Grammatical Error in Tiffany Young's Songs

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ABSTRACT

One of the languages that human beings need in order to communicate with the others is the English language. Learning the English language can be taught through songs. However, the learners need to be more careful because the grammar in songs is not always correct. Because of its incorrectness, the researchers of this research decide to choose Tiffany Young's songs as some of her songs that contain grammatical errors. This research is designed in the descriptive qualitative because the data sources are written in the lyrics. The aim of this study is to find the grammatical errors in Tiffany Young's songs. From the analysis, the researchers have found sixteen data that consist of grammatical errors. As the result, researchers confirm that there are grammatical errors in Tiffany Young's English song lyrics in the form of article noun, negative predicate, auxiliary verb, and three kinds of tenses which are simple future tense, present perfect, and simple present tense.

Key words: English Language; Grammatical Errors; Song Lyrics.

INTRODUCTION

The human beings are part of social beings that need to interact with one another in order to survive and thrive. Therefore, it seems impossible for human beings to live alone without interacting with the others as humans rely on cooperation. To communicate with the others, what human beings need is language. One of the languages that have been spoken by people around the world is English. According to Bryson (2009) whether humans like it or not, English is the world's leading language, the language of business, science, education, politics, and popular culture. The English language has become the common tongue among non-English speakers everywhere. As a conclusion, there is no doubt that English is one of the greatest growth industries in the world. Bryson (2009) also states that there are more than 300 million people in the world who speak English, and the rest try to learn it.

In the process of learning the English language, there are three important parts that need to be learnt, they are speaking, writing, and listening. However, grammar is

the basis for all written and spoken English. There are various formulas and terms that must be considered to compose sentences with the correct grammar. In its simplest form, grammar can be defined as a language that is used to talk about another language. Grammar is also defined as the abstract sets of rules that explain a person's mastery of their native language, according to Dykes (2007). Despite its endless variety, English grammar is perplexing because of its endless versatility. However, the ability to communicate effectively depends on a good understanding of grammar.

There are many ways that have been provided in learning the English language in order to make it more fun and easy. According to Hancock (1999) grammatical, vocabulary, and pronunciation lessons can be taught through songs. Pop culture and music in general have greatly influenced our society today, which enables music to be used not only as a means of entertainment, but also for learning foreign languages, especially English. The reason why listening to songs can be said as an alternative method of learning the English language is because it does not seem to make the learners feel the boredom. However, the learners need to be more careful because the grammar in songs is not always correct. The grammar in songs may appear perfectly correct to a listener who does not have an advanced level of English when in fact there are songs that contain several incorrect grammar.

The grammatical errors can easily be found in lyrics and it is caused by a variety of factors. One of the factors is because sometimes the words are simply inserted for rhyme or melody purposes, but they are also often inserted for aesthetic reasons. However, the lyrics might unintentionally influence non-native speakers who may assume that songs have correct grammar and subconsciously adopt the incorrect forms into their everyday language. Still, the learners need to follow the grammar outline of the English language because the grammar outline explains about the medium and convention in order to make the learners skilled in both writing and speaking. The learners will be just fine as long as the learners adhere to follow the rules of grammar and the rules for using a specific type of grammar. (Bradach, 2020)

One of the song-writers whose songs the researcher interested in analyzing is Tiffany Young. Tiffany Young is one of the members of South Korea's biggest girl-group named Girls' Generation. Besides being a member of Girls' Generation, Tiffany also works a soloist. She has released one Korean mini-album, one English mini-album, and several singles. The researcher finds that some of Tiffany Young's English songs have violated the grammar rules. This research aims to analyze the types of grammatical errors in Tiffany Young's songs. The study will apply descriptive qualitative as its approach as the chosen data are from Tiffany Young's English songs which lyrics have been put into words.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Related Study

In order to find some references for doing the analysis, some previous studies were taken by the researchers as the inspiration. The first research was taken from Nurchaerani et al. (2020) that analyzes about the grammatical error as the object of doing the analysis. The data sources were taken from ten songs that were released from 2010 up until 2020. The aim of making this study is to found and analyze the grammatical error that occurs in the data sources. In the process of making this research, the researchers took descriptive qualitative theory as the method for collecting and analyzing the data sources. As the result, the researchers discover that there are some grammatical errors in the main verbs usage and the incorrectness in the using of past tense. Therefore, the researchers conclude that there are lacks of considerations by singers in the usage of grammar while writing a song.

Grammatical analysis also can be found from Telaumbanua (2021) that discusses about grammatical and lexical cohesion. The data sources in this research was taken from Ed Sheeran's song lyrics from the album entitled "Plus." The purpose of doing this research is to find the grammatical and lexical cohesion that occur in the data source. The researcher took the theory of grammatical and lexical cohesion from Halliday and Hasan's in order to analyze the data. The researcher classified this research into qualitative research by using the descriptive method as the approach for doing the analysis. The result of this analysis shows there are dominations of grammatical cohesion more than the lexical cohesion. In addition, the researcher also suggests the readers to give more attention in the usage of grammatical and lexical cohesion to avoid mistakes.

