



Analysis of Musical Meaning in Lyrics "Limpung Van Java" by Migsel Limpung in Batang Regency

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Abstract

This study analyzes the musical meaning in the lyrics of the song "Limpung van Java" by Migsel Limpung, which highlights the beauty and identity of Limpung City in Batang Regency. The primary goal of this research is to understand the message conveyed through the song's lyrics. Qualitative method with text analysis approach was used to explore the elements and connotations within the lyrics. The findings show that the use of repetition and a structured lyrical format creates a memorable and profound effect for listeners. The lyrics of "Limpung van Java" express pride in the city through phrases like "Kota Emping adalah julukamya" (Emping City is its nickname), which depict Limpung's distinctive products and cultural identity. In addition, the lyrics reflect strong values of brotherhood and community spirit in the city. The influence of the rocksteady genre in the music adds emotional depth and reinforces the message about the city's beauty and friendliness. This research highlights the importance of understanding lyrical meaning and the impact of musical elements in appreciating the complexity and richness of local cultural expressions.

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INTRODUCTION

Music is a form of art with the ability to convey messages, emotions, and cultural values (Sri Wahyuningsih, 2017). Every region in Indonesia has unique musical wealth that reflects its local identity and traditions (Ganap, 2012). Batang Regency, located in Central Java Province, is no exception. One musical work that reflects the culture and social life of the Batang community is the song "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung.

Limpung is a subdistrict in Batang Regency, Central Java, renowned for its traditional food, emping. Emping is made from melinjo seeds processed using traditional methods (Santoso, 2011). The process involves peeling the melinjo seeds, boiling, pounding them until thin, and drying them under the sun. Limpung's emping has a savory taste with a slight bitterness characteristic of melinjo seeds (Saadah et al., 2021). Situated in an area rich in culture and tradition, Limpung not only offers culinary delights but is also home to various local art and music works.

The song "Limpung van Java" belongs to the rocksteady genre, a style of music that originated in Jamaica in the 1960s and has since evolved and adapted in various parts of the world, including Indonesia (Rachman, 2021). In the context of Batang, rocksteady has been adapted with local touches rich in cultural and historical values. This makes "Limpung van Java" not only an entertaining musical work but also a medium for conveying social and cultural messages (Yuliansyah, 2015).

This research aims to analyze the meaning of the lyrics of the song "Limpung van Java." The analysis focuses on interpreting the messages contained in the lyrics, both explicit and implicit (Lestari, 2020). With this approach, the research provides a deeper understanding of how music, particularly the song "Limpung van Java," can serve as a reflection of the social and cultural life of the Batang community.

Furthermore, this research also aims to uncover how the adaptation of the rocksteady genre within a local context can create a unique and relevant work for the local community. Thus, this study

contributes not only to musicology but also to cultural and sociological studies, particularly in understanding the social and cultural dynamics in Batang Regency through musical works.

Through a comprehensive analysis of the meaning behind the lyrics of "Limpung van Java," this research aims to provide new insights into the importance of local music as a medium for cultural expression and social reflection. The findings are expected to serve as a reference for future research in similar fields and to enhance appreciation for the local cultural richness reflected in music.

METHOD

This research employed qualitative approach with text and semantic analysis methods to understand the meaning of the lyrics in the song "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung. In addition, this research incorporated musicological analysis to assess the impact of the rocksteady genre on the delivery of the song's message and its lyrical nuances. Data collection involved several steps, beginning with the gathering and transcription of the song's lyrics. Subsequently, the musical structure, melody, rhythm, and other musical elements were analyzed to understand how the rocksteady genre influences the lyrics.

To support the musicological analysis, relevant literature on the rocksteady genre was used as a reference. An interview with the song's creator, Migsal Limpung, was also conducted to gain deeper insights into the inspiration and intent behind the lyrics and the choice of musical genre. The collected data were analyzed using text analysis techniques, which included examining the structure of the lyrics, the use of rhetorical devices, and poetic elements. The main themes and messages intended by the lyrics were identified through this analysis.

