

## **LEXICAL AND CONTEXTUAL SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF "HEAT WAVES" BY GLASS ANIMALS**

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**Abstract:** *The study applied lexical semantics framework to analyze both dictionary-based and contextual meanings in Glass Animals' "Heat Waves" song lyrics. The study identified 20 expressions through comparing dictionary definitions against emotional narrative and socio cultural meaning while using descriptive qualitative methods for data analysis. The song achieves lyrical depth through its frequent employment of metaphor alongside polysemy and contextual modifications. The study highlights how analyzing context helps reveal sophisticated lyrical meanings which appear in contemporary music compositions.*

**Keywords:** *Lexical Semantics, Contextual Meaning, Song Lyrics, Semantic Analysis.*

**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini menerapkan kerangka semantik leksikal untuk menganalisis makna berdasarkan kamus dan kontekstual dalam lirik lagu "Heat Waves" milik Glass Animals. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi 20 ekspresi melalui perbandingan definisi kamus dengan narasi emosional dan makna sosial-budaya sambil menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk analisis data. Lagu ini mencapai kedalaman lirik melalui penggunaan metafora yang sering bersamaan dengan polisemi dan modifikasi kontekstual. Penelitian ini menyoroti bagaimana analisis konteks membantu mengungkap makna lirik yang canggih yang muncul dalam komposisi musik kontemporer.

**Kata Kunci:** Semantik Leksikal, Makna Kontekstual, Lirik Lagu, Analisis Semantik.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The fundamental branch of linguistics known as semantics studies the nature of meaning which exists in language. The field contains various divisions including lexical semantics which studies dictionary meanings and standard definitions of words. Contextual semantics investigates the way meanings transform based on how words appear in sentences and social or emotional situations. Through their combination these perspectives reveal the complete nature of language which serves both communication purposes and emotional and cultural expression functions (Hao, 2018; Puspitasari & Beratha, 2019).

Music stands as a rising trend in modern popular culture because it functions as a powerful channel for linguistic communication. The lyrics extend beyond simple meanings by using poetic techniques together with metaphorical language and emotionally powerful words to transmit sophisticated multi-layered meanings. The complete emotional and communicative power of the text cannot be understood through lexical definitions alone in particular situations. Rusdiansyah et al. (2022) claim that analyzing song lyrics enables researchers to discover how people employ language to tell personal stories while engaging with social situations and shared experiences.

The song "Heat Waves" by Glass Animals represents a perfect example of musical complexity through its composition and lyrical content. "Heat Waves" became a worldwide success after its 2020 Dreamland album release because of its powerful emotional writing and captivating musical structure. The emotional depth of this song rests entirely on its words while the melody and rhythm serve as essential elements

for listener engagement. The song "Heat Waves" explores different topics including emotional openness alongside self-exploration and unreciprocated relationships and yearning. Its words possess dual meanings which shift between literal and metaphorical interpretations based on individual interpretation and environmental settings.

The lines "Heat waves been faking me out" and "Laying waste to days" present challenges for straightforward dictionary interpretation. The lines encourage listeners to analyze how individual feelings together with remembrance and cultural meaning influence word interpretation. Through its repeated themes of desire and self-turmoil the song demonstrates how musical language reflects mental states. A semantic evaluation which includes lexical meaning and contextual analysis helps reveal both the fundamental purpose and emotional impact of the song's communication.

The study aims to evaluate the lyrics of "Heat Waves" through linguistic analysis of lexical and contextual semantics. This research uses selected song phrases with two different semantic approaches to prove that song lyrics exist beyond dictionary definitions which enables them to deliver complex, evolving meanings.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Several recent studies examined both theoretical and practical aspects of lexical and contextual meanings in song lyrics. The research by Hadi and Toruan (2021) examined the lexical categories of Ed Sheeran's song *Castle on the Hill*. The descriptive method through part-of-speech analysis helped them determine that nouns along with verbs and adjectives are the main elements in the lyrics. Their research establishes that identifying lexical elements helps better understand song lyrics' structure and expressive capabilities.

The analysis of meaning construction receives similar focus in Hao's (2018) work through discourse semantic analysis based on systemic functional linguistics. Hao demonstrates that embedded causal elements in scientific discourse clauses play a vital role in shaping meaning and maintaining logical coherence. This study does not focus on music yet demonstrates the essential role of semantic organization in language.

