

THE PRAGMATICS OF BREVITY: COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE ABBREVIATED LANGUAGE IN INDONESIAN SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

This study examines the use of abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics through a pragmatic study, focusing on the communicative functions emerging from the use of abbreviations, acronyms, and non-standard forms. The purpose of this study is to analyze the pragmatic meaning of condensed language in Indonesian song lyrics and identify the dominant communicative functions within them. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach, incorporating George Yule's pragmatic theory and the concept of concise communication in popular language. The research data consists of words, phrases, and abbreviated expressions such as HTS, TTS, EGP, anjay, cepmek, jablay, and meriang found in popular Indonesian song lyrics. Data collection techniques include documentation and recording of selected song lyrics, which are then analyzed using contextual pragmatic analysis methods. The results indicate that condensed language in song lyrics has various pragmatic functions, such as expressiveness, social identity, humor, social criticism, and implicature. Furthermore, the use of abbreviated language also shapes certain communicative functions, particularly those of romance, youth identity, popular lifestyles, and emotional expression. The abbreviated language used in song lyrics is not only to facilitate communication but also to strengthen emotional closeness between songwriter and listener. This research shows that the phenomenon of abbreviated language in song lyrics is part of the development of digital communication culture and linguistic creativity in modern society.

Keywords: *Pragmatics, abbreviated language, communicative functions, Indonesian song lyrics, popular culture*

INTRODUCTION

Language continuously evolves in response to social, cultural, and technological developments, producing new linguistic forms that reflect contemporary patterns of communication. In recent years, the rapid growth of digital media has accelerated linguistic innovation, particularly among younger generations who actively interact through social networking platforms and popular culture. One of the most noticeable manifestations of this innovation is the increasing use of abbreviated expressions in Indonesian popular songs. Abbreviations, acronyms, clipped words, and other shortened lexical forms are no longer employed merely to achieve linguistic economy; instead, they have become expressive communicative resources that convey emotions, identities, humor, and social meanings. Expressions such as *HTS* (*Hubungan Tanpa Status*), *PHP* (*Pemberi Harapan Palsu*), and *Meriang* reinterpreted metaphorically as longing for affection illustrate how abbreviated language functions beyond its literal lexical meaning and reflects the dynamic interaction between language, culture, and communication.

The widespread dissemination of Indonesian songs through digital platforms, including Spotify, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram, has further strengthened the role of abbreviated language in everyday communication. Song lyrics increasingly incorporate shortened expressions because they are memorable, emotionally engaging, and easily shared across online communities. As these expressions circulate through digital media, they gradually become part of everyday discourse, influencing how people express feelings, construct identities, and negotiate social relationships. Consequently, song lyrics should not be viewed merely as artistic texts but also as authentic linguistic data that reflect contemporary communicative practices and the evolving relationship between language and society.

From a pragmatic perspective, abbreviated language represents a particularly interesting phenomenon because its interpretation depends heavily on contextual factors rather than on literal lexical meanings alone. Pragmatics emphasizes that meaning emerges through the interaction between linguistic forms, speaker intentions, contextual information, and hearers' inferential processes (Levinson, 1983; Yule, 1996). In song lyrics, abbreviated expressions frequently carry implicit meanings that require listeners to activate shared cultural knowledge and contextual understanding to infer the intended message. Therefore, the communicative effectiveness of abbreviated language relies not only on its structural form but also on pragmatic processes such as implicature, contextual inference, and speaker intention.

Beyond their pragmatic functions, abbreviated expressions also contribute to identity construction in contemporary popular culture. Popular music often reflects the linguistic preferences of particular social groups, especially young people who actively create and circulate innovative expressions through digital communication. The use of abbreviated language enables songwriters to produce lyrics that are concise, expressive, and socially relevant while simultaneously projecting modernity, informality, and group affiliation. In this sense, abbreviations function not only as linguistic innovations but also as symbolic resources through which social identities and cultural values are negotiated. Their communicative value therefore extends beyond efficiency to include emotional expression, humor, solidarity, irony, and social criticism.

