

THE ANALYSIS OF PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE USAGE IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

Prepositional phrase is a collection of words that includes a preposition, its object, and any words that alter the object. It is only part of a sentence and cannot stand alone as a complete notion. The research focuses on analyzing these prepositional phrases in Taylor Swift's song lyrics using Eggenschwiler theory. The authors employed a qualitative method, presenting the data in tabular form, and subsequently provided a detailed description of the identified data.. This study found that Taylor Swift uses a wide range of prepositions in her song lyrics, including common prepositions such as "in", "on", and "with", as well as less common prepositions such as "beneath", "behind", and "off".

Keywords: English Grammar, Preposition, Song Lyrics.

Abstrak

Frasa preposisional adalah kumpulan kata-kata yang melibatkan sebuah preposisi, objeknya, dan kata-kata apapun yang memodifikasi objek tersebut. Fungsi frasa preposisional ini hanya sebagian dari kalimat dan tidak dapat berdiri sendiri sebagai gagasan yang lengkap. Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis frasa preposisional dalam lirik lagu Taylor Swift dengan menggunakan teori Eggen scwiler. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan menyajikan data dalam bentuk tabel kemudian menjelaskan data yang ditemukan. Studi ini menemukan bahwa Taylor Swift menggunakan berbagai macam preposisi dalam lirik lagunya, termasuk preposisi umum seperti "in", "on", dan "with", serta preposisi yang kurang umum seperti "beneath", "behind", dan "off".

Kata kunci: Tata Bahasa Inggris, Preposisi, Lirik Lagu.

1. INTRODUCTION

English is one of the world languages that recognized into international language. English has a role as a unifer of people around the world. To be able with the development of the world, it must be preficient in English well and correctly, so communication goes well to avoid misunderstandings. English has some educational specifications such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

All texts written in English must have cohesion, consistent structure, good grammar, and correct use of words. According to Sudarmawan (2020), Grammar is one of the language components that should be mastered by the students in order to develop accuracy and creativity in using the language in communication (Swarniti, 2021). It is about each and every sentence within a paragraph, not simply the paragraphs themselves. Each paragraph's sentences should all contribute to the main concept of the paragraph.

In the realm of English grammar, prepositions are the basis for the structure of various linguistic phenomena. The written text cannot be separated from using prepositional phrase, because prepositional phrase makes a sentence complete grammatically (Swarniti, 2021). According to George Davidson (2003), a prepositional phrase is a phrase that consists of a preposition followed by a noun, a pronoun, a noun phrase, or an adverb. A prepositional phrase always starts with a preposition and ends with the preposition's object, which is a noun or pronoun. Additionally, a prepositional phrase is a crucial part of a sentence. Prepositional phrases can occasionally be employed to link the subject, object, and verb and provide additional information. Prepositional phrases should be used near what they describe. Thus, prepositional phrase is a collection of words that includes a preposition, its object, and any words that alter the object. It is only part of a sentence and cannot stand alone as a complete notion.

In this study, researchers used the theory of Eggenschwiler et al in his book entitled *CliffsNotes writing: Grammar, Usage, and Style Quick Review* published in 2011, published by Wiley. Eggenschwiler et al wrote down some commonly used prepositional phrases, there are:

Table 1. Words Commonly Used as Prepositions (Eggenschwiler, 2011)

about	before	down	off	under
above	behind	during	on	underneath
across	below	except	out	until

after	beneath	for	over	unto
against	beside	from	past	up
along	between	in	since	upon
among	beyond	into	through	with
around	by	like	to	within
at	concerning	of	toward	without

