

Analyzing Speech Functions in the Lyrics of "Blue" by Yung kai

Lia Nirwana Sagala

English Education Study Program, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Al Washliyah, Medan

Email: lianirwana22@gmail.com

Velysa Ayu Aprilia

English Education Study Program, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Al Washliyah, Medan

Email: Velysaayuaprilia@gmail.com

Linda Astuti Rangkuti

English Education Study Program, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Al Washliyah, Medan

Email: lindaray003@gmail.com

Meida Rabia Sihite

English Education Study Program, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Al Washliyah, Medan

Email: meidarabia55@gmail.com

Widia Fransiska

English Education Study Program, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Al Washliyah, Medan

Email: widiafransiska@univamedan.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the speech functions found in the lyrics of "Blue" by Yung Kai. The song was selected for its expressive language in portraying longing, imagined affection, and emotional vulnerability. The aim of this study is to examine how interpersonal meaning is conveyed through the use of speech functions. Using a qualitative descriptive method, this research applies discourse analysis based on Halliday's theory. The lyrics were segmented into clauses and analyzed to identify the types of mood (declarative, interrogative, imperative) and their corresponding speech functions (statement, question, offer, command). The results show that statements are the most frequently used, serving to express emotions, beliefs, and personal commitment. Questions represent uncertainty and longing, while offers and commands indicate emotional closeness and desire. The study concludes that beyond entertainment, the song functions as a medium for expressing deep emotional experiences. This highlights the role of song lyrics as a form of interpersonal communication and emotional expression in contemporary music.

Keywords: Speech Functions, Mood, Song lyrics

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji fungsi tutur yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu "Blue" karya Yung Kai. Lagu ini dipilih karena bahasanya yang ekspresif dalam menggambarkan kerinduan, kasih sayang yang dibayangkan, dan kerentanan emosional. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis bagaimana makna interpersonal disampaikan melalui fungsi tutur dalam lirik

lagu tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis wacana berdasarkan teori Halliday. Lirik lagu dibagi ke dalam klausa dan dianalisis untuk mengidentifikasi jenis mood (deklaratif, interogatif, imperatif) beserta fungsi tuturnya (pernyataan, pertanyaan, tawaran, perintah). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fungsi tutur yang paling dominan adalah pernyataan, yang digunakan untuk mengungkapkan perasaan, keyakinan, dan komitmen pribadi. Pertanyaan mencerminkan ketidakpastian dan kerinduan, sedangkan tawaran dan perintah mencerminkan kedekatan emosional dan keinginan. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa lagu ini tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai hiburan, tetapi juga menjadi sarana untuk mengekspresikan pengalaman emosional secara mendalam. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu dapat menjadi media komunikasi interpersonal dan ekspresi emosional dalam musik kontemporer.

Kata kunci: Fungsi Tutur, Mood, Lirik lagu

A. Introduction

Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a powerful medium for expressing emotions, shaping identities, and building interpersonal connections. Among the many platforms where language fulfills these roles, music stands out as one of the most expressive. Through the synergy of melody and lyrics, music becomes a channel for emotional expression and social commentary. As noted by Bilal and Aydılek (2019), music significantly influences human emotion and thought, enabling individuals to articulate complex feelings that are often difficult to express in everyday speech.

In today's society, particularly among younger generations, music has evolved into a crucial form of emotional outlet. Songs are not solely for entertainment; they often mirror inner emotional states, reflect shared human experiences, and give voice to those who may struggle to express themselves. A song is a beautifully arranged collection of words sung to the accompaniment of music. The first definition states that the role of music is to express emotions and that there are four key characteristics that characterize music. The second definition states that music is the instruments and/or sounds that people hear (Kusnierek, 2016).

The song is based on a piece of music and has a rhythm and tempo that draws the listener into the meaning of the song. Singing is a way to express

one's emotions, expressed through letters and poems, conveyed with tones and rhythms, and becomes a beautiful song. Songs not only bring fun and entertainment, but they also convey moral messages to music lovers and listeners. Songs are about writing and talking about everyday life, culture, adventures, and how people feel.

