

## The Beauty of Words in Maher Zain's Selected Song Lyrics: A Study of Connotative Meaning

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### Abstract

The present study aimed to identify and describe existing connotative meanings from Maher Zain's song lyrics. The study collected the data from 6 songs created and sung by Maher Zain, such as (1) The power, (2) Peace be upon you, (3) I'm alive, (4) The way of love, (5) Close to you, and (6) Medina. This research gained the data through identifying the words or phrases on the lyrics in six Maher Zain's songs and were analyzed based on Leech's theory. The data were analyzed qualitatively, while the techniques of data collection are done by downloading the song and the lyrics, listening the song, reading the lyrics and watching the videos. Then, reducing the data, displaying the data, verifying the data and making the conclusion were done in analyzing the data. The result of the study described words/phrases containing types of connotative meaning. There were twenty-four data found in this research; sixteen data contained positive connotations, four data contained neutral connotations, and four data contained negative connotations. The researchers expected the next researchers to study the types of connotative meaning in other songs from Maher Zain in this album. The researchers also expected the next researchers to identify the types of connotations by using different relevant theory.

**Keywords:** Connotative meaning; Maher Zain's song lyrics; semantic.

Every word in a sentence or utterance has meanings. There are two kinds of meaning in the study about meaning, literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Literal means based on the actual words. Non-literal meaning is on the contrary Palmer (1976). Palmer (1976) says that "speaker means something different from his literal meaning of the words, he has another

intention which different from the meaning of words. The hearer may find it is difficult to understand what the speaker wants to convey if the speaker speaks non-literally. There are number of ways in expressing ideas which deviate from the semantic conventions, some of which are through the use of denotative and connotative meaning".

There are various kinds of meanings in semantics. Leech (1981) defines seven types of meanings. There are conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflective, collocative and thematic meaning. Based on these meanings, this research focused on researching connotative meaning.

According to Barker (2001), connotation is the part of the meaning of a word, while connotative as an implicit meaning. For instance, if I say "the star in the night" (1) You may define the word star (1) that I mean is something object in the sky which emits light the night, but how if I meet to my husband or my boyfriend then I say "he is my star" (2)? These two sentences used the same word, but do they have the same meaning? The word star in the sentence "he is my star" is meaningful. The word star (2) here is connotative meaning (positive connotation) that he is like a star, the brighter the star, that more beautiful it looks. Like we only impressed one man, he is our husband or our boyfriend.

The connotative meaning is often found in poetry, short stories, novels and songs. Song is a combination of music and lyrics. Analyzing the meaning is not easy especially from a song. Misinterpreting the meaning of the song, the message we get is wrong.

Maher Zain is an Islamic musician, a Swedish singer and music producer from Lebanon, born in 1982 in Lebanon. Maher Zain is a religious singer whose songs have meaningful lyrics. Maher Zain's songs give a lot of influence to listeners through their meaningful lyrics. One of his album is "One". The album consists of fifteen songs. In this research, the researchers focused on the songs that used English lyrics. Therefore, the researchers chose six lyrics of Maher Zain's songs which are "The Power", "Peace Be Upon You", "I'm alive", "The Way of Love", "Close to You" and "Medina".

To prove the originality of this study, the researchers presented previous researches which have relation with the variety of the research of connotative meanings. For the

first one related to this research was done by Wahyuni (2019). The research focused on types of connotative meaning and denotative meaning in Yusuf Islamic Songs. The data research was taken from five songs from Yusuf Islami's song. The researcher analyzed the data using Riebs & Reeves (2005) theory.

The second one was done by Purnamasari (2018). The research focused of connotative meaning and values of American people on Justin Bieber's Song Lyrics. The research used Chaer's (2003) theory to find a connotation meaning. She also used Khols (1984) theory to sense a value of American people.

The last one was done by (Kusumaningrum, 2020). This research focused on the connotative analysis which used the theory by Philip (2011) and supported with lyric structure theory by Cox (2000).

The different between this research and the previous studies were the researchers used different theory of connotative meaning and the researchers used different music genre.

