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The Types of Idiom and Their Meaning in Michael Jackson "Thriller" Album

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ABSTRACT
This study is entitled *"The Types of Idiom and Their Meaning in Michael Jackson "Thriller" Album".* The data in this study is taken from one of Michael Jackson album entitle *"Thriller".* This study is analyzed about types of idiom including the types of meaning and their meaning. This study is chosen because the meaning of a idiom in a sentence sometimes cannot be translated directly and need to be further intellectuality to caught its real meaning. There are two theories that used in this study the first one is the theory about the types of idiom form Frank Robert Palmer that is taken from his book entitled *"Semantic: a new outline (1976) "* as the main theory for the second theory is taken from Geofery Leech about the types of meaning on his book entitled *"Semantic the study of meaning(1974)".* The result of analyze in this study there were found 9 types of idiom in this album, they were 4 types of partial idiom (44, 44%) and 5 types of total idiom *(55, 56).* for the types of meaning there were found 9 types of meaning, they were 4 connotative meaning (44, 44%) and 5 affected meaning (55, 56%) .

Keywords: meaning of an idiom, types of idiom, types of meaning

INTRODUCTION

From the ancient times language has been the important aspect in the history of mankind. Because of language human could established communication and being understood with each other, in a civilization language could connect people ideas with other people ideas in solving a problem, expressing their feeling, write down their invention in a paper or to tell a story and etc. nowadays language is not only being a tool for communicate but also being a tool for learning, from a language we could learn so many things such as cross cultural understanding to improve our way of perspective and having a wider connection to the world especially when people learn English language as the international language. But when it comes about meaning a lot of non native English speaker still hardly to graphs the expression meaning even thought they understand every single words, this because there are some words in English that cannot be translated word per word in order to get its peculiar meaning. In linguistic, study of meaning is a branch of semantic where

semantic having a largest scope to study about meaning. In a communication meaning plays the important role in express people feeling because sometimes language can be inappropriately in delivering the expression that the speaker wants the hearer to understand. Because of that the used of meaning is popular in form of idiom. Before this study was conducted there were others research that having a similarity to this study, in this study there are 5 references are taken before this study was conducted. Those are: form I Putu Adi Wirantara (2015) in journal of ojs.unud.ac.id entitled "*The Types of Idiom and their Meaning in Maroon 5's Hands All Over Album",* from Ema Gunawan Anastasia and Erripudin (2019) in e-journal.upp.ac.id entitled "*An Analysis Of Idiomatic Expression Found In Adele's Lyrics Song,* from Ganang Hernanto (2017) in repository.usd.ac.id entitled "*An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression in Song Lyrics from Monsters And Men's Album (My Head is An Animal)",* from Leonardus Winarto and Tanjung Sufriati (2015) entitled *"An Analysis Of English Idiomatic Expressions In Transformers Iii-Dark Of The Moon, The Translation Strategies And Their Degrees of Meaning Equivalence",* from Made Alit Wahyudi (2016) in E-jurnal Umanis entitled *"Idioms in The Song Lyrics of The Albums Roll On And State of Emergency By The Living End".*

Definition of idiom and song lyric based on the experts

According to McCarthy and O'Dell in a book entitled "book English Idioms in Use" (2002: 6) stated that "Idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual words", It is means that idiom is a combination of words which conveys a certain meaning. The used of idiom not only popular in daily communication but also in human creativity the used of idiom can be found in the artwork such as poems, song lyric, letter, short story and etc.

Song lyric is a set of a group of words which are contracted in or not in poetic phrases, sentences or composition with the musical accompaniment and the song is an interesting tool that offers high imagination describes and show felling, experience, imagination and etc.

There are lots of types of idiom applying into the human creativity especially artwork but in this study is focus in the idiomatic expression that appears in a songs lyric by Michael Jackson in his album entitled *"Thriller*". This album was featuring 9 songs which contain the idiomatic expression because Michael Jackson is a type of song writer who loves to express his feeling through the work of songs. This album is chosen because the writer is one the Michael Jackson fans and the writer found common idiomatic in English expression which can represent the obstacle for non native English speaker in understanding the idiom. Moreover, in specify this study is point on two problems: 1) to find out the types of idiom that appears in Michael Jackson *"Thriller*" album. 2) To find out the types of meaning and idiom meaning. By analyzing these songs, it is hope that the researcher gives a better understanding in idiom topic which can be useful in conversation.

