

A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF LOVE EXPRESSION IN SELECTED SONGS BY ED SHEERAN

THESIS

The Thesis is written to fulfill one of the Requirements the Degree of Bachelor of Education in the English Tadris Department, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, State Islamic University

A. M. Sangadji Ambon



Arranged By:

Auliyah R. Jannah Kasuba (220307015)

**ENGLISH TADRIS DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY ABDUL MUTHALIB
SANGADJI AMBON**

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THESIS APPROVAL

**TITLE : A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF LOVE EXPRESSION
IN SELECTED SONGS BY ED SHEERAN**

NAME : AULIYAH R. JANNAH KASUBA

NIM : 220307015

MAJOR : ENGLISH TADRIS DEPARTMENT

FACULTY : FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER

TRAINING

It has been submitted and defended in a Munaqasyah hearing held on Thursday, 25 June 2026, and has been declared acceptable as one of the requirements for obtaining a bachelor's degree (S.Pd) in English Education

MUNAQASYAH COUNCIL

Examiner I : Drs. H. Muhammad M, M.Hum. (.....)

Examiner II : Djamila Lasaiba, M.A. (.....)

Examiner III : Andi Masniati, S.Hum., M.Hum (.....)

Examiner IV : Dewi Qhuril Malasari Ely, S.S., M.Pd. (.....)

**Known by
Head of the English Tadris
Department UIN AMSA**

**Dr. Fitria Lapele. S.Pd., M.Pd
NIP. 199110302019032022**

**Confirmed by
Dean of the Faculty Education
Teacher Training UIN AMSA**

**Dr. Nurhasanah, M.S.I
NIP. 198203203202011012007**

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

The undersigned here by: .

Name : Auliyah R. Jannah Kasuba
NIM : 220307015
Program Study : English Tadris Department
Faculty : Faculty of Education and Teacher Training
Thesis Title : A Pragmatic Analysis of Love Expression in Selected
Songs By Ed Sheeran

Declare that, the results of this research are truly my own work. If in the future it is proven that the results of this research are duplicates, imitations, plagiarism, or made by other in their entirety, then the results of this research are entirely my responsibility, and I am willing to accept sanctions in accordance with applicable regulations.

Ambon, 25 June 2026

Author



Auliyah R. Jannah Kasuba

MOTTO & DEDICATION

Motto

So, surely with hardship comes ease

(Q.S Al-Insyira: 5)

Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to paradise

(HR. Muslim)

“As long as I’m still alive, I will never give up”

(Soul Land)

Dedication

Will full gratitude, this work is dedicated to my beloved father and mother. Thank you for all your service, love, and sacrifices that you have given tirelessly. From every effort, prayer, and unwavering support, everything has become the reason I am able to reach this point.

I realize that what I have achieved today can never be enough to repay everything you have given. However, I hope this work can serve as a small form of my gratitude and appreciation for all your struggles.

In addition, this work is also dedicated to myself, who has fought, endured, and refused to give up even when everything felt difficult. Thank you for continuing to move forward until this far, even when it was not always easy. I hope this becomes the beginning of a better journey ahead.

FOREWORD

Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin, all praise and gratitude are due to Allah SWT, because with His blessings and grace the author can complete the preparation of this thesis entitled “**A Pragmatic Analysis Of Love Expression In Selected Song By Ed Sheeran**”. Shalawat and salam may always be poured out to Prophet Muhammad SAW, along with his family, friends, and loyal followers until the end of time.

This thesis is prepared as one of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor of Education (S.Pd) degree at the Faculty of Education and Teacher Training English Tadris Department, Abdul Muthalib Sangadji State Islamic University (UIN AMSA) Ambon. The author would like to express her gratitude and highest appreciation especially to my beloved father and mother for their struggle, love, attention, motivation support, advice and prayers that have been continuously given to the author during the stage of completing this thesis.

The author realizes that in this thesis there shortcomings and obstacles encountered. The completion of this thesis is inseparable from the help of various parties both morally and materially. Therefore, the author would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to the honorable :

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The author realizes that the preparation of this thesis is still far from perfection. Therefore, with humility, the author hopes for constructive suggestions and criticisms to improve the author's writing in the future. Hopefully the help and

guidance that has been given by all parties will be rewarded by Allah SWT, and this thesis can provide benefits both for the author and for the readers in general. Aamiin ya rabbal'alam.

Ambon, 25 June.....2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Am6' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Author

ABSTRACT

Auliyah R. Jannah Kasuba, NIM 220307015, Supervisor I: Andi Masniati, S.Hum., M.Hum and Supervisor II: Dewi Qhuril Malasari Ely, S.S., M.Pd. The thesis title is **“A Pragmatic Analysis of Love Expression in Selected Songs by Ed Sheeran”**. English Tadris Department, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training, State Islamic University (UIN) Abdul Muthalib Sangadji Ambon, 2026.

The problem behind this research is the lack of profound pragmatic analysis regarding implicit emotional meanings in contemporary popular music, specifically love expressions that extend beyond the literal meanings of utterances. This study aims to identify the types of illocutionary speech acts employed in expressing love within selected songs by Ed Sheeran (*Thinking Out Loud*, *Perfect*, and *Photograph*) and to analyze how those speech acts convey emotional and relational meanings within the lyrical context. This research was conducted at the Library Center of UIN A.M. Sangadji Ambon in 2026.

