



## **A STUDY OF LEXICAL COHESION IN THE LYRICS OF DEMI LOVATO'S SONGS IN 'TELL ME YOU LOVE ME' ALBUM**

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### **Abstract**

The analysis of musical discourse analysis come from many ways and one of them is in song lyrics. Meanwhile, cohesion is a semantic relation which has a correlation between one component to another in the text. Lexical cohesion reached by selecting the vocabulary. There is one research problem in this study, what types of lexical cohesion are used in Demi Lovato's song lyric in 'Tell Me You Love Me' and the functions of Lexical Cohesion used. The study uses qualitative approach and uses Demi Lovato's song lyric in tell me you love me. In conducting the study, the writers uses Halliday & Hasan theory of lexical cohesion which focuses on lexical reiteration (repetition, synonym/near-synonym, superordinate and general word). The result of the study shows types of lexical cohesion which is reiteration (repetition, synonym-near synonym, general word) only superordinates are missing. Therefore, the function of lexical cohesion in the lyrics of Demi Lovato's song is to emphasize, to illustrate, to strengthen the message, and to give contribution to the two words that the meaning are connected to each other and make the song delivered clearly.

**Keywords:** *cohesion, lexical cohesion, reiteration, song*

### **Abstrak**

Analisis wacana musik berasal dari berbagai cara dan salah satunya adalah pada lirik lagu. kohesi adalah relasi semantik yang memiliki keterkaitan antara satu komponen dengan komponen lainnya di dalam teks. Kohesi leksikal dicapai dengan memilih kosakata. Ada satu masalah dalam penelitian ini, jenis kohesi leksikal apa yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Demi Lovato dalam album 'Tell Me You Love Me' dan fungsi kohesi leksikal yang digunakan. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dan menggunakan lirik lagu Demi Lovato dalam album 'Tell Me You Love Me'. Dalam melakukan penelitian, penulis menggunakan teori kohesi leksikal Halliday & Hasan yang menitikberatkan pada pengulangan leksikal (repetisi, sinonim / sinonim dekat, kata superordinat dan kata umum). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan jenis kohesi leksikal yaitu pengulangan (repetisi, sinonim / sinonim dekat, kata umum) hanya superordinat yang tidak ada. Oleh karena itu, fungsi kohesi leksikal dalam lirik lagu Demi Lovato adalah untuk menekankan, mengilustrasikan, memperkuat pesan, dan memberikan kontribusi pada dua kata yang maknanya saling berhubungan dan membuat lagu tersebut tersampaikan dengan jelas.

**Kata kunci:** *kohesi, kohesi leksikal, pengulangan, lagu*

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**Introduction**

People like to listen to the music, because sometimes people feel happy when they are listening to the music. According to Miell, MacDonald & Hargreaves (2005) music can be simplified as a good communication in society, and through music, people can share their emotions, feelings, and intentions with everyone. From music people can tell what in their mind and what they feel at the time. Warren and Corney (2014) stated sometimes music can excite, inspire and can make people feel like they are becomes one with the music. In some way, people likely prefer to choose song music which has strong messages, touch people's feeling and has similar condition with them at the time. A song is the act or art of singing, it can be a poetical composition or a short musical composition of words and music (Merriam-webster.com). Generally, people often create songs based on their feeling and some of them also create songs according to their experiences and they share it to the others. For the singers sometimes they write and sing a song with some lyrics which illustrate their condition.

Generally, people often create songs based on their feeling and some of them also create songs according to their experiences and they share it to the others. Some people also use song to entertain themselves and encourage them not to give up easily after getting some problems. The music industry is increasingly growing and changes day by day. People often called song as a poem because of the structure which resembled with the poem. The thing that makes song and poem different is song usually accompanied by music and sung. In the song, there are three types of song those are a pop song, classical song and folk song. A song is the act or art of singing, it can be a poetical composition or a short musical composition of words and music (Merriam-webster.com).

