GRAMMATICAL ERRORS IN INDONESIAN'S SONGS WITH ENGLISH LYRICS WITHIN PERIOD 2020-2021

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Abstract

This research purposed to scrutinize grammatical errors in 2020-2021 Indonesian's songs with English lyrics. The theoretical part focused on the music style, characteristics, and structure of the lyrics. The practical part examined the content and form of the lyrics. There were three songs used in the research: [1] It's Only Me by Kaleb J; [2] Fine Today by Ardhito Pramono; [3] and Flying Solo by Pamungkas. In collecting the data, the researcher used descriptive-qualitative method. The main theory used in the study was the theory by Fenetta (2016). We found that mistake in the song "It's Only Me" was the omission of linking verb and verb error. Grammatical errors also found in the songs of "Fine Today" and "Flying Solo". We found grammatical error in the Fine Today's lyrics that indicated omission of the connecting verb as well as making an error of preposition and a verb, while Pamungkas made a grammatical error in the song by choosing the wrong subject and pronoun. The error of verb dominated the songs' lyrics being analyzed.. Meanwhile, other kinds of error do occur in the lyrics, but the error of verb is the most likely to occur compared to other types of error.

Keywords: Grammatical errors, Indonesian songs, lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool used by everyone in their daily life as a means to convey information and arguments to others. "Language is not only a medium for communicating information but it is also a medium for establishing and maintaining relationship with one and each other" (Trudgill, 2000, p.1). Language is a tool that people use to help them form relationships with others. Language is such a special topic that it has its own academic discipline, linguistics. Linguistics takes an objective approach to language, employing the scientific method and rigorous study to develop hypotheses about how people learn, use, and abuse language.

The study of the human capacity to communicate and organize cognition using various tools such as the vocal tract for spoken languages, hands for sign languages, and involving various abstract and tactile components is known as linguistics. The study of morphology, syntax, phonetics, and semantics are all included in the field of linguistics. The style of language used in linguistics varies. In a language, style is a distinct way of expressing oneself through the physical shape of the medium. In other terms, a language's style is a statement that stands out from the others. When it comes to conveying information to others, everyone has their unique language style.

English is the world's most widely spoken language. One of the most dominant scenes where people get into contact with it is, without any doubts, the music industry" (Biganičová, 2020). In Indonesia, it is usual for Indonesian singers to perform their own songs, either created by themselves or other song writers. However, in order to get the intended impression in their song, song writers may break several language standards. Songwriters purposefully make grammatical errors in their lyrics. However, the reason for the grammatical problem in an Indonesian song with an English lyric remains unknown. The purpose of this study is to look at grammatical errors in Indonesian songs with English lyrics (the singers are Indonesian people). The sound, structure, and meaning system of language is known as grammar.

Grammar is defined as a method for forecasting an ideal speaker's or hearer's knowledge of a language in a methodical fashion. Grammar is one of the most crucial components of writing. It is critical for everyone to write in a structured and grammatically correct manner. Both verbal and written communication are built on the foundation of grammar. When a message is presented with proper grammar, it is easier to understand its purpose and meaning ("Articles on Language," n.d.). Grammar is an uncountable noun that describes "the rules in a language for modifying the shape of words and connecting them into sentences," according to the online Oxford Learner's Dictionary (2020). Other authors

write those linguists define grammar as the set of fundamental rules effecting the system of how the sentences, phrases and clauses are built in any specific language (Babu & Kumar, 2020). Hence, we can assume proper grammar comprehension a quintessence of mastering any language.

"Grammar is the structured study and representation of a language, and it helps to understand how words and their component parts combine to form sentences" (Babu & Kumar 2020, p. 450). We can relate it to the cement needed to glue bricks together — we can lay several layers of bricks, but without anything to hold them together, the wall will collapse. The same may be said of grammar. Even if you have a large vocabulary, you won't be able to construct a proper sentence unless you know how to utilize grammar correctly. The study's goal is to look for grammatical mistakes in 2020 Indonesian songs with English lyrics. Several Indonesian songs with English lyrics have this grammatical problem. The researcher will discuss and examine the faults in great detail.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

This research background from the researcher's intention is to educate songwriters and vocalists about the necessity of utilizing proper English language and grammar. Language, according to Rabiah (2018), is defined as a tool for interacting or common a sense, as a means of conveying thoughts, ideas, concepts, or even a feeling. In other words, language is a medium for everyone in order to communicate. Through language, people can deliver thoughts and ideas with each other. Trudgill (2001) has stated that language isn't merely a medium in order to communicate information, but it's also a medium through which people are able to maintain their relationship with other people.

