

An Analysis of Idioms in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer

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Abstract

Idioms are fixed combinations of words which meaning are often difficult to guess from the meaning of each individual word. The purpose of this study is to describe the idioms that are most often used in album by John Mayer. The objects of the study are types and most often used idioms in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer. The data are taken from lyric “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer in Internet and Spotify. The method of this research is qualitative method. The total of idiomatic expression is 99 consist of Similes was 17 or 17.18%, Binomials was 40 or 40.40%, Proverbs was 3 or 3.03%, Euphemisms was 4 or 4.04%, Cliche was 13 or 13.13%, and Fixed statement was 22 or 22.22%.

Keywords: Idioms; John Mayer

INTRODUCTION

English has many ways to express an idea. One of them is by using idiomatic expressions. The use of idioms can be intended to make a mock and give advice to someone. Consequently, there are many idiomatic expressions found in spoken language (daily conversation) and written texts (novels, short stories, letters, poetry etc.). They make the language richer and more colorful. The use of idiom is unique. Idiom is one of the characteristics of English, but not all non-native speakers are aware of it. Idiom is combination of one word and other word which conveys a certain meaning. (Sastra et al., 2023)

Idioms are a series of words that cannot be translated word by word because idioms have a certain meaning or are implied in them. According to McCarthy et al, idioms are fixed combinations of words which meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each individual word. McCarthy and O’Dell (2010), It means that idioms cannot be understood by defining words separately. They usually can only be understood in certain groups and it can be said that idioms are part of a culture so that when we encounter or learn a new culture, we will also encounter new idioms. Learning idioms is very important in learning English as an

international language spoken almost all over the world. The underlying reason is because understanding idioms well can help to understand English well too..

Nowadays, idioms are not only used in communication, but also used in other fields, one of which is song. The use of idioms in song lyrics has become a common thing in order to express the message of the song. The idioms have their role in enriching the meaning of the language with their beautiful words that they created. In the same time, their beautiful words also often confuse people. When listening songs, some people have difficulty and realize that the expressions in a song are idioms. That is why this is difficult because these idioms come from different cultures and regions. This causes the meaning of the song is failed to be conveyed. This happened to "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer in which the songs "Still Feel Like Your Man, Emoji of a Wave, Helpless, Love on the Weekend, In the Blood, Changing, Theme from "The Search for Everything", Moving on and Getting Over, Never on the Day You Leave, Rosie, Roll it on Home, You're Gonna Live Forever in Me" which contains many idioms that give it a complex meaning. When we learn about idioms, we also have to learn the meaning of idiom in order to understand it. Meaning is the thing or idea that a sound, word, signs, etc.

In relation with idioms in education, the use of idioms in music has a great influence in improving students' vocabulary and communicative skills. Most students are more interested in learning in a fun way, such as listening music. By listening music, they indirectly learn the language and its characteristics, such as idioms. Understanding the meaning of idioms in music can be useful for students to understand music itself and enrich their knowledge. However, idioms are difficult to learn by students. The difficulty of idioms is that they cannot be translated word by word. Therefore, it is very interesting to do and inspire researchers to do research about it.

Based on the explanation above, "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer becomes the object of this research. The research will focus on the types and meanings of idioms found in songs. These songs were chosen because there are many idioms that have complex meanings and are rarely found in those songs., the researcher found several signs of anxiety among the students, there are; 1) Many of them got jittery, 2) Created avoidance, 3) Afraid to participate in class. The problems discussed in this study are formulated through the following questions:

1. What are the types of idiomatic expressions in "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer?
2. Which idiomatic expression frequently occurred in "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer?

METHOD

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the idioms in "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer. There are idioms that appear in the lyrics of the song "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer that need to be defined and categorized. According to Pramudi in (Evadewi & Padang, 2018) Descriptive research is a research method that tries to characterize and analyze objects as they are. The purpose of qualitative research is to describe and interpret issues or phenomena systematically from the individual or population studied and to generate new concepts and theories.

Instrument

According to Arikunto (2000) research instrument is a tool that used by the researcher in collecting data in order to make the research easier and get better result in analyzing it. In this research, the researcher chose Observation, Interview and Questionnaire as an instrument to collect the data.

1. Tabulation

The purpose of tabulation is to give the information in such away they become more easily to understand. The table should be made as a way to summarize the data to be analyzed. Tabulation is a tool to categorize based on the particular and kinds of data that was determined in the study of data source in order that it could easily to research with the help of table.

