



AN ANALYSIS OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN THE LYRICS OF SONGS FOUND IN ADELE'S ALBUM

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze idiomatic expressions and to find out the contextual meaning of the idiomatic expressions used in Adele's song lyrics in album 25 which consists of 11 songs. This research analyzes 6 from 11 songs of this album. The data were analyzed by using the theory of Makkai (1972). This research used descriptive qualitative design. Data of this research was analyzed using content analysis techniques. The results of this research indicate that there are 29 idiomatic expressions found in 3 types of idioms, they are Phrasal verb idioms, Tournure idioms, and Irreversible binomials. Meanwhile, the idioms that were not found by the researcher were Phrasal compound idioms, Incorporating verb idioms, and Pseudo idioms. This researcher finds contextual meaning that mostly reflects Adele's life according to her 25th age, in this album she tells about happiness, sadness, regret, and reminiscing about her past self.

Keywords:

analysis, idiomatic expression, types idiom, adele's lyrics song contextual meaning.

1. Introduction

Language is a collection of several communication methods which some of them are accidental verbal symbols used for human. Each of those symbols has a special quality specific to humans. Some people define language as a useful tool for communication because it can connect other people's thoughts, feelings, or opinions Rosenberg and Chopra (2015). In some occasion, people use language in the form of a song, drama, novel, poem, or another medium in order to deliver their intended messages. Therefore, language can be in various form and plays crucial part in conveying someone's ideas so that others can understand them because, without language, there would be many barriers to communicate between them.

One types of language that tends to appear in everyday conversation is Idiom, Goree-Burns (1998) emphasize that Mastery of idiom language is one of the important indicators to produce the right language acquisition. Syafitri (2018) stated that, an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit, for instance, the idiom *spill the beans* means to reveal secret information, especially without intending to do so. idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language. Pratiwi (2018) stated that language contains many phrases whose meanings are not predictable on its individual words. That

phrases are called idioms, or idiomatic phrases. In the other hand, idiomatic phrase is an expression whose meaning does not conform to the principle of compositionality, and unrelated to the meaning of its parts. But, the meaning is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used.

Some people today are familiar with the language in Idiom, especially the idiom in western songs (Wahyudi, 2016). A song can be a way that we can do to make it easier to learn an idiom. Some people only listen to the music and instruments of the song but they don't get the message in the song, but a song is made to convey a certain message to the person who listens to it, of course to enjoy what exactly the emotions and goals conveyed by the songs are. Song is one of the ways to communicate that enables humans to cooperate, to considered to be a system of communication with other people using sounds and songs to express a feeling, sense, idea, emotion, or thought (Simanjuntak, Napitupulu, Purba, & Van Thao, 2021). Song instruments that contain idiom are lyrics. Lyrics are the words of a song, particularly a pop song, or a brief poem that represent the author's private thoughts and feelings.

In lyrics, it can be in the form of ordinary sentences or idioms, idioms are needed in song lyrics because idioms are created to communicate something specific and usually quite accurately describe it in songs. There are several researches that discuss idiom in the lyrics (Avivah, 2016; Ni'mah, 2019; Van Thao, 2021) and there is also research that discusses idioms in Adele's song lyrics (Fatin, 2016). Several researchers have conducted research on idioms in Adele's song lyrics (Arifin, 2015; Damayanti, 2019). The researchers have found many examples of previous research that became the concept of this research. For example, the research conducted by (Fatin, 2016) on "Analysis of Idiomatic Expression found in Adele's Song Lyrics in The Album 25 and Its Possibility to Be Used in English Teaching and Learning". The purpose of this study was to determine the types of idioms found in Adele's song lyrics and to know the possibility of teaching in schools using material about idioms by Adele's song lyric media.

Previous researchers also used Makkai's theory which is in line with the theory used in this study. However, this research will be different from previous studies because, this research only focuses on the analysis of idiomatic expressions contained in Adele's album 25 and is not applied to teaching only limited to analyzing the idiomatic expressions contained in Adele's song lyrics in the 25th album, and only analyzed 6 of the 11 songs contained in Adele's 25th album. Then the researcher wants to find the contextual meaning of Adele's song lyrics in the 25th album and also explores many idiomatic expressions in a song, so that the message contained in the song can be conveyed. Understanding the many types and meanings of idioms from song lyrics will help you understand and communicate fluently.

