# Feminism Discourse in Balance Ton Quoi (Linguistically Van Dijk Frame)

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### ABTRACT

Ballance Ton Quoi is a French song that the researchers plan to analyze. This song is performed by Angèle. This song has attracted the attention of researchers, since it is impossible to discuss women without mentioning the social structures in which they exist. The purpose of the present research is to illustrate how critical discourse can reveal a text's hidden meaning. Aside from that, this study aims to demonstrate how social construction influences the perception of good and terrible women. Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis is used in the present research to analyze data. By examining and explaining the macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure, the researchers seek to identify the implied meaning of this song. The present research adopts a descriptive qualitative method, with significant conceptshighlighted and translated. According to the research's findings, the speaker believes that women should be able to value and respect who they are by not cheaply dressing or performing.

## Keyword: French, song, women, critical discourse and hidden meaning

# INTRODUCTION

One type of text is a song's lyrics. Since text analysis, as developed by many linguistic experts, cannot reveal deeper socio-cultural conditions that exist as a background to the emergence of the text, Fairclough in Munfarida (2014, 8) explores some of the main issues in text research that can be focused through the problem of meaning. Conversely, this perspective also takes issue with post-structuralist adherents who place too much emphasis on the socio-cultural aspects of texts' emergence while failing to offer a sufficient methodology for text analysis, which is essentially a representation and articulation of the ideas, concerns, and ideologies associated with the text. There is more to the meaning of a text than just linguistic analysis and structural components. This includes literary works as well. Literary works are

viewed as an independent universe by Zaimar (2011, 54), who said that if structural studies are used as the basis for analysis, all you will uncover are intrinsic icons that are restricted to language as speech. An author and a text have a relationship, and the text has a function beyond just being a text.

The lyrics and melody of a song can actually convey to listeners the author's or singer's feelings and emotions. Songs are poems with fascinating musical accompaniments that are sung to make them enjoyable to hear. A song can be an expression of the author's heart. So the songs sung can be sad, joyous, or funny. Lyrics from songs are a powerful tool for communicating ideas. Song lyrics transmit the author's message by expressing ideas and viewpoints as well as the author's impression of his or her experience. Through the expression of thoughts and opinions as well as the impression of the author's experience, song lyrics carry a message from the author. The author intends for his or her listeners to understand the meaning behind the message he has incorporated into the song's lyrics. An author's philosophy or experiences can inform a song's lyrics. As a powerful medium for communication, singers use literary works in the form of songs to express their experiences and opinions.

The message hidden in the song lyrics serves a purpose that the researchers would share to his or her listeners his or her idea. Song lyrics can be written based on the author's experience or beliefs. Singers use songwriting as an excellent communication technique to express their experiences and perspectives on various topics. The meaning of a song conveyed to listeners is the result of an interaction between the composer's ideas and actual reality. It is impossible to disentangle this representation from the media's message delivery. Representation in media is defined as the use of symbols such as images, sounds, and so on to re-present anything that has been absorbed, imagined, or felt in a physical form.

In this research, the researchers used a French song, entitled Balance Ton Quoi. This French song is a song with the theme of feminism and equality. In this song, Angèle satirizes sexism. Several researchers have tried to prove that songs can be used as a means of representing certain ideas, including discourse about the marginalization of women. Keleta-Mae (2017), proves that in the traditions of several Western countries, for example America, Beyoncé's work contains feminism. This is the same as thesong entitled Balance Ton Quoi.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical discourse analysis theory will be applied by the researchers to this songin order to analyze the song and determine its meaning. The author cites J. Lerot et al.in Herrero Cecilia (2006, 142), who provides the following definition: discourse is a broad term that refers to anything that a person says or writes. Represents all utterances and enhances human language capabilities. Texts are the primary source of textual information expressed in print media. However, the information given through a book, especially literary writings, may differ from reality in the sense that there are viewpoints and arguments whose truth is not yet known. This is also influenced by writers who create discourses. This is consistent with Fitriana's (2019, 44) view that the writer's background is intimately tied to the outcomes of discourse production. Inequalities, points of view, and the author's partiality towards a text can all be seenin text's discourse.

Depending on the discipline that wants to examine it, a discourse might have many different definitions. Discourse, in the words of Mukhlis (2020, 73), is employed in linguistic phrases, which constitute a full language unit. Sumarlam(2019) went on to say that discourse can be presented orally or in writing, and that it cohesive, coherent, integrated, and represents the outcomes of social interactions, making it easy for readers to grasp. Within a text, the discourse is primarily concerned with writing that is connected to an event through sentence form. Despite the validity of each definition, we will use one put out by author Norman Fairlough inorder to conduct this analysis.

