

Constructing Meaning in the Song Lyrics “*Beyond*” in *Moana 2*: A Semiotic Analysis

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Abstract

Songs are a unique form of art that combines poetic language and melody to express deep meanings. This study examines the song *Beyond* from Disney’s *Moana 2*, focusing on its construction of meaning through Roland Barthes’ semiotic theory. The analysis explores the denotative, connotative, and mythological meanings of the lyrics. Denotatively, the lyrics describe Moana’s physical journey beyond familiar shores, using imagery of stars, the ocean, and distant horizons to signify navigation and exploration. The song portrays themes of self-discovery, cultural identity, and the hero’s journey, with lyrics that serve as a narrative focal point in the film. A qualitative descriptive approach is employed in this research to uncover the explicit meanings in the lyrics, such as Moana’s journey into uncharted seas, while uncovering emotional aspects like her internal struggle between personal aspirations and familial responsibilities. Findings reveal that *Beyond* associates personal growth with cultural narratives that reflect universal human struggles, such as balancing individual aspirations with collective responsibilities. Connotatively, the lyrics evoke emotions of uncertainty, ambition, and resilience, reflecting Moana’s internal conflict between personal aspirations and her responsibilities to her people. Mythologically, the song aligns with the archetypal hero’s journey and Polynesian voyaging traditions, where the protagonist must embrace change and sacrifice for greater good. Moana’s journey reflects the balance between honoring cultural heritage and pursuing individual purpose, which resonates with audiences of diverse backgrounds. This research demonstrates how animated musical content can communicate deep cultural messages and universal truths through layered semiotic meanings, making complex themes accessible to a broad audience.

Keywords : *Semiotic analysis, song lyrics, cultural identity, Moana 2, self-discovery*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature embodies a complex art form that captures various mediums of expressing thoughts, emotions and cultures. The forms are expressed through poetry, novels, songs, and others. The definition of literature has evolved over time, with various interpretations from different cultural and historical contexts. Zaifu & Admussen (2022) proposes that literature is the form of the aesthetic existence of a free soul, which essentially defines literature as a way for an individual to express their artistic freedom through written works. In essence, literary work is a manifestation of the author’s

essence that encompasses both their personal experiences and those of others (Syamsurrijal et al., 2023). Among its many forms, song holds a unique position of poetic language and melody that allows for a rich expression of thoughts, emotions, and cultural narratives. The interaction between literature and music exemplifies a cross-pollination of artistic expressions, with techniques and themes being adapted and reimagined across both forms (Pratibha, 2024).

A song can be broadly understood as a blend of lyrics and melody that conveys meaning through both language and music (Bao, 2023). The lyrics are often crafted using artistic language that incorporate figurative elements like metaphors, symbolism, and alliteration to express complex ideas (Agustina & Mustikawati, 2023). Music, like literature, also embodies meanings that resonate with human experiences, which bridge the gap between mind and body (Gomilko, 2022). This combination makes songs a fascinating subject for linguistic and cultural analysis, especially when examined through frameworks that address their complicated layers.

To uncover these layers of meaning, Barthes's semiotic theory provides a comprehensive approach. Barthes (1977;1957), introduces the concepts of denotation, connotation, and myth to analyze how signs within texts construct meaning. Denotation refers to the explicit, direct meaning of a sign, connotation explores the emotional and cultural associations they evoke, and myth serves as the broader societal values and ideologies embedded within the text. Barthes's framework lays the groundwork for a broader study of semiotics that illuminate how meaning is constructed across various forms of communication.

The study of semiotics is the analysis of signs and their meanings within various contexts. It is rooted in the works of key theorists such as Peirce and Saussure, who laid the groundwork for understanding signs as fundamental components of communication. Semiotics is also inherently transdisciplinary, which requires insights from various fields to fully grasp the complexity of signs and meanings in human communication (Olurotimi, 2022). Among the various frameworks available, Barthes's approach stands out as particularly effective for analyzing song lyrics. His concepts of denotation, connotation, and myth provide layers of analysis through the symbolic and cultural dimensions of songs. It has been widely applied to examine meaning construction in visual media, including animated films. For instance, research on *The Battle of Surabaya* employed Barthes' semiotic approach to explore denotative and connotative meanings, revealing themes of heroism and

national identity (Dewi & Fathoni, 2023). This ongoing study applies Barthes' semiotic theory to analyze the song *Beyond* from *Moana 2*, focusing on its denotative, connotative, and mythological meanings. The song acts as a narrative focal point that talks about self-discovery and cultural identity central to the film's storyline.