2. Methods

The research design of this research was descriptive qualitative. The used of qualitative methods could be used to understand and uncover the meaning behind events that were no longer understood by many people. The researcher used qualitative descriptive because it provided an overview of the idioms in

Adele's song lyrics and then found the contextual meaning of each of the lyrics. The main instrument of this research was the researcher herself. This research used qualitative descriptive to find out more about the idiom and contextual meaning in Adele's song. The data of this research was the lyrics of Adele's songs on album 25, the researcher downloaded lyrics from the internet. Song lyrics were the object of this research. In this research, the researcher wanted to know how many lexical idioms were found and the types of idiomatic expressions found in Adele's album. As well as contextual meaning. Furthermore, In analyzing the data, the researcher took some steps of content analysis. Merriam and Tisdell (2015) said that content analysis was a systematic procedure for describing the content of communications historians and literary critics who have long used content analysis to analyze historical documents and literary work. Presenting the data after coding the data, describing the data, in this research, the researcher focused on analyzing lexemic idioms so that the researcher used Makkai's theory (1972:135-179), then explained the types of idioms and explained the contextual meaning contained in Adele's song lyrics, then the final stage is grouping data based on the data that has been analyzed.

3. Result

The researcher found idiomatic expressions using Makkai's (1972) theory which focuses 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. Of the six songs analyzed, the researcher only found three sub-classes, they are phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, and irreversible binomials. Details of finding the type of idiomatic expression can be seen in the table below.

Kind of Idiomatic Expression found in Adele's Album

No.	Types of Idiom	Song Title	Idiomatic Expression	Line	Stanza
1.	Phrasal Verb Idiom	Hello	Tear you apart	18	6
			Run out of time	24	6
			To go over	3	1
			Puy your hands on	2	1
			I'm giving you up	7	7
		Send My Love (To Your New Lover)	You were falling down	22	4
			Set me free	26	5
			Bring the floor up to my knees	5	1
		I Miss You	Standing over me	8	1
			Don't let the lights go down	9	2
			When the light go	14	3

		out		
		When we	Takes me back	43 10
		Were Young	Keeps holding on	46 11
		All I Ask	Don't get me	22 5
			wrong	
			Take your eyes off	1 1
			of	
		Love in the	I don't want to	17 4
		Dark	carry on	
			Please don't fall	19 5
			apart	
		Send my	Keep up	
		Love (To		22 4
		Your New		
		Love)		
2.				
	Tournure		Called a thousand	12 5
	Idioms	Hello	times	
			Breaking your	17 6
			heart	
			Handle the hot	19 4
		Send My	heat rising	
		Love (To	Let go of all of our	12 3
		Your New	ghosts	
		Lover)		
			Bring your heart,	
			I'll bring my soul	26 4
		I Miss You	Setting the tone	29 4
			We play so dirty in	44 7
			the dark	
		Love in the	Love you in the	9 3
		dark	dark	
		When we	Let me photograph	15 4
		Were Youg	you in this light	
3.	Irreversible	Hello	Younger and free	7 2
	binomials			
		I Miss You	I want your	2 1
			heaven and your	
			oceans	

Analysis

The results of the research which states the number of idiomatic expressions found in the six songs of Adele in Album 25 are 29 idioms. The table shows that of the songs analyzed in Adele's 25th album, the most common type of idiomatic expression found is phrasal verb idiom. While the type of idiom that

is lacking is irreversible idiom. In the depth of the song analyzed, there are no types of idioms, phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms and pseudo idioms.

The researcher has solved the table and will analyze each type of idiom contained in Adele's song and analyze the contextual meaning contained in the song. The analysis is presented as follows:

Phrasal verb idiom

a. Tear you apart

This phrase was categorized in phrasal verb idiom. This phrasal would be found in a song named "Hello". This phrase consisted of the formula "verb + adverb". "tear" as verb while "apart" as adverb.

The contextual meaning of *tear you apart* are tells about someone who wants to apologize for hurting his ex-partner, she wants to apologize for the mistakes she made in the past, and she always tries to contact his ex-lover so she can apologize directly but his ex-lover doesn't respond. "tear you apart" means that they don't hurt each other anymore, the contextual meaning of the sentence is that they should separate so they don't hurt each other again.

b. Run out of time

This phrase was categorized in phrasal verb idiom. This phrasal would be found in song named "Hello". This phrase consisted of with the formula "verb + preposition". "Run" as verb while "out of" as preposition.

