying goodbye
この出会いに意味がある	There's meaning in this encounter
悲しみの先に続く僕たちの未来	Our future continues beyond the sadness
始まりはいつだって	A beginning always
そう何かが終わること	follows an ending
もう一度君を抱きしめて	I wanted to hold you again
守りたかった愛に変わるもの	To protect what I had Something that could replace love
電車が通過する轟音と風の中	The train passes by In the roar and the wind
君の唇が動いたけど聞こえない	Your lips moved, but I couldn't hear
静寂が戻り答えを待つ君に	As the silence returned I looked into your eyes as you waited for an answer
僕は目を見て微笑みながら頷いた	And smiled, nodding my head

大切なもの（大切なもの）	Even if the important things (The important things)
遠ざかっても（遠ざかっても）	Move away (Move away)
新しい出会いがまた	New encounters will surely
いつかはきっとやってくる	Come our way again someday
サヨナラを振り向くな	Don't look back at the farewell
追いかけてもしょうがない	There's no point of chasing after them
思い出は今いる場所に 置いて行こうよ	Put the memories At the place where we are right now
終わること躊躇って	People hesitate with the endings
人は皆立ち止まるけど	And they ended up standing still, but
僕たちは抱き合ってた	We're gonna embrace each other
腕を離してもっと強くなる	Let go of each other's arms Then became even stronger
躊躇してた間に	While I'm being hesitant
陽は沈む (切なく)	The sun goes down (painfully)
遠くに見える鉄塔	Even the steel tower I see from distance
ぼやけてく (確かな距離)	Becomes blurred (surely distant)
君が好きだけど (君が好きだけど)	I love you, but (I love you, but)
ちゃんと言わなくちゃいけ	I have to say this properly

ない	
見つめ合った瞳が 星空になる	Our eyes turned into a sky full of stars as they met
サヨナラは通過点	Sayonara is a passing point
これからだって何度もある	There will be more of them from now on
後ろ手でピースしながら	As you make a "peace sign" while turning your back away
歩き出せるだろう	You walk on by
君らしく...	Just the way you are
サヨナラに強くなれ	Become stronger in saying goodbye
この出会いに意味がある	There's meaning in this encounter
悲しみの先に続く 僕たちの未来	Our future continues beyond the sadness
始まりはいつだって	A beginning always
そう何かが終わること	follows an ending
もう一度君を抱きしめて	I wanted to hold you again
本当の気持ち問いかけた	I want to know how your truly feeling was
失いたくない	I don't want to lose it
守りたかった愛に変わるもの	To protect what I had Something that could replace love

Peirce's Triadic Theory (Icon, Index, and Symbol)

In semiotic studies, social

phenomena in society and culture are considered signs, which examine the systems, rules, and conventions that allow these signs to have meaning.

1. Icon

Data 1:

電車が近づく 気配が好きなんだ

I like the feeling of a train approaching

What indicates an icon in this lyric is

the word 電車/densha/train.

According to ChatGPT, the word "train" serves as a metaphor for movement or change in life. Specifically, the train in the context of this song refers to the separation between two individuals who must continue their lives separately, even though their memories and feelings remain.

According to the researcher, the meaning of the above lyrics is a series of interconnected events and thoughts that form a memory that can be recalled by someone who has experienced separation. The word "train" serves as a metaphor for fragile objects (Wahab, 1991: 80). The word "train" is defined as a series of cars that are propelled by a locomotive or engine.

Data 2:

腕を離してもっと強くなる

Let go of each other's arms Then became even stronger

What indicates an icon in this lyric is the word 腕を離して /ude wo hanashite/ Let go of each other's arms

According to ChatGPT, the phrase "letting go of each other's hands" refers to the action of releasing hands between two people, symbolizing separation and the loss of physical connection between the two individuals.

Meanwhile, the researcher interprets it as a separation experienced by someone who is cherished, making it impossible for them to protect or be together with each other anymore. The phrase "letting go of each other's hands" is a metaphor in the human category that has a specific prediction: its ability to think, allowing it to perform various actions that cannot be carried out by members of other categories (Wahab, 1991: 82).

Data 3:

陽は沈む（切なく）

The sun goes down (painfully)

What indicates an icon in this lyric is

the word 陽/hi/sun.

According to ChatGPT, the phrase "setting sun" is often used to symbolize the end of something, whether it be a relationship, a day, or a period in life. It also refers to the feelings of melancholy and loss that arise during a separation.

Meanwhile, the researcher interprets it as a depiction of a person's hope for a loved one fading and sinking slowly due to the separation that has occurred. The word "sun," as a metaphor in the category of being, represents a figurative symbol drawn from the farthest reaches of human perception and encompasses abstract human concepts or experiences (Wahab, 1991: 77).

2. Index

The meaning of the index in the song "Sayonara no Imi" can be found in the following lines of the lyrics.

No.	Lirik	Makna
1.	君の唇が動いたけど 聞こえない "Kimi no kuchibiru ga ugoitakedo kikoenai" "Your lips moved, but I couldn't hear"	The sadness associated with memories of a loved one always resides in his heart, but he cannot hear or remember the messages conveyed by that person.
2.	遠くに見える鉄塔ぼやけてく (確かな距離) "Tookuni mieru tettou boyaketeku (tashikana kyouri)" "Even the steel tower I see from distance Becomes blurred (surely distant)	Dreaming of achieving something together with a loved one gradually fades and becomes blurred, disappearing because the separation has caused them to part ways and follow their own paths.
3.	見つめ合った瞳が 星空になる "Mitsume atta hitomi ga hoshizora ni naru" "Our eyes turned into a sky full of stars as they met "	His sadness and that of his loved one are reflected in their tear-filled eyes, full of moisture due to the separation that has occurred.

In the quoted lines of the song "Sayonara no Imi" above, the cause-and-effect elements refer to the connection between human life itself and other individuals.

3. Symbol

The symbol in the song "Sayonara no Imi" is the letter V. In the lyrics below:

後ろ手でピースしながら
As you make a "peace sign" while turning your back away

ピース/peace/ as a sign of victory or peace.

According to ChatGPT, the peace sign is interpreted as a symbol of a light and unburdened separation. It can be a way for someone to show that, although there is a parting, it should not be viewed with prolonged sadness, but rather as a natural transition or change.

On the other hand, the researcher suggests that in this lyric, one must accept the separation with sincerity and determination in their heart to continue moving forward on the chosen path and future. The metaphor in the human category is characterized by its predictive ability to think, allowing it to perform various actions that cannot be carried out by other categories (Wahab, 1991: 82). The word ピース (piisu), symbolizing peace, represents a hand gesture forming the letter V with the index and middle fingers, which

signifies a separation that, although very painful and sad, still occurs

D. Conclusion

In the lyrics that have been studied by the author, it concludes about the difference in meaning obtained when using ChatGPT, namely this song describes the feelings of sadness and loss that accompany separation and accepting the fact that separation is an unavoidable part. While from the researcher's side, there is a sense of longing from separation from someone he loves with a relationship that has been established. Although separation is something painful, all the memories and memories that remain from meeting someone you love will always be remembered. Those memories make it stronger. The message conveyed in this song is that separation is something that will definitely happen to every human being. Therefore, rather than crying over a separation, it is better to accept a meeting because every meeting has a meaning behind it. The important message to continue is to live even though there is pain. Listeners are invited not to look back and leave

memories in their place, and to continue moving forward with confidence.

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