

AFFECTIVE MEANING IN THE SPEECH OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL *ORIGAMI HATI* BY BOY CANDRA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDONESIAN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the affective meanings found in the speeches of the main character of the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, as well as their implications for teaching Indonesian in high schools. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with a semantic approach. The data source for this study is the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, published by MediaKita in 2017. The research data consist of the main character's speech, namely Aruna, which contains affective meaning. The data collection technique was done through observation and noting, while data analysis used the equivalence method with the Determining Elements Sorting technique (PUP). The results of the study show that 22 pieces of data containing affective meaning were found in the main character's speech in Boy Candra's novel *Origami Hati*. These affective meanings reflect the main character's feelings and attitudes toward various events he experiences and depict the character's emotional condition in the story. The results of this research can be applied in Indonesian language learning in high school, especially in activities analyzing linguistic elements and meaning in novel texts.

Keywords: affective meaning; semantics; novel; *Origami Hati*; Indonesian Language Learning;

1 INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool for communication that humans use to convey ideas, thoughts, feelings, and information. Through language, someone can express intentions and describe their social or psychological conditions. According to Chaer (2004:14), language as a tool for interaction or communication plays an important role in delivering ideas, concepts, feelings, and information to others. Language is the most effective way to convey thoughts, feelings, and goals to others, which enables human cooperation (Mailani et al., 2022). According to Kridalaksana (in Suardi et al., 2019), humans are born with the ability to communicate through language. Language as a communication tool aims to transfer meaning or communication between two individuals. In linguistic studies, semantics is the branch of science that discusses meaning. The meaning in speech isn't just about the literal sense, but can also show the speaker's attitude, feelings, and emotional state. One type of meaning related to feelings and the speaker's attitude is affective meaning. According to Leech (1981), affective meaning is the meaning that relates to the speaker's feelings and attitudes towards something being expressed. This type of meaning is often found in literary works and is used to convey experiences, ideas, and emotions.

A novel is a type of literary work that uses language as a medium to convey messages through characters, conflicts, and events. According to Nurgiyantoro (2002:9), a novel is a work of fiction that presents human life problems in a complex way. Through the speech of characters in a novel, readers can understand the characters, conflicts, and feelings experienced by the characters. The novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra was chosen as the research object because the main character's dialogue often depicts emotional experiences. The novel tells the story of Aruna navigating love problems, which leads to various expressions of feelings, such as disappointment, sadness, hope, and affection. Therefore, the main character's speech in the novel is interesting to study based on semantic analysis, especially the affective meaning.

Research on meaning based on Geoffrey Leech's theory has been conducted by several previous researchers. Pardianti et al. (2022) examined types of semantic meaning in the fictional work King Arthur and found seven types of meaning based on Leech's theory, including affective meaning. Nasution et al.

(2025) showed that affective meaning is one of the dominant types of meaning in the semantic analysis of Taylor Swift's song lyrics. In addition, Syaifa et al. (2025) found that affective meaning plays a role in conveying the speaker's emotions implicitly in Al-Mutanabbi's poetry. These studies have similarities in using Geoffrey Leech's theory but differ in their objects of study. This research focuses on affective meaning in the speech of the main character in Boy Candra's novel *Origami Hati* and its implications for Indonesian language learning in high school.

Studying affective meaning in novels is important because it can show how language is used to express feelings and build characters in literary works. The results of this research can also be used in teaching Indonesian in high schools, especially in lessons on analyzing language elements and meanings in literary texts. Based on this background, the research problem is how affective meanings appear in the main character's utterances in the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra and what their implications are for teaching Indonesian in high schools. The purpose of this study is to describe the affective meanings in the main character's utterances in the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra and their implications for teaching Indonesian in high schools.

2 METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a semantic approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2018), qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people as well as observed behavior. A qualitative descriptive approach is used because the research data consists of the main character's utterances in the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, which are then analyzed and described based on an affective meaning study. A semantic approach is used because this research examines the meanings found in the utterances based on Geoffrey Leech's theory (1981).

The data source in this study is the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, published by MediaKita in 2017. The research data consists of quotes from the main character, Aruna, that contain affective meaning. The data collection technique was carried out using observation and note-taking. Observation was done by carefully reading the novel *Origami Hati* to find statements from the main character that show emotions and emotional attitudes. The data found was then recorded and classified according to the research focus.

The data analysis technique in this study uses the padan method with the Determining Element Sorting (PUP) technique. According to Sudaryanto (1993:13), the padan method is an analysis method where the determining tool is outside the language. In this study, meaning is determined based on the context of speech, the communication situation, relationships between characters, and the emotional condition of the character. The data obtained is then analyzed based on Geoffrey Leech's (1981) concept of affective meaning to identify expressions of feelings and attitudes found in the main character's speech.