METHOD

This study used library research in order to collect and analyzed the data. The data in this research were taken from the sixth album from Michael Jackson entitled *"Thriller*". This album was featuring nine songs: "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin","Baby be Mine", "The Girl Is Mine", *"Thriller*", "Beat It", "Billie Jean", "Human Nature", "P.Y.T." and "The Lady in My Life". The process of collecting data used observational method in order to get appropriate and reliable data. There are four step in collecting the data 1) downloading the songs from the internet 2) listening the song over and over again in order to understand its meaning 3) write down the idiom that found and underline it 4) the idiom that found is

classified based on their types of idiom and their types of meaning. The analysis of data in this research used descriptive-qualitative method and using the main theory in analyzed the data from Palmer in his book entitled *"Semantic: A New Outline(1976)"* about the types of idiom and for supporting theory the researcher used the theory from Leech in his book entitled *"Semantic (1974)"* which concern about the types of meaning to analyzed the second problem.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This research used two methods in presenting the data, it is formal and informal method. In formal method it is means the data were presented in form of table and symbol and in informal method it is means that the data were presented in form of word and sentences. In order to get the quality analysis the researcher used two theories to supporting the analysis the first one is the theory by Palmer (1976) about the types of idiom as the main theory where Palmer divided the types of idiom into three sub classes those are Phrasal Verb, Partial idiom and Total idiom. Phrasal verb is a types of idiom where it is contain the combination of verb+ adverb or verb + preposition, partial idiom is the part of the sentence is contain peculiar and particular meaning and total idiom is a type of idiom which has a meaning that's complete can't be predicted from the words themselves.

And supporting theory by Leech (1974) in his book entitled "*Semantics*" about the types of meaning. In this book, Leech divided the types of meaning into 7 types which is conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affected meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, thematic meaning those theories will be the base to answer the second problem. Below is the analysis of idiom found in songs by Michael Jackson in album entitled *"Thriller*".

Table 3.1 the occurrences of types of idiom found in Michael Jackson album *"Thriller*"

Types of idiom	Occurrence	Percentage
Phrasal verb	0	0%
Partial idiom	4	44,44%
Total idiom	5	55,55%
Total	9	100%

Formula: $$F = \frac{n}{\sum N} \times 100$$

F = Percentage of each type of idiom
n = Occurrence of types of idiom
$\sum N$ = Total occurrence of types of idiom

From the table above, it is presented the result of analysis of idiom in Michael Jackson album *"Thriller*". It is described that the songs from Michael Jackson in album *"Thriller*" are contain idiomatic expression. Based on the table, it shows that there are in total 9 types of idiom. It is consisting of 4 partial idioms (44, 44%) and 5 total idioms (55, 56%).

Table 3.1.1 the occurrences of types of meaning found in Michael Jackson album *"Thriller*"

Types of Meaning	Occurrence	Percentage
Connotative meaning	4	44,44%
Affected meaning	5	55,55%
Total	9	100%

From the table above, it is presented the result of analysis of meaning in Michael Jackson album *"Thriller*". It is described that the songs from Michael Jackson in album *"Thriller*" are contain second layer of meaning. Based on the table, it shows that there are in total 9 types meaning found. It is consisting of 4 connotative meaning (44, 44%) and 5 affected meaning (55, 56%).

Discussion

Michael Jackson "Thriller" Play List

Wanna be startin' something'

The song entitled "wanna be startin' something'" is about Michael Jackson personal feeling. Which in this song MJ trying to express his annoy about the pressurized of media who are curious about Michael Jackson personal life. This song also meant for who are trying to hurt Michael Jackson feeling. To express his anger, MJ lashes sharp sentence straight to his opponent through the lyric in this song.

Data 1:

I took my baby to the doctor with a fever
But nothing she found
By the time this hit the street
They said she had a breakdown
Someone's always tryin' to start my baby cryin'
Talkin', squealin', lyin'
Sayin' you just wanna be startin' somethin'
(Stanza 3)

Actually, the third stanza of this song is talking about "Billy Jean" a woman that claims her child was belong to MJ. Through this line Michael Jackson trying to tell that this woman is having a rough life. Through the sentence number 4 *"They said she had a breakdown"* it is found an idiom by the word "*breakdown* which having a peculiar and particular meaning.

Based on the theory by Palmer (1976) this idiom could be categorized as partial idiom because this is contain peculiar and particular meaning and the rest of the words having its literal meaning according to Leech theory (1974) the idiom "breakdown" could be classified to the connotative meaning because the writer used the connotation of breakdown to present "broken life or devraped". Breakdown actually means damaged or broken but in this line the sentence *"They said she had a breakdown"* actually means the rumors among the people said this woman (Billy Jeans) has a broken life.

Baby be mine

Data 2:

There'll be no more mountains for us to climb
(I can't be still, you thrill me, baby, be mine)
This will be a love lasting for all time
Girl, you got to hold me
We can touch the sky and light the darkest day
Hold me, only you and I can make sweet love this way
There's no more I can say

This song is talking about the relations that Jackson had with a girl, during the relation Jackson had a heady emotions with this girl but there are no exact sources about who are the girl that Jackson mention in this song. In this love-bird relations Jackson was trying to convince his girl that he is going in a serious relations but his girl was nervous about their relationship is not going so well. This makes Jackson presenting his feelings through lines in this song.

