

Burden and Hope: A Semiotic Analysis of Emotional Differences on BTS Jin's Solo Project

Burden and Hope: Analisis Semiotika Perbedaan Emosional dalam Proyek Solo Jin BTS

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Abstract

The semiotic analysis seeks to find the hidden meaning behind a sign. This study investigates the emotional differences in the song lyrics in BTS Jin's solo projects, *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*. The meaning and emotional differences obtained through this analysis are denotation, connotation, and myth. This study uses a qualitative method with an interpretative approach using Barthes' (1964) theory of semiology. The result of the study shows that there are two emotional differences conveyed by the two songs in BTS Jin's solo project. The song *Abyss* tells about Jin's experience when he felt burdened in the process of knowing and learning other personas in him. *The Astronaut*, on the other hand, a song about how his fans gave him hope and helped him escape the zone where he felt burnout. The emotional differences conveyed by the two songs are Burden in the Song *Abyss* and Hope in *The Astronaut* song.

Keywords: semiotics; emotional differences; song lyrics; Kim Seok-Jin

Abstrak

Analisis semiotik berupaya menemukan makna tersembunyi di balik suatu tanda. Penelitian ini menyelidiki perbedaan emosional dalam lirik lagu dalam proyek solo Jin BTS, *Abyss* dan *The Astronaut*. Perbedaan makna dan emosi yang diperoleh melalui analisis ini adalah denotasi, konotasi, dan mitos. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan interpretatif dengan menggunakan teori semiologi Barthes (1964). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat dua perbedaan emosional yang disampaikan oleh kedua lagu dalam proyek solo Jin BTS. Lagu *Abyss* menceritakan pengalaman Jin ketika ia merasa terbebani dalam proses mengetahui dan mempelajari persona lain dalam dirinya. *The Astronaut*, di sisi lain, adalah lagu tentang bagaimana para penggemarnya memberinya harapan dan membantunya keluar dari zona di mana ia merasa kelelahan. Perbedaan emosional yang disampaikan kedua lagu tersebut adalah *Burden* di lagu *Abyss* dan *Hope* di lagu *The Astronaut*.

Kata kunci: semiotika; perbedaan emosi; lirik lagu; Kim Seok-Jin

1. Introduction

This paper investigates the song lyrics of BTS Jin solo project using semiotics approach. Semiotics was first defined by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure as "the science of signs" (Chappman & Routledge, 2009). Semiotics as a science is related to the term semiotics, a term that signifies the creation and interpretation of signs (Busmann, 2006). Furthermore, Barthes declared, "Images, gestures, musical sounds, and objects" (Barthes, 1968), these symbols constitute a system of meaning. Saussure assumed semiotics to be the general science of signs, of

which linguistics was only a part, while Barthes declared semiotics to be only a subset of linguistics. Semiotics deals with the idea of meaning, which comes from the differences between signifiers and signified. Signifiers can take the form of an image that represents something, or a visual representation of words, letters, and objects taken out of context (Jadou & Gabra, 2021). The signified refers to the rational aspect of an idea, whether it is real or imaginary. This means that the symbolic content does not necessarily have to be concrete.

Saussure, as cited by Sebeok (2001), defined a sign as an entity made up of physical objects such as gestures, characters, and posture. A sign can be characterized as a signifier, which is an image or concept that represents something. The image or concept to which the signifier refers is called the signified. In essence, a sign is a collection of tangible items that symbolize a concept or idea in the relationship between the signifier and the signified.

Semiology, as described by Barthes (1957), is the study of ideas-in-form with an emphasis on significations rather than content. He pointed out the significance of considering how form, philosophy, and historical explanation interact. In Barthes' view, semiology entails a relationship between the signifier and the signified, which combine to create the sign in one process (Bouzida, 2014). Roland Barthes, as cited by Yan and Ming (2015) identified several key concepts in semiotics, including signification, denotation and connotation, and metalanguage or myth.

Denotation and connotation are two semiotic concepts that describe the connection between signifiers and signified (Barthes, 1964). Additionally, these terms are employed to differentiate between the two sorts of signified, connotative signified, and denotative signified, which have various analytical properties (Chandler, 2008).

Denotation and connotation are always described in terms of their degree of representation or level of meaning. According to Barthes' book *Elements of Semiology* (1964) as cited by Yan & Ming (2015), the first level of signification is denotation. At this level, a sign comprises a signifier and a signified. Denotation refers to a word's literal or dictionary meaning, which is ideally agreed upon universally. On the other hand, connotation is the second level of signification, which involves associative changes in the meaning of words. Connotation adds additional layers of meaning to a word beyond its literal definition. According to Barthes, this theoretical framework of denotation and connotation may only sometimes apply to practical situations (Jadou & Gabra, 2021).

