

**THREE LEVELS OF
DESCRIPTION ANALYSIS ON
SIMPLE DECLARATIVE SENTENCES IN
TAYLOR SWIFT’S ALBUM “1989”**

Elsa Nahdya Andrani

the Graduate of English Education Study Program

Universitas Peradaban Bumiayu – Brebes

Email: elsanahdya107@gmail.com

Phone: +62 821 3794 8910

Abstract

This study is about three levels of description on simple declarative sentences in Taylor Swift’s album “1989”. To collect the data, the writers use descriptive qualitative and Simak Bebas Libat Cakap (SBLC) as the method. The writers use Aarts theory (2001) to analyse simple declarative sentences and set of three levels of description. From the results of three levels of description on Taylor Swift’s album “1989”, it can be concluded that there are 138 simple declarative sentences. There are only 6 simple declarative sentences which have similar structure, which are: He says; I said; I did; I wish; He said; and We run. For the similar structure, function structure can be realized through $S \rightarrow S + P$, form analysis is realized through $S/MC \rightarrow NP + VP$, and thematic role can be identified through $S \rightarrow \text{Agent} + \text{Predicate}$. The other sentences may have same structure in function but they have different structures in form or thematic role or otherwise.

Keywords: Simple Declarative Sentences, Three Levels of Description, Taylor Swift’s Album “1989”

A. Introduction

In Linguistics, the study about sentence structure is called Syntax. The study about Syntax is close with music. Music is art of sound as song or music composition which expresses the idea or the feeling of its creator through the elements as rhythm, melody, harmony, form and structure of the songs and the expression as a whole. Music is also used as a media creation. Through music, we can understand the mood and the aspiration of its creator (Jamalus in Kurdi, 2001: 1).

The writer selects theory of three levels of description to analyse the sentences. Aarts (2001: 99) states that theory of three levels of description is three different ways which analyse function, form and thematic role. They are a set of descriptions by which all aspect related to sentence structure is analysed in specific process.

In this study, three levels of description is realized through sentences by which the writer chooses Taylor Swift’s album “1989” to be analysed. This album is the fifth album and released on October 27th, 2014 by Big Machine Label. This album is different from previous album. In this album, Taylor Swift leaves country genre and moves to pop genre and this album is also more personal because all the songs in this album are created by her self. This album won several categories in Grammy Award as Album of the Year and Best Vocal Album in 2016. She got top rated from 2016 list for best Celebrity by which she beats One Direction, Kevin Hart and Madonna.

B. Literature Review

Simple declarative sentence is a single main clause which covers information and makes a statement. It is also called independent clause because the sentence has meaningful word combination (Morley, 2000: 69). It means that the Subject is followed by Predicator, which in turn is followed by an Indirect or a Direct Object (Aarts, 2001: 58-59).

Aarts (2001: 99) offers the observation that sentences can be described in three ways by assigning function to constituent, by assigning categorical labels and thematic role. Those three levels will be explained as follows:

1. Function

Aarts (2001: 8) states that function is level that sentence can be analysed into subpart which refers to as constituent. This level is realized through Subject, Predicator, Direct Object, Indirect Object, and Adjunct.

2. Form

Aarts (2001: 25) offers form can be grouped into word classes, and how they form phrases, which in turn combine into sentence. This is realized through Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Prepositions, Adverbs, Conjunctions, and Interjections.

3. Thematic Role

Aarts (2001: 94-95) offers thematic role regard as determinant in expressing generalization about the syntactic realization of a predicate's arguments. The following thematic roles are Agent, Patient, Theme, Experiencer, Goal, Benefactive, Source, Instrument and Locative.

C. Method of Investigation

The writer applies the descriptive qualitative method. The source of data in this research is taken from script of Taylor Swift's album "1989" which the writer receives from the website http://www.wikipedia.org/taylor_swift_album (Accessed on 26 November 2016 at 8.43 p.m.). In collecting the data, the writers use documentation method since the data are taken from the song lyrics. The writer implements *Simak Bebas Libat Cakap* (SBLC) technique.

To analyse the data, the writer applies the distributional technique, by which the writer implements segmenting immediate constituents technique (*Teknik Bagi Unsur Langsung*). In this technique, the writer divides unit of the data into several elements. Then, the writer uses Aarts' theory (2001) to analyse the simple declarative sentences which are realized through three levels of description.

D. Findings and Discussion

Here is the interpretation of the finding to classify the analysis of three levels of description which consist of function, form, and thematic role through 138 simple declarative sentences presented as follows:

1. Below is the list of simple declarative sentences for each song:
 - a. In song "Welcome to New York" there are 8 simple declarative sentences.
 - b. In song "Blank Space" there are 20 simple declarative sentences.
 - c. In song "Style" there are 11 simple declarative sentences.

