

A Syntactic Analysis of the Noun Phrases in Justin Bieber's Song Lyrics

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Abstract

This research showed the syntactic analysis of the noun phrases used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. The objectives of the study are: To find out the noun phrases in Justin's selected song lyrics and to find out the most dominant noun phrases among Justin's selected song lyrics. The researcher chose analyzing noun phrase in song lyrics in order the reader could not only listen to the song useless but also could learn each word in the lyrics and made them were attracted to learn English especially syntax. And for the example, the researcher took Justin Bieber's song because he still always exist until now and many generations can remember his songs. It was a qualitative descriptive research with Labelled Bracketing by Milroy (1985) as its approaches. The researcher used three data of song lyrics then classified, analyzed and counted the data. The result of this study showed that there were fifty(50) noun phrases with the details as follows : 15 noun phrases in *What Do You Mean* song lyrics (30%), 16 noun phrases in *Sorry* song lyrics (32%) and 19 noun phrases in *Love Yourself* song lyrics (38%). And the most dominant noun phrases found in *Love Yourself* song lyrics with 38% (19 noun phrases).

Keywords: syntax, noun phrase, labelled bracketing



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Analisis Sintaksis dari Frasa Nominal pada Lirik Lagu Justin Bieber

Abstrak

Penelitian ini memaparkan analisis sintaksis Frasa Benda yang ada di dalam lirik lagu Justin Bieber. Objek dari penelitian ini ialah: Untuk menemukan frasa benda yang ada di dalam lirik lagu pilihan Justin dan untuk menemukan frasa benda yang dominan diantara lirik lagu pilihan Justin. Peneliti memilih untuk menganalisa frasa benda pada lirik lagu supaya pembaca tidak hanya sekedar mendengar lagu tapi juga dapat mempelajari setiap kata di dalam lirik tersebut dan membuat mereka tertarik mempelajari Bahasa Inggris terutama sintaksis. Dan sebagai contoh, peneliti memilih lagu Justin Bieber karena dia masih terkenal sampai sekarang dan banyak generasi yang mengingat lagu-lagunya. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan *Labelled Bracketing* oleh Milroy (1985) sebagai pendekatan. Peneliti menggunakan tiga data lirik lagu yang kemudian diklasifikasi, dianalisis dan dihitung. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada lima puluh (50) frasa benda dengan perincian sebagai berikut: 15 frasa benda pada lirik lagu *What Do You Mean* (30%), 16 frasa benda pada lirik lagu *Sorry* (32%) dan 19 frasa benda pada lirik lagu *Love Yourself* (38%). Dan frasa benda yang paling dominan ditemukan pada lirik lagu *Love Yourself* dengan 38% (19 frasa benda).

Kata kunci: sintaksis, frasa nominal, tanda kurung berlabel

INTRODUCTION

A group of people use language, an arbitrary and conventional system of meaningful and articulate sounds or tools, to express their feelings and thought (Wibowo, 2003). By using language, people can know something new and improve their knowledge. Besides, Language is a significant component of human existence. To communicate with others and form bonds with them. Language is a tool that people use to communicate (Aitchison & Wardaugh, 1987). From the explanation above, people also can use language to tell a story, sing a song, exchange knowledge, wishes or others.

Talking about language, it also means talking about sentences. Because, in learning language both spoken and written, we use sentence. According to Hornby (2015:1365). A sentence is a group of words that expresses a claim, a query, or an instruction and typically has a subject and a verb.. Moreover, there are some studies about sentence in linguistics, one of them is syntax. Syntax is the study about the sentences of language. According to Chomsky, syntax is the rules of sentence formation. (Peter & Chomsky, 1968)

The researcher chose syntax to be analyzed because the study of syntax focuses on how to extract words, phrases, clauses, or sentences from a complex structure.. It is an interesting study to be learnt. Miller (2008) states that syntax has to do with how word are together to build phrases, clause, and sentence. From the definition above, Syntax is the study of how language is organized so that words can become phrases, clauses, and sentences.

As musicologist Charles Seeger notes, "Music is a structured sound communication system created by members of a community to interact with one another." (Perlis & Pescatello, 1995). A form of art known as music employs the use of time-based sound. A form of entertainment known as music blends sounds in a way that others find appealing, enjoyable, or upbeat. In the majority of music, people sing or play instruments like the violin, piano, guitar, or drums. These days, music is also very popular. The majority of people like listening to music. People use music to communicate their emotions. In other words, individuals can express their joy, sorrow, disappointment, regret, etc.

