

THE ANALYSIS OF FORMAL LINK IN WESTLIFE'S SONG

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Abstract: Formal is formal links referring to the fact inside the language, that consist of verb form, parallelism, ellipsis, referring expression, conjunction, substitution, and repetition. This study uses descriptive qualitative research in which the researcher just describe the result of the implementation from the instruments and the data is obtained from articles, literary works, field notes, and personal documents in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The object of this study is formal links and the subject is Westlife's songs. The analysis is taken from twelve songs of Westlife in their "Back Home" album. From the whole data the researcher found that most of songs consist of more than one formal link. The formal links are; Verb Form, Referring Expression, Repetition, Parallelism, Conjunction, and Substitution. From those formal links the most used in Westlife's songs is Referring Expression, it can be seen that referring expression dominate the others links in eight songs from twelve songs. The songs that are dominated by referring expression are *Us Against the World*, *Something Right*, *I'm Already There*, *When I'm With You*, *Have You Ever*, *It's You*, *Catch My Breath and the Easy Way*. From the result of analysis it can be concluded that Westlife's songs has deep meaning which always referring with other words or elements and they avoid to repeat the identity of what they are sharing about again and again. To referring the meaning that they posted in their song's lyric they used the third person pronouns like he, she, we, our, it, his, her, them. For the suggestion, the researcher recommends to the next researchers to analyze another part of discourse analysis such as discourse structure, discourse as dialogue, knowledge on discourse, etc.

Keyword: Formal Link, Song Lyric, Weslife's Song

INTRODUCTION

In a sentence or paragraph formal link very influences the meaning, and each link has different meaning or purpose. To investigate the meaning the aspects in the sentence especially the use of formal links the researcher conducts an analysis of formal link. Formal link is a way of understanding the different feeling to account for the discourse by looking at the features outside and inside the language. The researcher chooses this topic because the researcher wanted to maintain the linguistics side due to this topic is rarely taken by the student especially in STKIP Persada Khatulistiwa. In addition the researcher wanted to help anyone who wants to learn more about the meaning beyond the words in order to avoid the black marks about the meaning of the sentence by analyzing the formal link used. The reason why the researcher chooses Westlife's songs is because the researcher loves their songs and the lyrics of their songs always look wonderful and romantic, and can hypnotize the audience. In this case the researcher wanted to analyze their songs through the formal link which they used in their songs' lyrics.

In this research, the researcher would find out the characteristics of Westlife's songs by analyzing the lyrics of their songs through formal links, and from the most formal link that appears in the song the researcher would decide the characters of their song. The statement of the problem are (1) What kinds of formal links are used in Westlife's songs? (2) What are the characteristics of Westlife's songs based on the most used formal link in their songs' lyrics? Related to the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are: (1) To find the kinds of formal links that are used in Westlife's songs. (2) To find the characteristic of Westlife's songs based on the most used formal link in their songs' lyrics. The researcher conducted this research to help the writers and readers, especially university students to understand about Semantic. Besides the researcher hopes this research can give much contribution in understanding linguistic especially in Semantic.

This research aimed also for English teachers, it is expected that the result of the research gives contribution in teaching speaking and writing to achieve good communication both in written and oral skills. The researcher conducted the analysis in Westlife's songs through formal links, and the links which the researcher studies are: 1. *Verb Form*, 2. *Parallelism*, 3. *Referring Expressions*, 4. *Repetition*, 5. *Substitution*, 6. *Ellipsis*, and 7. *Conjunction*. The songs of Westlife that are analyzed by the researcher are twelve songs, the song are : *Home*, *Us Against The World*, *Something Right*, *I'm Already There*, *When I'm with You*, *Have You Ever*, *It's You*, *Catch My Breath*, *The Easy Way*, *I Do*, *Picture in My Head*, *You Must Have Had a Broken Heart*. From "Back Home" album that was released on 5th November 2007. This analysis consists of three key terms. The key terms are: Formal Link, Song and Westlife; Formal link is the relationship between form and meaning. Form is a sentence or utterance while meaning is the meaning beyond the sentence or utterance itself. Song is a short metrical composition intended or adapted for *singing*, especially one in rhymed stanzas; a lyric; a ballad. Westlife is an Irish pop group band, formed on 3 July 1998. The group original lineup comprised Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, Shane Filan and Brian Mcfadden. The group only acts in British or Irish history. Formal link refers to facts that are present in the analyzed text, the knowledge (or schemata) which is not included in the communicative product itself (Cook 1990:14). We have seen how our feeling that a particular stretch of language in some way hangs together, or has unity, cannot be accounted for in the same way as our feeling for the acceptability of a sentence. The way to account it is

called formal links. Formal link is a way of understanding the different feeling to account discount discourse by looking at the feature outside the language. Cook (2001:14) says:

“In order to account for discourse, we need to look the features outside the language: at the situation, the people involved what they know and what they are doing. These facts enable us to construct stretches of language as discourse; as having a meaning and a unity for us. The way we recognize correct and incorrect sentences is different. We can do this through our knowledge of grammar without reference to outside facts.”

