

The Meaning of Solidarity in News Songs to Friends: A Discourse Analysis Study

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ABSTRACT

One of the communication media that not only functions as entertainment, but also as a means to convey social messages, human values, and the reality of life through song lyrics is music. The song "News to Friends" by Ebiet G. Ade is one of the songs that describes the suffering of natural disaster victims as well as the values of solidarity, empathy, and sincerity. The purpose of this study is to analyze the solidarity depicted in the song "News to Friends" using Van Dijk's discourse analysis model, which includes superstructural, micro-structure, and macro-structure. In this study, qualitative research methods were used, and data collection techniques were carried out through the study of song lyrics as the main data source. The focus of the analysis was to determine how the concept of solidarity is represented in the song through the structure of the text, the choice of words, the characteristics of the language style, the theme, and the social context. The results of the study show that the lyrics of the song "News to Friends" represent solidarity by describing the suffering of disaster victims, encouraging others to care, and reminding us of the importance of human values in society. It is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of communication studies, especially discourse analysis, as well as expand our understanding of music as an effective communication medium to convey social and humanitarian messages.

INTRODUCTION

Music is not just a pleasurable arrangement of tones, but also an effective means of symbolic communication to convey messages, emotions, and deep inner experiences. In various cultural traditions, music plays a social, emotional, and cultural role that makes it an important tool for expressing values, hopes, and even criticism of the realities of life. Each piece of music generally contains a unique meaning that is influenced by the context of its creation, the social background of the composer, as well as the personal experience they want to convey. (Pristiwati Alisa Indriati, 2018)

In the modern era, music has gone beyond its mere function as entertainment and transformed into an emotional archive that holds meanings of solidarity, empathy, struggle, loss, and even spirituality. Song lyrics often represent contemporary social phenomena, making it possible to analyze them as a discourse of life in society. These meanings are not always explicit, but are implied through symbols, metaphors, and word choices that reflect the song's specific message. (A.R. Utira Cahya Sherina et al., 2025)

Communication is the process of delivering a message from the sender to the recipient. Communication is a very important process in human life, communication not only serves to convey messages, but also to create meaning, build social relationships, and shape individual identity. From a communication point of view, songs serve as symbolic mediums that allow the sender of the message such as the songwriter or singer to transform ideas into poetic language, which is then reinterpreted by the listener based on their personal experiences. This process creates a unique communicative relationship, in which the message can be received, understood or interpreted in different ways, depending on the social and psychological context of the listener. (Ibrahim, 2015)

From the perspective of communication, song lyrics are seen as a discourse rich in meaning, ideology, and specific messages formed through the construction of language. Discourse analysis methods are applied to identify the mechanisms of message delivery through grammar, word choice, and the surrounding social context. By applying

this approach, the study of the meaning of solidarity in the lyrics of the song "News to Friends" can be carried out more comprehensively, revealing how messages of empathy are represented through the language choices made by the songwriters. This approach provides space for researchers to interpret the implied meanings in song lyrics and understand the process of construction and delivery of messages of solidarity to listeners. (Yuliasari & Mahliatussikah, 2025)

Solidarity is understood as a value that refers to togetherness, care, and empathy among individuals in social interactions. The essence of this value lies in the awareness that humans are part of a society that is interdependent and supportive of each other in facing various challenges in life. In the social sphere, solidarity is reflected in the ability to understand the suffering of others, show concern, and have the intention to share and help in the face of difficulties. These values are often expressed through various cultural forms, especially in works of art such as music and lyrics. Through the medium of lyrics, a creator can convey moral messages, social criticism, and reflections on the reality of society (Yuliarti Sri Monika, 2015)

This research focuses on the theme of the song "News to Friends" because of its extraordinary depth of meaning compared to other songs. The lyrics are presented poetically, yet remain powerful in describing human suffering, especially in situations of disaster and loss. In addition, this song highlights the emotions and atmosphere, with a very moving feel of sadness and reflection. Listeners not only understand the content of their songs, but also feel sadness and empathy for the victims of the humanitarian crisis. From a humanitarian perspective, this song is not delivered in a harsh or direct way like the song "Bongkar," but rather through a gentler and more sincere approach. This approach makes the message feel more universal and accessible to different walks of life. The song has a high contemplative value, encouraging listeners to reflect not only on the events they experienced, but also on the essence of life and compassion for others.