Besides of the two previous researches above, the researchers also took the research that was done by Halawa et al. (2022) as the other reference as the inspiration for doing the analysis. The research that was taken by the researchers consist the analysis of the grammatical deviation types. The data sources in this analysis were taken from Rich Brian's song lyrics which are *Dat Stick, Who that be, and Glow Like That*. The purpose of making this research is to give the understanding to the readers about the types of grammatical deviation. In doing the analysis, descriptive qualitative theory and descriptive approach were taken as the methods for completing the research. As the conclusion, the researchers conclude that the deviation of omission process was mostly occurred can be found in the main verb and modal auxiliary. Therefore, the researchers also suggest to the reader to improve their knowledge in the understanding of deviation types in English.

Grammatical Errors

Despite its quirks, English is a difficult language to learn. When the word hot is used, it may refer to the temperature in the room, the temperature of the food, the spice level in the food, or someone who just walked in front of us. English grammar can also be spoken in a more formal setting. However, there is a substantial

difference between the English grammar used by the original English speakers and what is used now. People from different places on the map moved into certain area, bringing their unique languages with them, and the actual language developed out of a mixture of many other languages. History played a part in shaping English grammar as humans know it today. (Bradach, 2020)

Understanding the English grammatical rules is very helpful for speaking and writing English effectively. Moreover, grammar rules explain how to use words and sentences in a way that is consistently recognized as being grammatically sound (Bradach, 2020). Bradach (2020) also adds that grammar rules are just rules that provide instructions on how to use a particular language in speaking and writing. However, despite its popularity, the English grammar is quite complicated. For example, the grammatical rules do not apply merely to the words of the language; they also apply to punctuation, innovative use of words, word meanings, and using them in the right context. Understanding the rules of grammar will be helpful to communicate with one another. (Bradach, 2020)

For centuries, the grammar of the English language has been developing and changing. Hence, some people still include grammatical error in writing, even for the native speakers themselves. Grammatical error, in general, is defined as a term used to describe a sentence that violates one or more of the grammar rules. According to Bradach (2020) the improper grammar usage affects the written words. Therefore, using the correct grammar for writing purpose is needed. Bradach (2020) states that when everyone follows the rules for using words and constructing phrases and sentences, they can speak and write in a way that others will understand and enjoy. It is important to understand the difference of each grammar components and their main purposes in order to be skilled in both writing and speaking.

Grammar Teaching through Songs

The world nowadays has been influenced by the music culture in all aspects of the humans live to entertain. Besides, music can also be used as an alternative tool to learn a foreign language, especially English. Teaching English to children or adults can be challenging because of the difficulty of keeping learners' attention throughout the lesson. Songs are considered as a great method of teaching tool because they are universally appealing and connect to the cultures and languages. According to Hancock (1999) grammatical, vocabulary, and pronunciation lessons can be taught through songs. In other words, the learners can increase their vocabulary in some way by listening to songs.

METHOD

Design and Samples

This research is designed in descriptive qualitative method. According to Creswell (2014) descriptive qualitative method is defined as an understanding of an issue through words and phrases. The reason why the descriptive qualitative is the

method that is applied for this research is because the data source are chosen from Tiffany Young's English song lyrics.

Instrument and Procedure

Creswell (2014) stated that instrument is useful as the tool that can be used or able to be modified in making the research. In making this research, the researchers take texts that represent the data sources as the analysis instrument. The procedures of collecting the data in this research are using observational method from Sugiyono's theory. Sugiyono (2012) has stated that observational method is not only limited to people's communication. In contrast, it can also be applied to the others. The researchers read the texts of Tiffany Young's album lyrics that were collected as the data sources that will be analyzed in order to find the research instrument.

Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the researcher took qualitative data analysis process theory from Creswell (2014) that stated data analysis as the process of describing the result analysis based on the meaning divided the process of doing the analysis into 5 parts, which are:

1) Preparing all of the data
    In this part, the researchers prepare the data sources, which are in a form of texts that consists the lyrics of Tiffany Young's Songs.

2) Collect all of the data
    In this part, the researchers listen to she chosen songs and read all the lyrics in order to find the incorrect grammar from the lines which will be analyzed later.

3) Organizing all of the data
    The researchers write down the data source that consist incorrect grammar that have been found.

4) Describing the data analysis
    In this part, the researchers collect the description of the data analysis by describing the correction to the grammar mistakes that have been found in the data sources.