Limiting meaning to a purely denotative level is difficult as context and previous associations often influence meaning. Barthes also introduced the concept of myth, a sign that begins as a connotation but later transforms into denotation, ultimately creating new meanings in a second-order system. Therefore, it can conclude that a connoted system is a system whose plane of expression is constituted by a signifying system.

Perangin-Angin, et al (2023) notes that Myths are also known as common beliefs. In this case, meaning is the relationship between the symbol and the reference or referent. The relationship between symbols and references is indirect, while the relationship between symbols and references is direct. Allen (2003) notes that Barthes developed Saussure's semiotics and proposed the theory of Mythology, which highlights the function of myth in transforming, distorting, and naturalizing meaning from the first-order system to create new meanings in the second-order system. In other words, when connotations become denotations, the denotative

meaning can turn into myth. In *Mythologies* (1957), as cited by Hasyim (2015), Barthes uses myth to conceptualize or understand something reasonably and naturally by text, presented as a narrative or story.

Semiotic communication is frequently used in various contexts to communicate a message, and the relationship between context and semiotics significantly impacts the meaning. The study of signs and their possible connections has expanded over the past century, from etymological theories of sign definitions to incorporating symbols in media or tangible modalities. Due to this growth, many terms now have broader language meanings that are similarly expansive or allegorical.

Song lyrics frequently involve semiotic communication because they serve as a functional description of the song's meaning and can be carried on by other lyrics. Through a semiotic message, the lyrics are meant to express a variety of nearby objects or the outcomes of the social environment in which they are situated. For instance, the meaning of intrinsic motivation is meant for young people to struggle to achieve their ambitions and goals in *Mulai Langkahmu* by Yura Yunita. Young people, who represent a golden generation with innovative ideas, are encouraged by music never to give up and surrender to achieve their potential. Positive improvements will happen if young people are prepared to act and engage in a fight. (Kunia & Ekhsan, 2021).

Taylor Swift's *Blank Space* demonstrates the writer's underlying meaning in that Swift is responding with this song to the unfavorable reputation the media has given her. "I can make the bad guys good for a weekend" refers to the paparazzi, who are terrible for Swift but excellent for the "player" because their connection to Swift immediately garners attention. Swift is aware that any publicity is advantageous publicity (Oktavyanthi, & Kholiq, 2020).

However, introducing semiotic terms makes it challenging for listeners to decipher the song's signs, lyrics, and meaning. Due to the comfort and serenity that listening to music can bring, this semiotic research was crucial to do at this time to aid in our understanding of a sign that produces a readily understood meaning.

The literature on semiotic analysis of K-Pop songs, however, has grown significantly over the years. Tsabitah (2021), in her research, talks about the motivational meaning contained in the lyrics of NCT Dream song *Life Is Still Going On*. Amara (2022) also analyzes the semiotics of the lyrics but focuses more on mental health disorders in BTS *Magic Shop* song lyrics. She investigates that the denotative meanings contained in the lyrics as a whole have the meaning of fear, and things that make us feel down can cause mental health problems. Annisa, D., & Oktaviani (2020) examine the semiotic of the BTS Video Clip *Blood, Sweat, and Tears* as a Youth Representation. Khamaduddin, (2020) examines depictions of masculinity in NCT 127's "Kick It" music video. He explores that the music video features mostly new lad masculinity. However, some scenes also feature a combination of masculinity, new lad, and new man masculinity, which is hydra masculinity. Larasati (2022) investigates the four self-love aspects of BTS Jin Epiphany song lyrics: self-awareness, self-worth, self-esteem, and self-care. Irmaya (2020) examines the self-individuation process of a character in *BTS Universe* music videos. She examines balancing the four main archetypes, persona, shadow, anima/animus, and self in their character and how the process results in self-individuation—which is adapted from Jung (2014) "Archetype and Archetype and the Collective Unconscious" (Vol. 9 part 1).

The preceding research talked about how they analyze motivational, mental health, masculinity, self-love, and self-individuation semiotics in song lyrics and music videos. This paper, however, will focus on analyzing burden and hope as the emotional differences in two song lyrics in BTS Jin's solo project, namely *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*. Considering there are no studies discussing burden and hope as emotional differences in two song lyrics, also *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* lyric, this paper will, of course, bring up a topic that has not been touched before.

South Korean singer and composer Kim Seok-jin, popularly known by his stage name Jin, is a member of the boyband BTS. A day before turning 28, Jin released his second solo track, *Abyss*. *Abyss* is frequently referred to as hell's "bottomless pit." Any bottomless hole, chasm, or *Abyss* that extends below is a bottomless gulf. The *Abyss* that the writer wants to discuss in this paper is the song *Abyss* by singer Kim Seok-jin. Kim Seok-jin has a beautiful song called "*Abyss*." On the night of his 28th birthday, Friday, April 12, 2020, precisely at 00.00 KST, Jin released his second solo single, "*Abyss*." This song was the most excellent birthday present ever given on the same day (Mamo, 2020). His worries, skepticism, and burnout served as the inspiration for the lyrics as written in *Abyss* notes on BTS's official blog. Jin wrote about his musical concerns and how those darker feelings motivated him to develop and release the song in a post on the BTS Official site.

