



## **AN ANALYSIS OF CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN BATAK TOBA SONGS LYRIC BY PUTRI SILITONGA: A CASE ON SEMANTICS**

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### **K E Y W O R D S**

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### **A B S T R A C T**

This research deals with the analysis of the contextual meaning of Batak Toba song lyrics by Putri Silitonga. This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative research method. The researcher collected the data through observation and documentation. The data were taken from five songs of Putri Silitonga's "sweet song" album. The theory used was the theory of contextual meaning proposed by Mansoer Pateda (2010). There were eight types of contextual meaning found in the data namely, the context of the organ (11%), the context of formality (3%), the context of purpose and context object (17%), the context of mood (31%), and the context of time and context language (6%). The most dominant type of contextual meaning used in the research data is the context of mood, which is the percentage (31%). The result shows that context in the song plays an important role in determining the meaning of song lyrics.

### **Introduction**

People interact with one another by using language as a communication tool. Language is important for expressing feelings and thoughts and can help individuals get along with one another. According

to Chaer (2014:32), Language is a representation of arbitrary sound that social groups use to collaborate, communicate, and express themselves. Arbitrary means that language is always developing, not fixed, or always changing. Language is conventional and has the features of arbitrariness, and language is complex and subtle. Speakers can express and change the language based on their language needs (Kreidler, 2002:52).

The main function of language is communication between humans. Humans can't communicate without language. Language has a meaning, but the meaning of language is different in several aspects. The different meanings of language are divided into several types, one of which is the difference in the meaning of context. Sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of a language in certain situations. People may make jokes, but those who hear them get annoyed because they don't get what is being said. Language without meaning is like having lungs without air because meaning is the heart of language (Riemer, 2010:3). Investigating the meaning of a language involves looking at its meaning as well as its phonemes, morphemes, and structural aspects. The way of understanding the meaning of language can be seen from the type of meaning of the language used, one of which is through the meaning in the context of the language. Semantics is the field of linguistics that focuses on meaning. Language meaning is investigated by the field of linguistics known as semantics. Semantics in other words is the study of word meaning. According to Kreidler (2002:87), the systematic study of meaning is known as semantics, and the organization and expression of meaning in language is known as linguistic semantics, semantics is the study of the meaning of words, which is also the main study of the processes of human thought. The fundamental focus of semantic studies is the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences in a language. The study of meaning is referred to as semantics. Unfortunately, "meaning" covers many aspects of language, and there is no common understanding of what it means or how it should be explained (Palmer, 1976:4). Studying semantics is the same as studying the meaning of language. The meaning of language can be seen from several perceptions where the language is used.

According to Chaer, there are various categories of meaning, including lexical, grammatical, contextual, denotative, connotative, conceptual, associative, and lexeme meaning (Chaer, 2007:291). On the other hand Kreidler (2002:50), stated that meaning dimensions include references and extensions, implications, semantic relationships, vocabulary and grammar meanings, morphemes, synonyms, polysemous words, vocabulary ambiguities, sentences, and meanings. One of the semantic meaning kinds used in this research is contextual meaning.

The meaning that changes based on the context is known as contextual meaning. Generally, it is based on the location, time, setting, or circumstance. For example, the same word can have different meanings in different contexts. According to Requezo in (Wardani, 2019:1), Contextual meaning refers to the process of looking at the context to uncover extra cues for the intended meaning when a linguistic expression cannot be understood directly. Contextual meaning is often used in everyday languages. It is also can be found in the educational aspect. Teachers and students will communicate in a way that represents contextual meaning. Teachers have an essential role in managing learning in the classroom and students' learning subjects. In delivering the material, the teacher will choose a language appropriate to the learning context, and vice versa, students will understand the meaning of the teacher's speech based on the context of the language used. For example, when the learning theme is about the narrative text, the language context used is language related to the narrative text. If each

understands the meaning of language, the teaching and learning process can be carried out properly, and the learning objectives can be achieved.