The song *Beyond*, featured in the 2024 Disney animated film *Moana 2*. It is sung by Auli'I Cravalho as Moana as she contemplates the direction of her journey. Throughout the song, she copes with her desire to explore *beyond* her home while promising to return to her loved ones. The song is anticipated to explore themes of cultural identity, connection to the ocean, and the journey of self-discovery. *Moana 2* has been nominated for several awards, including a Golden Globe and Annie Awards. It was also included on the Gold House Gold List (IMDB, 2024). Its powerful lyrics and evocative melody have resonated with audiences worldwide which contributed to its widespread popularity. This cultural and emotional impact makes *Beyond* a compelling subject of semiotic analysis because it involves themes that are both deeply personal and universally relatable. By applying Barthes' semiotic framework, this analysis aims to uncover deeper meanings that may not be immediately apparent and able to reveal how the song's layered interpretations reflect individual experiences while engaging with broader societal narratives.

Previous studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of Barthes' semiotics in analyzing song lyrics. Mukminin (2024)'s analysis of NIKI's *High School in Jakarta* highlighted how denotation, connotation, and myth within the lyrics reflected themes of nostalgia and adolescence while also portray personal memories and broader cultural narratives. Similarly, Cevania & Merrita (2023) analyzed songs with themes of self-confidence and reveal how denotative meanings expressed straightforward encouragement, while connotative meanings added layers of emotional depth, which inspire listeners to overcome challenges. Muchalif & Alfikri (2022), in their study of Radiohead's *2+2=5*, revealed how the lyrics constructed meanings of power dynamics, which demonstrates the ability of semiotics to explore complex societal issues through music. Jafar et al., (2022) applied Barthes' framework to Ariana Grande's *God is a Woman* to uncover the denotative meanings related to gender dynamics and the connotative implications of female empowerment. They showed how the mythological interpretations challenge traditional gender roles and illustrate Barthes' assertion that signs carry profound ideological significance. Hasbullah et al., (2024) applied

Barthes' semiotic analysis to environmental posters, where denotative elements like imagery and color schemes were analyzed alongside connotative interpretations that encourage social awareness. Lastly, Menza & Hariyanto (2024) utilized Barthes' semiotic to analyze SZA's *Good Days* to focus on the motivational messages conveyed through the lyrics and revealed that denotative meaning refers to personal struggles and the connotative layers emphasize the importance of mental resilience and self-acceptance.

This study builds on prior research by employing Barthes' semiotic framework to analyze the song *Beyond* from *Moana 2* through the frameworks of denotative, connotative, and mythological meanings. This research explores an animated film song to uncover how it conveys themes of exploration, cultural identity, and self-discovery. The significance of this study lies in addressing the gap in semiotic analyses of animated musical content, and the role of such songs in constructing cultural narratives and resonating with universal human experiences.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research approach used in this study is qualitative descriptive. Creswell (2013) emphasizes that qualitative descriptive studies are grounded in the data collected from participants, allowing themes to emerge organically during analysis. This method is particularly useful to understand complex phenomena through rich, detailed descriptions. The primary research data consists of song lyrics, which act as the basis for analyzing denotative, connotative, and mythological meanings based on Barthes' semiotic framework. Data collection techniques include a close observation of the lyrics to identify relevant sections, a literature review to understand the cultural and cinematic context of the song, and systematic text analysis to uncover deeper layers of meaning and cultural symbolism. The data analysis process follows (Miles & Huberman, 1994) three-stage framework. First, data reduction involves selecting and organizing the lyrics that reflect themes of exploration and identity. Unnecessary data is eliminated to ensure a focused analysis that is aligned with the research objectives. Second, data display presents the organized data systematically to highlight the relationships between denotative, connotative, and mythological meanings. Finally, conclusion drawing and verification involve interpreting the findings and validating them by cross-referencing with theoretical perspectives and relevant literature. The interpretations are continuously refined

