

A HERMENEUTIC READING OF THE LYRICS OF AKB48'S "JIWARU DAYS" BY AKIMOTO YASUSHI

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Abstract. AKB48 is an idol group produced by lyricist Akimoto Yasushi in December 2005. The concept of AKB48 is "idols that can be met." In 2019, AKB48 released a new song called "Jiwaru Days" as AKB48's 55th single. This single is a dedication song for the graduation of the group's famous AKB48 member, Sashihara Rino, while "Jiwaru Days" can be interpreted as days that come and go slowly. This song tells the story of good memories in the past and gratitude for the relationship established between all the members and Sashihara Rino. Furthermore, this research aims to analyze the meaning of the lyrics of AKB48's song "Jiwaru Days" using the hermeneutic reading of Michael Riffaterre's theory. This research uses qualitative methods, literature study, and hermeneutics. This study found that AKB48's Jiwaru Days song lyrics contain the meaning of farewell and a message of sadness. In addition, this research can provide another meaning of the parable described through Michael Riffaterre's semiotic analysis theory.

Keywords: semiotics, hermeneutics, Michael Riffaterre, AKB48, Jiwaru Days

1 Introduction

Literary works are imaginative works of authorship in oral or written form, and language is used as a medium of delivery [1]. A song is a work of art that is a relationship between sound art and language art [2]. So, songs are works of art that combine sound, melody, and lyrics to create musical expressions that can convey stories, emotions, or messages to listeners. Song lyrics are written language in a series of words with beautiful diction and language style in a work, just like poetry. Lyrics can be interpreted as sung poetry [3]. The song "Jiwaru Days" describes the encouragement given to someone always to be enthusiastic in achieving goals. The story's description in the song attracts the author to understand the meaning of the song "Jiwaru Days" further using Michael Riffaterre's semiotic theory. Pradopo, through Ambarini AS & Nazla Maharani Umayu [4], also states that in semiotics, meaning is the meaning of language as a first-level sign system. At the same time, it is a second-level semiotic system in literary works. In this case, meaning is the meaning of literature. Suppose a literary work is analyzed by paying attention to the variations in

the rhyme structure and producing various meanings. In that case, the literary work is semiotic, where the units of sound, words, sentences, and typography will provide meaning and other effects from the meaning given using ordinary language.

2 Methods

In this research, the methods used are a descriptive method, qualitative method, literature study method, and hermeneutic method. The descriptive method is done by describing an object accurately. The qualitative method explains and analyzes the object through data collection. The literature study method is by reading data or references related to the object of research that the author raises, which then records data related to related data. The hermeneutic method is done by interpreting or interpreting the word from the texts of the lyrics of the song Jiwaru Days sung by AKB48 by Akimoto Yasushi.

3 Result and Discussion

It can be done by heuristic and hermeneutic or retroactive reading to give meaning semiotically. Hermeneutic reading is the second level of reading to interpret the overall meaning.

3.1 Hermeneutic reading

Michael Riffaterre, through Maulana [5], hermeneutic (retroactive) reading is a reading based on literary conventions. Hermeneutic reading is also called reading according to the second-level semiotic system. It aims to provide interpretations based on literary conventions, especially poetry as an indirect expression. According to Pradopo [6], Hermeneutic reading is a re-reading from beginning to end with interpretation or hermeneutic reading. This reading gives meaning based on literary conventions.

Stanza 1:

ホントは今でもそばにいて欲しいよ//だけど君を引き止められない//見つめ
合うほどに切なくなるんだ//ふいに思い出がジワるDAYS

Even now, I want you by my side, but I cannot stop your choice. The more we look at each other, the more this chest tightens as the memories come back.

This first stanza talks about the character's nostalgic feelings now of farewell that is in sight. Love and sadness come together when looking at each other as beautiful memories flash in the character's mind.

Stanza 2:

まだ冷たい風の中で//桜の蕾を見つけた時//僕たちの別れの春が//そこまで
来たと思った//悲しみを乗り越えて(いつしか)//人はやさしさのその意味に
気づくんだ

Amidst the cold wind, I found some cherry blossoms blooming along the way. I realized that the spring where we have to part is so close. If one can overcome their sadness (Someday), They will understand the true meaning of kindness.

