



**AN ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL SEMANTICS ON BOB DYLAN'S  
THOUGHTS ABOUT CIVIL WAR IN HIS SELECTED LYRICS  
OF PROTEST SONGS**

**THESIS**

**Written by:**

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**ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY  
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**THESIS**

A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University  
as one of the requirements to get the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
in English Studies

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## **DEDICATION**

In the sincerity of my heart, this thesis is dedicated to:

- My beloved mother and father, Sri Wuri Handayani and Moh. Sholeh for their greatest love, sacrifice, and prayer.
- My dearest sister and brother, Ratna Utami Fitriyanti, S.E and Rifki Al Hakim for their attentions, supports, and motivations.
- My Alma Mater

## MOTTO

“ Politics is war without bloodshed,  
while war is politics with bloodshed.”

---

\*) Mao Tse Tung (1893-1976). *www.wikipedia.com*

## DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled *An Analysis of Lexical Semantics on Bob Dylan' Thoughts about Civil War in His Selected Lyrics of Protest Songs* is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, August 09, 2011

The writer

Riza Chairunny Ulfa

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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Jember, August 09, 2011

Riza Chairunny Ulfa

## SUMMARY

Protest song is a type of song which concerns to convey critics associated to a current social issue. People are also influenced by the ideas revealed in the lyric. They mentally digest the song from the existence of words which can construct a certain meaning of the song. From the view, we consider that words have a significant role to establish an understanding to a song. Therefore, this thesis is intended to seek Dylan's ideas and his tendency toward civil war on his lyrics through analyzing words as composition of the lyrics based on the keywords; the oppressor and the oppressed.

This thesis is a stylistic study. Lexical semantics as the theory includes parts of speech, semantic field, and collocation. There are eight songs that are analyzed. For finding whether he tends to use the oppressor or the oppressed point of view, there are some parts that must be found. The first is collecting the lexical items based on those both the keywords. The second is classifying the lexical items into the parts of speech. The third is finding and counting the lexical chains of semantic field and collocation. Furthermore, the result is analyzed and tried to prove the appropriateness of the sense of lexical items and the use of them in lyrics. The last includes interpreting the findings.

In conclusion, all of the songs employ the oppressor point of view, it means that Dylan tends to expose the oppressor in expressing his protest. Moreover, not all of the lexical items used are appropriate with their sense. The relation of parts of speech and the total of noun that are dominant in the lyrics, are interpreted as Dylan's tendency in conveying an impression of civil war. While, repetitions mostly used in the lyrics are interpreted as Dylan's aim to emphasize the meaning. Finally, there are three categories of Dylan's lyrics covering his thoughts of civil war. He describes civil war based on American soldier, discrimination in America, and the war itself.



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