After that, Jin (Kim Seok-jin) of BTS released *The Astronaut* as his second solo single on October 28, 2022. Jin and the British rock group Coldplay, who previously worked with BTS on *My Universe*, co-wrote the song. Chris Martin of Coldplay and Jin of BTS were preparing to bring the song to life. The brainchild of these two talented artists brought *The Astronaut* to life, and Jin helped write the lyrics. The song is about Jin's love for and connection to his fans and followers. Using a repeating cosmic pattern that the band and singer both enjoy, as seen by earlier songs they have composed, addresses themes of connection and love. It was issued before Jin's conscription, which occurred shortly after, and was referred to as "a gift to fans" (Hussain, 2022).

This study focuses on understanding the meaning of emotional differences shown and described in the song *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* lyrics by Kim Seok-jin on his solo project. This study examines the meaning of burden and hopes reflected in the songs *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*. There are two research questions addressed in this paper. They are (1) What are the connotative, denotative, and myth meanings in the lyrics of BTS Jin's solo project, *Abyss*, and *The Astronaut* songs? and (2) How are the burdens and hope as emotional differences shown in BTS Jin's solo project?

2. Method

Data

The data of this study were collected primarily from a Korean pop song lyric entitled *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* sung and written by Kim Seok-jin. This study uses a qualitative method with an interpretative approach. The song was made in Korean but analyzed using its translation from Korean to English. These two songs were written and sung directly by Jin. Both songs are about Kim Seok-jin's feelings at different moments.

The data were taken from song lyrics as well as other supporting data. The primary data used are the lyrics of *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* songs. The secondary data in this study are supporting data used for research, such as journals, books, social media, and the interview of BTS Jin on several magazines, blogs, and YouTube to strengthen existing data. The interview data was taken using BTS Jin's original language, Korean, and has been translated into English.

By applying semiological analysis with a semiotic approach, based on the concept of significance in two stages of Roland Barthes, this paper explores the meaning behind the sign of each lyric in the song. Furthermore, the semiotic approach was used in this study to explain the emotional differences between a burden and hope in Kim Seok-jin's solo project *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*.

Analysis Procedure

The data collection procedure includes non-participant observation using a qualitative approach. It was all elicited from the written lyrics of *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* song. There were four steps to collect the data. First, appreciating the object of research is the first step in understanding the lyrics of the song, that is, by following the storyline of the lyrics in a focused manner to understand what message the creator wants to convey to the audience. Second, dissecting the object of research. In this case, the song lyrics are individually divided into stanzas to observe which signs songwriters use in conveying messages to objects to study. Third, interpreting the symbols that represent the message the songwriter wants to convey. Fourth, was to interpret the meaning of the signs from the researcher's point of view by semiotic analysis that reveals connotative, denotative, and myth using the Barthes sign map. Combining the findings of these signs with analyzing social situations and conditions when the song was created. The last step was to describe the emotional differences shown and reflected in Kim Seok-jin's solo project.

3. Findings and Discussions

This study explores the connotative, denotative, and myth meanings and the emotional differences in the lyrics of *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*, sung and written by Kim Seok-jin. In this study, each sign related to the topic that the writer chose was identified in the English translation of the lyrics by dividing each related lyric into signified and signifier.

3.1. Connotative, Denotative & Myth in Kim Seok-jin Solo Project

Abyss

This research finds that in *Abyss*, there are connotations, denotations, and myths. There are four parts of *Abyss* which is, verse one, verse two, pre-chorus, and chorus.

Verse 1: I hold my breath and enter my ocean. I face beautiful yet sadly crying me. Myself in the darkness.

The denotative meaning in verse one is about someone who wants to dive in the ocean, and suddenly he sees a reflection of himself who is crying in his reflection, the sea that looks dark just like how it is shown through the words "enter my ocean," and "myself in the darkness." The reflection shows in the lyric "I face."

Then, the connotative meaning is when the lyrics use "I," he refers to his old self, or his expectations of who he is, that part of his persona he is well aware of, those parts of him he has embraced. In the lyrics, the pronoun "I" was associated with lovely. In this song, Jin is aware

that the "I" is lovely and crying. He knows the "I" very well. On lyrics "Hold my breath" typically implies something negative (negative connotative); Jin dreads going into this place he calls "the ocean."