Critical Discourse Analysis, according to Fairclough and Wodak in Darma (2014, 53) examines how language is used, both spoken and written, as a social practice. When speech is employed as a social practice, specific descriptive events and the circumstances, establishments, and social structures that influence them are brought into dialectical interaction. In addition to linguistic analysis, critical discoursealso emphasizes other topics like ideology and socio-culture as a reflection of the writer or communicator in his work. The writer or communicator must be aware that these topics are focused on the discourse text's structure.

By van Dijk's critical discourse model with three dimensions as tools in the analysis process, a thorough the research of each verse of the song Balance Ton Quoi was performed. The first component involves analyzing textual data while taking intoaccount syntax, semantics, vocabulary, sentence structure, cohesion, and coherence, how sentences or words fit together to convey meaning. Discourse practice, the second component, examines the ideological content and value of the text during its production and consumption. The third component, which is associated with socio- cultural practices, pertains to social settings that exist beyond the text and have the potential to impact the lyric. Through the analysis of history, action, context, authority, and ideology, critical discourse analysis is conducted. Teun A.van Dijk's critical discourse theory is one of the analytical research theories used in discourse analysis. According to him (2015, 17), discourse has three structural dimensions: text, social cognition, and social context.

Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis model defines discourse structure as three structural buildings that constitute a single entity. They are classified as macro, super, and micro structures. Macro structure refers to the overall meaning conveyed by a discourse's theme or topic. The super-structure of a discourse or schematic, such as a typical conversation or written form, begins with the introduction, continues with the primary material, followed by the conclusion, and finishes with the conclusion. Van Dijk (2020, 52) found that discourse creation must consider features of global meaning as demonstrated by macro and super structure analysis, which are considerably superior to word and sentence analysis, though micro structure analysis is equally important.

Along with focusing exclusively on the composition and organization of texts, critical discourse studies contend that ideology is a fundamental component of all writing. The terminology, sentences, and syntax all reflect this ideology. Based on these assumptions, van Dijk developed a practical discourse analysis methodology. He sees speech as a collection of structures/levels that sustain one another. Three layers are distinguished by van Dijk: macro structure, superstructure, and micro structure. In this context, van Dijk (2005) demonstrated that macro structure is the overall meaning of a text, which may be comprehended by examining the text's topic. This discourse's theme encompasses not just its content but also a particular facet of an event. By studying the macro structure and focusing on the topic, one can identify the problem and the communicator's efforts in solving it, in the form of opinions, decisions, and actions.

# **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses descriptive qualitative methods with critical discourse analysis. In this regard, Moleong (2019, 15) was carried out to fully understand a phenomenon from the research subject by explaining it in the form of words and language and utilizing various natural methods. **Analysis** 

Human communication is facilitated by language. Humans are able tocommunicate their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through language. However, the concept of language has expanded over time to reflect its purpose beyond communication. At this point, language serves as an intermediary when it comes to the ideological use of power. Even language helps other parties dominate others. Regarding the above remark, Halliday (2000) underlined that language is more than just sentences; it also includes texts or discourses in which people exchange intents inan interpersonal setting.

Critical discourse analysis, as employed by van Dijk is the data analysis method in the present research. In order to uncover hidden meanings in sceneries and interactions, descriptive exercises are performed. The idea behind the research is that women are frequently depicted in media mainstream. It's always interesting to take note of the challenges associated with women's representation in the media industry. The appearance, placement, and function of girls have changed since the invention of cinematography, becoming a unique attraction that needs to be decided upon and discussed. The media's portrayal of women is as old as the art form itself.

## 1. Text

Critical discourse analysis employs linguistic analysis. For this reason, the researchers will linguistically structure the conversation as the text in this part:

## a. Morphology

The prevailing ambiance of a nation's national anthem, such as France, is the utilization of diction associated with regional terminology and expressions. The

songwriter uses everyday terminology for symbolic purposes to describe social issues of the day. The chart below illustrates what feminism means, analyzed through the lens of critical discourse, as demonstrated by the interpretation

Language Meta-	Language Systematics			
function	Phonology	Morfology	Syntax	Discourse
Ideasional	Onomatopoeic, Icon, Meaning and Sounds,	Talking about	To demonstrate the message of feminism thoughts and sentiments as	Highly sarcastic language and artistic but unimaginative
		Communication	a totality.	
Internerson	Satirical and		Communicat ethe	Text language conventions
Interperson al	harsh language are used to indicate	through satirical words including subordinating conjunctions to point any women who do not respect her-self	message or meaning: objective, subjective, feminism textual and contextual.	and poetry systems, as follows: object, tone and impression
Textual	Rhyme: repetition	Order: reputation, category, deviation, exploration	The arrangement forms line and stanza structure, tone, coherence and intentionality	Structure: The title, array, verse, and the significance of employing harmful phrases as the foundational aspects using harm words

# Table 1. Meta function Description

# **b.** Phonology

Phonology is a linguistic part, which investigates speech sounds, and poetry frequently use these sounds to generate dynamism and harmony in hilarious language, using horizontal phonological linkages. Several words in this lyric shows inappropriate connotations. This might be seen as an attempt to properly present and persuasively convince anyone about sexism.

