

THE MORAL DIMENSION REFLECTED IN THE SONGS TOMORROW AND WHALIEN 52 BY BTS

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Abstract

Music is an important component of human existence. It has the power to change the listener's mood and evoke emotions. This is a reflection of human love for the beauty of rhythm. To fully appreciate the beauty of music, the lyrics and rhythm must be in harmony with the listener's emotions. This research analyzes the moral meaning of BTS's "Tomorrow & Whalen 52". The approach of data collection adopted is observation, while the technique utilized involves listening and recording the outcomes of the analysis. In analyzing the data, data was taken from lyric quotes in the songs. The aim of this study was to explore the ethical implications of a particular song, and the researcher used qualitative methods for data collection. The data obtained will be analyzed using Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory. Some of the moral messages the writer found in the songs "Tomorrow" and "Whalien 52", include the importance of perseverance, self-love, and self-disclosure with others. In writing this article, the writer hopes to achieve theoretical, academic, and practical significance for the writer and readers in at least three ways: personally, academically (literature), and practically (people in general). Personally, this article can provide insight from a literary perspective, especially regarding the meaning of morals, which we hope will be useful for other people.

Keywords: K-Pop, Moral Meanings, BTS, Songs, Semiotic

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a formidable mode of human expression that delves into concepts, insights, and emotions through fictional works. It serves as a potent medium that stirs and influences us. As Padi's definition (Ramdhani & Nugraha, 2023: 42), literature is an artistic medium that utilizes language and symbols to convey human experiences. Rafiek's perspective (Ramdhani & Nugraha, 2023: 42) suggests that literature is a flow of emotions expressed by writers in their creative works, encompassing a range of feelings such as happiness, anger, sorrow, and more. Literature is also regarded as an art form that generates aesthetic value and reflects social reality, as per another definition. Warren Wellek and emphasize (Ramdhani & Nugraha, 2023: 43)that literature is a distinctive art form that has the power to shape our understanding of the world. Semi's interpretation (Ramdhani & Nugraha. 2023: 43) highlights the various ways in which the term literature can be understood. In conclusion, literature plays a significant

role in broadening our perspectives and enriching our lives.

One of the literary works that achieved widespread popularity was music. It holds a significant place in people's lives, with individuals listening to it almost daily and having their own preferences. unique Music communicates with its audience through songs that have their own appeal and aesthetic value, making them engage to listen to. It serves as a communication tool in the form of written words, combining elements of thought with Music effective tones. is an communication tool for musicians and their fans. Additionally, it has the power to influence listeners. This is the essence of human expression, conveyed through tones and rhythms. The beauty of music increases when the lyrics and tones are in harmony with the audience's emotions. As Jamalus states, music is the result of written expressions, where the writer's ideas and emotions are conveyed through elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, structure, and complementary expressions (Farhansyah et al., 2023: 11).

Tomorrow is a song that tells the story of someone who is experiencing serious and recurring problems. This song tells you how you feel confused and tired of being in this situation and facing the fear that continues to come. Meanwhile, the song Whalien 52 describes their conditions and processes when they first debuted, where they were a group from a small agency and did not receive support from many parties. The whales depicted in this song are the most equal, as they always stood alone at the beginning of the work. This song was created by a South Korean band, BTS.

The writer aspires to make three distinct contributions to the realms of theory, academia, and practicality through this article, both for themselves and for readers: privately, in terms of personal growth; academically, through the advancement of literary knowledge; and practically, by influencing society. article provides better This a understanding of the topics discussed by the writer. In the process of writing this article, the writer hopes to play a role in contributing to achieving theoretical, academic, and practical meaning for the writer and reader in at least three ways: academic (literature), oneself. and practical (people around). Personally, this article can provide an understanding from a literary perspective, namely, the meaning of morals, which is expected to play an important role for Pertiwi University and the Basis Journal. Practically, it can provide benefits for readers in general, especially additional knowledge for people who are conducting research in the field of moral meaning.

