

An Analysis of Grammatical Error in Justin Bieber's Song Lyrics

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ABSTRACT

A language is a communication tool used by every human being in everyday life. People used their language to communicate with each other to help deliver the information. Meanwhile, Indonesians lack grammar, especially to studying from unreliable sources, such as listening to songs. This research is trying to analyze the grammatical error in Justin Bieber's song lyrics and identify the most frequent type of errors found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. This is descriptive qualitative research and the data instrument used in this research is data analysis. The result shows that there were three types of grammatical errors contained in Justin Bieber's song lyrics, such as Subject-Verb Agreement, Indefinite Pronouns, and Prepositions. The grammatical error contains 7 grammatical errors found in the subject-verb agreement, 5 grammatical errors found in the Indefinite Pronouns, and 1 grammatical error found in the preposition. However, the subject-verb agreement is the most frequent grammatical error used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics.

Keywords: Grammatical Error, Justin Bieber's Songs, Lyrics.

INTRODUCTION

A language is a communication tool used by every human being in everyday life. People used their language to communicate with each other to help deliver the information. Language has an important role either as a mother tongue or as a foreign language, even as an international language. English is used as a foreign language in Indonesia although most Indonesians still use Indonesian or their mother tongue as a means of daily communication (Anjarani & Indahwati, 2019). Hence, Indonesians still have misunderstandings about the English language of grammar.

Grammar is viewed as the most crucial aspect of language learning for second language learners (Singh, et al., 2017). Grammar is a fundamental knowledge must have to understand the structure of the words. Anjarani and Indahwati (2019) said that learning a language without understanding grammar can cause some problems with English fluency. English has a lot of grammar elements, including article, part of speech, tense, etc. Grammar error is a term used in normative grammar that describes instances of incorrect, unconventional, or controversial usage such as misplaced modifiers or improper tenses of verbs. Also known as a usage error. Compare accuracy with syntax errors (Nordquist, 2020).

Meanwhile, Indonesians lack grammar, especially to studying from unreliable sources, such as listening to songs. Uktolseja said that the song is very often used as a source of learning English because it has meaningful lyrics and interesting tones. When Indonesians as learners of English which is a foreign language in their country, learn English using the technique of listening to songs whose lyrics are not grammatically correct, it will have a fatal impact on the student's development both orally and in writing (2020). Language development will be less appropriate if used in the future if people learn from unreliable sources.

The song is now very impersonal because people generally like to hear it (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). Everyone must have a playlist that they often listen to, even their favorite singers. A songwriter and singer, who's a non-native English, often make grammatical mistakes in English. Grammatical errors in songs: Songwriters frequently make grammatical flaws in their song lyrics in an objective to elicit the desired response. According to a study with unreliable sources, such as songs, definitely in their lyrics have many errors. Because to create the lyrics, the writer needs rhyme to produce the song be aesthetic. If the error is not fixed, the error will recur in both spoken and written English (Uktolseja, 2020).

This study is intended to answer the following questions:

1. What were the grammatical errors found in Justin Bieber's songs?
2. What is the most frequent type of error found in the songs?

The aims of this research:

1. To analyze the grammatical error in Justin Bieber's songs.
2. To identify the most frequent type of errors found in Justin Bieber's songs.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research tends to use non-numerical data and focuses on the semantic formation (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). Nasajji (2015), said that the goal of descriptive research is to explain the phenomenon and its characteristics. This

research is not about how or why, but about what happened. Sandelowski (2000) states that qualitative descriptive design is usually an eclectic but wise combination of sampling and data acquisition, analysis, and presentation techniques. If you need a direct description of the phenomenon, qualitative descriptive research is the best option.

The instrument of this research is data analysis. Sandelowski (2000) stated that qualitative content analysis is the analysis strategy of choice in qualitative descriptive studies. Qualitative content analysis is a dynamic form of analysis of verbal and visual data that is oriented toward summarizing the informational contents of that data (Morgan, 1993).

