

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

As humans need language to communicate, language itself has a system to connect meaning and expression. It functioned to provide verbal expression for thought and feeling in a way that can be understood. For that, language has a grammar that can be seen as an element that has double-sided expression and meaning. Grammar is a connection of expression and meaning in language. In addition to grammar, language also works together with context to convey an expression and define human conversation. Context is needed for the hearers to understand the meaning of an expression. The expression in language includes words, phrases, and sentences.

Language can be described in several different main areas, one of which is grammar. Grammar arranges the structure of language, which can simplify communication. Fontaine (2013, p. 4) pointed out that, "The function of language is what it is doing for the speaker (or rather what the speaker is doing with language) and to achieve this function, language is shaped into a structural form." With the combination of function and structure, we achieve meaning that allows us to understand and connect in communication.

While languages have grammar to organize the language's structure, grammar itself has a subfield focusing on the arrangement of words to form sentences, namely

syntax. Therefore, grammar and syntax are connected. The syntax is grouped into two wide types, which are formal syntax and functional syntax. Formal syntax is focused on the form of sentences. Functional syntax, on the other hand, focuses on the role, meaning, and function as seen from the form of a sentence. It is necessary because sentence categories have a variety of different functions. These two types of syntax are interconnected to fulfill their functions. The function and role of a sentence need formal syntax to consider the structural constituencies of sentences.

In order to understand a sentence by the role of grammatical, functional syntax is needed. A syntactic unit can be found in a sentence. Song has a structure consisting of sentences. This structure is called a song lyric. In short, functional syntax can be found in song lyrics. The sentences of lyrics produce a meaning accompanied by music that makes it a song. In writing song lyrics, the writer usually tells a story that makes the song more relatable to the listener. Furthermore, the relatable song lyrics may be shown in functional syntax.

This research focuses on the functional syntax of phrases in the first album of Olivia Rodrigo named *SOUR*. This full-length album debuted in May 2021 due to her debut single “driver license” becoming a success. Her album consists of a well-written song with her 17-year-old voice inside. Olivia Rodrigo is a singer and songwriter who started her career as a Disney Star and turned into a Pop Star in the music industry. The first song of the album that went viral, ‘driver license’ spent eight straight weeks at #1 on the Billboard Hot100 chart and won a Grammy award early in her music career. Sour album has realistic lyrics and appeals to Gen Z

listeners. Sour album contains various female emotions such as anger, jealousy, and sadness and notable with songs that contain meaningful lyrics that explain the story.

The writer chose this album as the data source because song lyrics likely contain many verbal phrases that make up a lyrics, thus, this study aims to analyze the song lyrics from a linguistic perspective. The lyrics that are full of meaning with various emotions expressed by the verbal phrases are analyzed to find the typical role of verbal phrase patterns and the situational context used in composing the lyrics. In addition, research on functional syntax in song lyrics is rarely found. For the above reason, the writer intends to do research related to verbal phrases of functional syntax in song lyrics entitled **“Functional Syntactic Analysis of Verbal Phrases in Song Lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo’s Sour album.”**

1.2 Theoretical Framework

1.2.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics

According to Fontaine (2012, p. 4), the function of language can be seen from the language structure used by the speaker. Structure is necessary for language to achieve the function of the language. Combining function and structure will give meaning. Thus, the hearer can understand the intention of the speaker. Meanings in language are affected by the social and cultural context in which those meanings are expressed. According to Banks (2019, p. 1), language divides into three broad groups, that are formal, cognitive, and functional. He pointed out that functional approaches try to discover how language works, that is functions. Banks (2019, p. 2) also stated that

systemic functional linguistics is functional because it is concerned both with the internal functioning of the parts of language and the way that language functions externally in society.