3 RESULTS

Based on the analysis of the main character's utterances in the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, 22 pieces of data were found to contain affective meaning. This affective meaning is related to the feelings and attitudes of the main character in dealing with various events they experience. According to Geoffrey Leech's theory (1981), affective meaning is the meaning that shows emotional states as well as the speaker's attitude toward what is being conveyed. In the novel *Origami Hati*, affective meaning appears through various expressions that describe the psychological condition of the main character, Aruna. These expressions show feelings of anger, disappointment, sadness, regret, hurt, as well as efforts to accept the situation. Some data that represent the use of affective meaning in the main character's utterances are presented as follows.

3.1 The Affective Meaning in the Speech of the Main Character in the Novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra

Data (1)

Context: Aruna is in an emotional state after finding out that the man she loves has been involved with another woman. This situation brings feelings of disappointment and anger towards Haga's actions.

Speech: "You really are a jerk!" She tore the photo that had already been split in two. The paper with the picture of the two of them hugging got torn into even more pieces, becoming little scraps scattered around. (25/OH/3/2017)

In the data excerpt above, the affective meaning is seen in the expression **"You really are a jerk!"** which is said in a moment of peak emotion. This utterance shows Aruna's anger and disappointment towards the hurtful actions of the other person. The choice of the word **"jerk"** reflects a spontaneous emotional expression as a way for the speaker to vent their feelings toward the other person's behavior. This is reinforced by Aruna tearing up a photo as a symbol of their relationship. Therefore, this utterance carries affective meaning because it describes the speaker's anger and disappointment.

Data (2)

Context: Aruna realized that Citra's words about Haga's betrayal were true. Previously, Aruna trusted Haga more and had even scolded Citra. After learning the truth, Aruna felt regretful, guilty, and apologized to Citra.

Speech: "Cit, forgive me, okay. It turns out I really misjudged you all this time. I should have trusted you. I should have trusted you. I should have listened to what you said about Haga." Aruna regretted ever scolding Citra because her friend had said that Haga had deceived Aruna (27/OH/11/2017).

In the excerpt above, the utterance contains an affective meaning because it shows Aruna's feelings of guilt and regret toward Citra. This is evident in the expressions **"Cit, forgive me, okay"** and **"it turns out I misjudged you all this time"**. Both of those expressions don't just serve to convey information, but they also show the speaker's emotional state, who is feeling regretful about their previous actions.

Besides that, the sentences **"I should have trusted you"** and **"I should have listened to what you said about Haga"** reinforce the sense of self-disappointment because Aruna realizes her mistake. So, these statements fall under affective meaning since they express the speaker's emotions like regret, guilt, and the desire to mend the relationship with the listener.

Data (3)

Context: After learning that Haga chose another woman, Aruna tries to accept the reality and leaves the place. On the way home, he tried to calm down and remain strong even though he still felt the wound of the betrayal he experienced.

Speech: "Haga, enjoy your happiness. I will try to stay strong in my days. Even without you anymore. It turns out that this is what it feels like to love someone who loves someone else. It hurts, it hurts," Aruna said (33/OH/16/2017)

In the data excerpt above, the utterance contains affective meaning because it shows feelings of sadness, disappointment, and hurt experienced by Aruna after losing Haga. This is seen in the expressions **"I will try to stay strong and get through my days, even without you"** and **"It hurts, it really hurts,"** which reveal the speaker's emotional state.

The expression **"enjoy your happiness"** shows Aruna's inner attitude of trying to accept reality, even though she still carries pain. Repeating the phrase **"really hurts"** strengthens the intensity of the emotional suffering Aruna feels. Therefore, the utterance includes affective meaning because it emphasizes the expression of feelings and the speaker's emotional attitude toward the experience she's going through.

Data (4)

Context: Citra is trying to cheer up Aruna, who is still sad after her relationship with Haga ended. Citra's advice makes Aruna reflect on the relationship she once had, while also bringing up feelings of disappointment, doubt, and lingering hope toward Haga.

Speech: "Citra is right, if you really are my soulmate, no matter what happens, you will come back to me. And if you're not my soulmate, God will separate us in ways that might hurt at first. But I still regret why, when I was serious with you, you ended up hurting me. Honestly, it still feels like I can't fully let you go. Are you still someone I can hope for?" That man still occupies Aruna's mind. (34/OH/24/2017)

In the data excerpt above, the statement contains an affective meaning because it shows feelings of sadness, disappointment, regret, and doubt that Aruna experiences after her relationship with Haga ended.