In this study, researchers conducted research on six lyrics of Maher Zain's songs and analyzed the type of connotation of each lyric. In addition, the researchers had several reasons to analyze this research. First of all, the researchers took six songs in the album "One" because the song contained a video clip that made it easier for viewers to capture the meaning and message that conveyed in the song. Also, the researchers lived in a Muslim majority country and this song was full of religious messages for Muslims. This religious side was an introduction for readers and listeners that if we wanted to have a good relationship with our Lord, we might know all the ways how to have a good relationship with our Lord. In addition, this song gave a connotative meaning and then gave a message for someone who had a bad relationship with Allah. Therefore, the researchers conducted research on semantics, especially the connotative meaning of the lyrics of Maher Zain's song. The researchers analyzed the data based on Leech's (1981) theory.

Based on the background, the purposes of the research were to find the kinds of connotative meanings found in Maher Zain's selected song lyrics and to describe the meanings of connotative words/phrases in Maher Zain's selected song lyrics.

This research was believed to increase the science of linguistics field, especially in semantic and connotation meaning. Hopefully, the result of this research would enrich the reader's understanding about connotative meaning, and give contribution of feedback in teaching and learning English linguistic especially for connotation subject, than can give inspiration to other students who want to develop similar research in the future.

### Semantics and Meanings

According to Palmer (1976), "semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. In other words, semantic is the study of meaning in word, phrases, and sentences to understand the text". In Linguistics, "semantics is the subfield that is devoted to the study of meaning, as borne on the syntactic levels of words, phrases, sentences, and even larger units of discourse" (Leech, 1981). As with any empirical science, semantics involves the interplay of concrete data with theoretical concepts. Semantics is component or level of linguistic of the same kind as phonetics or grammar (Palmer, 1976).

Meaning can be defined as the information in the head of the speaker of a language that allows him/her to identify the set of individuals which the word denotes. For example, the meaning of happy in English is the information in the head of the speaker that allows him to identify people who are happy; that is to know when it is correct to say that someone is happy. Then, the meaning of horse in English is the information in the head of the speaker that allows him to identify the horse from other animal, that is to know when it is correct to differentiate the horse from other animals. Therefore, it can be understood that the meaning is all information in the head of

the user of a language that allows to identify what the word denotes.

### Types of Meanings

Leech (1981, p. 19-20) defines seven types of meanings; conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflective, collocative and thematic meaning.

Conceptual meaning is also called denotative or cognitive meaning, in a broad sense it is considered a central factor in linguistic communication and it can be shown as something integrated for its essential function or a language. Conceptual meaning is always the most important element in a linguistic communication. For example /P/ can be described as -voiceless +bilabial +plosive. Similarly boy = +human +male-adult. Similarly, we can define 'woman' as = +human +female +adult. The word "woman" can be shown as: "woman = +human, -male, +adult". On the contrary, word "boy" can be realized as: "boy = +human, +male, -adult". Conceptual meaning helps us to distinguish one meaning from the meaning of other sentences. Thus, conceptual meaning is an essential part of language. A language essentially depends on conceptual meaning for communication. The conceptual meaning is the base for all the other types of meaning.

Connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression according to what is referred to above and its purely conceptual content. Purely conceptual content of 'woman' is +human +female +adult but the psychosocial connotations could be 'gregarious', 'having maternal instinct' or typical (rather than invariable) attributes of womanhood such as 'babbling', 'experienced in cookery', 'skirt or dress wearing', etc. So in the past, woman was supposed to have attributes like frail, prone to tears, emotional, irrigational, inconstant, cowardly, etc. as well as more positive qualities such gentle, sensitive, compassionate, hardworking, etc. Connotations vary age to age and society to society.

Social meaning is what a language conveys about the user's social environment. We recognize some words or pronunciation as being dialectical i.e. as telling us something about the regional or social origin of the speaker. Social meaning is related to the situation in which an utterance is used. For example the sentence "I ain't done nothing", tells us about the speaker and that is the speaker is probably a black American, underprivileged and uneducated.

Affective meaning is a sort of meaning which an effect the personal feeling of speakers, including his/her attitude to the listener, or his/her attitude to something he/she is talking about. E.g. 'home' for a sailor/soldier or expatriate and 'mother' for a motherless child would have special effective, emotive quality. In affective meaning, language is used to express personal feelings or attitude to the listener or to the subject matter of his discourse.

Reflective meaning is what is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression. In order to avoid reflected meaning, some expressions are deliberately replaced by other. For example, chicken thighs are labeled as drumstick in Western supermarkets and chicken breast is called white meat. Reflected meaning is also found in taboo word, e.g cock (sexual meaning) is now substituted by rooster (nonsexual meaning) to indicate the general meaning of the word and avoid its taboo sense.