5) Concluding the result of the analysis
    In this part, the researchers conclude the analysis based on the findings of the grammatical errors that have been found in Tiffany Young's song lyrics.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Article-Noun Agreement

1. *Right by your side when you need attention.*

   This is the lyrics from the song "The Flower" which was released in 2019. The noun attention is the singular noun of attentions. The lyric above is incorrect because it needs an article before the noun. The article that should be added before the noun is *an*. Therefore, the correct one should be, *"Right by your side when you need an attention."*

2. Makeup don't really fix a thing.

   This is the lyrics from the song "Not Barbie" which was released in 2019. The correct verb should be *doesn't* instead of ~~don't~~ because makeup is singular–which means there is only one cosmetic. Doesn't is used for singular noun while don't is used for plural noun. Therefore, the correct one should be, *"Makeup does not really fix a thing."*

3. *Take me in like coffee keep you wide awake.*

   This is the lyrics from the song "Not Barbie" which was released in 2019. The noun coffee is singular and it needs *a* as the article. A little addition if there is only one noun, it needs to add either *–s or –es* to the verb. Therefore, the correct one should be, *"Take me in like a coffee keeps you wide awake."*

   Simple Future Tense

1. *I'll get it working.*

   This is the lyrics from the song "Not Barbie" which was released in 2019. The lyric above contains simple future tense. The correct formula of simple future tense is **will/shall** + **subject** + **verb one**. However, adding *working* is incorrect because working is not the first verb. It needs to add work as the verb one. Therefore correct one should be, *"I'll get it work."*

2. *I'll get it floating.*

   This is the lyrics from the song "Not Barbie" which was released in 2019. The lyric above contains simple future tense. The correct formula of simple future tense is **will/shall** + **subject** + **verb one**. However, adding *floating* is incorrect because *floating* is not the first verb. It needs to add *float* as the verb one. Therefore, the correct one should be, *"I'll get it float."*

   Negative Predicate

1. *Boy they don't know nothing.*

In subject-predicate construction, there can be only one negative word. As what can be seen in the lyric above, both *don't* and *nothing* contain negative meanings so, the word nothing needs to be changed. Therefore, the correct one should be, "*Boy they don't know anything.*"

Auxiliary Verb

1. *Baby you gon learn.*

   This is the lyrics from the song "Teach You" which was released in 2018. The lyric above uses present continuous as the tense that can be seen from the word *gon* as the abbreviation of *going to*. As the result, the lyrics above should use the auxiliary verb *are* as the the connectivity to the subject *you*. Therefore, the correct one should be, "*Baby, you're gon learn.*"

2. *They hating cause I'm into you.*
   This is the lyric from the song "Runaway" which was released in 2019. The lyric above consists of verb-ing that refers to the present continuous tense. The lyrics above should use the auxiliary verb *are* in order to have correct grammar. Therefore, the correct one should be, "*They are hating cause I'm into you.*"

3. *I don't wanna waste another day with you away from me.*

   This is the lyric from the song "Runaway" which was released in 2019. The lyric above should use the auxiliary verb *are* that refers to simple present tense by using nominal sentence in order to complete the subject *you*. Therefore, the correct should be, "*I don't wanna waste another day with you are away from me.*"

4. *Boy it don't matter what they say about you.*

   This is the lyric from the song "Runaway" which was released in 2019. The lyric above should use the auxiliary verb does not because the noun it means singular. Therefore, the correct should be, "*Boy it does not matter what they say about you.*"

Present Perfect Tense

1. *Show me where it's broke.*

   This is the lyric from the song "The Flower" which was released in 2019. The lyric above contains present perfect tense. The correct formula of present perfect tense is **have/has + past participle.** However, adding *it's broke* because *broke* is not the past participle. Therefore, the correct one should be, "*Show me where it's broken.*"

Simple Present Tense

1. *'Tis the season bring you joy.*

   This is the lyric from the song "Peppermint" which was released in 2018. The lyric above contains simple present tense. The correct formula of present perfect tense is **subject** + **verb one** + **object**. The lyric above should add *-s* in the verb in order to make the lyric correct because the object *the season* is singular. Therefore, the correct one should be, *"'Tis the season brings you joy."*

2. *Passion, pleasure, pain, it all feels the same.*

   This is the lyric from the song "Born Again" which was released in 2018. The lyric above contains simple present tense. The correct formula of present perfect tense is **subject** + **verb one** + **object.** *Passion, pleasure, pain* are plural. However, the verb *feels* should be changed to *feel* because plural is followed by the verb one (without neither –s nor –es). Therefore, the correct one should be, *"Passion, pleasure, pain, they all feel the same."*

CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis shows that there are sixteen findings of the data sources that consist of grammatical errors in Tiffany Young's English song lyrics. Those data are categorized into six forms. The result of the analysis shows the form of article noun agreement that consists of three data, negative predicate that consists of one data, auxiliary verb that consists of four data, and three kinds of tenses which are simple future tense that consists of two data, present perfect tense that consists of one data, and simple present tense that consists of two data. As the result, researchers have concluded that the most dominant errors occur in the form of auxiliary verb. In addition, the researchers have found that the singer used incorrect grammar in order to add its aesthetic and value to the music.

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