throughout the research process to ensure validity and reliability, ultimately revealing how the lyrics construct cultural narratives and ideological meanings.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The song analyzed in this research is about Moana's personal growth and the challenges she faces in the sequel. Moana 2 is a Disney movie that explores deeply into Polynesian culture and traditions of the Pacific Islands. Disney portrays Polynesian mythology and their voyaging history in a way that evokes mystery, pride, and power (Nauta, 2018). The lyrics of the song inspire listeners to remain strong and resilient during times of uncertainty. Additionally, the song also has relatability to listeners about struggle to make difficult decisions, and the stakes of potential failure when doing certain actions. There are forty-eight lines that contain various signs that have been classified into denotations, connotations, and myth meaning. The following analysis explores these meanings in the lyrics of Moana 2's song *Beyond* as interpreted through its verses.

Table 1. Verse 1 of the lyrics song *Beyond* in Moana 2

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>I know these stars above the ocean.</i>	Stars as celestial navigation tool.	Guidance and connection to heritage	The Polynesian legacy of navigation.
<i>Now new skies call me by name</i>	A call to explore unfamiliar skies.	Represent unexplored opportunities.	Individual destiny and purpose.
<i>And suddenly, nothing feels the same.</i>	A shift in perspective and emotions	Emotional transformation and anticipation.	Turning point in mythic self-realization.
<i>I know the path that must be chosen.</i>	Awareness of a chosen duty or course.	A clarity of purpose and the weight of responsibility	Acceptance of a destined, heroic path.
<i>But this is bigger than before</i>	The journey surpasses her past challenges.	Growth and broader responsibilities.	Rising to meet monumental challenges.
<i>Winds have changed, tides turn me far away from shore.</i>	Natural forces push her away from her homeland.	Fate or destiny beyond personal control.	Surrender to the natural order in Polynesian myth.

The first verse of *Beyond* explores Moana's journey of self-discovery, with the mixture of themes of guidance, exploration, and destiny. Denotatively, "*I know these stars above the ocean*" portrays Moana using stars as celestial navigation tools, symbolizing her connection to Polynesian heritage. "*Now new skies call me by name*" denotes a call to explore uncharted territories, marking a shift from the familiar to the unknown. "*Winds have changed, tides turn me far away*" represents natural forces propelling her journey, illustrating her departure from the comfort of home.

Connotatively, the stars symbolize guidance, representing both literal navigation and Moana's internal compass. "New skies" evoke opportunities and challenges, suggesting the excitement of exploration. The shift expressed in "nothing feels the same" connotes emotional transformation and anticipation. The wind and tides represent forces of destiny pulling her toward her purpose despite hesitation.

Mythologically, the stars significantly influenced Polynesian navigation, as their positions and movements were essential for guiding canoes across the vast South Pacific (Chadwick & Paviour-Smith, 2017). "New skies" align with the myth of the hero's call to adventure, where nature predetermines the path. The emotional shift mirrors transformative moments in myths, marking self-realization. The wind and tides echo myths of surrendering to a natural order, a recurring motif in Polynesian and maritime traditions.

Table 2. Verse 2 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>What waits for me</i>	Moana questions the unknown beyond her familiar world.	Captures fear, doubt, and curiosity.	Mirrors self-discovery, a hero's confrontation with the unknown.
<i>Forever far from home</i>			
<i>From everything</i>			
<i>And everyone I've ever known?</i>			

The second verse of the song *Beyond* explores Moana's introspection as she deals with the uncertainty of the journey ahead. Denotatively, the lyric "What waits for me" reflects a direct question from Moana who acknowledges the presence of an unknown reality that lies *beyond* her current experiences. The straightforward phrasing emphasizes her awareness of the uncharted territories she is about to explore.