Semantic analysis was conducted to interpret the meaning of words and phrases within the cultural and social context of the Limpung community and to identify the cultural and social values

reflected in the lyrics. Further, musicological analysis was performed to assess the elements of rocksteady in the music and how these elements support and enhance the lyrical message. This analysis included studying the impact of rhythm, bassline, melody, and the distinctive vocals of rocksteady on the delivery of the lyrical themes.

This research used qualitative approach to gain a deep understanding of the social and cultural context underlying the lyrics of the song "Limpung van Java." This method allowed the researchers to explore how musical elements and lyrics interact to create rich and layered meanings.

By using this approach, this research aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the meaning behind the lyrics of "Limpung van Java" and how the song reflects the social and cultural life of the Batang Regency community.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Migsel Limpung Music Group

Migsel Limpung is a popular band in Batang Regency that plays rocksteady. The band, an indie group, was formed in 2012 in the Limpung subdistrict of Batang Regency. It originated from the initiative of four young men from Plumbon Village in Limpung. Over time, the band has grown and now consists of nine members. The name "Migsel" is derived from their regular practice schedule, which is every Sunday and Tuesday. "Mig" comes from the word for Sunday, and "Sel" comes from the word for Tuesday. Meanwhile, "Limpung" refers to the area where they are from (Fadhail, 2020).



Figure 1. Members of Migsel Limpung

Migsel Limpung frequently appears as a guest star at major events in Batang Regency and even outside the regency. In addition to their guest appearances, Migsel Limpung also leverages social media for expression and promotion. The band has a YouTube account with 2,420 subscribers and their videos typically receive thousands of views. Their most-watched video is the music video for "Limpung Van Java," which has garnered 23,632 views. This song highlights themes related to their hometown. So far, Migsel Limpung has continued to produce music and has released an album titled "Sederhana," which contains 8 tracks written by the band members.

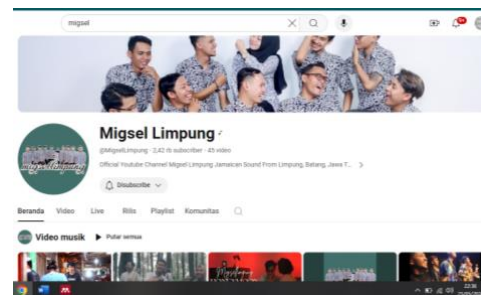


Figure 2. Migsel Limpung YouTube Channel

Source:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MigselLimpung>

The lyrics of "Limpung Van Java" present narratives and symbolism that can serve as important subjects for study. Analyzing the form and meaning of the lyrics will help understand the message or themes the band aims to convey and how these reflect or relate to social and cultural realities. The song also has the potential to explore various social, political, or cultural issues relevant to a specific time and place. Therefore, this research will not only focus on artistic elements but also on how the song can function as a cultural or social artifact.

Text and Lyrics Meaning Analysis of "Limpung van Java"

Text Analysis

Text analysis of song lyrics aims to explore the deeper meaning of the words used by the songwriter or performer (Azzahra et al., 2023). This includes identifying the main themes of the song, such as love, struggle, or social critique, and understanding how these themes are conveyed through word choice and lyrical structure. This analysis also involves recognizing the use of metaphors, similes, and other rhetorical devices to add depth to the meaning. In this way, text analysis helps uncover the emotions, messages, and intentions of the song, providing listeners with a deeper insight into the meaning and feelings behind the lyrics (Oktaviani, 2024).

In addition, text analysis considers the social and cultural context in which the song was written and released, as this often affects the meaning and reception of the lyrics. By understanding the background of the songwriter or performer, as well as the specific situations or events that may have inspired the lyrics, text analysis provides a more comprehensive understanding of the song, making it more meaningful and relevant to listeners (Nurdiansyah, 2018).