An example can be found in the song "Blue" by Yung Kai, a rising artist known for combining lo-fi aesthetics with emotionally intimate themes. The song was inspired by the 2023 Chinese television series "When I Fly Towards You", which Yung Kai watched with a girl he liked. In a short interview uploaded on TikTok, Yung Kai stated that the feelings he experienced while watching the series together with her made him want to write a song (Yung Kai, 2024). He completed the song within two weeks and released it shortly thereafter. Since its release, "Blue" has gained popularity on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram in 2024. The song narrates a sense of romantic yearning and emotional vulnerability from the viewpoint of someone imagining a relationship that has yet to exist. Such a lyrical approach provides a valuable lens through which to explore how language is employed to construct interpersonal meaning, particularly through speech functions.

Halliday's (2014) theory of speech functions, rooted in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), offers a framework for analyzing how language operates in interaction. According to this theory, speech functions involve either giving or demanding a form of exchange, whether information or goods and services. This results in four core types of speech functions: statements, questions, offers, and commands. Each of these functions is typically associated with specific grammatical moods: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Statements are generally expressed through declarative mood, questions through interrogative mood, and commands through imperative structures. Analyzing the use of these forms in texts like song lyrics can uncover the interpersonal choices made by the songwriter.

A number of prior studies have utilized this framework to examine various texts. Muzanni et al. (2024), for example, investigated the speech functions in Maher Zain's "Free Palestine", highlighting how statements conveyed solidarity and commands encouraged action. Likewise, Rina (2016) explored the speech functions used by English teachers during classroom interactions, showing how different functions serve diverse purposes depending on context. However, while many of these studies examine texts with educational, religious, or political themes, relatively few have focused on how emotionally expressive music, particularly from lo-fi or indie genres, constructs interpersonal meaning.

The song "Blue" by Yung Kai presents an intriguing subject for this type of analysis. Unlike lyrics that aim to inform or persuade, this song centers on subtle emotional themes, such as longing, imagined love, and personal

vulnerability. These are communicated through a blend of emotional statements, tentative offers, gentle commands, and reflective questions—all functioning as interpersonal acts between the speaker and a projected listener or loved one.

Accordingly, this study seeks to analyze the realization of speech functions in the lyrics of "Blue" by Yung Kai. The research focuses on identifying the types of speech functions present, the mood structures used to realize them, and the ways in which these linguistic elements contribute to the song's interpersonal and emotional impact. Ultimately, this study aims to enrich discourse analysis in the realm of music and illustrate how even minimalist lyrics can carry complex communicative significance.

B. Research Method

This study employs a descriptive design with a qualitative approach. According to Sugiyono (2020), qualitative research is appropriate for investigating natural conditions of phenomena, especially those involving meanings, perceptions, and interpretations. This approach was selected because the focus of the study is to analyze the interpersonal meanings conveyed in the lyrics of the song "Blue" by Yung Kai, using Halliday's theory of speech functions.

The data were sourced from the official lyrics of "Blue" by Yung Kai, obtained through authorized platforms such as YouTube and other credible digital media. The research instruments consisted of observation and documentation techniques.

The data analysis followed these steps:

1. Identifying and collecting the complete lyrics of the song "Blue".
2. Segmenting the lyrics into clauses to define speech units.
3. Analyzing each clause according to its grammatical structure to determine the Mood type (declarative, interrogative, imperative).

4. Classifying each clause's speech function as a statement, question, offer, or command.
5. Drawing conclusions based on the dominant speech functions found and their interpersonal meanings.

C. Result and Discussion

Table 3.1 Unmarked Realization of Speech Functions in "Blue" by Yung Kai

No.	Speech Function	Unmarked Mood	Realization Clause
1.	Statement	Declarative	Your morning eyes, i could stare like watching stars.
2.	Statement	Declarative	My love will always stay by you
3.	statement	Declarative	I'll trust the universe will always bring me to you
4.	Question	Interrogative	Would you mind if i took your hand tonight?
5.	Question	Interrogative	Will you be forever?
6.	Offer	Declarative	I'll keep it safe so don't you worry a thing.
7.	Offer	Declarative	I'll live my heart with your air
8.	Command	Imperative	So let me fly with you
9.	Statement	Declarative	I feel your soul ven in silence.
10.	Statement	Declarative	I carry your smile through the rain.
11.	Statement	Declarative	Love still echoes through the dark.