Recent studies have increasingly explored language use in popular music from various linguistic perspectives. Androutsopoulos (2021) argues that popular music constitutes an important site for the construction of social identities and linguistic innovation, while Dynel (2021) demonstrates that pragmatic interpretation plays a crucial role in understanding implicit meanings embedded in entertainment discourse. Similarly, Kytölä (2022) highlights the importance of multimodal semiotic resources in contemporary popular culture, emphasizing how verbal and non-verbal elements jointly construct meaning. Research on digital discourse has also shown that language creativity is increasingly influenced by online communication practices, resulting in new lexical formations and innovative communicative strategies that reflect changing patterns of interaction Lee (2023). Collectively, these studies suggest that popular culture provides a productive context for investigating the relationship between language, communication, and society.

Within Indonesian scholarship, previous studies have mainly examined song lyrics from semantic, stylistic, or sociolinguistic perspectives, focusing on figurative language, slang, metaphor, or lexical creativity. Although these studies have enriched the understanding of linguistic features in song lyrics, abbreviated expressions have generally been treated as lexical or morphological phenomena rather than as pragmatic resources whose meanings emerge through contextual interpretation. Consequently, limited attention has been paid to how abbreviated language functions as a communicative strategy for conveying implicit meanings, constructing interpersonal relationships, or performing various communicative functions. Three important research gaps can therefore be identified. First, previous studies predominantly investigate linguistic creativity at the lexical or stylistic level while providing relatively limited discussion of the pragmatic interpretation of abbreviated language. Second, existing research tends to analyze abbreviations as isolated linguistic units without examining how contextual inference, speaker intention, and shared cultural knowledge contribute to meaning construction. Third, few studies have investigated the relationship between abbreviated expressions and broader communicative functions such as romantic relationships, humor, social criticism, emotional expression, and generational identity within Indonesian

popular songs. These limitations indicate the need for a more comprehensive pragmatic investigation that integrates linguistic forms with communicative functions and thematic interpretation.

To fill these gaps, the present study investigates abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics from a pragmatic perspective by examining not only what abbreviated expressions mean but also how they function communicatively within their sociocultural contexts. Unlike previous studies that primarily emphasize lexical or stylistic descriptions, this research integrates pragmatic analysis with communicative functions analysis to explain how abbreviated expressions simultaneously function as linguistic innovations, communicative strategies, and representations of contemporary Indonesian popular culture. Specifically, the study explores the pragmatic meanings of abbreviated expressions, identifies their communicative functions including expressive, humorous, identity-related, euphemistic, and critical functions and explains how these functions contribute to the construction of dominant communicative functions in Indonesian popular songs.

This study contributes theoretically by extending pragmatic research on popular music through the integration of abbreviation analysis, contextual interpretation, and communicative functions analysis. It also contributes to the growing literature on contemporary Indonesian linguistic creativity by demonstrating that abbreviated language functions as a meaningful communicative strategy rather than merely as a form of lexical economy. Practically, the findings are expected to provide valuable insights for linguists, language educators, discourse analysts, and songwriters regarding the pragmatic functions of abbreviated language in contemporary popular culture. Furthermore, the study offers relevant teaching materials for pragmatics courses by illustrating how contextual meaning, implicature, and communicative intentions can be explored through authentic Indonesian song lyrics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics that examines how meaning is constructed and interpreted in relation to context rather than solely through the literal meanings of words. Unlike semantics, which focuses on conventional linguistic meaning, pragmatics emphasizes the speaker's intention, the hearer's interpretation, and the situational context surrounding communication. According to Stephen C. Levinson (1983), meaning is inseparable from contextual factors such as participants, shared knowledge, and communicative goals. Similarly, George Yule (2022) explains that pragmatics investigates how speakers communicate more than they explicitly say and how listeners infer intended meanings.

