



Interpreting Romantic Themes in Counting Crows' *Accidentally in Love*

Nur Fitriani, Hasnirah Hasnirah, Fitriyani Bakri*

Universitas Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: fitriyanibakri@unm.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Received: 2024-05-15 Revised: 2024-06-07 Accepted: 2024-06-09</p> <p>Keywords: Accidentally in Love; Meaning of Love; Roland Barthes; Romantic Theme</p>	<p>This research aims to interpret romantic themes in Counting Crows' <i>Accidentally in Love</i> by revealing the meaning of love in the lyrics of the song. It employs a descriptive qualitative research design to identify and interpret the meaning of the song. The primary data of this research was obtained from Counting Crows' <i>Accidentally in Love</i> and secondary data from internet webs, journal articles, textbooks, and other online resources. The data was analyzed by using Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis which consists of six steps: (a) familiarizing with the data; (b) generating initial codes; (c) searching for themes; (d) reviewing themes; (e) defining and naming themes; and (f) producing the report. The data was also interpreted by using Roland Barthes' semiotic concept: denotation, connotation, and myth. The result of the research reveals that the song describes the author's feeling of being in accidental love when he does not know anything about love before. His feelings and experiences are associated with falling in love unexpectedly, including chaos, happiness, uncertainty, courage, hope, and magic. The meaning of his love in this song is an experience that is unexpected, full of excitement, and sometimes chaotic, but also provides deep meaning and happiness.</p>

Citation (APA): Fitriani, N., Hasnirah, H., & Bakri, F. (2024). Interpreting Romantic Themes in Counting Crows' *Accidentally in Love*. *Innovations in Language Education and Literature*, 1(1), 20-29.

INTRODUCTION

Language is an arbitrary symbol system used by members of a social group to collaborate, communicate, and establish identity. Language plays a crucial role in human interaction and socialization, allowing individuals to express themselves, convey information, and establish their sense of identity within a community (Mughtar et al., 2023). Language is a tool that humans use to communicate and interact with each other. Signs and symbols are fundamental elements of language. They carry meaning and allow individuals to convey messages, exchange information, and express thoughts and emotions. Language is a crucial tool for human communication and social interaction. Language is an essential communication tool that enables individuals to convey their thoughts, emotions, and ideas (Cao & Liu, 2020). It supports the exchange of information and knowledge, enhancing social interaction and collaboration. Furthermore, language is pivotal in the development of identity and culture, allowing individuals to articulate their unique perspectives and understand diverse worldviews.

Language is one significant domain in which semiotics is relevant. Language has been defined to be an intricate system of signs. A language's grammatical structure and vocabulary combine to form signals that have meanings. Form, expression, and meaning are the three components that makeup language, which is a social semiotic (Saragih, 2018). Understanding linguistic signs—words, phrases, and sentences—that are used to express ideas and concepts in literary works is aided by semiotics. It entails examining how language signs are used to create meaning as well as how social, cultural, and historical settings affect how meaning is understood.

Furthermore, as components of a sophisticated communication system, body language, intonation, and facial expressions are all included in the semiotics of language. A group of intellectuals, notably Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Peirce, collaborated to establish semiotic theory. For instance, Saussure made a distinction between signs made up of contemporaneous elements (Cobley and Jansz, 2012) while Peirce



created theories regarding three different kinds of signs: iconic, indexical, and symbolic (Chandler, 2007). According to Pierce, semiotics is the study of signs and all that is associated with them, including their usage, relationships with other signs, transmission, and reception by users (Mariana et al., 2024).

In semiotics, the study of signs, whether signifier or signified, refers to the exploration of how the sign might produce meaning and the sign is the only thing taken into consideration (Sulistiawati et al., 2024). Many disciplines, including linguistics, literature, art, pop culture, and even computer science, use semiotics. It aids in our comprehension of how meaning is expressed, formed, and altered depending on the situation. Semiotics helps us understand how we communicate and what others are saying, not through the use of words but rather through the use of other objects around us (Idris & Hasbi, 2024).

Language can be expressed through various types of works, such as poetry, rhymes, rhymes, theater, and songs, as well as other works of art. One form of language expression that is very popular in society is through songs. Songs are containers that facilitate literary works to be enjoyed by listeners. In song lyrics, there are special characteristics that distinguish them from rhymes, because the ideas expressed through song lyrics are supported by certain melodies and rhythms that create an atmosphere that matches the song being sung. The musical elements in the song strengthen the meaning of each lyric and give a distinctive feel to the song.

