

AN ANALYSIS OF IDIOM FOUND IN KATY PERRY'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS "ROAR AND DARK HORSE"

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ABSTRACT

This study entitled "An Analysis Of Idiom Found In Katy Perry's Selected Song Lyrics "Roar And Dark Horse "The purpose of this study is to identify the types of idioms and analyze the meanings of idioms found in the song lyrics. The data were collected by browsed the song on the internet, looking for the script lyrics of the song, listening to it, and transcribing it. Following that, data analysis included reading the lyrics repeatedly and carefully to understand their meaning and taking notes on every word or phrase that is considered an idiom. Finally, the collected data were descriptively analyzed using a qualitative method. The theories used in this study are the types of idioms proposed by Palmer (1976). Besides, the meanings of idioms used in this study were defined using Leech's (1981) theory of seven types of meaning. The result shows that three types of idioms are found in the song lyrics. There are phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs and partial idioms. Then the meaning of the idiom was identified by using the theory of Leech (1981). In this case, there are three types of meaning found in the song lyrics. There are connotative meaning, social meaning and affective meaning. These three types of meaning can be found in song lyrics because they used words that cannot be translated by looking up the literal meaning in a dictionary and they also used referred words to give a dramatic effect or to give a softer sense to the lyrics.

Keywords: idioms, type of idioms , meanings, song lyrics

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul "An Analysis Of Idiom Found In Katy Perry's Selected Song Lyrics "Roar And Dark Horse". Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis idiom dan menganalisa makna idiom yang terdapat pada lirik lagu tersebut. Data dikumpulkan dengan cara menelusuri lagu tersebut di internet, mencari naskah lirik lagu, mendengarkan, dan mentranskripsikannya. Setelah itu, analisis data dilakukan dengan membaca lirik lagu secara berulang-ulang dan teliti untuk memahami maknanya, serta mencatat setiap kata atau frasa yang dianggap sebagai idiom. Terakhir, data yang terkumpul dianalisis secara deskriptif dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah jenis-jenis idiom yang dikemukakan oleh Palmer (1976). Selain itu, makna idiom yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini didefinisikan dengan menggunakan teori Leech (1981) tentang tujuh jenis makna. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada tiga jenis idiom yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu. Yaitu kata kerja frase, kata kerja preposisional, dan idiom parsial. Kemudian makna dari idiom tersebut diidentifikasi dengan menggunakan

teori Leech (1981). Dalam hal ini, ada tiga jenis makna yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu tersebut. Yaitu makna konotatif, makna sosial, dan makna afektif. Ketiga jenis makna tersebut dapat ditemukan dalam lirik lagu karena lirik lagu menggunakan kata-kata yang tidak dapat diterjemahkan dengan mencari arti harfiahnya dalam kamus dan juga menggunakan kata-kata yang diacu untuk memberikan efek dramatis atau untuk memberikan arti yang lebih lembut pada lirik lagu.

Kata kunci: idiom, jenis idiom, makna, lirik lagu

I. INTRODUCTION

A song is a short piece of music, usually with words. In Cambridge Dictionary Third edition, "song is a usually short piece of music with words which are sung". Meanwhile, in Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, "it is explained that song is a piece of music with words sung or music are or the voice singing". Nowadays, the song has been dominated most of our daily life, and it is common to be heard every time and anywhere. A song appears attractive to analyze because it is a unique way to express one's feelings. It provides a various combination of vocabulary and a fantastic set of wordings that has its function. The language of the song is built in such a specific way. Therefore, it becomes different from ordinary language, and it is exciting because it is usually written in beautiful and nice words to attract and hold listeners' attention.

The words of a song are called lyrics. Lyrics have made significant contributions to the music itself, although they contribute as a second element of the music. The lyrics give the audience a deep understanding of the message in the song; in other words, the lyrics clarify the message in the song. In producing a great lyric's song, the song's writers must be able to produce the meaningful lyrics so the listener can enjoy the music and know the meaning of the lyrics. But, on the contrary, the songwriter uses idiomatic expressions in the lyrics. As

a result, the listener has some difficulties understanding the meaning of the lyrics.

Many people become confused when listening to a song in English expression: there are some expressions whose meanings are difficult to interpret. Even though they understand every single word, but they still grasp what the sentence essentially means. These expressions could be idioms. Currently, we can find many songs in the world that contain idioms in the song lyrics. Idioms are often used in spoken and written English. According to McCarthy and O'Dell (2010), idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each individual word. It means that idioms cannot be understood by defining separate words. Melay also stated, "All languages have idioms, but an idiom in one language has no direct equivalent in another (1987:3). This means when you learn the language, you have to learn the idioms as complete phrases. People use idioms to make their language richer and more colorful.

