



## Semantic Analysis of the Lyrics of "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin

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### Keywords

*Semantics, Song Lyrics,  
Nationalism, Gēchàng  
Zǔguó, Mandarin Language*

### Abstract

National song lyrics have great potential as a linguistic medium in conveying ideology and shaping the collective spirit of society. Amid increasing attention to the role of language in the construction of National identity, it is important to examine how meaning in song lyrics works Semantically. This study analyses the Semantic meaning in the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin using Leech's (1974) theoretical approach. This song was chosen because it contains the value of Nationalism and Chinese ideological symbols. The method used is Descriptive Qualitative with observation, recording and documentation techniques. The results show that Conceptual meaning dominates the song lyrics, especially through Geographical representation, State symbols, and the role of the people. In addition, the Connotative and Affective meanings also reinforce the spirit of nationality, love for the country, and historical pride. The song proves that lyrics can be a linguistic medium that conveys National ideology and identity.

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P-ISSN 2528-5734

E-ISSN 2715-1611

## INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the main human mediums in conveying thoughts, emotions, and cultural values that are passed down from generation to generation. In the study of linguistics, we know the science that studies the meaning of language, namely Semantics. Semantics is a language study or linguistic study that studies meaning or meaning in language (Chaer in Zulkarnain, n.d.). Humans can live and live life because they have and master language. Someone who wants to express ideas, ideas, or thoughts and convey information often uses language, so it can be interpreted that language is the main means of communication. The branch of linguistics that can be studied to understand the meaning in a sentence is the semantic branch of linguistics. At first, the science of language that investigates meaning was known as semantics. This is because meaning, the subject of research, is considered difficult to trace and study structurally, in contrast to morphemes or words, which are subjects of research in morphology with clear structures. The word "semantics" comes from the Greek word *sema* (noun) meaning sign, *semelon* (verb) meaning to mark (Chaer Sri Nurjanah, n.d.).

One form of text that is rich in meaning and cultural value is song lyrics. Songs as works of popular literature contain linguistic and social symbols that reflect the conditions, aspirations, and identity of a nation (Cruse Dessiliona et al., 2018). In the Chinese context, anthems play a significant ideological role, serving as a rhetorical tool in shaping National identity and strengthening patriotism. Song lyrics are lines of words contained in a song. Song lyrics are a person's expression about something they have seen, heard or experienced. A song is a meaning created from a purposeful alignment between melodic and linguistic rules. Melody is the rise and fall of tone values, which should be seen as the core musical idea, which is valid to become music when supported by ideas that combine it in a collaboration with rhythm, tempo, shape and others. Song or music is defined as a complete work even though it consists of elements of song or melody, poetry or lyrics, and its arrangement including notation (Encyclopedia of Music Siagian & Simaremare, 2020).

The theme song "Singing of Our Motherland", entitled "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" written and composed by Wang Xin, real name Wang Xingeng, born in Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province in October 1918, was composed in 1950 and is still widely sung after more than 70 years. It is known as "China's second National anthem" and is one of the important National songs that contains profound meanings of the spirit of struggle, progress of the Chinese people, love of peace, and love and pride for the motherland. And because of this Nationalism, this song, one of the favourite songs of Mr Prabowo, the 8th President of Indonesia, was once sung by one of his personal secretaries named Agung Surahman, in front of the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, during a state banquet in China, when Mr Prabowo was the Indonesian Minister of Defence. This is what makes researchers more interested in analysing this song.

China has steadily become one of the world's giants thanks to the economic progress achieved by the country. Today, China is also a highly technologically advanced country. This is closely related to

the achievements of a country that is also supported by the active contribution of its people, who have a high sense of patriotism, which does not rule out the possibility, formed because it is supported by songs whose lyrical meaning builds love for the homeland. The study of the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin is relevant in the study of linguistics, especially semantics, because the lyrics are texts that contain meaning at various levels: literal, emotional, and ideological. According to Leech's (1974) theory, meaning can be studied as a linguistic phenomenon itself, not as something outside the language. However, the scope of linguistics that studies meaning does not consist of only one field of science. Leech's (1974) theory divides meaning into seven types, namely (1) conceptual meaning, (2) connotative meaning, (3) social meaning, (4) affective meaning, (5) reflective meaning, (6) collocative meaning, (7) thematic meaning.