Songs are artistic creations in the form of musical compositions, conveying the creator's thoughts and emotions through musical components like rhythm, melody, harmony, song structure, and overall expression (Amerta et al., 2020). Songs are artistic works that possess a high level of beauty. In every song lyric, there is a lesson that the writer wants to share with the listeners, giving them a special impression. The lyrics in songs are usually based on the personal experience of the creator. Therefore, songs are present as a medium for someone to convey feelings, messages, and meanings contained in the song. Song lyrics are often conveyed explicitly or implicitly. Most songwriters write lyrics using language that is easy to understand so that it is easily remembered and liked by fans. The implied lyrics are conveyed in the form of beautiful words commonly referred to as figurative language to add to the impression of aesthetics in conveying the meaning of the song. Everything depends on the creator and the tastes of the listeners. One song that has a deep meaning is the song "*Accidentally in Love*" by Counting Crows.

Counting Crows is an American rock band that formed in 1991 in Berkeley, California. Despite having changing members over the years, lead vocalist and band leader, Adam Duritz, has been a constant throughout the group's history. Adam Duritz was born on August 1, 1964, in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up in a suburban area of Boston, Massachusetts. Duritz had a strong interest in music since his childhood, and his interest in music became increasingly serious while he was studying at the University of Berkeley, California. After moving to California in the early 1990s, Duritz met the other members who eventually formed Counting Crows. In addition to their huge success, they also captured the attention of audiences by uncompromisingly exploring difficult emotions (Raja, 2023).

In 1993, Counting Crows released their highly successful debut album, "*August*" and "*Everything After*". With big hits like "*Mr. Jones*", "*Round Here*", and "*Rain King*" dominating rock radio, their influence on alternative rock bands like Matchbox 20 and The Fray is obvious (Raja, 2023). This brought the band to the international stage. Duritz's soaring vocals and soulful lyrics earned him great attention. Over the next few decades, Counting Crows continued to release albums and tour regularly, maintaining their popularity among alternative rock music fans. Albums such as "*Recovering the Satellites*" (1996), "*This Desert Life*" (1999), and "*Hard Candy*" (2002) continued to cement the band's reputation. Adam Duritz, as the lead vocalist, is also known for his involvement in musical projects outside Counting Crows, as well as collaborations with other artists in the music industry. He has written emotionally charged songs that have caught the attention of many and is often regarded as one of the best lyricists in his genre of music. Over the years, Counting Crows has become one of the most respected and beloved alternative rock bands in the world, with Adam Duritz remaining a central figure in their long and successful journey.

"*Accidentally in Love*" is a song popularized by Counting Crows. "*Accidentally in Love*" has been released since 2004 along with the movie. It became one of Counting Crows' most famous songs and received much recognition for its success in the popular movie soundtrack and was nominated in four categories at four award shows, one of which was the Grammy Award (Rahmia, 2022). The lyrics of the song describe the feeling of falling in love accidentally and without a plan. While it may be unwanted at first, the feeling develops into something deep and meaningful for the offender. The song has an upbeat melody and an energetic rhythm, matching the feeling of happiness and fun portrayed in the movie *Shrek 2*.

The phenomenon that encourages us to examine the Semiotic Analysis of the Meaning of Love in the Lyrics of the Song “*Accidentally in Love*” by Counting Crows is because the song has become one of the iconic soundtracks in the animated film *Shrek 2* and gained wide popularity among pop music listeners. In addition, the theme of love raised in this song offers a very interesting opportunity to analyze the semiotic meanings contained in it. Through this study, we hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of how the concept of love is expressed and transmitted through language in the context of pop music, as well as enriching semiotic studies in the analysis of song lyrics.

This research utilizes several previous studies as examples and references. The first study by Dianiya (2020) entitled “Representation of Social Class in Film (semiotic Analysis of Roland Barthes Film *Parasite*)”, explores the portrayal of social class in the film “*Parasite*” through Roland Barthes’ semiotic analysis. They examine various elements like words, images, sounds, movements, and objects, interpreting them based on connotation, denotation, and myth within scenes from the movie.