# c. Syntax.

The sentence's syntactic components are: First, in Indonesian, there are no

tenses that indicate time disparities. As an example in the first table, there is any word that can show any tenses, because there are no tenses in Indonesian. The example of syntax in this song can be seen in the table below:

French	Structure	Meaning
Balance ton quoi' Denounce your thing,	Verb + Noun phrase	The word balance can be interpreted as
Pour une fille belle t'es pas si bête	adjective phrase	The speaker would like to say, if they waer or act something bad,
For a pretty girl you're not so dumb		means they do not respect their self
De toutes les chattes, (cats)	Pronomina (feminine chat) + noun phrase	This is the animal of cat feminine form, which means 'cat'. When used in
Of all the hoes, it speaks badly		connection to a feline, this word is not offensive; but, when used in reference to a lady, it is inappropriate.
J'ai vu qu'le rap est à <i>la mode</i>	Adjective phrase	The speaker would like to say that those girls or women are not artists.
I saw that rap is in fashion		Therefore they are not suppose to wear any sexy dress.
j'sais pas c'qui t'faut I don't know what you	Adjective phrase	The speaker get curious, why girls or women like to look and behave like
need		that
Ils parlent tous comme des animaux	Present modal auxilary	Those men do not respect or do sexual harassment to those girls
They all talk like animals		or women, who have cheap appearance.
Et qu'il marche mieux quand il est sale	Complex sentence (sub-ordinate claus)	Dirty work is better and more dignified than doing something haram
And it works better when it's dirty		
Un jour, peut-être, ça changera	Juxtaposition ( combining verb by coma)	Expecting a change in a situation

Table 2. Syntax Example

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Une fille qui l'ouvre, ça serait normal A girl opening it would be normal	Proposition clause	
Tes parents et ton frère, ça aide Your parents and your brother help	Coordinate clause	No one can help us except our family

The aforementioned analysis demonstrates how women seem to be the primary active players who engage in a variety of physical activities. Not only do women actively participate in material processes, but they are also impacted by the actions taken by other participants. This material process is distinguished by a variety of verbs, adjective phrases, noun phrases, and gender pronouns derived from animal names (cats). Women engage in the material process as active participants as well as participants who are impacted by the decisions made by other participants. This is characterized by direct object pronouns.

#### 2. Discourse Practice

To reach its goals, critical discourse analysis is the act or attempt to explain anything in a text that is directly relevant to social reality. That is, one must understand the importance of a contextual explanation. The key motivator for this critical approach is communication. In this song, the repetition is used in this chorus stanza to emphasize certain words, sounds, or sentence fragments that are crucial in the context: Balance ton quoi. If translated literally, the verb balance canbe viewed as humans living a balanced life. Balance Ton Quoi (which translates into English as denounce your what or reject what is offered) might be interpreted as the singer warning any lady never to accept any man or any employment. The speaker wants to talk about a dangerous life outside.

The term "cognitive" refers to mental processes involving thinking, seeing, or understanding that are associated with the cognitive components of the human experience. This process is symbolized by the verb savoir, which represents the cognitive operations of the five senses. Women consider beliefs about their own worth, which is what the phenomena reflection. The song's subject of empowering and increasing women's consciousness to prevent them from selling their bodies or being perceived as cheap women is meant to be remembered by listeners through the repetition of this statement. The researcher deduced from the string of lines in each stanza that the speaker felt compelled to remind her-self not to forget the things that made her appears like a cheap woman.

# **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

## a. Macro-structure

A discourse text will have a macro structure, a superstructure, and a micro structure, according to the studies mentioned above. The theme element or topic makes up the majority of the discourse, which also contains the broad outline. The theme is the central focus of the entire work to be delivered. When an author starts writing, they first decide on a topic; in this case, that is the CDA's macro structure. The original subject later became a written piece. The topic sentence is the most significant sentence in a paragraph since it conveys the paragraph's major theme. A paragraph's topics also govern and constrain the concepts that are discussed inside it. The topic sentence is separated into two parts: the topic and the controller of thoughts, with the topic being the issue we are discussing.