Putirulan, Cahya and Latuihamallo (2023) examined how lexical cohesion functions within Taylor Swift's *Red* album. Their analysis based on Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesion showed the frequent usage of repetition, synonymy and collocation. The analysis establishes that cohesive devices play a critical role in creating lyrical unity while enhancing emotional impact in songs.

Maulida et al. (2024) offered a combined lexical and contextual semantic analysis of Lauv's songs. The study utilized content analysis to show how lyrical meanings change depending on the surrounding situations. Pop music lyrics gain additional layers of emotional and pragmatic meaning through contextual interpretation according to this research.

Asrifan et al. (2021) focused their research on the song *Lily* by Alan Walker, *K-391*, and *Emelie Hollow* to study both lexical and contextual meaning interactions. Their qualitative descriptive study found that the context of lyrics affects how listeners interpret moral messages which extend beyond literal interpretations.

Baene (2023) took this method further by analyzing the complete *World of Walker* album by Alan Walker. Through textual analysis, the study demonstrated how lexical repetition across songs yields different meanings depending on contextual

variation. The analysis shows that semantic interpretation depends crucially on context when dealing with identical words.

Mawaddah and Rahmat (2023) conducted a semantic analysis of *Life Too Short* by Aespa. Their research demonstrated that the song's lyrics convey messages about being true to oneself and developing emotional strength. Through contextual semantic theory they demonstrated how lyrics carry social values both in straightforward and subtle ways.

Harefa and Pasaribu (2023) analyzed lexical relationships including synonymy and hyponymy in Coldplay's *A Head Full of Dreams* album. Their investigation showed how words with related meanings form a network which unites the album's thematic elements. The research demonstrates how lexical cohesion builds an album-wide narrative structure.

Juwita (2020) executed a semantic evaluation of Alan Menken's musical lyrics through a thematic analysis. The researcher used lexical relation and semantic field theories to find that antonyms and lexical repetition occurred frequently which strengthened narrative coherence throughout songs.

Pasingi, Mariana, and Husain (2022) examined the semantic content of Maroon 5 lyrics through their research. The qualitative research revealed that love, heartbreak and hope repeatedly appeared as main themes which used figurative language to articulate profound emotional experiences. The research indicates that semantic strategies function as essential instruments which enhance the expressive capacity of popular music.

These research works along with others show that both lexical and contextual semantic models serve as essential tools to interpret meaning in song lyrics. The research body demonstrates that semantics plays a crucial role in decoding the layers of intention and emotion and artistic elements found in musical texts through its study of individual words and extended discourse structures.

## **METHOD**

This research utilizes a descriptive qualitative framework based on semantic theory to study lexical and contextual meaning. The study evaluates the song lyrics from Glass Animals' "Heat Waves" using semantic analysis to determine word meanings across their lexical and contextual environments. This approach allows researchers to study how meanings evolve through different contexts and emotional settings.

The theoretical framework is based on lexical semantics, including the concepts of lexical-contextual shifts, figurative language and metaphor, and polysemy and ambiguity. Each line or phrase was interpreted by comparing dictionary-based lexical definitions with contextual meanings derived from the narrative structure, emotional tone, and socio-cultural references embedded in the lyrics.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This section analyzes Ten expressions from Glass Animals' "Heat Waves" through three main categories: **(1) lexical-contextual shifts, (2) figurative language and metaphor, and (3) polysemy and ambiguity.** Each song lyric receives analysis through its dictionary (lexical) definition followed by an evaluation of its wider contextual meaning which includes emotional elements and narrative organization as well as thematic impact.

### **(1) Lexical to Contextual Shifts**

The song uses basic dictionary words to express deeper meanings that become apparent when listening to the emotional time frame of the track. The following examples demonstrate this transformation:

No	Word of sentence	Stanza & Line	Contextual meaning	Semantic meaning
	<i>Last night all I think about is you</i>	S1 / L1	represents an unfulfilled desire or emotional obsession with someone. devotion to authority.	Literally, last night's thoughts regarding someone
	<i>Late nights in the middle of June</i>	S1 / L2	represents sentimental recollection, longing, or a special summertime moment.	Alludes to a certain period of time, namely the middle of June evening.
	<i>Heat waves been faking me out</i>	S1 / L3	"Heat waves" are a metaphor for emotional delusions or unrealistic optimism.	"Heat waves" refers to heat-induced optical distortion; "faking me out" refers to dishonesty.