The second study by Putri & Inayah (2022) investigates “Analisis Semiotika Film *Aladdin* dengan Menggunakan Teori Roland Barthes. They employ a descriptive qualitative approach, gathering data from scenes and the script of the 2019 movie. Through observation and categorization, they identify signs such as denotation, connotation, and myth, discovering 38 types and meanings of semiotics according to Roland Barthes.

Lastly, Siregar (2022) entitled “Semiotics Analysis in The Betawi Traditional Wedding” *Palang Pintu*”: The Study of Semiotics Roland Barthes.” conducts a semiotic analysis of the Betawi traditional wedding ritual known as “*Palang Pintu*.” Their research aims to decipher the meanings embedded within this ritual. The analysis reveals denotative meanings related to the literal process of the ritual, connotative meanings concerning Islamic teachings and family ties, and mythical meanings concerning Betawi community principles like reading, prayer, and silat.

The previous study’s similarity with this research is that both discuss semiotic analysis using Roland Barthes’ theory. However, the focus of this study is to analyze the meaning of love contained in the song. Therefore, to achieve this, researchers used Roland Barthes’ theory to analyze the meaning of love contained in the song *Accidentally in Love* by Counting Crows.

According to Sausure, quoted by Sobur in his book *Semiotics of Communication* (Sitompul et al., 2021), Semiotics or semiology is a science that examines the life of signs in society. The meaning of an object is not only based on information but also focuses on signs to interpret the object. This is what makes a message often interpreted differently by society. Based on the explanation above, the problem formulation that will be discussed in this research is what the meaning of love is contained in the song “*Accidentally in Love*” by Counting Crows.

METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design. It focuses on illustrating the meaning of love, explaining, clarifying, and contextualizing data, and frequently presenting findings in a narrative rather than numerical form. The primary data source in this research is the lyrics of the song entitled “*Accidentally in Love*” by Counting Crows. This song was chosen because the lyrics are rich in the meaning of love, making it suitable to be analyzed using a semiotic approach. This research is supported by several secondary data sources which include books, personal sources, journals, websites, etc. This secondary data helps to define and develop the problem, and can sometimes lead to solutions to existing problems, in addition to the information obtained through primary data.

Procedures of Data Collection

Data collection in a study is needed to answer research problems. Good data collection procedures will get quality data. There are several procedures carried out in the data collection process. Data collection can be done by going directly to the field such as interviews, or by making observations. In this study, we used a qualitative research method whose explanation was in the form of descriptive sentences. Therefore, three steps were used as a data collection procedure: (a) Listening: It is the initial stage in the data collection process where we listen carefully to the relevant data sources. This careful listening is important to understand the context and details of the information to be collected; (b) Transcription (Note Taking): After listening, then we transcribe or make notes of the information heard. This transcription process may include taking notes on

the conversation, summarizing, or outlining key ideas that emerged during the listening session; and (c) Marking: The next step is to mark or highlight important parts of the transcription or notes that have been made. This helps us to identify patterns, themes, or key elements that are relevant for further analysis.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis technique in this research employs thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within qualitative data (Maguire & Delahunt, 2017). “It minimally organizes and describes your data set in (rich) detail. The range of different possible thematic analyses will further be highlighted concerning several decisions regarding it as a method” and “it provides core skills that will be useful for conducting many other kinds of analysis” (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

There are six steps to be conducted in doing Braun & Clarke’s thematic analysis, they are:

1. Becoming familiar with the data: Gaining a thorough understanding of the data is the first step in the theme analysis process. This entails carefully reading or listening to the data, including field notes, interview transcripts, and other data
2. Generating codes: After getting to know the data, we start to pinpoint important informational units and assign labels or codes to each one. These codes can be words, phrases, or ideas that represent particular themes or meanings that show up in the data.
3. Generating themes: Following data coding, the investigator starts classifying the codes into more comprehensive themes or groups. This entails finding patterns or collections of linked codes and organizing them into themes that correspond to the problems or ideas that surfaced in the data.
4. Review themes: In this phase, the created themes are examined to make sure they make sense and are appropriate for the data. We might think about whether any more topics should be included or whether some already existing themes should be split up or integrated into new, more focused themes.
5. Defining and naming themes: Following the evaluation of the themes, we give each theme a suitable name and a precise definition. This makes each theme's meaning and scope clearer and makes discussing the analysis' findings easier.
6. Producing report: Usually, the endpoint of research is some kind of report, often a journal article or dissertation. Writing up a thematic analysis, whether it is for publication a research assignment, or a dissertation, is to tell the complicated story of our data in a way that convinces the reader of the merit and validity of our analysis.

