

Original Article

A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Song "You'll Be Safe Here"

By Rivermaya

Jhoana Marie L. Aragon

Zambales National High School, Philippines.

Received Date: 07 May 2024

Revised Date: 09 June 2024

Accepted Date: 06 July 2024

Abstract: *This study employs critical discourse analysis to examine the renowned rock song "You'll Be Safe Here" by Rivermaya. The analysis delves into the emotional resonance and societal significance of the song's themes, including comfort, resilience, empathy, hope, safety, protection, and belonging. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the study highlights the humanistic values embedded in the lyrics, stressing the importance of unity and support during difficult times. The findings underscore the song's role as a source of comfort, inspiration, and empowerment across diverse age groups and cultural backgrounds, elucidating its enduring impact on society and culture.*

Keywords: *Rivermaya, "You'll Be Safe Here", Critical Discourse Analysis, Humanism.*

I. INTRODUCTION

"You'll Be Safe Here" is a famous rock song from the Philippines. Rico Blanco, the lead singer, wrote it. The song has become an anthem for many Filipinos, and its moving lyrics and emotional performance have been praised all over the world. The words stress how important it is to have someone to lean on when things get tough, stressing the need for love, warmth, and strength. According to Kearney (2009), this song talks about how important of love and strength are.

The idea for the song came from things he saw and did in his own life. The words are very emotional and show how people can care about each other and his own journey. Also, the lesson that love and understanding can make even the worst times better. People could relate to the song because it talked about things and feelings that everyone has had. The strong words and sincere delivery hit home for people who have been through hard times or seen others go through them. This song's message is a sign of hope that love and understanding can make even the worst times better. This song, goes into more detail about this mental link and how important it is to understand and how hard life can be (Salamat, 2009).

Many awards have been given to Rivermaya's song, such as Song of the Year at the NU Rock Awards in 2003 and Most Downloaded Song at the first Philippine Popular Music Festival in 2012. It's one of Rivermaya's most liked songs because it moves people and stays popular for a long time. His unique sound, which includes heartfelt singing and a strong mix of rock and ballad elements, makes the song much more emotional. Many people can relate to the song's message because the band's music can make them feel strong emotions. This makes the experience more real and gives the listener love, power, and comfort.

The classic song "You'll Be Safe Here" has been performed by many artists in the Philippines and internationally. Singers and famous people love it because of how catchy it is and what it's about in general. Since the song was so well-liked, more emotional songs came out, and other Filipino artists wrote songs about love, strength, and comfort.

There is a lesson in "You'll Be Safe Here" that speaks to people of all ages, countries, and backgrounds because it is real and emotional. It has been popular for a long time and is still used in performances and playlists. This shows that it can touch people's hearts and help those who need it. Some people, still moved by the song; it gives them peace and hope, especially when things are tough. For years to come, its message will still be powerful because it can make people feel strong feelings and connect with them on a very personal level.

Some of Rivermaya's most well-known songs are "Kisapmata," "Himala," "214," and "Elesi." The band is well-known in the Philippines. The Filipino music scene has also changed because of these songs. Rivermaya is now one of the most well-known bands in the country.



The song "You'll Be Safe Here" by Rivermaya shows off her singing skills with its emotional delivery, strong voice, and complicated instrumentals. Together, the band's rock and ballad skills make a unique sound that fits well with the song's message. That Rico Blanco can sing so well and the band can play so well in this timeless gem.

Overall, "You'll Be Safe Here" is an important song that lifts people up and comforts those who need it. According to Sataweden (2018) both highlight the role of optimism and cultural values in music, which are also evident in the timeless and emotionally resonant message of "You'll Be Safe Here."

Critical Discourse method is a great way to look at the song "You'll Be Safe Here" because it uses an interdisciplinary approach, discourse analysis, reception studies, and a critical point of view. It stresses knowing the bigger picture, which includes historical, cultural, and social factors, and it uses methods from different fields to look into ideas of safety, refuge, and belonging. Discourse analysis looks at the song's hidden meanings, ideologies, and rhetorical tactics, while reception studies look at how people have understood and responded to the song. The in-depth study gives us useful information about the song's significance and effect.