### 1. Last night all I think about is you

Lexically : A straightforward introspection suggesting that the speaker gave someone some thought the night before.

Contextually : The expression alludes to a persistent, unresolved emotional concern. The phrase "all I think about" highlights fixation or an inability to let go, suggesting emotional attachment rather than a simple recollection.

### 2. Late nights in the middle of June

Lexically : A reference to the passing of summer evenings.

Contextually : Time association and nostalgia are evoked by the passage. "June" is frequently associated with romance, warmth, and youth. With a reference to a personal experience that took place during this period, the lyric serves as a chronological anchor for treasured or distressing memories.

### 3. I just wonder what you're dreaming of

Lexically: A genuine interest in a person's dreams while they are asleep.

Contextually: The song's lyrics reveal an emotional separation between two people through their communication breakdown. The speaker's wish to comprehend what remains in the other person's mind shows their feeling of disconnectedness in their relationship.

These examples demonstrate how the song's emotional undercurrent and surrounding narrative provide subtle cues that drive the transition from lexical to contextual meaning

### 4. I don't wanna be alone

Lexically: Expresses a straightforward statement about disliking solitude in its lexical meaning. The statement functions as an expression of preference for social

connection instead of solitary existence.

Contextually: However, within the song's narrative, the line reveals something more profound—emotional dependency and unresolved grief. The speaker avoids solitude because they fear abandonment and the pain which comes from facing reality without their desired person.

### 5. you look so broken when you cry

Lexically: The phrase describes how someone looks emotionally battered while crying according to its words.

**Contextually** The line goes beyond regular observation because it shows profound emotional connection. The speaker detects the other person's distress to the extent that it affects their own emotional state. The emotional matching between two individuals shows a deep empathetic connection which reveals the tragic nature of a relationship where both people experience pain.

### 6. I just wish that I could give you that

Lexically The phrase shows a basic intention to deliver something to someone but it does not specify what the item is..

Contextually: n the song's overall theme this statement functions as a representation of the speaker's emotional shortcomings. The speaker wants to provide their partner with happiness or emotional satisfaction but they understand their inability to do so. The word "that" keeps its meaning open to interpretation because it could indicate emotional security or peace or stability.

### 7. Usually I put something on TV

Lexically: The statement uses plain language to describe a habitual behavior which involves turning on the television for entertainment or distraction purposes.

Contextually: The simplicity of this action functions as a symbol for a more extensive mental tactic which people use to avoid their emotions. Through media consumption the speaker attempts to block out all thoughts about their failed relationship..

## (2) Figurative Language and Metaphor

Metaphor plays a central role in the song's poetic construction. Rather than delivering direct statements of feeling, Glass Animals use figurative language to indirectly communicate emotional complexity. Below are key examples:

8	<i>I can't make you happier now</i>	S2 / L1	expresses emotional release and acknowledges the failure of relationships.	Acknowledges that the speaker is no longer able to lift the listener's spirits.
9	<i>You can't fight it, you can't breathe</i>	S2 / L4	Shows signs of emotional suffocation or internal struggle overload.	Figuratively, "fight" means to oppose, and "breathe" means to inhale.
10	<i>Sometimes all I think about is you</i>	S2 / L5	Highlights recurrent emotional dependence or fixation.	Indicates thinking about someone a lot.

1 1	<i>Road shimmer wiggling the vision</i>	S3 / L1	Indicates emotional instability or an ambiguous life path.	A roadside illustration of heat distortion.
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### **8. Heat waves been faking me out**

Lexically : Heat waves produce optical illusions that occur because of elevated temperatures.

Contextually : The metaphor uses "heat waves" to explain how the mind creates false images of emotional connections and expectations. The expression "faking me out" means the speaker has experienced deception that might stem from personal illusions about feelings or misleading emotional signals.

### **9. Can't make you happier now**

Lexically : The speaker declares in direct terms they cannot make someone feel better emotionally.