This research focuses on analyzing these prepositional phrases in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Lyrics are the words of a song that contain an outpouring of personal feelings. Song lyrics are created by the author to express what is felt, seen, and experienced in a community environment. Brewster in Prasetyo (2019) emphasizes that the song is an ideal strategy to learn the language, because in the song there is a repetition of vocabulary and language structure and rhythm that can increase their interest in learning. According to Dallen cited in Firdaus (2013), Lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writers and the listeners. Most of the times, they carry a message (whatever that might be) with the purpose of motivating the listeners, at least, to think about it. Its mean that song lyrics is one of a medium for communication, between the song writers and listeners, which every song lyrics convey of song writers message, feelings, opinion and ideas (Yastanti&Susilawati, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, this research is limited to “The Analysis OfPrepotional Phrase Usage In Taylor Swift’s Song Lyrics” through the identification of songs performed by a musician from Pennsylvania, United States, Taylor Swift. Since childhood, there has been an obvious passion in music. At the age of nine, Swift participated in a school musical. Even before her rise to fame as a pop star, Swift was a country musician. During the beginning of his career, one of his most well-known songs was Love Story. Swift also pursued her musical interests and abilities. (CNN Indonesia, 2023).

According to Kate Patison (2023) Swift's songs are part of popular trends often. Many dances from *Bejeweled* and *Karma* were released on last year's *Midnights*, but Swift's old catalog is also remarkable. In 2020, a remixed version of *Love Story* went viral, helping new people discover her old music. Citizens recently used *August's* song to run on the beach. This is the reason researchers are interested in analyzing her songs. In this study, researchers only focused on 3 songs from Taylor Swift to analyze.

Including, (1) *Love Story*, released in 2008 in Nashville, (2) *Style*, released in 2014 in Los Angeles, (3) *August*, released in 2020 in Los Angeles and Brooklyn.

The purpose of this study is to locate and examine the instances of prepositional phrases in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Understanding how Swift use prepositional phrases to create sentence patterns, paint pictures, and convey subtleties in his writing is the main goal of this study. This study aims to identify variances in the prepositional phrase usage and investigate the connection between this usage and the overall meaning of the songs. This study aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the function of prepositional phrases in constructing grammatical dimensions within the framework of musical lyrics by analyzing samples of songs from different stages of Swift's career. It is intended that this study's findings will advance knowledge of the grammatical structures in popular musical works of art.

2. METHODOLOGY

For futher analysis the author using qualitative method by presenting data in table form then described the data found. According to Creswell (2009) purposeful sampling, collection of open-ended data, analysis of text or pictures, representation of information in figures and tables, and personal interpretation of the findings all inform qualitative procedures. The technique of analyzing data, first, the researcher listens and pays close attention to the lyrics of the song. Second, the researcher matches the prepositions found into Eggenschwiler's theory and then explains them. Third, the researcher enters the data found into tables. Fourth, the researcher analyzes the data to become a result.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the research, there are some prepositional phrases that used in “Love Story” song lyrics by Taylor Swift.

a. Preposition “in”

“On a balcony, **in** summer air”

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. The preposition “in” is followed by “summer air” as the object. This preposition is used to indicate the time or condition in which something happens. “in” in this sentence indicates the season, like “summer air”.

“My faith **in** you was fading”

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. The preposition “in” is used here to describe the relationship or dependency between “faith” and the

object “you”. In other words, the preposition “in” states that the subject of the sentence has faith in “you”.

*“You got that James Dean daydream look **in** your eye”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. The preposition "in" is used to indicate the location or place where.

*“Oh, you got that James Dean daydream look **in** your eye”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. The preposition "in" is used to indicate location.

*“But I can see us lost **in** the memory”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is "in" showing the location of being lost. The preposition “in” is followed by the noun phrase “the memory” also as an object of the preposition

*“And I can see us twisted **in** bedsheets”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. This preposition show the relationship between noun “bedsheets” and the verb “twisted”. The preposition “in” denotes that the twisting is occurring on the bedsheets, not somewhere else.

*“Cancel plans just **in** case you'd call”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “in”. The preposition “in” is followed by “case you’d call” as the object. In the term “in case”, which denotes that something is done in expectation of another potential event, the preposition “in” is employed. The act of canceling arrangements in anticipation of “you'd call” is indicated by the phrase "in case" in this instance.

b. Proposition “on”

*“**On** a balcony, in summer air”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “on”. The preposition “on” is followed by “a balcony” as an object. This preposition indicates the location of someone or something. In the context of this sentence, the word “on” refers to where the character is standing.

*“And I was crying **on** the staircase”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “on”. This preposition describes the relationship between the verb “crying” and the location or place, which is “the staircase”. In other words, the preposition “on” is used to show that the action of crying takes place on or above the staircase.

