

INTERPERSONAL MEANING ANALYSIS OF *FREDDIE DREDD* SELECTED SONGS IN “*SUFFER*” ALBUM

Satria Ananda¹. Rahayu Purbasari².

¹State University of Jakarta
Jalan Rawamangun Muka, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

²State University of Jakarta
Jalan Rawamangun Muka, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

Ekasyahputra, Satria Ananda. 2022. Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of Freddie Dredd Selected Songs in “Suffer” Album. A Thesis: Jakarta, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study aims to analyze the interpersonal meaning in five selected song lyrics from Freddie Dredd’s album to describe the interpersonal meaning elements namely mood and modality. Then, the study also uses lexical analysis to analyze the attitudinal elements in the song lyrics. This research uses descriptive qualitative approach. The data is contained by separating the lyrics into clauses. Then, the data is analyzed by using two major instruments namely interpersonal meaning which analyzes the mood types and the modality. Then, the study uses appraisal system to realize the attitude of the speaker. In interpersonal meaning analysis, the most dominant mood type is declarative mood with the total of 132 clauses from 162 clauses or about 81.48% and the most modality found is median modality with 9 occurrences or about 50% from total of 18. In attitudinal appraisal analysis, the most dominant attitude element is Judgement (83.33%), followed by Affect (13.34%) and Appreciation (3.33).

Keywords: Interpersonal meaning, Attitude, Appraisal Theory, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

The interpersonal meanings are concerned with the interaction between speaker(s) and addressee(s). “ It is used to establish the speaker’s role in the speech situation and relationship with others. Two of its main grammatical systems are mood-modality and appraisal theory (Matthiessen & Halliday 1997). In addition, Butt (2001:86) explained interpersonal meaning is one of the most basic interactive distinctions between using language to exchange information and using it to exchange goods and services. This indicates that interpersonal meaning can occur between the singer as the speaker and the listeners as the addressee. However, because this study will focus on the song lyrics, the interpersonal meaning occurs between the lyricist and the reader, in this case, referring to the listener.

Many kinds of song lyrics have been studied. Medina & Noorman (2019) analyzed the interpersonal meaning of the song lyrics of Queen by using Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistics. The result shows that Declarative mood and Median Modality are the most used in Queen’s song lyrics. Cheung & Feng (2019) analyzed a corpus of song lyrics of 1,152 heavy metal songs using appraisal analysis by Martin and White. The analysis shows that the heavy metal song lyrics mostly characterized with sadness, loneliness, freedom, and the valuation of death. Despite there are so many academic studies in field of interpersonal meaning in a song, it still does not cover most genre. It is still rare to see interpersonal meaning academic studies in underground rap or hip-hop genre. There is a huge number of artists and

songwriters across the globe. One of the notable artists is Freddie Dredd. Freddie Dredd, his real name is Ryan Mitchel Chassels, is an underground rap artist from Ontario, Canada. Freddie Dredd is known for his intense dark and vulgar lyrics with his strained sounding voice. His lyrics is mostly talks about robbing and hurting people and owning a firearm.

The researcher or writer in this study is intrigued of how the interpersonal meaning is conveyed in Freddie Dredd' s song lyrics. The researcher seeks to learn how the writer of the song lyrics structures his words in the lyrics to express his judgement so that the researcher would explore how word arrangement in terms of what attitude he is showing which helps portray the writer' s thoughts and feelings to the listeners. Therefore, the researcher has research questions such as (1) what are the mood types that is used by the writer; (2) what are the modality that are used by the writer; (3) how des the writer uses evaluative language (attitudinal appraisal) in his song lyrics. To answer the previous research questions, the researcher has to describe the mood types, modalities, and the attitudinal appraisal as the objectives of this study.

