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An Analysis of The Occurrence of Phrasal Verbs in Song Lyrics of Lana Del Rey

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Abstract

A phrasal verb consists of two or three words that work together as a single grammatical unit. In this study, the researcher focuses on the syntactic and semantic analysis of phrasal verbs found in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics. The purpose of this study is to analyze the types of phrasal verbs found in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics and to examine how these phrasal verbs are constructed syntactically and semantically. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data for this study are song lyrics from Lana Del Rey's album Born to Die. The instrument used in this study is tabulation. This study obtained song lyrics from Lana Del Rey's official account on Spotify and then highlighted the lines containing phrasal verbs. Lana Del Rey was chosen for this study because of the success of her albums, which have topped the Billboard charts in the United States. This study is expected to help readers enrich their vocabulary and serve as an example or additional reference for other researchers who wish to analyze phrasal verbs in song lyrics as part of their research. This study is also beneficial for students studying phrasal verbs. There are 8 phrasal verbs found in Lana Del Rey's album Born to Die. The most commonly used type is the intransitive-inseparable phrasal verb. Based on this data, we can identify the presence of phrasal verbs in the song lyrics and distinguish between phrasal verbs and verb phrases in song lyrics.

Keywords: Lana Del Rey, Phrasal Verbs, Song Lyrics, Syntax

Abstrak

Frasa kata kerja terdiri dari dua atau tiga kata yang bekerja bersama sebagai satu kesatuan gramatikal. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti berfokus pada analisis sintaksis dan semantik frasa kata kerja yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Lana Del Rey. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis jenis-jenis frasa kata kerja yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Lana Del Rey dan untuk mengkaji bagaimana frasa kata kerja ini dibangun secara sintaksis dan semantik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Data untuk penelitian ini adalah lirik lagu dari album *Born to Die* milik Lana Del Rey. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah tabulasi. Penelitian ini memperoleh lirik lagu dari akun resmi Lana Del Rey di Spotify dan kemudian menyorot baris-baris yang mengandung frasa kata kerja. Lana Del Rey dipilih untuk penelitian ini karena keberhasilan album-albumnya, yang telah menduduki puncak tangga lagu Billboard di Amerika Serikat. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat membantu pembaca memperkaya kosa kata mereka dan berfungsi sebagai contoh atau referensi tambahan bagi peneliti lain yang ingin menganalisis frasa kata kerja dalam lirik lagu sebagai bagian dari penelitian mereka. Penelitian ini juga bermanfaat bagi mahasiswa yang mempelajari phrasal verb. Terdapat 8 phrasal verb dalam album *Born to Die* milik Lana Del Rey. Jenis yang paling umum digunakan adalah phrasal verb yang bersifat intransitive-inseparable. Berdasarkan data ini, kita dapat mengidentifikasi keberadaan phrasal verb dalam lirik lagu dan membedakan antara phrasal verb dan verb phrase dalam lirik lagu.

Kata Kunci: Lana Del Rey, Phrasal Verbs, Lirik Lagu, Sintaksis

INTRODUCTION

As a social being, humans interact with each other mostly using language. Language is an interaction tool created by the traditions and cultures of the place where it is spoken (Wijaya & Helmie, 2019). It is a well-organized structure with each element playing an essential role and is connected to others (Srijono, 2017). Language is used to express the speaker's thoughts, feelings, and desires. It is important to study language due to errors in language usage often leading to misunderstanding for the listener. The study of language is called linguistics and there are several kinds, including phonetics, morphology, phonology, semantics, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and syntax. A language has several structures at its level, namely morphology (word structure), phonology (sound structure), syntax (phrase structure), and semantics (meaning structure) (Everaert, 2017). The study of syntax in linguistics focuses on how words are put together to produce phrases, clauses, and sentences (Helmie & Susilawati, 2020). Syntax is crucial, since many people have the ability of writing but lack knowledge of correct grammar. This can confuse their readers' understanding. In syntax, we can use tree diagram theories to analyze a sentence. A tree diagram is a tool used for analyzing a phrase by using its fundamental hierarchical structure (Carnie, 2000).

In English, syntax relates phrasal verbs that are used for everyday conversation to formal and informal conversation. A phrasal verb consists of two or three words that work

together to convey a meaning (Mahmoud Abdulmoneim, 2015). It is one of the most challenging subjects for beginner English language learners. This can be due to several reasons. One of them is that, in most cases, phrasal verbs have meanings that cannot be figured out just by looking at it word by word. That is, many phrasal verbs are polysemous when used idiomatically (Helmie, 2015). These verbs are challenging to fully understand because they have several meanings. Phrasal verbs can be found in everyday life, either in written form as in literary works or spoken as in a song. To understand them, students should be familiar with phrasal verbs found in novels, movies, textbooks, songs, and the daily conversations of native English speakers.

