

IDIOMS IN THE SONG LYRICS OF ARIANA GRANDE'S

"MY EVERYTHING" ALBUM

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Abstract

This research was carried out to investigate the idiom in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album. The objectives of this research were to find out the types of idioms and to describe the meaning of idioms found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album. This research was designed to qualitative research. The researcher collected and classified the data in seven types of idioms suggested by O'Dell & McCarthy and after obtaining the data, the researcher analyzed the data by applying data reduction, data display, drawing conclusion and verification. The result of this research showed that there were various idioms found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album such as similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, cliché, fixed statements and other language. Each of idioms has their own meaning and they were interpreted based on their context in using them. Idioms obviously most found in the song and it really helps people to enrich their vocabularies and expand their understanding about all expressions in English. The researcher suggested to the students to read this thesis to be able know the context of idioms and also interpret the meaning of idioms. Moreover, the researcher also suggested to the other researcher to complete the further research better and provide more explanation and also they can use this research as their reference.

Key Words: *Idiom; Song Lyrics; Album*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menyelidiki idiom dalam lirik lagu pada album "My Everything" milik Ariana Grande. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis idiom dan mendeskripsikan makna idiom yang terdapat pada lirik lagu dalam album "My Everything" milik Ariana Grande. Penelitian ini dirancang untuk penelitian kualitatif. Peneliti mengumpulkan dan mengklasifikasikan data ke dalam tujuh jenis idiom yang disarankan oleh O'Dell & McCarthy dan setelah mendapatkan data, peneliti menganalisis data dengan menerapkan reduksi data, display data, penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat berbagai macam idiom yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu pada album "My Everything" milik Ariana Grande seperti simile, binomial, peribahasa, eufemisme, klise, pernyataan tetap, dan bahasa kiasan. Masing-masing idiom memiliki makna tersendiri dan diinterpretasikan

berdasarkan konteks penggunaannya. Idiom jelas paling banyak ditemukan dalam lagu dan sangat membantu orang untuk memperkaya kosakata mereka dan memperluas pemahaman mereka tentang semua ekspresi dalam bahasa Inggris. Peneliti menyarankan kepada para mahasiswa untuk membaca tesis ini agar dapat mengetahui konteks idiom dan juga menginterpretasikan makna dari idiom. Selain itu, peneliti juga menyarankan kepada peneliti lain untuk melengkapi penelitian selanjutnya dengan lebih baik dan memberikan penjelasan yang lebih banyak dan juga dapat menggunakan penelitian ini sebagai referensi mereka.

Kata Kunci: *Idiom; Lirik Lagu; Album*

A. Introduction

People express the ideas, thought, emotion or feelings by using language. Without language, people will not be able to interact with others. So, it can be considered that language is crucial in human life. Language can be defined as the primary communication tool between human beings. By language, people can transmit the knowledge or everything in the mind.

Language determines the communities of people in the world. Castillo (2015:68) claims that language always manifests itself as a language, that is, in the forms of historical traditions in the techniques of speaking. In this sense language divides humankind in different historical communities, just determined as linguistic communities or speech communities. Based on Castillo's statement, it means that the existence of language is something that makes a difference in this world. That is why language does not only consist of one language. There are Indonesia language, English language, Spanish, French and so

on. Every language is very unique and has its each characteristics.

As an Indonesian, English is considered as the foreign language and it is taught formally from the elementary school up to university level. Nowadays, English plays an important role as the international language around the world. In other means, English language has become the most important language which helps people to talk to all people from another country and exchange information, learn about different cultures and so on. So, many people aspire to learn and speak English exceptionally well.

Since many people have learnt English well, the communication will be easier but in fact that people in Indonesia especially the Indonesian learner are still lack of understanding about English. Some people deal with the grammatical problems, pronunciation, vocabulary, and so on that makes them have difficulties to understand English.

One of the factors that makes people lack in understanding about English is there are so many ambiguous expressions

which are called/known as idioms. Idioms are the language component in English which always used by the most native speaker. It can be found in any written and spoken English such as the song lyrics, novel, newspaper, magazine, etc.

Idioms are very unique figurative language and interesting phenomena. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010:270), "Idiom is an expression which function as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts". Idioms are components of English which consist of words and has a spesific meaning. The idioms must be seen from all aspect or context. Moreover, Ludden (2016:643) explained that idioms are set expressions whose meaning cannot be understood based on the meanings of the individual words they are composed of. Because when they are combined into an idiom form, they have their own meaning. In other words, in interpreting the meaning of an idiom, people should know and consider about the whole context of that idiom. For instance when someone says "I owe you one". This sentence is basically an idiom which means to thank people for helping us and as a way of saying that we will do something for them in the future. Another example is *I have a lot on my plate*. That sentence does not mean that *somebody is eating or has a lot of food on the plate*. When someone says "I have a lot on my plate" it means that *someone is busy or has a lot of work to do* so in that situation we cannot ask his/her favor

or just letting someone focuses on his/her work.