Tomorrow is a song that conveys the narrative of someone grappling with persistent and recurring challenges. It expresses the sentiment of feeling perplexed and worn out by the situation, as well as the fear that continues to linger. On the other hand, the song Whalien 52 recounts the circumstances and processes when the group first debuted. They were a small, agencyaffiliated group without significant support from various parties. The whales in this song represent equality, as they stood alone at the beginning of their work. The song was composed by a singer from South Korea, BTS.

The writer of this article intends to make three distinct contributions to the realms of theory, academia, and practicality, both for themselves and for readers: privately, in terms of personal development; academically, by advancing literary knowledge; and practically, by influencing society. This article aims to enhance understanding of

the topics discussed by the writer. While writing this article, the writer hopes to play a role in achieving theoretical, academic, and practical significance for both the writer and reader in at least three ways: personally. academically (literature), and practically (people in general). Personally, this article can provide insight from a literary perspective, particularly concerning the significance of morals, which is expected to be valuable for Pertiwi University and the Exposure Journal. Practically, it can offer benefits for readers in general, especially for those conducting research in the field of moral significance.

The writer selected Tomorrow and Whalien 52 as the subjects of their study for two reasons. Firstly, these songs are highly popular, particularly among Kpop music enthusiasts, and hold deep meaning. Secondly, the writer has not come across any prior research that examines the moral meaning of these songs in combination. In essence, this article aims to identify and examine the moral messages conveyed in the songs Tomorrow and Whalien 52 by BTS. Currently, many previous researchers have conducted studies on the moral meaning in literary works, but not many have conducted research on the moral meaning in specific songs, especially in the songs Tomorrow & Whalien 52. Therefore, this study will be new compared to previous researchers. The author will conduct a new study or analysis by explaining the moral meanings conveyed in the song lyrics.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter the writer will present three previous studies. The first research belongs to (Mihsan, 2022)which focuses on moral messages in the lyrics of the Bts (Bangtan Boys) song entitled "So What". The similarity lies in the approach and topic used, which is the same as using a semiotic approach and the same as analyzing moral messages in a song. However, the difference is that if the previous study used the song with the title "So What" as the subject, this study used the song "Tomorrow & Whalien 52" as the subject. The second research is (Laura M.B.P et al., 2022) which focuses on the Representation of Anxiety and Despair in the Lyrics of the Bts Song "Black Swan". The similarity lies in the approach used, which is the same as using a semiotic approach. However, what distinguishes previous research from this research is that if previous research focused on analyzing anxiety and hope decisions in songs, this research focuses on finding moral meaning in songs besides that the subject used in previous research was the song "Black Swan" while this research uses the song "Tomorrow & Whalien 52" as its subject. The last research (Oktaviani et al., 2020) which focuses on Moral Messages in BTS Music Video Clips "Blood, Sweat, And Tears" as a Representation of Youth." The similarity lies in the approach used, which is the same as using the semiotic approach.

Morals, or morality, are actions that have positive values. In addition, amoral or immoral is someone who does not have good value in the eyes of others. Morals are an important thing that everyone must have. When at school, morals are also a basic trait that must be learned. If one wanted to be respected by others, they definitely had to have morals. From the description above, it can be concluded that a person is said to be moral if his actions are in accordance with the moral values upheld by society (Febrianti & Dewi, 2021: 477). Apart from that, morals according to Suseno (1998) are a measure of a person's quality as person and person. At the same time, the aim of education of

morality is to educate human to become moral and humane individuals. On the other hand, morality is defined by Ouska and Whellan (1997), as principles that are inherent in every person and include good and bad. Morality persists in a system of rules, even if it exists within the individual. This is because morality is the principle of good and evil, and morality is the quality of good judgment. Therefore, the nature and meaning of morality can be seen from the way moral people obey and enforce the rules. (Febrianti & Dewi, 2021: 477).

non-verbal communication, In symbols use signs with specific meanings. Sanders Charles Peirce defined a sign as something that is used to analyze and has various meanings due to the interpretation of the message of the sign (Saleha, 2023: 66). In the study of semiotics, symbols or signs are a scientific discipline that shows a situation that explains the meaning of the objects around us (Saleha, 2023: 66). Apart from that, "Semiotics" is a field that studies signs. Charles Sanders Peirce defined semiotics as the study of signs, and everything related to the signs themselves. Peirce's analysis divides semiotics into three parts, namely: Representation (basic), Object, and Interpretant. when these categories are known as trichotomy relationships in semiotics. The process of interpreting a sign originates with a foundation called representation or ground, and extends to an object, culminating in a semiosis process that is characterized bv interpretation (Saleha, 2023: 66).