In this study, the researcher only focuses on three types of meaning, namely Conceptual meaning, Connotative meaning, and Affective meaning. Conceptual meaning refers to the logical understanding of an utterance and is recognised as a basic component of grammatical competence, connotative meaning highlights the ideological value attached to certain words, while affective meaning plays an important role in expressing the emotions of pride, patriotism and patriotic spirit that are the soul of the anthem. These three meanings together reflect the main function of song lyrics as a means of linguistic expression laden with ideological and emotional meanings in the national context contained in the lyrics of Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)". The following are the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by 王莘 Wang Xin 1950 (歌唱祖国, n.d.):

Table 1. Lyrics of “Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)” and Indonesian Translation

No.	Lyric (sentence)	Translation
1.	五星红旗迎风飘扬	The five-star red flag fluttered in the wind.
2.	胜利歌声多么响亮	The strains of the victory song sounded so loud.
3.	歌唱我们亲爱的祖国	We sang the praises of our beloved homeland.
4.	从今走向繁荣富强	From now on to prosperity and strength.
5.	越过高山，越过平原	Over the mountains, over the plains.
6.	跨过奔腾的黄河长江	Crossing the fast-flowing Yellow River and Yangtze River.
7.	宽广美丽的大地	A vast and beautiful land.
8.	是我们亲爱的家乡	Is our beloved hometown.
9.	英雄的人民站起来了！	The heroic people have risen!.
10.	我们团结友爱坚强如钢	We are united, loving, strong as steel.
11.	我们勤劳，我们勇敢	We work diligently, we are full of courage.
12.	五千年历史光辉灿烂	Five thousand years of history shines brightly.
13.	我们战胜了一切苦难	We conquered all suffering.
14.	才得到今天的解放！	To gain independence today!.
15.	我们爱和平，我们爱家乡	We love peace, we love our homeland.
16.	谁敢侵犯就叫他灭亡！	Who dares to attack, will be destroyed!.

The full lyrics of Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" depict the National spirit of the Chinese people through metaphors and collective symbols such as "the red flag with five stars (五星红旗迎风

飘扬)", "Yellow River and Yangtze (跨过奔腾的黄河长江)", and "five thousand years of history (五千年历史光辉灿烂)". Each stanza emphasises pride in National identity, the strength of unity, and the progress of the nation. These lyrical representations not only reflect patriotic fervour, but also form an ideological construction of the Nation and its people. Therefore, these song lyrics do not only function as artistic expressions, but also as texts that contain ideological and symbolic values.

When separated from their musical elements, namely melody, rhythm, rhyme, and the arrangement of lines and stanzas, song lyrics can be analysed as texts (Sudjiman Wiradharma & S, 2016). In these song lyrics, the choice of diction such as "homeland (祖国)", "Unity (团结)", or "Victory (胜利)", where the nation is imagined as a symbolic community formed by shared narratives, symbols, and language. The development of institutionally and professionally studied culture can be a critical study of politics, history and power (McGuigan Ayu Nurani Kosasih, 2022).

Several previous studies have examined the relationship between song lyrics and cultural meaning. For example, an analysis of Ebiet G. Ade's songs shows that songs are an effective medium for conveying emotions and social messages through poetic diction and dense meaning (Wulandari Melankolis et al., n.d.). Each song lyric has a clearly defined theme that can be seen in the title and further reveals certain attitudes about the theme, such as morals, being a virtuous human being, love and the relationship between men and women (Weintraub Wiradharma & S, 2016). However, no study has been found that specifically analyses the Semantic meaning of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin with Leech's (1974) theoretical approach, and relates it to symbols of Chinese Nationalism systematically.

This research aims to fill this gap by focusing on three problem formulations: (1) What are the forms of Conceptual, Connotative, and Affective meanings contained in the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin?, (2) Which type of meaning among the three is the most dominant in building the meaning of Chinese Nationalism and National ideology?, (3) How do the three meanings represent the spirit of patriotism and pride in National identity in the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin?.

Theoretically, this research enriches semantic studies by presenting authentic data from Chinese National songs. Practically, the results of this study can be used as teaching materials in Chinese language teaching, especially in learning reading skills, cultural understanding, and critical discussions about national identity. Song lyrics are a verbal communication tool that has meaning in it. This suggests that the use of songs in Mandarin learning not only improves language competence, but also fosters cross-cultural understanding contextually and emotionally (Nugraha 2016: 291).