Then the myth meaning in verse two tells about Jin, who looks pensive looking at himself, and he feels sad. The lyrics show that the "ocean" represents a feeling of detachment from the world. When we are underwater (like in the ocean), the rest of the world is blocked out to an extent: sounds are muffled, and it is hard to see underwater. In the ocean, we are detached from the world; in this song, Jin feels detached. When he feels that feeling, Jin sees a picture of himself. Jin saw another side of himself in the darkness. From the sense of detachment from this feeling, he found another figure in him. He found his other personas.

This is the part where we dig and find a different side of ourselves within us. According to Carl Jung (2014), a functioning persona is part of a person's soul. That means the persona is connected to the core of a person. The persona serves as a necessary "counter-weight" to our anima/animus which is an individual's true inner self-relationship to the inner world.

Verse 2: The closer I get to you, the more I become breathless. And it feels like you are getting even further away. Maybe you went deeper into that sea, yeah. Myself in that sea.

The denotative meaning in verse two is that the more he approached another figure in that place, the more he became congested, and the person who was approached felt that he was getting farther away into the sea, just like how it is present in the lyrics with the word "breathless" and "you are getting further away."

Then the connotative meaning is that when Jin tries to understand his negative emotions, he gets confused all the more. In this case, his emotion is the other persona he wants to reach to understand. The "sea" refers to the depth of himself, the depth of the heart, and the mind, which he is diving into to get to know the other figure of himself. Jin talks about feeling like he can't seem to "get closer to" his other personas. It just feels like he is "getting even further away." Jin paints this image of himself feeling detached from the world and the other personas "walking into a deeper ocean". Everyone's feeling detached from everyone else.

Then the myth meaning of verse one is shown in the lyrics, "*the closer I get to you, the more I become breathless. And it feels like you are getting even further away*". He gets confused when he tries to understand his negative emotions/another persona. Based on the letter Jin wrote when he released *Abyss*, he said that he felt burnout and doubted himself despite his success as an idol. The more he realizes that it was a success that made him miserable, the more he cannot understand his misery. Even in our daily lives, we often feel this way. When we live in abundance, everyone seems to see us as perfect, but behind that, we often feel burnout and tired, but we always cover that feeling with a smile because we are led to always smile. Whether it is because of our work, education, or social lives, looking "good" is always required, so we are often afraid to express our sad feelings (Ketola, 2012). It is ironic. Success is supposed to bring fulfillment and happiness, but it gives Jin doubts and sadness.

Pre-Chorus: I want to find you and tell you. Today, I want to get to know you even more, yeah.

The denotative meaning of *Abyss* pre-chorus is the person in the song who wants to find someone, as written in the lyrics with the words "I want" and "find you." He wants to get to know someone better that day from the words "gets to know you even more" in the lyrics.

Then, the connotative meaning is when Jin uses you/him; he refers to himself, his dark sides, the part of him that has changed or those which he never knew existed, the parts he has not yet accepted or liked. The pronoun "you/him" refers to being in the dark, and Jin is seeking "him." The "him" he wants to know more. He wants to understand himself and stay with him.

Then the myth meaning in this part, everything tells about how Jin wants to meet, wants to learn, and wants to know another side of him. He wants to know more about his other persona. This is the part where when a person already knows that there is another self or another persona within him, he will learn to get to know that other figure to better understand the inside of his soul.

Chorus: Still, I remain with myself. My voice doesn't come out, I just circle around. That dark place that I wanted to be lost in, I want to go there. I'll be there. Today again, I circle around you. Still, I remain with myself. My voice doesn't come out, I just circle around. That dark place that I wanted to be locked in, I want to go there. I'll be there. Today again, I close my eyes by your side.

The lyrics' denotative meaning is about how he seems trapped on something in the darkness and spins around while looking for a way out so that even his voice cannot get out. However, he seemed to find someone when he was trapped and wanted to be trapped with that person, just like how it shows in the lyrics of the word "...just circle around", "The voice does not come out", "I want to be locked in...", and "...by your side."

Then the connotative meaning if we take the two lines from the pre-chorus "want to find you...", and "get to know you..." together, it will appear that the "you/your" refers to the same person as "me" but different aspects of them. He is closely in touch with that persona of his but he still can't understand it.

Then the myth's meaning is when Jin said in the lyrics, "I wanted to be locked in" and "Today again". This lyric shows that being in that dark place is just another day in the darkness, suggesting that his feeling of detachment is just another typical day for him. The "darkness" here implies that he is unhappy with his feeling of detachment; the image of darkness is often used to represent unhappiness. All the songs are about him struggling to understand himself and avoiding being swallowed deeper by the abyss.

The Astronaut

This research finds that in *The Astronaut* song, there are connotations, denotations, and myths. There are four parts of the song: verse one, verse two, chorus, and outro.