In this stanza is talking about the persuasion that Jackson does when he is trying to convince his girl about their relationship will be just fine. It could be seen that there is an idiom in the first line by sentence "*There'll be no more mountains for us to climb".* According to Palmer on his book entitled "*Semantic: A New Outline (1976)"*, this could be classified to total idiom because its meaning doesn't not predicted directly from the complete sentence of the word. Based on the Leech (1974) the idiom "*There'll be no more mountains for us to climb"* could be classified to the connotative meaning because the writer used the connotation of "*mountain for us to climb"* to present no more obstacle in their relationship. However it is nothing to do with climbing a mountain or something. It completely has a second meaning.

The Girl is Mine

The Girls is mine is talking about the heady competition that Jackson had during the campaign to winning the girl heart with his friend. In general, this song is describing about the two guys who love the same girl. This girl is realized that turn out played them. Jackson and his friend were being used by the girl like an ATM machine. In general, this song is presenting the Jackson feeling about feeling played by this girl.

Data 3:

But we both cannot have her
So it's one or the other
And one day you'll discover
That she's my girl forever and ever
(Stanza 5)

The fifth stanza is talking about the Jackson side that said about this girl is belong to him, rather than to Paul because he is believed that by the last line when he is saying that *"That she's my girl forever and ever".* But in the second line of the fifth stanza, it is found the idiom "*So it's one or the other"* based on the theory purpose by Palmer (1976) the idiom

"*So it's one or the other"* could be categorized as total idiom because the whole sentence is not presenting the directly the true meaning of this sentence. Based on the theory purpose by Leech (1974) this idiom could be categorized as affected meaning because this sentence is refer to the emotion association that the writer had, it is virtue the private feeling of the speaker.

Thriller

This song entitled *'thriller"* is an iconic pop song which brought the scary feeling about the ghost and monster. Through this song actually MJ is trying to deliver the scary feeling about the horror movie that he has watched. During a couple of research on online, researcher is found the gimmick of this song is about the dark side of Michael Jackson character which presenting the negative life of MJ.

Data 4:

Night creatures call
And the dead start to walk in their masquerade
There's no escapin' the jaws of the alien this time (they're open wide)
This is the end of your life, oh
(Stanza 8)

On this stanza, actually presenting the scary feeling that Jackson wants to described. Lot of the line in the stanza eight described about the scary feeling of the person will get. Thematically, there an idiom found in the first line of this stanza by the sentence "*Night creature call"* looking up through the Palmer theory (1974) about the types of idiom this idiom could be classified to the total idiom because it's meaning that's complete can't be predicted from the words themselves. *"Night creature call",* it actually doesn't not refer to the night creature such as bath or cricket but it is refer to gosh, ghoul or spirit who believed by the people who life in the dark side of dimension. According to Leech (1974), the idiom *"Night creature call"* could be classified to connotative meaning because it is something that goes beyond mere referent of a word and hints at its attributes within the universe.

Beat It

"*Beat it"* actually describing about the Michael Jackson private feeling about the black leather gang culture in America. It actually tells about someone in the gang that trying to prove his manhood through fighting. One day MJ saw a person who is in trouble. His opponent gang found him was on their territory and having a hard desired to kills him. MJ warn this person to run and not taking any trouble.

Data 5:

They're out to get you, better leave while you can
Don't wanna be a boy, you wanna be a man
You wanna stay alive, better do what you can
So beat it, just beat it
(Stanza 5)

The last stanza of this song actually presents the suggestion of Michael Jackson with this person. MJ state that this person should be avoids conflict for the sake of his safety. Based on the data above, there is an idiom found in the second line of this stanza by the clause "*don't wanna be a boy"* according to Palmer Theory (1976) this idiom could be classified to the

partial idiom because the word "*boy"* is having a peculiar to the particular meaning. The word "*boy"* in this clause is not referring a young person it is imply that this person should not be arrogant like a boy does. According to the theory of Leech (1974), this idiom could be classified to the types of meaning of affective meaning because it is implying the private feeling of MJ about something that he said.

Billie Jean

The song entitled "*Billie Jean"* in this album is an iconic pop song which implying about a woman named Billie Jean. The rumor at the day, this woman claims MJ was the father of her son. On the top of his carrier this rumor is becomes a big question to MJ and become the trending topic in media. Feeling annoyed, MJ decided to mention this woman through his song and express his anger.