Likewise, to derive meaning in verbal communication, context is necessary. The context in which a conversation takes place includes every element of the situation in which it happens. Banks (2019, p.103) point out that text is typically influenced by the context in which it is created, so context plays an important role in producing text. However, once the text is created, it becomes part of context and can change it. This means that there is a two-way relationship between text and context, where both influence each other and change constantly. Those situational contexts are explained by register theory. Morley (2000, p. 8) notes that register is defined as a variation of language within a context of a certain situation. The variations in register are learned in three specifications, which are, field, tenor, and mode. Thompson (2014, p. 53) explained that field refers to the conversation and the role of language that is being talked, tenor describes the relationship between individuals that are involved in the communicative act, and mode relates to the way language operates during communication, both spoken or written.

1. **Field**

Field is concerned with the subject matter of the text (Morley, 2004, p. 9). It talked about the topic or what the text is about. Field is concerned with the activity that answers the question of what happened, who, how, why, and so on. As an example in Morley (2004, p. 9) the text *The number of walkers and climbers is*

leading to increased erosion of footpaths and hillsides. It is therefore important to minimize the damage caused so that enjoyment of the countryside is not spoiled for future generations of ramblers relates to the field of rambling and the environment, and as linguistic evidence for this analysis we can cite the items *walkers, climbers, increased erosion, footpaths, hillsides, minimize the damage, enjoyment of the countryside, not spoiled, ramblers.*

2. **Tenor**

Tenor is concerned with the social status and role of the various participants and the relationship between them in the situation (Morley, 2000, p. 9). This type pays attention to the role of the person that does the communication. So, the person will be expressed with a level of formality and familiarity in the wording of text or speech they communicate. Morley (2004, p. 10) stated that the variation of formality and familiarity can be presented on scale, using terms such as ‘remote’, ‘formal’, ‘informal’, ‘familiar’, and ‘intimate’. For example in Morley (2004, p. 10) comparing *Mr. Smith against John* in asking to do something. It can be *Sit down!, Do sit down!, and would you like a seat?*. It also can be used in informal and formal communication as compared in *Good morning* and *Hi!*

3. **Mode**

According to Morley (2004, p. 10) mode handles the medium through which the text is expressed. Mode can be based on the medium of written or spoken language. Here, there are two main comparisons between ‘spoken’, which is first, and primarily ‘spoken to be heard’ and ‘written’ which is perhaps most easily related with ‘written to be read’. Spoken language can be spontaneous or non-spontaneous. Spontaneous

language may occur in conversations involving more than one speaker, it can also be a conversation that takes place with one person, such as a television commentator or presenter. For spontaneous language, the spoken language occurs after preparation, such as formal speech or monologue. Mode also needs to consider the 'channel' used to convey the language. It may occur between written communication delivered by letter or email, or text messages (Morley, 2004, p. 11).

Besides that, Fawcett (2000, p. 97) discovered that functional grammar by Halliday is concerned with elements rather than classes of units. In the following, it is explained that unit classes are required in traditional grammar while structural elements are required in grammatical theory in functional traditions. This is required in the modern theory of syntax on systemic functional syntax. Functional grammar is concerned with the meaning and structure of the semantic system. The sentence in functional grammar, as seen from its meanings and context, is a textual unit that performs syntactic analysis. Semantic meaning structures carry the concept of function in syntactic structures. Thus, functional syntactic analysis is concerned with the study of meanings that are realized by form. Further, syntactic function is identified as the element in a word or sentence that expresses its class of words.

1.2.2 Functional Syntax

Syntax is grouped into two types, formal syntax, and functional syntax. Morley (2004, p. 28) states that formal syntax studies how words can be broken down into small units and can be combined into large units or sentences. On the other hand,

functional syntax focuses on how sentences can be structured by the small elements that have a role and function in building a sentence. Formal and functional syntax is interdependent where the form of formal syntax realizes the representations of functional. For instance, in Morley (2000, p. 73) discusses that in formal analysis, the sentence “Your parcel arrived this morning”, the formal analysis will be structured by ‘NP + VP + NP’. While in functional analysis, the structure is arranged by ‘poss + noun + verb + dem + noun.’