A message or intention of being a valuable woman who can make money the right manner is implied by the theme. From the table above, there are various lines whose phrases contain parts of harm words to emphasize the primary point; nevertheless, if these sentences are joined into propositions or sentences, they will form the meaning of nationalism and love for the motherland, as illustrated in:

The subjective nature of women's low status in society can be examined through this song, demonstrating that it is a reality in day-to-day existence. Subjective reality is concerned with the meaning, interpretation, and outcomes of individual-object connections. Each person's historical background, expertise, and surroundings are unique, which might lead to varied perceptions while observing and dealing with objects. On the other hand, reality has an objective dimension, in which whatever perceived is external, outside, and cannot be ignored through wishful thinking. This can be observed in the formulation, institutions, current regulations, and so on. These two realities are in conflict with one another from the standpoint of social construction.

On a social level, however, it is seen as a question of rebelling against the notion of patriarchy, which devalues women. This occurs not only in third-world countries, but also in developing country, like France.

No.	Discourse Structure		<b>Research Result</b>
1.	Macro Structure	Thematic: A sad woman who has been left by her lover	The writer creates two different women position. The first is a tough woman and the second is a woman who use their bodies to show their identity

2.	Super Structure	Schematic: warning forany	Main elements discuss about
		woman, related to their	women's dignity. The detail
		behavior	element discussed by the
			speakers told the any women
			must.
		Sentence structure	
3.	Macro		The use of words, which is
	Structure		mention repeatedly depict that
			the speaker is
4.	Micro Structure	ç Ç	Background element: harm
			sentences to warn girls orwomen
			to have a high dignity in
			front of man

### a. Detail

From the chart, we can see that detail is the researchers' strategy for implicitly expressing her angle. Of course, the details are related to the author's control of the information laid-out. Authors usually display a plethora of information that benefits them. In this song, the author or narrator is inspired by the story of a woman who has a broken heart, but would like to point out that a woman's position is not necessarily gender-subordinate. Actually, this sentence has a general figurative meaning which shows that women are an individual who is strong and has high self-esteem, especially in front of men.

#### b. Hidden Meaning

The Balance song is inspiring and a reminder for many people, especially all women, to have great manners and high dignity. This song is directed toward women who often wear clothing that isn't proper. They make a lot of effort to appear alluring, sensual, and sexual. They commonly wear lingerie-style clothing to malls and other public locations. It is not uncommon for them to wear such clothing in public places with a large number of young children. Therefore, those kinds of women will provide a terrible example for these children. There tend to be protests and outcries from them when they are reminded or offered guidance. In youth, even as adults, there is a significant prevalence of selfishness and a lack of interest in weighing the pros and cons of a decision. As a woman, of course we will not be willing to let your body be consumed by public.

In the end, it can be analyzed that this song can be considered a song that brings feminism thought. This song was created by vocalist Angèle. This song was written to express the singer's commitment to the battle against prejudice. In particular, Balance Ton Quo speaks against street harassment, rape culture, and sexual consent. The song's lyrics convey the idea that women aren't afraid to speak BRIGHT: A Journal of English Language Teaching, Linguistics and Literature Vol.7 No.2, July 2024, pp. 95-105 E-ISSN: 2599-0322

out against those who act badly around them. Since the first verse: Balance ton quoi

balance ton quoi

Denounce your thing,

Même si tu parles mal des filles,

maybe one day things will change.

## **CONCLUSION**

This song is written, in order to criticize men who have treated women disrespectfully. Balance Ton Quoi refers to any men, who physically or verbally abuse them for sexual purposes. In the song, Angèle used quoi, which means what in English (maybe to make it more poetic). It's difficult to explain the song's meaning because there are so many French idioms that are difficult to interpret. Instead, the song is essentially about a lady telling a male to go do "something" for himself because he shows no respect for her and talks down to all women.

Secondly, since it takes place after the events Balance to Queue, it has proven to be a successful song. Angèle certainly makes fun of sexism in her hit, and heringenuity shines through. She could simply be one of the figures of feminism. In her perspective, a woman is just as valuable as a man, regardless of her age, occupation, or beauty. The speaker was able to capitalize on this wave of female uprisings to deliver an exceedingly clever and powerful satirical song. At the end, thissong serves as a potent reminder of how class affects how people perceive thespeaker, how every aspect of this movement affects how people hear ideas and songs alike, and how the language they employ shapes public opinion. Although the originalgoal of the Balance ton Qui movement was to prevent sexual abuse, their songs and performances also reflect the movement's effort to break down racial and socioeconomic boundaries in order to promote gender unity among women.

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