Recent studies further demonstrate that pragmatic interpretation has become increasingly important in digital and popular communication. Hidayah and Lestari (2025) found that brief expressions in online communication frequently convey implicit meanings that depend heavily on shared cultural knowledge and interpersonal relationships. Likewise, Capone (2024) argues through the concept of *pragmemes* that meaning emerges from recurrent social practices rather than linguistic forms alone. Consequently, abbreviated expressions cannot be interpreted independently from their communicative environment.

In song lyrics, pragmatic interpretation becomes particularly significant because lyrics frequently employ indirect expressions, figurative language, and contextual references. Songwriters intentionally leave meanings implicit, encouraging listeners to infer emotional messages through shared experiences and cultural understanding. Therefore, pragmatics provides an appropriate theoretical framework for explaining how abbreviated language functions communicatively in Indonesian popular songs.

b. Abbreviated Language in Popular Culture

Abbreviated language refers to shortened lexical forms, including abbreviations, acronyms, initialisms, clipped words, and other condensed expressions created for communicative efficiency. According to David Crystal (2008), abbreviation has become one of the defining characteristics of contemporary communication, particularly in digital media where speed and efficiency are highly valued.

In Indonesia, abbreviations such as *HTS* (Hubungan Tanpa Status), *PHP* (Pemberi Harapan Palsu), *EGP* (Emang Gue Pikirin), and *Mager* (Malas Gerak) have evolved beyond simple lexical shortening. They function as social symbols representing shared cultural experiences among younger generations. Rather than merely reducing the number of words, these expressions communicate emotions, identities, and attitudes in highly condensed forms.

Several recent studies suggest that abbreviated language also serves expressive and identity-building functions in popular discourse. The use of abbreviations reflects linguistic creativity while simultaneously reinforcing group membership and cultural identity. In song lyrics, these abbreviated forms become stylistic devices that enhance memorability, emotional intensity, and audience engagement.

c. Relevance Theory

One of the most influential theories explaining contextual interpretation is Relevance Theory proposed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson (1995). The theory argues that communication succeeds because listeners naturally search for the most relevant interpretation that provides maximum cognitive benefit with minimum processing effort.

This principle explains why abbreviated expressions in song lyrics can still be understood despite containing very limited linguistic information. When listeners encounter abbreviations such as *HTS* or *PHP*, they immediately activate previously acquired social knowledge, allowing them to recover the intended meaning without explicit explanation.

Recent pragmatic studies indicate that contextual inference plays an increasingly significant role in interpreting digital communication and popular discourse. Abbreviated language requires listeners to combine linguistic cues with cultural knowledge, emotional experience, and situational context. Consequently, Relevance Theory provides a useful analytical framework for explaining how communicative meaning is successfully conveyed through linguistic brevity.

d. Pragmatic Functions of Abbreviated Language

Language performs various communicative functions beyond conveying information. From a pragmatic perspective, abbreviated expressions may perform expressive, interpersonal, humorous, persuasive, and identity-building functions depending on the communicative context.

In song lyrics, abbreviated language frequently performs several pragmatic functions simultaneously. First, it functions expressively by conveying emotions such as love, disappointment, anger, or longing. Second, it constructs social identity by representing youth culture and contemporary digital lifestyles. Third, abbreviations create humor and playfulness through linguistic creativity. Finally, they may function as euphemisms or indirect criticism, allowing sensitive messages to be communicated without explicit confrontation.

Malau et al. (2025) demonstrate that Indonesian song lyrics frequently contain indirect speech acts and conversational implicatures requiring contextual interpretation. Similarly, recent pragmatic research shows that abbreviated expressions often communicate meanings extending far beyond their literal lexical forms.

e. **Communicative Functions in Song Lyrics**

Communicative functions refer to the purposes or intentions that speakers or writers seek to accomplish through language in specific communicative contexts. From a pragmatic perspective, language is not merely used to convey information but also to express emotions, construct identities, maintain interpersonal relationships, persuade audiences, criticize social phenomena, and entertain listeners. Therefore, understanding communicative functions requires interpreting utterances within their contextual and sociocultural environments rather than relying solely on their literal meanings.