Based on the three categories above, Peirce further divided each into three categories. Representamen Peirce divided the sign into Qualisign, Sinsign, and Legisign. Qualisign represents the quality of a sign. Sinsign refers to the actual presence of a sign. Meanwhile, Legisign is the meaning or norm contained within the sign itself. Following his classification. Peirce divided signs into three types: Icon, Index, and Symbol, based on the relationship they share with their referents... An Icon is a sign that shares a likeness with its object. Index is a sign that is related to its object based on cause and effect. Symbol is a sign that is related to its referent and its interpretant. Finally, based on Interpretant, Peirce divided it into 3 categories as well, namely Rheme, Dicent Sign, and Argument. Rheme is a sign that is interpreted or understood differently from its original meaning. Dicent Sign is a sign that has a meaning corresponding to its fact or reality. Meanwhile, Argument is a sign that carries about the reason for something. This study will focus more on the discussion of the triadic relationship of the representamen of a sign from the traffic sign (Saleha, 2023: 67). In this research, there is a close relationship between morality and semiotics. The writer uses a semiotic approach to analyze the moral meaning in song lyrics that contain symbols and moral meanings.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative research, as noted by Creswell (Marceline & Mandala, 2023), centers on delving into a social or humanitarian issue, deciphering the significance present in the data, and employing textual or visual data as a means of investigation. The writer chose a descriptive methodology because the study's analysis was presented in the form of text, resulting in a qualitative descriptive study design. To gather data, such as song lyrics, the writer employed the documentation research technique. In this research, the first thing the writer did was to determine the topic to be analyzed and continued by looking for relevant data or information as well as reading

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and marking the data that was in accordance with this research. In the course of this research, the collection of data is divided into two separate types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data refers specifically to information that is gathered by the researcher who is conducting the study, and it is pertinent to the requirements of the intended user (Huri et al., 2019). Primary data comes from songs because they have deep meaning and are relevant to the topic, namely the song "Tomorrow & Whalien 52". Secondary data, as described by Sugiyono (Huri et al., 2019), is a type of data source that is not directly provided by data collectors, but instead obtained through other parties or data documents. Secondary was obtained from various sources, including books, scientific journals, research papers and online sources. This research presents the documentation collected by categorizing the results based on lyrical quotes that show the moral aspects of BTS' Tomorrow and Whalen 52 songs. The data is presented in the form of a clear and interesting narrative. The investigate BTS's researcher will Tomorrow and Whalen 52 compilations. This research found that songs are positively correlated with various aspects of moral values. The writer hopes that the results of this analysis will provide a useful understanding of the relationship between music and moral principles.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Some methods are used to identify and categorize data to produce the results. The provided material comprised song lyrics that have been researched and explained, including [1] Tomorrow and [2] Whalien 52.

According to Suseno's point of view (Abidin, 2021: 59) are the good and bad dimensions of humans as individuals,

community members, and citizens, while the definition of moral education is an activity that makes humans more moral and humane. According to Ouska and Whellan (Abidin, 2021: 59), morals are good and bad teachings that exist and are closely related within a person and are in a system called rules.

