



An analysis of lexical categories in the Castle on the hill song lyric from Ed Sheeran

Dita Mawar Hadi¹, Exlesia Pestaria L. Toruan¹

¹Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika, Jakarta, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Background: It's very important to learn about morphology because morphology is the study of word and sub-discipline of linguistics that study word, structure and form which has components such as lexical categories. This process can reduce ambiguity during the process of correcting the words in sentences.

Purpose: This study investigated the lexical categories in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's album "Divide" entitled castle on the hills.

Design and methods: This study used a qualitative method. Process of collecting data used to identify lyric that has lexical categories. The researcher used some of the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's album as the data source. The technique of collecting data was content analysis.

Results: The results of the research showed that cases of lexical categories. Based on the data analysis in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's. There are 13 words noun, there are 5 words adjective, there are 7 words verb, there are 3 words adverb, and there are 4 words preposition.

Keywords: morphology, part of speech, lexical categories

Introduction

Morphology deals with types of words and how the words are formed. It investigates the internal structure of words. Words differ in form and meaning. Form refers to what a word sounds like when it is uttered. Words belong to lexical categories, which are also called parts of speech. Lexical categories are classes of words (e.g., noun, verb, preposition), which differ in how other words can be constructed out of them. For example, if a word belongs to a lexical category verb, other words can be constructed by adding the suffixes (-ing) and (-able) to it to generate other words.

Lexical categories are of two kinds: open and closed. A lexical category is open if the new word and the original word belong to the same category. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are open lexical categories. In contrast, closed lexical categories rarely acquire new members.

They include conjunctions (e.g., and, or, but), determiners (e.g., a, the), pronouns (e.g., he, she, they), and prepositions (e.g., of, on, under). The writer chose theory according to O'Grady and Guzman (1997:114 -115) "roots typically belong to a lexical category –noun (N), verb (V), adverb (Adv), adjective (Adj) or preposition (p).

Methods

This paper uses a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research used to analyze the phenomenon happened (Ary, 2010). Qualitative research are steps that are used to collect

CONTACT Dita Mawar Hadi ✉ ditamawarhadi@gmail.com

© 2021 Dita Mawar Hadi, Exlesia Pestaria L. Toruan. Published by Mitra Palupi. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

data by researchers who usually use interview, observation, questionnaire, test and documentation. The data are collected from the Ed Sheeran's Song lyric entitled castle on the hill. The research was to search for some information from books and the internet to help in analyzing the process. The analysis of this research starts from reading and understanding the theory of the formation of English words from journal articles and theoretical books. The next step is to read the lyrics contained in Ed Sheeran's song to determine the article to be analyzed. Next, identify and classify words that contain lexical categories. Break them down into small units to find out the process in words, and also differ in how other words can be constructed out of them. For example, if a word belongs to a lexical category verb, other words can be constructed by adding the suffixes (-ing) and (-able) to it to generate other words. After the relevant data is obtained, inventory them into the observation table to conclude which word formations are the most widely used in the lyrics that have been analyzed from Ed Sheeran's song.

Findings & Discussion

The object data of this research is from a song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's album Divide. This album is the third studio album by American singer Ed Sheeran released on March 3, 2017, by Asylum Records and Atlantic Records. The album consists of 16 songs and sung all by Ed Sheeran. But the writer chose 1 song of the total song in the album because from 1 song the writer found lexical categories there. The title of the song is *Castle on the hill*. The writer chose theory according to O'Grady and Guzman (1997 : 114 -115) " roots typically belong to a lexical category –noun(N),verb(V),adverb (Adv), adjective (Adj) or preposition (p).

Noun

According to Sue Baugh (1993: 04) "noun refer to a person, place, or thing (objects, concepts, ideas, or events)".

Line 1

'When **I** was six years old, **I** broke my **leg**'

Based on the sentence above, it can be seen that word I is a word with a *noun* class as well as leg words which have a word class (lexical categories).

Line 2

'I was running from my **brother** and his **friends**'

Based on the sentences above, brother and friends are a word with a *noun* which have a word class (lexical categories).

Line 3

'And tasted the sweet **perfume** of the **mountain grass** I rolled down'

From the sentence above, there are the words perfume, mountain, grass which function as *nouns*.

Line 4

'Made **friends** and lost them through the **years**'

From the sentences above, there are word friends as *nouns* and word years which have a word class.

Line 7

'And I've not seen the roaring **fields** in so long'

From the sentences above, there is one word as *noun*, the word is fields which have a word class.

Line 8

'I know I've grown, but I can't wait to go **home**'

The word home as (*noun*) which has a word class (lexical categories).

Line 29

‘Over the **castle** on the **hill**’

From the sentences above, castle as *noun* and also hill as noun which have a word class (lexical categories)

Line 31

‘One friend left to sell **clothes**’

From the sentence above, it can be seen that the word clothes is a *noun* (lexical categories)

Adjective

Adjective class or adjective has a function to explain or add meaning to a noun. Generally, it can be marked with a phrase; very and most. Kroeger (2005: 33) explains that "Adjective is a word that describes a state".

Line 1

‘When I was six years **old**, I broke my leg’

The word old in the sentence is an *adjective* because it describes years as a noun.

Line 3

‘And tasted the **sweet perfume** of the mountain grass I rolled down’

The word sweet is an *adjective* because it describes perfume as a noun.