As such, the analysis of Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" is an important contribution in linking linguistics, culture, and foreign language education, as well as showing how language

structures work as ideological tools in shaping National consciousness. The purpose of this study is to explore how conceptual meanings in the lyrics of the song are formed, as well as how representations of Nationalism and Chinese cultural values are constructed through the language choices used. In particular, this research is expected to contribute to the development of Chinese language teachers' and learners' insights into the mindset of Chinese people in expressing love for their homeland, especially through the Semantic analysis approach.

## METHOD

This research is qualitative, qualitative research seeks to explain the meaning behind qualitative data, namely non-number data that cannot be calculated (Sugiono, 2022). The purpose of qualitative research is to reveal phenomena deeply with data collection. Qualitative research was chosen because its main focus is not on numbers, but on meaning, context, and interpretation of language as a social and cultural phenomenon. Through the analytical theory approach presented by Geoffrey Leech (1974), the researcher will analyse the Conceptual meaning, Connotative meaning and Affective meaning that appear in the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin, and explain how the lyrics represent the values of Chinese Nationalism.

This research uses the "Descriptive Qualitative" method to describe the meaning in the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin, the Chinese National song created in 1950 and known as the second National anthem. According to (Sutedi Febriyanti & Yulia, 2021) descriptive research is research conducted to describe, describe a phenomenon that occurs today using scientific procedures to answer actual problems. The song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin was chosen as the object of research because Conceptually, Connotatively and Affectively, the lyrics of this song represent national values, unity, collective pride, and future aspirations.

The data collection technique in this study went through 3 stages, namely: (1) Observing and paying attention to the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin in the original Chinese version along with an accurate Indonesian translation to identify Semantic meaning elements. (2) Recording and storing all data related to the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)", Conceptual meaning, Connotative meaning and Affective meaning, as well as the value of Nationalism in order to be further analysed. (3) Ensure the accuracy of the Chinese to Indonesian translation. (4) Collecting data from written documents related to the object of research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to identify the types of Semantic meaning in the lyrics of the Chinese national anthem entitled "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin (1950), and explain how the song lyrics represent Chinese Nationalism through the approach of meaning theory according to Geoffrey Leech

(1974) on "Types of Semantic Meaning" in Song Lyrics.

Based on the data analysis, it was found that the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" contained three main types of meaning according to the classification (Geoffrey Leech Yunira et al., 2020), namely Conceptual, Connotative, and Affective meanings. Details of the types of meaning and their examples can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. Details of Conceptual, Connotative and Affective Meaning Types in Song Lyrics of "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)"

Lyrics (Sentence)	Conceptual Meaning	Connotative Meaning	Affective Meaning	Interpretation
五星红旗迎风飘扬 (The Five Star Red Flag fluttered in the wind)	Symbol of China and its sovereignty.	National pride, symbol of unity.	Fostering respect and love for the country.	Depicting the splendour of the symbol of a free and independent country.
胜利歌声多么响亮 (The strains of the victory song sounded so loud).	Song of celebration for the victory of the revolution.	Symbol of collective success and revival.	Generating fighting spirit and optimism.	Signalling a great victory that brings a new spirit.
歌唱我们亲爱的祖国 (We sing the praises of our beloved homeland).	Expression of love for the motherland.	Strong patriotism.	A sense of emotion and pride in the country.	Expressing the people's love for their country.
从今走向繁荣富强 (From now on to prosperity and strength).	Direction of the country's development.	Hope for a bright future.	Optimism and motivation.	A promise for a more prosperous and strong future for China.
越过高山，越过平原 (Over the mountains, through the plains).	Geography of China's vast territory.	Devotion to exploring and uniting the country.	Proud of the homeland.	Depicting a large and diverse country
跨过奔腾的黄河长江 (Crossing the Yellow River and the fast-flowing Yangtze River).	Symbol of Chinese civilisation and source of life.	Historical heritage and national identity.	Respect for ancestors and land.	People love and recognise their cultural heritage.
宽广美丽的大地 (The vast and beautiful land).	Geographical area and natural wealth.	A fertile and proud land.	Gratitude for a rich country.	China as a beautiful and precious mansion.
是我们亲爱的家乡 (Is our beloved hometown).	Place of origin, collective identity	Regional attachment and pride.	A sense of love and security.	China is the true home of its people.
英雄的人民站起来了！ (The heroic people have risen!).	People's awakening after suffering.	The people as true heroes.	A spirit of struggle and revival.	The success of the people-led revolution.