In Indonesian song lyrics, abbreviated language performs multiple communicative functions simultaneously. Expressions such as **HTS**, **PHP**, **EGP**, **Meriang**, **Jablay**, **Cepmek**, and **Anjay** are employed not only to achieve linguistic brevity but also to intensify emotional expression, reinforce youth identity, create humor, soften sensitive expressions through euphemism, and communicate implicit meanings. These abbreviated forms enable songwriters to convey complex emotions and social experiences efficiently while maintaining creativity and audience engagement.

From a pragmatic viewpoint, the communicative functions of abbreviated language emerge through contextual interpretation and shared cultural knowledge. Listeners infer the intended meanings by combining linguistic forms with background knowledge, interpersonal experience, and cultural conventions. Consequently, the communicative value of abbreviated language extends beyond lexical economy, functioning as a strategic resource for expressing feelings, constructing social identity, generating conversational implicatures, and strengthening interpersonal communication between songwriters and audiences.

Recent studies on popular music and digital discourse indicate that contemporary listeners interpret song lyrics not only linguistically but also through cultural and social experiences. As abbreviated expressions become increasingly integrated into everyday communication and digital culture, they perform important communicative functions that reflect changing patterns of interaction, identity construction, and emotional expression in contemporary Indonesian society.

Previous research has investigated language use in song lyrics from various perspectives. Androutsopoulos (2021) examined language and popular music as social practices, emphasizing identity construction in musical discourse. Dynel (2021) explored pragmatic meaning in popular culture, particularly humor and implicit communication. Kytölä (2022) analyzed multilingual semiotic resources in popular culture but did not specifically investigate abbreviated language.

Within the Indonesian context, most previous studies have focused on figurative language, slang, metaphor, or stylistic features in song lyrics. Although these studies contribute to understanding linguistic creativity, they generally examine abbreviation only at lexical or semantic levels. Limited attention has been given to how abbreviated expressions generate pragmatic meaning, perform communicative functions, and construct broader communicative functions.

Accordingly, this study addresses these limitations by specifically investigating abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics through a pragmatic perspective. Unlike previous studies, the present

research integrates pragmatic meaning analysis and communicative function analysis to explain how linguistic brevity operates as an effective communicative strategy in contemporary Indonesian popular. This integrated approach constitutes the principal contribution of the present study to pragmatic and discourse studies.

METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to investigate the pragmatic meanings and communicative functions of abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study aimed to interpret contextual meanings and communicative functions rather than quantify linguistic phenomena (Creswell & Poth, 2018). The primary data consisted of seven Indonesian popular songs released between 2008 and 2022 that contain abbreviated expressions functioning as pragmatic devices. The songs were purposively selected because they represent different types of abbreviated language frequently used in Indonesian popular music. The songs were selected through purposive sampling based on several criteria: (1) the lyrics are written in Indonesian; (2) they contain abbreviations, acronyms, clipped words, or other shortened expressions; (3) the abbreviated forms carry contextual rather than literal meanings; and (4) the songs are widely recognized through official music platforms. The data analyzed included abbreviated expressions such as MERIANG, JABLAY, HTS, EGP, CEPMEK, ANJAY, and TTS. Song lyrics were collected from official sources, including YouTube, Spotify, and verified lyric websites.

Data were collected using documentation and note-taking techniques. The researcher identified abbreviated expressions in the selected lyrics, recorded their linguistic forms, and documented the surrounding contexts to facilitate pragmatic interpretation. As the primary research instrument, the researcher was responsible for selecting, organizing, interpreting, and analyzing the data throughout the research process.