By the function of syntax, every word, phrase, clause, and even sentence itself has a role that can be functioned if it is broken down. It analyzes the function, which is the meanings, and the use of its elements with a specific syntax structure. The sequence of a sentence is analyzed in terms of elements in the structure, such as sentences, clauses, phrases, etc. Following the function, the analysis is done by recognizing the form of structure as a part that functions in the sentence.

Saussure in Fawcett (2000, p. 33) defines functional as the approach with a form and meaning of sign. A function in grammar shows that human language is complex. As is described in Fawcett (2000, p. 44), functional syntax is not an independent theory. Where functional syntax is interdependent with formal syntax and uses the basis of functional grammar in its theory. However, functional syntax can influence humans with its tool to make human language easier to learn deeply. Functional syntax basically organizes the sentence's construction by connecting the meaning and form emphasizing functional categories.

1.2.3 Phrase

A phrase is a grouping of one or more words which when combined can give a grammatical role or meaning expressed in a single word. Phrases are a unit from syntax. It can be functioned as a unit also grouped into their word class. According to Morley (2000, p. 53), traditionally in grammar, a phrase is only focused on grouping two or more words. At present, a phrase is considered a grouping of one or more words that focuses on a headword element that has both grammatical roles in a single word. The head of the word in the phrase is used as a keyword. For instance, discovered from Collins & Hollo (2017, p. 36), in the sentence “*Cool drinks are available*”, *cool drinks* are a noun phrase with *drinks* as a head noun. This phrase is accompanied by an adjective *cool*, which is dependent. A phrase can also have a head-only, such as “*Drinks are available.*” Here, the word *drinks*, Collins & Hollo (2017, p. 36) believe is an acceptable head-only phrase.

Phrases are a unit included in the expression face of language. Phrases are used as a unit to interpret an utterance or expression. Phrases in language help humans to simplify pronunciation more easily and help them memorize more easily. Burton-Roberts (2011, p. 9) describes that phrase function as an ordering element in the sentence structure. The sentence structure implied by the phrase can be seen by solving the sentence arranged with a tree diagram or phrase markers. It serves to represent structure by marking the arrangement of words in the sentence that make up its constituent phrases.

1.2.4 Verbal Phrase

Verbal phrases are one of the word classes included in phrase categories. Morley (2004, p. 92) pointed out that verbal phrases have a verbal function that can be realized with a single word, a main verb, or a more complete verb group. A verbal phrase syntactically is a verbal process or part of a verbal that describes the action, event, place, or statement of the main verb.

Every sentence has a minimal verb. Verbal phrases provide useful information for sentences. It includes any words such as main verb, auxiliary, or words that modify the verb, such as adverbs or objects. Morley (2000, p. 146) pointed out that verbal phrases have an element that builds up the sentence structure. It describes its elements, which are auxiliary, verbal headword, particle, and infinitive particles. It will realize the 'verb' of the sentence.

A. Main verb

It is an element that functions as the headword or important element in a verbal phrase. The main verb is the core element that expresses the meaning of the sentences. It described the action of the sentence. Main verb indicates the element (h).

The example can be found in Morley (2000, p. 146):

	x	h	p			
<i>The union</i>		<i>has</i>		<i>broken off</i>		<i>negotiations</i>

In the sentence above, *broken* performs as a headword or main verb (h), *has* performs auxiliary (x), and *off* performs particle (p). It is because *broken* is the verb that expresses the meaning of sentences. The word *broken* describes *the union* in the sentences.

B. Auxiliary

Auxiliary stands beside the main verb. It is commonly known as a helping verb. It helps the main verb to form various expressions for a sentence. A verbal phrase will be called non-finite if an auxiliary follows the verb. In contrast, if the sentence is present or past, not followed by an auxiliary, then the verb is finite.