As preliminary research, the researcher examines the contextual meaning applied by students when the researcher follows Kampus Mengajar Batch II at SD Negeri 044849 Kubucolia Kab. Karo Berastagi. The researcher found several types of contextual meaning in the teaching and learning process or when students talk to teachers and friends. Students in elementary schools, especially in grade VI, when studying in class, will use the language according to the language context of the learning material with the teacher. Different types of new word meanings will appear depending on the context of the language discussed in the teaching and learning process. The types of context meanings found by the researcher during the teaching and learning process are the context of the person, context of formality, place, time, and subject matter. These types of contextual meaning are taken from the theory of Mansoer Pateda (2010:116), which classifies ten types of contextual meaning, namely the context of the organ, situation, purpose, place, object, formality, mood, time, place, linguistic context, and language context. Students and teachers will use language appropriate to the learning context in the teaching and learning process. When the teacher and students understand each other's conversation, the purpose of communication will be achieved. When in the classroom, the context of the meaning of the language used by students and teachers will be different from that used by students outside the classroom with their friends. The following are the data points found by researchers when analyzing contextual meaning during the teaching and learning process in the classroom.

Table 1. An analysis of contextual meaning

No.	Name of Students	Source Language	Target Language	Explanation	Types of Contextual Meaning
1	ES	<i>Hari ini kepala sekolah tidak bisa datang.</i>	Today the principal can't come.	This sentence indicates that a student tells his friend that the principal is not present. "Principal" means someone who leads the school.	Context of Person
2	LB	<i>Selamat pagi Miss, apa kabar?</i>	Good morning Miss, how are you?	This sentence indicates that a student is greeting the teacher when he arrives at school in the morning	Context of Time
3	PA	<i>Hai Siska! Apa kabarmu?</i>	Hi Siska, what's up?	The sentence indicates that a student is greeting his friend. "What's up?" means asking friends how they are. The word is a casual word usually used by a friend, in the informal language of "how are you?"	Context of Formality
4	DG	<i>Permisi Miss, apakah saya boleh izin ke perpustakaan?</i>	Excuse me Miss, may I go to the library?	This sentence indicates that a student is asking permission from his teacher in formal language.	Context of Formality
5	SS	<i>Bolehnya aku melihat buku catatanmu untuk disalin?</i>	Can I see your notebook to copy?	The sentence shows a conversation between two students about a notebook to copy. The word "copy" in this sentence means to rewrite the notebook.	Context of Object

Based on the data above, the sentences used by the students are contained the contextual meaning. First, ES said "*Today, the principal can't come*", she tells her friend that the principal is not present. "*Principal*" means someone who leads the school. This belongs in the context of person. Second, LB said "*Good morning Miss, how are you?*" this sentence is the context of the time when a student greets his teacher in the morning. Third, PA and DG use context of formality, PA "*Hi Siska, what's up?*" The word is a casual word usually used by a friend, in the informal language. DG said "*Excuse me Miss, may I go to the library?*", she is asking permission from his teacher in formal language. And the last, SS said "*Can I see your notebook to copy?*", SS was talking to his friend that he wanted to borrow a notebook to copy. The word "copy" in this sentence means to rewrite the notebook. The sentence is included in the context of the subject matter.

Based on the preliminary research above, there are four types of contextual meaning found in the teaching and learning process. Meanwhile, Mansour Pateda classifies ten types of contextual meaning. As a result, the researcher wishes to delve deeper into the various types of contextual meaning on various objects in language. Language has meaning, not only in everyday language in life, but the meaning is also found in other things, such as literary works. Literary works contain many types of meaning, especially contextual meaning.

Literary works are stories of someone's imagination made in written form using beautiful words. Many kinds of literary works, including novels, poems, songs, and others, have unique meanings. The meaning expressed is a reflection of the author's feelings. According to Fannani (2001:1), A work of literature is a piece of writing that is the product of an uncontrollable emotional outburst and has the capacity to convey good beauty qualities based on linguistic and meaning-related factors. For example, in a song, there is a meaning created by the writer and then conveyed by the song's singer. The meaning contained in a song is illustrated through the lyrics conveyed. Someone described the feelings and experiences or something that has been seen or felt. Songwriters usually make poetic lyrics accompanied by beautiful words in each lyric. With the beautiful words and tone of the song, it can give the audience imagination. Every song has lyrics, and the lyrics of a song contain many meanings. We can understand the meaning of the song by looking at the lyrics.

The words that make up a song's lyrics are typically divided up into verses and choruses, a lyricist is the person who composes a song's lyrics (Wikipedia, n.d.). In that sense, lyrics might be either explicit or implicit. When describing texts that are abstract and almost difficult to understand, pay particular attention to the texts' shape, clarity, rhythm, and symmetry of language. Depending on the writer's context, the song's lyrics may have a variety of meanings. In the song's lyrics, there are numerous words that hold meaning, particularly contextual significance, which is why the researcher is interested in evaluating them. As a result, in order to fully comprehend a song's meaning, one must first understand its background. There are so many popular songs, but in this research, the researcher chose Batak Toba songs from North Sumatra.