Nowadays study about musical discourse analysis increase from time to time. There are many researchers discuss about musical discourse analysis in early year; Inike Tesiana Putri and Sulis Triyono (2018) entitle "*We Shall Overcome*" A Humanity Song By Rogers Waters: Critical Discourse Analysis, Muhammad Arif (2017) entitle *Appraisals and Critical Discourse Analysis In "Baby Shark" Song Lyric*, Alek, Abdul Gafur, dkk (2020) entitle *A Critical Discourse Analysis of Song "Look What You Made Me Do" By Taylor Swift*. According to Putri and Sulis's research is aimed to identify the text analysis, social cognition and social context in the humanity song. They used Teun A. Van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis method. They found that humanity song could give people support and spirit to people who listen to the song. According to Putri and Sulis usually song writers create a song based on particular reasons, such as current issues, politics, and personal problems. Putri and sulis found that the songs are for supporting and encouraging group or someone to keep their achievements. They also found social cognition and social context in the song.

A discourse is a written or spoken communication or debate (oxford dictionaries.com). “The analysis of discourse has been applied in three ways to popular music: in the study of song lyrics as performed language, in the description of discourses on or about music, and in the analysis of music as discourse” as Bradby (cited in Aleshinskaya, Evgeniya, 2013:423). There are three ways for people to analyze musical discourse which are: first, they can analyze by analyzing popular music used song lyrics as language usually does, the second is analyze the description of discourse on music or can be discourse about music, the third is analyze music as a discourse. In addition, cohesion has a strong relation to discourse analysis. There might be an analysis of cohesion of a discourse, which can be a written or spoken discourse. The source of written and spoken discourse come in many ways, and one of it is song lyric. The song itself is spoken discourse and the lyric is the written one. Halliday and Hasan (Bahaziq, Afnan. 2016) have stated, there are two types of cohesion which are *grammatical cohesion* and *lexical cohesion*. While the grammatical cohesion analyzes the text based on the grammatical feature the text used while the lexical cohesion analyzes the text based on the lexicon or the words its used in the text. Then the grammatical cohesion divided into four types which are reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction while the lexical cohesion is broken into reiteration and collocation.

Demetria Devonne Lovato or popularly called as Demi Lovato is an American singer, songwriters, and actress. According to Biography.com (2017, para. 2). ‘Tell me you love me’ album is Demi Lovato’s album; it was released in September 2017. There are 12 songs on ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album. The writer curious about Demi Lovato’s songs because of Demi Lovato is a talented singer. It was proven from her songs that always become a top chart when she releases song or album. The writers choose Demi Lovato’s songs because the writers considers that in writing songs Demi Lovato always tells her story and illustrated it in a song which makes people have the same feeling and can make other people can inspire by Demi Lovato's story of life. Her song always becomes a popular song and accepted by many people. The album has twelve songs and the writers used all the songs to analyze lexical cohesion n this study. The writers focus on the types of lexical cohesion used in Demi Lovato’s song in *tell me you love me* album and the function of lexical cohesion used in Demi Lovato’s song in *tell me you love me* album.

The writers choose Tell Me You Love Me album because this album was released in September 2017 and instantly occupied into the top 5 on iTunes Charts. This study will focus on Lexical Cohesion used by Demi Lovato’s songs in ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album. This study will take all the song lyrics in ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album.

On the other hand, the writers found two previous studies of lexical cohesion, the first previous studies wrote byIkhsan Rekayasa (2017) entitled *A Study on Lexical*

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*Cohesion found in Adele's Song Lyrics in 25 Album.* In this study the writers found some similarities, Rekeyasa used song lyrics as the object of the study as the writers did, while in analyzing the data, Rekeyasa found repetition as the most lexical cohesion in used, it same as the writers did. He also found all the type of lexical cohesion on the Adele's song lyrics in 25 album.

The writers also found some differences between Rekeyasa's analyzed and the writers did, Rekeyasa used Rankema as his main theory in which there were two type of lexical cohesion and those were reiteration (repetition, synonym, antonym and hyponym) and collocation. While the writers used Halliday & Hasan (1976) as main theory that also had the type of lexical cohesion which were reiteration (the same word or repetition, synonym or near-synonym, superordinate and general word) and collocation. In this study of lexical cohesion, the writers also elaborated the analysis of referential item in the lyrics that did not do by Rekeyasa. In addition the writers found the interpretation of lexical cohesion in the song was for making connectivity between one word to another and so one sentence to another. The role of lexical cohesion in used itself was to make the reader understand easily what the text meant.