Limpung Van Java

Migsel Limpung

4 = 120

Voice

ooo ooo ooo ooo lim pung van ja va ooo ooo

6

Voice

oo oo lim pung van ja va ka ta o rang ko ta lim pung a

10

Voice

da lah ko ta yang in dah ka ta o rang ko ta em ping a

14

Voice

da lah ju lu kan rya senyuman an ra.mah yang a kan se

18

Voice

la lu me nyam but rya kar na ki ta se la lu me ngang

22

Voice

gap se mua sau da ra di si ni tem pat ki... ta

27

Voice

pu.jang di si ni ru mah ki... ta...

33

Voice

rik ma ti ber sa... ma. ka... li an... ber sa... ma.

Melody Notation of the Song
"Limpung Van Java"

Lyrics of the Song "Limpung Van Java" by Migsel

Migsel – Limpung Van Java

Ooo Limpung van java
Ooo Limpung van java

Kata orang Kota Limpung adalah kota
yang indah

Kata orang Kota Emping adalah
julukannya

Senyuman ramah yang akan selalu
menyambutnya

Karena kita selalu menganggap semua
saudara

Di sini tempat kita pulang
Di sini rumah kita
Nikmati bersama kalian
Bersama kita semua

Ooo... Limpung van java
Ooo... Limpung van java

Di sini tempat kita pulang
Di sini rumah kita
Nikmati bersama kalian
Bersama kita semua

Ooo... Limpung van java
Ooo... Limpung van java
Ooo... Limpung van java
Ooo... Limpung van java

Semantic analysis in the study of the lyrics of "Limpung van Java" by Migsel Limpung can reveal the deeper meanings and messages intended by the songwriter. In this research context, semantic analysis helps identify the main themes of the song, such as local identity, history, or regional pride, by exploring key words and important phrases used in the lyrics (Nucifera, 2018, Wafa et al., 2020).

The lyrics of "Limpung van Java" by Migsel Limpung effectively capture the beauty and uniqueness of Limpung City through a simple yet powerful structure. The repetition of the phrase "Ooo Limpung van Java" creates a memorable and emotional impact for listeners, reinforcing the city's identity and creating lasting impressions. The consistent and orderly structure of the lyrics supports the narrative, aligning with the rocksteady melody. The use of straightforward and simple language allows listeners from diverse backgrounds to grasp the conveyed message, fostering a strong emotional connection.

The lyrics convey an explicit message about the beauty and friendliness of Limpung City, as reflected in phrases like "Kota Emping adalah julukannya" (Emping City is its nickname) and "Senyuman ramah yang akan selalu menyambutnya" (Friendly smiles that will always welcome you). The nickname "Kota Emping" refers to the local specialty food, emping, made from melinjo. Emping has become an important cultural and economic symbol for the Limpung community, making the nickname not only a description of a local product but also a reflection of local pride and identity. Limpung City, located in Batang Regency, Central Java, is known for its beautiful landscapes, welcoming residents, and rich local culture. This nickname also highlights how the Limpung community cherishes its culinary heritage and maintains traditions passed down through generations. It reinforces the message that Limpung is a place where tradition and modernity can coexist harmoniously.



Figure 2. Landmark of Limpung City

In addition, the lyrics also carry implicit meanings about values of brotherhood and togetherness, as seen in the line "Karena kita selalu menganggap semua saudara" (Because we always consider everyone as family). An analysis of connotations and denotations reveals that the lyrics not only describe a physical place but also reflect the sense of safety and comfort provided by the city, as expressed in phrases like "tempat kita pulang" (our place to return) and "rumah kita" (our home). The connotations of "pulang" (return) and "rumah" (home) depict not only the physical aspects but also a strong emotional and spiritual connection to the place of origin.

Musical Meaning Analysis of the Lyrics of "Limpung Van Java"

The musical meaning of lyrics refers to how song lyrics function not only as spoken words but also interact with musical elements (intervals, melody, harmony, rhythm) to create deeper and more complex meanings. This involves how lyrics can express emotions, stories, or specific messages that are enhanced or modified by the musical elements (Novandhi, 2020). For example, in John Lennon's song "Imagine," the lyrics inviting listeners to envision a peaceful world are supported by a gentle melody and soothing harmony, which creates a reflective atmosphere that reinforces the message of peace. In Johnny Cash's version of "Hurt," the emotionally charged vocals and minimalist arrangement add depth to the lyrics about pain and regret, which make the song's message feel more intense and genuine.

Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" demonstrates how drastic changes in musical structure can reflect emotional turmoil in the lyrics. The transitions from piano ballad to rock opera and then to hard rock create a fluctuating atmosphere that matches the dramatic and conflicted narrative of the lyrics. The concept of musical meaning is also highly relevant in

genres like ska and rocksteady. For example, in The Melodians' song "Rivers of Babylon," lyrics reflecting spiritual contemplation and hope are supported by the relaxed rhythm and harmonious melody typical of rocksteady, blending a sense of sadness with resilience. The complex vocal harmonies and varying dynamics add layers of meaning, allowing listeners to experience the emotional intensity described. Thus, the musical meaning of lyrics illustrates the synergy between lyrics and musical elements, creating a richer and more meaningful listening experience.

Intervals

An interval is the distance between two notes in a scale, and it can influence the characteristics of a melody as well as the overall mood of the music. Intervals are measured in steps, where a second is the distance between two adjacent notes in a scale, and a third is the distance spanning three notes. Small intervals, such as seconds and thirds, are often used to create memorable and harmonious melodies (Purnomo, 2018).

The melodic intervals in "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung play a crucial role in shaping the characteristics of the rocksteady genre. The melody in this song employs relatively simple and harmonious intervals, often utilizing small steps like seconds and thirds. The use of seconds imparts a smooth, flowing melodic quality, while thirds add rich, deep harmonies. This combination creates a melody that is both memorable and pleasant to listen to.

Repeated melodic patterns that use consonant intervals enhance the calm and relaxed atmosphere of the song. This aligns well with the rocksteady style, which features slow rhythms and smooth musical flow. The repetition of melodic patterns with consonant intervals helps create a stable and soothing ambiance, which invites listeners to experience each note more deeply.

In addition, the use of these melodic intervals helps highlight the emotions and themes conveyed in the lyrics. The simple

and harmonious intervals provide space for the lyrics to shine, which deliver the message clearly and with feeling. This adds depth and additional meaning to the message, and allows listeners to connect more profoundly with the song.

Thus, the melodic intervals in "Limpung van Java" not only enrich the musical structure but also underscore its identity as part of the rocksteady genre. The thoughtful use of intervals demonstrates Migsal Limpung's skill in creating engaging and meaningful music, which reinforces the song's position within the rocksteady genre.

Tempo

Tempo refers to the speed or pace of a musical piece and is measured in BPM (beats per minute). It can significantly impact the mood and energy of a song, as well as how the lyrics are received by listeners. A faster tempo tends to convey a sense of energy and dynamism, while a slower tempo usually creates a calmer and more reflective atmosphere (Mudjilah, 2012).

The tempo of "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung, set at 120 BPM (beats per minute), significantly impacts the delivery of its lyrics. While this tempo is faster compared to the traditional rocksteady tempo, which typically ranges from 60-80 BPM, it brings a more energetic and spirited dynamic to the song. The faster tempo allows the lyrics to be delivered with a more rhythmic and urgent quality, which creates a sense of urgency or excitement that might not be felt at a slower pace. This can affect how listeners absorb and respond to the message in the lyrics, which makes them more engaged and enthusiastic. In addition, the faster tempo highlights the repeated lyrics often found in rocksteady, presenting each repetition in a fresh and captivating way. Therefore, the 120 BPM tempo in "Limpung van Java" enhances the lyrics and adds a layer of energy and vitality that enriches the overall musical experience.

Rhythm

Rhythm refers to the repeating patterns of duration or emphasis that structure the flow of music. The rhythm formed by a combination of tempo and duration patterns provides a solid structure to the listening experience of a song (Mudjilah, 2012). In the context of "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung, the faster tempo of 120 BPM adds a unique dynamic to the delivery of the lyrics.