The second stanza tells the story of a character who realizes that the farewell day has arrived, as she finds cherry blossoms blooming in spring. Quoted from *msigonline.co.id* [7], cherry blossoms bloom at a time only in Japan, namely in spring from March to April, even in Hokkaido until May. Spring in Japan is synonymous with the new school year. This is the time of farewell or graduation for students [8]. Graduation ceremonies in Japan are generally held in the third week of March. Quoted from the article *threebouquets.com* [9] says that the meaning of cherry blossoms for the Japanese is quite profound behind its beauty. They consider cherry blossoms as life, death, and renewal or philosophically as a cycle of life, which means life ends with death, and in every meeting, there must be a farewell. This is in line with the couplet of cherry blossoms blooming at the beginning of the season and then falling after two weeks. In other words, all the happy things without realizing it will be so short that people will feel sad when they realize it. Therefore, the ephemeral nature of cherry blossoms serves as a reminder of the impermanence of life. Its short lifespan encourages us to cherish the present moment and appreciate the beauty around us, even if it is fleeting.

Stanza 3&7:

君の瞳から涙が溢(あふ)れたら//世界のどこにいたとしても//僕が全力で駆けつけてあげる//だから心配しなくたっていいんだよ//自分の夢をやっと見つけたんだろう?//勇気を出して踏み出すんだ//君がいないのは寂しいけど//Someday いつの日か会おう//Love you, I say, good bye my dearest !

If your eyes become teary, no matter where you are in the world, I will use all my strength to rush to your side, so there is no need to worry. You have finally found your dream, right? So, you should have the courage to start taking steps towards it. Although it is lonely without you, someday, we will meet again. I love you, I say goodbye my dear!

This stanza tells the story of a character who loves and cares for someone very much. She will always be by her side in times of joy and sorrow. The character also provides

support and motivation to continue achieving his dreams; even though the character will feel lonely, he believes that the meeting will happen someday.

Stanza 4:

駅へと続く坂道を//何度二人で歩いただろう//桜の花が散ったって//人事で
しかなかった//昨日とは違う道を見つけて//行ってみたいって思ってたん
だろう

The ramp that uphill to the station, how many times have the two of us walked there. Even though the cherry blossoms were falling, we both ignored it like it was nothing. A different path from yesterday (that you found), I think you will want to take.

The fourth stanza talks about the character's memories of someone going uphill to the station. Along the way, they see cherry blossoms falling. Quoted from *jal.co.jp* [10], The falling cherry blossoms or petals symbolize the end of the samurai whose life was short. In other words, Sakura can be thought of as death or philosophically as the cycle of life, where life ends with death and meetings inevitably end in farewell. People will rejoice when the cherry blossoms bloom, but they will eventually reflect when they fall. So, the falling cherry blossoms signify that farewell will happen. Still, in the stanza, they ignore the falling cherry blossoms, even though the character already knows what will happen next, which is a farewell. A different path from yesterday shows that one will choose their future and path.

Stanza 5:

君が一人きり悩んでいたことを//ずいぶん前からわかってた//自分で答えを
出さなくちゃだめだ//だから何も気づかぬふりしてた//新しい人生決心した
なら//僕は微笑んで見送ろう//あの日の出会いに悔いはない//Thank you今日
までありがとう

At the time you were worried about being alone, I realized it a long time ago. But you had to find the answer yourself, so I pretended to be unaware of it. You have decided that you want to live a new life, so I will let you go with a smile. I never regret the day I met you, thank you, I am grateful for everything.

The fifth stanza talks about a character who pretends not to know but realizes that someone is always worried and hides sad feelings in her. The character also feels that she must accept the person's decision because everyone's life path is different. The character is very grateful and never regrets the meeting because the meeting will end in farewell.

Stanza 6:

君がしあわせになればいいって//わかってはいるのに(なぜだか)//見慣れた
(景色が)切なく(思えて)//じわじわ滲むYeah!

I just hope you'll always be happy, I know that but (don't know why), (The sight) that I'm used to seeing makes me (feel sad). Sadness slowly took over me.

The last stanza tells of a farewell that happened, so sadness slowly took over. The character can only hope that someone will always live happily, even though the farewell that is happening feels very sad.

4 Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis, the author concludes that the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song *Jiwaru Days* sung by AKB48 by Akimoto Yasushi contains song lyrics nuanced sadness, support, farewell, and sincerity of a person and gives a solid nostalgic feel. This song is a graduation song for a member in AKB48, Sashihara Rino, so this song contains lyrics that talk about nostalgia and good memories with someone who slowly the memories are increasingly felt because of the farewell that cannot be stopped. A positive message is conveyed: to enjoy the days and good times with someone because, during that time, the memories can continue to be engraved with her.

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