Through this method, the research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how the meaning of love is expressed in the lyrics of the song *Accidentally in Love* by Counting Crows, as well as how the lyrics can inspire and influence listeners.

FINDINGS

This research uses the lyrics of the song “Accidentally in Love” by Counting Crows as the object of this research using semiotic analysis of Roland Barthes' theory to examine the meaning of denotation, connotation, and myth. So that the meaning of love contained in the song can be known by the public at large and become a place of knowledge or a source of reference for future research.

Denotation

We used Roland Barthes' theory in analyzing the song to determine the denotation meaning contained in it. According to Barthes cited in Rifa (2018), denotation is the first level of meaning or simple meaning. It refers to the relationship of a sign with its reference; signifier and signified. Based on this opinion, denotation is defined as giving meaning based on what is stated and captured by sensory perception in the form of signs or texts. Signifier and signified can be interpreted as the relationship between the sign and the object that defines external reality. Denotation is also commonly referred to as the dictionary meaning of an object's term.

There are several words or phrases contained in the lyrics of the song “Accidentally in Love” so the denotation meaning must be known so that there is no confusion. For example, the phrases “accidentally in love”, “think about it every time”, and “I don't know”. The denotation meaning of the phrase “accidentally in love” shows a situation where someone accidentally falls in love with someone. Then the phrase “think about it every time” shows the state of someone who thinks about something every time. The denotation meaning of the phrase “I don't know” shows the state of someone who doesn't know anything about something.

Connotation

Barthes defines connotation as the second level of signification consisting of signifier and signified (Allen, 2003). It is also defined as meaning beyond the obvious denotation. Connotation meaning is subjective or beyond the meaning itself. The connotation meaning in the lyrics of the song "Accidentally in Love" is analyzed based on the phrases that make up the lyrics of the song. The connotation of the lyrics summarizes the feelings and experiences associated with falling in love unexpectedly, including chaos, happiness, uncertainty, courage, hope, and wonder. All the phrases in the lyrics of this song contain connotations that show or express a man's fascination with a girl where the situation occurs suddenly or unexpectedly. There is courage and hope expected by the man by showing his great love for the girl he wants.

Myth

Myth is something that is believed by people in a certain group that is associated with natural reality or a real thing in the form of speech, although the truth cannot be proven. Barthes himself considers that myths are popular beliefs. The meaning of love in this song is about an experience that is unexpected, full of joy, and sometimes chaotic, but also gives deep meaning and happiness to the author as the person who experiences it.

Table 1. The Meaning of Lyrics of the Song

So she said, "What's the problem, baby?" What's the problem? I don't know Well, maybe I'm in love (love) Think about it every time I think about it Can't stop thinking 'bout it		
Denotation	Connotation	Myth
"So she said, 'What's the problem, baby?': A woman asks a man what the problem is. 'What's the problem? I don't know': The man doesn't know what the problem is. 'Well, maybe I'm in love': The man surmises that maybe he's in love. Think about it every time I think about it Can't stop thinking 'bout it: and keep thinking about it.	Expressing emotional confusion about what is happening to the speaker.	Love always comes without being planned, the feeling of love comes suddenly without being able to predict when and how it can arise. Then, when we are in love, we think about them all the time.
How much longer will it take to cure this? Just to cure it 'cause I can't ignore it if it's love (love) Makes me wanna turn around and face me But I don't know nothing 'bout love, oh		
Denotation	Connotation	Myth
"How much longer will it take to cure this?": the man asks how much longer it will take to cure or overcome this feeling. "Just to cure it 'cause I can't ignore it if it's love": He wants to cure the feeling because he can't ignore it if it's love. "Makes me wanna turn around and face me": The feeling makes her want to turn around and face herself. "But I don't know nothing 'bout love, oh": However, she admits that she knows nothing about love.	It shows that love can feel like a disease that needs to be overcome, has a power that cannot be ignored, encourages introspection, and reflects ignorance and vulnerability.	Falling in love is one of those feelings that often makes us feel confused (Rohmitriasih, 2022). When in the phase of falling in love, we will be confused to deal with it. The question "what should I do" will arise because usually people who are in love will be confused about whether to keep it or express it.

