Syntactical Analysis in Jkt48's *Flying High* Song Lyrics

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Abstract
This study examines the syntactic structure found in the lyrics of the song Flying High by JKT48 using Nelson Francis's sentence classification theory. This study also analyzes the functional meaning in song lyrics through Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach. The purpose of this study is to identify the syntactic structure contained in song lyrics and how the meaning of song lyrics is conveyed functionally. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method with a text analysis approach. Data was collected through official lyrics documentation and analyzed based on syntactic structure and functional grammar elements, including three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The results show that the most dominant sentence structure in the lyrics is the Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification, reflecting clarity of meaning and alignment with the musical rhythm. Functionally, the lyrics are dominated by material processes (ideational), declarative forms with strong modality (interpersonal), and personal themes (textual) that emphasize spirit, emotion, and personal perspective. This study shows that song lyrics, despite their apparent simplicity, hold significant value for both syntactic and functional analysis. The integration of form and function in the lyrics reveals the depth of meaning that supports the motivational theme of the song.

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Abstrak
Penelitian ini mengkaji struktur sintaksis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Flying High karya JKT48 menggunakan teori klasifikasi kalimat Nelson Francis. Penelitian ini juga menganalisis makna fungsional dalam lirik lagu melalui pendekatan Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL) Halliday. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi struktur sintaksis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu dan bagaimana makna lirik lagu disampaikan secara fungsional. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan analisis teks. Data dikumpulkan melalui dokumentasi lirik resmi dan dianalisis berdasarkan struktur sintaksis dan unsur tata bahasa fungsional, termasuk tiga metafungsi: ideasional, interpersonal, dan tekstual. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa struktur kalimat yang paling dominan dalam lirik adalah Struktur Predikasi + Komplementasi + Modifikasi, yang mencerminkan kejelasan makna dan keselarasan dengan ritme musik. Secara fungsional, lirik didominasi oleh proses material (ideasional), bentuk deklaratif dengan modalitas yang kuat (interpersonal), dan tema personal (tekstual) yang menekankan semangat, emosi, dan perspektif pribadi. Studi ini menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu, meskipun tampak sederhana, memiliki nilai signifikan baik untuk analisis sintaksis maupun fungsional. Integrasi bentuk dan fungsi dalam lirik mengungkapkan kedalaman makna yang mendukung tema motivasi lagu tersebut.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication system used by humans to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings to others. According to (Finocchiaro, 1974) language is a system of vocal symbols used by a group of humans to cooperate, interact, and identify themselves. In addition, (Halliday, 1978) also states that language is a semiotic system that not only functions to convey information, but also to express social relationships and shape meaning in certain contexts. Therefore, the role of language is very important in human life as the main means of communication between individuals and in the wider community. English is one of the most widely used languages in the world. Ethnologue (Eberhard dkk., 2015) notes that English is spoken as an official or second language in more than 70 countries, and is a lingua franca in global communication, education, technology and international business.

English is an international language that is widely used in various fields such as education, diplomacy, media, and technology. According to(Crystal, 2003), English has become a global

lingua franca spoken by more than one billion people, either as a first, second or foreign language. Because of its global status, English has become a major focus in applied linguistic studies, especially in the context of foreign language learning. One important branch of linguistics to learn is syntax, which is the study of sentence structure and how language elements are systematically arranged to form meaning (Poole, 2024; Radford, 2009). Understanding syntax not only helps in forming structurally correct sentences, but also provides insight into how messages are conveyed effectively in various communication contexts. In practice, syntactic structures in English can vary depending on the context in which they are used, including in artistic texts such as song lyrics.