*“When I met you **on** the outskirts of town”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “on”. The preposition “on” is used here to describe the location or place where the meeting takes place, i.e. “the outskirts of town”.

*“Salt air, and the rust **on** your door”*

Based on the lyric above, the prepositions here is "on", showing the relationship between "rust" and "door". The preposition “on” is followed by “your door” as an object of the preposition.

*“Wishin' I could write my name **on** it”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “on” is used to describe the desire to write someone's name somewhere in the previous lyric line. "It" in this sentence refers to the object or place that the singer wants to write the name.

c. *Preposition “for”*

*“Escape this town **for** a little while”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. This preposition indicates the purpose or reason why one should “escape” from this city. In other words, the preposition “for” provides information that the reason or purpose of escaping is for “a little while”.

*“I keep waiting **for** you”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. The preposition “for” is used here to describe the purpose or reason for the action of “keep waiting”. In other words, the preposition “for” states that the action of waiting is done for a specific purpose or reason, which is to wait for “you”.

*“Back when we were still changin' **for** the better”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. The preposition “for” is followed by “the better” as an object. This preposition is representing the purpose or reason for changing.

*“**For** me, it was enough”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. The preposition “for” is followed by “me” as an object. This preposition is representing the purpose or reason.

*“To live **for** the hope of it all”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. The preposition “for” is followed by “the hope” as an object. This preposition is representing the purpose of the living.

*“So much **for** summer love and saying ‘us’”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “for”. This preposition is used to indicate the goal or outcome of something, in this case, expressing that the hopes or expectations regarding summer love and the statement ‘we’ are not fully fulfilled or do not correspond to reality.

d. Preposition “to”

*“He knelt **to** the ground”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “to”. The preposition “to” describes the action or movement of the subject of the sentence, namely “He”, towards a certain direction or destination, in this case “the ground”.

*“I talked **to** your dad”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “to”. The preposition “to” is used here to describe the purpose or recipient of the act of speaking, namely “your dad”. In other words, the preposition “to” states that the subject of the sentence is talking to or directing the conversation to “your dad”.

*“I should just tell you **to** leave 'cause I Know exactly where it leads, but I Watch us go 'round and 'round each time”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “to”. The preposition “to” is used to indicate the purpose of the action. Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “to”. The preposition “to” is followed by “lose” as an object. Here, “mine” and “lose” are connected by the preposition “to”. This highlights the connection in the sentence between the owner and the lost object.

e. Preposition “of”

*“I got tired **of** waiting”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “of”. This preposition indicates the relationship between the verb “got tired” and the action or condition that caused it, namely “waiting”. In other words, the preposition “of” states the reason or cause why someone gets tired, which is because of “waiting”.

*“Whispers **of** ‘Are you sure?’”*

Based on the lyric above, the preposition here is “of,” which shows the relationship between “whispers” and the content of the whispers dialogue. The preposition “of” is followed by “‘Are you sure’” as an object.

From the data that has been attached above, the researcher analyzes that there are some prepositions that are most used and not used at all. Of all the data, the most prepositions are found in the lyrics of the song “August” which is 19 data. Based on the most used, the preposition “in” ranks first, totaling 22%. The most used preposition in the

second position is the preposition “on” and “for”, with a percentage of 14 % each. In the third position is the preposition “to”, with a percentage of 11% in the three song lyrics. In the fourth position is the preposition “of” and “into” are used twice with a percentage of 5% each. The last, such as “through”, “from”, “since”, “off”, “with”, “about”, “like”, “beneath”, and “behind” are only used once from the data that has been analyzed with a percentage of 3% each.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of prepositional phrase usage in Taylor Swift's song lyrics, it can be concluded that prepositions play an important role in the structure and meaning of sentences. This study found that Taylor Swift uses a wide range of prepositions in her song lyrics, including common prepositions such as “in”, “on”, and “with”, as well as less common prepositions such as “beneath”, “behind” and “off”. This study also found that prepositions are used creatively in songwriting to convey emotions and experiences. Overall, this study highlights the importance of prepositions in the English language and provides insights into their usage in song lyrics.

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