Come on, come on Turn a little faster Come on, come on The world will follow after Come on, come on
Because everybody's after love

"Come on, come on": encouragement to act or move. "Turn a little faster": Instruction to move faster. "The world will follow after": A statement that the world will follow after. "Because everybody's after love": A statement that everyone is looking for love.

It shows the passion, the universal influence of love, and the need to quicken the pace in the pursuit of love.

The feeling of falling in love increases one's level of excitement or euphoria. People who are in love will be more excited about their activities especially when they are with the person they love. The presence of a loved one can make a person's adrenaline explode and this is what makes that person always excited about living the day (Alsabrina, 2019).

So I said, I'm a snowball running Running down into the spring that's coming, all this love Melting under blue skies Belting out sunlight Shimmering love

"So I said, I'm a snowball running": The character describes himself as a running snowball. "Running down into the spring that's coming, all this love": The snowball is moving towards the spring that's coming, where love fills the air. "Melting under blue skies": Snowballs melting under blue skies. "Belting out sunlight": Shouting out the sunlight. "Shimmering love": Shimmering love.

It shows optimism, cheerfulness, warmth, and beauty associated with love.

Falling in love often makes a person change. This is because someone in love is often willing to do anything to be with the person they love. Someone who is in love is driven to do things that can attract the attention of the person they love.

Well, baby, I surrender To the strawberry ice cream Never ever end of all this love Well, I didn't mean to do it But there's no escaping your love, oh These lines of lightning mean We're never alone Never alone, no, no

"Well, baby, I surrender": The character's admission that he/she surrenders. "To the strawberry ice cream": A metaphorical depiction of love as strawberry ice cream. "Never ever end of all this love": Emphasizing that this love will never end. "Well, I didn't mean to do it": Affirmation that the character did not mean to love. "But there's no escaping your love, oh": The inability to escape the love felt. "These lines of lightning mean": A metaphorical depiction of lines of lightning as a symbol of strength or bonding. "We're never alone Never alone, no, no": An affirmation that they are never alone in this love.

This piece interprets "strawberry ice cream" as a symbol of simple pleasure and happiness brought by love. "Lines of lightning" can represent a strong emotional bond.

Love has a noble nature and, in essence, eliminates hate and evil by nature. Love is simple and beautiful. Someone who is in love, will accept the person they love for who they are and cherish them. In a relationship, good love is one-way love, where there is a reciprocal relationship between the giver and receiver. Plato and Paul Tillich are united in the view that true love will unite humans who have been united by nature so that it is impossible for love to unite something that has basically shown separation (Laksono, 2022).

Come on, come on Move a little closer Come on, come on I wanna hear you whisper Come on, come on
Settle down inside my love, oh

"Come on, come on": An invitation to come closer. "Move a little closer": Instruction to move a little closer. "I wanna hear you whisper": Desire to hear a whisper. "Settle down inside my love, oh": A request to get cozy or settle down inside love.

Describing "whisper" and "move a little closer" represents intimacy and the desire for a deeper emotional connection.

Everyone has someone destined to be their partner, who naturally understands and complements them. When we find our life partner, we feel like we are approaching home or finding a place that really suits us. Being with him or her makes us feel peaceful and comfortable. A feeling that we naturally align and understand each other, even when we are just getting to know each other. The point is that there is someone out there who is naturally compatible with us, and when we find them, we feel like we are coming home.

Come on, come on Jump a little higher Come on, come on If you feel a little lighter Come on, come on We
were once upon a time in love We're accidentally in love

"Come on, come on": An invitation to do something. "Jump a little higher": Instruction to jump higher than usual. "If you feel a little lighter": If you feel a little lighter. "We were once upon a time in love": We were once upon a time in love. "We're accidentally in love": We're accidentally in love.

"jump a little higher" and "feel a little lighter" represent the happiness and joy that comes with love.

Some people are destined to fall in love with each other, even before they meet or for no apparent reason. It is often thought of as something romantic and beautiful, where two like-minded people unexpectedly find each other. Love often comes to us without us planning or looking for it. When we meet someone and feel a strong connection with them, sometimes it happens suddenly and without us realizing it. It's like jumping higher or feeling lighter, as expressed in the lyrics, because love gives us added vigor and joy.