Language can be learnt deeply by utilizing a scientific study of language which allows people to scrutinize language which is known as linguistics. Finegan (2012) explains that linguistics is a systematic inquiry into the language of human beings.

Linguistics is also known as a scientific study of language. Moreover, there are also different styles of language. For example, the style of language in a play gives direct references to the phenomenon in the world. Meanwhile, in poetry, the language style represents the phenomenon in the real world by using figurative language. In this sense, the language style itself can be scrutinized by using linguistics.

A branch of linguistics that learns about the language style is known as stylistics. As a study of style, linguistics can be understood as the analysis of different expressions in language as well as the descriptions of its effects and purposes (Verdonk, 2002, p. 4). In order to understand the style of language, Verdonk also states that there are three crucial matters that need to be understood. First, it needs to be asked what makes the expressions different. Second, why it's devised, and lastly, what the effects are (p.3). In this study, the researchers use the approach of stylistics.

Language, on the other hand, not only has a definition, but it also has a purpose. Language is primarily used to communicate, but it also serves other purposes. One of the functions of language is to provide entertainment; it also allows individuals to communicate information. Song is an entertainment that is very near to human existence in terms of amusement and enjoyment. Songs have evolved into universal entertainment in modern times. A person's exhaustion can be relieved by listening to or singing a song. In this view, language is a medium for conveying the message or meaning of the message contained in the lyrics, as a song is a composition consisting of words and music. Because grammar is the structure, sound, and meaning system of language, it is the most crucial aspect of language and communication.

Grammar is typically characterized as a method of determining a speaker's or listener's optimum language understanding. Grammar is crucial in language and communication since it is the cornerstone of our ability to communicate ourselves because it names the many types of words and word groups that make up sentences. A songwriter and vocalist, for example, who is not a native English speaker, frequently makes grammatical errors in English. Grammatical errors in songs: Song writers frequently make grammatical flaws in their song lyrics on purpose in order to elicit a desire response.

This research intends to scrutinize the grammatical errors found in some Indonesian's songs which were written in English. The songs are It's Only Me by Kaleb J, Fine Today by Ardhito Pramono, and Flying Solo by Pamungkas. Those songs were established between the years of 2020-2021. This study will utilize stylistics as its approach in order to explain the grammatical errors found in some Indonesian's songs written in English language.

RESEARCH QUESTION

There were two main research questions that we were trying to find, they were:

1. What were the grammatical errors found in the songs entitled "It's Only Me" by Kaleb J, "Fine Today" by Ardhito Pramono, and "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas?
2. What is the most frequent type of error found in the songs?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the research questions, this study intended to:

1. Discovered the grammatical errors found in some Indonesian's songs with English lyrics.
2. Identified the most frequent type of error found in the songs.

DATA OF THE STUDY

The data of study were the words, phrases, and lines from the songs' lyrics by Kaleb J, Ardhito Pramono, and Pamungkas.

METHOD

To analyze grammatical errors in songs, researchers used a stylistic approach. Verdonk (2002) found that stylistics itself was a study defined as an analysis of various expressions in language (p.4). Therefore, researchers chose this approach because this study focused on linguistic style. After finding grammatical errors in the text, researchers categorized them into several subdivisions: prepositional errors, verb errors, pronoun errors, and subject errors. The theories used in this study are those of Crystal (2008) and Eastwood (1994). Both theories helped researchers identify the wrong line of text.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In order to answer the research question, this part discussed the grammatical errors found in some Indonesian songs. In this section, the grammatical errors found in the Indonesian's English songs were analyzed by referring to some grammatical errors processes, namely error of verb, error of pronoun, error of preposition, and error of subject.

a. Grammatical Errors in Kaleb J "It's Only Me", Ardhito Pramono "Fine Today", and Pamungakas "FlyingSolo".