By investigating Freddie Dredd' s song lyrics in “ Suffer” album, the writer hopes this study will bring significance such as a form of contribution to the systematic functional linguistics. This study should help the students for the reference of interpersonal meaning studies. Lastly, this can also bring benefits to the musicians which may increase the quality of lyric production.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research will use qualitative research and employ the descriptive analysis interpretative as the method. This study discusses five song lyrics of Freddie Dredd. The selected song lyrics are “*Stunna*” , “ *Tool*” , ” *WTH*” , ” *Necklace*” , and “ *Delete*” . Furthermore, the writer of this study will analyze the clauses within the song lyrics to interpret the mood and modality using interpersonal meaning by Halliday and the attitudinal appraisal by Martin and White.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION (TIMES NEW ROMAN, 12, CAPITAL, BOLD)

Mood Types

	Declarative	Imperative	Interrogative	Total
Song lyric 1	16	3	5	24
“ Stunna”	66.67%	12.50%	20.83%	100%
Song lyric 2	34	5	1	40
“ Tool”	85.00%	12.50%	2.50%	100%
Song lyric 3	34	4	2	40

“ WTH”	85.00%	12.50%	2.50%	100%
Song lyric 4	30	3	0	33
“ Necklace”	90.91%	9.09%	0.00%	100%
Song lyric 5	18	6	1	25
“ Delete”	72.00%	24.00%	4.00%	100%
Total	132	21	9	162
	81.48%	12.96%	5.56%	100%

Table 1 The analysis of Mood Types in the song lyrics of Freddie Dredd’ s album Suffer

Based on the table above, there are total of 162 clauses in all 5 selected song lyrics in Freddie Dredd album Suffer. Declarative sentences, with total of 132 clauses (81.48%), are the most dominant in all the song lyrics. The declarative sentences in the song lyrics are used by Freddie Dredd, as the singer and also as the provider of the information, to declare or express something to his listeners or audiences. The less dominant mood type is Imperative sentence with total of 21 clauses (12.96%) in all 5 selected song lyrics. The Imperative Mood indicates that the composer of the song or the singer is asking the listeners or readers to take action. The least dominant type of Mood is Interrogative with total of 9 clauses (5.56%). Interrogative sentence is used to ask a question. We can see the examples of each mood types below.

“ I see you when you alone” (SL1/C.07)

I	see	you	when you alone
Subject	Finite	Complement	Adjunct
Mood	Residue		

This example of a clause is identified as declarative clause because it follows the order of Subject and Finite as mentioned before. The word “ I” act as the Subject and the word “ see” as the Finite of present tense. The rest of the clause “ you” signifies Complement and “ when you alone” signifies as Adjunct. Complement and Adjunct considered as Residue.

“Step up to the plate” (SL1/C.19)

Step	up to the plate	
Finite	Predicator	Adjunct

Mood	Residue
------	---------

This clause is identified as imperative mood. The mood of this clause only has a Finite “ Step” to signifies the positive polarity of present tense. It is an unmarked imperative because it doesn’ t have a subject. However, the subject is rather omitted because in giving command, the subject is always the second person or “ you” . The Adjunct “ up to the plate” is the only residue in this clause. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “ step up to the plate” is an idiomatic phrase that refers to show someone’ s readiness to meet a challenge.

“ Where’ d you get the tool?”

(SL2/C.32)

Where	’ d (did)	you	get	the tool?
WH-Question	Finite	Subject	Predicator	Adjunct
Mood			Residue	

This clause is identified as interrogative mood. There is a WH-Question element “ Where’ d” at the very beginning of the clause. “ Where’ d” is a contraction of “ where did” so the finite should be “ did” but it is contracted so it becomes “ ’ d” . Then, we can the subject “ you” at the end of the mood element. The residue element consists of the predicator “ get” and the Adjunct “ the tool” .

The songwriter used all the mood types. By using declarative mood, the songwriter wants to give his standpoint opinion or information to his audience. The songwriter also states his authority by giving command or order through imperative mood. Lastly, the songwriter uses interrogative mood to create a certain kind of relationship and influence his audience.