Music is one of the entertainment media that is familiar in today's life. Music is a basic human instinct and daily human activity that is universally inspired by love and experience (Piragasam dkk., 2013). Now, the use of music is not only for pleasure, but also as a medium in a learning activity. Music is usually closely related to lyrics. Song lyrics are often used as a medium for learning English because they are interesting, memorable and contextual. Songs can create a fun learning atmosphere while introducing learners to authentic forms of language. Research shows that musical elements such as rhythm and melody can attract attention, maintain focus and support language literacy development (Paquette & Rieg, 2008). According to (Murphey, 2013) songs are able to increase motivation and strengthen memory of the language structures learned. One of the linguistic aspects that can be studied through song lyrics is syntactic structure, because lyrics often utilize variations in sentence structure to match the rhythm, emotion, and meaning. Therefore, song lyrics are not only of artistic value, but also have potential as a source of linguistic analysis, especially in understanding sentence forms and patterns in the context of creative communication.

JKT48, an Indonesian female idol group, has released many songs during its more than a decade-long career. To date, JKT48 has released 25 singles, including three original singles and hundreds of other songs. One of their most attention-grabbing works is the song *Flying High*, which was released on June 17, 2022 as the 23rd single and is the second original single after *Rapsodi*. The song is entirely in English, making it the first single in Group 48 to have all the lyrics written in English. Combining Indo-Pop, Hip-Hop, and EDM genres, the song creates an energetic and modern feel, and is available on various digital music platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, etc.

As an English song, *Flying High* by JKT48 offers interesting material to analyze from a syntactic point of view. Syntactic analysis of the lyrics of this song allows researchers to explore how syntactic elements such as subject, predicate, object, adverb, and complement are used in forming sentences. This song was chosen because it has unique characteristics in that it was written entirely in English by an Indonesian idol group that generally sings songs in Indonesian. JKT48 as part of Southeast Asian idol culture also has a different approach than conventional solo singers or bands, especially in the choice of words used in song lyrics. This makes the song *Flying High* a relevant object to study in the context of syntax, especially in understanding the patterns of sentence structure that appear in popular English-language media.

Several previous studies have been conducted related to syntactic analysis in song lyrics. Research by (Dachi, 2022) analyzed sentence patterns in Agnez Mo's songs and found structural variations in the form of phrases and clauses. Research by (Syuriadi & Englishtina, 2023) on the song “Say You Love Me” by Jessie Ware identified six main structures from 18 lines of lyrics. Meanwhile, Therendy (Therendy dkk., 2024) examined Louis Tomlinson's songs and concluded that the S + Vt + dO pattern was the most dominant structure. Another study by (Purnomoadjie & Mulyadi, 2019) on two Adele songs revealed various forms of sentence structure and the use of nonstandard words that are typical in lyrical style. In addition (Gafur dkk., 2021) analyzed syntactic deviations in Ed Sheeran's songs and found seven types of deviations such as omissions, prepositional deviations, and anastrophe.

However, most of the existing studies still focus on English-speaking musicians or Indonesian singers who have long used English in their work. Not many studies have been found that specifically analyze the sentence structure in English song lyrics written and sung by non-native speaker idol groups such as JKT48. This research takes the song *Flying High* by JKT48 as the object of research which is the only song created by JKT48 that fully uses English. This *Flying High* song offers unique syntactic study potential. Besides syntactic analysis, this study also aims to analyze song lyrics functionally to

better understand their meaning. Therefore, this research aims to fill the gap by analyzing the sentence types and the application of syntactic rules in the lyrics of the song.

This research is important to provide a deeper understanding of sentence structure variations in English song lyrics. The results of the analysis are expected to be taken into consideration in using song lyrics as English learning media, especially in the context of introducing authentic syntactic structures that appear in popular texts. Through the analysis of the song *Flying High*, this research is expected to contribute to the study of syntax and its use in art text-based learning media.

II. METHOD

This research used a descriptive qualitative approach with a text analysis method. The qualitative approach was chosen because the study aims to deeply and contextually understand linguistic phenomena without testing hypotheses or measuring quantitative variables. The descriptive qualitative design was applied to systematically describe and analyze linguistic phenomena based on existing data without manipulating variables. The text analysis method was employed to uncover meanings and structures in written documents, such as song lyrics, focusing on linguistic aspects like sentence types, syntactic order, and other grammatical elements. This approach enables the researcher to observe, identify, and interpret syntactic patterns in the song lyrics in a thorough and detailed manner.

