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FANS' INTERPRETATION OF PERSONALITY AND LIFE EXPERIENCES IN EAJ'S SONG LYRICS: A RECEPTION STUDY

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LIFE EXPERIENCES IN EAJ'S SONG LYRICS: A
RECEPTION STUDY**

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2026

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Motto :

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا • إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

"For indeed, with hardship comes ease. Indeed, with hardship comes ease." (*Q.S. Al-Inshirah: 5-6*)

Dedication

I dedicate this thesis as an expression of my deepest gratitude and thanks.

1. **My Beloved Family.** To my wonderful Ibuk, thank you for your infinite prayers, hard work, and endless sacrifices. Your belief in me has been my strongest pillar. To Bapak, though you are no longer here to see this moment, your wisdom, memories, and love continue to guide me every day. This achievement is dedicated to your memory. To my siblings, thank you for your constant support throughout this journey.
2. **My Special Partner.** Thank you for being my safe space, my comfort, and my constant source of energy. Thank you for your patience during my stressful days, for always reminding me of my potential, and for walking beside me every step of the way. Thank you for simply being by my side through it all. I truly hope we can celebrate all of our future successes and grow together in the years to come.
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LEMBAR PERSETUJUAN PEMBIMBING

Skripsi yang ditulis oleh **Beryl Imaneilla Mahsa** NIM 2022111011 dengan judul **"Fans' Interpretation of Personality and Life Experiences in Eaj's Song Lyrics: A Reception Study"** ini telah disetujui oleh dosen pembimbing untuk diujikan dalam UJIAN SKRIPSI pada tanggal 2 Juli 2026.

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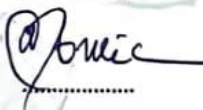
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ABSTRACT

Mahsa, Beryl Imaneilla. 2026. *Fans' Interpretation of Personality and Life Experiences in Eaj's Song Lyrics: A Reception Study*. Thesis, English Education Department, Faculty of Education, Communication and Science, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Supervisor I: Armeria Wijaya, S.S., M.Pd, Supervisor II: Dr. Drs. Wijayadi, M.Pd.

This study examines the cross-linguistic reception of Eaj's (Park Jae-hyung) personality and life experiences as represented in the lyrics of his EP *When the Rain Stopped Following Me*. Using a descriptive qualitative research design and Appraisal Theory within Systemic Functional Linguistics, this study analyzes responses from 135 respondents across three linguistic groups Indonesian, English-speaking, and Korean collected through online questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with eleven selected participants. The research addresses how fans interpret Eaj's personality and life experiences in the EP's lyrics, and how these interpretations vary across the three linguistic groups. The findings reveal that fans across all groups consistently interpret Eaj as an authentic, vulnerable, and resilient artist, with this shared interpretation manifesting through the Appraisal categories of Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation. Although interpretative strategies varied by linguistic and cultural background, respondents ultimately arrived at similar understandings, indicating that cross-linguistic differences primarily shaped the interpretative process rather than the overall meaning constructed.

Keywords: *audience reception, Appraisal Theory, personality, song lyrics, Eaj, cross-linguistic interpretation*

ABSTRAK

Mahsa, Beryl Imaneilla. 2026. *Fans' Interpretation of Personality and Life Experiences in Eaj's Song Lyrics: A Reception Study*. Skripsi, Fakultas Pendidikan, Komunikasi, dan Sains. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Pembimbing I: Armeria Wijaya, S.S., M.Pd, Pembimbing II: Dr. Drs. Wijayadi, M.Pd.

Penelitian ini mengkaji resepsi lintas bahasa terhadap kepribadian dan pengalaman hidup Eaj (Park Jae-hyung) sebagaimana direpresentasikan dalam lirik EP *When the Rain Stopped Following Me*. Dengan menggunakan desain penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dan Teori Appraisal dalam kerangka Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional, penelitian ini menganalisis respons dari 135 responden yang berasal dari tiga kelompok Bahasa Indonesia, Inggris, dan Korea yang dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner daring serta wawancara semi-terstruktur lanjutan dengan sebelas partisipan terpilih. Penelitian ini berupaya menjawab bagaimana penggemar memaknai kepribadian dan pengalaman hidup Eaj dalam lirik EP tersebut, serta bagaimana pemaknaan tersebut bervariasi di antara ketiga kelompok bahasa. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggemar dari seluruh kelompok bahasa secara konsisten memaknai Eaj sebagai sosok artis yang autentik, rentan, sekaligus tangguh, dengan pemaknaan bersama ini termanifestasi melalui kategori Appraisal berupa Affect, Judgment, dan Appreciation. Meskipun strategi interpretatif bervariasi sesuai latar belakang bahasa dan budaya masing-masing, responden pada akhirnya sampai pada pemahaman yang serupa, yang menunjukkan bahwa perbedaan lintas bahasa terutama memengaruhi proses interpretasi, bukan makna keseluruhan yang dikonstruksi.

Kata kunci: *resepsi audiens, Teori Appraisal, kepribadian, lirik lagu, Eaj, interpretasi lintas bahasa.*

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The researcher acknowledges that this thesis is far from perfection. Therefore, constructive criticisms and suggestions are warmly welcomed for the improvement of future studies.

Surabaya, July 19th 2026

Sincerely,

Beryl Imaneilla Mahsa
NIM. 20221111011

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