

An Analysis of Entailment in Lady Gaga's Song Lyrics

Sitti Salma Malewa¹

¹English Literature Study Program, Language and Literature Department
Faculty of Humanities University of Halu Oleo
Corresponding Email: sittissalma@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aims to analyze Lady Gaga's song lyrics in terms of pragmatic study. The problem concerns what are the types of entailment in those song lyrics. The objective of this research is to identify the types of entailment in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. This research used a qualitative descriptive method. Therefore, the data in this research are in the form of utterances conveyed by Lady Gaga. The source of the data is seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. The data were collected by identifying, reading, coding, and classifying the data and then analyzed by presenting, describing, interpreting, and concluding the data. This research showed that among four types of entailment, the data involved all the types of entailment in Lady Gaga's song lyrics. One-way entailment (5 times), Two-way entailment (4 times) Negative entailment (2 times), and Metaphorical entailment (9 times). Thus, those types of entailment are found in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga.

Keywords: *entailment, lady gaga's song lyrics, pragmatic*

INTRODUCTION

A language is a tool or system of symbols designed for the purpose of communication and interaction with each other (Lyons, 2002). In addition, People use language to transmit and express their ideas, emotions or desire either in oral or written forms. Therefore, the language that we used ought to be meaningful to prevent misunderstanding or misinterpretation between sender and receiver. Furthermore, language is not only used as communication media but also usually involved in other fields such as language as arts. It can be found in advertisements and entertainment which appear in society such as music, novel, film or movie. In relation to the meaning of sentences, people have some logical concepts which relate the meaning of one sentence to the others. It is important to understand the relations between sentences. When a sentence is related to another sentence, the idea becomes stronger. One of such relations is called entailment. As stated by Griffith (2006: 25), entailment happens when the truth of one proposition depends on the other. It means that the truth of two propositions correlates one another.

This topic was chosen because there are many entailments in Lady Gaga's songs that haven't been revealed yet. Therefore, the researcher explores and elaborates those entailments in Lady Gaga's songs more deeply. Further, the reason why the researcher chose this theory is because the phenomena of entailment can be found in daily conversations. In addition, it is important for people to understand the concept of entailment because by having a deeper understanding then every hearer will be able to get what the speaker actually wants to speak. The last one is that the analysis on pragmatics entailments in this Lady Gaga's song lyrics has not yet been done before. From the above description, the researcher formulates the following question: "What are the types of entailment in Lady Gaga's song lyrics?" The objective of this study is to identify the types of entailment in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. The researcher expects two significance from conducting this study; those are theoretical and practical significance. Theoretical significance the study is expected to develop the Linguistic field, especially concerning Pragmatic Theories. Then, Practical significance the result of this study could be a reference to the other researchers as the secondary reference of investigation of Pragmatic theory related to Entailment.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used the qualitative descriptive method. Denscombe explains that qualitative research analyzes words and or images which are explained in a description (2007: 248). The source of data in this research is Lady Gaga's song lyrics. In collecting data the researchers used techniques by performing several steps, Identifying, Reading, Coding and Classifying the data. And then, the researcher analyzed those data with the following steps: Presenting, Describing, Interpreting and Concluding the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Whenever people utter statements, they often convey entailment whether intentionally or unintentionally because the one of pragmatic description is the notion of entailment. According to Yule (1998:129) states that entailment is something that follows from what is mentioned before. For example, the sentence The president was assassinated entails The

president is dead. In accordance, Kreidler (1998: 12) entailment is two statements which may be related in such a way that if one is true, the other must be true. In other words, entailment is a relationship in which the truth of one sentence necessarily implies the truth of the other one. Crystal (1998: 169) defines entailment as a term delivered from logic and refers to a relation between a pair of propositions where the truth of the second proposition necessarily follows the truth of the first. For example, I can see a dog. One cannot assert the first sentence and deny the second one.

According to Griffiths (2006:25), entailments can be described as propositions which are definitely true when a given proposition is true. In addition, as clarified by Rambaud, entailments are related to the knowledge of a particular language, not the knowledge of the truth and falsity of normal sense of the world (2012: 70). Finally, entailment is the sentential meaning relation (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams, 2003: 195). More specifically, the research deals with the types of entailment applied in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. To examine this, the researcher employed the theories proposed by Griffiths (2006), Murphy (2003), Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2003), and Lakoff and Johnsen (2003). Griffiths divides the types of entailment into two: one-way entailment and two-way entailment. Beside Griffiths, Murphy has another type of entailment: negative entailment. The last, Lakoff and Johnsen add one more type of entailment which is called as metaphorical entailment.

Types of Entailment

One-way Entailment

Brinton (2000: 131) says that one-way entailment is different from the paraphrase. It happens when the second is a consequence of the first. According to Crystal (1998: 169-70), this kind of entailment is a term that refers to a relation between a pair of sentences. He clarifies this by saying that the truth of the second sentence necessarily follows the truth of the first.

No.	Song Title	Types of Entailment	Data
1.	Born This Way	One-Way Entailment	It doesn't matter if you love him. Or capital H-I-M. Just put your paws up. Because you were born this way, baby.

Interpretation

Based on data 1, it is stated that “It doesn't matter if you love him, or capital H- I-M, just put your paws up, because you were born this way, baby”. The word ‘Him’ in the song lyric above is defined as the pronoun of God. This line of Lady Gaga's lyric song relates to one-way entailment. The sentence reinforces that God is our creator since our birth as a human being, because one-way entailment is a relation between a pair of sentences where the truth of one sentence is followed by the truth of another sentence. The one-way entailment of it is an entailment that has to do with God.

