



THE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF SADNESS  
AS SEEN IN *ADELE'S SONG LYRICS*

THESIS

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THE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION OF SADNESS AS SEEN IN ADELE'S  
SONG LYRICS

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**Abstract**

The research aims to describe how the words are used to express the feeling of sadness and to show literal and non-literal of sadness expression in Adele's song lyrics. According to Spinoza B (1997) sadness is a mood characterized by feelings of disadvantage and loss. The data of this research were taken from a number of Adele's song lyrics that consist of sadness expression. The method used in this research is qualitative method stated by Bodgan and Taylor (1975). The theories that the writer used were emotional expression, repetition, figurative language, question, idioms, and contexts (Fussel, 2002, Yanti 2013, Crabtree, 1991). The results of this research show the are some ways to express the emotion of sadness through the words use, for example blue, burst and bleed, depressed, sorrow, hurt, etc.. And, the use of figurative language especially in the use of metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. In conclusion, the use of figurative language gives additional meaning in the expression of sadness.

**Keywords: emotion, literal expression, non-literal expression, figurative language, context.**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.3 Background the Problem

All of human being have emotion, such as angry, happy, love, fear, and sadness. Emotion can be expressed through verbal communication and non-verbal communication such as blowing the door and crying or with writing something like diary, song and story. In this research the writer tries to analyze emotional expression of sadness in terms of words verbal with indirect communication in the song lyrics.

Furthermore, emotional expression of sadness also can be found on the famous singers, for example Micheal Jackson, Beyonce, Cristina Aguilera. In this research, the writer analyzed Adele's song lyric, in general Adele's lyrics so expressed the feelings of love, disappointment, sadness and feeling of broken heart.

As stated Fussell,R.S (2002) emotion is people experience a multiplicity of internal- psychological processes and states in everyday life. On the other hand emotion related with experience. Fussell,R.S also explained that experience is a totalizing mode, in which people experience themselves in the relationship with the environment and with themselves. Experiencing results from action, accompanies action, and leads to actions.

Similar with Fussel,R.S,Konvecse, Z (2000) said that sadness expression is not only uttered with direct words, but it can also be conveyed with figurative

language like methapor, personification, *etc.* This is the reason why that the writer wants to analyze Adele’s song lyrics, such as what words are used in expressing of sadness emotion. It is only by the word or used the figurative aspect or the other. In Adele’ lyrics, she is not only express the sadness expression directly, but also with figurative language. Furthermore, Spinoza B (1997) stated, that sadness is a mood characterized by feelings of disadvantage and loss. When sad, people often become quiet, less energetic and withdrawn. Sadness is considered to be the opposite of happiness and similar to the emotion of sorrow, grief, misery and melancholy. Sadness is the “transfer of a person from a large perfection to a smaller one. To support the explanation, the writer applied some example as follow:

(1) *“Waves of depression come over him”*

The example (1) explains that a big problem was come to him and made him depressed. “Waves of depression” is meant, of deep sad feeling and it expressed that the negative evaluation of the concept of sadness.

From the explanation above about sadness expression, the writer also found some mostly word that Adele used in her song lyrics to express the sadness expression. To make sure the explanation, look at some examples as follow:

(2) *Hold me closer one more time  
Say that you love me in your last good bye  
Please forgive me my sins  
Yes I swam dirty waters*

(I’ll be waiting)

Based on the example (2) In this lyrics include in vocabulary for sadness in English. It can be seen on pages 12. The song is about a woman who was willing to wait for her lover to love her again. And contexts that affect these lyrics are epistemic context that background knowledge of between speaker and hearer which is also influenced by the situational context in which the situation in the context of the song lyric writer has read the lyrics from beginning to end.

From of the example provide that sadness expression has use in Adele song lyrics. This using of sadness expression makes the listener knew that Adele song lyrics contained much sadness expression. This research gives a little understanding about what are the words used expressing the emotions of sadness and why Adele more using sadness expression in her songs lyrics.

#### **1.4 Identification of Problem**

Sadness expression can be seen from people behaviour such as attitude , words and can imagin from literary art , poetry, lyrics. There are many problems that can be seen in song lyric, such as Micheal Jackson lyric's, Beyonce lyric's, Cristina Aguilera lyric's and Adele song lyric's. In those song lyric's shows be motional expression such as, expression of happiness, sadness, fear, love and anger. Adele song lyric's one of example of sadness expression.

Adele's song lyric can be analyzed language style, figurative, cohesi lexical, and gramatical. Song lyrics also can be analyzed of the meaning of song lyrics, messages, intonation, diction, and emotion. Emotion can be divided into some categories such as : happy, fear, angry, sadness , *etc.*

Sadness expression occurs in novel, film, poetry, short story, etc. The emotions are expressed verbally (words) and non-verbally like mimics, gestures, a body movement, voice intonation, facial expression. This is proof that people tend use sadness expression to show their disappointed emotion. Sadness expression also find in social media, such as facebook, blackberry messenger, twitter, *etc.*

### **1.3 Limitation of Problem.**

The writer has identified of the problem of sadness expression. In this research the writer discussed about the sad expression and the writer limits the expression of what the sadness expression in some Adele's song lyrics. Because of there are a number of song lyric Adele of sad emotional expression exist in Adele's lyric, the writer limits of the emotional expression of sadness.

### **1.4 Formulation of the problem**

In this research the problem of the research, the writer formulates some research. Questions as follow:

1. How are the words used to convey the emotional expression of sadness?
2. What are the context the influence sadness expressions in Adele's lyrics?

### **1.5 The Purpose of the Research to Answer Formulation**

The purposes of the research are

1. To describe how of the words are used to express the feeling of sadness.

2. To explain the contexts influence sadness expression in Adele's song lyric.

### **1.7 Significance of the Research**

The writer hopes this study will be useful mastering English vocabulary in expressing of sadness. And also, it can contribute to the development of emotional expression, through the words or language use. Then, the writer can give some informations about the use of vocabulary in expression of sadness emotion for futher research.