Batak people are known to have high creativity in the art of writing and even singing a song. Batak people create song lyrics related to their life and culture and use songs to express their experiences and feelings. Batak people are also known for their beautiful and loud voices. They are known as people who speak loudly but have a soft heart. Often, Batak people speak to praise but in a loud voice so that the interlocutor sometimes feels offended. Many Batak singers from North Sumatra are famous in Indonesia, such as Viky Sianipar, Rani Simbolon, Arvindo Simatupang, Joy Tobing, Rafael Sitorus, Putri Siagian, Putri Silitonga and many more. Besides solo singers, there are also trio singers such as

the Lamtama Trio, the Boys Trio, Omega Trio, Nabasa Trio, and others. Traditional Toba Batak songs originated with the Toba tribe in North Sumatra. Toba Batak's songs always have a message, meaning, and feeling for the listener. Most the Toba Batak songwriters create songs that contain moral lessons, motivation, and advice for the Toba Batak people. Toba Batak's traditional songs tell about their lives, such as death, birth, wedding, worship, environment, success, love, and mother struggles.

Every song has a meaning. Sometimes, the meaning of a song will be easier to understand if the singer sings it with feelings so that listeners can enjoy the song. Putri Silitonga is a Batak singer who can sing a song very well so that the listener can understand the song's meaning. Batak songs always have more meaning in each of the lyrics. Many Batak songs contain such deep meanings as advice that are useful if listened to properly. Each song's meaning is seen not only from the lexical or associative meaning but also from the contextual meaning. The context of a word can affect the meaning of the sentence in the lyrics of the songs.

The researcher chose the song of the solo singer Putri Silitonga as the object of this research. Putri Silitonga is female singer from North Sumatra, Indonesian. She has a career in the Batak music industry and is known as an inspiring singer among the Batak people. Putri Silitonga is also known as a singer and songwriter. She has released albums, such as *Album Emas Putri Silitonga 2017*, *Putri Silitonga Vol.6 2016* etc. Songs of Putri Silitonga are known for being able to inspire their listeners. Putri Silitonga's songs are not only about love stories between men and women but also love between parents and children or children and parents. The most important thing is that every song of Putri Silitonga always gives a positive meaning and message.

The researcher chose Putri Silitonga's Batak songs as the object of this research because the meaning of the lyrics is very interesting to analyze, then investigate and research in more detail. The researcher chose that singer specifically because her songs are about love between parents and children and love between men and women. The researcher took five songs from "sweet song" albums. The songs tell stories about love between parents and children, about the meaning of parental love for their children so they can be good people and also become a proud hope for their family. The songs also tell us about love between couples. This love story has the same story as our relationship in daily life. This love story is made so listeners of the song can build a good relationship with their partner or ex-partner. So that people can still have a good relationship with anyone. The song's lyrics are inspired by our lives, especially those about love between parents and children. The lyrics of the songs also contain the meaning of context. Based on the pre-observation conducted by the researcher, it was found that there are contextual meanings found in the lyrics of Putri Silitonga's Batak Toba song titled "*Boru Hasian*" released in 2016.

## Quotes of the lyric :

*Ho do borukku ho mata ni ari ku* (You are my daughter you're my sun)

*Manondangi ngolukki* (illuminate my life)

*Ho tiang partunggul* (you are the main pillar)

*Na manungkkoli rohaki* (the one who supports my heart)

The example of the song lyrics above describes the love between parents and their daughter. The context of "mataniari" is life. Lexically "mataniari" means a star at the center of the solar system. In the context of the lyrics of the song, the "sun" has a meaning of love. It means that the subject in the song is similar to the light of the sun, which can give warmth and life. The meaning of the word

explained above in this song's lyrics is part of the contextual meaning context of a organ with the theories of Pateda (2010:116). The song's lyrics contain the meaning conveyed by parents to their daughters to show their love for them.