Collocative meaning is the meaning that contains the associations obtained by a word, which is caused by the meaning of words that tends to appear in its environment. Collocative meaning refers to associations of a word because of its usual or habitual co-occurrence with certain types of words. 'Pretty' and 'handsome' indicate 'good looking'. However, they slightly differ from each other because of collocation or co-occurrence. The word 'pretty' collocates with – girls, woman, village, gardens, flowers, etc. On the other hand, the word 'handsome' collocates with – 'boys' men, etc. so 'pretty woman' and 'handsome

man'. While different kinds of attractiveness, hence 'handsome woman' may mean attractive but in a mannish way.

Thematic meaning, that is the meaning communicated according to the way the speaker or researchers arranges the message according to sequence, focus, and emphasis. e.g. 1) Mrs. Smith donated the first prize 2) The first prize was donated by Mrs. Smith.

In the first sentence "who gave away the prize" is more important, but in the second sentence "what did Mrs. Smith gave is important". Thus the change of focus change the meaning. The first suggests that we already know Mrs. Smith (perhaps through earlier mention) its known/given information while it's new information. Thematic meaning helps us to understand the message and its implications properly.

#### Denotative and Connotative meaning

It is clear that there is a relationship between words and concrete objects and activities in the physical world. This relationship is commonly described as the denotative or referential meaning. "Every language classifies physical reality in its own way. In English, we use the word foot to denote a leg. In Russian, there is no equivalent for foot – simply the word noga to denote the whole leg including the foot" (Wilkins, 1983).

In addition, "denotative or conceptual meaning covers basic, essential components of meaning which re-conveyed by the literal use of a word" (Yule, 1985).

According to Leech (1981), the connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression according to what is referred to above and above its purely conceptual content. Connotative meaning is subjective and not shared in the same way by all speakers of a language. The degree of the connotative value would be different for everyone since the way one perceives something in this universe and his or her individual experience of language is different; it depends upon the culture, geographical area

and historical period (Leech, 1981)

The connotative meaning is uncertain and open, in the sense that the conceptual meaning is not. The connotative meaning is as open as our knowledge and belief in the universe which is also open. Any reference characteristic that is marked subjectively or objectively, perhaps the connotative meaning of the expression that marks it. For example, the words thin, lean, skinny, bony, slender and slim has a similar denotative meaning, but different connotative.

The words thin and lean are the most general and have a neutral connotative value. The words skinny (very thin, especially in an unappealing and unhealthy way) and bony (extremely thin and with prominent bones) have a negative connotation. One would feel disagreeable if he or she is said skinny or bony because these words implicitly express undernourishment or lack of nutrition. The other two words slender (gracefully and attractively thin) and slim (pleasingly thin and well-proportioned) carry a positive connotation. Hence one would feel more comfortable if he or she is said slender or slim.

### Connotative Meanings

Connotation is the kind of lexical meaning which is related to the certain item it refers to. “Connotation is the meaning which appears by association of language used by the speaker or listener about the language which they speak or read” (Pateda, 2010).

Connotation is more or less synonymous with intension. Connotation is often contrasted with denotation, which is more or less synonymous with extension. Alternatively, the connotation of the word may be thought of as the set of all its possible referents (as opposed to merely the actual ones). A word’s denotation is the collection of things it refers to; its connotation is what it implied about the things it is used to refer to. The denotation of dog is (something like) four-legged canine carnivore. So saying “you are a dog” would imply that you were ugly or

aggressive rather than stating that you were canine.

Connotation also the kind of meaning which is indicated that we abstract away from emotional and sociocultural aspects of meaning, restricting ourselves to what an expression refers to. For example, the word ‘dog’ in Arabic. If someone called as a ‘dog’, you are not a good people, because in Arab, dog has negative connotation as the dirty animal. In contrast, in the Western country, dog has good connotation as the symbol of faithfulness.

Positive connotation is the meaning of respect and courtesy. Positive association with respect or more polite word choice. Negative connotation is the meaning of being rude and disrespectful and tends to be negative. This is the choice of words that give rise to a negative meaning or the impression of a negative response. Neutral connotation is giving meaning that is neither positive or negative and the choice of words takes the middle ground without emotional ties (Leech, 1981). The connotative meaning of a word can different from one community group to another, according to the way of life and norms that exist in that society.