There are similar studies that have connections with this research. First, a research written by Daulay, S.H., Dalimunte, M., & Ningrum, D.W entitled *A Syntactical Analysis of Phrases Used in Josh Groban Song Lyrics* (UIN Sumatera Utara, 2021) analyzed phrases using syntax theory. The study, which differs by focusing on phrases, found three categories of sentence structures and phrases using a descriptive qualitative method. Second, Tumanggor, P.A.P., Rahmansyah, H., & Rezki, M. in *An Analysis of English Phrasal Verbs Used in the Lyrics of Elvis Presley's Songs* (Institut Pendidikan Tapanuli Selatan, 2021) analyzed phrasal verbs using Gethins in Kartika (2018) theory. They found 25 adverbial phrasal verbs, mostly fixed in combination, especially in songs like "Are You Lonesome Tonight" and "Suspicious Mind." Third, in *An Analysis of Phrasal Verbs in the Novel Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift* (Suryakencana University, 2020), Kh, G., Helmie, J., & Susilawati, N. used syntax theory to identify 15 transitive and 15 intransitive phrasal verbs, along with varying interpretations, ten different meanings, eight slight variations, and twelve consistent meanings.

Humans sometimes express their feelings through songs, and music genres such as pop, jazz, and rock vary by culture. The focus of this research is on English songs by Lana Del Rey, born with the name Elizabeth Woolridge Grant on June 21, 1985, in New York. Known for her melancholic, poetic lyrics and cinematic sound, her song *Video Games* marked her breakthrough and gained massive popularity. The researcher chose Lana Del Rey's songs due to her lyrical uniqueness and frequent use of phrasal verbs, which may be unfamiliar to many learners. Through this research, phrasal verb usage in her lyrics is analyzed to offer a deeper understanding of their syntactic and semantic structure.

This study centers on analyzing phrasal verbs in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics, aiming to answer two main questions: (1) What types of phrasal verbs are found in Lana Del Rey's lyrics? (2) How are these phrasal verbs constructed syntactically and semantically? The purpose is to determine the categories of phrasal verbs used and explore how their structures contribute to meaning.

RESEARCH METHOD

The study uses a descriptive-qualitative design. A qualitative descriptive method is a helpful approach for analyzing phenomena shared by individuals or groups to find structures and meanings (Thomas, Riggs, & Stothart, 2013). The data of the research is song lyrics of Lana Del Rey's album entitled *Born to Die*. There are 12 songs on the album: *Born To Die*, *Blue Jeans*, *Off To The Race*, *Video Games*, *Carmen*, *Million Dollar Man*, *Dark Paradise*, *Diet Mountain Dew*, *National Anthem*, *Radio*, *Summertime Sadness*, and *This Is What Makes Us Girls* that are accessed on Spotify. The target readers of this research are people or students who want to learn about phrasal verbs, since verbs have different structural patterns. The instrument used in this research is tabulation. Tabulation changes original data into a summarized form to make it easier for analysis (Alberti, 2024).

This research begins with obtaining the song lyrics on Lana Del Rey official account in Spotify followed by highlighting the lines that contain phrasal verbs. After that, a table is prepared to be used to list phrasal verbs, song title, line number, transitive, intransitive, separable, and inseparable. Then, a check mark is given to the phrasal verbs according to their types. Next, a paragraph is made to explain phrasal verbs according to their types. Lastly, a tree diagram is created to illustrate the phrasal verbs in song lyrics that contain phrasal verbs followed by explaining in a paragraph.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A phrasal verb consists of two or three words that work together to convey a meaning (Mahmoud Abdulmoneim, 2015). The meaning of a phrasal verb can not be figured out just by looking at it word by word. That is, many phrasal verbs are polysemous when used idiomatically (Helmie, 2015). Phrasal verbs are divided into four types: separable, inseparable, transitive, and intransitive (Nivika et. al, 2023).

From the result of the analysis, eight phrasal verbs were found in several songs from the *Born to Die* album by Lana Del Rey, such as *caught up*, *pull up*, *open up*, *wake up*, *went out*, *lean in*, *cruising down*, and *walking down*. Each phrasal verb is listed based on the song title and the line number where the phrase appears. In addition, phrasal verbs are grouped based on transitive or intransitive, and whether they can be separated (separable) or not (inseparable). Table 2 explains the variation of phrasal verbs used in songs, as well as understanding the syntactic structure and meaning more easily.