Talking about idioms is related to Semantics study. Crystal (2008:428) defined semantics as a major branch of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language. Since the semantics investigate about meaning, it has relationship with idioms. Hurford, et. al (2007:328) stated that idiomatic expression is a multi-word phrse whose overall meaning is idiosyncractic and largely unpredictable, reflecting speaker meaning that is not derivable by combining the literal sense or the individual words in each phrase according to the regular semantic rules of the language.

Talking about meaning, there are two types of meaning such as connotative meaning and denotative meaning. Mott (2003:68) clarified that many words stand for objects, situations, events or process in the real world, or they represent a concept or experience in the mind, so they can be said to have denotative meaning. It means that denotative meaning is the type of meaning which may be described in terms of a set of semantic properties which serves to identify the particular concept associated with the word in question. On the other hand, connotative meaning refers to the meaning which appears by association of language used by the speaker or listener about the language which they speak or read. Dickins et. al (2002:66) argued that connotative meanings that is association which, over and above, the denotative meaning of an expression

form part of its overall meaning. Because connotative meaning relates to the speaker's feeling or attitude, unlike denotative meaning, it cannot be judged as true or false.

There are various kinds of idioms. O'Dell & McCarthy (2010:22-30) presented eight types of idioms as follows:

1 Similes

Similes are idiomatic expressions of comparisons between two objects that always involve the words *as* or *like*. For instance *stop acting like we're blind* (stop pretending).

1) Binomials

Binomials can be defined as idioms made up of two words connected by a conjunction (linking word) which most commonly linked by conjunction "*and*". For instance *love can be a beach with no shore* (love is vast with no limits).

2) Proverbs

Proverbs refers to the advice or warnings and or something that most people have experienced. Proverbs are fixed words, similar to idioms, and it is not always possible to deduce the meaning from the individual words in the proverb. For instance *what goes around comes around* (a consequence that we will receive as a result of our own action).

3) Euphemism

Euphemisms refers to the idioms that are used to avoid saying words that may offend or be offensive. For example *I'm not your only* (there are a lot of people in your heart).

4) Clichés

A cliché refers to a remark that is frequently made in certain everyday contexts. It's an utterance that most people have heard before, so it is not unique. For instance *if it goes up, it comes down* (there will be always a flaw). This idiom also used to cheer up someone who has found one person or unsuccessful opportunity.

5) Fixed Statements

Fixed statements refer to the phrasal words or fixed sentences that has certain meaning. For example *Make up your mind* (make a decision), *break up* (end the relationship).

6) Other Language

English contains many words from other languages. This idiomatic expressions are all derived from Latin or French, for instance *he was paid on an ad hoc basis* (not planned but arranged or done when needed).

Studying about idioms is extremely important especially for the foreign language learners. Since people master idioms in English language, they will be able to understand all the idiomatic expressions expressed by the native speaker. The communication also will be more run effectively for instance when people who are non-native speakers are able to understand the idioms used by native speaker.

Idioms can be found in any media and of course it can be found in song lyrics. Song can be defined as a media to express the feelings, emotions, thoughts or idea. Song is poem set to music, intended to be sung. It combines melody and vocals,

although same composers have written instrumental pieces, or musical works without words that mimic the quality of a singing voice. To make a song, people or song writer should build his/her feelings or emotions or thoughts or ideas into the lyric. So, lyric is the important element of the song. In addition, Abrams (1999:146) lyrics is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who express a state of mind or a process of preception, thought, and feelings.

In conducting this research, the researcher analyzed idioms in the songs because the researcher figured out that the idioms mostly found in songs. Another reason is that song is a good way to learn idioms. Besides, Ariana Grande who owned "My Everything Album" is the most famous female singer and also song writer from America, United States. She has got a lot of appreciation like Grammy Awards. Uniquely, Ariana Grande's songs contain particular phrases including idioms that sometimes make people especially Indonesian have difficulty to comprehend the meaning of her songs. For instance the phrase *break up* (end the relationship) and *make up our minds* (make a decision) in the song entitled "Best Mistake". These phrases are called idioms (fixed statement). Binomials idiom also was found in this song namely *love can be a beach with no shore* (love has no limits/love is unlimited). Nevertheless, her song is still loved by so many people around the world. Therefore, analyzing the idioms in the songs really help people especially the

students enhancing and expanding their vocabularies and can make people can speak English fluently as a native speaker does.