x
x
x
h

The pressure | *may* | *have* | *been* | *mounting* | *all night*

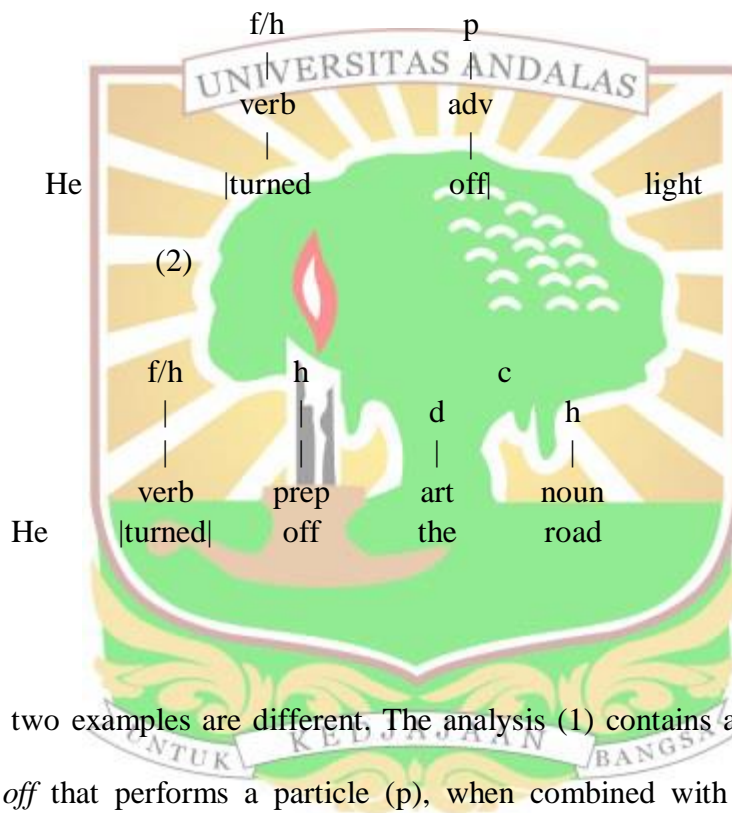
For the above example by Morley (2000, p. 146), the auxiliary stands beside the headword. It helps to explain the headword (h) *mounting* with three auxiliaries (x), which are *may*, *have*, and *been* followed. Thus, the sentence above is named a non-finite verbal phrase.

C. Particle

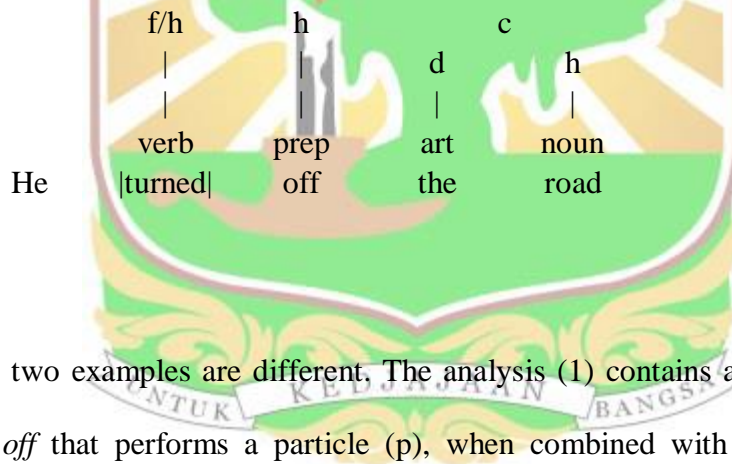
Berry (1975) in Morley (2000, p. 148), particle is an extending verb preference. It creates a specific meaning of a phrase. It is also named as a phrasal verb. Mostly, people cannot distinguish phrasal verbs and prepositional. A phrasal verb combines with the main verb to build a figurative meaning. While prepositional performs its

function of literal adverbial in the phrase. Morley (2000, p.148) note that particle is different from a prepositional verb that can be seen in this example:

(1)