In this research, there are no direct human participants since the focus is on analyzing documents in the form of song lyrics. The primary object of analysis is the lyrics of the song *Flying High* by JKT48, obtained from official platforms such as Musixmatch and Spotify. When relevant, the socio-cultural context of the song's production, including the roles of the lyricists and singers, is considered to support data interpretation. Thus, the "participant" in this study is not an individual, but the song lyrics as the linguistic object of analysis.

In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the primary instrument, actively involved in data collection, analysis, and interpretation. According to (Sugiyono, 2017) the researcher's direct interaction with data and research objects makes their expertise crucial to the study's quality. In this research, the researcher applied linguistic theories, including (P. S. Francis dkk., 1958) syntax theory and (Halliday, 1978) systemic functional linguistics, to conduct an in-depth analysis. Additionally, supporting tools such as official song lyrics from Musixmatch and Spotify, along with sentence classification tables and syntactic structure diagrams, were used to facilitate the data processing.

Data collection in this research was conducted through documentation studies by accessing the lyrics of the song *Flying High* from official sources such as Musixmatch and Spotify. According to (Sugiyono, 2017) documentation study is a key technique in qualitative research, particularly for analyzing written texts. Additionally, (Bowen, 2009) explains that document analysis is a systematic method used in qualitative research to review and evaluate both printed and electronic documents as valid and information-rich data sources. The researcher also performed direct verification by carefully listening to the song to ensure the accuracy and consistency between the written lyrics and the actual vocal performance. The collected data was then organized into a sentence classification table to facilitate syntactic analysis.

The data analysis in this study followed a qualitative approach focusing on syntactic analysis of the *Flying High* song lyrics. It involved three main stages: data reduction, where relevant lyrics with typical syntactic structures were selected; data presentation, in which these structures were analyzed using Functional Grammar principles while considering the artistic and communicative context; and conclusion drawing, where findings were interpreted inductively to describe the syntactic patterns and language use in the lyrics. This process aimed to provide insights into sentence structures in songs and their potential for English learning.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Result

This chapter presents the results of the syntactic analysis of the lyrics of the song *Flying High* by JKT48. This research aims to identify and classify the syntactic structures contained in the song lyrics based on (W. N. Francis, 1958) theory, which divides sentence structures into four main types, namely Structures of Modification, Structures of Predication, Structures of Complementation, and Structures of Coordination. This theory was chosen because it provides a detailed approach to the syntactical elements in a

sentence, and is relevant to the context of analyzing texts such as song lyrics.

The object analyzed consists of 62 lines of lyrics of the song *Flying High*, obtained from the official online platforms, Musixmatch and Spotify. The analysis was conducted qualitatively using documentation and classification methods, then tabulated in the form of a list of sentence structures based on syntactic theory. Each sentence is categorized according to the combination of structures that are close to the syntactic pattern proposed by Francis.

In addition to analyzing from the formal point of view of syntactic structure, in some parts of the analysis, it is also accompanied by Halliday's Functional Grammar approach to interpret the function of the deeper meaning of the structure, whether ideational, interpersonal, or textual. Thus, this analysis not only reveals how sentences are syntactically formed, but also how meaning is constructed and communicated through these structures.

The results of the analysis are presented in the form of a sentence structure classification table, followed by a narrative explanation of each type of structure found. This approach is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the use of syntactic structures in English song lyrics written and performed by non-native speakers such as JKT48, as well as filling the void of similar studies in the context of syntactic linguistics in the realm of popular music.

From the analysis that has been carried out on 62 lines of *Flying High* song lyrics with the theory of syntactic structure proposed by(W. N. Francis, 1958), five varied syntactic structure combinations were found. The majority of structures used in the sentences of the song lyrics are a combination of two or more types of Syntactical Structures by (W. N. Francis, 1958). The data obtained is presented in tabular form as follows.