Lyrics (Sentence)	Conceptual Meaning	Connotative Meaning	Affective Meaning	Interpretation
我们团结友爱坚强如钢 (We are united, loving, strong as steel).	Solidarity and strength of the Nation.	Strong and unwavering togetherness.	A spirit of unity.	Unity is the key to National strength.
我们勤劳，我们勇敢 (We work diligently, we are full of courage).	The value of hard work and courage of the people.	Persistent and unyielding national character.	Inspire the spirit to move forward.	Expressing the character of the Chinese people as warriors
五千年历史光辉灿烂 (Five thousand years of history shines brilliantly).	A long and glorious cultural heritage.	Glory and splendour of history.	Pride in ancestors.	China is a great nation with a long history.
我们战胜了一切苦难 (We conquered all suffering).	The struggle against colonisation, war and hardship.	Tenacity and resilience of the nation.	Feeling of emotion and salute.	Victory is the result of tremendous sacrifice.
才得到今天的解放！ (To gain independence today!).	The culmination of the struggle is freedom.	Independence is the result of hard struggle.	Pride in independence.	Independence is not a gift, but the fruit of struggle.
我们爱和平，我们爱家乡 (We love peace, we love home).	Peaceful attitude and love of country.	Love of stability and peaceful life.	Feeling of security and peace.	Expressing the desire to live in peace and prosperity.
谁敢侵犯就叫他灭亡！ (Who dares to attack, will be destroyed!).	Defence of the country against threats.	Firm and courageous attitude towards the enemy	Spirit of defence.	Threats to the motherland will be resolutely resisted.

This table shows that each sentence in the song lyrics carries a combination of literal, symbolic and emotional meanings that support each other to build the spirit of Nationalism.

### Representation of Nationalism in Song Lyrics

The presence of language in a literary work has an important role because language is used as the main medium in conveying this. said language is an important means for authors to convey ideas, or an idea (Wellek & Warren Febriyanti & Yulia, 2021). This study found that the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin represent Nationalism through the following symbolic elements: The following are given some examples of referencing library sources in written texts. "Widodo (2011) states that problem solving ability is the ability to solve problems using structured steps." "The success of the teaching and learning process is influenced by the suitability of the subject matter and the level of students' thinking abilities (Syahbana, 2010).

Table 3. Representation of Nationalism Symbols in the Song Lyrics of "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)"

No.	Lyrics (Sentence)	Dominant Conceptual Meaning	Category
1.	五星红旗迎风飘扬 (The Five Star Red Flag fluttered in the wind).	The flag as a symbol of sovereignty and national pride.	National Symbol.
2.	胜利歌声多么响亮 (The strains of the victory song sounded so loud)	An expression of victory over collective struggle.	Collective Symbol.
3.	歌唱我们亲爱的祖国 (We sing the praises of our beloved homeland).	A manifestation of love and respect for the motherland.	National Symbol.
4.	从今走向繁荣富强 (From now on to prosperity and strength).	Hope for a strong and prosperous future.	Optimism & Future.
5.	越过高山，越过平原 (Over the mountains, through the plains).	Symbolises togetherness and territorial unity.	Collective Symbol
6.	跨过奔腾的黄河长江 (Crossing the Yellow River and the fast-flowing Yangtze River).	Symbol of the nation's history and greatness.	National Symbol.
7.	宽广美丽的大地 (The vast and beautiful land).	Natural wealth as a shared identity.	Collective Symbol.
8.	是我们亲爱的家乡 (Is our beloved hometown).	Emotional and personal love for the homeland.	National Symbol.
9.	英雄的人民站起来了！ (The heroic people have risen!).	The awakening of the people as the main strength of the nation	National Symbol. Collective Symbol.
10.	我们团结友爱坚强如钢 (We are united, loving, strong as steel).	Solidarity and strength of unity of the people.	Collective Symbol / People's Ethos.
11.	我们勤劳，我们勇敢 (We work diligently, we are full of courage).	The spirit of hard work and courage as national values.	People's Ethos.
12.	五千年历史光辉灿烂 (Five thousand years of history shines brilliantly).	Pride in civilisation and cultural heritage.	National Symbol.
13.	我们战胜了一切苦难 (We conquered all suffering).	The strength of the people in facing the test of history.	Folk/Collective Ethos.
14.	才得到今天的解放！ (To gain independence today!).	Independence as the result of the people's long struggle.	National Symbol/Collective Symbol.
15.	我们爱和平，我们爱家乡 (We love peace, we love home).	Commitment to peace and love for the country.	National Symbol/People's Ethos.
16.	谁敢侵犯就叫他灭亡 (Who dares to attack, will be destroyed!).	The spirit of defence of sovereignty.	National Symbol.

