**An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Found in Adele’s Selected Lyrics Songs**

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**Abstract**

*This study is being carried out in attempt to discover the idiomatic terms utilized in the songs of Adele. This study employed qualitative research that focused on content or document analysis. In this study, the songs from Adele were used as the data source. Makkai's theory was used to the data analysis (1972).* *The researchers searched the internet for the music album, looked for the script lyrics, listening, and typing. Beyond that, data analysis included reading, evaluating, recognizing, and classifying the sorts of idiomatic idioms present in song lyrics, and finally making conclusions. After evaluating the data, the researchers discovered three idiomatic phrases portrayed in the lyrics of the songs:* *phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, and incorporating verb idioms.*

***Keywords****: idioms, song lyrics, Adele*

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is a tool that individuals use to communicate with one another. Language is extremely vital to all individuals since without it, we would struggle to obtain information or connect with others. Language, according to Algeo (2005:2), is a system of conventional vocal signals by which humans communicate. Communication may be accomplished through engagement. When individuals communicate, they utilize utterances to convey their sentiments, emotions, ideas, and so on to others (Herman, 2015:41; Herman, 2016:1).

This definition contains numerous significant concepts, each of which is addressed in detail: system, signals, voice, conventional, human, communicate. So we may infer that language is a tool for building communication and good connections with others, and that language is transmitted based on the signs or vowels used while speaking to everyone, and that we can communicate properly with languages that are mutually understood.
 Idioms (idiomatic expressions) are a sort of informal language with a meaning that differs from the meaning of the words in the phrase. According to Halliday (2007:154), as referenced in Sinaga, Herman, Hutahaean, and Niswa (2020:11), an idiom in the language being described is something for which no counterpart exists in the home tongue. Idiomatic phrases, according to Biber et al (2006), are expressions with a meaning that is wholly different from the meaning of their constituents. As a result, Hurford (2007:328), as referenced in Butarbutar, Sinurat, Herman, and Purba (2020:2), contends that idiomatic expressions (idioms) are multi-word phrases that blend the literal senses of the constituent words in each phrase. On the other hand, an idiomatic phrase is a statement whose meaning does not comply to the compositionality principle and is unconnected to the meaning of its parts.

According to the definitions, the researchers thought that interpreting indiomatic statements is challenging, particularly for persons who use English as a foreign language. It is impossible to comprehend the meaning of idiomatic terms when individuals do not know or understand them. This is consistent with the assertion made by Butarbutar et al (2020). They argued that misunderstandings in comprehending the meaning occur when readers or individuals find it difficult to discern the message. As a result, many linguists describe an idiom as a fixed term that cannot be comprehended literally and whose meaning cannot be found in a standard dictionary. For example, "scapegoats" does not have the same general meaning as "Goat" and "Black." Idioms may contain simple phrases, yet they might be challenging to translate. For example, "hit the sack," which literally translates as "memukul atau meninju karung." "Hit the sack," on the other hand, means "Tidur" or "sleep," and it's used to notify friends or relatives that you're exhausted and need to sleep.

Makkai's (1972) theory of idiom categorization was employed by the researchers to categorize the idioms contained in a song. A song is a single piece of music that frequently stands alone, designed to be sung by a human voice with distinct tones and rhythms. An idiom can be better understood by listening to a song. Nowadays, many people learn a language, particularly idioms from western music. Songs can also help with vocabulary, phrase structure, and sentence rhythms. The researchers chose to utilize Ed Sheeran's popular song in this study because it contains several idiomatic terms whose actual meaning must be exposed.The analysis or research about idiomatic expressions has been conducted before in a previous research done by (Thao & herman, 2021) in his research entitled “An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Found in Ed Sheeran’s Selected Lyrics Songs”. In his thesis, he did a research oriented to the types of idiomatic analysis and characteristic of idiom in song lyrics from of Ed Sheeran’s selected lyrics songs. The findings were there were 10 idioms found from 2 songs in Ed Sheeran’s songs. As the result, here are two types of idiomatic expression, there are verb+ noun phrase and verb+ particle idiomatic expressions. And also there are two characteristics of idioms these are non-compositional and compositional idioms. The research done by Thao and Herman was different to this research. This research is only oriented with the analysis of the idiomatic expressions to a song lyric.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher interest to conduct to look for idiom. The researcher used the source of the data from Adele’s selected lyrics song. Especially in this study , the researcher focus on the how idiomatic expression are found and the dominant type of idiomatic expression found in Adele’s Easy On Me lyrics song.

