

Sentence Connectors in The Lyrics of Songs of Red Album by Taylor Swift

Hassan Muhammad
muhammadhassan618@yahoo.com

Sekolah Tinggi Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Al Maksum

Abstract

This study deals with the use of Sentence Connectors, Coordinating Conjunction in Red album by Taylor Swift. The objective of this study were to describe the types of coordinating conjunction, to find out the most dominant and the reason for using the dominant types in that album. The source of data was Red album and the script. This study applied descriptive qualitative method. The data were classified into types of the coordinating conjunction. They were analyzed based on the types of coordinating conjunction. The study found that there are seven types of coordinating conjunction, they are for, and, nor, but, of, yet, so. There are 299 coordinating conjunction in that album. The percentages of coordinating conjunction found were for is 16 (6.35%), and is 173 (57.86%), nor is 0 (0%), but is 50 (16.72%), of is 46 (15.38%), yet is 0 (0%), so is 14 (4.7%). The dominant types of coordinating conjunction found in Red album is ***and***, 173 items (57.86%).

Keywords : *Sentence connectors, coordinating conjunction*

1. The Background of Study

Grammar is the set of structural rules governing the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in a given natural language. Grammar evolves through usage and also due to separations of the human population. With the advent of written representations, formal rules about language usage tend to appear also. Grammar is an important part of education for children from a young age through advanced learning.

In English learning context, actually there are two main language skills. One of language skills is ability to speak. Speaking acquisition can be the main skill to achieve and then followed by ability of writing acquisition. Language usually can be transformed by using spoken and written language. In spoken language human being send the message by using writing that usually has good structure. It can be a story in past time (experience) or future. The *Red Album* by Taylor Swift has structural form of sentences showing sentence connectors. Sentence connector is a single word or a combination of words used to connect parts of sentence. Sentence connector is used to join two parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal. The two parts maybe single word or a clause.

There are many words which include in sentence connectors. And it is making the sentence connectors looks difficult to learn. Many people don't know about sentence connectors, especially types of sentence connectors. So, the researcher is interested analyzing the common sentence connectors of parts in it. By using the lyrics in the *Red Album* by Taylor Swift, the researcher will analyze and find the sentence connectors. *Red* album lyric is chosen to analyze because this album is so popular in this era and the singer of this album, Taylor Swift is one of

the most popular female pop singers in the world. And there are many parts of sentence connectors used by the composer in the lyric of *Red* album. So, the researcher hopes that the research can be useful for the readers; especially as reference about the matter. The researcher hopes that the research will be useful to increase knowledge for those who get troubles in understanding and using sentence connectors.

Analysis of data is the most skilled tasks of all stages of the research. It depends on the judgment and the skill of the researcher. It should be done by the researcher and should not be entrusted to any other person. R, Chauvery(*Research Methodology*, 2003:196) has a definition about analysis , that is "Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine inherent facts or meaning". It involves breaking down complex factors into simpler once and putting the parts in new arrangement for purpose of interpretation.

Sentence Connectors

The writer analyzes parts of speech in Sentence Connectors part, sentence connectors has same meaning with conjunction. According to (Wen & Martin: 151) conjunction is a word of which merely joins together sentences, and sometimes words. Conjunction joins together sentences and often makes them more compact. According to (John S. Hartanto and dkk: 326) conjunction is a word to connect words, phrases, or sentences, and so on. Conjunction is a part of speech that connects words, sentence, phrases or clauses. In general, conjunction is an invariable grammatical particle, and it may or may not stand between the items it conjoins. One of word classes, which have function as connected between sentences or clauses. Generally, conjunction is a word which connects two words or clauses and shows their relation between them.

Coordinating Conjunction

Sentence connectors are words used to connect one idea to another within a sentence and provide a flow between paragraphs. They also express the specific relationships between the concepts of sentences. Sentence connectors are generally found at the beginning or right in the middle of a sentence to express order, contrast, similarities or sequence of the thoughts it contains. Coordinating conjunction joins together clauses of equal rank. Coordinating conjunction, they are: and, but, for, nor, also, either, or, neither, nor.

Description of Red Album

Red album is the fourth studio album by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift. It was released on October 22, 2012, by Big Machine Records, as the follow-up to her third studio album, Speak Now (2010). The album title was inspired by the "semi-toxic relationships" that Swift had experienced during the process of conceiving this album, which Swift described the emotions she felt as "red emotions" due to their intense and tumultuous nature. *Red* touches on Swift's signature themes of love and heartbreak, however, from a more mature perspective while exploring other themes such as fame and the pressure of being in the limelight. The album features collaborations with producers and guest artists such as Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol and Ed Sheeran and is noted for Swift's experimentation with new musical genres.