Modality

Modality	Modality Type	Frequency	Percentage
Degree			
Low	Probability	1	5.56%
Median	Probability	9	50.00%

High	Probability	4	44.44%
	Usuality	4	
Total		18	100%

Table 2 The Summary of Modality in Freddie Dredd Album “Suffer”

Based on the table shown above, from 132 clauses, there are only 18 clauses containing modality. From those 18 clauses, there are only two types of modalities which are Probability and Usuality. Probability is the only type in low and median degree. Unlike low and median degree, high modality degree consists of Probability and Usuality. We can see that Probability is definitely the most dominant type with 14 occurrences and followed by Usuality that only has 4 occurrences. Median degree is the most dominant degree in all the selected song lyrics with 9 occurrences or about 50.00% of the total. Followed by high degree with 8 occurrences or about 44.44% of the total. Lastly, the least dominant degree is low degree with only 1 occurrence or about 5.56% of the total. We can see the examples of each degree below.

“**Can** you tell what this about?”

In this clause, “can” is the lowest degree of probability modality and it is used to lower the speaker authority. The full sentence in the lyrics “Breathe in, breathe out, can you tell what this about?” explains about the songwriter gives a command to his audiences to calm and then he asks whether the audiences know something that is about to happen or not. The songwriter uses “can” to weaken his authority as the speaker. By doing so, it allows him to shorten the distance between his listeners.

“I **think** I’ mma name it Slammer”

In this clause, we can see that the writer of the song lyrics uses “think” in his lyrics. “think” is identified as median degree of probability modality. The probability is realized by a mental clause as if it is a figure of sensing (Halliday, 2014). The previous sentence of this clause is “Look at my shiny hammer,” which means by using “think”, the songwriter signals a medium commitment of certainty that he would name his hammer.

“You know that Freddie **never ever** switch.”

The modal “never” represents the highest degree of usuality modal. It gives signal for showing the speaker certainty and commitment for such action will not happen. The songwriter uses the modal “never” in his lyrics to tell his listeners that he will not “switch” or betray his friends referring to his lyrics. The word “ever” is used to emphasize the former word.

Attitude

No.	Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
1	Affect (+)	-	-
	Affect (-)	4	13.34%
2	Judgement (+)	1	3.33%
	Judgement (-)	24	80%
3	Appreciation (+)	1	3.33%
	Appreciation (-)	-	-
Total		30	100%

Table 3 The Summary of Attitude in Freddie Dredd Album “ Suffer”

Based on the table shown above, we can see the summary of attitude resources in the Freddie Dredd’ s album “ Suffer” . From 30 attitudinal instances, all three types of attitudinal types are used by the writer of the lyrics. Judgement outnumbered Affect and Appreciation with 25 instances or about 83.33% with 1 instance of positive judgement (3.23%) and 24 negative judgement (77.40%). Followed by Affect with total of 4 negative only instances or about 13.34%. Lastly, Appreciation is the lowest frequency in the table with one positive instance or only about 3.33%. Therefore, we can tell that in his song lyrics, the writer’s attitude is mostly negative judgement which means he criticize or condemn towards a behavior or phenomenon. We can see the examples of each attitude below.

“ One, two, I’ m so sick of you.” (Dissatisfaction)

One of the affect examples can be seen above. In this sentence, the writer of the song shows his dissatisfaction towards a person. Dissatisfaction is used to show or express displeasure towards something or an event. The phrase “ So sick” could have a positive meaning or a negative meaning depending on the context. In this context, the speaker is disgusted of someone’ s attitude. The following line “ You’ s a pussy” in datum SL5/C.02 supports the clause. Therefore, the phrase “ so sick” is considered as negative feeling.

“Why you acting crazy, mane?” (Normality-)

This sentence presents negative assessment of the writer towards a person who was judged to be strange or act unusual. The word “ crazy” contains a negative load as it means ‘ out of ordinary’ . In Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word “crazy”

means wild and uncontrolled. Based on the context of the lyric, the writer used negative judgement to asks a person who is acting abnormal a question. Therefore, the word “crazy” is identified as negative judgement of normality.

“Look at my shiny hammer.” (Reaction+)

In this sentence, it presents the songwriter’ s attitude in evaluating his hammer. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word “ shiny” means having a smooth glossy surface. Freddie Dredd uses the word “ shiny” to express his admiration towards his hammer. Although, the hammer is used to hurt people based on the context of the song lyric, it is still considered as an appreciation of the hammer with positive reaction.

