



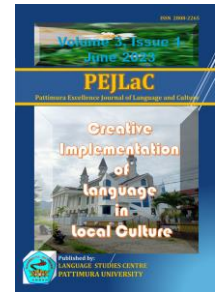
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Analysis of Language Function in German Song “Für Die Liebe” From Berge: Sociolinguistics Perspective

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Abstract

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Language used by human as a medium to express feelings, ideas, and thoughts, which is not only realized through speaking or writing but also can be realized through the literature works. One of the literature works is song. A song is a literary work that provides an opportunity for the songwriter to express feelings, thoughts that are written down in verse of the song. Therefore, the researchers interested in analyzing the language functions of German song lyrics in sociolinguistics. This research is a qualitative- descriptive research. The aim of this study is to describe the function of language in German song lyrics with the title *für die Liebe* from *Berge*. This study used read (listen) and note- taking technique as data collection techniques and descriptive analysis to analyze the data. The results showed that there are 7 language functions in lyrics such as referential, asthetic, instrumental, informative, imaginative, regulatory, and emotive language function.

Keyword: *language, function, analysis, German song, lyrics*

The significant finding:

The significant finding: The findings of this analysis will describe the functions of the language in German song lyrics that can help German language learners especially to know how language functions are used.



ARTICLES

I. INTRODUCTION

According to Richards et. al (in Wiratno and Santosa, 2011: 2) language is "*the system of human communication by means of a structured arrangement of sounds (or written representation) to form larger units, eg. Morphemes, words, sentences*". Language

is a means used by humans to interact or to talk with others. Human and language are two inseparable things. All interaction activities between humans will continue if there is language. As mentioned by Rojudin and Mutoharoh (in Zaeroni and Setyawan, 2022:

29) language is needed as a means of interaction and communication to establish good relationships between humans in society. Therefore, language in human life is essential. It should be underlined that the form of communication using language does not have to be forever in the form of conversation. Language is also used to express feelings, ideas, thoughts or opinions to others, that can be realized through literary works. One form of communication using language through literary works is song. From the point of view by Mandala et al., a song is a verse that has tone, rhythm, and melody that forms a harmony. According to Sumja (in Harnia, 2021: 225) songs are combination of rhythmic sounds with musical instruments that are sung harmoniously to express thoughts and feelings. Mandala et al. also added that songs are a place for the songwriters to express like feelings, thoughts in conveying messages (2021: 139). As explained by Oesch (in Santika et al, 2022: 93) the music that accompanies songs has similarities with language in terms of interaction. Songs are part of literature works formed from elements of music and song lyrics. Song lyric is an indirect verbal communication tool that has meaning in it. In addition to musical harmonization, song lyrics are related with language. Thus, according to Trinanda and Holihul (2019: 2), a songwriter must pay attention to the use of language in composing song lyrics so that the message written in a song lyrics can be conveyed. As explained by Harnia the choice of language or diction in songs with a combination of events or

phenomena in society can determine success in creating song lyrics (2021: 226).

Therefore, language in a song lyric is very important to notice. Santika et al. (2022: 93) added, in song lyrics language functions will also appear. The language function according to Leech (in Santika et al, 2022: 92) consists of 5 language functions, namely: (1) **as information**, meaning that language is used to provide new information; (2) **expressive**, language can be used to express one's feelings; (3) **directives or directions**, serving to influence the behavior or attitude of others, such as orders and requests; (4) **aesthetic**, language as a means of poetic artistic expression, and (5) **phatic**, language as a means of maintaining social relations, such as giving congratulations or greetings. Meanwhile, according to Halliday (in Aritonang et al., 2022: 4258- 4259), language has 7 functions: (1) **instrumental** that aims to influence people's behavior where the use of language triggers an event or expresses desires; (2) **regulative** is regulating conditions such as referrals, requests, or orders; (3) **representational**, i.e. language is used to express facts or explain something that happened that prove to be true; (4) **interactional**, namely the use of language for social relations, such as giving greetings; (5) **personal**, language as a medium or tool to describe the speaker's state, such as concepts, feelings, or ideas; (6) **heuristics** relate to studying the surrounding environment or gaining knowledge or curiosity; (7) **imaginative** related to new things or fictional

events. According to Roman Jakobson (in Aritonang et al., 2022: 4259- 4260), there are 6 functions of language, such as: (1) **referential**, which is prioritizes the content or topic of the conversation; (2) **phatic**, which is used to give greetings and functions as a tool to maintain the continuity of the conversation. The phatic function is also contact-centered; (3) **poetic**, language is used a form of message, for example, "Love is sweet medicine for the soul, the night sky" Usually this function uses as figure of speech (in Santika et al, 2021: 96); (4) **connotative**, aimed at vocatives and imperatives. The connotative function focuses on the interlocutor and what the speaker wants the interlocutor to do (in Yunus et al., 2020: 173); (5) **emotive**, where language is used as a medium to express feelings. This function focuses on the use of language by speakers in conveying their feelings; (6) **metalingual**, where language is a code that seeks to explain itself, for example the language of science instruction, it certain formulas or symbols.