Connotatively, the lyrics present a mixture of emotions, from fear and doubt to curiosity and excitement. The uncertainty conveyed in the phrase "What waits for me" symbolizes Moana's internal conflict which shows her hesitation to leave behind the comforts of home and the security of her known world. At the same time, it conveys the sense of discovery with desire for growth. This emotional duality represents the universal human tension between attachment to the familiar with the urge for adventure which particularly relatable deeply with the audience.

On a mythological level, the lyrics connect with broader cultural and heroic narratives of the unknown. The act of questioning "What waits for me" aligns with the archetypal hero's journey, where

the protagonist must confront the mystery and uncertainty of stepping beyond their ordinary world. It mirrors the universal myth of self-discovery, where facing the unknown serves as a metaphor for personal growth and the pursuit of one's destiny.

Table 3. Verse 3 of the lyric's song *Beyond in Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>What lies beyond Under skies I've never seen?</i>	Questions the unknown beyond familiar horizons.	Wonder about limitless possibilities and challenges	Exploration as a sacred duty in Polynesian voyaging.
<i>Will I lose myself between My home and what's unknown?</i>	Fear of losing sense of identity	Balancing cultural roots with personal growth.	Universal struggle of heroes reconciling roots and growth.
<i>If I go beyond Leaving all I love behind</i>	Acknowledges separation from loved ones.	The sacrifices leaders have to make for greater good	Myth of sacrifice for communal well-being.
<i>With the future of our people still to find</i>	Connects journey to ensuring a better future.	The heavy burden of leadership	Hero's responsibility for collective destiny.

The third verse of "*Beyond*" explores deeper existential questions as Moana contemplates the weight of leadership and personal identity. Denotatively, the lyrics "*What lies beyond*" express a direct questioning of the unknown territories and unexplored horizons. The straightforward statement "*Will I lose myself*" shows her explicit concern about maintaining her sense of self, while "*Leaving all I love behind*" plainly states the physical act of separation from her loved ones.

Connotatively, these lyrics bring together themes of self-discovery and sacrifice with leadership responsibility. The phrase "*What lies beyond*" represents the infinite possibilities and challenges that await. The emotional complexity further stated with "*Will I lose myself*," which reflects the universal fear of losing one's identity during times of significant change. The line "*future of our people still to find*" carries the weight of leadership, symbolizing the weight of communal responsibility.

On a mythological level, this verse aligns with Polynesian voyaging traditions, where exploration was both a physical act and a cultural imperative (Salmond, 2021). The internal struggle about losing oneself mirrors the classic hero's journey archetype, where the protagonist must navigate between their roots and their calling. The reference to "*the future of our people*" taps into the mythological theme of the chosen leader who must sacrifice personal comfort for communal

benefit. The focus on securing a better future reflects the myth of sacrificial leadership, a universal narrative where heroes forego personal comfort for the collective good.

Table 4. Verse 4 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>There is destiny in motion</i>	The journey is inevitable and starting to unfold	The unstoppable momentum of fate and sense of purpose	Destiny as a powerful force that shapes the hero's journey.
<i>And its only just begun</i>			
<i>Now will this life I've worked so hard for come undone?</i>	The worry about losing what was built in current life	The fear of sacrifice and the fragility of progress	The hero's sacrifices often jeopardize stability and achievements.

In the fourth section of "*Beyond*", which is a powerful segment, there is a pivotal moment where Moana confronts the inevitability of change and destiny. Denotatively, the lyrics "*There is destiny in motion*" and "*it's only just begun*" directly acknowledge the start of an unavoidable journey. The question "*Now will this life I've worked so hard for come undone?*" conveys her concern about losing the stability and progress she has built, signifying a moment of crossroads between the familiar and the unknown.

Connotatively, the phrase "*destiny in motion*" symbolizes the unstoppable momentum of fate that evokes a sense of purpose that pushes Moana toward her calling. This reflects an internal conflict, as the fear of life "*coming undone*" captures the fragility of progress and the emotional weight of sacrificing personal stability. The line "*it's only just begun*" suggests both anticipation and apprehension, conveying the complexity of stepping into a transformative journey.