1. ***Definition of Idiomatic Expression***

Idiom (idiomatic expression) are a type of informal language that have a meaning different from the meaning of the words in the expression. Idiomatic expressions are very difficult to understand if they do not have a large vocabulary. According to Lado (2006) in Suryanata (2012:9) explain that idioms is words constructions which construct a phrase it cannot be translated literally. As an example “hit the sack”, literally meaning as “hit or punching a bag”. However, “hit the sack” means “sleep” While Biber, et al (2006) said that idiomatic expressions are expressions with a meaning which is entirely different from the meaning of their parts. Hence, Gairn and Redman (1986:35) as cited in Butarbutar, Sinurat, Herman and Purba (2020:3) stated that an idiom is a sequence of words, which operates as single semantic unit, and like many multi-word verbs the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from an understanding of the parts, for example: “never mind”, “hang on”, “under the weather”, and so on. Based on the explanation above, the writer concluded that idiomatic expression are groups of words that have different meanings which are different from the meanings of each word in that group because meaning is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used.

1. ***Types of Idiom***

The researcher uses a theory of idiom based on Makkai (1972). According to Makkai types of idiom divided into two types it’s lexemic and sememic idiom. We focus particularly on lexemic idioms, which are divided further into six sub-classes: phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, irreversible binomials, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms and pseudo idioms.

* 1. Phrasal Verb Idioms

This type of idioms is always the combination of verb and particle (adverb or preposition) (Makkai 1972) for example blow up, go away, and break out.

* 1. Tournure idioms

This type of idiom consists of at least three words. There are seven categories based on their structure of tournure idioms:

1. The form containing compulsory definite or indefinite article. An example is in a body which means “ a group of people” (spears, 2005,p.330).
2. .The form containing an irreversible binomial. An example is paced up and down which means “ work over and over the same short route nervously or anxiously” (Spears, 2005,p.486)
3. A direct object and further possible modifiers following the primary verb. An example is keep one’s eyes open which means “ to be on the alert, watch carefully or vigilantly for something” (Sieffring,2004).
4. The leading verb not followed by direct object but by preposition plus noun or nothing. An example is frightened out of their wits which means “ to be extremely frightened” (Siefring, 2004,p.316).
5. The leading verb be. An example is to be up a creek which means “be in severe difficulty, usually with no means of extricating yourself from it” (Siefring,2004,p.65).
6. The form containing the compulsory it. An example is to step on it which means “hurry up” (Siefring,2004,p.276)
7. The form functioning as an adverb composed of several words. An example is as a matter of course which means “normally or as a normal procedure” (Siefring,2004).
	1. Irreversible binomials

This type of idioms has fixed structures which cannot be changed. It usually consists of two words separated by a conjunction, for example to and for which means “(of movement) toward and away from something” (Spears, 2005:706).

* 1. Phrasal compound idioms

This type of idioms refers to a nominal compound made up of preposition/adjective plus noun, noun plus noun. For example, lost heart means “to lose one’s courage or confident” (Spears, 2005;416)

* 1. Incorporating verb idioms

Incorporating verb idioms are usually separated by (-), and has some forms such as noun- verb, and adjective verb. This kind of idiom is mostly used in formal term. For example, blood-curdling means “fill you with horror” (Siefring, 2004).

* 1. Pseudo idioms

It is “polylexonic lexeme” one or more of whose constituent lexons, in spite of being morphotactically permissible words, are not simultaneously realizations of independent lexemes in other environment as well, unless they are banned lexons.” An example for this category is chit- chat meaning “small talk”. (Makkai, 1972).

Based on the explanation above, the writer concluded that to find idiom each of type have a different form combination to implement it. For example between phrasal verb idioms and tournure idioms. In phrasal verb idioms to found idioms it’s combination of verb and particle (adverb or preposition) or consist two words while tournure idioms consists of three words. And so do the other idioms.

1. ***Definition of Songs***

A song is a single work of music and often stands alone, intended to be sing by a human voice with clear and specific tones and patterns. According to Hutajulu and Herman (2019), ong is a one of the ways to communicate the enables human to cooperate. Song is considered to be a system of communication with other people using sounds and song to express a feeling, sense, idea, emotion or thought (Thao and Herman, 2020; Herman and Silalahi, 2020). Songs are usually played together with musical instruments to serve a beautiful harmony that has its own uniqueness and rhythm. Songs contain many topics or themes such as about love, family, events that have been experienced, etc. songs can also entertain themselves from boredom or through songs can learn to combine vocabulary, listening, pronunciation, and grammar. Song has two main particulars:

1. ***Lyric of Song***

Lyrics are a form of words that embellish a song which consists of choruses and verses. Lyrics can give listeners a deep understanding through the meaning or message of the song. When someone hears the lyrics of the song and sings repeatedly without realizing they are memorizing vocabulary. Rainey & Larsen (2002) state that many adults who ever heard a melody can recall the lyrics from a song that they heard repeatedly as adolescents, despite the fact that they had not heard the lyrics for a years. Lyrics is the words of song, especially a pop song, or a short poem which express the personal thoughts and feelings of the person who wrote it. Its means that not only the arrangement of words into sentence, but also the representation of the composer's sense and emotion to describe their feelings such as desire, struggle, love, ideas and, feeling (Sitorus and Herman, 2019:24). In addition Abrams (2009:25) as cited in Pakpahan, Herman, Purba, and Purba (2020:37) states that lyric is “any fairy short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker who expresses a state of mind on a process of perception, thought and feeling. From the definitions above, researchers can conclude that lyrics are forms of words that contain personal feelings written by songwriters and expressed in a song, which serves the audience to recognize and memorize vocabulary