This song emphasizes the humanism part that indicates everyone is valuable and has worth, stressing kindness, care, and how important it is to connect with others. In "You'll Be Safe Here," the words send a message of peace, comfort, and unity, stating how important it is to help and protect those who are in need. A lot of humanist ideas are like the song's themes of safety, protection, and connection. These ideas stress how important it is to have relationships and care for each other when things get hard.

"You'll be safe Here"

Rivermaya

Nobody knows

Just why we're here

Could it be fate

Or random circumstance

At the right place

At the right time

Two roads intertwine

And if the universe conspired

To meld our lives

To make us

Fuel and fire

Then know

Where ever you will be

So too shall I be

Close your eyes

Dry your tears

'Coz when nothing seems clear

You'll be safe here

From the sheer weight

Of your doubts and fears

Weary heart

You'll be safe here

Remember how we laughed

Until we cried

At the most stupid things

Like we were so high

But love was all that we were on

We belong

*And though the world would
Never understand
This unlikely union
And why it still stands
Someday we will be set free.
Pray and believe*

*When the light disappears
And when this world's insincere
You'll be safe here
When nobody hears you scream
I'll scream with you
You'll be safe here*

*Save your eyes
From your tears
When everything's unclear
You'll be safe here*

*From the sheer weight
Of your doubts and fears
Wounded heart*

*When the light disappears
And when this world's insincere
You'll be safe here*

*When nobody hears you scream
I'll scream with you
You'll be safe here*

*In my arms
Through the long cold night
Sleep tight
You'll be safe here*

*When no one understands
I'll believe
You'll be safe,
You'll be safe
You'll be safe here
Put your heart in my hands
You'll be safe here*

By looking at the song through the view of humanism, one can see how it encourages understanding, empathy, and a sense of community by focusing on how we all feel vulnerable and need to be reassured and comforted. According to Qonaatun (2020), highlight the importance of human values and solidarity to human rights in these songs, emphasizing the need for safety, harmony, and understanding.

II. METHODOLOGY

The critical discourse analysis (CDA) framework serves as the methodological foundation for this song. According to Fairclough (2013), “critical discourse analysis” focuses on examining the interplay between language, power, and ideology within discourse, making it well-suited for uncovering underlying gender constructs and power dynamics in texts.

A. Procedure in Collecting and Analyse Discourse Data:

- Text Selection. Choice of song based on context, societal meaning, and how it will be received.
- Transcription. The song requires listening more than once and picking up on small changes in tone, rhythm, and delivery.
- Close Reading. Reading the words carefully can help you find the main ideas, patterns, and symbols.
- Textual Analysis. Discourse analysis is used in textual analysis to look at linguistic features, sociocultural context, and connections between texts.
- Interpretation. Figures on what a song's themes and messages mean by looking at how they make people feel and how they connect with different groups of people.

III. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

This table provides an analysis of the themes, corresponding lyrics, and interpretations found in the song "You'll Be Safe Here" by Rivermaya.

Table 1: Interpretations and Themes of the Song "You'll Be safe Here" by: Rivermaya

Theme	Lyrics	Interpretation
Safety/ Protection	<i>In my arms Through the long cold night Sleep tight You'll be safe here</i>	The lyrics evoke a sense of safety and protection, reassuring the listener that they are not alone in facing challenges.
Comfort	<i>Close your eyes, dry your tears 'Cause when nothing seems clear You'll be safe here From the sheer weight Of your doubts and fears, weary heart You'll be safe here</i>	The song offers comfort to those who feel lost or isolated, suggesting that they can find solace and support in difficult times.
Belonging	<i>Remember how we laughed until we cried At the most stupid things like we were so high But love was all that we were on, we belong</i>	The lyrics convey a sense of belonging, promising to be there for the listener and providing a sense of connection and acceptance.
Resilience	<i>Save your eyes from your tears When everything's unclear You'll be safe here From the sheer weight Of your doubts and fears, wounded heart</i>	The song acknowledges the challenges of losing memories or feeling overwhelmed but suggests that one can persevere and find strength to continue.
Hope	<i>When the light disappears And when this world's insincere You'll be safe here</i>	The lyrics express hope and optimism, symbolized by lighting a match, implying that even in darkness, there is the possibility of finding companionship and guidance.
Empathy	<i>When nobody hears you scream I'll scream with you You'll be safe here</i>	The song demonstrates empathy, offering support and solidarity to those who are struggling, and emphasizing the importance of being there for one another.