Two-way Entailment

Griffiths (2006: 27) defines two-way entailment between sentences as a paraphrase. In contrast to one-way entailment, a two-way entailment has the meaning relationship and the sentences that contain two-way entailment paraphrase each other.

No.	Song Title	Types of Entailment	Data
2.	Judas	Two-Way Entailment	I'm still in love with Judas, baby.

Interpretation

Based on data 2, the above sentence states “I'm still in love with Judas”, can be replaced with another sentence that has the same meaning as “I'm really in love with Judas”. This explains that the first sentence is equivalent to the second sentence. So, the above type of quotation is meant in two-way entailment, because the first sentence and the second sentence have exactly the same idea or meaning, but the way they are presented is different. Both sentences share the same idea for the line ‘I'm still in love with Judas’ can be defined

that the pronoun ‘I’m’ here really loves that Judas too much where it can be seen ‘I’m’ here still in love with that Judas as if ‘I’m’ here can’t get rid of that Judas from his/her mind or I’m can’t get over that Judas. So, the first sentence is the paraphrase of the second sentence.

Negative Entailment

Besides mutual entailment, Murphy (2003: 98) also has negative entailment. That is an entailment which is expressed in a negative form such as ‘not’, ‘never’, ‘none’, etc.

No.	Song Title	Types of Entailment	Data
3.	Paparazzi	Negative Entailment	Leather and jeans. Garage glamorous. Not sure what it means.

Interpretation

Based on data 3, in the sentence above, the first sentence states “Leather and jeans” is related to the second sentence "Garage glamorous" and the last sentence "Not sure what it means". The truth of the first, second and the last sentence is a relation of entailment. However, in the last sentence a negative sentence like this "Not sure what it means", contains the word ‘Not’ which indicates that the negative sentence. What makes those sentences are indicated into negative entailment due to that in one hand person who acts as a paparazzi knows everything what kind of outfit his/her idol wears so well that is “Leather and jeans” and how the house where her/his idol lives in looks like that is “Garage clamors”. However, by saying ‘not sure’ that bunch of paparazzi seem to not care whatever outfit their idols wear, they still adore and like their idol. It is because the negative entailment form of a sentence is usually indicated by adding the negative form that is ‘Not’. Thus, the sentence uses a negative entailment to connect those two sentences.

Metaphorical Entailment

Lakoff and Johnsen (2003: 91) they define metaphorical entailment as the imparting of a characteristic of the source domain to the target domain. The source domain is the metaphorical image, while the target domain is the concept receiving metaphorical treatment. Therefore, the relationship between the source and the target domain is regarded as entailment or specifically called as metaphorical entailment.

No.	Song Title	Types of Entailment	Data
4.	Telephone	Metaphorical Entailment	Stop callin' stop callin'. I don't wanna think anymore. I left my head and my heart on the dance floor.

Interpretation

Based on the data 4, the above sentence states "I left my head and my heart on the dancefloor" the sentence explains that he is addicted to dancing. This line of Lady Gaga's lyric song relates to Metaphorical entailment, because metaphorical entailment is imparting a characteristic of the source domain to the target domain. The sentence above illustrates the source domain by using the metaphorical image 'Dance Floor' because it is impossible for someone to put the mind and heart on the dance floor. In other words, what is meant by the dance floor in the sentence is doing fun activities. The sentence explains the metaphorical image and its meaning in relation to metaphorical entailment.

Table. The types of Entailment in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga

No	Types of Entailment	Frequency
1	Metaphorical Entailment	9
2	One-way Entailment	5
3	Two-way Entailment	4
4	Negative Entailment	2
Total		20

Based on the table above, it can be seen that although the frequency of the occurrences is never the same from one to the others the data employs all the types of entailment. The most appearing phenomenon is metaphorical entailment. It occurs 9 times out of the total 20 data. Following Metaphorical entailment, as the second most often appearing phenomenon, there is One-way entailment. Its number of occurrences is quite different from the previous ranks, it only appears 5 times. After that, two-way entailment ranks third. It occurs 4 times out of 20 data. Finally, the last type of entailment, which is Negative entailment, occurs 2 times. It gets from the total 20 data. The numbers of finding show how

those types of entailment are used in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. The highest rank of types of entailment shows the entailment which is most often uttered by Lady Gaga. In contrast, the lowest rank type shows that Lady Gaga rarely uses such entailment in the seven song lyrics.

CONCLUSIONS

This research investigated the types of entailment applied in seven song lyrics of Lady Gaga. There are four types of entailment occurring in the Lady Gaga utterances in the seven song lyrics. They are one-way entailment, two-way entailment, negative entailment, and metaphorical entailment. Metaphorical entailment which occurs 9 times is on the first rank. Then, the second rank is One-way Entailment which occurs 5 times. After that, two-way entailment places on the third rank which has 4 occurrences. Finally, Negative Entailment only occurs 2 times.

REFERENCES

- Horn, Laurence R and Gregory Ward. 2006. *Handbook of Pragmatics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher Ltd.
- Kovecses, Zoltan. 2002. *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction*. 2nd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lady Gaga Official Website. (online). <http://www.ladygaga.com/#!> Featured
- Lakoff, G., & Johnsen, M. 2003. *Metaphors We Live By*. London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Pennacchiotti, Marco. 2005. "Textual Semantics", <http://art.uniroma2.it/research/te/>.
- Rambaud, Margarita G. 2012. "Basic Semantics". Madrid: Editorial UNED.
- Wagner, Jennifer. 2014. "Linguistics 101: An introduction to the study of Language", <http://ielanguages.com/>.
- Wellek & Warren, 1989, "Meaning of Song Lyrics" p. 14-15 (online), ([www. Guru.pendidikan.co.id/8](http://www.Guru.pendidikan.co.id/8))