

# Natural Resources for The Nation's Prosperity (A Semiotic Study of the Song "Indonesia" by Rhoma Irama)

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this study is to describe the meaning contained in the song "Indonesia" by Rhoma Irama in relation to the use of natural resources for Indonesian's prosperity. This song is considerably popular during the New Order era as the author critics to the problem happened in his country. The circumstance captured on the song "Indonesia" is still relevant to the current state of the nation. To reveal the implied meaning from the song, researchers using a semiotic approach for poetry. Data collection is done through literature study with listening and note-taking techniques. After the data has been gathered, it is analyzed using a semiotic approach initiated by Michael Riffatere. The results of the analysis show that the government has to manage the wealth of Indonesia's natural resources properly, not only for certain individuals but also the others. It is because the author believes that Indonesia's natural resources can hugely support the nation, both people and the country, if it is managed properly by the government.

## 1 Introduction

One of the most prolific songwriters and a legendary singer is Rhoma Irama. He is not only proficient as a legendary songwriter and singer, but he is also known as an intelligent musician who is very good at concocting various musical instruments and musical genres. He is also known as an actor, preacher, politician, entrepreneur, and even a creative industry entrepreneur. Because he has various talents in the arts, Muzakka [1] calls him a multitalented artist. Productivity in the arts, Muzakka recorded more than 1000 song titles, more than 29 film titles, and several soap operas titles from the 1970s to the present [2]. Research on songs by Rhoma Irama is mostly carried out by researchers at home and abroad, in the form of scientific articles, research reports, reference books and monographs, to academic works such as theses and theses. In the form of a research book on Rhoma Irama and his work, it can be seen in the titles of the books *Dangdut: Music, Identity, and Indonesian Culture* by Andrew N Weintraub [3], *Rhoma Irama: Politics of Da'wah in Nada* by Moh. Shofan [4], *The King*

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of Dangdut in the Works: Style, Aesthetics, Ideology, and Politics by Moh. Muzakka [1], and Style in Song Lyrics by Rhoma Irama by Mujid Farihul Amin, Moh, Muzakka, and Sri Puji Astuti [6].

In the form of scientific articles and or scientific papers, song lyrics by Rhoma Irama are widely discussed by literary and language observers, both published in scientific journals and in seminar proceedings. In scientific journals, there are several writings by Muzakka [7,8,9] in the NUSA Journal discussing the lyrics of the song Rhoma Irama from aspects of literary sociology, aesthetics, and stylistics. In the scientific proceedings, Rhoma Irama's song lyrics were also discussed at the 2021 ICENIS international seminar. There were four articles discussed in the seminar, namely "Language styles in the song lyrics of "Citra Cinta", 'Sifana', 'Less Salt', and 'Corona'. Virus' by Rhoma Irama" [6], "Language style in the lyric of the song 'Virus Corona', 'Bencana', and 'Suratan' by Rhoma Irama" (Astuti, et.al 2021), "Lyrics of the song "Virus Corona" by Rhoma Irama: Stylistic Studies" [2], and "Illocution Force of Rhoma Irama's Songs "Virus Corona", "Struggles and Prayers" and "Healthy Values" in Public Rise Awareness of Covid 19 Pandemic" [10].

Research on the lyrics of the song "Indonesia" by Rhoma Irama with a semiotic approach has not been carried out by other researchers. However, research on the lyrics of the song using a sociology of literature approach has been carried out by Muzakka. In the article entitled "Social Criticism in the Lyrics of Song 'Indonesia' by Rhoma Irama", Muzakka only reveals aspects of literary criticism that appear in the lyrics of the song. Starting from these facts, this paper will reveal the meaning of the lyrics of the song 'Indonesia' in depth with Riffaterre's semiotic approach.

## 2 Method

All The material object in this research is the lyrics of the song "Indonesia" by Rhoma Irama (1980). The lyrics of the song were chosen as the object of research because the song is an environmental-themed song that contains criticism of the government at that time. Because the formal object is the wealth of natural resources for the prosperity of the nation that appears in the lyrics of the song, the approach used in this research is a semiotic approach.

This research includes library research because in revealing the meaning of song lyrics, field research is not carried out such as observation and interviewing the author. However, the researcher only focused on the study of words, phrases, lines, and stanzas of the song lyrics entitled "Indonesia" by Rhoma Irama. To reveal the deep meaning related to the use of natural resources for the prosperity of the nation, the lyrics of the song will be studied using Riffaterre's [11] semiotic approach. Because this research is pure literature research, the method of data collection is done by reading and taking notes. After the data has been collected in several categories, with reference to Riffaterre's semiotic approach, in analyzing the lyrics of the song, two stages of reading are carried out, namely heuristic and hermeneutic reading.

## 3 Discussion

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 17 targets are very comprehensive and cover all aspects of life. It is related to poverty, health, education, sanitation, energy, economy, industry, settlements, climate change, marine and land ecosystems, and so on. The SDGs target, which is a continuation

### **3.1 Semiotic Analysis of Lyric of the Song “Indonesia”**

Riffatere explained that poetry is like a donut. Something that is textually present is donut meat, while what is not textually present is the empty space in the middle which really determines the meaning of the poem. The empty space is called the hypogram. By Riffatere, the hypogram is divided into two types, namely the actual hypogram (pre-existing texts) and the potential hypogram (which is contained in a socio-cultural sense). According to Riffatere, the absent expression is also the center of meaning called the matrix. The matrix is not present in a text, but the actualization of the matrix can be present in the form of a [3] in the form of certain words, phrases, or core sentences in poetry.