The following are examples of positive, neutral and negative connotative meanings.

Table 1. Example of positive, neutral and negative meanings

Positive Connotation	Neutral	Negative Connotation
lingering illness	carcinoma	cancer
pass away	die	kick the bucket
mentally unbalanced	psychotic	mad/crazy
slim		skinny
marketing	selling	peddling

Words such as celebration, springtime, and kiss arouse unique assemblages of positive emotional connotations. Words such as homeless, cancer, and rape summon clouds of negative emotional connotations. Many words and phrases, such as bullfight, call up

mixed positive and negative connotations. Connotative meaning also includes the evocation of other sensations and impressions, such as power (e.g., war) and activity (e.g., carnival).

The connotative and denotative meanings of words are both correct, but a word's connotation determines when it is used. By definition, synonyms have the same denotation or literal meaning, but almost always have different connotations, or shades of meaning.

### Method

In completing this study, the researchers applied qualitative approach because this study aimed to find out the words or phrases that have connotative meanings in Maher Zain's song lyrics. "Qualitative method is used to address the research questions that require explanation or understanding of social phenomena and their context" (Ritchie & Lewis, 2003). This means that basically qualitative research is descriptive. Therefore, the researchers used qualitative to make easier in analyzing the data.

The researchers used descriptive explanation as the methods to show the descriptive of information in this research. Descriptive research was used to explain some information that contain the meaning of words, phrases or sentences which have relation with other words and context. In other words, descriptive research was used in order to give clear explanation of the meaning of words which is used in the Maher Zain's songs.

The data source of this research is song lyrics from Maher Zain's in the album "One" (2016), they are "The Power", "Peace Be Upon You", "I'm Alive", "The Way of Love", "Close to You", and "Medina". The data of this research are connotative words/phrases in Maher Zain's selected song lyric.

The instruments of this study were the researchers themselves with his knowledge and other references which were related to the study. Data collection method could be defined as the process and the way of conducting

research. In this research, the data was analyzed by following several steps: 1) collecting the data by downloading the songs and the lyrics; 2) reading the lyrics of the six Maher Zain's songs repeatedly; 3) Identifying the words or phrases on the lyrics in the six Maher Zain's songs that contain connotative meaning; 4) classifying based on the theory of Leech (1981) which classifies connotative types into positive, neutral and negative connotative meanings.

After identifying and classifying the data, the researchers analyzed the data based on the theory of Leech (1981). Data in the form of words that have been classified according to the type of connotative meaning are analyzed by using some steps. First, finding the denotative meaning based on Oxford dictionary (2008). Second, finding the connotative meaning by using Leech's theory. Third, classifying the word/phrases to the types of connotative meaning using Leech's theory. The last is giving an explanation of the reason why the words/phrases has the connotative meaning and belong to the type of connotation.

### Results and Discussion

There are six songs analyzed as the corpora of this research. The six Maher Zain's songs lyric are: (1) The power, (2) Peace be upon you, (3) I'm alive, (4) The way of love, (5) Close to you, and (6) Medina. This research described and identified the types of connotations contained in the lyric structure of the six Maher Zain song lyrics. There were 24 data on connotative meaning; sixteen positive connotative meanings, four negative connotative meanings and four neutral connotative meaning. The following is the analysis of some data.

#### Positive Connotative Meaning

Positive connotation is the meaning of respect and courtesy. Positive association with respect or more polite word choice (Leech, 1981). Based on the analysis, it was found in the six Maher Zain's songs that used in this research; "The Power", "Peace Be Upon You",

“I’m Alive”, “The Way of Love”, “Close to You”, and “Medina”.

*Data 1*

*“You can say it once  
Or a hundred times or more  
You’ll feel at peace inside  
And it’ll open every door”  
-The Power-*

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word “peace” means “situation or a period of time in which there is a war” (Bull, 2008, p. 322). “Peace” can refer to an agreement to end a war, or the absence of war, or to a period in which an armed force is not fighting an enemy. However the word “peace” means serenity. “Peace” can also describe the emotional state in oneself. “Peace” is afeels calm and peaceful in doing better. So that the word “peace” is included in the type of positive connotation, because the word “peace” from the lyrics of this song shows a motivated attitude to do good things.

So the connotation of this song lyrics is “peace” the more we often do dhikr it would make to have a calm heart, because with that dhikr, someone invites peace of mind, inner peace, comfort and happiness in life. This is what all humans seek. A restless heart would make life difficult, thoughts would not be directed, days without passion, only bring anger, even swearing. The life that is lived would be tasteless without meaning.