Song lyrics can be analyzed into small parts by students, linguists or someone who is interesting in it, if it is supported by knowledge. The analyzed language aspects discuss about: part of speech (verb, noun, adjective), sentence building (phrase, clause, and sentence), and micro-linguistic (morpheme, phoneme, and affixation). The aspect that is analyzed in this research is sentence patterns especially noun phrase in Justin Bieber's album entitled *Purpose*. In this research, the researcher analyzed how the sentences were composed and counted the amount of noun phrases in the objects. It means from this research, people could know and learn that every words in a sentence has their place and function.

Studies related to syntactical analysis of noun phrases were previously conducted. Ahmed, Ali, & Mullazai, (2023) studied a syntactic analysis of compound noun phrase of Balochi within the perspective of x-bar theory; Juliarta (2021) studied noun phrase and its translation in the novel *Budha, a Story of Enlightenment*; Astuti, (2020) studied a syntactic analysis on noun phrase used in English song by Ed Sheeran album; Manisde Laia (2023) studied a syntactic analysis of noun phrase found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics purpose album; Syuriadi and Englishtina (2023) studied a syntactical analysis of song lyrics say you love me by Jessie Ware.

This research specifies noun phrase in Lesley's theory: analyzed the noun phrase constructions by using labelled bracketing and classified the constructions. The researcher chooses this theory to give new colour of studying syntax because it parses the sentence by using labelled bracketing and it make the learners feel easier and

attractive to understand how the sentence construct is. According to Yule (2006), the structure to illustrate the for of noun phrase as follows: the first step is put the bracket (one on each side) round its constituent, and then more brackets round each combination of constituents.

For example, In the sentence “My Husband gives me an expensive bag.”, there are two noun phrases constructions from pre-modifier and head. In the first noun phrase consists of possessive adjective ‘My’ as pre-modifier and noun ‘Husband’ as the head. The first noun phrase stands as subject. In the second noun phrase consists of indefinite article ‘An’, descriptive adjective ‘Expensive’ as pre-modifier and noun ‘Bag’ as the head. The second noun phrase stands as object of verb. If the noun phrases are analyzed based on syntactical analysis such as follow:

1). *My Husband* = [NP [POSSESIVE ADJ My][N Husband]],

2). *an expensive bag* = [NP [INDEFINITE ART An][DESCRIPTIVE ADJ Expensive][N Bag]]

The researcher chooses song lyrics of Justin Bieber as the object of the analysis because of Justin Bieber’s song lyrics has not been analyzed yet. Beside, his music is easy listening and makes the listener always want to listen to the song any times and the song lyrics can be remembered easily. Besides, Justin Bieber is popular singer in many circles and he got the most awards during his career. Based on Insertlive.com were taken on March 15th, 2021, Justin Bieber has officially become the youngest singer to score seven number one albums. Because, he got that achievement at the age of 25. He broke the record once achieved by legendary musician Elvis Presley when he was 59 years old.

In order to avoid an over lapping explanation which will not be directed to the subject, this study should have a clear scope. This research focused on the noun phrases in Justin Bieber’s song lyrics. The researcher chooses three song lyrics is used as the data in Justin Bieber’s album entitled *Purpose* produced in 2015. These data are taken from internet on March 15th, 2021. Three Justin Bieber’s songs such as *What Do You Mean*, *Sorry*, and *Love Yourself* are used as the data. In analyzing song lyrics, the researcher uses labelled bracketing to be easier in analyzing.

The researcher got some of interesting experiences from analyzing noun phrase in the song lyrics. One of them was it made the researcher found that song lyrics were just not a word but it was complex word and has meaning. Beside of that, the researcher gave other version of analyzing syntax by using labeled bracketing in song lyrics not always tree diagram. It will make other next researcher more attractive in labeled bracketing.

METHOD

In doing this research, the researcher uses the library research. In library research method, it means collect the data or information from references which have been written by linguists or other experts. In library research, the researcher also uses a qualitative research that employs descriptive method. Hancock states that qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena, and it aims to help us to understand the world in which we live and why things are the way they are (Hancock, 2006). The purpose of quality study is to understand something specifically, not always looking for the course and effect of something and to deepen comprehension about something that studied (Moleong, L, 2010). For this research, Justin Bieber's album entitled *Purpose* was the data source and his three songs were the data which were taken from Youtube on March 15th 2021. The researcher chooses three songs from *Purpose* album. They are *What Do You Mean*, *Sorry*, and *Love Yourself*. The album got many awards.