From this statement, it can be concluded that formal link is a language approach in a discourse in order to know the facts outside and inside the language. According to Cook (1989) there are two different potential objects for study. One abstracted in order to teach a language or literacy, or to study how the rules of language work. The latter kind is language in use, for communication, is called Discourse; and the search for what gives discourse coherence is Discourse Analysis. Discourse analysis is defined as concerned with language use beyond the boundaries of a sentence/utterance, concerned with the interrelationships between language and society and as concerned with the interactive or dialogic properties of daily communication (Slembrouck, 2003). By knowing the aspects, we will reach such kinds of type of language approaches. Up to know we do not realize that discourse can be analyzed more deeply and detail over, we just know that discourse has the hidden meaning, whereas it is only the small part of it. Therefore, we should open our mind to improve our knowledge consistently.

Formal is divided in some sorts; in this study the researcher analyzes some of formal links. According to Cook (1994) links are described as: **Verb Form**; cohesion is attained in a piece of discourse by the forms of the verbs used. The form of the verb in one sentence limits the choice of verbs form in the next. Depending on the time frame to which the piece of discourse alludes, the verbs used in it need to conform to the particular tense. The form of verb in one sentence can limit the choice of the verb in the next, and we may be justified in satisfied in saying that a verb form in one sentence is *wrong* or at least *unlikely*, because it does not fit with the form in another. (e.g. *right, who's goin' to lift the bottom? Well, someone had got to take hold of it.*). **Parallelism**; Another link within discourse is affected by parallelism, a device which suggests a connection, simply because the form of sentence or clause repeats the form of another. Parallelism which suggests a connection of meaning

through an echo of form does not have to be grammatical parallelism. It may be a *sound parallelism*: as in rhyme, rhythm, and other sound effects of verse. One might even extend the idea and talk of *semantic parallelism* where two sentences is linked because they mean the same thing. **Referring Expressions;** The meanings of some words can be decoded only by referring to other words or elements of the context which are clear to both the speaker and listener. The most obvious example of this is third person pronouns – she/her/hers/herself, he/him/his/himself, it/its/itself. Sometimes, more than knowledge of the meaning of the word is necessary to decipher the meanings of referring expressions. There are words whose meaning can only be discovered by referring to other words or to elements of context which are clear to both sender and receiver. Example: *There was an apple on the table. So I ate it.* **Repetition;** Repetition of words can create the same sort of chain as pronouns, and there are sometimes good reasons for preferring it. In Britain, mother tongue learners of English are discouraged from using repetition on the grounds that it is ‘bad style’ and encouraged to used a device known as ‘elegant repetition’, where synonymous or more general words or phrases are used. Repetition usually used in advertisement language. it intended to attract the audience. **Ellipsis;** Omitting part of sentences on the assumption that an earlier sentence or the context will make the meaning clear is known as ellipsis. Sometimes we do not even need to provide a substitute for a word or phrase which has already been said. We can simply omit it, and know that the missing part can be reconstructed quite successfully. **Conjunction:** Conjunctions are another type of cohesive device. They draw explicit attention to the type of relation which exists between one sentence/clause and another. It is specifies the relationship between clauses, or sentences. Most frequent relations of sentences are: addition (*and, moreover* e.g. "*Moreover, the chocolate fountains* are not just regular fountains, they more like rivers full of chocolate and sweets."), temporality (*afterwards, next* e.g. "He bought her perfume at a local perfume shop and afterwards moved toward a jewelry store.") and causality (*because, since*). **Substitution;** In order to avoid repeating the same word several times in one paragraph it is replaced, most often by *one, do* or *so*. *So* and *do* in its all forms might also substitute whole phrases or clauses (e.g. "Tom has created the best web directory. I told you so long time ago".).

METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative research to analyze the data. According to Sandelowski (2000), in a widely read article, noted that in doing such descriptive qualitative studies, researchers tend not to penetrate their data in any interpretive depth. These studies present comprehensive summaries of a phenomenon or of events. Qualitative descriptive designs tend to be eclectic methodologically and are based on the general premises of constructivist inquiry. Sandelowski (2010) noted that qualitative descriptive studies produce findings closer to the data (“data-near”) than studies within such traditions as phenomenology or grounded theory, but that good qualitative descriptions still have some interpretive obligations. Sally Thorne (2008) recently expanded qualitative description into a realm she called interpretive description. This study uses descriptive qualitative research, in which the researcher just describes the formal links used in Westlife’s songs and the data cannot be treated with statistical procedures because it is obtained from articles, literary works, field notes, personal documents, and other resources where the data are taken and collected. The collected data are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written results of the research contain quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation. The object of this study is the songs of Westlife from their “Back Home” album that was released on 5th November 2007 and the object of this study is formal links in their song. In this study the researcher is the main key instrument and the supported instruments that are used by the researcher, that is documentation and corpuses. Documentation is used to take the data and information about Westlife’s song lyrics and all theories related to formal link any source. While, corpuses are used to analyze the data and make note to classify the formal link used in each song lyrics. Each corpus is based on the different formal link. It will help the researcher to analyze the song lyrics.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

From the whole data analysis the researcher found that most of songs consist of more than one of formal links. The formal links that the researcher found from all song are referring expression, verb form, repetition, parallelism, conjunction, and substitution. Most of formal links used in most song is referring expression. Data analysis is taken from the lyrics of Westlife’s songs. There are twelve song that analyzed by the researcher, most of the song

consist of more than one formal links used. In discussion, the researcher classified the formal links used based on how many times the links are used in a song.

From the research Finding we can see that the song with the title as follows: *Home*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found four kinds of formal links used. They are: verb form seven times, repetition four times, referring expression five times and parallelism four times. *Us Against The World*, in this song's lyrics there are four kinds of formal links used. They are: referring expression seven times, verb form four times, repetition two times and parallelism two times. *Something Right*, in this song there are three kinds of formal links used. They are: referring expressions three times, verb form two times and repetition three times. *I'm Already There*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found there are two kinds of formal links. They are: referring expression eight times and repetition two times. *When I'm With You*, in this song's lyrics there are three kinds of formal links used. They are: referring expression six times, verb form three times and repetition. *Have You Ever*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found there are three kinds of formal links used. They are: referring expression eight times, verb form five times and repetition. *It's You*, in this song's lyrics there three kinds of formal links used. They are: referring expression eight times, verb form and repetition. *Catch My Breath*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found there are three kind of formal links used. They are: referring expression seven times, verb form two times and substitution. *The Easy Way*, in this song there are four kinds of formal links used. They are: repetition five times, referring expression five times, verb form five times and parallelism. *I Do*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found two kinds of formal links used. They are conjunction and substitution each of them used one times. *Picture In My Head*, in this song there are three kinds of formal links used. They are repetition four times, referring expression two times and verb form two times. *You Must Have Had a Broken Heart*, in this song's lyrics the researcher found there are four kinds of formal links. They are conjunction two times, repetition two times, substitution, and referring expression.

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis the researcher found the most formal links used in Westlife' songs. In this study the researcher took one of their albums, that is Back Home album which consists of twelve songs. From each song it can be concluded that the most used formal link is referring expression. According to cook (1994) Referring expression is the meanings of

some words can be decoded only by referring to other words or elements of the context which are clear to both the speaker and listener. The most obvious example of this are third person pronouns – she/her/hers/herself, he/him/his/himself, it/its/itself. Sometimes, more than one kind of knowledge of the meaning of the word is necessary to decipher the meanings of referring expressions. There are words whose meaning can only be discovered by referring to other words or to elements of context which are clear to both sender and receiver. Referring expression fulfills a dual purpose of unifying the text (they depend upon some of the subject matter remaining the same) and of economy, because they save us from having to repeat the identity of what we are talking about again and again. From the definition above, it can be concluded that the characteristic of Westlife’s song has deep meaning which always referring with other words or elements and they avoid repeating the identity of what they are sharing about again and again. To referring the meaning that they posted in their song’s lyric they used the third person pronouns like he, she, we, our, it, his, her, them. That is why to understand their songs well we have to pay more attention on the third personal pronouns that they used in their songs lyric. The researcher conducted this study to help anyone who wants to learn more about linguistics side especially in discourse analysis. From this study the researcher hopes it can be reference to learn more about discourse analysis especially about formal links used in discourse analysis and hopefully it is also useful for Further researcher who wants to learn in the same research field, the researcher hopes the study can be more complete and detail by adding other aspects of discourse analysis and this study can give worth contribution as additional information.

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