#### *3.1.1 Heuristic Reading*

The lyrics of the song "Indonesia" when read syntactically, it looks like the structure is very organized and the meaning is quite easy and straightforward for the reader to understand. The poet describes this country as overgrown with green plants covering the entire land with a blue sea surrounding it. Indonesia, besides being fertile, is also very rich. The poet assumes that all the wealth of this country can prosper its people. However, the poet even questioned the real conditions that occurred in his country, why the prosperity of the people was not evenly distributed. He saw that some of the rich were getting richer while the poor were getting poorer.

From this situation, he (the poet) suspects that certain groups and limited people only control this country, even though this country does not belong to any particular group and does not belong to individuals. It was here that he warned them not to enrich themselves at will. All the wealth of this country should be for the prosperity of all the people, but why the prosperity of the people is not evenly distributed. Such conditions are always questioned in his heart.

According to the poet, the cause of uneven prosperity is caused by corruption in all bureaucracies. Corruption that occurs in all bureaucracies causes a gap between the rich and the poor. The rich and powerful are getting richer, while the poor are getting poorer. If this corruption is getting stronger then the people's economic equality will not be achieved even though the goal of this nation is to become a prosperous and peaceful country. Seeing such conditions, he shouted at the government to eliminate all corruption that occurred in the entire bureaucracy.

#### *3.1.2 Hermeneutic Reading*

In this hermeneutic reading stage, the writer will look for hypograms, both actual and potential hypograms. Next, the writer will look for the model and the matrix. In order to be more concise and clearer to get a deeper meaning, in the hermeneutic reading of the lyrics of the song "Indonesia", the author will divide it into two parts.

##### **3.1.2.1 Actual and Potential Hypograms**

From the heuristic reading above, a clear picture is obtained that Indonesia is a rich country because it has abundant natural resources. With this potential, all Indonesian people should live in prosperity and prosperity, but in reality, prosperity is not evenly distributed. This is what the poet has asked time and time again. He saw it as a managerial error. To give a deeper meaning, it will be linked to other texts that preceded it, called the actual hypograms. By using these other texts, the depth of their meaning can be revealed.

The actual hypograms related to the presence of the lyrics of the song "Indonesia" is the text of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. In the text of Pancasila, the fifth point mentions the principle of "Social justice for all Indonesian people". The second text that underlies the creation of the lyrics is in Article 33 paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution. The article states a very clear text, namely "Earth and water and the natural resources contained therein are controlled by the state and used for the greatest prosperity of the people".

We can reduce the actual hypogram to a potential hypogram, in which the lyrics of the song are interpreted based on the socio-cultural context. Deviations in state management as seen in the text of the song's lyrics are not the poet's subjective view, but the presence of the lyrics of the song is based on the facts that occurred in his country at the time the lyrics were written. Seeing this condition, the poet suspects that the management of the state by the government is contrary to the state's ideal basis (Pancasila) and the constitutional basis (UUD 1945). Whereas Pancasila is the basis of the state, both as the basis of the ideology and philosophy of the nation and the 1945 Constitution as the formal constitutional basis as the highest legislation.

The poet saw the facts of the occurrence of irregularities when writing the lyrics of the song "Indonesia" in 1980 during the New Order era in power with Suharto as president. When the New Order came to power, physical and mental development was indeed very strong, but the prosperity of the people was not evenly distributed. The poet sees a big gap between the rich and the poor. The rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. According to him, the mismanagement of the country is because the country is controlled by certain groups, even a few people. This improper management also results in corruption in all bureaucracies.

### 3.1.2.2 Models and Matriks

The model is a particular word, phrase, or core sentence in a poetic poem that is used to expand the expression so that it can reduce the overall poetic text. Of the 32 lines of the lyrics of the song "Indonesia", the core of the poet's expression is the title of the song lyrics, namely the word "Indonesia". From that title is derived the first line about its fertility, wealth, and beauty. From the title it is also emphasized again in the main sentence in the third line "That is the country of Indonesia". From that sentence, the poet's expression is then derived from the whole line to the last line. The derived sentences state about Indonesia's richness, the poet's questions about uneven prosperity, the emergence of the gap between the poor and the rich, the occurrence of deviations in state management, to the poet's sharp criticism and the solutions offered by the poet.

By obtaining the model above the matrix or builder's idea that can be drawn from the lyrics of the song "Indonesia" is that Indonesia as a rich country must be managed as well as possible to achieve the country's goal, namely the prosperity of the people. Matters that are contrary to the constitution such as acts of corruption and injustice must be dealt with firmly. This is because this action will damage the governance structure and hinder the realization of the state's goals.

## 4 Conclusion

From the heuristic and hermeneutic reading of the song's lyrics, it can be concluded that behind the beauty of the song's lyrics and the straightforwardness of the diction used, the poet is able to express a strong moral message for the government and the nation. He sharply criticized the government in a very polite and objective manner because it was based on the state foundation, namely the text of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. He not only protested the government, but also provided solutions. This was expressed by Rhoma Irama in the lyrics of the song "Indonesia".

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