*Data 2*

*“There’s light in my heart  
Helps me find my way back when I’ve gone too far  
When all my anger, makes me blind  
I remember you’re a mercy for all mankind”  
-Peace Be Upon You-*

According to Oxford Dictionary, the phrase “light” mean energy from the sun, lamp etc. that makes it to possible to see things

(Bull, 2008, p. 255). However connotatively in word “light” has another connotation which is something that shines that can be seen. Yet, in this lyric, “light in my heart” is something that makes a person feel illuminated by something extraordinary, that is a faith and piety.

This word “light” include in positive connotation because the light in this lyric is the teachings and kindness of the Prophet to his people to find the right path. The meaning in this song lyric is the kindness of the Prophet Muhammad SAW in guiding us to a better state. All about his teachings would be a light in faith for anyone.

*Data 3*

*“You’re the reason my life’s worth living  
You’re the reason I’m alive  
I’d be lost without You  
You’re the reason that I strive  
You’re my destiny  
You’re my reverie  
You’re the reason that I breathe  
You are all that I believe”  
-I’m Alive-*

On the denotative meaning according to the Oxford Dictionary, the phrase “destiny” means act what would happen to them in the future (Bull, 2008, p. 121). The connotation of “destiny” in the lyric is all events that exist in the world in terms of their occurrence in a certain level or measure, at a certain place and time. In this lyric, the word “destiny” has a positive connotation because Muslims understand destiny as part of a sign of God’s power that must be believed as known in the Pillars of Faith. The explanation of destiny can only be learned from God’s information, that is God’s information through the Al Qur’an and hadith. Muslims simply have interpreted destiny as everything that has happened.

In this song, by believing in destiny correctly, a person would actively try and struggle in living his life. Because without effort and struggle according to any goal, whatever is desired would not be achieved.

*Data 4*

*“You are the way the way of love  
Chosen to teach us the words of Allah  
Mercy and kindness and hope for everyone  
Peace be upon you, O Muhammad!”  
-The Way of Love-*

On the denotative meaning according to the Oxford Dictionary, the phrase “teach” means show/explain to someone how to do something or give lessons, knowledge, skill etc. to somebody or give experience to know everything (Bull, 2008, p. 455). So the connotative meaning of the phrase “teach” means to tell something.

The lyrics of the song above say that Allah teaches us how to distinguish goodness and badness in life. So the phrase “teach” included in a positive connotation, because the phrase “teach” in the lyrics of this song shows that all the grace and goodness of each person is a gift from God. Mercy and greetings always go to our prophet Muhammad SAW. In this song lyric, the Prophet Muhammad SAW grew and developed the sunnah as a reference for human life until the end of time. Prophet Muhammad SAW educates his people through the Sunnah so that they are safe in this world and the hereafter. How important is this moral issue above science. Even if, for example, what someone conveys is only pure science but the way it is taught is with morals, then it has more Islamic value because it is in accordance with the example of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

*Data 5*

*“Looking out  
At the ocean  
That makes us blue to the Universer, yeah  
Wish I could see the world from Space,  
yeah  
SubhanAllah The Creator”  
-Close to You-*

On the denotative meaning according to the Oxford Dictionary, the word “creator”

means person who create a product or something (Bull, 2008, p. 103). However connotatively in this lyric the word “creator” is not someone who can create something but the name of God used to call it politely. This lyric has a positive connotation because it invites us to always dhikr and call on the name of our God. In this lyric, we are grateful and pray to Allah, the owner of the world. Always be pious and good-natured to get forgiveness and heaven in the hereafter. This lyric teaches us not to be arrogant, but to always remember Allah.

The lyric of this song invites us to always be grateful for God’s extraordinary creation. Allah created this universe from nothing without any previous example. The process of creation is an activity that really determines an existence. The existence of God is completely attached to creation. Therefore, in His creation contained the existence of God. Perfection, order and balance contained in His creation is a manifestation of God’s perfection.

*Data 6*

*“In my dreams I make my way to Medina  
The home and chosen place  
Of our beloved Prophet  
Where all I feel is peace  
And so much joy around  
No better place for me, yeah!”  
-Medina-*

According to Oxford Dictionary the word “dream” means sense of image and events that happen in your mind while you are asleep (Bull, 2008, p. 136). In connotation, the word of “dream” means a hope. Every human being must have a dream. Moreover, success begins with a dream and hope. Dreams make a person enthusiastic in the live, dreams also make a person have a purpose in life to give encouragement to humans.