Line 33

‘One had two kids, but lives **alone**’

The word alone is an *adjective* because it describes lives as a noun.

Line 26

‘Singing to **Tiny** Dancer’

The word tiny is also an adjective because it describes dances as nouns.

Verb

A verb is a word that expresses an action, statement, state, conditions, and activities according to the words used in a sentence. According to Trask (1999: 34), "Verbs are the part of speech that includes like go, see, understanding, and see". Verb is a word that states a job or activity or a word that functions as a predicate in a sentence.

Line 13

‘When we **watched** the sunset over the castle on the hill’

The word watched is a *verb* that states an action taken by the subject we.

Line 19

‘I was younger then, **take** me back to when’

In the sentence there is a word that functions as a *verb* because it is an action taken by the subject I or me.

Line 21

‘We'd buy cheap spirits and **drink** them straight’

The word drink is a *verb* that states an action taken by the subject we.

Line 38

‘And I can't **wait** to go home’

In the sentence there is a wait word that functions as a *verb* because it is an action taken by the subject I.

Line 40

‘I still **remember** these old country lanes’

The word remember is a *verb* that is an action taken by the subject I.

Line 32

‘One **works** down by the coast’

In the sentence there is a word that functions as a *verb*.

Line 42

‘And I miss the way you make me **feel**, and it's real’

In the sentences there are miss and feel words are a *verb* that is an action taken by the subject I.

Adverb

Klammer (1999: 79) states that “adverbs modify verbs (she swims quickly), adjective (Bill's car is mechanically sound), other adverbs (Andrew drove incredibly fast), and even whole sentence (obviously, someone ate the rest of the pizza)”.

From this opinion, it can be seen that an adverb is a word that explains verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or whole sentences. Based on the opinion above, adverbs can be used to explain how (manner), time (time), and place (place).

Line 5

‘Found my heart and broke it **here**.’(Explain the place)

The word here in the sentence above is a word that describes the intended place of the word broke.

Line 17

‘Had my first kiss on a Friday night’ (explain time)

The word on a **Friday night** in the sentence above is a word that describes the time that was carried out at that time.

Line 40

‘I **still** remember these old country lanes’

The word still is a *adverb* which in the sentence above is a word that explains how to remember.

Preposition

Prepositions function as a pointer to the relationship of position, direction, time and others between one word and another.

Line 3

‘And tasted the sweet perfume **of** the mountain grass I rolled down’

In the sentence above, the words perfume and the mountain are connected by using *preposition* of.

Line 9

‘I'm **on** my way’

In the sentence there is the word on is a *preposition* which shows the positional relationship between the words I am and my way.

Line 13

‘When we watched the sunset **over** the castle on the hill’

The word over is a *preposition* which the word sunset and the castle are connected by using preposition over.

Line 32

‘One works down **by** the coast’

In the sentence there is the word which shows the positional relationship between the words down and the coast.

Discussion

Based on the data analysis, in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s album there are 13 as *nouns*. They are words I, leg, brothers, friends, perfume, mountain, grass, years, fields, home, castle, hill, clothes. And there are 5 as *adjectives*. They are words old, sweet, perfume, alone, tiny.

And there are 7 words as *verbs*. They are words: watched, take, drink, wait, remember, work, feel. And there are 3 as *adverbs*. They are words here, Friday night, still. And there are 4 words as *prepositions*. They are words of, on, over, by.

In linguistics, part of speech is syntactic categories classification reflecting a variety of factors, including the type of meaning that words express, the type of affixes that they take, and the type of structures in which they can occur. Syntactic categories are divided into 2 parts: lexical and non-lexical categories. Lexical categories is a group of words in a language unit based on the categories of form, function, and meaning in the grammatical system. To compose good and correct sentences based on standard sentence patterns, language users must know the types and functions of word classes first so that mistakes do not occur. The five lexical categories are: Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, and Preposition.

Conclusion

This research generates theory-based learning in a qualitative study. It is inferred that the integrating of strategies in second language teaching and learning enables the learning process to become more complex, productive, and collaborative in terms of input of mechanical information. The use of learning strategies helps learners to critically coordinate their academic work in a more organized, cohesive, and prepared way to get more output of the study time. Besides, learning strategies socialization that is given by the instructor may have a beneficial impact on the learners. The advantages of appropriate learning approaches would be the forum for learners to gain a deeper understanding such as an opportunity to be educated as potential teachers adequately and intelligently. The researchers concluded for further studies instead of describing the learning strategies classification and investigating learners' learning strategies appropriately. Besides, the effective measurements and answering of SILL must be implemented in EFL learning by considering several factors; students' feelings, learning atmosphere, and teachers' guidance. Finally, teachers must stimulate each learner to implement their appropriate learning strategies simultaneously, explicitly, and regularly inside or outside the classroom.

References

- Amir, M. (2018). Language Learning Strategies Used by Junior High School EFL Learners. *Language and Language Teaching Journal*, 21(1), 94–103.
- Anderson, J. (1997). A notional theory of syntactic categories. *Cambridge: Cambridge University Press*.
- Baker, MC. (2003). Lexical Categories Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives. *Cambridge University Press*, 326 - 338.
- Honegger, M. (2005). Lexical Categories: Verbs, Nouns, and Adjectives. *Journal of English Linguistics*.