Verse 1: You and me, an unending history. Oh, you became my universe. The story of us. Like that asteroid drifting by without a destination. I, too, was just drifting along. Every dream I found in the darkness. Starting a new story

The denotative meaning of *The Astronaut* song is about someone who seems to be in love, so he expresses his feelings by complimenting the person he likes with the words "universe" and his "dream" that he finally found. Likening their love to an asteroid, just like it shows

in the lyrics, tells a story that their love comes suddenly, like the asteroid that drifts by without a destination.

Then the lyrics' connotative meaning, "You," refers to someone special, someone Jin adores and loves. According to "Thanks To" which Jin wrote on *The Astronaut* album, Jin said that this song was shown to ARMY as a gift. So it can be said that in the lyrics of *The Astronaut* song, the word "you" written is shown to Jin fans, ARMY. The "You" in the lyrics refers to ARMY. Unending history on lyrics means that not ending or having no end. Jin's journey as an idol to his fans is not over. Jin and someone he loves, his fans, who are called an ARMY, will continue and will not end. The lyrics "Like that asteroid drifting by without a destination" tells that his love is like an asteroid because an asteroid enters the earth's inner solar system due to gravitational attraction from nearby planets. Army makes him strong, makes him dream again (as an idol), and makes him get up from his "darkness." The darkness that he conveys in his previous song, *Abyss*. The lyrics tell that he can finally start a new story after a long time in the dark.

Then the myth's meaning is that every lyric in verse one shows how Jin feels about meeting ARMY (his fans), how ARMY made him wake up from the darkness that had befallen him and built him up to dream again.

Verse 2: You and me. Like a star that doesn't shatter. Becoming your dream. To travel throughout the universe. Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest roads, you were shining toward me. The only light found in the darkness. On my path to you

The denotative meaning of the song in verse 2 is that he once again praises that person by likening her to a star that never dimmed; "Stars that don't shatter," It also tells how the universe seems to support him on his way to someone he loves, as shown on the lyrics "Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest roads", and "You were shining towards me. The only light found in the darkness. On my path to you".

Then the connotative meaning is when the shatter in the lyrics means that the relationship between Jin and his fans Army cannot be broken. "Becoming your dream" means that as an idol, Jin is becoming his fans' dream through songs and every activity he does. It becomes a motivation for his fans. Likewise, Army is a dream for Jin to always give his best in every work and performance in every song he performs. Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest, Jin likens the Army to a milky way that lights his life's path. Jin finds the goals and dreams of his life with the help of the Army, leading him to achieve his dream.

Then the myth meaning in verse two tells how Army's role as a figure who helps Jin find and be able to achieve his dreams. Jin's relationship with the Army is positive, giving and receiving each other. They together became a dream for each other. Jin and Army's relationship is unbreakable.

Chorus: When I'm with you. There is no one else. I get heaven to myself.
When I'm with you. There is no one else. I feel this way I never felt

The denotative meaning of *The Astronaut* chorus is that he defines when he is with the person he loves; it is like in the world, there were only the two of them. The world belongs to both of them. He felt like he was in heaven with that person and had never felt such a feeling of being in love before. As shown in the lyrics, "When I'm with you. There is no one else. I get heaven to myself" and "I feel this way I never felt".

Then the connotative meaning is when Jin is with "you". "You" in the lyrics refers to Jin's fans. Jin felt that nothing can make Jin comfortable expressing himself. Heaven in the lyrics expresses a happy and comfortable feeling. Then the myth means he loves selflessness. Jin found his true love in the selfless love of his fans, the ARMY, who made him feel like he was in heaven. He knows that whenever he comes back, they give them the same warm feeling (that makes him comfortable). These feelings that he had never felt before.

Outro: And I love you. And I love you. Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh

The denotative meaning of *The Astronaut's* outro tells the story of someone who expresses his feelings by saying, "I love you". The connotative meaning of the outro indicates that a person expresses his like or affection sincerely by saying "I love you" not only once but twice. "I love you" justifies the involvement of you and the other person. It not only means that there is love for you but also shows that you are creating intimacy. Then the myth meaning of "I love you" in the lyrics means that when you love someone, you are there for them and that they are essential to you. Telling somebody you love them keep the relationship alive between two people.

3.2. Burden and Hope Reflected in BTS Jin Solo Project

This part of the paper will show how burden and hope as emotional differences are shown in the solo project of BTS Jin, namely *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*.

Abyss as Burden

As we know, a burden, in the Cambridge dictionary definition, is a heavy feeling that a person carries. It is something difficult or unpleasant that we have to deal with or worry about. According to Ditta M. Oliker, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist on Psychology Today, the burden can be emotionally overwhelming and a source of great worry and stress. It is emotionally difficult to bear. During difficult times, feeling burdened can impact our problems on others, and it can feel magnified. This feeling might lead to thinking that others would be better off if we were not around.