Accidentally in love Accidentally in love Accidentally in love Accidentally in love Accidentally I'm in
love, I'm in love I'm in love, I'm in love I'm in love, I'm in love Accidentally

"Accidentally in love": Denotatively, this phrase directly implies that love happens accidentally or without a plan. It describes a condition where one finds themselves in love without foreseeing it. "I'm in love": This is a direct statement that the character feels in love. The denotation is that the character consciously realizes and acknowledges the feelings of love they feel.

This repetition as a symbolic code, emphasizes the song's main theme of love coming unexpectedly and spontaneously.

People say that love is a beautiful accident. Love can help improve our mental health (Sitanggang, 2024). Love makes us more energized for the day. Therefore, love is referred to as a beautiful accident because of its unexpected arrival either to whom or where and when it happens.

Come on, come on Spin a little tighter Come on, come on And the world's a little brighter Come on, come on Just get yourself inside her Love I'm in love

"Come on, come on": A call to action or movement. "Spin a little tighter": Instructions to spin or embrace tighter. "And the world's a little brighter": A statement that the world feels brighter or more beautiful. "Just get yourself inside her": An invitation to feel close or one with your partner. "Love I'm in love": A statement that the character is in love.	Emphasizes the power of love to change one's perception of the world. "Spin a little tighter" and "world's a little brighter" depict love as the center of happiness and the warmth of life.	Falling in love makes the hormone cortisol (stress hormone) in the body drop dramatically so that people do not develop depression that can make them have suicidal thoughts and feel they have no reason to live (2021). The feeling of being in love makes one's life feel more colorful because they have a reason to live.
--	--	--

DISCUSSION

Through the table above, there is an explanation of the meaning of love from the lyrics of "*Accidentally in Love*" by Counting Crows based on the denotation, connotation, and myth contained in it. The lyrics describe a complex emotional journey in the experience of falling in love. The meaning of love in the song "*Accidentally in Love*" describes love as something that cannot be explained logically but involves a strong emotional drive and brings unexpected happiness.

In this research, we compare the findings of previous studies with the results we get in the research of Analyzing the Meaning of Love in the Lyrics of the Song "*Accidentally in Love*" by Counting Crows. Previous research such as Dianiya (2020) examined the movie "Parasite" by applying Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis to understand the representation of social class in the movie. Through this analysis, signs such as words, images, sounds, movements, and objects are analyzed based on the connotations, denotations, and myths contained in each scene of the film. Furthermore, Putri & Inayah (2022) chose the movie "Aladdin" (2019) as the object of their research, using a qualitative descriptive method to identify 38 types and semiotic meanings based on Roland Barthes' theory. The research highlights the denotative, connotative, and mythical meanings in the movie's scenes and scripts. Finally, Siregar (2022) analyzed the meaning of the "*Palang Pintu*" procession in a traditional Betawi wedding with Roland Barthes' semiotic approach. The results showed that "*Palang Pintu*" has a denotative meaning that explains the literal process and trial stage for the bride and groom, a connotative meaning that reflects Islamic teachings and family values, and a mythical meaning that describes the principles of Betawi society.

The three studies presented in the semiotic analysis of films and cultural traditions use Roland Barthes' semiotic theory approach, while the analysis of the lyrics of the song "*Accidentally in Love*" uses the lyric text as the object of analysis. Nonetheless, all of these analyses aim to reveal the hidden meanings in the analyzed objects, be it films, cultural traditions, or song lyrics. The analysis in the table above focuses more on revealing emotions and feelings in the context of falling in love, while previous studies have focused more on revealing cultural and social meanings in works of art and traditions.

The song "*Accidentally in Love*" by Counting Crows presents a complex emotional journey within the experience of falling in love. Through lyric analysis, we can see how the song stitches together the literal meanings of every word and phrase, such as in direct conversations like "*So she said, 'What's the problem, baby?'*" revealing an awareness of the feelings of love. However, beneath these words lie deeper emotional and psychological nuances, like in phrases such as "*Think about it every time I think about it,*" reflecting confusion and introspection in love. Moreover, the song refers to mythological elements portraying love as a sudden and unexpected force, as reflected in the phrase "*accidentally in love,*" highlighting the existence of love without planning or anticipation. Thus, "*Accidentally in Love*" is not just a song about falling in love but also a deep exploration of the emotional, psychological, and even philosophical dynamics of the human experience of love.