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis adapted from Braun and Clarke (2006) combined with a pragmatic approach. The analysis involved identifying abbreviated expressions, interpreting their contextual meanings based on pragmatic theories, classifying their pragmatic functions, and identifying the dominant communicative functions represented in the lyrics. The interpretation was guided by theories of pragmatics (Levinson, 1983; Yule, 2022), Relevance Theory (Sperber & Wilson, 1995), and conversational implicature to explain how abbreviated language functions as a communicative strategy in Indonesian popular songs. To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, this study applied data triangulation by comparing lyrics obtained from official sources and theoretical triangulation by employing multiple pragmatic perspectives during the analysis. These procedures enhanced the credibility and consistency of the research findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study analyzed a corpus of more than fifteen abbreviated expressions identified in seven Indonesian popular songs. All expressions were examined to determine their pragmatic meanings and communicative functions. For the purposes of presentation, this section discusses only representative examples that best illustrate the major categories and pragmatic patterns identified in the complete dataset. The analysis focused on identifying (1) the types of abbreviated language, (2) their pragmatic meanings, (3) their communicative functions, and (4) the dominant communicative functions reflected in the lyrics.

The findings indicate that abbreviated language in Indonesian songs is not merely a linguistic shortening strategy but also functions as a pragmatic resource for expressing emotions, constructing social identity, conveying humor, and communicating implicit meanings. Most abbreviated expressions require contextual interpretation because their meanings cannot be understood literally. Table 2 presents representative examples selected from the complete corpus. These examples were chosen because they best illustrate the major pragmatic meanings and communicative functions identified during the analysis.

Table 1. Representative Songs Included in the Corpus

o.	Song Title	Singer	ear	Abbreviated Expression	Category
	<i>HTS</i>	Tiara Andini	021	<i>HTS (Hubungan Tanpa Status)</i>	Acronym
	<i>Meriang</i>	Cita Citata	015	Meriang	Semantic Compression
	<i>EGP (Emang Gue Pikirin)</i>	Maia	008	EGP	Acronym
	<i>Jablay</i>	Titi Kamal	008	Jablay	Semantic Shift / Popular Slang
	<i>Cepmek</i>	Alif Cepmek	022	Cepmek	Creative Slang
	<i>Anjay</i>	Kemal Palevi feat. Young Lex, Mack G, & Robert Wynand	016	Anjay	Euphemistic Slang
	<i>TTS</i>	Lolita	008	<i>TTS (Teman Tapi Selingkuhan)</i>	Acronym

Table 2. Pragmatic Interpretation and Communicative Functions of Abbreviated Language in Indonesian Song Lyrics

Song	Lyric Excerpt	Abbreviated Form	Literal Meaning	Pragmatic Meaning	Communicative Function
HTS	"...status gak jelas..."	HTS	Hubungan Tanpa Status	Emotional uncertainty	Emotional expression
Meriang	"...meriang merindukan kasih sayang..."	Meriang	Mild fever	Lovesickness	Emotional expression
EGP	"...EGP..."	EGP	Emang Gue Pikirin	Hidden disappointment	Self-expression
Jablay	...	Jablay	Jarang dibelai	Humor Self-identity	Humor
Cepmek	...	Cepmek	Cepat Mencintai	Youth identity	Identity construction
Anjay	...	Anjay	Euphemistic slang	Admiration/surprise	Positive evaluation
TTS	"...teman tapi selingkuhan..."	TTS	Teman Tapi Selingkuhan	Moral ambiguity and emotional conflict in a romantic	Social criticism

Song	Lyric Excerpt	Abbreviated Form	Literal Meaning	Pragmatic Meaning	Communicative Function
				relationship	

Table 3. Types of Abbreviated Language

The analysis identified three major forms of abbreviated language.

Type	Examples	Characteristics
Initialism/Acronym	HTS, TTS, EGP	Formed from initial letters representing complete expressions.
Semantic Compression	Meriang, Jablay	Existing words that undergo semantic expansion or meaning shift.
Creative Slang	Anjay, Cepmek	Innovative expressions originating from youth culture and digital communication.

These findings demonstrate that abbreviated language in Indonesian songs extends beyond structural shortening. It reflects linguistic creativity influenced by popular culture and digital communication.