In conclusion, language functions such as information, expressive/ emotive, aesthetic/ poetic, representational/ referential, phatic, instrumental, regulative/ directives or directions, heuristics, metalingual, connotative, personal and imaginative.

This research used the German song under the title "für die Liebe" from *Berge* as objective research. *Berge* are Marianne Neumann and Rocco Horn, two thoroughbred musicians from Berlin, Germany. Themes such as humanity, love, self-determination and the desire for better world themes are the core of their

uniquely moving music. With their third studio album, the two made it directly into the German album charts in 2019 and now they have well over 120. 000 subscribers on YouTube and song "für die Liebe" from their last album alone has almost 8 million plays which was published on June, 27 2018 through the *Berge* Youtube account. This song represents love and affectionate in human life. That is the reason why the researchers chose this song as an object of the study.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research approach in which aim to analyze and describe the language function based on theories based on sociolinguistics perspective by Leech. The data collection is the transcription of the lyrics of the song "für die Liebe" from *Berge*. This research used reading (listening) and note-taking as a data collection techniques. Meanwhile, the data would be analyzed descriptively. First, researchers identify, classify, and then describe data based on research objectives or research focus.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are some language functions of *für die Liebe* from *Berge* song such as referential, informative, emotive, instrumental, regulatory, imaginative, and poetic functions. Below are the lyrics. German:

Wir haben die Wahl
Wir können im Gleichschritt mitmarschieren

Oder unserer Stimme folgen und aufhören nur zu funktionieren

Wir haben die Wahl
Wir könnten auch mal was riskieren
Wir könnten uns verletzlich zeigen
und die Hoffnung nicht verlieren

Wir können es versuchen. Anstatt
gleich aufzugeben und uns Mut
machen

Die guten Seiten sehen
Uns verbünden, statt aufeinander
loszugehen

Wir können wählen.

Ich entscheide mich für die
Liebe und für die Menschlichkeit.
Denn nur wer nicht geliebt wird, hört
auf ein Mensch zu sein. Ich entscheid
mich für den Frieden und ich höre
immer auf mein Herz. Wir sollten
anfangen uns zu lieben. Ich weiß
genau wir sind es wert.

Es ist mir egal
Wie oft ich selbst den ganzen Hass. Das
ganze Leid am eigenen Leib ertragen
habe.

Es ist mir egal
Denn wir haben die Wahl, die ganze Wut
und all die Ängste abzulegen. Unsere
Feinde zu umarmen und uns selber zu
vergeben

Lasst uns zusammenführen, was längst
zusammen gehört und nie wieder
wegsehen, sondern voneinander lernen
Und wenn es das Letzte ist in dieser
kalten, harten Zeit. Ich bleibe weich.

Ich entscheide mich für die Liebe und für
die Menschlichkeit. Denn nur wer nicht
geliebt wird, hört auf ein Mensch zu sein.
Ich entscheide mich für den Frieden und
ich höre immer auf mein Herz. Wir
sollten anfangen uns zu lieben. Ich weiß
genau wir sind es wert

Dedee dedee (8x)

Ich entscheide mich für die Liebe und für
die Menschlichkeit. Denn nur wer nicht
geliebt wird, hört auf ein Mensch zu sein
Ich entscheid mich für den Frieden und
ich hör immer auf mein Herz. Wir sollten
anfangen uns zu lieben. Wir sollten
anfangen Mensch zu sein.

From that lyrics, the researchers found:

Verse	Language Function
Wir haben die Wahl	informative
Wir können im Gleichschritt mitmarschieren	
Oder unserer Stimme folgen und aufhören nur zu funktionieren	
Wir könnten auch mal was riskieren	
Wir könnten uns verletzlich zeigen	
und die Hoffnung nicht verlieren	
Wir können es versuchen. Anstatt gleich aufzugeben	
und uns Mut machen Die guten Seiten sehen	

Uns verbünden, statt aufeinander loszugehen	
Wir können wählen	informative
Ich entscheide mich für die Liebe und für die Menschlichkeit.	expressive
Denn nur wer nicht geliebt wird, hört auf ein Mensch zu sein	regulative
Ich entscheid mich für den Frieden und ich höre immer auf mein Herz	expressive
Wir sollten anfangen uns zu lieben	instrumental
Ich weiß genau wir sind es wert	informative
Es ist mir egal	
Wie oft ich selbst den ganzen Hass	
Das ganze Leid am eigenen Leib ertragen habe	expressive
Denn wir haben die Wahl, die ganze Wut und all die Ängste abzulegen	
Unsere Feinde zu umarmen und uns selber zu vergeben	instrumental
Lasst uns zusammenführen, was längst zusammen gehört	
und nie wieder wegsehen, sondern voneinander lernen	regulative
Und wenn es das Letzte ist in dieser kalten, harten Zeit. Ich bleibe weich	expressive
Dedee dedee (8x)	imaginative
Wir sollten anfangen uns zu lieben	instrumental