The song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" is a full representation of the Nationalistic spirit of the Chinese people. It is not just a National anthem, but a collective narrative that conveys the nation's identity, spirit of struggle, and hope for the future. Through a semantic approach, the song contains three main dimensions of meaning, namely: (1) Conceptual meaning in the form of state symbols, history, struggle, and development hopes, (2) Connotative meaning that reflects the unity of the



region, the awakening of the people, and the collective strength of the nation, (3) Affective meaning that evokes love for the country, emotional pride, and the spirit of defending the country. With strong and meaningful lyrics, the song instils deep patriotic values and inspires the Chinese generation to love, protect and build their country. It is not just a reminder of history, but also an encouragement towards a brighter future.

### Conceptual Meaning is Dominant in the Linguistic Structure of Songs

Conceptual meaning refers to the logical understanding of utterances and is recognised as a basic component of grammatical competence. It is alternatively described as cognitive or denotative meaning (Lyons Yunira et al., 2020). The results of the analysis show that the dominant conceptual meaning in this song centres on three main areas namely: (1) National Symbols, (2) Geographical Elements, (3) The Role of the People, the following are the results of the analysis:

Table 4. Dominant Conceptual Meanings in Song Lyrics of "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)"

No.	Lyrics (Sentence)	Dominant Conceptual Meaning	Category
1.	五星红旗迎风飘扬 (The Five Star Red Flag fluttered in the wind).	The flag as a symbol of sovereignty and national pride.	Symbol of Nationalism.
2.	胜利歌声多么响亮 (The strains of the victory song sounded so loud)	An expression of victory over collective struggle.	Symbol of Nationalism.
3.	歌唱我们亲爱的祖国 (We sing the praises of our beloved homeland).	A manifestation of love and respect for the motherland.	Symbol of Nationalism.
4.	从今走向繁荣富强 (From now on to prosperity and strength).	Hope for a strong and prosperous future.	Symbol of Nationalism.
5.	越过高山，越过平原 (Over the mountains, through the plains).	Symbolises togetherness and territorial unity.	Geographical Elements.
6.	跨过奔腾的黄河长江 (Crossing the Yellow River and the fast-flowing Yangtze River).	Symbol of the nation's history and greatness.	Geographical Elements.
7.	宽广美丽的大地 (The vast and beautiful land).	Natural wealth as a shared identity.	Geographical Elements.
8.	是我们亲爱的家乡 (Is our beloved hometown).	Emotional and personalised love for the motherland.	Symbols of Nationalism.
9.	英雄的人民站起来了！ (The heroic people have risen!).	The awakening of the people as the main power of the nation	Geographical Elements + National Symbols...
10.	我们团结友爱坚强如钢 (We are united, loving, strong as steel).	Solidarity and the power of unity of the people.	Role of the People.
11.	我们勤劳，我们勇敢 (We work diligently, we are full of courage).	The spirit of hard work and courage as national values.	Role of the People.
12.	五千年历史光辉灿烂 (Five thousand years of history shines brilliantly).	Pride in civilisation and cultural heritage.	The Role of the People.

No.	Lyrics (Sentence)	Dominant Conceptual Meaning	Category
13.	我们战胜了一切苦难 (We conquered all suffering).	The strength of the people in facing the test of history.	Symbol of Nationalism.
14.	才得到今天的解放! (To gain independence today!).	Independence as a result of the people's long struggle.	Role of the People + Symbol of Nationalism.
15.	我们爱和平, 我们爱家乡 (We love peace, we love home).	Commitment to peace and love of country.	Role of the People + National Symbol.
16.	谁敢侵犯就叫他灭亡 (Who dares to attack, will be destroyed!).	The spirit of defence of sovereignty.	The Role of the People.