Support for Not Giving Up

Never giving up is a mental attitude to rise again from situations that make someone down. Everyone needs this ability to avoid stress and mental illnesses. In essence, never giving up is a persistence mind-set of and This determination. attitude of perseverance is often accompanied by optimism and belief in one's ability to overcome sadness. The following is a snippet of song lyrics that exemplify the moral value of perseverance as reflected in the song 'Tomorrow':

[Pre-Chorus] Ni kkumeul ttaraga like breaker Buseojindaedo oh better Ni kkumeul ttaraga like breaker Muneojindaedo oh Dwiro daranajima never"

"Follow your dream like breaker Even if it breaks down, oh better Follow your dream like breaker Even if it breaks down, don't ever run backwards, never

Based on the song lyrics above, never giving up is a moral value contained in the song "Tomorrow". "In the song lyrics above, BTS wants to convey that you should continue chasing your dreams and not give up. Even though one day there will be obstacles that will hinder you and make your dream unattainable, at least you have tried to make it happen because it is better to try to achieve it than not try it at all and try to achieve another dream.

[Chorus] "Haega tteugi jeon saebyeogi gajang eoduunikka Meon hutnare neon jigeumui neol jeoldaero itji ma Jigeum niga eodi seo itdeun jamsi swieoganeun geosil ppun Pogihaji ma aljanha Neomu meoreojijin ma tomorrow"

[Bridge] "Tomorrow, gyesok georeo Meomchugien urin ajik neomu eoryeo Tomorrow, muneul yeoreo Datgien manheun geotdeuri nune boyeo"

"Because the dawn right before the sun rises is the darkest Even in the far future, never forget the you of right now Wherever you are right now, you're just taking a break Don't give up, you know Don't get too far away, tomorrow Tomorrow, keep walking, we're too young to stop Tomorrow, open the door, we see too much to shut the door"

Another attitude of never giving up can be seen in the song lyrics. From the snippet of the song's lyrics, BTS wants to convey that it never forgets the struggle that has been undertaken when you have succeeded in achieving your dreams in the future and stop continuing to struggle. These lyrics also remind the listener that wherever an individual stands, they only have a short rest before fighting again to pursue their dreams because time continues to pass and tomorrow will continue to change to show new things that will be in vain if someone stops fighting to pursue his dreams.

[Verse] "Eoduun bami jinamyeon balgeun achimdo itdeusi, araseo Naeiriomyeon balgeun bichi bichuni, geokjeongeun haji marajwo Igeon jeongjiga anin ni sarmeul swieoganeun Jamsi donganui ilsi jeongji Eomjireul ollimyeo ni jasineul jaesaenghae modu boran deusi" "When the dark night passes, A bright morning will come When tomorrow comes The bright light will shine so don't worry This isn't a stop but just A pause in your life for a break Turn up your thumbs and press play So everyone can see"

These lyrics show that there is a moral meaning in the song Tomorrow. In this song, BTS inserts the moral meaning of not giving up when experiencing difficulties. Even though many obstacles will come in the way, this song gives the message that someone can take a break for a while but does not give up because by continuing to try, you will get satisfying results.

Support To Self-Love

Self-love is a human condition that contributes to an individual's physical, mental, and spiritual growth. This involves accepting all aspects of oneself, both positive and negative. The term 'self' in the English-Indonesian dictionary refers to an individual, while 'love' means affection or fondness. It can be concluded that self-love refers to a person's efforts to care for themselves, appreciate their strengths, accept their weaknesses, and make the best decisions for their own well-being (Asmarini, 2022: 5). The following excerpt from the song 'whalien 52 and Ephipany' reflects the moral value of self-love:

"But neul saenggakhae Jigeum sae-ujam jadeorado kkumeun goraedapge Dagaol keut chingchani maeil chumeul chuge halgeoya Nadapge Ye i'm swimmin' Nae miraereul hyanghae ga Jeo pureun badawa Nae hereucheureul mideo hey oh, oh hey oh yeah"

"But I always think, now Even if I sleep a shrimp's sleep, my dreams are like that of a whale's The upcoming big praise will make me dance everyday Like me, Ye i'm swimmin' I go towards my future That blue beach and Believe in my hertz Hey oh, oh hey oh yeah"

These lyrics above show the attitude of loving oneself. From the lyrics of the song above, BTS wants to convey that if we have dreams and abilities, then these abilities continue to be explored; if we believe in the abilities we have, then in the future we will become successful and confident people and become someone who respects and loves themselves.