The first step, in collecting the data, was by downloading the songs from Justin Bieber's official Youtube account by the researcher. In second step, the researcher wrote the lyrics and listened to the music. Next, the researcher identified the positions of the sentences such as noun phrase, verb phrase, et cetera by using Milroy (1985) theory for counting the percentage of each noun phrase.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher used labeled bracketing of Milroy (1985) to analyze all sentences of the song lyrics and to count the amount of noun phrases and the amount of noun phrase structures. The researcher also added some noun phrase structures from all song lyrics. The researcher found 4 noun phrase structures in 3 song lyrics of Justin Bieber. They were *determiner + head*, *head only*, *head + post-modifier*, *determiner + pre-modifier + head*. Here some findings that found in this study.

Findings

After analyzing the noun phrases in all song lyrics by using labelled bracketing, the researcher counts the percentage of the noun phrases and the type of the noun phrase from all sentences in the song lyrics and decides where is the most dominant noun phrases and what is the most dominant type found among the songs. The results are:

1. The noun phrases in *What Do You Mean*:
14/48x100% = 29.17%

2. The noun phrases in Sorry:
15/48x100% = 31.25%
 3. The noun phrases in Love Yourself:
19/48x100% = 39.58%
1. Determiner + Head
37/48x100% = 77.08%
 2. Head only
3/48x100% = 6.25%
 3. Pre-modifier + Head
-
 4. Head + Post-modifier
7/48x100% = 14.58
 5. Determiner + Pre-modifier + Head
1/48x100% = 2.08%

From the analysis above, it can be concluded that the percentage of the noun phrases in three song lyrics are **100%** from all noun phrases which exist in the song lyrics. Then, *Love Yourself* song lyrics has the most dominant Noun Phrase, it is 19 noun phrases (39.58%). For the most dominant type from all data is Determiner + Head with 37 noun phrases (77.08%).

In *What Do You Mean* song lyrics

- a. What do **you** mean? Oh, oh
HEAD ONLY = [NP[PRONOUN YOU]]
- b. When you nod **your head**
DET.+HEAD = [NP[DET.-POSS. ADJ.YOUR][N HEAD]]
- c. When you don't want **me to move**
HEAD+POST-MOD. = [NP[PRON. ME][INFINITIVE CLAUSE TO MOVE]]

In *sorry* song lyrics

- a. **You** gotta go and get angry at all of **my honesty**
HEAD ONLY = [NP[PRON. YOU]]
DET.+HEAD = [NP[DET. - POSS. ADJ.MY][N HONESTY]]
- b. Cause I just need one more **shot at forgiveness**
HEAD+POST-MOD. = [NP[N SHOT][PREP.AT][N FORGIVENESS]]

In *love yourself* song lyrics

- a. You think you broke **my heart**, oh, **girl, for goodness'** sake

DET. +HEAD = [NP[DET. - POSS. ADJ. MY][NHEART]]

HEAD+POS-MOD. = [NP[N GIRL][PREP. FOR][NGOODNESS]]

b. **The only problem** was with you and not them

DET. +PRE-MOD. +HEAD = [NP[DET. - ART. THE][ADJ. ONLY][NPROBLEM]]

Discussion

From the findings above, the researcher could show that each word in every sentence has their own functions especially noun phrases. There were as a head, determiner, article, noun and etcetera. It also could be concluded the amount of noun phrases and the percentage of the noun phrase in every song lyrics.

With the four noun phrase structures which explained above, the researcher aimed that word cannot be built randomly. It must have structure to give a meaning in a sentence or song lyrics.

In the other side, a song was an artworks which usually be listened and be sung so the meaning refer to any object which a word or noun phrase. The, with the structure, it made people in learning noun phrase from an artworks easier and interesting such as learning in listening a song that they liked.

The noun phrase in song lyrics, it made the song more attractive because people not only could be listened, but also for people who were learning English or syntax could learn easier with the examples from what they like to listen and sing.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and explanation above, the researcher could show the conclusion of this analysis was from the analysing the data of Justin Bieber's song lyrics in purpose album, the researcher found noun phrases from *What Do You Mean?*, *Sorry*, and *Love Yourself* song lyrics. And the most dominant noun phrases are found in *Love Yourself* song lyrics. And the dominant type is determiner + head type. It can be concluded by using labeled bracketing from Milroy (1985) to support finding all noun phrases in the song lyrics to count the percentage of each type of noun phrase. From this formula, the researcher and other researchers not only could count about the percentage of noun phrases but also finish the other things which need a percentage. And from this research, the other researcher could take an example that learning sentences were interesting because every word that we write has function to build a sentence and give them meaning.

From this study, there are some benefits for musicians and other researchers. When the other researchers wanted to learn about noun phrase, they can find them in song lyrics, it gives good effect for musicians too to make another good and attractive song with complex noun phrase so not only give an impression to musicians but also the listener.

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