Mythologically, the verse connects to archetypal hero narratives where destiny serves as a guiding force that shapes the hero's path. "*Destiny in motion*" aligns with myths in which heroes are driven by a higher purpose beyond their control. The fear of sacrifices threatening stability reflects the universal mythic theme of the hero's journey, where personal gains are often risked for the greater good. This tension between personal achievement and duty underscores the timeless narrative of heroes who must embrace change to fulfill their destiny.

Table 5. Verse 5 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>They're calling me</i>	Moana hears an external call.	A pull of higher purpose beyond herself.	The hero's journey begins with a call to adventure.

<i>I must reply</i>	imperative to answer the call	A sense of duty and moral obligation.	The hero's duty to respond, a key moment in their journey.
<i>But if I leave</i>	Contemplation the act of leaving current life	Hesitation of leaving that involve loss	The sacrifice of leaving behind the familiar
<i>How could I ever say goodbye?</i>	Moana struggles with leaving behind her life.	Universal experiences of separation	The universal theme of sacrifice and separation in myths.

The first lines of “*They’re calling me*” and “*I must reply*” create a fascinating starting point for analysis. At the most basic denotative level, these lines describe someone hearing a call and feeling compelled to respond. It's like receiving an important phone call that absolutely can't be ignored. There is a clear sense of urgency and necessity in the wording.

Connotatively, these lyrics speak to a deeper sense of purpose—Moana is being pulled toward something greater than herself. The line “*I must reply*” emphasizes the moral weight and sense of duty that accompanies the acceptance of her destiny.

From a mythological perspective, this entire verse beautifully aligns with classic hero journey narratives. “*They’re calling me*” represents the traditional “*call to adventure*” found in countless myths across cultures, where heroes receive signs or messages that mark the beginning of their journey. In Polynesian mythology specifically, this resonates with traditional stories of voyagers who had to leave their families behind to answer the call of the ocean and discovery. The internal conflict shows how even the greatest heroes face very human struggles with separation and sacrifice.

Table 6. Verse 6 of the lyric's song *Beyond in Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>What lies beyond</i>	Moana wonders about the unknown future	Curiosity and fear of the uncertain	Stepping into the unknown as courage and transformation
<i>On the vast, uncharted sea?</i>	The “Sea” as a literal space.	The sea being mysterious	The sea embodies risk and potential, representing uncharted territory.
<i>Will I lose myself between</i>	Fear of losing sense of identity	The tension of staying true to oneself.	The struggle between personal growth and cultural roots.
<i>All that we know right here</i>	The familiar world currently inhabits	The comfort and safety of known environments	The comfort of the familiar, contrasts the safety of the unknown.
<i>What's out there beyond?</i>	The mysteries of the world outside	Hope and anxiety about the potential risks.	The tension between hope and fear when facing unknown challenges.
<i>Leaving all I love behind</i>	Acknowledging the personal sacrifices.	The emotional burden of leaving loved ones.	Heroes often leave loved ones to fulfill their destiny.
<i>With the future of our people still to find</i>	The journey for collective future.	Sense of responsibility placed upon the leader	Heroes often carry the weight of their community's future.

<i>Can I go beyond?</i>	Moana questions her capability	Conveys doubt in transformative journey	The moment of self-doubt is common in heroic myths.
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In verse six, this verse captures a moment of deep questioning about the future. The lyrics directly address the physical elements of a journey in an "*uncharted sea*," the act of leaving loved ones, and questioning what exists in unknown territories. Through straightforward statements like "*What lies beyond*" and "*Will I lose myself*," one is contemplating a major life change and wondering about the ability to handle it.

From a connotative perspective, the image of a "*vast, uncharted sea*" represents more than just water - it symbolizes life's endless possibilities and challenges. The repeated questioning about what lies "*beyond*" captures the universal mix of excitement and fear one feels when facing major changes. When the lyrics ask, "*Will I lose myself between all that we know right here*," it speaks to the deep fear of losing identity as part of growing and changing. The emotional weight of "*leaving all I love behind*" reflects the personal cost of choosing duty over comfort.