The song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin is a musical work that is full of semantic meaning and illustrates Chinese National identity as a whole. The Conceptual analysis in the table above shows that each lyric of this song conveys a message through three main focuses, namely: (1) National Symbols: lyrics such as "五星红旗迎风飘扬", "歌唱我们亲爱的祖国", and "从今走向繁荣富强" emphasise pride in the country's symbols, the spirit of Nationalism, and hope for a prosperous future. The song also highlights the meaning of independence ("才得到今天的解放!") and the spirit of defending sovereignty ("谁敢侵犯就叫他灭亡!"), all of which reinforce the image of China as a strong, independent and sovereign Nation, (2) Geographical Elements: depicts China's geographical greatness through the lyrics "(越过高山), (越过平原)", "(黄河长江)", and "(宽广美丽的大地)". This element reflects the beauty and richness of nature and reinforces the sense of unity of the vast territory. The mention of the homeland as "beloved hometown" adds an emotional nuance that reinforces the people's attachment to the homeland, (3) The Role of the People: the people are placed as the main characters in this song. They are described as hardworking ("我们勤劳"), brave ("我们勇敢"), united ("团结友爱坚强如钢"), and as resurrected heroes ("英雄的人民站起来了!"). The song also shows the strength of the people in the face of suffering and the long struggle for independence. Values such as solidarity, pacifism, and sacrifice form a strong basis for building the country's future. Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" conceptually unites National symbols, geographical elements, and the role of the people into a semantic whole that reflects the Chinese National identity.

The lyrics of Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" contain a rich variety of semantic meanings, ranging from literal to ideological. The song forms an image of Chinese nationhood through symbols, metaphors, and collective emotions. Using Leech's (1974) theoretical approach, it is found that the dominant type of Semantic meaning is Conceptual meaning, accompanied by Connotative and Affective meanings that reinforce the message of Nationality.

Thus, this song does not only function as entertainment or artistic expression, but as an ideological discourse and collective symbol that reinforces National identity. The results of this analysis are also relevant in the context of Chinese language education. Wang Xin's song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" can be used as a thematic teaching material to understand vocabulary meaning Nationalism and as a medium of cultural reflection, where students can understand how the Chinese nation interprets

struggle and identity through language. Through the Semantic approach, learners not only know the meaning of words, but also the values and emotions behind the choice of words in the song lyrics.

## CONCLUSION

This study examines the Semantic meaning in the lyrics of the song "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" by Wang Xin through Leech's (1974) theory of meaning approach. The analysis focused on three main types of meaning, namely Conceptual meaning, Connotative meaning, and Affective meaning, contained in the linguistic structure of song lyrics as a form of expression of Nationalism and national ideology. From the analysis, it is found that Conceptual meaning is the most dominant type of meaning. This can be seen from the selection of diction that explicitly describes important concepts about National identity, people's unity, and the progress of the country. Meanwhile, the Connotative meaning reinforces the ideological message by presenting symbolic associations to history, struggle, and collective pride, while the Affective meaning expresses patriotic emotions, love for the country, and the spirit of defence.

The song's lyrics represent the spirit of Chinese Nationalism through linguistic symbols such as "the red flag with five stars (五星红旗迎风飘扬)", "the Yellow River and the Yangtze River (跨过奔腾的黄河长江)", and phrases that emphasise the strength of the people and the solidarity of the Nation. The song functions not only as a work of art, but also as an ideological discourse that shapes the collective narrative of Chinese identity. Practically, the results of this study show that song lyrics can be used as an effective medium for learning Chinese, as they contain culturally charged vocabulary and high values of Nationalism. A Semantic understanding of the song can enrich cross-cultural learning and deepen students' awareness of how the Chinese nation expresses its identity and Patriotism through language.

Based on all the results of the above analyses, this research is expected to contribute to the fields of Semantics, cultural studies, and foreign language teaching by making songs as linguistic texts rich in meanings, emotions, and National symbols. Wang Xin's "Gēchàng Zǔguó (歌唱祖国)" is not only an entertainment medium, but also a powerful rhetorical instrument in strengthening the state ideology and collective consciousness of the Chinese people.

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