Data 6:

People always told me be careful of what you do
And don't go around breaking young girls' hearts
And mother always told me be careful of who you love
And be careful of what you do 'cause the lie becomes the truth
(Stanza 3)

The stanza number 3 in this song is describing about Michael Jackson private feeling. The second line of the stanza number 3 contain an idiom. Look upon the theory by Palmer on his book entitled Semantic (1976) about the types of idiom. This idiom could be classified as total idiom since the total sentence of the second line is cannot be predicted directly or quickly recognize. According to the theory by Leech on his book entitled *"Semantic: A New Outline (1974)"* it could be categorized as affected meaning because it is implying Michael Jackson private feeling with something that he is talking.

Human Nature

"Human Nature" is one of MJ song in album thriller. Human Nature is a song yelling about the Steve Porcaro daughter's, the keyboardist of a band Toto, Steve daughter is having a rough day at school. He makes reason to calms his daughter said that it is normal and it is human nature. MJ saw this is related to his life was inspired to adopt the song into his masterpieces. Steve was in call by the Quincy Jones and they are planning to makes this song as the debuted of Michael Jackson carrier.

Data 7:

I used to dream
I used to glance beyond the stars
Now I don't know where we are
Although I know we've drifted far
(Stanza 9)

At the stanza 9, there is idiom found on the last sentence of this stanza. It could be seen by the word "*drifted".* This stanza is talking about the personal feeling of Michael Jackson about this world. Classified by the theory by Palmer (1976) this idiom is categorized to the Partial idiom because the word *"drifted"* has peculiar and particular meaning. It is actually

refer to leaning from its direction. According to theory by Leech (1974) it could be categorized as affected meaning because it is virtue the private feeling of the speaker.

P.Y.T (Pretty Young Thing)

This song generally reflects MJ feelings about trying to go on a deeper relationship with a young woman who are being interest by MJ. But, there are no sources that talking about who are actually this woman. In this song, MJ is expressing his sexual and romantic experiences he would share to his lover.

Data 8:

Where Did You Come From Lady
And Ooh Won't You Take Me There
Right Away Won't You Baby
Tendoroni You've Got To Be
Spark My Nature
Sugar Fly With Me
Don't You Know Now
Is The Perfect Time
We Can Make It Right
Hit The City Lights
Then Tonight Ease The Lovin' Pain
Let Me Take You To The Max
(Stanza 1)

In the fourth line of the first stanza is talking about the curiosity of MJ with this woman, from the first line we could state that MJ is felt in love and trying to dig information about this woman. In fact in the 6 line of this stanza by the sentence *"sugar fly with me"* is an idiom. According to the theory by Palmer (1976) this could be classified to the total idiom since the whole word doest directly to the true meaning. According to the theory by Leech (1974) it could be classified to the affected meaning because this sentence is expressing the personal feeling of Michael Jackson with something he is talking about. Therefore, the idiom *"sugar fly with me* "means happy.

The Lady in My Life

The song entitled "The Lady in My Life" is telling about Michael Jackson Personal life when he is at 24 years old. In this song is stretched some point that at that aged Michael Jackson never really experiences to be in love before, MJ try to told people how he feels when he is experiencing the first love through this song.

Data 9:

There'll be no darkness tonight
Lady our love will shine
Lighting the night
Just put your trust in my heart and meet me in paradise
Now is the time
Girl, you're every wonder in this world to me
A treasure time won't steal away
(Stanza 1)

Stanza number 1 is explaining about the persuasion of Michael Jackson to his lady about the relationship that they had at the first time. On the second stanza it is find the idiom by the word *"shine"* based on theory by Palmer (1976) it could be categorized as partial idiom since the word *"shine"* is having a peculiar to particular meaning and the rest of the word is having its literal meaning. According to the theory by Leech (1974), this idiom could be classified to the connotative meaning because the writer used the connotation of *"shine"* to present happy or happiness. In general the sentence *"Lady our love will shine"* means their love will adorned by happiness.

CONCLUSION

Song is one of the ways to learning English fast for a non native English speaker. When people listen to an English song they will hear the pronunciation of the lyric direct with the spelling of the word. This will help their brain to get better understanding of how to pronounce the word and what it is used for. Depart from that, some songs are carried out non direct meaning which often makes non native English speakers are confused to grasp its true meaning. One of the examples is idiom, learning idiom could help a non native English speaker to have a clearance vision when they are communicating with English native speaker. Based on the discussion above, it can be state that in total there are 9 types of idiom and their meaning found in this analysis. It is found that the most common types of idiom and meaning found in this study is total idiom and affected meaning whereas the less found is partial idiom. The researcher also recommend to the new researcher to not only analyze the types of idiom found in a song but also in other types literature work such as film or movie since idiom could be appears in any literature work.

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