However, to explore the meaning of solidarity more deeply in the song "News to Friends," discourse analysis is considered more relevant because of its ability to examine the use of language in representing social reality and the construction of humanitarian messages. By analyzing the structure of language, social context, and implicit meaning in lyrics, it is hoped that this study can provide a more comprehensive insight into the representation of social solidarity in musical works. Based on this, the research is titled "The Meaning of Solidarity in the Song 'News to Friends': A Discourse Analysis Study" It was conducted to examine in depth the message of solidarity in lyrics and its contribution to the study of communication and discourse analysis.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Based on the description of the problem and the purpose of the research, namely, to find out how the meaning of solidarity is represented in the lyrics of the song Berita To Friends, as well as to reveal the humanitarian message conveyed by Ebiat G. Ade through the structure of language, symbols, and narratives in the text of the song, in this study a qualitative method with a discourse analysis approach is used. This approach was chosen because it is able to explore the implicit meaning and representation of solidarity values in depth, so that it is in line with the objectives of research that focuses on the meaning and interpretation of social messages in musical works (Miftahurrezki & Anshori Syukron M, 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Discourse Analysis of News Songs to Friends by Ebiat G. Ade

Discourse analysis looks at the meaning of the text by considering the use of language, social context, and the message that the writer or creator wants to convey. In this study, discourse analysis was used to examine the meaning of solidarity contained in the lyrics of the song Berita To Kawan. Through this approach, researchers not only look at the meaning of words textually, but also examine how language is used to build social, humane, and caring messages for others. (Aska Wydia et al., 2022)

Discourse analysis as a social practice that is an integral part of people's lives. Therefore, each word in a song can reflect the principles, ideologies, and social circumstances that prevailed at that time. In Ebiat G. Ade's song "News to Friends", he uses poetic language to describe natural disasters and human suffering, as well as conveying a moral message about the importance of empathy and social solidarity. (Aska Wydia et al., 2022)

This study analyzes discourse through several elements, such as:

Text analysis focuses on the selection of words, sentences, metaphors, as well as phrases used in song lyrics. In the song Berita Ka Kawan, there are various dictions that describe sadness, loss, and suffering due to natural disasters. The use of simple but emotional language shows the songwriter's concern for the condition of the people who are victims of disasters.

Discourse analysis is related to the process of production and dissemination of the message sung in songs. Ebiat G. Ade's concern for various humanitarian events that occurred in Indonesia, especially natural disasters that caused many casualties and losses, was the inspiration for the News Song to Friends. social. Through this song, the creator not only conveys information about disasters, but also builds social awareness so that people have a sense of empathy and concern for the victims.

Social analysis examines the relationship between the content of songs and the social conditions of the community. The song Berita To Kawan represents the social reality that occurs when people face disasters and loss. This situation demands social solidarity as a form of concern for fellow humans.

Thus, the use of discourse analysis in this study is very appropriate because it is able to reveal the meaning of solidarity which is highly discussed in the lyrics of Ebiet G. Ade's song "News to Friends". The method for analyzing discourse helps researchers understand how language in song lyrics is used as a medium of social communication that not only describes catastrophic events and human suffering, but also conveys the values of humanity, care, empathy, and togetherness. Through an analysis of the text, context, and social practices behind the song, this study seeks to show that Berita Aan Kawan is not just a musical work, but a social message that invites listeners to have sensitivity to the suffering of others and foster a spirit of solidarity in community life. This song illustrates that in the midst of various disasters and difficulties faced by humans, a sense of care and togetherness is an important value that must be maintained. Therefore, the song Berita Ka Kawan can be understood as a medium of social reflection that reminds the community of the importance of helping, understanding, and supporting fellow humans who are experiencing difficulties.

Table 1. Lyrics of the song "News to Friends" by Ebiet G. Ade

NOT BAIT	SONG LYRICS
Bait 1	his trip asa is very sad o bad you didn't sit down y My Side, My Friend
Byte 2	any stories hat you should have witnessed n dry ground rocks
Bait 3	y body was shaken nashed by street stones eart trembling staring y grass
Bait 4	his trip ke being a witness ttle Shepherd ying sadly
Bait 5	iends try to hear what the answer is hen I asked why s parents have been dead for a long time valloved by this land disaster riving at sea will tell you all about it y the coral to the waves the sun
Byte 6	at all are silent at all are mute eft to Me ued to the sky
Bait 7	aybe there ere is an answer hy is there a disaster in my land
Bait 8	aybe God is starting to get bored eing our behavior ho is always wrong and proud th sins r nature begins to be reluctant e friendly with us t's ask vaying grass