Wir sollten anfangen, Mensch zu sein

aesthetic

IV. DISCUSSION

According to Santika et al. (2022: 94), referential function is a function of language to talk about a particular topic. Therefore, in order to know the referential function, researchers have to analyze all of the verses of the song. researchers found that, the song discussed about "as a human, everyone has choices to follow his/ her heart or not, does something even if it is risky, shows his/ her feelings ups or downs, but doesn't lose hope. Everyone should know that he/ she is worthy as human being and human does love each other".

Informative function is a language function to give information to someone. Informative function is shown by the verse "*Ich weiß genau wir sind es wert*" which means that songwriter would like to show the listener that every human being is valuable and as a human, he knows it exactly. There is a informative function in verse "*Wir haben die Wahl*". In this case, songwriter would like to inform that we have our own choices.

Expressive function is a language function to express the feelings. In that song, researchers found that there are 8 sentences, those to show emotional expression for listener. "*Ich entscheide mich für die Liebe und für die Menschlichkeit*" means decided to choose the feelings of love and humanity. The

feeling about strength and fear is shown by the words *Wut* and *Ängste* in verse "*Denn wir haben die Wahl, die ganze **Wut** und alle die **Ängste** abzulegen*". In the verse "*Ich bleibe weich*" also expresses soft feelings, which are marked with the adjective *weich*. "*Das ganze **Leid** am eigenen Leib ertragen habe*" means "I have endured all the suffering in my own body", the songwriter revealed that he bears the burden alone and the feeling as shown by the word *Leid*, "*es ist mir egal*" is the verse in *für die Liebe* song showed the feelings of songwriter. In this song, listener will find the verse "*Und wenn es das Letzte ist in dieser **kalten, harten** Zeit*" that showed the feeling about hard times. The songwriter also reveals to choose freedom, which is shown by the lyrics "*Ich entscheid mich für den **Frieden** und ich höre immer auf mein Herz*". Feeling of hatred also showed in that lyrics i.e. "*Wie oft ich selbst den ganzen **Hass***".

What is meant by the aesthetic function is when the language is used as a means of conveying message forms or poetic artistic expression. Aesthetic function showed in verse "*wir sollten anfangen, Mensch zu sein*" in that song. That means "we should start being a human". The songwriter revealed that as a human, we should have humanity, love and care for each other. That is what distinguishes us (humans) from other creatures created by God.

As explained by Tarigan in Vardani (2017: 287), instrumental function is a

language function that can be seen in the use of the language when someone commands directly or indirectly. In the song "*für die Liebe*", researchers found instrumental function in verse "*wir **sollten** anfangen uns zu lieben*" and "*wir **sollten** anfangen Mensch zu sein*". The words in bold indicate instrumental function. The songwriter wants or indirectly orders us to love each other and have humanity.

According to Tarigan (2009: 6), regulative function is a function to control or regulate others. Tarigan said that this function as supervisor of events that occur or to control events. From the lyrics of "*für die Liebe*" there are two regulative function as shown by "*Lasst uns zusammenführen, was längst zusammen gehört*" and "*Denn nur wer nicht geliebt wird, hört auf ein Mensch zu sein*". Word *lasst* (come on) in that lyrics indicates that the songwriter controls the song listener through solicitation word to do what the songwriter wants. "*Denn nur wer nicht geliebt wird, hört auf ein Mensch zu sein*" means wenn someone doesn't love each other, it means he/ she is not a human. The songwriter want the listener to love each other, if they don't, then there is a consequence that he or she gets like "*hört auf ein Mensch zu sein*" means stop being a human.

Halliday said (in Aritonang et al., 2022: 4258- 4259) that imaginative function is a language function that relate to new

things or some fictitious events. The imaginative function is found implicitly by the researchers in the lyrics. There is "Dedee dedee (8x)" which is said several times by the singer accompanied by intonation. So that, it sounds like a song.

V. CONCLUSION

The use of language to express feelings, ideas, thoughts, or opinions is not only limited to the form of conversation either spoken or written, but also language is used in the form of literary works, in this case songs. In a song, the use of language has various functions for example in the song "für die Liebe" from *Berge*. There are 7 language functions found in the lyrics of the song: informative, referential, expressive, aesthetic, regulative, instrumental, and imaginative. Thus, a foreign language learner especially in German, to know various kinds of language functions in the sociolinguistics, not only from conversation, but also in literary works like songs and to know how the language functions are used.

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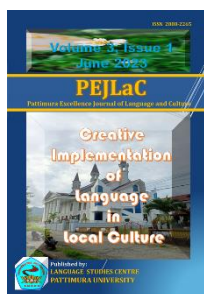
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