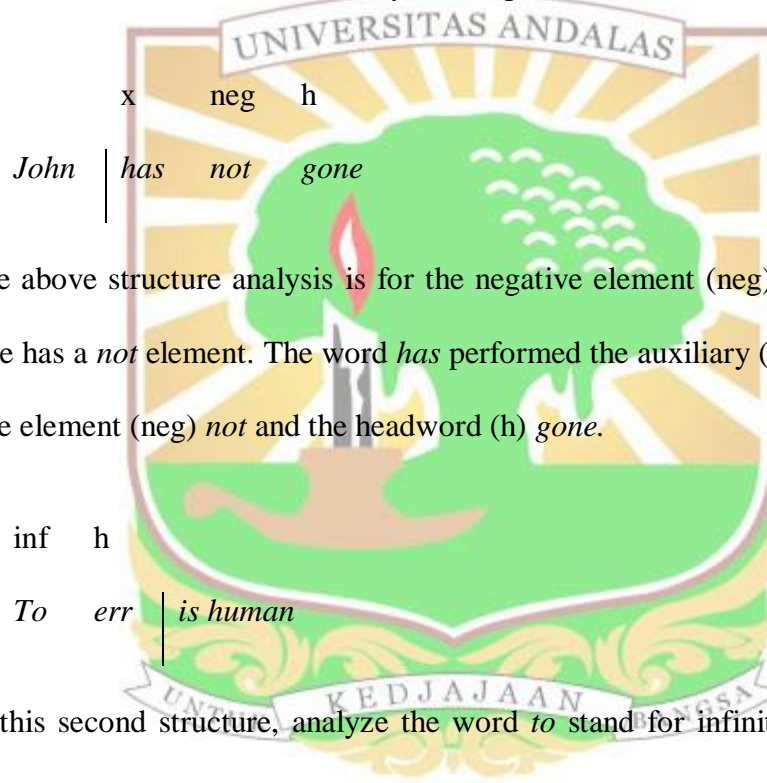
(2)



These two examples are different. The analysis (1) contains a phrasal verb that the word *off* that performs a particle (p), when combined with the word *turned*, becomes a verb that has meaning. In analysis (2), the words *off* stand as a headword (h) of *off the road*. The word *off* in (2) being a preposition as it used a complete element (c) which is *the road*. Morley (2000, p. 43) points out that prepositions require a complete element.

D. Infinitive and Negative

An infinitive verb is the base form of the verb that often comes with ‘to’ in front of the verb. It can function as an adverb, noun, or adjective in a sentence. A negative particle is a negative element that is followed by not with the verb. It also can be found in other types of phrases. Negative elements express the absence or negation of the verb. For instance, found in Morley (2000, p. 149):



The above structure analysis is for the negative element (neg). It is because the sentence has a *not* element. The word *has* performed the auxiliary (x) followed by the negative element (neg) *not* and the headword (h) *gone*.

In this second structure, analyze the word *to* stand for infinitive (inf). It is the base form of the verb that comes in front of the headword (h) *err*.

1.3 Review of Previous Studies

There are five previous studies used as a reference in this research. The first research is entitled “Analysis of simple sentence structure in English: Functional Syntax Approach” by Ida Cahyani (2020). The focus of this study is to analyze

English simple sentences, particularly declarative sentences, and describe the role of each unit. The theory of Morley (2000) is used to analyze the simple sentence found by the researcher. This research aims to identify the constituent units and the function structure of simple sentences. The findings of this research, she found two types of simple sentences that are sentences with object elements and the other one is sentences with complementary elements.

This research is almost compatible with the researcher because this topic also used Morley's theory of functional syntax to analyze the sentences. This research describes the role of each unit of the sentence based on Morley's theory. This research also used qualitative description to analyze the data. However, this research has a weakness. In this research, the source of the data used is not specified. This research does not provide a comparison with other approaches to syntax analysis. This research also used simple sentences that are different from the present research's topics.

The second research is "The Functions of Verb Phrases in Westlife's Song Lyrics." Ismarini and Maria (2021) of Darma Agung University have done this research. This research focuses on the verb phrases of selected song lyrics. This research aims to identify the types of verb phrases and find the function and meaning of them. This study focuses only on verb phrases. The data used for this research are song lyrics contained in an album. The result of this research found that the verb phrases in Westlife's song lyrics function as several grammatical functions.