The researcher chose Batak songs by Putri Silitonga as the object for this research because in previous research already research by Rifardi (2017), with the title "**Study of Lexical Meaning on Bob Marley Songs Lyric**". Using Parera theories, he conducted that study to determine the lexical and contextual meaning in the lyrics of Bob Marley songs. In his book, Parera claimed that there are two types of linguistic meaning: lexical meanings and contextual meanings. The substance of meaning, which comprises the meaning of denotation and connotation, is included in lexical meaning. Synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and homonymy all have context-specific meaning. He discovered from his research that Bob Marley's song lyrics make use of both lexical and contextual meanings. The lyrics had to have been understood in terms of evident contextual terms as well as lexical meaning. Because of this, the researcher who was interested in examining the lyrics of Putri Silitonga's Batak Toba song applied Pateda's contextual meaning theories 2010. The researcher used Putri Silitonga's data because there hasn't been any research on the context of Batak songs.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing Batak Toba songs with semantic theory, especially the contextual meaning in this research. People can learn more about semantic theory from this research, especially as it relates to the context in which the lyrics of the Batak Toba song are meant to be understood. Understanding words, allusions, meanings, and logic requires the use of semantic analysis. In other words, studying semantics helps students understand the meaning of words from their context, especially in songs, the relationship between sentences and discourse, and the meaning of words. Students in the English Department can use the research as references, especially those who plan to conduct similar research. The second goal is to explain to Batak listeners the significance of Putri Silitonga's song in each context. The researcher hopes that this research can provide more information and references to increase the reader's knowledge of the contextual meaning of a song, especially the lyrics of the Toba Batak Song

## **Research Methodology**

### **A. Research Design**

The researcher will use descriptive and qualitative research methods in conducting this research. Qualitative descriptive research is a research method used to analyze data, usually used to describe an observed phenomenon. Qualitative research is a research method that focuses on understanding and observing a phenomenon from a comprehensive perspective. Descriptive qualitative research is also used to analyze data such as literary works, books, newspapers, environmental conditions, or even phenomena that occur in society.

According to Sugiyono (2016:8), the descriptive qualitative research method is a study conducted to determine the value of independent variables, either one or more variables, without drawing comparisons or connecting with other variables. This indicates that the research is just interested in the variable's state individually, without consideration of how it may or may not be influenced by other variables, such as those involved in experimentation or correlation. On the other hand, Thao et al.(2020:3) stated that descriptive qualitative research is the process of developing an explanation of research findings by the use of words or through the creation of a thorough as well as in description based on the variables that were observed. In analyzing this topic, the researcher will use descriptive

qualitative research to find out and describe the contextual meaning of the Batak Toba song by Putri Silitonga.

## B. Source of the Data

Data is information or facts that can provide an overview of a situation. According to Bernard (2012:130) data is rough facts about people, places, events, and other things that must be organized. A collection of facts or figures can be processed into useful information. Data can also be defined as a collection of information or values obtained from observing an object and can provide an overview of a situation or problem. Sources of data for qualitative research can include documentation, interviews, observations, audiovisual recordings, and material objects (Creswell, 2012:223). The sources of data for this research are taken from documentation and observation. The data for this research are Batak Toba songs from albums of Putri Silitonga as the object of the research.

Putri Silitonga has released many albums since 2008. The name of her debut album is "*10 Karya Iran Ambarita*", which contains ten songs. Until now, she has released 12 single albums. For this research, the researcher chose Putri Silitonga's songs from the album "*Sweet Song*", which was released in 2016 and contains several songs. The researcher chose five songs, namely "*Boru Hasian*," "*Boru Buha Baju*," "*Bissan Adong Tikki*," "*Munggil-unggil*," and "*Nunga adong Nampuna Au*." The songs above are chosen as the data of the research. They are related to this research because they contain contextual meaning theories in the lyrics. The source of the data is taken from the CMD Record YouTube channel and song lyrics by Putri Silitonga.

## C. The Instrument of Collecting Data

The instrument for collecting the data for this research is observation and documentation. According to Patton (2002:4), observation is method of collecting the data by looking for information related to the study that is object of research. Observation is an activity used to learn something from a phenomenon based on knowledge and concepts, with the goal of obtaining information about a specific phenomenon or event that is the object of the study. Documentation is a method of collecting information from documents by recording or documenting the research context as data and facts from the results of a study. Documentation is a procedure of obtaining qualitative data and analyzing it by viewing or analyzing documents created by the subject or others about the object of the research.

In this research, the researcher will observe the theory of contextual meaning taken from the lyrics of the Batak Toba Putri Silitonga song played on the Youtube Channel, which is accessed through the researcher's device (Samsung A11). Then the researcher will make a collection of the lyrics in the form of a document. Then describe the findings in the data for analysis.