Table 2. Phrasal Verbs, Song Title, Line Number, Transitive, Intransitive, Separable, Inseparable

No.	Phrasal Verbs	Song Title	Line Number	Transitive	Intransitive	Separable	Inseparable
1.	Caught up	Blue Jeans	31		✓		✓
2.	Pull up	Video Games	2		✓		✓
3.	Open up	Video Games	4	✓		✓	
4.	Wake up	Dark Paradise	52		✓		✓
5.	Went out	Blue Jeans	41		✓		✓
6.	Lean in	Video Games	11		✓		✓
7.	Cruising down	Summertime Sadness	23		✓		✓
8.	Walking down	This is What Makes us Girls	6		✓		✓

Based on the list of phrasal verbs that have been collected, the researcher analyzes each phrasal verb syntactically by using a tree diagram. After that, the researcher also explains the semantic meaning of each phrasal verb. Since phrasal verbs carry various meanings, they cannot be translated word for word (Khoerun & Helmie, 2020). Therefore, the findings of the phrasal verb analysis are presented by the researcher with an explanation of each phrasal verb's meaning taken from the song lyrics in the Born to Die album by Lana Del Rey.

Caught Up In The Game
 | | | |
 Caught up in the game

Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "caught up" in the sentence "caught up in the game" derives from the base form "catch up", and in this sentence it is used in the past participle form "caught up". This phrase consists of the verb "caught" and the particle "up", which when combined can form a new meaning. In this structure, the phrasal verb "caught up" is followed by the prepositional phrase "in the game" which describes the situation or context of the place and is not a direct object. Therefore, this phrasal verb belongs to the

intransitive phrasal verb, as it is not followed directly by an object.

In addition, the phrasal verb "caught up" is an inseparable phrasal verb, because the particle "up" cannot be divided from the verb. An object or complement such as "in the game" can not be inserted between 'caught' and "up" without changing the structure or idiomatic meaning. For example, "caught in the game up" is not grammatically correct and the meaning becomes unclear.

Semantically, the verb "caught" literally means "to hold something" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.), and the particle "up" means "upward" or "at a higher level". Therefore "caught up" has a different meaning. It is to become involved in an activity or situation, often unwillingly (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Pull Up In Your Fast Car

| | | | | |
Pull up in your fast car

Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "pull up" in the sentence "pull up in your fast car" is a phrasal verb formed from the verb "pull" and the particle "up". In this sentence, there is no object placed directly after the phrasal verb, but with the prepositional phrase "in your fast car". Therefore, "pull up" in this context is categorized as a phrasal verb that is intransitive because it requires no a direct object.

In addition, the phrasal verb "pull up" in this sentence is an inseparable phrasal verb, because the particle "up" cannot be divided from the verb. We can not place an object between "pull" and "up" without changing the meaning or making the sentence sound weird. The structure of "pull up" must not be separated, so that its meaning can be understood idiomatically.

Semantically, literally, the word "pull" means "to move or hold something" and the word "up" means "upward" or "at a higher level" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "pull up" has a different meaning. It is when a vehicle or its driver pulls up, it stops (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Open Up A Beer
 | | | |
 Open up a beer

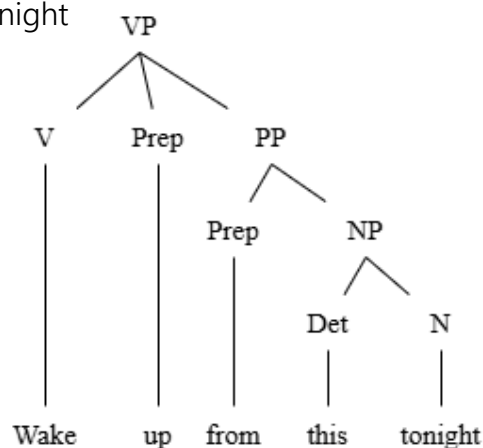
Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "open up" in the sentence "open up a beer" is a phrasal verb that includes the main verb "open" as well as the particle "up". In this sentence, the phrasal verb is immediately followed by a direct object "a beer". Therefore, the phrasal verb "open up" in this context belongs to a transitive phrasal verb.

In addition, the phrasal verb "open up" is also a separable phrasal verb, which means that the particle "up" can be separated from the verb "open" and the object can be placed between them. For example, we can say "open a beer up" and the meaning does not change. This shows that the object might be positioned between the particle and the verb. So, the phrasal verb "open up" in this context is separable.

In terms of semantic, the phrase "open up" includes the verb "open" which denotes moving a door, window, or lid so that something can pass through or be seen (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press. n.d.). Additionally, the adverb "up" denotes to or at a higher level (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press. n.d.). Therefore "open up" has a similar meaning. It is to open something completely, or to open something that is usually kept closed (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Wake Up From This Tonight



Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "wake up" in the sentence "wake up from this tonight" is a phrasal verb that is composed of the verb "wake" and the particle "up". In this sentence, the phrase is not immediately followed by an object, but with the prepositional

phrase "from this tonight". Therefore, this phrasal verb is classified as an intransitive phrasal verb since it without a direct object.