CONCLUSIONS

A song is a creative work of art in the form of a musical creation that expresses the thoughts and feelings of its creator through musical elements such as rhyme, melody, harmonies, song composition, and expression.

Song lyrics are usually written based on the creator's personal experience, which is a form of emotional overflow used to convey messages and feelings. Songwriters often use easy-to-understand language to be liked by listeners and sometimes use figurative language to add an aesthetic impression. It all depends on the creator and the taste of the listener.

Through semiotic analysis using Roland Barthes' theory, this research has revealed the meaning of love contained in the lyrics of the song “*Accidentally in Love*” by Counting Crows. Using qualitative research methods, the analyzed results reveal that the overall denotation meaning in the song is the author's feeling of being in love but suddenly even though the author does not know anything about love. Until then the feeling is expressed with courage. The connotation meaning of the song's lyrics describes the encapsulation of feelings and experiences associated with falling in love unexpectedly, including chaos, happiness, uncertainty, courage, hope, and wonder. All the phrases in the lyrics of this song contain connotations that show or express a guy's attraction to a girl where the situation happens suddenly or unexpectedly. There is courage and hope expected by the man by showing his great love for the girl he wants. Although there are no ancient myths in the lyrics of this song, the concept refers to love and courage. The meaning of love in this song is about an experience that is unexpected, full of joy, and sometimes chaotic, but also provides deep meaning and happiness for the author as the person who experienced it. After conducting research, we discovered the meaning of love embodied in the song “*Accidentally in Love*”. In the context of this song, love is revealed as something unexpected but full of happiness and satisfaction.

REFERENCES

- Allen, Graham. 2003. *Roland Barthes*. London: Routledge.
- Alsabrina (2019, 12 Oktober). Dari Semangat Hingga Senang Berfantasi, Ini 5 Tanda Kita Jatuh Cinta. Diakses pada 20 Mei 2024, <https://nova.grid.id/read/051880731/dari-semangat-hingga-senang-berfantasi-ini-5-tanda-kita-jatuh-cinta?page=all>.
- Amerta, Septria Niko, Yensharti, & Ardipal. (2020). KITA BERSAMA. *Journal Sendratasik*, 3 (2). <https://doi.org/10.24036/jsu.v2i2.3120>
- Cao, X., & Liu, L. (2020). Analysis of President Xi's Speech at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit in light of Systemic Functional Grammar. *English Literature and Language Review*, 6(8), 157–162. <https://ideas.repec.org/a/arp/ellrar/2020p157-162.html>
- Chandler, Daniel. 2007. *Semiotics: The Basics*. London: Routledge.
- Cobley, Paul and Jansz, Litza. 2012. *Introducing Semiotics: A Graphic Guide*. London: Icon Books, Ltd.
- Dianiya, V. (2020). Representation of social class in film (semiotic analysis of Roland Barthes film parasite). *Profetik: Jurnal Komunikasi*, 13(2), 212-224.
- Idris, Ardia and Hasbi, M. 2024. Analysis of the Main Character Costumes in ‘Enola Holmes’ Movie using CS Peirce’s Theory. *Global English Insights Journal*, 1 (2), 55-65. DOI: [10.61220/glens.v1i2.365](https://doi.org/10.61220/glens.v1i2.365)
- Irnanningrat, S. N. S. (2017). Peran kemajuan teknologi dalam pertunjukan musik. *Invensi*, 2(1), 1-8.
- Kirana, F., A. (2021, 27 September). Bukan Hanya Bahagia, Jatuh Cinta Juga Membuatmu Punya Motivasi Hidup. Diakses pada 20 Mei 2024, <https://www.fimela.com/lifestyle/read/4110833/bukan-hanya-bahagia-jatuh-cinta-juga-membuatmu-punya-motivasi-hidup?page=2>.
- Kusumawati, Henny., Nuryati Tri Rahayu., Dwi Fitriana. (2019). Analisis Semiotika Model Roland Barthes pada Makna Lagu “Rembulan” Karya Ipha Hadi Sasono. *Jurnal Klitika*, 1(2), 105-116.
- Laksono, A. T. (2022). Memahami Hakikat Cinta pada Hubungan Manusia: Berdasarkan Perbandingan Sudut Pandang Filsafat Cinta dan Psikologi Robert Sternberg. *JAQFI: Jurnal Aqidah Dan Filsafat Islam*, 7(1), 104-116.
- Mariana, Rina, Putri, M. N & Hasbi, Muh. Semiotic Analysis of the Cover of the Novel *House of Hunger* by Alexis Anderson. *Journal of English Literature and Linguistic Studies*, 2 (2), 121-132. <https://ojs.unm.ac.id/jell/article/view/61871>