Based on BTS Jin's notes on BTS *ibighit* official blog, he said that before he wrote *Abyss* songs, he felt burdened and anxious, so he wrote his feelings of experiencing burden on *Abyss* songs. According to Jin's note, he seems to be saying that he is inherently unsociable and suffers from stress and depression that makes him feel internally isolated. Jin essentially is explaining that he wrote *Abyss* as a way to put down all of the self-doubting and burden thoughts that had been building up in his mind.

The statement of burden is supported and shown in its denotative, connotative, and myth meanings on the previous page. The burden shows in *Abyss* lyrics. For example, in verse one of *Abyss* lyrics, the connotative and myth meaning shows that Jin always feels in the abyss, which means a deep ocean hole. It shows a feeling of detachment from the world. This feeling causes a person to feel alone and think it is good to be alone from those around him and overcome his problems. He ended up drowning in trouble with no one nearby, just like what Jin said in his note he is feeling isolated on the inside.

In verse two, the lyrics "The closer I get to you, the more I become breathless. And it feels like you are getting even further away" when he tries to understand his negative emotions/other personas, he gets confused all the more. Based on the letter, he felt burnout and doubted himself. The lyrics "Maybe you went deeper into that sea, yeah" shows that even before the burnout, he is already experiencing a "sea." From the start, he was struggling, but he could process those previous negative emotions. However, his emotions when he wrote the song were more intense and foreign to him. The other parts of the song are about him struggling to understand himself and avoiding being swallowed deeper by the abyss. The *Abyss* chorus also shows that these feelings of burden happen because he struggles with himself. He struggles to understand the other persona he finds while finding a way out when feeling burdened. The statement of burden is also supported by Jin's statement in the interview with *rolling stones* magazine; as the title suggests, Jin said he was feeling very down, deep in the abyss when writing the lyrics. He was feeling very sad and down, but the process of actually singing the song and recording it alleviated a lot of that emotion.

The Astronaut as Hope

According to Charles Richard Syders, an American psychologist specializing in positive psychology, hope can be viewed as the perceptual ability to follow a particular path leading to a desired goal. Additionally, hope helps people stay motivated as they tread these paths. While according to the bible, hope is a kind of trust and confident expectation. In contrast, hope in human life is an ideal, a desire, a wait, a longing for something to happen. Hope is the reason we do something that, although not sure to happen, makes us optimistic about achieving it. (Edwards, et al, 2007)

Based on BTS Jin's 'Thanks to' in *The Astronaut* album, Jin said that he always wanted to incorporate his love for ARMY through song, so he is happy that it is perfectly incorporated (in *The Astronaut* song). He said this song is a gift for ARMY, who has been his hope. The statement of hope is also supported and shown in its denotative, connotative, and myth meaning on the previous page of *The Astronaut* song. In verse one, the lyrics say, "Every dream I found in the darkness." Dream and hope have two things in common. Hopes and dreams are two terms used to discuss our expectations and aspirations for the future. Dreams are essential ambitions, desires, or ideas to raise your imagination. Hope is the expectation and desire that something will happen. Hope can come from a thing or a person. People strive to make their dreams come true. The dream that Jin conveyed was the dream that drove him to where he is now.

Army was the one who brought that hope to Jin. Army freed Jin from the "darkness" he had experienced that he had told in his previous song, *Abyss*. The lyrics tell that he finally can move on from the darkness he faced because of that Hope (Army). In verse two, the lyrics "Becoming your dream", Jin once again talks about dreams. The intended dream is hope. Hope itself is about how Jin becomes Hope for his fans, Army. Their relationship gives each other hope between Jin and the Army.

The chorus shows that Jin's fans are described as selfless figures, and Jin found his love in that selfless love of his fans. Who gave him comfort and hope so that he felt like he was in heaven, like how it is shown in the lyrics "When I am with you there's no other" and "I get heaven to myself. Comfortable emotions are those emotions that we like to experience. Comfortable in *The Astronaut* song is the emotions referred to as good feelings. From happiness,

peace, and contentment, all of these emotions are comfortable to share and what we want to experience more of in our life, and that feeling he got from his fans ARMY.

The statement of hope also supported Jin's statement when he sang *The Astronaut* song at the Coldplay concert. Jin compared the Army to Earth and himself to an astronaut because an astronaut will go to achieve great things but will always come back to Earth, where he finds his hope. Then, the outro of *The Astronaut* ends the song with the words "I love you," which means Jin justifies the involvement of him and the Army. Jin justifies that Army is important to him. He loves his fans, ARMY.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, to find out the emotional differences conveyed by the two songs in the Jin solo project *Abyss* and *The Astronaut*, the writer divides the lyric part into several parts and then uses Barthes's (1964) theory of semiology to dividing it in detail separating between connotative, denotative, and myth meaning. Through denotative, connotative, and myth, it can be concluded that Jin's solo project has two emotional differences. The song *Abyss* tells a story of how Jin as a person, experiences a burden in situations where he tries to understand and learn something about himself that he does not recognize. Learn and get to know the personas he has never previously shown to others. It tells how in this process, he feels immersed in the bottom of the untouchable, the ocean's darkness called the abyss. While in *The Astronaut* song tells about his love for his fans called ARMY. It is about how Jin and the Army's relationship allowed Jin to dream and escape the darkness he once faced. As we see from the song's release date after the song *Abyss* Jin released *The Astronaut*. A song that is very different from his previous song and firmly explains that when he feels a different emotion from the *Abyss* song where he feels that the burden then comes out from that feeling with the song *The Astronaut*, which tells how he survived the sense of burden and then found hope. The hope itself he found in his fan's Army. Through this study, it can be concluded and proven that there are two differences in emotions in the BTS Jin solo project, which are a burden in the song *Abyss* and hope in the song *The Astronaut*.