"You'll Be Safe Here" conveys a message of comfort, support, and unity through its themes. The words make you feel safe and protected, and they stress how important it is to be there for each other when we need it.

Safety. From the lyrics, "In my arms,through the long cold night,sleep tight. You'll be safe here." The words reassure the listener that they are not alone and promise to be there for them when things get tough. This theme talks about how everyone needs safety and company, which is comforting in times of worry.

Comfort. From the lyrics, “Close your eyes, dry your tears.” It refers that the listener is going through something difficult. “Cause when nothing seems clear, You’ll be safe here.” It tells the listener that even when things become complicated, there remains a place of refuge for them. “From the sheer weight of your doubts and fears, weary heart, you’ll be safe here.” It describes what “safe here” safeguards against: the burden of anxiety and worries. So, the song gives comfort to people who feel lost or alone by saying that they can find safety and support in other people. This theme shows how understanding and connection can help people feel better and give them confidence.

Belonging. From the lyrics, “Remember how we laughed until we cried. At the most stupid things like we were so high.” It conveys a joyous contrast to the past image of sorrows and worries. Further, “But love was all that we were on, we belong” highlights their joy being brought about by love. Love is the foundation of both new and old sensations. The lyrics make the listener feel like they belong and are accepted by saying that they will find and hug them. This theme stresses how important relationships and human connection are for building a feeling of identity and belonging.

Resilience. From, “Save your eyes, from your tears.” It offers relief more actively and compassionately than just wiping away tears. Also, “When everything’s unclear. You’ll be safe here” It considers the listener’s uncertainty, therefore fostering a sense of mutual understanding. “From the sheer weight, of your doubts and fears, wounded heart. You’ll be safe here.” The suffering of the listener extends beyond passing melancholy. Even though the words talk about problems like forgetting things or feeling too much, the song encourages people to be strong and keep going. This theme emphasizes how important it is to be resilient in order to deal with problems and find strength in tough situations.

Hope. From the lyrics, “When the light disappears, and when this world’s insincere, you’ll be safe here.” It talks about particular negative experiences. However, it creates a compelling craving for the provided comfort. It highlights the provision of a sanctuary as a bright and truthful space. Lighting a match is a mental picture of hope and optimism that reminds us that even in the darkest times, we can find light and happiness. This theme sends a message of hope and encouragement, telling people that things may get better in the future.

Empathy. From the lyrics, “When nobody hears you scream.” It acknowledges the feeling of being totally by yourself with your problems. Many people who deal with pain will find this relevant. Also, “I’ll scream with you. You’ll be safe here” It is a representation of empathy and unity. More than just providing a safe haven, comforters share emotional suffering. The song shows empathy by standing with and helping people who are having a hard time. This theme shows how important empathy is for making connections and creating a feeling of community and belonging.

Overall, “You’ll Be Safe Here” sends a strong message of peace, support, and understanding, stressing how important it is to connect with others when dealing with life’s problems. People feel safe, protected, like they belong, strong, hopeful, and empathetic when they hear about these topics. They offer comfort and support during hard times.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the song has a universal appeal and promotes unity and support during difficult times. It emphasizes humanistic values and the inherent worth of each individual. The song serves as a source of comfort, inspiration, and empowerment for people worldwide, particularly those seeking security and comfort in uncertain times. Critical discourse analysis is a valuable tool for understanding the song’s themes and their impact on society and culture.

V. REFERENCES

- [1] Blanco, Rico (2003). You’ll Be Safe Here Lyric. Retrieved by: <https://genius.com/Rivermaya-youll-be-safe-here-lyrics>
- [2] Kearney, A. (2009). ‘Too strong to ever not be there’: place names and emotional geographies Retrieved by: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14649360802553210>
- [3] Qonaatun, A. (2020). Analysis of Solidarity to Human Rights as Reflected in the Song Retrieved by: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/>
- [4] Salamat, J. (2009). A Book Review: A Deafening Silence?: The Mute Echoing Back Retrieved by: <https://journal.unika.ac.id/index.php/celt/article/view/244>
- [5] Satawedini, P. (2018). Making sense of BuppeSanNivas songs: What do they tell about beliefs, cultures, values, and love? Retrieved by: <http://journalgrad.sru.ac.th/index.php/>