The research method is descriptive qualitative with a pragmatic discourse analysis approach based on John R. Searle’s speech act theory. The primary data of this study consist of the official lyrics of the three selected Ed Sheeran songs accessed from his official YouTube channel and validated using Genius Lyrics. The data were collected using documentation and literature review techniques, while the data analysis applied the model proposed by Miles and Huberman, comprising data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

The results of this study indicate a total of 39 instances of illocutionary speech acts identified across the three selected songs, consisting of 21 representative acts, 7 directive acts, 6 expressive acts, and 5 commissive acts. Representative acts emerged as the most dominant type utilized by Ed Sheeran to depict beliefs and perceptions about romantic love. In terms of meaning, the love expressions effectively convey emotional meanings (such as affection, admiration, happiness, longing, and psychological vulnerability) and successfully construct relational meanings (such as long-term commitment, romantic intimacy, trust, loyalty, and strong interpersonal bonding). Consequently, it can be concluded that illocutionary speech acts play a significant role in communicating emotional depth and relationship dynamics within song lyrics.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Illocutionary Speech Acts, Love Expression, Ed Sheeran, Emotional and Relational Meanings.

ABSTRAK

Auliyah R. Jannah Kasuba, NIM 220307015, Pembimbing I: Andi Masniati, S.Hum., M.Hum dan Pembimbing II: Dewi Qhuril Malasari Ely, S.S., M.Pd. Judul Skripsi: **“A Pragmatic Analysis of Love Expression in Selected Songs by Ed Sheeran”**. Jurusan Tadris Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Abdul Muthalib Sangadji Ambon, 2026.

Masalah yang melatarbelakangi penelitian ini adalah kurangnya analisis pragmatik yang mendalam terhadap pemaknaan implisit emosional dalam karya musik populer, khususnya ekspresi cinta yang melampaui makna literal kalimat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis tindak tutur ilokusi ekspresi cinta yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu pilihan Ed Sheeran (Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, dan Photograph) serta menganalisis bagaimana tindak tutur tersebut menyampaikan makna emosional dan makna relasional dalam konteks lirik lagu. Penelitian ini dilaksanakan di Pusat Perpustakaan UIN A.M. Sangadji Ambon pada tahun 2026.

Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis wacana pragmatik berdasarkan teori tindak tutur John R. Searle. Data primer dalam penelitian ini berupa teks lirik resmi dari ketiga lagu pilihan Ed Sheeran tersebut yang bersumber dari kanal YouTube resmi dan divalidasi melalui Genius Lyrics. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui dokumentasi dan studi kepustakaan, sedangkan analisis data menerapkan model Miles dan Huberman yang meliputi reduksi data, penyajian data, serta penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan terdapat total 39 temuan tindak tutur ilokusi dalam ketiga lagu tersebut, yang terdiri dari 21 tindak tutur representatif, 7 tindak tutur direktif, 6 tindak tutur ekspresif, dan 5 tindak tutur komisif. Tindak tutur representatif menjadi jenis yang paling dominan digunakan oleh Ed Sheeran untuk menggambarkan keyakinan dan persepsi tentang cinta. Dari aspek pemaknaan, ekspresi cinta dalam lagu-lagu tersebut berhasil menyampaikan makna emosional (seperti kasih sayang, kekaguman, kebahagiaan, kerinduan, dan kerentanan psikologis) sekaligus mengonstruksi makna relasional (seperti komitmen jangka panjang, keintiman romantis, kepercayaan, loyalitas, dan ikatan interpersonal yang kuat). Dengan demikian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa penggunaan tindak tutur ilokusi memegang peran krusial dalam memperkuat kedalaman emosional dan dinamika hubungan interpersonal yang disampaikan melalui lirik lagu.

Kata Kunci: Pragmatik, Tindak Tutur Ilokusi, Ekspresi Cinta, Ed Sheeran, Makna Emosional dan Relasional.

TABLE OF CONTENT

THESIS APPROVAL	ii
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	iii
MOTTO & DEDICATION	iv
FOREWORD	v
ABSTRACT	ix
ABSTRAK	x
TABLE OF CONTENT	xi
LIST OF PICTURE	xiii
LIST OF TABLE	xiii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	xv
A. Background	1
B. Research Scope	6
C. Research Question	6
D. Research Purposes	6
E. Research Benefits	7
F. Research term	8
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEWS	11
A. Previous Study	11
B. Theoretical Framework	14
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODS	26
A. Research Design	26
B. Data Sources	27
C. Research Location	28
D. Data Collection	29

E. Data Analysis	30
CHAPTER IV RESEARCH RESULT	35
A. Finding.....	35
B. Discussion	46
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	82
A. Conclusion.....	82
B. Suggestion	83
REFERENCES.....	85
ATTACHMENT.....	90

LIST OF PICTURE

Picture 2.1 Theoritical Framework	25
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LIST OF TABLE

Table 4.1 illocutionary Acts and Their Emotional and Relational Meaning in Thinking Out Loud.....	39
Table 4 2 illocutionary Acts and Their Emotional and Relational Meanings in Perfect	40
Table 4 3 Illocutionary Acts and Their Emotional and Relational Meanings in Photograph	42
Table 4.4 Recapitulation of Illocutionary Acts Found in Selected Songs	44
Table 4. 5 Emotional Meaning and Relational Meaning	45

LIST OF ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 Ed Sheeran Selected Songs Lyric	90
Attachment 2 Ed Sheeran Top Songs	96
Attachment 3 Documentation	97
Attachment 4 Research Permission Letter	98
Attachment 5 Research Completion Letter	99
Attachment 6 Turnitin Result	100