Pragmatic Meanings of Abbreviated Language

The pragmatic meanings identified in this study differ considerably from the literal meanings of the expressions.

Data 1

HTS (Hubungan Tanpa Status)

HTS pragmatically represents emotional ambiguity rather than merely describing an undefined relationship. The expression conveys uncertainty, lack of commitment, and psychological insecurity experienced by romantic partners.

For example:

"Rasa makin dalam tapi status gak jelas."

The lyric implies emotional frustration instead of simply describing relationship status. The meaning emerges from contextual interpretation rather than lexical meaning alone. The pragmatic interpretation of HTS illustrates Levinson's (1983) notion that contextual meaning exceeds lexical meaning. Although the acronym literally denotes an undefined romantic relationship, listeners infer uncertainty, insecurity, and emotional vulnerability through shared sociocultural knowledge. This inference also supports Relevance Theory, in which minimal linguistic forms successfully communicate complex emotional meanings with minimal processing effort.

Data 2

TTS (Teman Tapi Selingkuhan).

TTS reflects interpersonal conflict and moral ambiguity. Although literally referring to "friends but cheating," pragmatically it criticizes unethical romantic behavior while expressing emotional dependence. Example:

"Teman tapi selingkuhan, buat bermesraan."

The expression functions simultaneously as confession, irony, and social criticism.

Data 3

Meriang

The word *meriang* literally denotes a mild fever. However, in song lyrics it metaphorically represents emotional longing and affection.

Example:

"Aku meriang merindukan kasih sayang."

The lyric illustrates how physical illness is conceptualized as emotional suffering, showing a metaphorical mapping between bodily experience and romantic feelings.

Data 4

EGP (Emang Gue Pikirin)

EGP functions as an expression of indifference. Nevertheless, pragmatically it often conceals disappointment and emotional vulnerability.

Example:

"EGP, emang gue pikirin."

Rather than genuine indifference, the expression frequently implies defensive emotion after betrayal or rejection.

Data 5

Jablay

Although originally associated with "jarang dibelai," the expression has evolved into a sociocultural label.

Example:

"Panggil aku si jablay."

Its pragmatic meaning combines humor, self-identification, irony, and criticism toward social stereotypes.

Data 6

Cepmek

Cepmek represents creativity in digital slang.

Example:

"Cepat mencintai kamu."

Instead of functioning merely as a shortened expression, it symbolizes youthful identity and spontaneous romantic expression.

Data 7

Anjay

Anjay is a softened variation of a taboo expression.

Example:

"Gayanya anjay."

Depending on context, it communicates admiration, surprise, excitement, or irony without carrying the offensive force of the original word.

Pragmatic Functions

The analysis revealed six dominant pragmatic functions.

Pragmatic Function / Strategy	Examples	Communicative Role
Expressive Function	Meriang, HTS	Expressing emotions, longing, and personal feelings
Identity Construction	Cepmek, Jablay	Constructing youth identity and social affiliation
Humor	Jablay, Cepmek	Creating entertainment and amusement
Social Criticism	TTS	Criticizing social norms and interpersonal behavior
Euphemistic Strategy	Anjay	Softening potentially offensive or taboo expressions
Conversational Implicature	EGP, HTS	Conveying implicit meanings beyond literal interpretation

These findings demonstrate that abbreviated language performs not only various pragmatic functions but also employs pragmatic strategies to convey meanings efficiently. While expressive, identity-related, humorous, and critical functions reflect the communicative purposes of the speakers, euphemism and conversational implicature operate as pragmatic strategies that enable listeners to infer intended meanings from contextual cues. Together, these functions and strategies enrich the emotional, interpersonal, and rhetorical impact of Indonesian song lyrics.

Communicative Functions

Four dominant communicative functions emerged from the analysis.

Love and Relationships

Expressions such as HTS, Meriang, and TTS depict emotional intimacy, uncertainty, longing, and betrayal within romantic relationships.

Youth Identity

Cepmek and Anjay symbolize contemporary youth culture influenced by digital media, internet trends, and social networking platforms.