Finally, this research is conducted in the following steps:

1. Identify, the researcher find some grammatical errors in Justin Bieber's Songs lyrics.
2. Classification, the researcher classified the data through grammar.
3. Explanation, the researcher explains the error in the lyrics and fixes the lyrics.
4. Conclude, the researcher concludes the answers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are some grammatical errors found in Justin Bieber's Songs lyrics. However, the table result below will be listed by the types of grammar, the title of Justin Bieber's songs, and show the lyrics. At the end of the table, there will be some explanations for the error in the lyrics. The result of the analysis is as follows.

Types of Grammar	Titles of The Songs	Lyrics	Fixed Lyrics	
Subject-Verb Agreement	Love yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● My mama <u>don't</u> like you and she likes everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● My mama doesn't like you and she likes everyone 	
	One Less Lonely Girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How many tears (<u>you let hit</u>) the floor? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How many tears (do you let hit) the floor? 	
	Confident		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I think <u>she foreign</u>, got passports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I think she is foreign, got passports
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● And <u>she love</u> to earn the verb, I mean burn the word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● And she loves to earn the verb, I mean burn the word
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>She never forget</u> to ride like a bicycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● She never forgets to ride like a bicycle
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>She say</u> "I know, honey bunny that's a funny thing" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● She says "I know, honey bunny that's a funny thing"

	I Don't Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We at a party</i> we don't wanna be at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are at a party we don't wanna be at
Indefinite Pronoun	Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know that <i>I can't find nobody</i> else as good as you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know that I can't find anybody else as good as you • I know that I can find nobody else as good as you
	Intentions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that you <i>don't need no</i> mentions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that you don't need any mentions • Make sure that you need no mentions
	Baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Don't need no</i> Starbucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't need any Starbucks
	Stuck with You	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can't fight this no</i> more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can fight this no more
	I Don't Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I don't like nobody</i> but you, it's like you're the only one here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't like anybody but you, it's like you're the only one here
Preposition	Confident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can tell by the way she walks <i>in</i> the room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can tell by the way she walks into the room

On the table above, there are some grammatical errors found in Justin Bieber's Songs Lyric. There are 3 types of grammar found in the error in Justin Bieber's Songs Lyrics:

1. Subject-Verb Agreement

According to Svartvik & Sager (as cited in Hidayatullah, *et. al.*, 2017) state that the subject-verb agreement demands that a subject in the singular is followed by a finite verb in the singular and that a subject in the plural is followed by a finite verb in the plural. In Justin Bieber's song lyrics, there are found some grammatical errors in subject-verb agreement:

a. Love yourself

"My mama *don't* like you and she likes everyone"

Mama is the third singular person, but the songwriter used "My mama *don't*". Thus, the correct lyric it's should be "My mama *doesn't* like you and she likes everyone".

b. One less lonely girl

“How many tears (you let hit) the floor?”

The lyric above shows to the listener an interrogative sentence in the part “(you let hit) the floor?” The songwriter doesn’t use the verb “do” in the lyric. Thus, the correct lyric it’s should be “How many tears (*do you let hit*) *the floor?*”.

c. Confident

“I think she foreign, got passports”

The word “she” is the third singular person. Therefore, the correct lyrics should be “I think *she is foreign*, got passports”. But the songwriter forget about the verb “is” in the lyric.

“and she love to earn the verb, I mean burn the word”

“She never forget to ride like a bicycle”

“She say "I know, honey bunny that's a funny thing"

In the lyrics above, the songwriter indicates the third person singular doing something (the verb). But the songwriter forgot to add an s after the verb. In the subject-verb agreement, the third person singular when added to the verb must be added to s or es. Therefore, the above lyric should be “and *she loves* to earn the verb, I mean burn the word”, “*She never forgets* to ride like a bicycle”, “*She says* "I know, honey bunny that's a funny thing".

d. I don’t care

“We at a party we don't wanna be at”

The word “We” is the first singular person. So, in the third singular person should be adding the verb “are”. But the songwriter doesn’t add the verb at the lyric. Thus, the correct lyric should be “*We are at a party* we don't wanna be at”.