Source: processed by researchers, 2026

Discourse Analysis of Song Lyrics

(Verse 1)

This trip

Trasa is very sad

Too bad you didn't sit down

By My Side, My Friend

In this first stanza, Ebiet G. Ade describes the atmosphere of the journey that is full of sadness and loneliness through the lyrics that read "This journey is very sad". The author also describes the desire to share these complaints and sadness with the people closest to him, but he has to go through it alone, as stated in the lyrics "Too bad you don't sit next to me, friend". (Riana, 2022a)

(Verse 2)

Many stories

What you should have witnessed

On dry ground rocks

In the Second stanza, the Poet describes how the physical journey he took confronted him with a painful reality. He witnessed an arid land and a humanitarian tragedy. (Riana, 2022a)

(Verse 3)

My body was shaken

Smashed by street stones

Heart trembling staring

dry grass

In the third stanza, explain why the little shepherd boy was crying. In the first and second sentences, the author asks a rhetorical question before finally giving his answer in the next sentence. The last sentence clarifies the answer listed in the third sentence. (Riana, 2022a)

(Verse 4)

This trip

Like being a witness

Little Shepherd

Crying sadly

In the fourth stanza, it explains why the little shepherd boy cried because he lost his parents due to a natural disaster.

(Verse 5)

Friends try to hear what the answer is

When I asked why

His parents have been dead for a long time

Swallowed by this land disaster

Arriving at sea

I will tell you all about it

To the coral to the waves

To the sun

In the fifth stanza, "When I asked him why his father and mother had died so long ago in this land disaster". Grief and despair are so heavy that the character in the song tries to complain to the universe, but he doesn't get any answers. (Bohalima Rindakalsari Arnias, 2003)

(Verse 6)

But all are silent

But all are mute

Left to Me

Glued to the sky

In the sixth stanza, it describes a person who is going through a period of deep spiritual contemplation after seeing the destruction around him. In the silence of the silent nature.

(Verse 7)

Maybe there

There is an answer

Why is there a disaster in my land

In the seventh stanza, he realizes that the disaster that occurred was a rebuke to human actions, not just a natural event.

(Verse 8)

Maybe God is starting to get bored
Seeing our behavior
Who is always wrong and proud
with sins
Or nature begins to be reluctant
Be friendly with us
Let's ask
Swaying grass

In the last stanza, this song invites listeners to introspect, reflect on what they have done before, and improve their attitude towards nature and the Creator instead of continuing to lament sadness with no way out. This can be seen based on YouTube's comments, below:

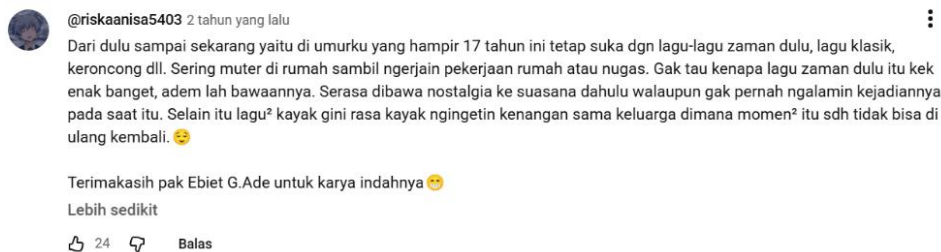


Figure 1. Source: Youtube Ebiet G.Ade

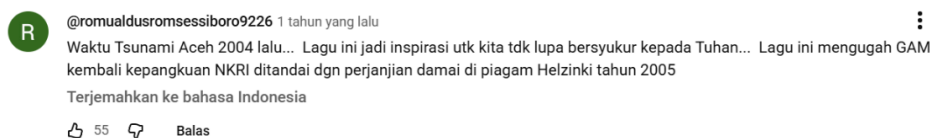


Figure 2. Source: Youtube Ebiet G.Ade

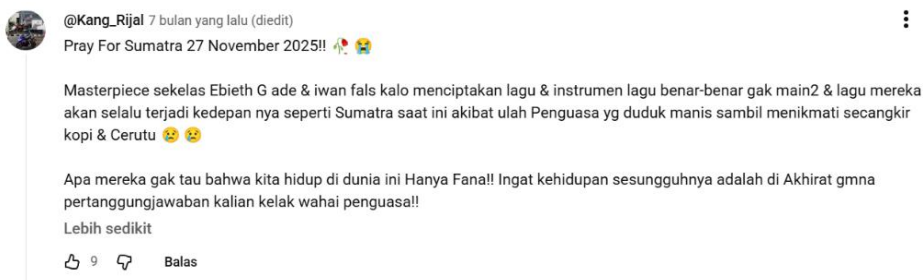


Figure 3. Source: Youtube Ebiet G.Ade

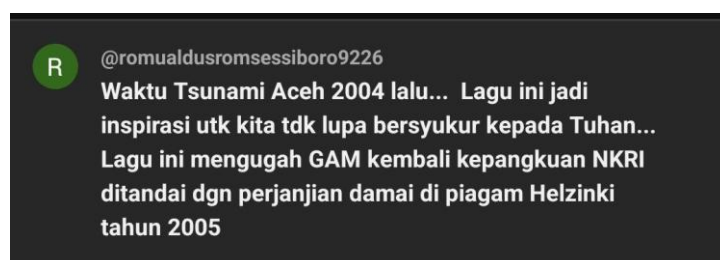


Figure 4. Source: Youtube Ebiet G.Ade

The comments made by listeners regarding the video for the song "News to Friends", shown above, show that the message conveyed by Ebiet G. Ade is interpreted by most listeners in much the same way. Most of the commentaries suggest that the song is considered to uplift human values, compassion for disaster victims, and criticism of the social system in force at the time. Listeners also connected this song to the Aceh tsunami of 2004

and how it affected the lives of Indonesians. This consistent interpretation suggests that the message in the lyrics is received by the public in the same way that the song's creator intended. In addition, some listeners said that the song awakened their memories and emotions of the human tragedy that had occurred before, making them feel closer to the victims and sympathize with them. Other comments point out that Ebiet G. Ade has the ability to convey a message through funny but easy-to-understand lyrics, which makes this song enjoyable not only as entertainment but also as a means to think about society. Therefore, the public's reaction to the song "News to Friends" shows that music can be a useful communication tool to increase social awareness, strengthen the principle of solidarity, and encourage listeners to care more about the suffering of others.

From all the lyrical elements, the context of creation, and the acceptance of society, it is clear that solidarity is the main meaning of this song. Solidarity comes in the form of an invitation to care, share grief, and respond to disasters with empathy. This song is a means of emotional communication that connects listeners with the condition of disaster victims.

This enriches the interpretation of discourse as a response to Indonesia's social reality. The analysis is directed at the values, norms, and ideologies that are built through this song.

The Value of Humanitarian Solidarity

This song highlights the value of solidarity which illustrates the importance of caring for others, especially when disasters occur. Solidarity is shown not only through physical assistance, but also empathy, prayer, and moral support.

Environmental Awareness and Social Criticism

The lyrics carry a message of criticism of the destruction of nature that is often ignored by humans. Disaster events are used as a reflection that humans need to maintain a harmonious relationship with nature so as not to cause major damage.

Spiritual Messages and Life Reflections

Behind the disaster narrative, this song also contains a spiritual message that humans are weak creatures before God. This meaning invites listeners to always remember God, improve themselves, and realize that life is full of uncertainty.

Macro and Micro Structure

The macro structure of a text is its broad meaning that can be understood through its topic. The main idea or main idea of the discourse is represented in one or several sentences. This topic is also referred to as "semantic macro structure", and this macro structure is referred to as semantic because when someone talks about a topic or theme in a text, they will be confronted with references and meanings. (Maisaroh & Prihatin, 2022)

Overall, the macro structure or main theme of the song "News to Friends" is a portrait of social concern and natural disasters, which then shifts into a spiritual reflection and self-introspection on human sins. The following is a semantic analysis of the lyrics of News To Friends. (Ritonga Syafriyana et al., 2022)

"Heart trembles staring at the dry grass"

The verses in this song are only a small part. News to friends. Dry grass literally means the condition of grass plants that die due to lack of water. Nevertheless, there is a shift in meaning in the phrase dry grass to a symbol of destruction, the aridity of humanity, and the great suffering that hit the country due to disasters. The word trembling heart also experiences a change in meaning to a very deep sense of compassion and spiritual fear when witnessing the destruction. Based on the previous explanation, this verse fragment can be interpreted as that the character in the song feels very sad and shakes his soul at the impact of the disaster that destroys the life around him. (Aska Wydia et al., 2022)