On a mythological level, this verse connects deeply with the traditional hero journey narrative. The imagery of venturing into unknown seas particularly resonates with Polynesian voyaging traditions, where exploration was both a physical and spiritual journey (Tripathy-Lang, 2022). The internal struggle about losing oneself while seeking something greater echoes countless mythological stories where heroes must balance personal identity with destiny. The final question "*Can I go beyond?*" reflects the moment of doubt that heroes often face before accepting their calling, a universal element in mythological narratives across cultures.

Table 7. Verse 7 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>If I'm not here to hold her hand</i>	Worries about not being physically present to guide someone	The universal fear of absence, reflecting nurturing and protective instincts.	Separation, and trusting in growth without direct guidance.
<i>Will she grow to understand?</i>	Moana hopes the person she's leaving will eventually comprehend her reasons	A longing for understanding that one's sacrifices will be seen as meaningful	Hope that one's sacrifices will be understood

In the seventh verse of *Beyond*, Moana wrestles with the emotional cost of her journey, particularly the impact of her absence on loved ones. Denotatively, "*If I'm not here to hold her hand*" expresses a concern about not being present to guide or support someone, while "*Will she grow to*

understand?” reflects Moana’s hope that her reasons for leaving will eventually be comprehended. These lines highlight the literal tension between Moana’s physical absence and her desire for her sacrifices to be meaningful.

Connotatively, the verse conveys deeper emotional layers, particularly the universal fear of leaving loved ones behind. *“If I’m not here to hold her hand”* symbolizes nurturing and protective instincts that evokes the anxiety of whether those left behind can thrive without direct guidance. *“Will she grow to understand?”* captures a longing for validation and emotional reassurance, revealing Moana’s hope that her absence and sacrifices will be seen as acts of love and purpose.

Mythologically, the verse resonates with the recurring theme of separation in hero narratives. The fear of leaving someone behind reflects the hero’s inevitable detachment from their personal life as they pursue a greater calling. The hope that her reasons will eventually be understood aligns with the mythic trope of seeking acknowledgment and validation for sacrifices made for the greater good. This theme underscores the transformative belief that through absence, those left behind will grow and come to appreciate the hero’s journey as essential to a broader purpose. This universal myth emphasizes the delicate balance between duty and connection, resonating with anyone who has faced the challenge of parting for a meaningful cause.

Table 8. Verse 8 of the lyric’s song *Beyond in Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
[Gramma Tala] <i>I’ll always be right beside you</i>	Gramma Tala reassures Moana	Suggests spiritual guidance and emotional support	Family bonds provide unseen support.
<i>But perhaps, you’re meant for more</i>	Hints at Moana’s greater destiny	Moana’s potential to transcend her current life	Everyone has a special purpose.
<i>I can’t see where your story leads</i>	Acknowledges uncertainty about future	The unpredictable nature of life	Life is a journey of unknowns.
<i>But we never stop choosing who we are</i>	Continuous identity formation	Identity shaped by choices	Identity is created through daily choices.

Gramma Tala is Moana's grandmother, a kind and spiritual woman who loves the ocean and the legends of Te Fiti. In this verse, Gramma Tala’s lyrics reflect wisdom and encouragement for Moana as she embarks on her journey. Denotatively, the phrase *“I’ll always be right beside you”* communicates a promise from Gramma Tala to be present for Moana, even after her physical absence. This simple statement reassures Moana of her grandmother’s ongoing support.

Connotatively, it signifies emotional and spiritual guidance. It suggests that even in moments of uncertainty, Moana will feel Gramma Tala's presence, providing her strength and comfort. This reflects the deep familial bonds that transcend physical separation.

Mythologically, this lyric aligns with the archetype of ancestral guidance in heroic narratives. It embodies the belief that ancestors and loved ones continue to guide and protect us, symbolizing the eternal connection between family members.