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Appendix

BTS JIN - ABYSS

(English Translation)

[Verse 1]

I hold my breath and enter my ocean
I face beautiful yet sadly crying me
Myself in the darkness

[Pre-Chorus]

I want to find you and tell you
Today, I want to get to know you even more, yeah

[Chorus]

Still, I remain with myself
My voice doesn't come out, I just circle around
That dark place that I wanted to be lost in, I want to go there
I'll be there
Today again, I circle around you

[Verse 2]

The closer I get to you, the more I become breathless
And it feels like you are getting even further away
Maybe you went deeper into that sea, yeah
Myself in that sea

[Pre-Chorus]

I want to find you and tell you
Today, I want to get to know you even more, yeah

[Chorus]

Still, I remain with myself
My voice doesn't come out, I just circle around
That dark place that I wanted to be locked in, I want to go there
I'll be there
Today again, I close my eyes by your side

BTS JIN - The Astronaut

(English Translation)

[Verse 1]

You and me, an unending history
Oh, you became my universe
The story of us
Like that asteroid drifting by without a destination
I, too, was just drifting along
Every dream I found in the darkness
Starting a new this story

[Chorus]

When I'm with you
There is no one else
I get heaven to myself
When I'm with you
There is no one else
I feel this way I've never felt

[Verse 2]

You and me
Like a star that doesn't shatter
Becoming your dream
To travel throughout the universe
Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest roads
You were shining towards me
The only light found in the darkness
On my path to you

[Chorus]

When I'm with you
There is no one else
I get heaven to myself
When I'm with you
There is no one else
I feel this way I never felt

[Chorus]

When I'm with you
There is no one else
I get heaven to myself
When I'm with you
There is no one else
A life, a sparkle in your eyes
Heaven coming through

Denotative, Connotative, & Myth in *Abyss* and *The Astronaut* Lyrics

Verse 1

	<i>Abyss</i>	<i>Astronaut</i>
De-nota-tive	I hold my breath and enter my ocean. I face beautiful yet sadly crying me. Myself in the darkness	You and me, an unending history. Oh, you became my universe. The story of us is like that asteroid drifting by without a destination. I, too, was just drifting along. Every dream I found in the darkness. Starting a new story.
Con-nota-tive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When the lyrics use “I” he refers to his old self, or his expectations of who he is, that part of his person he is well aware of, those parts of him he has embraced. ✓ The pronoun “I” was associated with lovely. ✓ Jin is aware that the “I” is lovely and crying. He knows the “I” very well. ✓ “Hold my breath” typically implies something negative (negative connotative); Jin dreads going into this place he calls “the ocean.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ “You” in the lyrics refers to someone special, someone that Jin adores and loves. ✓ Unending history on lyrics means that not ending or having no end. Jin’s journey as an idol to his fans is not over. Jin and someone he loves, which is his fans who are called an ARMY will continue and will not end. ✓ The lyrics “Like that asteroid drifting by without a destination” tells that his love is like an asteroid because an asteroid enters the earth’s inner solar system due to gravitational attraction from nearby planets. ✓ Army makes him strong, makes his dream again as an idol, and makes him get up from his “darkness”. The darkness that he conveys in his previous song <i>Abyss</i>. ✓ The lyrics tell that he can finally start a new story after so long in the dark.
Myth	Then the myth meaning in verse two tells about Jin, who looks pensive looking at himself, and he feels sad. The lyrics show that the “ocean” represents a feeling of detachment from the world. When we are underwater (like in the ocean), the rest of the world is blocked out to an extent: sounds are muffled, and it is hard to see underwater. In the ocean, we are detached from the world; in this song, Jin feels detached. When he feels that feeling, Jin sees a picture of himself. Jin saw another side of himself in the darkness. From the sense of detachment from this feeling, he found another figure in him. He found his other personas. This is the part where we dig and find a different side of ourselves within us.	Every lyric in verse one shows how Jin feels about meeting ARMY (his fans). How ARMY made him wake up from the darkness that had befallen him and built him up to dream again.