2. Indefinite Pronoun

Kris Amerikos (2020) in his website stated that indefinite pronouns are pronouns that no one specifically refers to. Words such as "any, every, some, no" usually form a singular indefinite pronoun. According to Vika in her video “Indefinite Pronoun”, she reports the use of indefinite pronouns. For instance, the word “some” is can only be used in positive sentences, “any” is can be used in negative and interrogative sentences, and the word “no” is can be used in positive sentences but the meaning of the sentences becomes negative, and the last is the word “every”, it is a special type of indefinite pronoun because it can be used in positive, negative, or interrogative sentences. This is important to know about indefinite pronouns. Thus, the errors in song lyrics in Justin Bieber were found as follows:

a. Stay

“I know that I can’t find nobody else as good as you”

The lyric above is the error lyric, because the songwriter used the negative sentence (I can’t find) and the indefinite pronoun “nobody” in a sentence. However, if the songwriter used the negative sentence in a lyric, the correct

lyric should be *“I know that I can’t find anybody else as good as you”*. If the songwriter used the positive sentence in a lyric, the correct lyric should be *“I know that I can find nobody else as good as you”*.

b. Intentions

“Make sure that you don’t need no mentions”

The lyric above shows a negative sentence, but the songwriter combines it with the word “no” in an indefinite pronoun. The researcher found the correct lyric, it should be *“Make sure that you don’t need any mentions”* or *“Make sure that you need no mentions”*.

c. Baby

“Don’t need no Starbucks”

This case is the same with the lyric *“Make sure that you don’t need no mentions”*. The songwriter was confused about the lyrics. Thus, the correct lyric should be *“Don’t need any Starbucks”*.

d. Stuck with you

“Can’t fight this no more”

In the lyric above shows the negative sentences because there is a word “Can’t” in the lyric. However, the songwriter used the type of indefinite pronoun “No”. Thus, the correct lyric is should be *“Can fight this no more”*.

e. I don’t care

“I don’t like nobody but you, it’s like you’re the only one here”

The lyric above is the last error lyric in the types of indefinite pronoun. The songwriter used the negative sentence “Don’t” combine with “Nobody”. That is an error lyric used in the song “I don’t care”. Thus, the correct lyric should be *“I don’t like anybody but you, it’s like you’re the only one here”*.

3. Preposition

Preposition is one of the parts of speech in English. Ross said that prepositions indicate relationships between other words in a sentence. Many prepositions tell where something is or when something happened (2021). In this case, the error of the lyric is about the use of “In” and “Into”. “In” means a preposition used to represent the state when an object is in something. Simply put, “In” is used to indicate that a place or enclosed area is contained. When someone or something comes in from the outside, we use the word “Into” Surbhi (2018). In this study, the researcher found only one lyric in one of Justin Bieber’s songs.

a. Confident

“You can tell by the way she walks in the room”

The songwriter writes that *“She walks in the room”*. In the sentence, there is a movement from the outside to the inside (room). Thus, the correct lyric should be *“You can tell by the way she walks into the room”*.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data in the discussion part above, it was found that there were three types of grammatical errors contained in Justin Bieber's song lyrics, such as Subject-Verb Agreement, Indefinite Pronouns, and Prepositions. The grammatical error contains 7 grammatical errors found in the subject-verb agreement, 5 grammatical errors found in the Indefinite Pronouns, and 1 grammatical error found in the preposition. However, the subject-verb agreement is the most frequent grammatical error used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. Learners of English need to be aware that musicians may use non-grammatical phrases in their songs to adjust the rhyme of the songs. From this, it can be concluded that grammar is still a matter of the learning process, and even native speakers sometimes used non-grammatical words and sentences to add aesthetic value to their masterpieces. Otherwise, it will be a problem the next day. English learners need to know what is happening. In particular, you should monitor this error analysis, and to prevent future problems. Because of this surface recognition, language learners do not accept what they have just heard and always use it without knowing the truth. This is important to avoid chaining grammatical errors.

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