Contextually : The speaker accepts total failure in their relationship while choosing to let go of all emotional ties. The line shows complete acceptance that the relationship has reached its end and cannot be saved thus highlighting a silent acceptance of the situation.

### **10. You can't fight it, you can't breathe**

Lexically : The speaker experiences a physical fight while struggling to breathe.

Contextually : The metaphor describes how emotional pressure creates a sensation of suffocation in the speaker. Through its vivid depiction the lyric illustrates what it feels like to face overwhelming emotional distress or suppressed emotions. This line emphasizes the sense of being completely powerless.

### **11. Sometimes all I think about is you**

Lexically : The phrase "thinking about someone all the time" describes the lexical definition.

Contextually : The song's refrain repetition increases listener understanding about the speaker's emotional turmoil because they fail to reach emotional completion.

The poetic devices function to make the lyrics more appealing while creating deeper emotional resonance and multiple layers of interpretation. The song uses common experiences to produce emotional reactions that draw listeners into its message.

### **12. Fake water all across the road**

Lexically : The sentence describes an optical phenomenon that produces the illusion of water on heated streets during hot summer days. Elevated temperatures create this natural optical illusion which people see on hot roads but the apparent water does not exist.

Contextually: The song uses this natural occurrence of mirage to represent emotional deceptions which mislead people toward false expectations. Within the song's emotional framework the term "fake water" represents those desires and outcomes which show themselves as real but disappear when you try to reach them thus reflecting the speaker's unmet relationship expectations.

### **13. Smile so comfortable**

Lexically: The phrase shows the person making a natural facial expression that signals calmness together with familiarity or inner peace.

Contextually: The song uses this line to express complex emotions which blend feelings of sadness with subtle irony. The outward appearance of the "comfortable



smile" hides a deeper emotional space that contains distance and detachment as well as potential emotional exhaustion.

### (3)Polysemy and Ambiguity

Glass Animals employs language which enables listeners to generate varied interpretations through their ambiguous wording. The expressions rely entirely on contextual factors and audience interpretation to establish their meaning which makes them suitable for detailed semantic examination.

14	<i>Laying waste to days</i>	S3 / L4	Shows emotional paralysis when time seems lost or pointless.	"Laying waste" means devastation; "days" means time.
15	<i>These nights never seem to go away</i>	Bridge / L1	tands for emotional stagnation or ongoing loneliness.	Nights are difficult or seem to go on forever.
16	<i>I was on fire for you</i>	OUTRO / L1	explains a passionate past that caused emotional suffering..	"On fire" is a metaphor for emotional burn and denotes extreme yearning.

#### 14. Road shimmer wiggling the vision

Lexically : Through a lexical perspective this sentence explains how heat causes air waves which produce a visual distortion called mirages that make roads appear to shimmer.

Contextually : The visual metaphor utilizes multiple meanings to show how emotional pain changes how people see things while heat disrupts visual perception and heartbreak disrupts emotional understanding. The "shimmer" functions as a double symbol which shows both the unstable visual appearance of the road and the uncertain romantic direction that creates emotional confusion and mental instability. The image stands as a representation of how emotional breakdown affects the strength of memories and how people perceive the world.

#### 15. Laying waste to days

Lexically : From a lexical standpoint this phrase serves as an idiomatic expression which indicates the purposeful expenditure of time without achieving meaningful results.

Contextually : The emotional content of the line brings out the feeling of being immobilized by sorrow or heartbreak. The speaker fails to actively destroy time since the emotional depletion together with depression and despair causes the days to lose their significance.

#### 16. You can't fight it

Lexically: The phrase declares the speaker lacks any power to fight against a certain force or circumstance.

Contextually : The meaning of this statement remains unclear because the word "it" lacks definition in the context. The statement has multiple interpretations which include strong feelings, unavoidable relationship separation, psychological disorders and destiny. The speaker probably discusses the unavoidable nature of suffering or the refusal of love or the failure of emotional stability.

### **17.You say something so lovin'**

Lexically: The other individual expressed their words in a warm and caring tone according to the lexical interpretation.

Contextually: The statement generates an emotional contrast since it introduces a gentle moment between the unfolding story of deteriorating emotions. The phrase "so lovin'" seems discordant with the surrounding sadness because it generates emotional conflict or potentially sarcastic undertones..