"I will tell you all to the rocks, to the waves, to the sun"

A piece of the verse means that someone is experiencing extreme despair and has lost a place to complain. An unbearable sense of frustration and sadness is described through phrases like everything to the corals, waves, and sun. The material realm (corals, waves, sun) referred to here is not an object of communication in general, but a symbol of the silence and absence of answers from the surrounding human beings who may be indifferent, so that they are forced to vent their grievances to the universe. (Aska Wydia et al., 2022)

"Let's ask the swaying grass"

The above verse has the meaning of a deep invitation to introspect or reflect. It can be seen in the phrase asking on the swaying grass. From this phrase, the swaying grass is not an object that can really speak to provide an answer to the occurrence of a disaster. The swaying grass here is a symbol of nature's language and silence. The meaning in question is that humans must subdue their egos, remain silent, and reflect on their own conscience to find the answer to why disasters and suffering can occur. (Ritonga Syafriyana et al., 2022)

The meaning of solidarity found in the essence contained in the song, according to this study, the song "News to Friends" still has relevance to this day. Although the song was created in the 1980s, various problems such as natural disasters, environmental damage, and low social awareness are still challenges faced by the Indonesian people.

Based on the results of the study, there are several key findings that can:

The song *Berita Ka Kawan* constructs the meaning of solidarity through the selection of diction, narrative preparation, and depiction of disaster events that are able to arouse empathy, concern, and humanitarian awareness in listeners.

The meaning of solidarity in the song is influenced by Ebiet G. Ade's social experience and sensitivity to various humanitarian events that occurred during the creation of the song, so that the lyrics produced reflect the social realities faced by the community.

This song not only conveys a humane message, but also includes social and ecological criticism, which invites the community to increase concern for others while preserving the environment as an effort to minimize the impact of disasters.

The meaning of solidarity is universal and remains relevant to various social problems that are still faced by the Indonesian people, such as natural disasters, environmental crises, and low social awareness.

This research shows that the social aspect in the discourse production process is the main factor in the formation of the meaning of solidarity. The meaning of a song is not only shaped by the structure of the text, but is also constructed through the relationship between the social experience of the creator, the social conditions during the production of the song, and the process of interpretation by the community. These results support Teun A. Van Dijk's theory of Critical Discourse Analysis that the interaction between text dimensions, social cognition, and social context determines the meaning of discourse.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of research on the meaning of solidarity in Ebiet G. Ade's song "News to Friends" using a discourse analysis approach, it can be concluded that the song contains a strong message of solidarity and is loaded with human values. Through the use of poetic and meaningful language, this song depicts the social reality in the form of suffering, loss, and grief experienced by the community due to natural disasters. This depiction not only provides information about an event, but also helps build social awareness and foster a sense of empathy for others. From the text aspect, the lyrics of the song *Berita Ka Kawan* show the use of diction that is able to evoke feelings of emotion and concern for disaster victims. The choice of words used describes the human condition in depth so that the listener is invited to understand and feel the suffering experienced by others. From the aspect of discourse practice, this song shows how music can be used as a medium of social communication. who convey humanitarian messages to the wider community. Meanwhile, from the aspect of socio-cultural practices, this song reflects the social conditions of the community that need togetherness, care, and moral support in facing

ADVICE

For music and culture watchers

This song can be used as a reflection on how important the role of music is as a medium to convey social messages. Artists, educators, and cultural practitioners can use this work as a means of learning human values, especially since the message of solidarity contained in it is very relevant in social life. In addition, works like this can also be an inspiration to encourage people to be more sensitive to environmental issues and humanitarian events through various forms of artistic creativity.

For the general public

This song is expected to be a reminder of the importance of empathy and care, especially when disaster or crisis situations occur. The value of solidarity conveyed through song lyrics can encourage people to prioritize togetherness, help each other, and maintain harmonious relationships with the surrounding environment. By internalizing the moral message in this song, the community is expected to be able to be more caring, responsive, and active in providing assistance to others in need.

For the Next Researcher

Research on the meaning of solidarity in the song *Berita To Kawan*, by Ebiet G. Ade can be further developed by using other discourse analysis models such as Van Dijk or Foucault to enrich the point of view of interpretation. The research could also be extended by comparing the song with other social musical works to see variations in representations of solidarity between musicians, as well as incorporating listener reception approaches to understand how the song's message is received by different groups of people. This effort has the potential to increase understanding of the power of discourse in Indonesian music.

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