1. Kaleb J - It's Only Me (2020)
I maybe not yours and you're not mine
But I'll be there for you when you need me
It is only me
Believe me girl it's only me
Yeah it's only me
I will always be the one who pull you up

When everybody push you down
And it's only me
Believe me girl it's only me
Yeah it's only me

The first error found in Kaleb's 2020 song entitled "It's Only Me" was the omission of linking verb. In this sense, the words "I maybe not yours" could be regarded as the omission of linking verb. It was because the word "am", which was a linking verb, was missing. Hence, it should be "I'm maybe not yours" or "Maybe I'm not yours". Fromkin et al. (2010, p. 85) revealed that a verb phrase should always contained a verb and be followed either by a noun phrase or by a prepositional phrase also understood as preposition followed by a NP like "in the park" and "on the roof". The words "I maybe not yours" above are error because the phrase had missed the verb. Therefore, since the line from the song did not have a verb, it needed an addition of a verb, or precisely a linking verb, to made it grammatical. Therefore, a correct form of the line was: "I'm maybe not yours" or "Maybe I'm not yours". It was done in order to meet the pattern of English syntax rule. By adding linking verb to the clause, it was now following the syntax rule of English and, hence, becoming grammatically correct.

The second and third grammatical errors, which were the words "the one who pull you up" and "everybody push you down", could be included as the Errors of Verb. According to Eastwood (1994), a verb takes a few endings like "ed" to refer to something occurs in the past, but it does not take any endings for person unless in the present tense or third person singular (p.75). In the song by Kaleb J, it could be noted that the line "the one who pull you up" and "everybody push you down" are grammatically errors because both of the verbs did not contain any ending "s" or "es". In other words, since "the one" and "everybody" were included as a third person singular, the verbs used in the lines were errors. Hence, since the verb form for a third person singular in a present tense was an ending "s" verb form, so the grammatically correct form of the lines were "the one who pulls you up" and "everybody pushes you down".

2 Ardhito Pramono – Fine Today
We will find a way
To be honest make no mistake
Sometimes I pray
Tell me how to make you stay
And you always going to be the one for me
There were times when it rains
Just the thing kept me sane

It's too much for a little time of fame
But you saved the day
Yes, you saved the day
Where to find you again?
There's no one seems to care
It's too much for the average man to stay
but you saved the day
Yes you saved the day

The grammatical error in the above song was first portrayed in "And you always going to be the one for me", the lyric which kept to be repeated by the singer. In this context, the correct words should be "And you're always going to be the one for me" since the subject "you" was followed by "going to". In this sense, this grammatical error could be categorized as the omission of linking verb. In other words, the line needed the adding "are" as a linking verb.

The second grammatical error was the words "There were times when it rains". In this case, the words "it rains" should be "it rained" since the preceding words were "there were times". Hence, it could be said that the words were deemed as grammatical error since it did not in a form of past tense. Therefore, the type of error was Error of Verb because the verb "rains" should be in the past form and not present.

The last grammatical error found in the song was the words "It's too much for the average man to stay". In this sense, the words should be "It's too much for an average man to stay". It was because the particle "the" refers to plural or specific subject or object. In the lyric, it cleared that the word "man" was a singular, and it did not refer to a specific person since the singer mentioned the words "average man" for the first time. Hence, it could be said that the type or error was Error of Preposition.

3. Pamungkas – Flying Solo
Won't be home, somehow I'm on a break
Detaching for a while
Cut my hair so then, could get out
And start to rock the world
Without thinking of you, I'm free
And no more thoughts about you, and me
I'm flying solo
I'll fly without you
I'll go by myself
I'm flying solo
I'll spread my own wings
I'll hibernate and sing
I'm flying solo (so, so, so low, so, so, so low)
I'm flying solo (so, so, so low, so, so low)
[…]

The grammatical error in the above song was first portrayed in "won't be home" and "could get out". In this sense, the correct words should be " I won't be home" and "I could get out". Therefore, the grammatical

error could be categorized as the Error of Subject. It was because, as it could be seen from the line, it was not clear who was the subject even though, maybe most of the listeners would understand who 'would not be home' and who 'could get out'. However, if the lines were only read and not listened, it could be acknowledged that the lines were unclear and grammatically errors because there was no subject in both of those lines.