This is a positive connotation because “dream” is a desire. In this song, Maher Zain dreams of visiting a special place for Muslims, that is a Medina. Medina was the destination



city of the Prophet Muhammad when he was doing Hijrah from Mecca. Muslims believe that the completion of a series of revelations of the Qur'anic surah received by the Prophet Muhammad in Medina, known as the Madaniyah surah which looks different from the Makkiyah surah. Thus, Medina is a very beautiful and precious place for Muslims, which is a dream in itself.

#### Negative Connotative Meaning

Negative connotation is the meaning of being rude and disrespectful and tends to be negative. It is the choice of words that give rise to a negative meaning or the impression of a negative response (Leech, 1981). This meaning found in two songs, "Peace Be Upon You" and "I'm Alive".

##### *Data 7*

*"There's light in my heart  
Helps me find my way back when I've  
gone too far  
When all my anger, makes me blind  
I remember you're a mercy for all  
mankind"  
-Peace Be Upon You-*

The word "go" from Oxford Dictionary means move from one place to another (Bull, 2008, p. 189). "Gone" is something that cannot return to its original place. The word "gone" means go and never come back or die. The meaning of this lyric is something that is lost in oneself, which is a faith that is starting to fade. It is a negative connotation because the meaning of gone is to disappear in the busyness of the world.

The meaning of this lyric is that the author wanted to change his life for the better. When he began to be busy, thinking about the world and its contents and forgot all the teachings in his religion. He wanted to find the right path with the guidance of the Prophet to find the right path.

##### *Data 8*

*"You're the reason my life's worth living  
You're the reason I'm alive  
I'd be lost without You  
You're the reason that I strive  
You're my destiny  
You're my reverie  
You're the reason that I breathe  
You are all that I believe"  
-I'm Alive-*

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word "lost" means unable to find your way or not knowing where you are (Bull, 2008, p. 262). While the connotative meaning of the word "lost" is wrong way. The song's lyrics above say the singer got lost and went wrong in doing an action.

The word "lost" is included in a negative connotation, because the word "lost" in the lyrics of this song shows the loss of direction which is the main goal in life, a beautiful life, health, sustenance and happiness. In the lyrics of this song the word "lost" means that we return to the right path and return to God as a guide to get happiness in the world and the hereafter.

#### Neutral Connotative Meaning

Neutral connotation is neither positive or negative and the choice of words takes the middle ground without emotional ties (Leech, 1981). This meaning found in three songs, "The Power", "The Way of Love", and "Medina".

##### *Data 9*

*"So much you can gain  
Just by saying those few words  
You can renew your faith  
And be showered in rewards"  
-The Power-*

From Oxford Dictionary the word "shower" means device which sprays water from above for people to wash or flush the body with water or something that can cleanse the body (Bull, 2008, p. 408). But the word

“showered” has the connotation meaning, which is washing the body with fluids, usually using water, a dilute solution, or by immersing the body in water. This activity may be carried out for personal hygiene purposes. Its lyrics have a neutral connotation because it means clean.

In this song lyric, the word “showered” means something clean would be showered with many gifts (grace). In other words, if we do a good deed, the good would be reciprocated as well. The more we remember Allah, the more our faith would increase. Always ask forgiveness for all sins to Allah then Allah would grant all your requests one by one.

*Data 10*

*“Even though I can’t see your face  
Your presence is always all around me  
Your name’s on my mind every single day  
Peace be upon you, O Muhammad!”  
-The Way of Love-*

According to Oxford Dictionary, the word “name” means word by person or thing is known or a call between other humans we know (Bull, 2008, p. 291). However, the word “name” has a deep meaning in Islamic teachings. The name becomes a prayer as well as hope. The word “name” in this lyric is someone who is very influential and becomes an example for every human being, Prophet Muhammad.

In this song lyric, Prophet Muhammad SAW is a perfect person whose perfection is clearly illustrated in the names attached to him. That is a positive connotation because the beauty of Islam is that the more we say and remember the name (our prophet), the more proud we are in the intercession of our prophet. This song teaches us to always pray and mention the name of the Prophet Muhammad. Even though we don’t meet him, but with prayer, the Messenger of Allah is always present around us, in our hearts and minds to get his intercession.