This research does not use the theory of syntax, as the researcher would do. The research only focuses on grammatical functions that are found in the lyrics. However,

this research did analyze song lyrics as the data to find the verb phrases. This study also clearly outlines the parts that included verb phrases.

The third research was done by Siti Nur Faidah (2013). The title of this research is “A Syntactic Analysis of Verb Phrases Used in *The Horse Dealer’s Daughter* Story.” This study focuses on the verb phrases found in the story. This study's purpose is to identify the constituents of verb phrases and describe their functions. This research uses the X-Bar theory in breaking down the constituent of verb phrases. The researcher also describes the function of each verb phrase.

This research is helpful to the present studies to compare the functions of verb phrases with different theories and data. It also used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the syntactic structure of verb phrases. However, this research has a weakness in not describing the theory that she used in analyzing the data.

The fourth research entitled “Syntactic Analysis of Phrases and Sentences Found in the Song’s Lyric “The World’s Smallest Violin” By AJR.” It was done by Muhammad Raihan Islami and Istiqamah Ardila (2022). This study focuses on syntactic analysis of sentences and phrases in song lyrics. This research aims to figure out the types and patterns of phrases in song lyrics. It also used descriptive qualitative analysis research. This research used a tree diagram to analyze the syntactic structure of the data and formal syntax.

This research explains the breakdown of phrases, sentences, and formulas in lyrics neatly. The weakness of this study is that it does not show the basic theory used in the breakdown of phrases and sentences researched. Moreover, this research has a few gaps from the present studies. It analyzed the phrases and sentences, which are

different from the present studies. It also used different theories in analyzing syntactic structure. They used formal syntax theory in analyzing the data where the function was not described in the research. They focus on the pattern of verb phrases that are used in song lyrics.

The fifth research is “A Syntactical Analysis of Phrases Used in Josh Groban Song Lyrics.” It was done by Sholihatul, Dalimunte, and Diah (2021) from Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara. This research focuses on finding the types of phrases and sentence patterns used in the song lyrics. This research used tree diagram theory of Bornstein. It used a descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. The purpose of the study is to understand the data specifically and easily. The researchers also describe the patterns used in the data. The weakness of this research is that it uses the table to explain the data of phrases that makes it difficult for the reader to read and understand the data that is used. The researcher also only analyzed 3 sentences out of 12 sentences of the data. The writing in the research is also not presentable and difficult to understand for the reader.

This research almost has similarities in the research that is being conducted now. This research also analyzed song lyrics as the data and using syntactic analysis. The difference is that the analysis carried out now uses syntactic functional analysis. The research analyzes the verbal phrases found in selected song lyrics and describes their role in the sentence.

In short, after reading all the research, the writer found the gaps in the research. There is only one study that uses the theory of functional syntax analysis. As well as the data, few previous studies use verbal phrases and song lyrics as the research data.

Several studies use formal syntax to analyze the data. For that reason, the writer wants to analyze the functional analysis of verbal phrases found in song lyrics. The writer in this research finds the other way of functional syntax in song lyrics using the theory of Morley (2000). The writer also analyzes the dominant type through the context of the register by using Morley's (2004) theory to find out the reason why the lyrics appear that way.

1.4 Research Question

1. What is the typical role of verbal phrase elements structure in the lyrics of SOUR album songs?
2. In connection with register, why do the lyrics of SOUR album songs represent that way?

1.5 Objective of the Research

Based on the research question, the objective of this research is:

1. To identify the typical role of verbal phrase elements structure in the lyrics of SOUR album songs.
2. To find out why the lyrics of SOUR album songs represented the way they are in connection with register.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This research focuses on analyzing the typical role of verbal phrase element structure and analyzing the word choice used in song lyrics on Sour album based on the register context. The analysis is limited only to verbal phrases in the lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's SOUR album. The data comes from the 11 songs that were on the SOUR album. Furthermore, the writer also pays attention to the structural elements of

verbal phrases using the theory of Morley (2000) and context of the lyrics using register context to find out the appearance of lyrics with Morley's (2004) theory.