Another example of grammatical error in the song lyrics was the pronoun "me" in the sixth line. The words "and me" clearly create ambiguity since it was not sure why there was the word "me" in the line. If those words were connected to the initial clause, the line would be "And no more thoughts about you, and me". In other words, it could be meant that the singer would not be thinking about someone he loved, and the word "me" might refer to himself. As it could be seen, it did not make any sense why would he not be thinking about himself.

Therefore, it could be said that the error could be included in Error of Pronoun since the use of personal pronoun "me" was incorrect. It had been explained by Eastwood (1994) that the subject form of a pronoun was used when the pronoun itself was a subject. In this sense, the pronouns which were included as subject form are "I, you, they, we, he, she it". Meanwhile, when the pronoun was an object, the object form of pronoun would be used which included "me, you, it, us, him, her, them". Additionally, the object form was used when the pronoun was standing on its own (Eastwood, 1994, p. 234). Therefore, it could be acknowledged that the line was grammatically incorrect because it used the pronoun "me" at the end of the line, instead of "us" which would be more make sense and grammatically correct.

b. Most Frequent Grammatical Error
The most frequent grammatical error found in the data of study was error of verb. In this sense, error of verb was found twice in Kaleb J's song lyrics. Error of verbs in the song was identified by the words "the one who pull you up" and "everybody push you down". Both of those lines were categorized into error of verbs because they don't contain any ending "s" or "es". In order to be grammatically correct, the lines in the lyrics should be "the one who pulls you up" and "everybody pushed you down since the verb form for a third person singular in a present tense should be followed by "s" ending.

Moreover, another error of verb was also identified in Ardhito Pramono's song entitled "Fine Today". The error of verb was found in the words "There were times when

it rains". In this sense, the words "it rains" should be written "it rained" since the preceding verb was in the form of past tense ("there were times"). Hence, it could be said that the line was included as the error of verb since it was not in a past form.

Therefore, from the above explanation, it could be noted that the error of verb dominated the songs' lyrics being analyzed or the data of study. Meanwhile, other kinds of error did occur in the lyrics, but the error of verb was the most likely to occur compared to other types of error. In terms of other types of error occurred in the lyrics, omission of linking verb occurs once both in Kaleb J and Ardhito Pramono's songs' lyrics. The rest of errors found in the three songs are error of preposition, error of subject, and error of pronoun.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion contains a brief summary of the results of research and discussion in the form of paragraphs. The researchers explained the grammatical errors produced by the authors or singers of various Indonesian songs published in English in the previous part of this study. We found frailty in grammatical structure in Indonesian songs with English lyrics within the period 2020-2021, which was evaluated using a variety of fairly basic grammatical errors, such as verb errors, pronoun errors, prepositional errors, and subject errors. Kaleb's mistake in the song "It's Only Me" was the omission of the connecting verb as well as a verb error. Besides Kaleb, Ardhito Pramono and Pamungkas also made grammatical errors with the songs "Fine Today" and "Flying Solo". Arditho Pramono made a grammatical error in the song's lyrics by omitting the connecting verb and making a preposition error, while Pamungkas made a grammatical error in the song by choosing the wrong subject and pronoun. The three songs above did not have perfection in grammar. The researchers found some grammatical errors in the lyrics of the song above. Therefore, the researcher's goal had been achieved in writing this article, which was to discover the grammatical errors in some Indonesian's songs with English lyrics.

As for the second question or purpose, the researchers found that the most frequent grammatical error found in the data of study was error of verb. It was found twice in Kaleb J's song lyrics. Error of verbs in the song was identified by the words "the one who pull you up" and "everybody push you down". Both of them were categorized into error of verbs because they did not contain any ending "s" or "es". In order to be grammatically correct, the lines in the lyrics should be followed by "s" ending. Moreover, another error of verb was also identified in Ardhito Pramono's song entitled "Fine Today". The error of verb was found in the words "There were times when it rains". In this sense, the words "it rains" should be written "it rained" since the preceding verb was in the form of past tense ("there were times"). Hence, it could be said that the line was included as the error of verb since it is not in a past form.

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