*Data 11*

*“In my dreams I make my way to Medina  
The home and chosen place  
Of our beloved Prophet  
Where all I feel is peace  
And so much joy around  
No better place for me, yeah!”  
-Medina-*

On the denotative meaning according to the Oxford Dictionary, the phrase “home” means place where you live especially with your family (Bull, 2008, p. 212).

The word “home” means a special place for the Muslim community. However, this word has a connotation. The word “home” does not mean a “home” as we know it such as having a roof, pillars or walls, but the “home” in this lyric means a city that is blessed by Allah and is found in the Qur’an. The word “home” here has a neutral connotation. Maher Zain does not use other words such as the word “house” because a house is a building that can be lived in or is habitable and a house consists of a living room, kitchen, room, roof, door and so on. “Home” is the description of the place where we feel comfortable and the place where the Messenger of Allah migrated described in the Qur’an.

Leech (1981) says connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression according to what is referred to above and its purely conceptual content. The meaning of connotation is divided into three, there are positive, negative and neutral connotation.

Researchers found 24 data containing connotations in the lyrics of Maher Zain’s song from the album “One”. The researchers concludes that there are three types of connotations in the data. The dominant type of connotation found in the data is positive connotation. Based on the data, there are sixteen data of positive connotation, four data of negative connotation and four data for neutral connotation.

Based on the lyrics of the song, the title song “the power” has a dominant positive

connotation (four data) and a neutral one. In this song has the theme of peace of mind by praying and dhikr. How we always think well of Allah and give thanks so that the heart becomes calm and peaceful. The strength of a faith is not being influenced by the busyness of the world. Always giving thanks and dhikr is the key to peace and also the heart becomes calm. In this song Maher Zain uses language that is easy to understand so that Muslims are able to hear and understand the intent and purpose of this song. However, if we take a closer look, the lyrics of the song as a whole have a vague meaning and have other meanings.

Furthermore, based on the lyrics of the song in the title song "Peace Be Upon You", there are three negative connotations and a positive connotation. The dominant meaning is negative connotation because some of the words in the lyrics have the meaning of losing direction and being confused about the world that is spinning without direction. So in this song all ugliness is lost because of the teachings of the prophet Muhammad to be sincere, patient and caring for others. This song presents the theme of peace which was always taught by the Prophet Muhammad. In the song "Peace Be Upon You", Maher Zain chose words that contain prayers for the Prophet that can make listeners always remember the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

The lyrics of the song "I'm alive" have three positive connotations and a negative connotation. I'm Alive tells the story of the message of human life that breathes to devote life to God. In this song we can take the message, even though we live in dense and slum areas, as long as we think big and have a sincere heart, life feels so beautiful. the faces of the grandfather, the merchant and one person clearly describe his big-hearted soul. Even though their bodies are confined by solid buildings, they have arrived at a philosophy called "Life (alive)".

Next, the lyrics of the song "The Way of Love". Data found in this song were

four positive connotations and a neutral connotation. This song contains praise for the most valuable human being and his name is always in the hearts and minds of Muslims. The lyrics of the song "The Way of Love" contain praise and shalawat to the Prophet Muhammad included with beautiful lyrics and prayers to Allah SWT. From this song, we could find serenity accompanied by Maher Zain's signature tone which is beautiful and of course Arabic nuances, especially with the tinkling of Arabic guitar or gambus.

The next is the song lyrics in song "Close to You", has two positive connotations and a neutral connotation. It is because the meaning of this song contains admiration for God's creation. In this song, Maher Zain tells that he is very excited by the majesty of God who has created such a beautiful universe. Everything feels so perfect there is day and night with the moon and stars shining beautifully in the sky. In this song it gives meaning to us to always have a good attitude towards God and be grateful for this life.

The last one is the song lyrics in the title "Medina" has two positive connotations and a neutral connotation. This song remind the listener to always remember Prophet Muhammad in everyday life, wherever we are, and whatever we do. When we are having fun, or meeting people in different places, doing different things, but at the same time remember the prophet. Maher Zain invites us to always pray to the Prophet Muhammad wherever we are.