This is evident in expressions like **"I still regret it," "I feel like I still can't fully let you go,"** and **"Are you still someone I can hope for?"** which reveal the speaker's emotional state.

The expression **"you actually hurt my heart"** also shows that Aruna still feels emotional pain from Haga's actions. Meanwhile, the question **"Are you still someone I can hope for?"** indicates an inner conflict between the desire to hope and the lingering sense of disappointment. Therefore, the statement is considered affective in meaning because it emphasizes the expression of feelings, attitudes, and the speaker's emotional state regarding the experience she is going through.

Data (5)

Context: Aruna is facing inner conflict after her past with Haga. She received a new member registration form for the campus newspaper from Citra, but hasn't filled it out for two days. In a quiet moment, Aruna reflects on her life and tries to gather strength even though she is still weighed down by past wounds.

Speech: "I really have to be able to do this. I can't keep being like this. I have to be strong like grandma, steady like dad. Isn't my blood a drop of their blood? I shouldn't be this weak. The story with Haga is over. And I should close everything tightly. As tightly as he hid his betrayal all this time," she whispered to herself sadly. (37/OH/45/2017)

In the data excerpt above, the utterance contains affective meaning because it shows Aruna's inner struggle in dealing with past wounds. This is evident in the expressions **"I really have to be able to"** and **"I can't keep being like this"** which show the speaker's drive to strengthen herself. The sentence **"I have to be able to be like my strong grandmother, like my resilient father"** shows Aruna's effort to find emotional role models from her family to keep going.

The expression **"I shouldn't be this weak"** shows a negative self-assessment, indicating disappointment and dissatisfaction with her emotional state. Meanwhile, the statements **"The story with Haga is over"** and **"I should close everything tightly"** show Aruna's effort to end her attachment to a painful past. Therefore, the utterance is dominated by expressions of feelings and the speaker's inner conflict, making it affective in meaning.

Data (6)

Context: Aruna is in her room at night after being betrayed by Haga. She still feels sad and has a hard time letting go of the person she loves. In a state of crying and filled with disappointment, Aruna expresses her feelings as if she is speaking directly to Haga.

Speech: "You're so mean, Ga. How could you be so cruel to me? I really loved you so much. I fell too deeply for you. Don't you realize that I'm already trapped in feelings this deep?" Another tissue lies scattered on the floor of her room. (40/OH/87/2017)

In the data excerpt above, the utterance contains affective meaning because it shows Aruna's feelings of disappointment, hurt, and affection toward Haga. This is evident in expressions like **"you're mean," "how could you be so cruel to me,"** and **"I really love you,"** which directly display the speaker's emotions.

Additionally, the sentences **"I've fallen too deeply in love with you"** and **"I'm already trapped in feelings this deep"** emphasize that Aruna is still very emotionally attached even though she has been hurt. The utterance not only serves as a way to convey thoughts but also as an outpouring of strong feelings. Therefore, the utterance includes affective meaning because it highlights the speaker's emotional expression toward the person she loves.

These six data points show that the affective meaning in the main character's speech is dominated by expressions of anger, disappointment, regret, sadness, and attempts to accept reality. The dominance of affective meaning is inseparable from the inner conflict experienced by Aruna as the main character. Her experiences of loss and betrayal cause her speech to function more as a medium for expressing emotional states than simply conveying information. These findings indicate that the use of affective meaning plays a significant role in building character traits and strengthening the delivery of conflict in the novel.

3.2 Implications of Research Results on Indonesian Language Learning in High Schools

The results of the research on the affective meaning in the main character's speech in Boy Candra's novel *Origami Hati* have implications for learning Indonesian in high school, especially in the novel text material in the Reading and Viewing element of Phase F of the Merdeka Curriculum. The findings of this research can be used as teaching material to help students understand that language in literary works not only serves to express the feelings, attitudes, and emotional states of the characters.

Through novel text learning, these research results can be used as teaching material in activities that analyze language elements and meanings in literary works. Students can understand the use of language in the characters' speech, especially in identifying affective meanings that show the characters' feelings and attitudes. Therefore, this research can support literary appreciation learning and help students understand the relationship between language, meaning, and character development in the novel.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The research results show that in the main character's speech in the novel *Origami Hati* by Boy Candra, 22 pieces of data were found containing affective meaning. These affective meanings reflect the main character's feelings and attitudes toward various events they experience and describe the character's emotional state in the story. The use of affective meaning in the character's speech helps strengthen the depiction of character and conflict in the novel. These research findings can be applied in learning Indonesian language in high school, especially in activities like "analyzing the language elements and meanings in a novel text." The results can also be used as an alternative teaching material for that learning.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank everyone who has provided support, guidance, and assistance during the research and writing of this article, so that the research could be carried out and completed well.

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