Table 9. Verse 9 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
[Moana] <i>I'll go beyond</i>	Moana resolves to embark on her journey	Commitment to explore challenges	True growth comes from stepping out of comfort.
<i>And although I don't know when</i> <i>I will reach these sands again</i>	Aware of uncertainty about her return	Patience and acceptance of unpredictability	Life's path is uncertain; perseverance leads to fulfillment.
<i>'Cause I know who I am</i>	Declaration of self awareness and identity	Moana's confidence amidst uncertainty	Knowing oneself is key to overcoming life's challenges.

In the ninth verse of *Beyond*, Moana embraces her journey with determination and self-assurance, resolving to face the challenges ahead. Denotatively, "*I'll go beyond*" reflects her decision to embark on her adventure, while "*And although I don't know when*" acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding her return. The line "*I will reach these sands again*" declares her intent to return home, and "*'Cause I know who I am*" highlights her self-awareness and confidence in her identity.

Connotatively, this verse emphasizes Moana's resolve and inner strength. "*I'll go beyond*" symbolizes her commitment to step out of her comfort zone and face the unknown. The repetition of "*I know who I am*" shows her self-awareness and identity, making her resilient.

Mythologically, this verse aligns with the universal narrative of growth through exploration. The acknowledgment of uncertainty in "*And although I don't know when*" mirrors life's unpredictability, teaching that perseverance and faith can lead to fulfillment. The promise to return home reflects the mythic theme of the return after growth, where home serves as both a foundation and a source of strength.

Table 10. Verse 10 of the lyric's song *Beyond* in *Moana 2*

Lyrics	Denotation	Connotation	Myth
<i>I am Moana</i>	Moana proclaims her name	Self-assertion and pride in heritage	Embracing identity is a source of strength.
<i>Of the land and of the sea</i>	Identifies with both worlds	Unity and balance in her environment	Harmony exists between opposite forces.
<i>And I promise that is who I'll always be</i>	Vows to remain true to her identity	Resilience and authenticity in leadership	True leaders stay authentic to core values.
<i>I must go, I will go, then we'll know</i>	Commits to self while expressing curiosity	Integrity in discovery and growth	Pursuit of the unknown fosters growth.
<i>What lies beyond</i>			The unknown offers opportunities for exploration.

In the last verse, Moana concludes her transformation by firmly asserting her identity. Denotatively, "*I am Moana*" declares her self-awareness, symbolizing her acceptance of herself and her heritage. Connotatively, it reflects her self-confidence and pride in her lineage, encouraging others to embrace their true identity as a source of strength.

The lyric "*Of the land and the sea*" reflects Moana's connection to both her island and the ocean. Connotatively, it suggests unity and balance, highlighting her ability to bridge two worlds. Mythologically, it is tied to Polynesian culture, which deeply values harmony between land and sea as sources of life and identity.

Lastly, "*I must go, I will go, then we'll know*" reflects Moana's resolve to embrace her journey despite uncertainties. Connotatively, it signifies courage and a thirst for discovery, while mythologically, it aligns with the hero's willingness to explore the unknown as a means of growth.

4. CONCLUSION

This study explores the profound meanings embedded in the song "*Beyond*" from *Moana 2* through Roland Barthes' semiotic framework. Through careful analysis of the lyrics, it was discovered that meanings speak to universal human experiences. On the surface level, the song tells the story of Moana's journey beyond her familiar shores. Deeper emotional meanings emerge through powerful imagery of stars, oceans, and distant horizons, that symbolize the challenge of leaving comfort zones and embracing uncertainty. At the mythological level, the song connects with timeless themes of the hero's journey and Polynesian voyaging traditions.

The analysis reveals how "Beyond" masterfully intertwines together personal and collective perspectives. Moana's internal struggle between duty and personal attachments reflects universal challenges all individuals face when making life-changing decisions. The song's emotional depth is particularly evident in its exploration of family bonds, leadership responsibilities, and the courage required to embrace destiny while staying true to oneself. This research contributes to the understanding of how modern animated films can convey deep cultural messages and universal truths through their musical elements, making complex themes accessible to audiences of all ages.

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