The phrase "wake up" is also a phrasal verb that is inseparable, since the particle "up" cannot be separated from the verb. We can not insert an object between "wake" and "up" because the meaning will be hard to understand and the grammar will not be appropriate. In the context of this sentence, the structure of "wake up" can not be separated as a unit of meaning, so it is classified as inseparable.

Semantically, the word "wake" means "to stop sleeping" and "up" means "upward" or "at a higher level" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "wake up" has a similar meaning. It is to stop sleeping, or to make someone stop sleeping (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Went Out Every Night
| | | |
Went out every night

Analysis:

Syntactically, the phrasal verb "went out" in the sentence "went out every night" is a phrasal verb that is made up of the past tense of the verb "go", which is "went", and the particle "out". In this sentence, the phrase is not immediately followed by an object, but with the time description "every night". Therefore, "went out" is a phrasal verb that is intransitive because the object is not directly.

The phrase "went out" is also classified as an inseparable phrasal verb, because the particle 'out' cannot be divided from the verb "went". We can not insert an object between "went" and "out", as this will change the meaning structure.

Semantically, "went" literally means "move to another place or leave" and "out" means "going out from the inside" or "through to the outside" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "went out" has a similar meaning. It is to leave a place, especially in order to do something (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Lean In For A Big Kiss
| | | | | |
Lean in for a big kiss

Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "lean in" in the sentence "lean in for a big kiss" is a phrasal verb made up of the verb "lean" and the particle "in". In this sentence, the phrasal verb "lean in" is followed by the prepositional phrase "for a big kiss" which is not the direct object. Therefore, "lean in" is considered a phrasal verb that is intransitive because it lacks a direct object.

The phrasal verb "lean in" is also classified as an inseparable phrasal verb, because the particle "in" cannot be divided from the verb "lean". We can not insert an object between "lean" and "in" without changing the structure or meaning of the phrase.

Semantically, "lean" literally means "move to a sloping position", and "in" means "into" or "toward" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "lean in" has a similar meaning. It is to move your body closer to someone or something (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Cruising Down The Coast
| | | |
Cruising down the coast

Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "cruising down" in the sentence "cruising down the coast" is a phrasal verb made up of the verb "cruise" and the particle "down". The phrasal verb "cruising down" here is not immediately followed by an object, but with the prepositional phrase "the coast" which functions as a location indicator, not as an object. Therefore, "cruising down" is a phrasal verb that is intransitive because it lacks a direct object.

The phrasal verb "cruising down" is also classified as a phrasal verb that cannot be separated, according to the particle "down" cannot be separated from the verb "cruise". We can not insert an object between "cruise" and "down" because it will change the meaning of the phrase.

Semantically, the verb "cruise" literally means "to drive along slowly" or "to travel in a ship or boat" and "down" means "towards" or "in a lower level" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "cruising down" has a similar meaning. It involves moving in a particular direction, often slowly and in a relaxed way (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

Walking Down The Streets
| | | |
Walking down the streets

Analysis:

In terms of syntax, the phrasal verb "walking down" in the sentence "walking down the streets" is a phrasal verb formed from the verb "walk" and the particle "down". This phrase is followed by the prepositional phrase "the streets" which indicates location, not the direct object of the action. Therefore, "walking down" is considered a phrasal verb that is intransitive as it lacks a direct object.

The phrasal verb "walking down" is also classified as a phrasal verb which is inseparable because the particle "down" cannot be separated from the verb "walk" without changing its meaning or making it structurally inappropriate. So, we can not insert an object between "walk" and "down".

Semantically, the verb "walk" literally means "to move somewhere on foot" and "down" means "towards" or "at a lower level" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press, n.d.). Therefore "walking down" has a similar meaning. It involves following a path or street, often descending slightly (Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. n.d.).

CONCLUSIONS

According to the analysis of the data, eight phrasal verbs were discovered in the song lyrics from the Born to Die album, which served as the source of the data. The particles forming these phrasal verbs include up, out, in, and down. Syntactically, the phrasal verbs were analyzed based on whether they were transitive (it has a direct object) or intransitive (it lacks a direct object), and also whether they were separable or inseparable. A more detailed explanation of this analysis, including tree diagrams, can be provided within the context of the paragraphs. From this, 1 transitive phrasal verb was found, while 7 were categorized as intransitive. Furthermore, 1 phrasal verb was found to be separable, and 7 being inseparable. Semantically, the phrasal verbs' meanings were divided into two groups: 2 with different meanings and 6 with similar meaning to their base verbs. The contextual meaning of each phrasal verb within the song lyrics was important for clear interpretation. Therefore, this data indicates the usage of phrasal verbs in song lyrics, emphasizing how crucial it is to

recognize the distinction between phrasal verbs and verb phrases in such contexts.

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