The second previous study was written by Budiati, Rizka Ayu Rasyidah (2016) entitled *Lexical Cohesion Found in the Thesis Abstracts Written by Students of Academic Year 2011 of Study Program of English Universitas Brawijaya*. She used mixed theory whose Rankema's theory and Sumarlam's theory to conduct the study. The theory that used by Budiati to find the type of lexical cohesion was repetition, synonym, antonym, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence, while the writers used Halliday & Hasan theory (1976) which were reiteration (repetition, synonym (near synonym), superordinate, general word) and collocation. When conducted the study of lexical cohesion, Budiati found that repetition was the most used by the students in the thesis abstracts it was same as the writers found. In this study of lexical cohesion, the writers elaborated the analysis of referential item that did not do by Budiati.

## **Method**

The writers use qualitative method in this study. Qualitative method is an approach which does not use number of statistic like in quantitative approach. In this study the writers uses lyrics of songs and it does not use number of statistic. Creswell (2014) qualitative methods demonstrate a different approach to scholarly research than methods of quantitative research. Although the processes are similar, qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis and draw on diverse designs. Writing a methods section for proposal for qualitative research partly requires educating readers as to the intent of qualitative research, mentioning specific designs, carefully reflecting on the role the researcher plays in the study, drawing from an ever-expanding list of types of data sources, using specific protocols for recording

data, analyzing the information through multiple steps of analysis, and mentioning approaches for documenting the accuracy or validity of the data collected. Qualitative mentioning specific designs and participation the researcher to take the sample and record it directly so it makes the qualitative methods unique, specific and really careful to draw the data which is always develop along the time.

The writers use all song lyrics used by Demi Lovato in ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album as the data in this study of lexical cohesion. The song lyrics in this album are downloaded from Demi Lovato’s official website. Then, the writers use the words, sentences, and phrases used in the song lyrics in the album that are containing lexical cohesion as the data in this study. In collecting the data, the writers following some steps such as downloading the song lyrics of the album, reading and marking the words, sentences or phrases that containing lexical cohesion. After collecting the data, the writers analyze the data by categorizing each type of lexical cohesion and analyze the function used in Demi Lovato’s song lyrics in ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album.

### **Result and Discussion**

In this study of lexical cohesion, the writers presents the finding on this study which already analyzed by using Halliday & Hasan’s theory (1976). This finding is based on the problem of the study in which the data has already selected by the writers to answer the problem clearly. Demi Lovato’s ‘Tell Me You Love Me’ album consist of twelve songs and the writers used all of the songs in the album which was contained lexical cohesion such as reiteration (the same word or repetition, synonym or near-synonym, superordinate, general word) and collocation. In this study, the writers’ only focused on the lexical reiteration used and did not analyzed lexical collocation because the writers did not found any data of collocation used in the song lyrics. The finding of the data found would be present below.

Tabel 1 The Frequency of Each Type of Lexical Cohesion

<b>Types of Lexical Cohesion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Repetition	218	91%
Synonym/Near-synonym	12	5%
Superordinate	2	1%
General word	5	3%
<b>Amount</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100%</b>

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### ***Repetition***

The first type the writers find is repetition. In this study, the writers find repetition happen in all the song lyrics of this album. Repetition is the most type Lovato uses in the song lyrics in "Tell me you love me" album. The writers found 218 words, sentences, and phrases used. In the first song entitled 'Sorry Not Sorry' there was in the phrase "*out here looking like*", in the second song entitled 'Tell Me You Love Me' there is phrase "*I'm sorry*", the third song entitled 'Daddy Issues' there is "*lucky for you*", in the fourth song there is "*don't do it for me anymore*", in the fifth song entitled 'Ruin The Friendship' there is "*let's ruin the friendship*", there is word "*waiting*" in the sixth song, there is phrases "*you didn't*" in the seventh song, there word "*good*" repeated in the eighth song entitled 'Cry Baby', there is word "*games*" in the ninth song entitled games, and repetition happened in all song lyrics.

Therefore, *the function of the same word or repetition* was to make the reader understand the idea in the song. The emphasized of this song was for telling the reader the situation and makes the reader guess the idea of the song by using repetition. In some song lyrics, Lovato reminds and strengthens the idea of song by using repetition to repeating words, phrases or sentences.

