

# The Relevance of Natural Disaster Events In the Song "Berita kepada Kawan" by Ebiet G Ade: Semiotic Analysis of Riffatere

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**Abstract.** "Berita kepada Kawan" is one of Ebiet G Ade's songs. This song, written in 1979, still exists and is relevant to current natural conditions. This research aims to reveal the meaning of the lyrics of the song. The author expresses meaning descriptively using Michael Riffatere's semiotic approach. Data collection techniques were carried out using literature studies, listening to songs and conducting literature studies. After all the data was collected, this data was analyzed using heuristic and hermeneutic reading, then linked to natural disaster events related to this song. The results of the analysis show a deep sense of sadness and longing due to separation from family because of natural disasters. Natural disasters that occur are also the result of arbitrary human behavior and lack of participation in protecting natural resources.

**Keywords:** Keywords: natural disasters, semantics, song lyrics

## 1. Introduction

Literary works are expressions of the human personality which can take the form of experiences, thoughts, ideas, and feelings (Sumarjo & Saini, 1986). Literary works are also closely related to the realities of life which can come from the realities of the author's personal life or the author's social life. One of the literary works that exists and is popular with the public is song. Songs have a form and meaning structure that is similar to poetry. Poetry can be composed in other forms by changing poetry into a musical form, and this is called musicalization of poetry (Damono, 2005).

One of the popular legendary Indonesian singers who started his career by musicalizing poetry is Ebiet G. Ade. At first, he only sang Emha's poems, then later he sang his poems (<https://www.biografiku.com>). The songs he creates always succeed in touching hearts. In his works, Ebiet often presents themes of nature, joy, humanity, religion, and social politics. However, most of the themes of his songs contain the sorrow of some groups of society who have been marginalized due to natural disasters caused by irresponsible human actions. One of the songs with the theme of natural disasters that is familiar to the public is "Berita kepada Kawan".

The song "Berita kepada Kawan" is one of the songs on the album *Camellia II* which he wrote as a form of empathy and sympathy for the disaster

of the eruption of the toxic Sinila crater in Dieng, Central Java in 1979. This song is often played and echoed every time a natural disaster occurs in the archipelago.

Many studies have been conducted that discuss song analysis using a semiotic theory approach. This shows that it is very popular to use this theory to explore the deep meaning of a literary work. One of the research conducted by Retnowati et. al (2022) entitled "Interpretasi Lirik Lagu *Pilu Membiru, Rehat, Sulung, dan Saudede* karya Kunto Aji dalam Album *Mantra-Mantra: Sebuah Kajian Semiotika Riffatere*", found indirect expression of the song lyrics contained in the *Mantra-Mantra* album by Kunto Aji. There is also research conducted by Dwipayanti et.al (2021) entitled "Analisis Semiotika Riffatere dalam Lagu *Sakura* karya Naotaro Moriyama. In this study the results found that the meaning of this song is about farewell and the dream of wanting to meet again.

On the other hand, research on Ebiet G. Ade's song lyrics has been carried out by other researchers, including a study conducted by Muzakka and Magfiroh (2023). They have also researched Ebiet G. Ade's song lyrics, the results of which were then presented at the ICOCAS 2023 international seminar. With the title "Lyrics of the Song 'Doa Sepasang Petani Muda' by Ebiet G Ade: Stylistic Studies" and "Language Style in the Lyrics of the Song 'Berita kepada Kawan' by Ebiet G Ade". The two papers collected in the proceedings examine the lyrics of songs by Ebiet G Ade from the perspective of language style and stylistics. From several studies, research into the meaning of the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" using Riffatere semiotic studies has never been carried out by researchers before.

## 2. **Methods**

The material object in this research is the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" by Ebiet G. Ade. The technique used in this research is the listening and note taking technique by listening to songs via *YouTube Music* and noting each lyric. The results of the lyric notes were analyzed using the Riffatere semiotic approach. This research will focus on the meaning of song lyrics using heuristic and hermeneutic reading techniques. Heuristic reading is the first stage of interpretation, which moves from the beginning to the end of a literary text, from top to bottom following a syntagmatic sequence (Dr. Rina Ratih, 2016). Meanwhile, hermeneutic reading is based on literary conventions. At this stage, the reader can explain the meaning of the literary work based on the first interpretation (Dr. Rina Ratih, 2016).