B. Research Method

This research was done in qualitative research design. Lodico et al. (2010:143) clarified that qualitative research has few characteristics. Some of them are: studies in qualitative method are carried out in naturalistic settings, in qualitative the researcher ask broad research question designed to explore, interpret, or understand the social context, and the study data reports is in narrative form or using words rather than numbers.

In this research, the researcher tried to investigate the idiomatic expressions in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album. Therefore, the data that used in this research were the words which consist of idioms.

In collecting the data, the researcher used documentation method which steps are: (1) Searching Ariana Grande's song and the song lyrics on <https://genius.com/albums/Ariana-grande/My-everything>; (2) Listening to the songs and reading the song lyrics to understand the whole context of the songs especilly the idioms; (3) While reading the text, the researcher identified and underlined the words that consist of idomatic expressions; and (4) Interpreting the meaning of idioms that found in the songs.

After collect the data, the researcher analyzed the data used Miles &

Huberman's theory (1994:10-11) such as data reduction, data display, drawing conclusion and verification.

C. Research Findings and Discussion

After the data were collected and analyzed, the researcher figured out that there were various idioms found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album as can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Types of Idioms in Song Lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" Album

No.	Types of idioms	Quantity
1	Similes	2
2	Binomials	6
3	Proverbs	4
4	Euphemism	18
5	Cliché	4
6	Fixed statements	23
7	Other language	2
Total		59

Source: Researcher, 2024

Based on the table above, it can be seen clearly that there were so many types of idioms in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album. The researcher found that in Ariana Grande's song consist of similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés, fixed statements and other languages.

In this part, the researcher explained the meaning of each idioms found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album as follows:

1. Similes

Similes are defined as kind of idiomatic expressions that is mainly

utilised to compare two or more objects. Moreover, it used also to describe an item, situation, emotion or action by comparing it to something else in order to make the statement more creative and artistic. In addition, the researcher figured out that similes found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album as follows.

a) *Stop acting like we're blind* (Song: Best mistake)

This similes found in the song owned by Ariana Grande which entitled *Best Mistake* and it was taken in line 5 in verse 3. The expression above belongs to Similes because it compares the action. In this part, the singer told to the someone she loved to *stop acting like we're blind* which means that *stop pretending to each other* or in other words *stop hiding your feelings to me, if we have feeling to each other, let us have a date.*

b) *I was under your spell like a deadly fever* (Song: Break Free)

This expression is included as similes because it involved the conjunction 'like' which showing the comparison of the objects. This expression was taken in the song *Break Free* in line 2 and verse 4. Here, Ariana Grande clarified that her boyfriend were a best man she had. Therefore, the word *I was under your spell like a deadly fever* means being fascinated by somebody and cannot think about somebody else.

2. Binomials

Binomials can be described as the expression of idiom made up of two words connected by a conjunction (linking word) and commonly binomials linked by

conjunction “and”. In this research, the researcher found Binomials in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande’s “My Everything” album. The following is one of examples of Binomials found in this research.

a) *Take my breath and never let it go* (Song: *Love me harder*)

This expression was found in the song *Love me harder* in line 2 in verse 7. It is classified as Binomials because it connected by the conjunction and of course it has meaning. In this part, this expression does not mean to kill someone. Based on the context, the singer just want to be loved by someone hence Ariana Grande said that *take my breath and never let it go* which means *be mine forever*. The researcher also found other Binomials and it can be seen in the appendixes of this research.

b) *If the water dries up and the moon stops shining* (Song: *Best Mistake*)

This expression found in the song entitled *Best Mistake*, line 1 in verse 4. This expression is categorized as binomials because it made up by two words and connected by the word ‘and’. According to its context, this expression means someone is in difficult situation and loss of hope.

3. Proverbs

Proverbs are also found in this research. It can be defined that proverbs are idioms or fixed words that refers to advice or warnings and or something that people mostly have experienced. There are various kinds of proverbs found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande’s “My Everything” album. The following is the example of proverbs found in this research.

a) *What goes around comes around* (Song: *Break your heart right back*)

This expression found in line 1 in verse 2 of the song entitled *Break Your Heart Right Back*. The expression above may be classified as an advice to someone which has meaning *there will be consequence for every action we take or for every decision we make*. Moreover, other proverbs can be seen in the appendixes of this research.

b) *Don’t let these eyes fool ya* (Song: *Hands on Me*)

This expression is a proverb which has a meaning that is Don’t let everything you see deceive yourself. It categorized as proverb because this expression contains a message or a advice which means we have to be careful on everything we see because it can draw us in a bad situation. This expression found in the song *Hands on Me*, line 3 and verse 6.