No	Syntactical Structures	Line	Lyrics
1	Predication + Complementation	2	We're flying high, high
		11	We're flying high, high
		13	We're flying high, high
		19	We're flying high, high
		25	Everything feels alright
		32	We're flying high, high
		34	We're flying high, high
		40	We're flying high, high
		48	We're flying high, high
		50	We're flying high, high
		56	We're flying high, high
		62	We're flying high, high
2	Predication + Complementation + Modification	1	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		3	Feels like this gon' call for celebration
		6	I can hardly believe I made it this far
		7	I feel the wave, I feel the love, I feel the energy
		8	I'm on my way to better days
		9	There ain't a thing that can stop me now
		10	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		15	(Said I woke up hella grateful)
		18	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		21	I could see so clear, there ain't no clouds
		23	Nothing in my way that can stop it now
		26	And a little bit of extra, the shoes rock at fiesta
		28	I feel the wave, I feel the love, I feel the energy
		29	I'm on my way to better days
		30	There ain't a thing that can stop me now
		31	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		36	(Said I woke up hella grateful)
		39	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		44	It's only the beginning
		45	Going 'til the wheels fall off
		46	Gonna give it all that we got, ooh-whoa
		47	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		52	(Said I woke up hella grateful)
		55	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
		58	(Said I woke up hella grateful)
		61	I'm sitting pretty, I'm enjoying the view
3	Complementation + Modification	4	Made it from the bottom to the top
		5	Finally, free got my emancipation
		12	No stop, no quitting, going straight to the moon
		14	Woke up hella grateful
		16	Never let up, stayed faithful
		17	Never let up, had faith (tell me now)
		27	Lovin' this life so

			blessed
		33	No stop, no quitting, going straight to the moon
		35	Woke up hella grateful
		37	Never let up, stayed faithful
		38	Never let up, had faith (tell me now)
		49	No stop, no quitting, going straight to the moon
		51	Woke up hella grateful
		53	Never let up, stayed faithful
		54	Never let up, had faith (tell me now)
		57	Woke up hella grateful
		59	Never let up, stayed faithful
		60	Never let up, had faith (tell me now)
4	Predication + Complementation + Modification + Coordination	24	Me and my friends are tight
		42	No, there ain't no telling where we'll go or how far
		43	We ain't got no limits or no ceilings
5	Modification	20	Birds eye view of this whole town
		22	Zoom, zoom on my way like a rocket
		41	To the moon, to the stars

Based on the table above, it can be seen that in the lyrics of *Flying High* by JKT48, there are five different sets of syntactic structures, namely Structure of Predication + Complementation with 12 lines, Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification with 26 lines, Structure of Complementation + Modification with 18 lines, Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification + Coordination with 3 lines, and Structure of Modification also with 3 lines. Out of a total of 62 lines, the Predication + Complementation + Modification structure dominates with 26 lines (42%). This shows that Predication + Complementation + Modification structure is the most used structure in the lyrics of *Flying High* by JKT48.

B. Discussion

From the explanation above, based on the Syntactical Strucuture theory by Francis (1985), *Flying High* by JKT48 song lyrics are classified into five different structures, namely Predication + Complementation, Predication + Complementation + Modification, Predication + Complementation + Modification + Coordination, and Modification.

Sentences that use the Structure of Predication + Complementation structure are simple yet powerful. Example sentences like “Everything feels alright” show a clear basic subject-verb-complement structure. The use of this structure shows that the lyrics prioritize conveying a straightforward and direct meaning to the listener.

Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification is the most frequently used structure in the lyrics of Fying High. Together with Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification + Coordiantion, this structure shows that syntactic variations are used in the lyrics to build more dynamic and expressive meaning. The modifications and conjunctions inserted in the sentence structure add depth to the message, while enriching the sound and rhythm of the lyrics. Example sentences such as “I'm on my way to better days” and “We ain't got no limits or no ceilings” show a more complex structure than the previous one. In addition, the sentences from the Structure of Complementation + Modification are also not much different. The sentence structure is no less varied, as in the example sentence “Finally, free got my emancipation”, where even though there is no Predication element in it, the structure still has a variety that is no less unique.