2. Documentation

Documentation method is research conducted by documenting the data related to the taken topic. The process of collecting data was done by browsing the lyrics of songs on Internet and Spotify, listening to the songs and reading the lyrics repeatedly and carefully in order to understand the meaning behind it, and taking notes of every word or phrase which is considered to be idiom then writing it on a separated paper to be analyzed further.

Data Analyzing Technique

The followings are data analyzing techniques conducted by the researcher:

1. The researcher in analyzes the data on song lyrics "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer, The data were analyzed using the qualitative descriptive method based on the theories. The idioms were categorized according to their types based on the theory proposed by McCarthy and O'dell (2010) and the meanings of the idioms were analyzed based on the theory proposed by Cooper (1999).
2. Classifying the types of idiomatic expressions found from the songs lyrics.
3. Then, the researcher gave interpretation and summarize from the result of the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher found a idiomatic expressions that consisted of Similes, Binomials, Proverbs, Euphemisms, Cliche, and Fixed statement. The total of all 99. The researcher presented the table as follows:

Table 1. Idiomatic Expressions in "The Search for Everything" Album by John Mayer

No	Classification of Idioms	Amount	Percentage (%)
1	Similes	17	17.18%
2	Binomials	40	40.40%
3	Proverbs	3	3.03%
4	Euphemisms	4	4.04%
5	Cliche	13	13.13%
6	Fixed statement	22	22.22%
Total		99	100%

The researcher also found idiomatic expression in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer which can be categorized as follows: Similes was 17 or 17.18%, Binomials was 40 or 40.40%, Proverbs was 3 or 3.03%, Euphemisms was 4 or 4.04%, Cliche was 13 or 13.13%, and Fixed statement was 22 or 22.22%. The following is the presented chart related to most frequent occurred of idioms in the album of the songs:

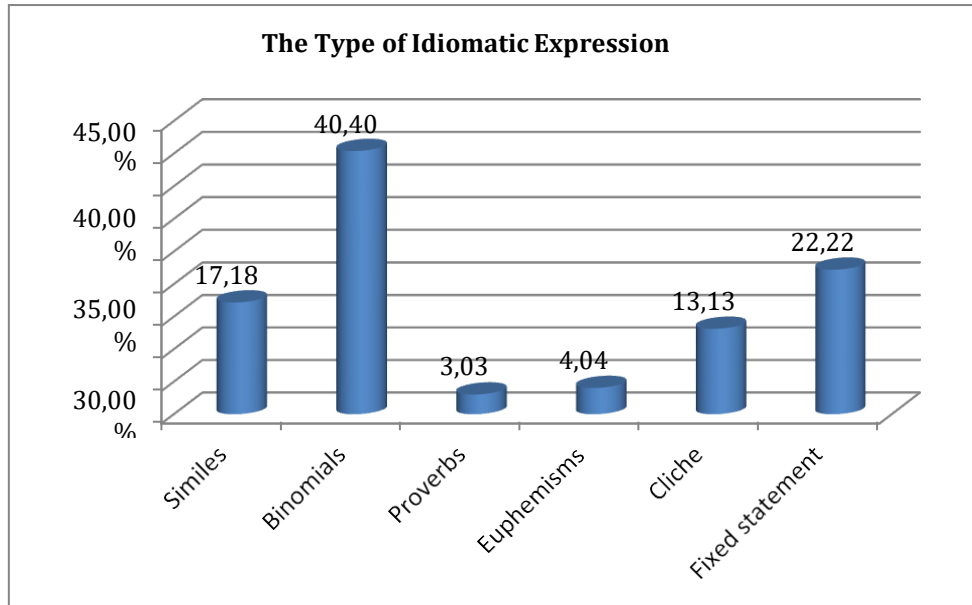


Chart 2. Frequent Occurred of Idiomatic Expressions

The researcher finds all the data and explains the data by describing it. The researcher also provides the percentage of results. Could be easier to read the data. Based on the analysis of the data above, the researcher found an idiomatic expression. The data are as follows:

a. Song 1 (Still Feel Like Your Man)

The researcher analyzed the song 1 entitled “Still Feel Like Your Man”.The researcher found the result, there are 15 idiomatic expression divided into 3 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, and Fixed Statement.