With this faster tempo, the rhythm of the lyrics becomes more energetic and structured with tighter, rhythmic patterns. The repetitive and memorable lyrics, combined with characteristic syncopation, create a smooth and engaging flow that retains the essence of rocksteady. This rhythmic approach allows each word and phrase in the lyrics to be delivered with precision and cheerfulness, imparting a strong sense of urgency and enthusiasm.

The combination of a fast tempo and organized rhythmic patterns creates an appealing harmony, which makes it easier for listeners to connect with the message and emotions conveyed in the song. Thus, the rhythm in "Limpung van Java" not only strengthens its musical structure but also deepens the listening experience and understanding of its lyrics.

Song Structure

The structure of a song includes the arrangement of elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and the overall form of the composition (Cook, 2003). Previous research indicates that a song's structure, particularly the repetition of the chorus, can enhance listeners' recall and emotional connection to the song. For example, Suhendi's study highlights that repeating the chorus creates a strong appeal, making it easier for listeners to remember and enjoy the song (Suhendi, 2015, Wafa, 2020). Further, Widiyanto's research reveals that consistent harmony and rhythm within a genre play a crucial role in shaping its musical identity (Widiyanto, 2017).

The structure of a song can vary widely, including forms such as strophic (A-A-A), binary (A-B), ternary (A-B-A),

and more complex structures like rondo (A-B-A-C-A) and sonata form. One of the most commonly used structures in popular music is the verse-chorus form, which alternates between the verse (A) and the chorus (B). This form is well-regarded for its ability to convey a story through the verses and provide a strong hook through the chorus (Nettl, 2005).

The song "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung features a simple yet effective structure that plays a crucial role in conveying the lyrics and message of the song. It is built with a C-A-B-C-B-C form, where each section serves a specific function within the overall composition. Section A (Verse) describes the city of Limpung, highlighting its beauty and the warm sense of camaraderie with lyrics like "People say Limpung is a beautiful city" and "Friendly smiles will always greet you." These verses present the main narrative or story of the song, providing details and information that build the theme. This pattern is repeated to reinforce the message being conveyed. Section B (Pre-Chorus) acts as a bridge between the verse and chorus, affirming that Limpung is a home and a place of return for everyone, with lines such as "Here is where we return" and "Here is our home." Section C (Chorus), featuring the repeated phrase "Ooo... Limpung van Java," highlights the main theme of the song and creates a memorable impression, reinforcing the central message in the listener's mind. The chorus serves as the focal point of the song, repeated several times to ensure that listeners remember and internalize the main theme. The repetition of the chorus and pre-chorus creates a familiar pattern and emphasizes the message about identity and togetherness, making the song easy to remember and enjoyable for listeners. This regular and repetitive structure helps to reinforce the theme and meaning of the lyrics, adding an engaging dynamic to the delivery of the song's message.

The language style used in the lyrics of "Limpung van Java" is straightforward and every day, reflecting a close connection to the listeners' real lives

and daily experiences. The use of easily understandable phrases such as "Kata orang Kota Limpung adalah kota yang indah" and "Di sini tempat kita pulang, di sini rumah kita" makes the lyrics feel familiar and personal. In addition, this language style reinforces the themes of brotherhood and togetherness that the song aims to convey. The repetition of the phrase "Ooo... Limpung van Java" in the chorus adds a memorable musical element while emphasizing pride in the local identity. With its direct and simple language, the song effectively communicates its message clearly and emotionally, and allows listeners to feel a deeper connection with the place and community depicted.

This analysis demonstrates that "Limpung van Java" is an example of how music can serve as a tool for cultural expression and identity. Through a combination of meaningful lyrics and elements of rocksteady music, Migsal Limpung has created a work that is both emotionally and culturally profound. The song functions not only as entertainment but also as a means to strengthen community bonds and promote the city of Limpung to a wider audience. Thus, this study highlights the importance of understanding the form and meaning of lyrics, as well as the impact of musical genres, to appreciate the complexity and richness of culture reflected in local musical works.