## D. Technique of Collecting Data

According to Johnson & Christensen (2000:126), data collection method is defined as a technique to obtain physical data for analysis in a research study. Data collection techniques include observation, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. The researcher uses the method of documentation and observation in conducting this research. The following are the steps of collecting the data :

1. Choosing a song of Putri Silitonga that were suitable for being analyzed, with lyrics that have contextual meaning.
2. Listening to the songs several times, to get the needed data, the researcher listened to the song twice per song.

3. Creating the transcript of the song lyrics taken from the internet, and then printing out the song lyrics.
4. Looking and giving the sign for the words, phrases, or sentences that contain contextual meaning in each lyric and making them into table.

## **E. Technique of Analyzing Data**

Analyzing data is a process that involves the collection, analysis, and comparison of information about the data under study to obtain helpful information to assist in drawing conclusions. According to Creswell (2014:90), there are six steps used for data analysis, namely, organizing and preparing data for analysis; reading or viewing all data; coding the data; using the coding process to produce descriptions of settings or people as well as categories or themes for analysis; advancing how reports and articles will be represented in qualitative narratives; and making interpretations of findings.

From the six steps of data analysis technique in qualitative research by Creswell (2014:90), the researcher adopted it into several steps like the following:

### **1. Organizing and preparing data**

In this first stage, the researcher organizes and prepares the lyrics of the Batak Toba songs by Putri Silitonga to be analyzed. The song's lyrics are taken from the internet.

### **2. Reading and viewing the Data**

The researcher will analyzing the lyrics of the Batak Toba song by Putri Silitonga and then look for words that contain contextual meaning.

### **3. Coding the data**

In this step, the researcher will classify the words, phrases, and sentences that contain the contextual meaning of the song lyrics and give signs of the data.

### **4. Using the coding process to produce descriptions**

At this stage, the researcher describes the meaning of the words, phrases, and sentences according to their context. The type of context that will be analyzed is the theory of Pateda.

### **5. Making interpretations of findings**

In the last step, the researcher looks at the description of the data from the beginning and then concludes.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Research Finding**

After analyzing the data above, the researcher found the data findings as a result to answer the research problem that have been proposed above. The researcher found eight contexts used in the lyrics of the song "Sweet Song" by Batak Toba by Putri Silitonga. The contexts found are organ context, formality context, situation context, speaker mood context, time context, object context, and language context. Context always gives meaning based on the words in the sentence. We can identify which type of contextual meaning is the most dominant type found in this study. The following is a percentage of the amount of data found.

Table 2. Percentage of Contextual meaning found in the songs lyric

Types of Contextual Meaning	Amount	Percentage
Context of Organ	4	11%
Context of Formality	0	0 %
Informal	1	3%
Context of Situation	3	9%
Context of Purpose	6	17%
Context of Mood	11	31%
Context of Time	2	6%
Context of Object	6	17%
Language Context	2	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100%</b>

Based on the table above, the percentage of types of contextual meaning found in the five Toba Batak songs by Putri Silitonga from the album “Sweet Song” is obtained. There are eight types of contextual meaning found. To see the acquisition of contextual meaning in certain numerical data, the researcher presents it in the form of a diagram to facilitate the percentage between the types of contextual meaning in research data.