Some lyric lines only consist of very simple structures and only modified elements, such as “To the moon, to the stars” or “Birds eye view of this whole town”. Even though they are not whole sentences, these structures still have a strong expressive value and can complement other sentences.

Furthermore, through analysis using a functional grammar approach based on (Halliday, 1978) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, the findings show that meaning in this song is not only shaped by sentence structure, but also by the speaker's attitude, emotional tone, and organization of information. Material processes are the most dominant type of process, reflecting the spirit of action and ambition. Mental and relational processes reinforce the personal and motivational nature of the lyrics. Interpersonally, the majority of clauses are declarative with

varying modality - generally indicating high confidence - which reinforces the confident tone. Textually, many clauses place the self-subject "I and We" as the theme, thus emphasizing personal experience and internal motivation.

These patterns show that although song lyrics appear simple on the surface, they actually have a deeper communication function. The selection of appropriate syntactic structures, combined with functional elements, supports the lyrical themes of perseverance, confidence and aspiration. This shows that the linguistic features in the song lyrics are intentionally designed, not only to fit the musical composition, but also to engage the audience socially and emotionally.

In addition, the use of English by a non-native music group provides an additional layer of language adaptation. The lyrical expression reflects a blend of formal structure and artistic flexibility, making it an interesting object of study in the fields of applied linguistics and English language learning.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the research results, the types of syntactic structures used in the lyrics of the song *Flying High* by JKT48 are Structure of Predication + Complementation in 12 lines, Structure of Predication + Complementation + Modification in 26 lines, Structure of Complementation + Modification in 18 lines, Predication + Complementation + Modification + Coordination Structure in 3 lines, and Modification Structure also in 3 lines. The most dominant structure in the song lyrics is the Predication + Complementation + Modification Structure, which dominates with 26 lines. The selection of these structures indicates that the sentences used in the song lyrics create a highly diverse and very interesting form.

Functionally, the lyrics of this song also contain deep meanings that are analyzed through Halliday's three metafunctions, namely the Ideational metafunction, Interpersonal metafunction, and Textual metafunction. Ideationally, data shows that the sentences used in the song lyrics employ material, mental, relational, and existential processes, indicating that the speaker intends to convey an action performed and the feelings experienced. Interpersonally, data shows that the sentences used in the song lyrics employ the declarative mood, indicating a firm and confident statement. The use of modality such as "can" and "could" indicates a capability that the speaker can perform. Textually, data shows the use of clear sentence structures in the form of theme-rheme, indicating that the sentences used can be easily understood by listeners and readers. Most sentences using the themes "I" and "We" also indicate personal experiences and internal motivations.

The integration between syntactic structure and functional grammar shows that although the structure of the song lyrics is relatively simple, the meaning conveyed is profound and inspiring. This shows that song lyrics can be an effective source in linguistic studies, both in terms of form and function. Thus, the lyrics of *Flying High* by JKT48 are not only artistically and entertainingly valuable, but also have potential as teaching material and objects of linguistic analysis, particularly in the study of syntax and functional grammar.

B. Suggestion

Based on the results of the research conducted, the author offers the following suggestions as a form of contribution and follow-up to this research:

1. For future researchers, this study can serve as a reference for conducting syntactic studies on other song lyrics with a focus on different aspects, such as sentence structure transformation, or further study using other linguistic theories, including semantic and pragmatic analysis. Future researchers are also advised to use more lyrics data from different genres or languages to broaden the scope of analysis.
2. For English teachers and learners, the results of this study can be used as a reference in learning activities that link syntactic structures to real contexts. Song lyrics can be used as an effective learning medium because they contain authentic sentences that reflect everyday language use in creative and expressive contexts.
3. For practitioners in the field of linguistics or developers of learning materials, the findings in this study indicate that the integration of structural and functional approaches provides a more comprehensive understanding of language use. Therefore, a similar approach can be

applied to analyze other popular and communicative texts, such as poetry, advertisements, or dialogues in films.

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