To further explore the impact of the rocksteady genre, it is important to examine how its distinctive elements influence the delivery of the lyrical message. The slower rhythm of rocksteady, compared to the faster ska, allows listeners to savor each word and phrase. This makes the message about the beauty and tranquility of Limpung more pronounced and profound. The tempo of 80 BPM ensures that the meaning of the words is captured clearly, which allows listeners to fully appreciate the content. The strong bassline provides a solid foundation for the song, which adds gravity to the lyrics and creates a stable and enjoyable atmosphere.

In the context of musical globalization, Migsal Limpung's adoption of the rocksteady genre demonstrates how cultural elements from various parts of the world can be integrated to create unique and original works. Rocksteady, with its Jamaican cultural roots, provides an exotic and distinct flavor while remaining relevant within the local context of Limpung. This reflects how music can serve as a bridge between different cultures, creating space for dialogue and mutual enrichment. It also shows how local musical identities can be strengthened through the adoption and adaptation of global elements, which results in a dynamic and diverse identity.

In addition, observations of audience responses during live performances indicate that rocksteady elements are well-received in the local context. The audience responds with enthusiasm, which demonstrates that the combination of touching lyrics and engaging musical elements successfully creates a deep and satisfying experience. This underscores that music functions not only as a means of individual expression but also as a medium that strengthens social and community bonds.

Overall, this analysis demonstrates that "Limpung van Java" is a powerful example of how music can reflect and reinforce local cultural identity. By understanding and appreciating the musical and lyrical elements, we can better appreciate the complexity and richness of the culture reflected in this work. The song not only celebrates the beauty of Limpung but also showcases how global elements can be adapted to create something new and meaningful. This research highlights the importance of a holistic approach to music analysis, which combines lyrical analysis, musical elements, and cultural context to gain a comprehensive understanding of the musical work.

CONCLUSION

The song "Limpung van Java" by Migsal Limpung effectively conveys the message

of the beauty and unity of Limpung through a simple yet effective song structure. With a C-A-B-C-B-C format, the song combines verses that describe the city and its people, a pre-chorus that connects and emphasizes the meaning of home and returning, and a repeating chorus that underscores the identity and pride of the city. The use of simple, everyday language makes the lyrics easy to understand and familiar to listeners, which reinforces a personal and emotional impression. The repetition of the phrase "Ooo... Limpung van Java" in the chorus creates a memorable effect, which embeds the main message in the listener's mind.

Musical elements such as the 120 BPM tempo provide energetic dynamics while maintaining the calm nuance typical of rocksteady, albeit at a faster tempo. The simple and harmonious melodic intervals enhance the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere, which match the song's style and theme. Frequently used interval patterns, such as seconds and thirds, create a comfortable harmonic impression. The rhythm in the lyrics creates a smooth and engaging flow, which helps listeners follow and absorb the conveyed message. This rhythmic repetition also makes the song easier to remember and enjoyable to sing along to.

The orderly and repetitive structure helps reinforce themes of identity and unity, which creates a familiar pattern that emphasizes the message of brotherhood. Overall, the song uses effective structure and language style to convey profound meaning and messages about Limpung. This analysis concludes that the combination of well-structured musical elements and lyrics creates a song that is not only pleasant to listen to but also holds significant and relevant meaning for its listeners.

The influence of the rocksteady genre adds an extra musical dimension that reinforces the intended message and atmosphere. Slower rhythms, a strong bassline, and smooth melodies create a relaxing and calming nuance, in line with the lyrics' themes of beauty and friendliness. Soft vocals and

harmonization also add emotional depth, which emphasize the themes of brotherhood and togetherness.

"Limpung van Java" is an expression of culture and identity for the people of Limpung, conveyed by the band. Through a combination of meaningful lyrics and rocksteady musical elements, Migsal Limpung has created a musical piece that elevates Limpung as the city of "Emping" production. The song reminds listeners of the importance of appreciating and celebrating local identity while also welcoming global influences that enrich local music culture.

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