### ***Synonym or Near-Synonym***

Second type of reiteration is synonym or near synonym. In this study the writers found 11 words containing synonym or near synonym. There is in the second song, entitled 'Tell Me You Love Me' there is a word "*someone & somebody*", in the sixth song, entitled 'Forever' there are words "*tension & pressure*" and "*wanna & need*", there is "*told & say*". In the seventh song there are words "*blind and can't see*". In the eighth song entitled 'Cry Baby' there is near-synonym in the words "*tripping & slipping*", in the ninth song, entitled 'Games' there are words "*wanna & need*" and words "*men & boy*" in the tenth song there is words "*wanna & need*", in the eleventh song entitled 'Sexy Dirty Love', there is words "*obsession & addiction*", there is near-synonym happen in the word "*insane & messing with sanity*".

The function of using synonym in these song lyrics is to referring a word by using different word but still has the same meaning in order to make the song has various words. Using synonym is also to emphasize the idea of the song, some of these synonyms based on the context of the song lyrics were also to emphasize some contrasted idea but covered by using synonym or near synonym.

### ***Superordinate***

There are 2 superordinate in this song lyrics used this album. There are in the seventh song entitle 'Lonely' there are word "*month & June*", here word "*month*" is the superior category or the superordinate and June is the small category, because June is one of twelve month in one year. The second word of superordinate happens in the

twelfth song entitle 'Concentrate' in the words "*body & lips*". "*Body*" is the superordinate and "*lips*" is the small category and a lip is a part of body. Specifically the function of this superordinate is to stress the situation in the song lyric. The function of superordinate is also to refer the word by using the superior class or superior category. The used of superordinate also to make the song lyrics has various words and makes the words of the song lyrics arrange properly.

### **General Word**

There are 5 general words happen in the song lyrics. There is word "*do*" in the second song entitle 'Tell Me You Love Me', in the is word "*things*" in the fifth song entitle 'Ruin The Friendship', there is a word "*do*" again in the seventh song entitle 'Lonely', there is word "*do*" in the ninth song entitle 'Games', and there is word "*do*" in the eleventh song entitle 'Sexy Dirty Love'. Therefore, the function of this general word is to referring a word by using general word to make the word not repeat the same word and make the reader interpret the song by themselves. Moreover, the function of using general word on the lyric was to make the song simpler to deliver the meaning behind the song, it also made the song nice when it heard by many people.

### **Discussion**

There were two types of lexical cohesion elaborated by Halliday & Hasan (1976), those were reiteration and collocation. In reiteration Halliday & Hasan (1976) mentioned some categories of reiteration and those were the same word or repetition, synonym or near-synonym, superordinate and general word. The writers did not found lexical collocation because this study of lexical cohesion only focused on the lexical reiteration used in Demi Lovato's songs lyrics in 'Tell Me You Love Me' album.

Moreover, in this study the writers found the types and the function of lexical reiteration used in the album. First type was the same word or repetition. The writers found repetition in all song lyrics entitled *sorry not sorry*, *tell me you love me*, *daddy issues*, *you don't do it for me anymore*, *ruin the friendship*, *only forever*, *lonely*, *cry baby*, *games*, *hitchhiker*, *smoke and mirrors*, *sexy dirty love*, and *concentrate*.

Here, the same words or repetition were the most dominant type in the song lyrics, the writers found more than 100 repetitions in the song lyrics used by Demi Lovato in *tell me you love me* album, according to Halliday & Hasan (1976) repetition was a repeating a lexical item on the text or when people speak. The function of this repetition was to stressed, reminded, advised and made the idea of the song delivered clearly by repeating the same word in the song lyrics repeated more than once. It proved in the song 'Tell Me You Love Me' "fighting over what I said **I'm sorry**, yeah **I'm sorry**" here feeling guilty was showed by interpretation of word "**I'm sorry**" repeated more than once.