- Muchtar, J., Sahib, H., & Rahman, F. (2023b). The Refusal Catcalling Strategy by Women in Makassar: Semiotics Analysis. *International Journal of Current Science Research and Review*, 06(05). <https://doi.org/10.47191/ijcsrr/v6-i5-32>
- Putri, A. F., & Inayah, A. (2022). A Semiotic Analysis of Aladdin Movie by Using Roland Barthes Theory. In *LUNAR* (Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 376-386).
- Puspito, I. D. (2022). ANALISIS SEMIOTIKA DALAM FILM ASSALAMUALAIKUM BEIJING. *Tabayyun*, 3(1), 80-90.
- Rahmia, N. H. (2022, 7 Oktober). Terjemahan Lirik Lagu Accidentally in Love (Shrek 2) - Counting Crows. Diakses pada 19 Mei 2024, <https://www.sonora.id/read/423514204/terjemahan-lirik-lagu-accidentally-in-love-shrek-2-counting-crows>
- Raja, P. (2023, 1). Best Counting Crows Songs: Bruised Singalongs for the Brokenhearted. Diakses pada 19 Mei 2024, <https://www.udiscovermusic.com/stories/best-counting-crows-songs-feature/>
- Rifa, N. (2018). Roland Barthes' denotation, connotation and myth in the change of four Starbucks Logo: A study of Semiotics (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Darma Persada).
- Rohmitriasih, M. (2022, 10 Nov). 8 Tanda Kamu Sedang Jatuh Cinta, Tak Perlu Malu untuk Mengakuinya. Diakses pada 20 Mei 2024, <https://www.fimela.com/relationship/read/5121840/8-tanda-kamu-sedang-jatuh-cinta-tak-perlu-malu-untuk-mengakuinya?page=2>.
- Saragih, A. (2018). Bahasa sebagai Semiotik Sosial dan Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. *MEDAN MAKNA: Jurnal Ilmu Kebahasaan dan Kesastraan*, 4(1).
- Siregar, I. (2022). Semiotics Analysis in The Betawi Traditional Wedding" Palang Pintu": The Study of Semiotics Roland Barthes. *International Journal of Linguistics Studies*, 2(1), 01-07.
- Sitanggang, A. (2024, 04 April). Ternyata Cinta Memiliki Dampak Bagi Kesehatan Tubuh. Diakses pada 25 Mei 2024, <https://www.rri.co.id/index.php/kesehatan/622401/ternyata-cinta-memiliki-dampak-bagi-kesehatan-tubuh#:~:text=Salah%20satu%20manfaat%20cinta%2C%20adalah,merasa%20sangat%20bahagia%20dan%20bersemangat>.
- Sitompul, A. L., Patriansyah, M., & Pangestu, R. (2021). Analisis Poster Video Klip Lathi: Kajian Semiotika Ferdinand De Saussure. *Besaung: Jurnal Seni Desain dan Budaya*, 6(1).
- Sugiyono. (2017). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: PT Alfabet.
- Sulistiawati, Hikmah, Nur, & Hasbi, M. 2024. Unveiling Wordsworth's Daffodils: A Semiotic Tapestry of Signs and Symbols. *Global English Insights Journal*, 1 (2), 76-88. DOI: [10.61220/glens.v1i2.370](https://doi.org/10.61220/glens.v1i2.370)
- Sobur, Alex. (2006). *Analisis Teks Wacana: Suatu Pengantar Untuk Analisis Wacana, Analisis Semiotik, dan Analisis Framing*. Bandung: PT Remaja Yosdakarya.
- Wanadriani, R. (2024, 4 Maret). Pahami 9 Tanda Kamu Sedang Jatuh Cinta dengan Seseorang Menurut Psikolog, Auto Senyum! Diakses pada 20 Mei 2024, <https://www.jawapos.com/lifestyle/014403301/pahami-9-tanda-kamu-sedang-jatuh-cinta-dengan-seseorang-menurut-psikolog-auto-senyum?page=2>.