Humor and Entertainment

Creative abbreviations make song lyrics more engaging, memorable, and relatable for younger audiences.

Self-Expression

Expressions such as EGP and Meriang allow speakers to communicate complex emotional states efficiently while maintaining stylistic creativity.

The findings support the pragmatic view that meaning is fundamentally context-dependent rather than purely lexical (Levinson, 1983; Yule, 2022). The abbreviated forms analyzed in this study demonstrate that listeners interpret meaning by combining linguistic expressions with shared cultural knowledge and communicative context. Furthermore, the findings are consistent with Relevance Theory (Sperber & Wilson, 1995), which argues that speakers tend to communicate maximum meaning with minimal linguistic effort. Abbreviations such as HTS, EGP, and TTS efficiently convey complex emotional and social concepts because their meanings are already shared among members of Indonesian popular culture.

This study also confirms Halliday's functional view of language, in which language simultaneously performs ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions. In Indonesian popular songs, abbreviated language not only transmits information but also constructs social identity, expresses emotions, and strengthens interpersonal relationships between artists and audiences.

Compared with previous studies that mainly examined slang or figurative language in song lyrics, this research specifically demonstrates that abbreviated language constitutes an independent pragmatic strategy. Rather than functioning solely as lexical innovation, abbreviated expressions operate as communicative devices that facilitate emotional expression, humor, social evaluation, and identity construction. This finding contributes to the growing body of research on pragmatics and popular culture by highlighting the communicative significance of linguistic brevity in contemporary Indonesian music.

The findings also support Halliday's interpersonal metafunction, in which language is used to negotiate relationships and express attitudes. The abbreviated expressions found in Indonesian song lyrics demonstrate that linguistic brevity simultaneously fulfills interpersonal, expressive, and identity-related communicative purposes.

CONCLUSION

This study investigated the pragmatic meanings and communicative functions of abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics. The findings demonstrate that abbreviated expressions are not merely linguistic shortenings but pragmatic devices whose meanings are constructed through contextual interpretation, shared cultural knowledge, and listeners' inference. The analysis identified three major forms of abbreviated language: **initialisms and acronyms** (e.g., *HTS*, *TTS*, *EGP*), **semantic compression** (e.g., *meriang*, *jablay*), and **creative slang or phonological variation** (e.g., *anjay*, *cepmek*). Each form performs different communicative functions while contributing to efficient and expressive language use. From a pragmatic perspective, abbreviated language performs several dominant functions, including expressing emotions, constructing youth identity, creating humor, softening sensitive expressions through euphemism, conveying social criticism, and generating conversational implicatures. These functions indicate that abbreviated expressions communicate meanings extending beyond their literal forms.

The study also reveals four dominant communicative functions represented through abbreviated language, namely **love and interpersonal relationships, youth identity, emotional self-expression, and entertainment or humor**. These themes reflect contemporary Indonesian popular culture, where linguistic creativity is closely connected with digital communication and social media practices. Overall, this research confirms that abbreviated language in Indonesian song lyrics represents a contemporary pragmatic phenomenon in which linguistic economy, contextual meaning, and cultural identity interact to create effective communication. The findings contribute to pragmatic studies by demonstrating that brevity functions not only as a strategy of linguistic efficiency but also as a means of constructing social meaning and communicative impact.

Suggestions

The findings of this study provide several implications for future research and language education. Future studies are encouraged to investigate abbreviated language using larger corpora from various musical genres and digital platforms to obtain more comprehensive findings. Comparative studies involving other languages or cross-cultural contexts may also enrich understanding of pragmatic variation in abbreviated expressions.

For educators, Indonesian song lyrics containing abbreviated language may serve as authentic teaching materials in pragmatics, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics because they illustrate how contextual meaning is negotiated in everyday communication.

Finally, songwriters and media practitioners are encouraged to continue employing linguistic creativity while maintaining communicative clarity, ensuring that abbreviated expressions remain meaningful and accessible to broader audiences.

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