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The second type, the writers found reiteration which was a synonym or near synonym, Halliday & Hassan (1976), stated that a word could be identify as a synonym where the word which had the same reference and it could use different word, as long as the word had the same or had close meaning. In the song lyrics which synonym/near-synonym was mentioned twelve times in 'Tell Me You Love Me' song, the synonym were stated twice in *only forever* song, it stated three times, in *lonely* song it was stated once, in *cry baby stated* song it was stated once, in *games* song it was stated once, in *hitchhiker* song it was stated once, and in *sexy dirty love* song it was stated three times. Moreover, the writers also found the function of the synonym or near synonym which was to emphasize the idea in the song lyrics by using different word but still had the same meaning. Some of these synonyms based on the context of the song lyrics were also to emphasize some contrasted idea but covered by using synonym or near synonym.

The third type of reiteration which the writers found was superordinate, this was kind of reiteration that the rarely used on the song lyrics. There were two superordinate found in the song lyrics which was on song entitled *concentrate*. In that song superordinate was stated once and in *lonely* song, it was also stated once. The function of superordinate in this song was to deliver the idea by using figurative language. Based on Halliday & Hasan (1976) superordinate was a classification of a word or an object that could be used to represent the whole class or category of many things. Therefore, **body** in the song entitled *concentrate* "*and Imma pain your body with my lips*" was represented the whole class from **lips**.

The last reiteration which the writers found regarded to the theory was general word; Halliday & Hasan (1976) explained that general word was a general meaning of a word that occurred cohesively. the writers found six words included in the general word used in the song lyrics and those were once in the song 'Tell Me You Love Me' song once, in *ruin the friendship* song once, then in the *lonely* song there once, then in the *games* song there once, in the *sexy dirty love* song there once and in *concentrate* song mentioned once. Particularly, the function of these general words in this song lyric was to generalize something that already happened or already stated, the general word in this song also to emphasized the situation that was happened at that time, Lovato tried to strength the situation she felt it proved in song entitled *lonely*, "only you could make me feel the way you **do**".

Moreover, according to Halliday & Hasan (1976) lexical cohesion was vocabulary choices that gave relation to make a function in cohesive. Thus the writers analyzed the study of lexical cohesion to looking for the use of lexical item in the song lyrics of Demi Lovato in the album entitled 'Tell Me You Love Me'. The writers analyzed the types of lexical cohesion used in the album and also analyzed the function of lexical cohesion in used.



Particularly, this study could give some references and also comparison to other people or to the readers who interest to write and analyze of song especially in study of cohesion. By understanding the types and the function of lexical cohesion in used, it might be the reader could share the experience and interest to write poem or song using lexical cohesion in there to make the poem or the song meaning full and clearly understood by other. In addition in album entitled tell me you love me of Demi Lovato some of those was told about her feeling of love, not only for having relationship it also feeling to the friendship, and so feel disappointed, told about heart breaking and so self-preparedness for new love. The song emphasized what Lovato's experience and what she felt at the time. In some song lyrics also can teach a lesson because some of song writers make song from their experience and share it through song.

### **Conclusion**

The objectives of this study is to find out the kinds of lexical cohesion used by Demi Lovato's song lyrics in 'Tell Me You Love Me' album and to find out the functions of lexical cohesion used in the song lyrics by using theory of lexical cohesion. The writers do not find all of the types of lexical cohesion in Demi Lovato's song lyrics in 'Tell Me You Love Me' album. Based on the finding, the writers conclude that there only one type of lexical cohesion used in Demi Lovato's song lyrics in *Tell Me You Love Me* album, it is reiteration. The writers find reiteration, which are the same word or repetition in second song entitled 'Tell Me You Love Me' "**I'm sorry**, yeah **I'm sorry**", synonym or near synonym in sixth song entitled *only forever* "what if I **told** you it's too late? What if I **say** that I can't wait?", superordinate in seventh song, entitled *lonely* "the **month** was **June**", and general word in ninth song entitled *games* "text on read, and it ain't no accident, boy I ain't gon' ask again, now you got me in my head, waiting by the phone at night, that's shit that I don't **do**". Particularly, the function of lexical cohesion used in Demi Lovato song lyrics in 'Tell Me You Love Me' album is to stress, to emphasize, to illustrate, to strengthen, to give the contribution to the two sentences that the meaning are connect to each other, and also to tell the similarity through a synonym. But actually the function of lexical cohesion are generally to make the reader understand the message or the idea of the song clearly, and to make the sentences are arrange good and enjoy to be consume.

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