The lyrics in Yung Kai's "Blue" were analyzed using Halliday's framework of speech functions and Mood. The findings highlight how language is intentionally used to express deep feelings and to build a sense of connection with the listener. The analysis focused on identifying different types of speech functions and how they were realized in the lyrics through unmarked Moods.

1. Statements (Declarative Mood)

Most of the lines in the song take the form of statements, which are realized through the declarative Mood. These statements reflect the speaker's emotional state, inner beliefs, and personal experiences. Examples include:

- a) Your morning eyes, I could stare like watching stars
- b) My love will always stay by you
- c) I'll trust the universe will always bring me to you
- d) I feel your soul even in silence
- e) I carry your smile through the rain

f) Love still echoes through the dark

These lines convey sincerity and emotional intimacy. By using declarative sentences, the songwriter communicates devotion and emotional constancy. For instance, "My love will always stay by you" expresses a strong promise of loyalty, while "Love still echoes through the dark" implies that love persists even through hard times. Such expressions not only reveal the songwriter's inner world but also resonate with the listener's emotions.

2. Questions (Interrogative Mood)

A few lines in the lyrics are realized through interrogative Mood, functioning as questions. These lines reveal uncertainty and seek emotional reassurance:

- a) Would you mind if I took your hand tonight?
- b) Will you be forever with me?

Rather than asking for literal answers, these questions imply emotional vulnerability and a desire for closeness.

They invite the imagined listener to emotionally engage with the speaker, emphasizing the theme of longing.

3. Offers (Declarative Mood)

Offers in the song are framed as declarative clauses, showing the speaker's intention to comfort or give something meaningful:

a) I'll keep it safe so don't you worry a thing

b) I'll leave my heart with your air

Such lines show a willingness to care and protect. The tone is soft and affectionate, suggesting that the speaker wants to be a source of peace and security for the other person. These offers strengthen the emotional connection between speaker and listener.

4. Commands (Imperative Mood)

There is also one command, realized through imperative Mood, but its tone is gentle and filled with emotional depth:

a) So let me fly with you

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

This study has analyzed the speech functions found in the lyrics of "Blue" by Yung Kai using Halliday's theory of speech function and Mood. The analysis revealed that the dominant speech function used in the song is the statement, which is realized through declarative Mood. These statements reflect emotional expression, devotion, and romantic imagination. The use of interrogative clauses as questions emphasizes emotional vulnerability and the desire for confirmation, while offers in declarative form convey emotional reassurance and care. Additionally, the imperative clause serves as a soft command to express longing and closeness.

The findings demonstrated that the song "Blue" did not merely serve as entertainment but also functions as a medium for interpersonal communication and emotional expression. Through the use

E. References

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Rather than issuing an order, this line functions more like a heartfelt plea. It reflects a wish to be close emotionally and spiritually. The use of the imperative here feels poetic and longing, rather than forceful or demanding.

Taken together, the various speech functions in "Blue" show how the songwriter mixes expressions of feeling, questions, promises, and requests to form a tender and intimate lyrical narrative. The frequent use of declarative Mood reflects a need to affirm feelings, while the presence of interrogatives, offers, and a soft command brings interpersonal warmth and engagement.

In conclusion, Yung Kai's "Blue" demonstrated that emotionally subtle lyrics can still carry rich interactional meaning. Through simple yet evocative language, the song creates a strong sense of emotional presence and interpersonal closeness, highlighting the power of language in expressing love and connection

of speech functions, the songwriter creates an emotional dialogue that resonates with listeners, particularly those experiencing similar feelings of love, hope, or uncertainty.

For future researchers, it is suggested to apply similar analysis to other emotionally driven or indie/lo-fi songs in order to examine how speech functions vary across genres and themes. Additionally, comparative studies can be conducted between romantic and political songs to explore how different purposes affect the use of speech functions. Educators may also use emotionally expressive songs like "Blue" as learning materials to introduce students to interpersonal meanings in language and how songs can reflect linguistic functions in real-life communication

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