



## ANALYZING THE SONG “MAFIA HUKUM” BY NAVICULA: THE POWER OF SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATICS IN SOCIAL CRITIQUE

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### Abstract

"*Mafia Hukum*" by the Indonesian band Navicula delivers a sharp critique of corruption within legal and political systems, symbolizing the manipulation of justice by powerful elite groups. This paper examines the song through both semantic and pragmatic lenses to uncover the deeper meanings behind its lyrics. Semantic analysis focuses on the literal interpretation of the words, while pragmatic analysis explores the contextual implications of language use. Through a combination of these approaches, the paper argues that the song goes beyond a simple protest corruption, offering a broader commentary on systemic social issues. The study also considers the role of music in social critique, particularly in the context of protest songs that aim to incite political awareness and change. By dissecting the lyrics, this research reveals how "*Mafia Hukum*" challenges dominant power structures, using language to convey messages of resistance, justice, and equality.

**Keywords:** *Semantic analysis, Pragmatic analysis, Social Critique*

### INTRODUCTION

"Mafia Hukum" is a powerful socio-political song by the Indonesian rock band Navicula, known for their bold commentary on social and political issues. Released within a time of growing public dissatisfaction with corruption in the country, the song addresses the abuse of power within Indonesia's legal system, where the law is manipulated by powerful groups, often referred to as perpetuate corruption and social inequality. Additionally, the paper aims to explore how the song functions as both a reflection of social issues and a call to action for reform, urging listeners to question the role of the law in perpetuating inequality.

The theme of corruption in the legal system, as addressed in "Mafia Hukum," is not unique to Indonesia but is a global issue. In many countries, there is widespread frustration with political systems where the powerful elite maintain control over legal and political processes. The song's relevance extends beyond its specific national context, as it speaks to universal concerns about justice, fairness, and accountability. The lyrics of the song resonate with global audiences who are witnessing the increasing concentration of power in the hands of a few, leaving ordinary people disenfranchised. In a time of political unrest and growing calls for transparency, "Mafia Hukum" serves as an important cultural artifact that articulates the anger and helplessness that many people feel when faced with entrenched systems of inequality.

This observation will begin with a review of literature that addresses the theoretical concepts of semantics, pragmatics, and social critique in protest music. It will discuss previous studies on the role of language in social movements and the use of music as a tool for political expression. The methodology section will outline the analytical framework employed in the study. The results and discussion will analyze the lyrics of "Mafia Hukum," focusing on both semantic and pragmatic elements. The conclusion will summarize the findings and suggest areas for further research on the intersection of music, linguistics, and social change.

## METHOD

The researcher employs a qualitative approach that combines semantic analysis with pragmatic analysis to study the lyrics of "Mafia Hukum", the lyrics are analyzed line by line to uncover both the literal meanings (semantics) and the implied meanings (pragmatics) that arise from the context in which they are used. Additionally, a social critique framework is applied to assess how the song critiques the legal and political systems, drawing on the work of scholars such as Bourdieu and Leech. The analysis is supported by secondary literature on protest music, linguistic theory, and the cultural context of the song's release. Data is collected through close reading, complemented by theoretical insights from the fields of linguistics and social studies.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the first layer of analysis, the semantic content of "Mafia Hukum" can be understood as a direct critique of corruption within Indonesia's legal system. The phrase "mafia hukum" translates literally to "legal mafia," a term commonly associated with clandestine, illegal organizations that operate outside the bounds of the law. By using this term, the band is underscoring the idea that the legal system has become a tool for manipulation, serving the interests of powerful elites rather than upholding justice for the public. This is a semantic choice that communicates the song's condemnation of the abuse of power within Indonesia's judiciary and law enforcement agencies. the 'mafia.' The term "mafia" itself carries heavy connotations of illegal and clandestine power structures, making it an apt metaphor for the exploitation of the legal system. In this song, Navicula uses their platform to voice concerns about the failure of the justice system to uphold fairness, equality, and truth. The song is a critical response to the persistent corruption in Indonesia, and it draws attention to how those in power manipulate the law for their benefit at the expense of the public.

In linguistic theory, semantics refers to the literal meaning of words and expressions, whereas pragmatics studies how context affects meaning, including how utterances can carry implied or indirect meanings. When analyzing a song such as "Mafia Hukum," it becomes crucial to examine both the semantic and pragmatic layers of the lyrics. On the surface, the song offers an explicit critique of a corrupt legal system, but through a pragmatic lens, the listener can uncover deeper meanings that speak to broader social issues like inequality, exploitation, and the erosion of public trust in institutions. This dual approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the song's message, shedding light on the artist's strategic use of language to engage listeners and inspire societal reflection and action.

"Mafia Hukum" stands as an example of protest music, which often critiques political, economic, or social systems. The social critique embedded in the song revolves around the idea of a legal "mafia" that perverts justice to serve the interests of the powerful. This is not just a condemnation of the Indonesian legal system but a broader commentary on how legal institutions globally are often manipulated by elite groups. The song uses vivid imagery to depict the failure of the legal system and its consequences on ordinary people. By framing the law as a mafia, the band highlights how justice can be bought, manipulated, and distorted, leaving the marginalized to suffer in the wake of systemic corruption. The song resonates particularly with those who have experienced the disillusionment of watching those in power evade accountability, which strengthens the political and emotional weight of the message.

The primary goal of this study is to examine the song "Mafia Hukum" from both a semantic and pragmatic perspective, focusing on how the lyrics communicate social criticism. Through semantic analysis, we explore the song's literal meanings, while the pragmatic analysis delves into the underlying intentions and implicit critiques embedded in the song's language. The study seeks to understand how these linguistic elements combine to critique the power structures that perpetuate corruption and social inequality. Additionally, the paper aims to explore how the song functions as both a reflection of social issues and a call to action for reform, urging listeners to question the role of the law in perpetuating inequality.

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## CONCLUSION

"Mafia Hukum" by Navicula is a powerful musical that combines semantic and pragmatic elements to critique the corruption within Indonesia's legal system, through its straightforward language and use of potent metaphors like "Mafia Hukum", the song effectively conveys the deep-rooted injustices within the judicial framework. Its semantic analysis reveals how specific language choices serve to evoke strong emotional responses

from listeners, encouraging them to reflect on the legal system's failure to uphold justice. The song's lyrics directly point to the systemic corruption, calling on the public to recognize and challenge the imbalance of power.

On a pragmatic level, the song's use of the "mafia" metaphor serves to deepen the critique by implying that the corruption is not an isolated issue but a well-organized and ongoing problem. The pragmatic meaning encourages the listener to not just identify the corruption but to question their role in either perpetuating or challenging this systemic issue. Through its strategic use of metaphor, direct language, and social commentary, the song calls for a collective awareness and action to reform the legal system and dismantle entrenched power structures.

Finally, the social critique embedded in "Mafia Hukum" extends beyond the legal system to encompass broader societal concerns about the abuse of power. By examining the song's impact on both a personal and collective level, it becomes clear that Navicula's music functions as a form of activism, urging listeners to confront corruption and work toward a more just society. The song's blend of semantic clarity, pragmatic depth, and potent social commentary highlights its significant cultural impact as both a critique and a call to action for societal change.

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