### 3. **Result and Discussion**

A literary work such as poetry or song can be studied using semiotics to find out the in-depth meaning contained therein. This research will analyze the song "Berita to Kawan" by Ebit G. Ade through Michael Riffaterre's semiotic theory approach divides two types of reading, namely heuristic and hermeneutic reading.

#### **a. Heuristic Reading**

If you read the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" syntactically, the meaning will be easy to understand. The first verse of the song's lyrics can be interpreted as the sadness of the poet who is traveling alone without being accompanied by his friends, while he wants to tell a lot about his journey.

In the second verse of the song's lyrics, the poet cries sadly because he sees the surrounding conditions which appear to be damaged by natural disasters. His heart and body held bitterness.

In the third verse of the song's lyrics, the poet tells of many children who lost their parents due to natural disasters that occurred. In the fourth and fifth lyric stanzas, the poet seeks to find out the cause of the natural disaster, but he does not find any answers.

In the sixth stanza, the poet realizes that natural disasters occur because humans are arbitrary and cannot protect nature, which causes God to get bored and angry, thus giving natural disasters so that humans can reflect on their sins.

#### **b. Hermeneutik Reading**

Researchers look for actual hypograms and potential hypograms of the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" in hermeneutic reading. Then researchers will look for models and matrices so that the meaning of song lyrics can be understood in more depth.

#### **c. Hypograms Actual dan Potential**

After reading the heuristic above, it is clear that natural disasters occur because humans are unable to protect the environment. Instead of regretting exploiting nature, humans are proud of their sins. This fact is what the poet tries to convey in the song "Berita kepada Kawan". Revealing the in-depth meaning related to this problem, the author will connect the song "Berita kepada Kawan" with the texts that precede it in order to get an actual hypogram. In this case, the author will relate it to the verses written in the Al-Quran so that the deep meaning of the song can be revealed and the relevance of the causes of natural disasters to the song "Berita to Kawan" can be seen more clearly.

The actual hypograms related to the lyrics of the song "Berita to Kawan" include Q.S Al-Baqarah verses 11-12. Verses from the Koran

as a guidebook for life for Muslims describe the teachings and lessons of life. In the Koran, Al-Baqarah verse 11, it is explained that God commands humans not to cause damage on the face of the earth, but humans oppose this and say that humans do not destroy, only repair. Then in verse 12 God said again, "Remember, it is they who do damage, but they do not realize it. These two holy verses describe the nature of humans who are unaware of their mistakes and greedy.

The meaning of actual hypograms can be reduced to potential hypograms, namely song lyrics that are interpreted based on their social culture. The author relates the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" based on the natural conditions that occur. For example, the Sinila Dieng Crater natural disaster in 1979. This event also inspired Ebit G. Ade as a poet to write the song "Berita kepada Kawan". This disaster occurred due to the release of poisonous gas, causing the death of 149 people, the majority of whom were residents of Ketopan village. If people were more careful and did not destroy residential areas close to the crater, then the loss of life from mini-style disasters could certainly be minimized. Humans tend to be greedy and greedy, do not want to lose, and like to take advantage. This characteristic ultimately leads to disaster and leads to damage. Humans should be aware of their destructive behavior and excessive use of nature.

#### **d. Model And Matrix**

A model is a certain core word, phrase, or sentence in a poem that is poetic in nature which is used to expand the expression so that it can reduce a poetry text or song as a whole. In the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" the poet emphasizes that God is starting to get bored with the behavior of humans who like to sin by not taking good care of nature. As a result of this behavior, nature is reluctant to be friendly with humans and natural disasters occur which cause a lot of sadness and the departure of loved ones.

By obtaining a model on the matrix or building idea that can be drawn from the lyrics of the song "Berita to Kawan" is that humans as creatures created by God should always maintain the balance of nature, not be greedy in utilizing the available natural resources. Disasters that occur in life are a warning and rebuke from God.

#### **4. Conclusion**

From the heuristic and hermenutic reading of the lyrics of the song "Berita kepada Kawan" by Ebit G Ade, it can be concluded that the beauty of the lyrics created by the poet has a deep meaning about God's warning to humans who are greedy in utilizing existing natural resources, thus causing natural disasters.

Which resulted in the loss of life. The poet asks listeners to be more empathetic towards victims of natural disasters who lost their families and to always care for nature so that it is not easily damaged. This is expressed in the song "Berita kepada Kawan" by Ebiet G.

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