Idioms are also used by native English speakers in daily conversations. One way to be interested and motivated to learn languages is through songs. If we analyze and learn a song indirectly, we will gain four language skills (in this case, English) such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. (Purnamasari,2009) that founded English songs containing idioms in the lyrics can be an effective tool because by

listening to songs, students will be motivated to find out the meaning of the idioms contained in the song lyrics.

The use of idioms in the song lyrics has become common to express the song's message. Many singers use idioms in the songs they sing, such as the song lyrics of Katy Perry. But not all listeners or music lovers understand the message that will be conveyed to the song. By learning idioms, we will discover the deepest meaning of the song. There are a variety of language variations that can be found in the song, such as the variations types of figurative language, including idioms. The idioms have their role in enriching the meaning of the language with the beautiful words that they created. At the same time, their beautiful words sometimes confuse people. Hence, the phenomena it's very interesting to study, particularly idioms found in the selected song lyrics of Katy Perry's entitled "Roar and Dark Horse".

The writer chose both of these songs because many idioms can be found in the lyrics. Besides, she is a top singer in the world. Katy is also well-known for her songs, which contain numerous idioms. The "Roar" song tells about overcoming challenges and getting back up on your feet when someone or something knocks you down. The mood of this song is courageous. Katy Perry believes that no matter how difficult the situation, you should never give up and try your hardest in everything you do. Many people find this song to be inspirational because it talks about how things will get better. And the "Dark Horse" song tells about an Egyptian Queen searching for her love. Kings from all over the world come confidently to make the Queen their "one and only" true love. A long line of men bearing gifts awaits their decision, whether they are genuinely hers or not, and meet their end. If the gift is insufficient, Perry uses her dark magic upon the man and transforms the man into an

object. This song also conveys the message that men are to beware of a powerful woman. So, therefore the Katy Perry "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics are interesting to study idiomatic. Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in discussing this topic to find out what kind of type of idioms are found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics and also to know about what is the meaning of idioms found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics. The problems of study the use of idioms in the song lyrics of Katy Perry, that can be formulated, as follows :

1. What types of idioms are found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" Songs Lyrics?
2. What are the meaning of idioms found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" Songs Lyrics?

II. RESEARCH METHOD

There are four methods or procedures of research. The four methods of the research involve data sources, methods and techniques of collecting data, methods and techniques of analyzing data, and methods and techniques of presenting data. The data in this study were taken directly from Katy Perry's "PRISM" album. The album consists of 5 songs. But, song lyrics that contain a lot of idioms were chosen. In this study, only two of Katy Perry's popular songs were analyzed. They are *Roar* and *Dark Horse*. The music is easy listening to, and the lyrics are very brilliant and artistic. There was the reason why the data was chosen for this study because the data is very rich in idioms. Both of the song lyrics were taken from the site addressed <https://genius.com/albums/Katy-perry/Prism>.

The data of this writing was collected by In this study, the data of the study were collected through documentation method. According to Arikunto (2006: 158) is a

method of documenting researchers investigating written objects such as books, magazines, documents, regulations, minutes of meetings, diaries and so on. According Riyanto (2012: 103) documentation method means how to collect data by recording data that already exists. Based on expert explanations, it can be concluded that the documentation method is a way to collect data by investigating written objects and recording the findings. The following were the steps taken to collect data for this study :

1. Browsing the lyrics of the songs from the site on the internet to get the correct lyrics of the songs.
2. Repeatedly and carefully listening to the songs and reading the lyrics in order to understand the meaning behind it
3. Making a note of each word or phrase that is thought to be an idiom and writing it down on a separate piece of paper to be analyzed further

The method of analyzing the data was descriptive qualitative. The qualitative method is the way of analyzing data in which there are many theories applied in the study and there is no calculation on statistic data involved. This method presents the descriptive data in the form of words and notes which are related to meaning, value and definition. The data in this study were analyzed by these following steps :

1. First, Mark the keywords in the lyrics that are considered to be idioms and the collected data were checked to the source that provided information on the idioms
2. Then classify the words that have been found in the lyrics of the song . The types of the idioms was categorized based on the theory proposed by Palmer (1976)
3. In analyzing the meaning of the idioms were analyzed based on the theory proposed by

Leech (1981)The meaning of each idioms was related to the songs, it may be easier to

understand the messages of the songs. According to Sudaryanto (1993), there are two methods of presenting data which are formal and informal. The formal method presents the data using symbols, tables, or graphs to describe the data more efficiently. On the other hand, in the informal method, the analysis is descriptively presented in words and sentences. Since this study applied the qualitative method, the data analysis was presented informally in descriptive sentences. Since this study applied qualitative method, the data analysis was presented informally in descriptive sentences. The steps for delivering the types of idioms and their meanings are as follows :