### **18.Now I gotta let you go**

Lexically: The speaker now suggests that the addressee will be happier with someone new.

Contextually: This line conveys emotional sacrifice and self-abnegation. The speaker does, in essence, assume that he could not give the other what they needed, thereby displacing the narrative of self-deficiency and letting go for the sake of the other. Thus, if it sounds seemingly generous, it will often betray deeper pits of self-blame or emotional resignation. Whether or not the speaker truly believes it or has actually taken to rationalizing his broken heart is the blurry line. This line stands for both resolution and confession..

### **19.You'll be better off in someone new**

Lexically: It suggests the person being addressed would be more content in a relationship with someone else.

Contextually: this line shows emotional giving up and doubting oneself. The speaker feels they can't meet the other person's needs, which shows they think they're not good enough. They're letting go for the other's happiness, but the statement might also show they're blaming themselves or giving up emotionally. It's unclear if they really believe this or are justifying their sadness. The line acts as both an ending and a confession.

### **20.Can't breathe**

Lexically: it refers to a real physical situation where someone can't breathe in or out.

Contextually: the phrase is used to express emotional pain, like feeling panicked, anxious, or heartbroken. It's a common way to describe deep emotional suffering that affects the body as if it were a physical condition..

The multiple levels found in the lyrics exist because of polysemous expressions which allow simultaneous operation on literal symbolic and emotional levels. The song gains greater individual meaning because each listener can assign personal interpretations to its content.

The research findings show that "Heat Waves" functions as more than music since it serves as both a detailed linguistic composition and an emotional storytelling experience. The song reaches its full potential because of the combination between specific words and the deliberate contextual framework. The movement between direct language and symbolic language encourages listeners to create their personal understanding of the lyrics through their life experiences.

The semantic complexity of "Heat Waves" shows that detailed examination of contemporary song lyrics reveals how language achieves emotional communication between speakers and listeners. The song achieves its artistic significance through its combination of structural elements and emotional content which deserves study across linguistic and literary fields.

Heat waves



By My Glass animals - 2020

Road shimmer wigglin' the vision  
Heat, heat waves, I'm swimmin' in a mirror  
Road shimmer wigglin' the vision  
Heat, heat waves, I'm swimmin' in a  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Can't make you happier now  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Can't make you happier now  
Usually I put somethin' on TV  
So we never think about you and me  
But today I see our reflections  
Clearly in Hollywood, layin' on the screen  
You just need a better life than this  
You need somethin' I can never give  
Fake water all across the road  
It's gone now, the night has come, but  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Can't make you happier now  
You can't fight it, you can't breathe  
You say something so lovin', but  
Now I gotta let you go  
You'll be better off in someone new  
I don't wanna be alone  
You know it hurts me too  
You look so broken when you cry  
One more and then I say goodbye  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Can't make you happier now  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Can't make you happier now  
I just wonder what you're dreamin' of  
When you sleep and smile so comfortable  
I just wish that I could give you that  
That look that's perfectly un-sad  
Sometimes, all I think about is you  
Late nights in the middle of June  
Heat waves been fakin' me out  
Heat waves been fakin' me out

Sometimes, all I think about is you  
 Late nights in the middle of June  
 Heat waves been fakin' me out  
 Can't make you happier now  
 Sometimes, all I think about is you  
 Late nights in the middle of June  
 Heat waves been fakin' me out  
 Can't make you happier now  
 Road shimmer wigglin' the vision  
 Heat, heat waves, I'm swimmin' in a mirror  
 Road shimmer wigglin' the vision  
 Heat, heat waves, I'm swimmin' in a mirror

## CONCLUSION

The intricate connection between lexical meaning and contextual meaning is revealed by a semantic analysis of Glass Animals' "Heat Waves." Basic comprehension is provided by lexical meaning, but symbolic meaning and buried emotional aspects are revealed by contextual meaning. The song creates a compelling and impactful narrative by utilizing metaphor, cryptic language, and many word meanings. The study shows that in order to comprehend the complex emotional content present in poetry lyrics, a dual lexical and contextual semantic analysis is necessary when examining lyrics from modern songs.

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