The contextual meaning of *run out of time* does not mean chasing time, this lyric means that has run out of time to apologize to his ex-lover. As time goes by, this pair of lovers always hurt each other, hurts, and never ends. Her boyfriend had lost time to apologize because his ex-had already hated her.

c. To go over

This phrase was categorized in phrasal verb idiom. This phrasal would be found in a song named "Hello". This phrase consisted of with the formula "verbs + preposition". "go" as verb while "over" as preposition.

The contextual meaning of *to go over* are describes someone who is still trying to contact his ex-lover via telephone, to apologize. In addition to apologizing, the other goal is to invite his ex to meet. To discuss the problems that caused them to break up or just reminisce. "to go over" means that you want to know things in detail, or want to consider something. So, the meaning of the lyrics is someone wants to talk about something to someone in detail or clarity.

d. Put you hands on

This phrase was categorized in phrasal verb idiom. This phrasal would be found in the song named "Send my Love". This phrase consisted of with the formula "verb + adverb". "Put" as verb while "On" as adverb.

The contextual meaning of *put you hand on* are means that someone puts his hand on his lover's body, to state something very important, namely the seriousness of their relationship. when people usually talk about a "big" relationship it usually leads to marriage or a lifelong commitment or the biggest thing in a relationship.

e. *I'm giving you up*

This phrase was categorized in phrasal verb idiom. This phrasal would be found in the song named "Send my love". This phrase consisted of with the formula "verb + adverb". "fall" as verb while "down" as adverb

The contextual meaning of *I'm giving you up* are means that giving up on someone who has disappointed him, he has been let down by his lover so he feels no guilt towards his lover who has disappointed him, now he doesn't feel indebted to him like when he talked about his previous marriage.

Tournure Idiom

a. *Called a thousand times*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "Hello". "Called a thousand times" can be included as Tournure idiom because it contains the compulsory definite or undefined article "a".

The contextual meaning of *called a thousand times* mean that someone who has called his ex-lover repeatedly but his ex-never responds to his efforts. His ex was already too hurt and hurt, so his ex never replied to him, but he had tried and tried to apologize to his ex-lover.

b. *Breaking your heart, I'll bring my soul*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "I miss you". "Bring you heart, I'll bring my soul" can be included as Tournure Idiom because it has from direct object and further possible modifiers follow the primary verb.

The contextual meaning of *breaking your heart, I'll bring my soul* means that feels a deep emotional sadness for someone, and causes pain, and a deep sense of disappointment, so he doesn't want to talk to someone who has hurt him anymore.

c. *Handle the hot heat rising*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "Send my love". "Handle the hot heat rising" Can be included as Tournure idiom because that contains definite article.

The contextual meaning of *handle the hot heat rising* means that she can't handle his emotions, meanwhile, she's very afraid to make commitments or take the relationship further. So, the things he does make her partner disappointed because he is too afraid to take action or is afraid to try hard, it causes him to treat her partner so badly that it causes their relationship to be unhealthy.

d. *Let go of all of our ghosts*

This phrase was categorized in tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "Send my love". "Let go of all of our ghosts" can be included as Tournure Idiom which contains direct object and further possible modifiers follow the primary verb.

The contextual meaning of *let go of all of our ghosts* it refers to a desire to no longer remember memories in the past, she is ready to move on. She tends to distrust the sentiments of love from people like him, and she understands better how "love" can go wrong. She wants him to understand his mistake, correct it, and let go of her past with him.

e. *Bring your heart, I'll bring my soul*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "I miss you". "Bring you heart, I'll bring my soul" can be included as Tournure Idiom because it has from direct object and further possible modifiers follow the primary verb

The contextual meaning of *bring your heart, I'll bring my soul* means that wants to give something more than someone gave him. She wanted to be closer to his lover. She doesn't want to be hurt, therefore she gives everything she has to his lover, be it affection, attention, or others.

Irreversible binomials

a. *Younger and free*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "Hello". "Younger and free" can be included into Irreversible binomials because it has frequently made up consists of two word followed by the conjunction "and".

The contextual meaning *younger and free* are refers to feeling a deep emotional sadness for someone, and causing pain, and a deep sense of disappointment, so that he doesn't want to talk to someone who has hurt him anymore.

b. *I want your heaven and your oceans*

This phrase was categorized in Tournure Idiom. This phrase would be found in the song named "I miss you". "I want your heaven and your oceans" can be included into Irreversible binomials because consists of a word followed by the conjunction "and"

The contextual meaning of *I want your heaven and your oceans are* do not mean she prays and asks god that she wants someone's heaven or wants a wide ocean but, these lyric means wants the good side of his partner, "heaven" could be an allusion to the "glorious" aspects of him, the praiseworthy and awesome parts. "oceans" could be a reference to his depths or the parts he doesn't share with other people.