1. Presenting the data of the Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics
2. Identifying the types of idioms found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse " song lyrics. The song lyrics were analyzed carefully in order to find out the type idioms based on Palmer's theory (1976)
3. Finding the meaning of the idioms found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics. After finding types of idioms in the song lyrics, the idioms were further analyzed to determine their meanings, which were conceptual, connotative, social , affective, reflective, collocative and thematic meaning based on a theory proposed by Leech (1981)

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The selected data are identified the type and the meaning of idioms found in the Katy Perry's selected song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse". The analyses of the data are as follows:

A. The types of idiom found in the Katy Perry's selected song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse. According to Palmer's theory (1976), the types of idiom can be classified into three types, they are ; Phrasal Verb, Prepositional Verb, and Partial Idiom.

TABLE I
The types of idiom found in the “Roar and Dark Horse” Song Lyrics

No	Types of idiom	Data
1	Phrasal verb	12
2	Prepositional verb	7
3	Partial idiom	4
Total		23

Table I above shows that 23 song lyrics contain idiom in Katy Perry's selected song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse." All types of idiom theory proposed by Palmer (1976) were found in the song lyrics. Those are phrasal verb, prepositional verb, and partial idiom. Furthermore, it was revealed that phrasal verb is the most frequent type of idiom with 12 data. The second type of idiom found is a prepositional verb, with a total of 7 data. Eventually, the least frequent type of idiom is a partial idiom with 4 data. Each finding type of idiom in Katy Perry's selected song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse" is analyzed below.

a. *Phrasal verb*

Data (3-1)

“ You held me down, but I **got up** “

In the Katy Perry “ Roar” song lyrics in the 7th verse there is a phrasal verb “**got up**”. The idiom **got up** is formed by two words which is formed by verb **got** and followed by particle **up**. The verb **got** is actually the past tense form of the verb **get**, generally verb **get** is to receive something that someone gives you or sends you. But not only based on that, it can also seen from the context of the sentence. And word **up** have many categorizations. It can be adjective, adverb ,preposition or even noun. However, in this phrase, the word **up** can be categorized as particle which has meaning toward a higher place or position. The song lyrics but I “**got up**” is an *intransitive phrasal verb* because in the lyrics it doesn't need an object and it can still make sense even without an object for it in the sentence and this song lyrics are also *inseparable*

phrasal verb. A phrasal verb has a meaning which is different from the original meaning of the verb. In these song lyrics **got up** means to rise or to move forward and continue with her life.

b. *Prepositional verb*

Data (3-2)

“ We're **down to earth**”

This expression is constructed by two words, “**down**” become the head and represented as an adjective and has a meaning of moving towards a lower place or position. “**to**” become the modifier and mean as a preposition and has a meaning of identifying the person or thing that affected. A prepositional verb must require an object to express the complete sentence. In this song lyrics, “We're **down to earth**”, an “**earth**” is an object, and this song lyric is an *inseparable verb*. **Down to earth**, as an idiom, means “*sensible and practical*” in a helpful and friendly way. In this context, **down to earth** means the man will remain grounded in humility even though he is free to come and go as he pleases.

c. *Partial idiom*

Data (3-3)

“Cause I'm coming at you like a dark horse”

A dark horse is also found to have been used in Katy's expression. Dark horse which belongs to partial idiom since the word *dark* has its usual meaning , while the word *horse* has different meaning from what it usually found and the meaning that

is peculiar to a particular sequence. In this song, according to Katy Perry, Dark Horse refers to a competitor who unexpectedly wins, is actually about a woman warning a

man not to fall in love with her while also making a reference to addiction.

TABLE II
The meaning of idiom found in the “Roar and Dark Horse” Song Lyrics

No	Types of meaning	Data
1	Connotative meaning	16
2	Social meaning	5
3	Affective meaning	2
Total		23

Table II demonstrates that 23 types of meaning are found in Katy Perry’s selected song lyrics “Roar and Dark Horse.” From seven types of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). There are only three types of meaning found in Katy Perry’s Selected Song Lyrics “Roar And Dark Horse.” They are connotative meaning, social meaning, and affective meaning. The connotative meaning was the most common type of meaning found in the song lyrics with 16 data. The second frequent type of meaning is found in the song lyrics with 5 data. Lastly, the least prevalent found in the song lyrics is an affective meaning with 2 data. The analysis of each type of meaning is presented below.

a. *Connotative meaning*

Data (3-4)

*Now I'm floating like a butterfly
Stinging like a bee, I earned my stripes
I went from zero, to my own hero
(Roar)*