Swift's second album, *Fearless*, was released in 2008. Buoyed by the pop crossover success of the singles "Love Story" and "You Belong with Me", *Fearless* became the best-selling album of

2009 in the U.S. The album won four Grammy Awards, with Swift becoming the youngest ever Album of the Year winner. Swift's third album, 2010's *Speak Now*, sold over one million copies within the first week of its U.S release. The album's third single, "Mean", won two Grammy Awards. In 2012, Swift released her fourth album, *Red*, which sold over one million copies in its first week of U.S. release. The singles "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" and "I Knew You Were Trouble" were worldwide hits. Her fifth album, the pop-focused *1989*, was released in 2014. It sold more copies in its opening week than any album in the previous twelve years, and made Swift the first and only act to have three albums sell more than one million copies in a week. The singles "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space" both reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 making Taylor the first female artist to replace herself on the Billboard Hot 100.

Swift is known for narrative songs about her personal experiences. As a songwriter, she has been honored by the Nashville Songwriters Association and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Swift's other achievements include seven Grammy Awards, twelve Billboard Music Awards, eleven Country Music Association Awards and seven Academy of Country Music Awards. To date, she has sold over 30 million albums and 80 million digital single downloads. In addition to her music career, Swift has appeared as an actress.

2. Research Design

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. It is not about finding a new theory but it finds new evidences to prove the truth of theory. According to Nawawi (1991 : 68) descriptive method is the way of solving the research problem by describing the situation and condition of the investigated object as the way they are (fact finding) that actual in the present. Thereby, this method focused on the problems or phenomenon that is present while the research is done or the actual problem, and then describing the facts about the investigated problem with the accurate rational interpretation.

This method describe and explain the object condition of the research based on the fact as the way they are and tries to analyze to give the truth based on the data. The data of the research was obtained from "Red Album's Lyrics" by Taylor Swift that was released in 2012. There are 16 songs in "Red Album" and all of them became the objects of analysis, they are: State of Grace, Red, Treacherous, I Knew You Were Trouble, All Too Well, 22, I Almost Do, We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Stay StayStay, The Last Time (Feat. Gary Lighthbody of Snow Patrol, Holy Ground, Sad Beautiful Tragic, The Lucky One, Everything Has Changed (Feat. Ed Sheeran), Starlight, Begin Again.

The data of the research was obtained from "Red Album's Lyrics" by Taylor Swift that was released in 2012. There are 16 songs in "Red Album" and all of them became the objects of analysis, they are: State of Grace, Red, Treacherous, I Knew You Were Trouble, All Too Well, 22, I Almost Do, We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Stay StayStay, The Last Time (Feat. Gary Lighthbody of Snow Patrol, Holy Ground, Sad Beautiful Tragic, The Lucky One, Everything Has Changed (Feat. Ed Sheeran), Starlight, Begin Again.

3. Data Analysis

This chapter, deals analysis of the types of sentence connectors; that is coordinating conjunction in *RED* Album by Taylor Swift. There were 16 songs lyrics that became the subject of this research. And there were six kinds of coordinating conjunction found in that album. After collecting the data, they were classified into the types of coordinating conjunction as found in sixteen songs *Red* Album by Taylor Swift After identifying the data, the types of coordinating conjunction used were classified based on the types of coordinating conjunction. The tables below illustrate the distribution of them.

4. Conclusions

The types of coordinating conjunction used in Red Album by Taylor Swift are: for, and, but, of, so. The data found that there were 299 Coordinating Conjunction item which have been analyzed in that album. Total percentage of **for** 16 (5, 35%), **and** , 173 (57, 86%), **nor** 0 (0%), **but** 50 (16, 72%), **of** 46 (15, 38%), **yet** 0 (0%), **so** 14 (4, 7%).

The researcher found that the most dominant type of coordinating conjunction in Red Album by Taylor Swift is and total percentage of **and** are 173 (57, 86), it is dominant coordinating conjunction coordinating conjunction type was found

References

- Arikunto. S. 2002. *Prosedur Penelitian, Fifth Edition*. Jakarta :RinekaCipta.
- Hartanto, John and Koentjoro.S Dkk, Manaf. 2009. *accurate, brief, and clear English Grammar*. Surabaya: Indah Surabaya.
- House, Homer C and Harman, Susan Emolyn. 1982. *Descriptive English Grammar*.Second Edition.Amerika: Prentice-Hall, inc.
- Nugroho, Satrio. New edition.*Complete English Grammar*. Surabaya: Kartika Surabaya.
- Purnomo, Wahyu. 2005. *English grammar and everyday conversation*. Surabaya: Amelia Surabaya.
- Sugiono.2009. *Metode Penelitian pendidikan pendekatan Kuantitatif, kualitatif*. Bandung: Alfabeta Bandung.
- Wern, PC & Martin, H. 2013.*High School English Grammar and composition*. Latest edition. N.D.V. Prasada RAO
- <http://m.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-compound-conjunction-htm>
- <http://www.jstor.org/discover/>
- [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sentence % linguistics%20](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sentence_%20linguistics%20)
- <http://digilib.ump.ac.id/download>.