CONCLUSION

This research aims to answer the previous research questions. To answer the first question, it can be concluded that the writer of the song lyrics uses all the mood types. The most dominant clause is declarative clause with the total of 132 clauses from 162 clauses or about 81.48%. The second most dominant is imperative mood with 21 clauses or about 12.96%. The least dominant is the interrogative mood which only has 9 clauses or only about 5.56%. The song lyrics tend to use declarative mood often to state the writer’ s authority towards the audiences and to deliver his standpoint about a phenomenon or event. Then, the songwriter uses imperative mood less often than declarative mood to exchange goods and service (i.e., giving commands and orders) with his audience. Interrogative mood is the least mood type in the selected song lyrics. With interrogative mood, it allows the songwriter to ask yes-no question and WH-question.

The answer to the second research question is that the writer also uses all degree of modality. Most dominant modality is median probability degree such as “think” and “ will”. By using median degree of modality, it allows him to express his intention with certainty. The second most dominant modality is high probability and high usuality degree. High degree of modality such as “ cannot” and “never”, it allows him to express his statement with absolute certainty. The least dominant is the low degree modality. Freddie Dredd used low degree of modality to weaken his authority in order to closing the gap between him and his audience.

The summary of attitude appraisal analysis is used to answer the last research question. The result shows that there is a significant gap in the proportion of the positive and negative attitude found in the song lyrics. Looking at the result, Freddie Dredd as the songwriter uses more negative attitude rather than positive attitude. Negative judgement certainly dominates then followed by negative affect and negative appreciation. The two positive attitude in the analysis is the positive judgement and appreciation. Most negative judgment is used to express the songwriter’ s evaluation. Negative affect is used to depict the songwriter feelings.

Positive Judgement is used to evaluate himself as the most powerful and respected.
Positive Appreciation is used to value an object the belong to him.

REFERENCES

- Almurashi, Wael. (2016). An Introduction to Halliday' s Systemic Functional Linguistics. *Journal for the Study of English Linguistics*. 4. 70. 10.5296/jsel.v4i1.9423.
- Bogdan, R., & Biklen, S. K. (2003). *Qualitative research for education: An introduction to theory and methods*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Butt, d, (et. al.). 1995. *Using Functional Grammar*. Sydney: National Centre for English Language, Teaching and Research.
- Egins, S. (1994). *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Pinter Publisher Ltd.
- Engelbrecht, A. (2020). An Appraisal Theory Approach to News Reports on Rhino Poaching in South Africa. In *Language Matters* (Vol. 51, Issue 1, pp. 86–112). Informa UK Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10228195.2019.1701266>
- Gerot & Wignell. (1994). *Making Sense of Functional Grammar*. New South Wales: Antipodean Educational Enterprise.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1985). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (2014). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. 4th Edition. London: Edward Arnold.
- Marhamah, R. A. (2014). *Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of Muse song Lyrics in Black Holes and Revelations" Album. A Study Based on Systemic Functional Linguistics*, Script of Student University of Yogyakarta.
- Martin, J. R. (2002). MEANING BEYOND THE CLAUSE: SFL PERSPECTIVES. In *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics* (Vol. 22, pp. 52–74). Cambridge University Press (CUP). <https://doi.org/10.1017/s026719050200003x>
- Martin, J. R. (2016). Meaning matters: a short history of systemic functional linguistics. In *WORD* (Vol. 62, Issue 1, pp. 35–58). Informa UK Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.2016.1141939>
- Medina, R., & Noorman, S. (2021). *Interpersonal Meaning Analysis of Selected Song Lyrics from Queen' s Greatest Hits Album*. Atlantis-press.com. Retrieved 6 December 2021, from <https://www.atlantis-press.com/article/125938663>

.
Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Ain't. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ain%27t>

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Crazy. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved February 5, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crazy>

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). King. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved February 5, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/king>

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Step up to the plate. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/step%20up%20to%20the%20plate>

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Stupid. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved February 2, 2022, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stupid>

Oxford. (n.d.). Astound. In Oxford Learners Dictionary. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/astound>

Rosenblatt, Louise M., and Wayne C. Booth. (2020). Literature as Exploration. The Modern Language Association of America.