b. Song 2 (Emoji of a Wave)

The researcher analyzed the song 2 entitled “Emoji of a Wave”.The researcher found the result, there are 13 idiomatic expression divided into 4 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, Euphemisms, and Fixed Statement.

c. Song 3 (Helpless)

The researcher analyzed the song 3 entitled “Helpless”.The researcher found the result, there are 7 idiomatic expression divided into 3 types of idiomatic expression. There are Binomials, Euphemisms, and Fixed Statement.

d. Song 4 (Love on the Weekend)

The researcher analyzed the song 4 entitled "Love on the weekend". The researcher found the result, there are 12 idiomatic expression divided into 5 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, Proverb, Cliche and Fixed Statement.

e. Song 5 (In the Blood)

The researcher analyzed the song 5 entitled "In the Blood". The researcher found the result, there are 10 idiomatic expression divided into 4 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, Euphemisms, and Cliche.

f. Song 6 (Changing)

The researcher analyzed the song 6 entitled "Changing". The researcher found the result, there are 5 idiomatic expression divided into 2 types of idiomatic expression. There are, Binomials, and Cliche.

g. Song 7 (Theme from The Search for Everything)

The researcher analyzed song 7 entitled "Theme from Search for Everything". The researcher found the result, there are 4 idiomatic expression divided into 2 types of idiomatic expression. There are, Binomials, Proverb, and Cliché.

h. Song 8 (Moving On and Getting Over)

The researcher analyzed song 8 entitled "Moving on and Getting Over". The researcher found the result, there are 12 idiomatic expression divided into 3 types of idiomatic expression. There are, Binomials, Cliche, and Fixed Statement.

i. Song 9 (Never on the Day You Leave)

The researcher analyzed the song 9 entitled "Never on the Day You Leave". The researcher found the result, there are 7 idiomatic expression divided into 4 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, Euphemisms, and Cliché.

j. Song 10 (Rosie)

The researcher analyzed song 10 entitled "Rosie". The researcher found the result, there are 5 idiomatic expression divided into 1 types of idiomatic expression namely Binomials.

k. Song 11 (Roll it on Home)

The researcher analyzed the song 11 entitled "Roll it on Home". The researcher found the result, there are 5 idiomatic expression divided into 3 types of idiomatic expression. There are Similes, Binomials, and Proverbs.

l. Song 12 (You're Gonna Live Forever in Me)

The researcher analyzed the song 12 entitled "You're Gonna Live Forever in Me". The researcher found the result, there are 6 idiomatic expression divided into 1 types of idiomatic expression namely Binomials.

Discussions

Based on the findings of this research data, there is an idiomatic expression in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer. Based on the analysis of the findings, 6 idiomatic expressions consisted of Similes was 17 or 17.18%, Binomials was 40 or 40.40%, Proverbs was 3 or 3.03%, Euphemisms was 4 or 4.04%, Cliche was 13 or 13.13%, and Fixed statement was 22 or 22.22%. The most frequently idiomatic expression in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer is the Binomials idiom.

Other research journals such as research (Rosalia, 2018) found that the idioms found in this study both used the theory of O'Dell & McCarthy in the Guardian of Galaxy Vol.2 film, and the idiom that was found the most was Fixed Statement. In addition, there is also research according to (Van Thao, 2021) in their journal which also says that using theory of O'Dell & McCarthy in the Ed Sheeran's Selected Lyrics. Based on the opinion of the journal in accordance with the results of this study that idioms serve to provide advice, satire, and provide teaching. Therefore, an idiom is needed to overcome this problem. A series of idioms used according to O'Dell & McCarthy such as similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, cliché, and fixed statements.

CONCLUSION

Based on the previous chapter, get the research results. So, in this chapter, the researcher will provide conclusions based on the formulation of the research problem as the researcher uses the idiomatic expression in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer. The researcher found 6 expressions consisted of Similes, Binomials, Proverbs, Euphemisms, Cliche, and Fixed Statements. Idiomatic expression frequently occurred in “The Search for Everything” Album by John Mayer is binomials. The total of all idiomatic expression is 99 consist of similes was 17 or 17.18%, binomials was 40 or 40.40%, proverbs was 3 or 3.03%, euphemisms was 4 or 4.04%, cliché was 13 or 13.13%, and fixed statement was 22 or 22.22%.

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