4. Discussion

Based on the results of the analysis above, the researcher found 29 types of idiomatic expressions found in the lyrics of the 25th Adele song, in the album, there are 11 songs, but the researcher only analyzed 6 songs. The researcher uses Makkai's theory (1972) to analyze the types of idiomatic expressions in Adele's song. Makkai divides idioms into two categories, namely Lexemic and Sememic. The research focus is on Lexemic Idioms. The lexemic idiom is the smallest form of meaning from spoken or written language that occurs independently, Lexemic idioms are combined with Part of Speech (verb, nouns, adjectives, and prepositions) He classifies idiomatic expressions into six types, which are Phrasal verb idioms, Tournure Idioms, Irreversible binomials, Phrasal compound idioms, Incorporating verb idioms, and Pseudo Idioms.

In this research, the researcher only found three types of idiomatic expressions contained in Adele's 25th album, they are Phrasal verb idioms, Tournure Idioms, and Irreversible binomials. In addition, the researcher found 18 phrasal verbs in Adele's song lyrics, 9 Tournure idioms, and 2 irreversible binomials. An example of a phrasal verb used in Adele's 25th album is "tear you apart", an example of a Tournure idiom "called a thousand times" and an example of an Irreversible binomials idiom is "Younger and free".

There are some kinds of idioms used in English. One thing of them is Phrasal verb idioms, Tournure Idioms, Irreversible binomials, Phrasal compound idioms, incorporating verb idioms, and Pseudo Idioms (Based on makkai theory). Idiomatic expressions are often used by people when they communicate. An idiom is an expression that can be a term or group of words whose meaning cannot be inferred from its literal definition. The meaning of idiomatic expressions can be defined by contextual meaning, while contextual meaning is the meaning of a word according to the situation of its use. In studying the

meaning of idioms, one not only finds words from the dictionary, but also understands the meaning of the speaker when saying the message.

The contextual meaning found in Adele's 25 song lyrics is based on Lyons (1981) theory, which refers to the context in which it is used. For example, "tear you apart" means that it hurts so the contextual meaning of the lyrics is that they have to separate so they don't hurt each other. Analyzing the contextual meaning to understand more easily the meaning of the song.

After finding the contextual meaning of several idioms in Adele's album, the researcher found that Adele tried to express and communicate regret or apology to someone she had hurt, it was told in the song "Hello". Then "Send my love, All I Ask, and love in the dark", tells about the sadness that Adele has experienced. "Send my love" tells about her lover who left her with another woman, then Adele also let his lover turn to another woman, then "All I Ask" tells about a couple who still love each other but can't be together anymore but he wants the last night with him before they parted. And "love in the dark" tells the story of someone who wants to end their relationship because they no longer feel happy because there are too many differences and fights in their relationship. Then the song that tells about happiness is "I miss you" which tells about the intimacy of the couple. Adele explained the meaning of the song to *The New York Times*: "It's just about the general intimacy of a relationship," "she said it sounded very sexual, but it's not just sexual. It's about every aspect of intimacy in a relationship. It just wants everything, I want good things, and great things from it. Then the song that tells about nostalgia is "When we were young" this song tells about past events when they were young, she remembered her memories when he accidentally met his ex-lover, and she then wanted to reminisce together, even though there was no relationship. However, it didn't mean that she regretted the past that had happened but only remembered the memories of the past.

5. Conclusion

Based on the result of analysis, the researcher wants to provide conclusions. The researcher analyzed the lyrics of Adele's song on the 25th album which contains eleven songs, but of the eleven songs, the researcher only analyzed six songs. The researcher concludes that the idioms found in Adele's song on album 25 are 29 idioms. consisting of 18 Phrasal verb idioms, 9 Tournure Idioms, and 2 irreversible binomials. In the next findings, the researcher describes the contextual meaning found in Adele's album songs refers to the meaning of words based on the context in which they are used, based on the theory that supports Lyons (1984). The contextual meaning found in Adele's six songs mostly tells

about sadness, happiness, and regret and her awareness of how quickly time passes.

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