- d. In song “Out of the Wood” there are 11 simple declarative sentences.
 - e. In song “All You had to Do was Stay” there are 5 simple declarative sentences.
 - f. In song “Shake it Off” there are 17 simple declarative sentences.
 - g. In song “I Wish You Would” has 5 simple declarative sentences.
 - h. In song “Bad Blood” there are 5 simple declarative sentences.
 - i. In song “Wildest Dream” there are 14 simple declarative sentences.
 - j. In song “How You Get the Girl” there are 3 simple declarative sentences.
 - k. In song “This Love” there are 13 simple declarative sentences.
 - l. In song “I Know Place” there are 18 simple declarative sentences.
 - m. In song “Clean” there are 8 simple declarative sentences.
2. The identification of function level on Taylor Swift’s Album “1989” which contains similar structure $S \rightarrow S + P$ which is only Verb as Predicate is realized through the sentences: I thought; You come; He says; I said; I did; I wish; He said; and We run. The other sentences have different structure, which are described below:
- a. The sentence structure of pattern $S \rightarrow S + P$ in which P consists of some constituents: Verb, Adjective, Noun, and Preposition appears in 99 times.
 - b. The sentence structure of pattern $S \rightarrow S + P + O$ appears in 37 times.
 - c. The sentence structure of pattern $S \rightarrow S + P + A$ (Adjunct) appears in time.

- d. The sentence structure of pattern $S \rightarrow S + P + IO + DO$ appears in 1 time.
3. The identification of form level on Taylor Swift's Album "1989" has similar structure $S/MC \rightarrow NP + VP$ which is realized through the sentences: I thought; You come; He says; I said; I did; I wish; He said; and We run. The other sentences have different structure, which are described below:
 - a. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + VP$ in which VP consists of constituents: Verb, Auxiliary, Adjective Phrase, Adverb Phrase and Prepositional Phrase appears in 50 times.
 - b. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + NP$ appears in 1 time.
 - c. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + VP$ appears in 30 times.
 - d. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + NP$ appears in 12 times.
 - e. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + Adv$ appears in 13 times.
 - f. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Adv$ appears in 5 times.
 - g. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + Spec + VP$ appears in 6 times.
 - h. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + AP$ appears in 1 time.
 - i. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + PP$ appears in 3 times.
 - j. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow Adv + NP + VP$ appears in 2 times.
 - k. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + AP$ appears in 5 times.
 - l. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow AP + VP$ appears in 1 time.

- m. The sentence structure of pattern $S/MC \rightarrow NP + Aux + Prep + VP$ appears in 1 time.
4. The structure of thematic role on Taylor Swift's Album "1989" has similar structure $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate$ realized through the sentences: I thought; You come; He says; I said; I wish; He said; and We run. The other sentences have different structures, which are listed below:
- a. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate$ appears in 40 times.
 - b. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Patient$ appears in 21 times.
 - c. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Theme$ appears in 22 times.
 - d. $S \rightarrow Locative + Predicate$ appears in 1 time.
 - e. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Patient$ appears in 5 times.
 - f. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Instrument$ appears in 3 times.
 - g. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Goal + Goal$ appears in 1 time.
 - h. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Locative$ appears in 3 times.
 - i. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Locative$ appears in 6 times.
 - j. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Goal$ appears in 7 times.
 - k. $S \rightarrow Agent + Predicate + Instrument$ appears in 5 times.
 - l. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Source$ appears in 1 time.
 - m. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Goal$ appears in 2 times.
 - n. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate + Theme$ appears in 2 times.
 - o. $S \rightarrow Theme + Predicate$ appears in 18 times.

- p. S → Agent + Predicate + Theme + Locative
appears in 1 time.

E. Conclusion

After analysing the data, the writer finally has some conclusions. Taylor Swift’s album “1989” has all types of sentences, but the writer only analyses simple declarative sentences. The writer finds that there are 138 simple declarative sentences in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift’s album “1989”. There are 6 simple declarative sentences which have similar structure. The similar structure is showed through the formation below:

Sentence		
Function	Subject	Predicate
Form	S/MC [NP N]	[VP V]
Thematic Role	Agent	Predicate

Acknowledgement

The writer would like to express the deepest gratitude to the Head of English Education Study Program, the Dean of Educational Sciences and Teachers’ Training Faculty, and the Rector of Universitas Peradaban.

Bibliography

Aarts, Bas. 2001. *English Syntax and Argumentation*. London: University College London.

Brinton, Laurel J. 2000. *The Structure of Modern English: A Linguistic Introduction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamin Publishing Co.

Carnie, Andrew. 2000. *Syntax*. America: Blackwell Publisher, Oxford.

Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic Structure. First Printing*. Paris: Mouton Publisher.

Chomsky, Noam. 1964. *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*. Cambridge: The M.IT Press.

Ma'rif, Alvina Amaliyah. 2016. *A Syntactic Analysis on Sentences Found in the Song Lyrics of One Direction's Album "Made in the A.M"*. A Thesis of Universitas Peradaban. Not Published.

Miller, Jim. 2002. *An Introduction to English Syntax*. Great Britain:Edinburgh University Press.

Tallerman, Magie. 2011. *Understanding Syntax*. London: Hodder Education.

Yule, George. 2010. *The Study of Language*. United States of America: Cambridge University Press.