4. Euphemism

Euphemism is the expression that are used to avoid saying offensive words. It is also described as one of the figurative language that classified as idioms because it cannot be interpreted words by words in other words euphemism has a particular meaning hence it should be interpreted by understanding the whole context of the expression. In this research, the researcher found various expressions of euphemism and here is the example of euphemism:

a) *I know I’m not your only* (Song: *Just a little bit of your heart*)

This expression found in line 5 in verse 3 and it classified as euphemism because it may be offended. In this part,

Ariana Grande clarified that she struggled with her love but found that someone she loved has feeling to other woman. Therefore, the expression *I'm not your only* can be interpreted as *there is other person in your heart*. Additionally, the researcher found other euphemisms and it can be seen in the appendixes of this research.

b) *I should've done you better* (Song: One Last Time)

This expression found in the song *One Last Time* in line 4 and verse 1. This expression has meaning such as end the relationship with someone in a better way.

5. Clichés

Clichés refer to the expressions that often used by people to cheer up someone and frequently used in everyday contexts. In this research, the researcher figured out some cliché expressions in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album such as:

a) *If it goes up, it comes down* (Song: Break your heart right back)

This expression found in line 2 in verse 2 and has meaning *there will be always a flaw* or in other words in life we will face many obstacles and we will be experiencing ups and downs.

b) *I want you with me on this road to the sky* (Song: Intro)

This expression found in line 4 and verse 1. It has meaning such as Find happiness together. It can be seen that this expression can used to cheer up someone who feel down or sad therefore it is categorized as cliché.

6. Fixed Statements

Fixed statements can be described as phrases or phrasal words or fixed sentences that has particular meaning. The following is fixed statement that found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album.

a) *Make up our minds* (Song: Best mistake)

This expression certainly is fixed statements which means make a decision. It is found in the song entitled *Best Mistake* which is in line 4 and verse 3. In this research, the fixed statements are the most dominant used in the song and it can be seen in appendixes of this research.

b) *Cut me down* (Song: Why Try)

This expression found in line 5 and verse 1 and it does not mean to kill someone. The expression above means to insult someone. Here, Ariana Grande told that her boyfrined tried to cheat on her.

7. Other Language

Sometimes, idioms contain many words from other languages and commonly derived from Latin or French. Moreover, in this research, the researcher also found idiom which combined with other language as follow.

a) *You know it's true 'cause G-A-M-B-I-N-O* (Song: Break your heart right back)

The expression above combined with Italian such as G-A-M-B-I-N-O. It is slang words for a man that has a good body. This expression found in line 8 and verse 9.

b) *Keep da* (Song: Hands on Me)

This expression contains a phrase mixed up by other language 'da' and based

on the whole context the word *keep da* means to continue with something. It found in line 1 and verse 6.

From the research results above, it is concluded that there are various types of idioms that found in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's "My Everything" album such as similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, cliché, fixed statements and other language. All of the idioms indeed has their own meaning and it can be interpreted literally which means people as a reader should understand the whole context of every utterance to get a better understanding or to be able to comprehend the meaning of idioms. In interpreting the meaning of idioms, the researcher used Idioms dictionary (Person Education Limited, 2001) and dictionary on google platform.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

Idioms can be described as figurative language or expressions that has a meaning and cannot be interpreted literally but it should be interpreted based on the whole context of the idioms. It is interesting to investigate idioms because it really helps people to expand and enrich their vocabularies and understanding about idioms.

Based on the research findings presented in the previous chapter, the researcher concluded this research that idioms are mostly found in the song especially the song where it contains various kinds of idioms. There are seven

types of idioms investigated in this research such as similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemism, fixed statements and other language. Each of them has their own characteristics and of course has various meaning based on the context its used.

Moreover, the songs owned by Ariana Grande especially her album "My Everything" can be classified as unique songs even though it tells about love but the meaning related in the real life of human. Therefore, in this research can be useful and used in every context in life.

Furthermore, the researcher stated some suggestions as follows:

1. The researcher believed that this research could help students to enrich their knowledge about idioms and expand their idiom vocabularies. Therefore, the researcher suggested to the students to read this research to improve their understanding about idioms especially in the songs.
2. This research is expected to be useful in the school as the material preference in teaching. Thus, the researcher suggested the teacher to used this research as a reference to teach vocabularies especially about idioms for the students in the classroom.
3. The researcher expected that the other researcher may complete a further research better and can use this research as good references.

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