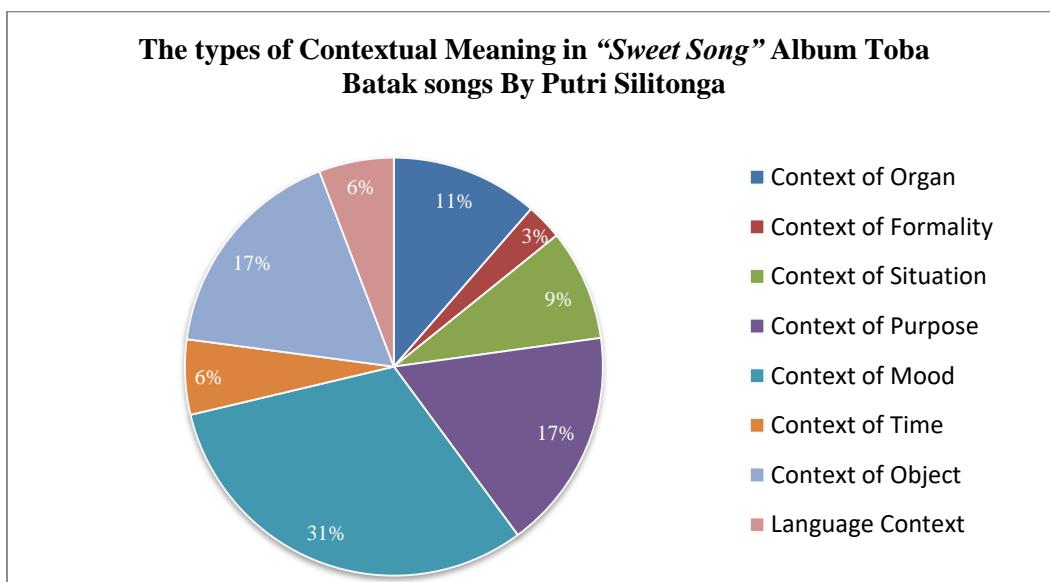


Figure 1. The types of Contextual Meaning in “Sweet Song” Album Toba Batak songs By Putri Silitonga

Based on the chart 1 above, the context of mood has the highest rank in the data with an overall data percentage of 31%, while the context of purpose and object context both rank second with 17%, followed by organ context with 11%. Next, 9% was situation context, followed by 6% time context, and 6% language context. Then, at the lowest level, the context of formality is 3%.

## B. Discussion

After the researcher analyzed the data taken from the lyrics of the Batak Toba Putri Silitonga song in the “Sweet Song” album, the researcher found several contextual meanings based on Mansour Pateda's

theory. Based on data analysis and research findings, in this section, the researcher presents a discussion that aims to provide an overview of the research problem that has been formulated in chapter one.

From the research findings, it can be seen that there are eight types of contextual meaning found in the research data, namely organ context, the context of formality, the context of a situation, the context of purpose, the context of mood, the context of time, object context, and language context. Each contextual meaning has a different function according to its type. A word's meaning is based on the context in which it is used. By examining five songs, the researcher found 35 words, phrases, or sentences that had contextual meaning. The context of mood has the highest rank in the data with an overall data percentage of 31%, followed by the context of purpose and object, both of which are ranked second with 17%, and the context of organ, which is third with 11%. 9% of the context was situational, followed by 6% time context, and 6% language context. Lastly, the context of formality is 3% at the lowest level. After identifying the percentage of the data above, the researcher found that the most dominant type of contextual meaning used in the five songs from the album is context of mood. 11 mood contexts, or 31.4% of the 35 data points found.

The difference between this research and the previous research titled “An Analysis of Contextual Meaning of Song by Shane Fillan” by Lestari (2016). Thesis of English Department Faculty of Letters and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Lestari found six types of contextual meaning and seventeen contexts in ten Shane Filan songs. The contexts found in the song are one in context of the organ, three in the context of the situation, five in the context of the purpose, seven in the context of the mood of the speaker or listener, one in the context of time, and one in the context of the object. In this research, the researcher found eight types of contextual meaning used in five Batak songs by Putri Silitonga, namely four contexts of organ, one context of formality, three contexts of situation, six contexts of purpose, eleven contexts of mood, and two contexts of time, six contexts of objects, and the last, two language contexts. The similarity between Lestari's research and this research is that the context of mood is the most dominant context used in the song lyrics of the research data. The two studies above have different aspects. If previous research only focused on types of contextual meaning, this research shows a relationship with other aspects such as the source language. This is the reason for using contextual meaning in other aspects of the research data.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research proposed before, the following conclusions were drawn. There were eight types of contextual meaning found in the Batak Toba song lyrics by Putri Silitonga “*sweet song*”. They were: (1) context of organ, (2) context of formality, (3) context of situation, (4) context of purpose, (5) context of mood, (6) context of time, (7) object context, and (8) language context. The total number of words, phrases, or sentences that contained the contextual meaning of Batak Toba lyrics by Putri Silitonga was 35.

The percentage of contextual meaning found in the lyrics of the Batak Toba song by Putri Silitonga, namely the context of organ (11%), the context of formality (9%), the context of purpose and context object (17%), the context of mood (31%), the context of time and context language (6%). The most dominant type of context meaning used in the research data is the context of mood, which is the percentage (31%).

It can be concluded that the lyrics of the Batak Toba song by Putri Silitonga are not only seen in the lexical meaning of the song's lyrics. The meaning of the word or language in the lyrics of the song is also very much determined by the context used in the song.

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