There were differences between this research and the results of previous studies. Comparing with Wahyuni (2019), the research shows about the connotative meaning as well as the denotative meaning, the data is Yusuf Islam's songs. The result refers more to the power of Allah. She found many words have messages like the word "water" in the lyrics of the song "The Wind", water means that the writer never wants to get lost in seeking the truth of Allah SWT. So, Yusuf Islam uses the word to tell if Allah is always there, no matter

how far we go, there is Allah always leading. She analyzed his research by making a table to determine the types of connotative meanings between positive, neutral and negative, and he found that positive connotations were more dominant.

Second, this study was also compared with the research of Purnamasari (2018). The data is Justin Bieber's songs and the results show that there was a connotative meaning and sense of value for Americans. She analyzed the data by finding the connotative meaning of the song lyrics. As in the lyrics "you're up, you're down" in the song "What Do You Mean?" which means the American concept is always about working hard to get success even though they come from the poor class. Equality/egalitarianism of American values is more dominantly found in Justin Bieber's song. These values tell about the power of God. Justin Bieber uses values because Justin Bieber wants people to have a good relationship with God as well as with other human beings.

Finally, this research is compared with Kusumaningrum (2020) research. The results of her research show the connotative meaning of Ed Sheeran's songs. She shows that the difference in words has a denotative meaning if the word has a connotative meaning based on the conditions in the lyrics. She analyzed his research using tables and found the types of connotative meanings, those are stylistic connotation, expressive connotation, associative connotation. However, because the dominant listeners of Ed Sheeran's songs are young people, Ed Sheeran uses stylistic connotation as a word variation. As the word "rushin" in the song "Sing". Denotatively the word "rushin" does not mean busy, but means "obsessed". Its connotative meaning explains about Ed Sheeran's feelings for the woman he just met. He asks for clarity on a woman's feelings whether she likes him or not. Ed Sheeran presents his songs by thinking about the words and meanings of young people's language with many variations of words and their placement so that it is not difficult for

listeners to understand. Knowing that the listeners of Ed Sheeran's songs are mostly young people, Ed Sheeran uses stylistic connotations as word variations in his song lyrics.

Then, in this study, the researchers determined the positive, negative and neutral connotations. The researchers found that the dominant data were positive connotation. The dominant positive connotation means that Maher Zain wants readers or listeners to always prioritize worship and goodness for life's affairs. Maher Zain also shows how to choose words of good connotation in every situation. So, from the explanation of previous researches and this research, the use of connotative meaning in songs is intended to make listeners not only feel beautiful music, but also can feel beautiful lyrics. The use of words that contain connotative meanings is to express the feelings, thoughts and abilities of the songwriter and each word in the lyrics can create an effect for the songwriter listeners and readers. Here, Maher Zain and the songwriter use connotations that are inviting in goodness, especially for listeners of religious songs.

Based on the data and analysis that has been obtained by the researchers, it can be concluded that there is a connotative meaning in Maher Zain's song which contains messages about religion. Maher Zain wants people to have a good relationship with God and also with other human beings. The connotative meaning in Maher Zain's songs makes the song more interesting. In addition, the connotative meaning makes the lyrics unique and sounds very religious and polite. The meaning of each song is very important, in order to convey the message to be conveyed. The positive meaning in it also plays an important role in making listeners feel directly what is in the song.

Even though they have different genres of songs, each singer has a message of positive connotation in the lyrics of the song. Whatever the content of the song, the connotative meaning is very important to convey the message so that it is easily understood by the listeners. The song that has a connotative

meaning in order to influence the listener to invite what is in the lyrics of the song. Every positive connotation has a moral message in it.

### Conclusion

Based on the data and analysis that has been obtained by the researchers, it can be concluded that there is a connotative meaning in the song, the researchers finds words that contain connotative meaning because the message is an invitation to kindness. the lyrics of the song tell about the power of God. Maher Zain uses the connotative meaning because he wants people to have a good relationship with God and also with other human beings. The connotative meaning of Maher Zain's song makes the song more interesting. In addition, the connotative meaning makes the lyrics unique and poetic. Religious songs here can be used to convey messages to the world's people, especially Maher Zain fans so that they can be an example for Maher Zain fans that he has the power to influence his fans to always spread kindness. Maher Zain's lyrics have a positive connotation in the lyrics, many of which are objects as symbols of goodness.

Furthermore, the findings can also be concluded that the positive connotative meanings found in the data refer to the power of Allah, the goodness of the prophet Muhammad SAW. On the other hand, negative and neutral connotative meaning is related to humans and their negative nature.

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