

ABSTRACT

WISESA, MAXIMUS ANARGHA, (2026). **A Stylistic Analysis of the Thematic Structure in Billie Holiday's Song Lyrics**. Yogyakarta. Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

This study examines the stylistic characteristics of Billie Holiday's song lyrics based on their thematic structure and explains how linguistic choices contribute to the construction of thematic coherence and style. The data consist of the lyrics of five Billie Holiday songs namely *Strange Fruit*, *God Bless the Child*, *Don't Explain*, *Good Morning Heartache*, and *You've Changed*, consisting of 98 clauses as the units of analysis. These songs were selected because they represent a variety of emotional and social themes.

This study applies a qualitative descriptive method using stylistic and linguistic approaches. The analysis applies Halliday and Matthiessen's Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), particularly the Them-Rheme structure, Daneš's theory of thematic progression, Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesion, and Simpson's theory of stylistics. The analysis focuses on identifying Theme-Rheme structures, patterns of thematic progression, and cohesive devices to explain the connection between thematic structure, coherence, and style in the song lyrics.

The findings show that Constant Theme Progression is the most frequently used pattern, occurring 44 times, showing that Billie Holiday consistently maintains the focus of information in her lyrics. In addition, lexical repetition, reference, ellipsis, personal participants, and parallel clause structures help create connections between clauses, resulting in thematic coherence.

This study concludes that Billie Holiday's lyrical style is reflected in the use of a stable and structured thematic structure. This thematic organization not only maintains the continuity of meaning throughout the lyrics but also strengthens the expression of emotions and social messages that are characteristics of Billie Holiday's song writing.

Keywords: *Thematic structure, thematic progression, stylistics, cohesion, Billie Holiday*

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Penelitian ini mengkaji karakteristik gaya dalam lirik lagu Billie Holiday berdasarkan struktur tematiknya serta menjelaskan bagaimana pilihan bahasa berkontribusi terhadap pembentukan koherensi tematik dan gaya dalam lirik lagu. Data penelitian berupa lirik dari lima lagu Billie Holiday, yaitu *Strange Fruit*, *God Bless the Child*, *Don't Explain*, *Good Morning Heartache* dan *You've Changed*, yang terdiri atas 98 klausa sebagai satuan analisis. Kelima lagu tersebut dipilih karena merepresentasikan beragam tema emosional dan sosial.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan stilistika dan linguistik. Analisis dilakukan menggunakan Systemic Functional Grammar dari Halliday dan Matthiessen, khususnya struktur Theme-Rheme, teori thematic progression dari Daneš, teori kohesi Halliday dan Hasan, serta teori stilistika Simpson. Analisis difokuskan pada identifikasi struktur Theme-Rheme, pola perkembangan tema, dan perangkat kohesi untuk menjelaskan hubungan antara struktur tematik, koherensi, dan gaya dalam lirik.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Constant Theme Progression merupakan pola perkembangan tema yang paling dominan dengan frekuensi kemunculan 44 kali. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa Billie Holiday secara konsisten mempertahankan fokus informasi dalam lirik lagunya. Selain itu, penggunaan repetisi leksikal, referensi, ellipsis, partisipan personal, dan struktur klausa paralel membantu membangun hubungan antaklausa sehingga menghasilkan koherensi tematik.

Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa gaya lirik Billie Holiday tercermin melalui penggunaan struktur tematik yang stabil dan terorganisasi. Organisasi tematik tersebut tidak hanya menjaga kesinambungan makna di seluruh lirik, tetapi juga memperkuat penyampaian emosi dan pesan sosial yang menjadi ciri khas penulisan lirik Billie Holiday.

Kata kunci: *Thematic structure, thematic progression, stylistics, cohesion, Billie Holiday*