"Ontong dareun mareul haneun dareun goraedeul ppuninde I just can't hold it ma Saranghanda malhago sipeo Honja haneun dollim norae Gateun akbo wireul doejipeo I badaneun neomu gipeo Geuraedo nan dahaengin geol (Nunmul nado amudo moreulteni) I'm a whalien"

"But what to I do? It's so dark here and there are only different whales speaking entirely different words! I just can't hold it, ma! I want to say I love you Alone, I look back at this music sheet that's like a rotating song This ocean is too deep Still, I'm lucky (No one besides me knows of these tears.) I'm a whalien"

The song lyrics suggest a message of self-love. The lyrics express BTS's desire to convey to their listeners that being unique and different from others is not something to be ashamed of, but rather something that makes us more attractive because of our individuality. Additionally, the song aims to convey the importance of gratitude and appreciation for what we have.

Support to Self-Disclosure

Self-disclosure refers to the ability of humans to communicate with their social environments. If someone is skilled in managing self-disclosure, they interact more with those around them. According to Altman and Taylor (1973), self-disclosure provides information to others to facilitate intimate communication (Septiani et al., 2019: 266). The following is an excerpt from the song 'whalien52,' which reflects the moral value of self-disclosure:

"Yeah, the most lonely creature in the world Eh, do you want to know my story? I've never told this to anybody Yeah, come on"

An excerpt from song lyrics described above describes self-

disclosure. In the song Whalien 52, BTS wants to tell a story that they never told anyone at the start of their career as an idol, which is related to the Lonely Whale incident. From this song, BTS wants to tell its listeners that they are trying to open up to the outside world is not bad. By opening ourselves, we can build a good relationship with someone and share our feelings with the people around us.

"Oneuldo dasi noraehaji na Sesangeun jeoldaero molla Naega eolmana seulpeunjireul Nae apeumeun seokkil su eomneun mulgwa gireum Geujeo nan sumyeon wieseoman Sumeul swil ttae gwansim kkeut Oeroun badatsok kkoma"

"Today I sing again The world will never know How sad I am My hurt is water and oil that can't mix So only above the surface of the water do I Breathe, and the interest (towards me) ends A child in the lonely ocean"

The song lyrics above show the moral value of self-disclosure, where the songwriter (who describes himself as a whale) reveals that he feels very lonely. In the lyrics above, he reveals that that day he sang again to express his pain when the world never knew his sadness and pain as a lonely lag and living alone in the sea so deep. From these lyrics, BTS hopes that listeners will do the same thing as the pause, namely expressing what they feel, explaining and telling their complaints to those closest to them so that they do not feel isolated and lonely, and also get motivation afterwards.

5. CONCLUSION

In this section, the writer concludes the paper based on the results of this research. This study reveals several moral meanings of BTS's songs: Tomorrow and Whalien 52. The first moral meaning is the support for not giving up easily in the song "Tomorrow." In this song, BTS encourages listeners to focus on the future, continue fighting for their dreams, and not give up easily even when faced with obstacles. They also advise listeners to take breaks and not look back at the past. The second moral meaning is the support for loving oneself in the song "Whalien 52." Through this song, the BTS aims to teach fans to pursue their dreams with confidence, respect themselves, and appreciate their uniqueness. BTS encourages their listeners to express their emotions and grievances and to share their experiences with loved ones in order to combat loneliness and find motivation. Furthermore, the song's moral message emphasizes the importance of selfdisclosure. By using this song, BTS urges their fans to be open with themselves and others, to reveal their innermost thoughts, and to voice their complaints to those close to them, so that they can feel supported and avoid feeling isolated. Based on the findings of the analysis presented above, the writer wishes that the outcomes of this study will be advantageous to readers and serve as a basis for future researchers in examining literary works, especially when employing the semiotic method. Furthermore, since this research concentrates solely on the moral significance of the song "Tomorrow & Whalien 52," the writer believes that there are other aspects that can be analyzed using these two songs, such as mental health issues. The writer recommends that future researchers seek

out chances to identify aspects that can be analyzed within literary works.

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