Verse 2

	<i>Abyss</i>	<i>Astronaut</i>
De-nota-tive	The closer I get to you, the more I become breathless. And it feels like you are getting even further away. Maybe you went deeper into that sea, yeah. Myself in that sea.	You and me. Like a star that doesn't shatter. Becoming your dream. To travel throughout the universe. Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest roads, you were shining toward me. The only light found in the darkness. On my path to you.
Con-nota-tive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When he tries to understand his negative emotions, he gets confused all the more. In this case, his emotion is the other persona that he wants to reach, to understand that persona. ✓ The "sea" refers to the depth of himself, the depth of the heart, and the mind, which he is diving into to get to know the other figure of himself. ✓ Jin talks about feeling like he can't seem to "get closer to" his other personas. It just feels like he is "getting even further away." Jin paints this image of himself feeling detached from the world and the other personas "walking into a deeper ocean". Everyone's feeling detached from everyone else. 	Shatter in the lyrics means that the relationship between Jin and his fan's Army cannot be broken. "Becoming your dream" means that Jin as an idol is becoming his fans' dream through songs and every activity he does, it becomes a motivation for his fans. Likewise, Army is a dream for Jin to always give his best in every work and performance in every song he performs. Just as the Milky Way shines upon the darkest, likening the army to a milky way to light Jin's life. Jin finds the goals and dreams his life with the help of the army which leads him to achieve his dream.
Myth	<p>On lyrics "The closer I get to you, the more I become breathless. And it feels like you are getting even further away" when he tries to understand his negative emotions/another persona, he gets confused all the more. Based on the letter, he felt burnout and doubts himself despite his success as an idol. The more he realizes that it was a success that made him miserable, the more he cannot understand his misery.</p> <p>Even in our daily lives as human beings, we often feel this way. When we live in abundance and everyone seems to see us perfect but behind that we often feel burnout, feel tired, but always cover that feeling with a smile because we are led to always smile. Whether it's because of our work, education, or our lives in socializing. It is required always to look "good" so we are often afraid to express our sad feelings.</p> <p>It is ironic. Success is supposed to bring fulfillment and happiness, it gives Jin in his lyrics, doubts, and sadness.</p>	In verse 2, it tells how Army's role as a figure who helps Jin find and be able to achieve his dreams. Jin's relationship with Army is a positive relationship that gives and receives each other. They together became a dream for each other. Jin and Army's relationship is an unbreakable relationship.

Pre-Chorus

	<i>Abyss</i>	<i>Astronaut</i>
Denotative	I want to find you and tell you. Today, I want to get to know you even more, yeah.	-
Connotative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When Jin uses you/him he is referring to himself, his dark sides, the part of him that has changed/those which he never knew existed, the parts he has not yet accepted or liked. ✓ The pronoun “you/him” is referred to as being in the dark and Jin is seeking him. ✓ The “him” he wants to know more. ✓ He wants to understand himself and stay with him. 	-
Myth	In this part, everything tells about how Jin wants to meet, wants to learn, and wants to know another side of himself. Want to know more about his other persona.	-

Chorus

	<i>Abyss</i>	<i>Astronaut</i>
Denotative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Still, I remain with myself. My voice doesn't come out, I just circle around. That dark place that I wanted to be lost in, I want to go there. I'll be there. Today again, I circle around you. 	When I'm with you. There is no one else. I get heaven to myself. When I'm with you. There is no one else. I feel this way I never felt
Connotative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ “you/your” refers to the same person as “me” but different aspects of them. He is closely in touch with that persona of his but he still can't understand it. 	When Jin is with “you”. That “you” means the fans. Jin felt that nothing could make Jin comfortable expressing himself. Heaven in the lyrics expresses comfort.
Myth	Jin describes the lyrics “That dark place that I wanted to be locked in, I want to go there. I'll be there. Today again” being in this place is “just another day in the darkness,” suggesting that his feeling of detachment is just another normal day for him. The “darkness” here implies that he's unhappy with his feeling of detachment; the image of darkness is often used to represent unhappiness.	The one who loves selflessness. Jin found his true love in that selfless love of his ARMY. Who makes him feel like in heaven. He knows whenever he comes back they give them the same warm feeling (that makes him comfortable).
	All parts of the song are about him struggling to understand himself and avoiding being swallowed deeper by the abyss	

Outro

	<i>The Astronaut</i>
Denotative	Tells the story of someone who expresses his feelings by saying "I love you".
Connotative	Indicates that a person expresses his like or affection sincerely by saying “I love you” not only once but twice. “I love you” justifies the involvement of you and the other person. It not only means that there is love for you but also shows that you are creating intimacy.
Myth	“I love you” in the lyrics means that when you love someone, you are there for them and that they are essential to you. Telling somebody you love them to keeps the relationship alive between two people.