This song is a bit of a self-empowering type of song, its all about overcoming challenges and getting back up on your feet when someone or something comes along and knocks you down. This verse is talking

about how she is now stronger than she used to. It can be seen in how she compared herself as a **butterfly** in the first line and a **bee** in the second line. **Butterfly** means ‘a flying insect with large, often brightly colored wings’ and **bee** means ‘a black and yellow flying insect that can sting. Bees live in large groups and make honey (- a sweet sticky substance that is good to eat). In this context of the song, the idiom floating like a butterfly stinging like a bee is refers to the greatest boxer of the world Muhammad Ali. Before his fight with Sonny Liston in 1964, Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, was asked how he planned to approach the fight with the “unbeatable” world heavyweight champion. Clay famously responded: “**Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee**. Your hands can’t hit what your eyes can’t see.” No one, except perhaps Ali himself, could have predicted that this remark would help propel him to near mythic status. In this song 'she try to tell her oppressors that now she is as strong as Muhammad Ali.

The sentence I **earned my stripes** clearly shows the use of connotative meaning. It can be interpreted in a different ways, it depends on someone’s opinion. Actually, This expression originally comes from the

military, If you work hard and complete something difficult in the military, you may get a promotion. In most expressions, if a person earns their stripes, it means that they work hard to do something and that they finish it. Katy is also giving it an additional fun meaning, since tigers also have stripes. Tigers are powerful, tigers roar and there are tigers in the jungle in her music video. So, in this song she may mean that she has survived difficult experiences and now she feels stronger (like someone in the army, or like a tiger).

The idiom "**from zero to my own hero**" is derived from the idiom "**zero to hero**." **Zero** means 0 or the smallest amount or level possible; nothing at all' (Hornby, 2015) and **hero** refers to "a person, particularly a man, who is admired by many people for doing something brave or good". So, if you go **from zero to hero**, it means that you make a complete transformation of some part of your life or a situation in which someone changes quickly from being unpopular or unsuccessful to being very popular or successful. For example, She's gone **from zero to hero** very quickly - she's now an A-list Hollywood star.

According to the explanation above, the idioms **floating like a butterfly stinging like a bee**, **I earned my stripes**, and **from zero to my own hero** can be classified as connotative meaning (Leech, 1981), as their meaning cannot be translated by looking up the literal meaning in the dictionary.

b. Social meaning

Data (3-5)

Enemy

The words above are "**status**" usage. Which is "**status**" usage consists of (*polite, colloquial, slang, etc., language*). The word "**enemy**" is classified as a countable noun. *Enemies* is the plural form. This is a **colloquial language** that can be used in formal or informal contexts, spoken or written. For example : I want Sarah to see

me that I am not her **enemy**. But in formal language the word "**foe**" is used more often than the word "**enemy**". This word is only used in formal written contexts and can be found in political contexts (*e.g., political news in newspapers*) and literature (*novels, poems, scriptures, etc.*). This word has the same general meaning as **enemy**. For example : He have been political **foes** for years

c. Affective meaning

Data (3-6)

"Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me Roar"

The lyrics above is **affective meaning**. Because when Katy sings or says those words, she seems to have personal feelings and wants to tell someone or the listener about how she feels. Lyrics "Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me Roar" show that she is overcoming the struggle and championing herself. She is fighting to take her life back from her abuser. She has had enough of the abuse and realizes she deserves so much better. And when Katy says "you're gonna hear me Roar" that's mean like Katy did a tiger roar, it makes a very loud and strong sound to scare its prey before attacking, or to scare them away.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to identify the types of idioms and To describe the meaning of idioms found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" Songs Lyrics. The theories applied in this research are the theory proposed by Palmer (1976) and the theory type of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). Therefore, two conclusions can be drawn in this study.

First, all types of idioms based on the theory proposed by Palmer (1976) were found in Katy Perry's selected song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse." Those are the phrasal verb (12 data), prepositional verb (7 data), and partial idiom (4 data). The

findings of a phrasal verb are mostly found in the song lyrics "Roar and Dark Horse", while the least is a partial idiom.

Secondly, based on analyzing the meaning of idiom found in Katy Perry's "Roar and Dark Horse" Songs Lyrics, three types of meaning are found in the song lyrics. Those are connotative meaning (16 data), social meaning (5 data), and affective meaning (2 data). The most common type of meaning found in the song lyrics is connotative meaning, whereas the least is an affective meaning. However, the

meaning in this "Roar and Dark Horse" song lyrics was classified as connotative because they used words that could not be translated by searching the literal meaning in the dictionary. Everyone interprets them differently depending on various factors, such as their knowledge, experience, and sensitivity in understanding the songs. They also used referred words to add a dramatic effect or give a softer sense to the song lyrics.

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