**METHOD**

1. ***Research Design***

This research is qualitative research design. Qualitative research is research that is descriptive and tends to use analysis. Furthermore, the data was taken by using descriptive design. According to Ary, Jacob & Sorensen (2010) stated that descriptive research design is to obtain information concerning the current status of phenomena and to provide rich verbal description of settings, situations and participants. Understanding of phenomenon is done by observation, interviews and documentation, which aims to describe and analyze. Model of qualitative research used in this research was document or content analysis. According to Sinaga, Herman, and Marpaung (2020:453), content analysis focuses on analyzing and interpreting recorded material to learn about human behavior. The material may be public records, textbooks, letters, films, tapes, diaries, themes, reports, or other documents. The research is considered document or content analysis because it describes and analyzes the song lyrics' data.

1. ***Instruments***

In this research, the researchers used Ed Sheeran’s lyrics song. The data was taken one album from sources in website. This album was divide. Divide is a third album of Ed Sheeran. In this study, the researcher only focused on two songs with the title is shapes of you and castle on the hill which was released on 2021.

1. ***Procedures***

The data was taken from Ed Sheeran’s lyrics song. There were several steps to collect the data, they were:

1. Searching and downloading the album song from website
2. Searching the scripts lyrics of the songs.
3. Listening to the songs as the data for this research.
4. Transcribing all the lyrics of the selected songs
5. ***Data analysis***

After collecting the data, the writer followed several steps in order to analyze the data, they are:

1. Reading the lyric’s song be carefully.
2. Analyzing the lyrics based on idiomatic expression fousnd in the lyric’s song.
3. Identifying the types of idiomatic expressions depicted from the song lyrics
4. Classifying the types of idiomatics expressions found from the songs lyrics
5. Drawing conclusion

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

After analyzing the data, the researchers found the idiomatic expressions was using theory of Makkai (1972) which focus on lexemic idioms and divided into six sub-classes: phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, irreversible binomials, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms and pseudo idioms. The researcher found that in both songs analyzed only use two sub classes namely phrasal verb idioms and tournure idioms, which is more dominant using phrasal verb idioms. The detailed findings and discussion from the data can be seen in the following paragraph. As already explained in the scope of previous chapter that the researchers only took 1 album with two songs. Data was analyzed using theory of Makkai (1972) said that type of idiom is divided into two lexemic and sememic idiom, but the researcher only focus on lexemic idioms which are divided further into six sub-classes: phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, irreversible binomials, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms and pseudo idioms. The data was analyzed to know how idiomatic expressions are found and to find the dominant type of idiomatic expressions. The idiomatic expression could be seen in the following table. They were:

**Table 1. Data of Idiom Expression Found in Adele’s Song**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **Types of idioms** | **Song title** | **Idiom** | **Meaning** |
|  | Phrasal compound idioms | Rolling in the deep  | to count one’s blessings | to be grateful for what one has |
|  | Incorporating verb idioms | you reap what you sow | your actions dictate the consequences |
|  | Tournure idioms | water under the bridge | water under the bridge | something which is past and done with |
|  | Phrasal compound idioms | Right as rain | to cry one’s heart out | Cry a lot |

More explanation from the table 1 can be seen in the following point.

1. Phrasal Compound idioms
2. To count one’s blessings

This phrase was categorized in phrasal compound idiom. This phrase would be found in song named “Rolling in the deep” . This phrase consisted of with the formula preposition/adjective plus noun.

1. To cry one’s heart out

This phrase was categorized in phrasal compound idiom. This phrase would be found in song named “Right as rain” . This phrase consisted of with the formula preposition/adjective plus noun

1. Incorporating verb idioms
2. You reap what you sow

This phrase was categorized in incorporating verb idiom. This phrase would be found in song named “Rolling in the deep”. Incorporating verb idioms are usually separated by (-), and has some forms such as noun- verb, and adjective verb.

1. Tournure idioms
2. water under the bridge

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idioms . This phrase would be found in song named “Water under the bridge” . This type of idiom consists of at least three words. there are seven categories based on their structure of tournure idioms

**CONCLUSION**

After evaluating the data in the preceding paragraph, the researchers conclude that three idioms were depicted: phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, and incorporating verb idioms. This research is still far from a high-quality publication because the data utilized was limited, but the researchers expect that it will serve as a reference for other academics performing additional research on idiomatic phrases, with a broader scope and higher quality.

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