ANALYZING THE USE OF DOUBLE NEGATIVES IN THE LYRICS OF 15 ENGLISH SONGS

Analisis Penggunaan Pendobelan Negatif pada Lirik 15 Lagu Bahasa Inggris

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Abstrak: Bahasa Inggris memiliki banyak sekali unsur tata bahasa yang sangat penting untuk diperhatikan agar dapat digunakan dengan tepat. Salah satu cara termudah bagi pelajar bahasa Inggris untuk belajar tata bahasa Inggris adalah melalui lagu. Lagu tersebut sangat sering dijadikan sebagai sumber belajar bahasa Inggris karena memiliki lirik yang bermakna dan nada yang menarik. Banyak lagu dalam bahasa Inggris tidak mengikuti tata bahasa yang benar. Hal ini diciptakan oleh pencipta lagu agar rima yang dihasilkan sesuai dengan kebutuhan estetika lagu tersebut. Ketika kesalahan tidak diperbaiki, kesalahan akan terjadi berulang kali baik lisan maupun tulisan bahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis penggunaan negatif ganda yang ditemukan dalam lirik 15 lagu berbahasa Inggris. Penggunaan double negative dalam tata bahasa yang tepat merupakan elemen penting dari sumber yang efektif dalam belajar bahasa Inggris. Metode penelitian ini adalah pertama menganalisis penggunaan double negative dalam 15 lirik lagu dan kedua mengklasifikasikan jenis double negative yang telah ditentukan berdasarkan kriterianya. Hasil temuan menunjukkan ada 15 lagu berbahasa Inggris yang mengandung lirik negatif ganda. Ada lima belas lagu dari lima belas penyanyi populer, yaitu Adele, Sia, Galantis, Doja Cat, Drake, Cadmium ft. Rosendale, Rae Sremmurd, CHIC, Bruno Mars, Marvin Gaye, Queen, Rihanna, Pink Floyd, Elvis Presley, and Eddie & The Hot Rods.
Kata Kunci: dobel negatif, tata bahasa, lirik lagu

Abstract: English has a lot of grammar elements that are very important to note in order to be used appropriately. One of the easiest ways for English learners to learn English grammar is through the song. The song is very often used as a source of learning English because it has meaningful lyrics and interesting tones. Many of the songs in English do not follow proper

grammar. This is created by the songwriter so that the rhyme produced is in accordance with the aesthetic requirements of the song. When the error is not corrected, the error will occur repeatedly both spoken and written English. This study aims to analyze the use of double negatives found in the lyrics of 15 English songs. The use of double negative in proper grammar is an important element of the effective source in learning English. The methods of this study are first analyzing the use of double negatives in the 15 songs lyrics and second classifying the types of double negatives that have been determined based on their criteria. The finding shows there were 15 English songs contain lyrics with double negatives. There are fifteen songs from fifteen popular singers i.e. Adele, Sia, Galantis, Doja Cat, Drake, Cadmium ft. Rosendale, Rae Sremmurd, CHIC, Bruno Mars, Marvin Gaye, Queen, Rihanna, Pink Floyd, Elvis Presley, and Eddie & The Hot Rods.

Keywords: *Double Negative, Grammar, Song, Lyric*

INTRODUCTION

English has a lot of grammar elements that are very important to note in order to be used appropriately. One of the easiest ways for English learners to learn English grammar is through the song. The song is very often used as a source of learning English because it has meaningful lyrics and interesting tones. When people learn English as a foreign language in their own country using song listening techniques with lyrics that are incorrect according to grammar, it will have a fatal impact on the oral and written development. Many of the songs in English do not follow proper grammar. This is created by the songwriter so that the rhyme produced is in accordance with the aesthetic requirements of the song. When the error is not corrected, the error will occur repeatedly both spoken and written English.

In this study, the researcher will analyze the use of double negatives in 15 songs lyrics in English. The double negative, along with ending a sentence in a preposition, may be near the top of the list of English grammatical crimes. Double negative can still be found in some conversations, especially in informal speech, and occasionally in written prose. The most frequently criticized construction by grammarians is when two negatives are used to convey what should be a single negation. People mostly heard in song lyric by 'The Rolling Stones, where the lyrics is "*I can't get no satisfaction*" means "*I cannot*

be satisfied." Seeing that there are several kinds of errors on the song lyrics in English, this study does not analyze all the errors but error in one field only. The reason of choosing only one field of error is because the use of double negative in proper grammar is an important element of the effective source in learning English.

Statement of the Problem

1. What are 15 English songs with lyrics that contain double negatives?

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Theories on the grammatical errors in song lyrics used to analyze the data of this study are proposed by some researchers found in some papers and thesis as Grammatical Errors in Will I Am Songs by Fenneta (2019), A Syntactical Analysis on Sentence Structure Used in Two Adele's Songs by Wiyogo Purnomoadjie & Mulyadi (2019), Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Pop Song Lyrics by Magdalena Smolková (2018), and An Analysis of Grammatical Errors in Song Lyrics by Lulu Jola Uktolseja (2020). These papers and thesis mention almost all grammatical errors based on standard English that found and analyzed on some English popular songs such as preposition, pronoun, negator, auxiliary verbs, etc. Therefore, this study is limited to analyze the data from one standard only; namely double negative.

It is essential that an appropriate songs as a source of listening for English learners must have proper grammar instead of grammatical errors. According to Greenbaum and Nelson (2002), grammar refers to the set of rules that allow us to combine words in our language into larger units. According to Brown (2004) errors are the result of one's systematic competence. Errors were considered as being the result of the persistence of existing mother tongue habits the new language. Hence, grammatical error is an error which is grammatical rules unsuitable that impacted the sentence uttered become not good.

Another important elements of the effective source in learning English with songs lyrics that is used as limitation in this study is double negative or called as a negative concord. Negative concord, popularly known as double negative, is a phenomenon in which more than one negative

element occurs in a sentence, but the sentence is interpreted as only being negated once. "Negative concord (NC) is the indication of multiple points in a clause of the fact that the clause is to be interpreted as semantically negated" (Ladusaw, 1992: 240). Nevalainen (1998) illustrates this on the basis of historical corpus data, arguing that NC is in fact a universal of "vernacular" Englishes, and that the shift away from NC in usage was employed as a marker of climbing social status. Moreover, Wolfram & Fasold (1974) observe that NC is a feature of virtually all American Englishes except for the Standard variety. Negative concord can appear in a number of configurations. The configurations discussed below involve two types of negation: Sentential negation and neg-words. Sentential negation refers to negation of the entire sentence achieved by negating the auxiliary or modal, such as by turning can to can't or turning would to wouldn't. Neg-words are negative words such as never, no, and nobody. So, if we are using a negative word, it's crucial that we limit our use to only one negative per-statement. Otherwise, we'll be committing a grave grammatical error of double negative.

Table 1. *Types of Double Negatives.*

NO.	DOUBLE NEGATIVES	
	SENTENTIAL NEGATION	**NEG-WORDS**
1.	I **don't** eat **no** biscuit.	**Nobody couldn't** handle him.
2.	I **ain't never** lost a fight.	And **neither** of the boys **can't** play a lick of it.
3.	I **don't** drink **no** juice.	**Nobody couldn't** save me tonight.
4.	It **doesn't** make **no** sense.	**Nobody doesn't** want to visit that town.
5.	I **ain't** got **no** money.	She **wasn't neither** smart, **nor** shy.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used documentation method as the way to collect the data because the researcher collected the data from songs. Arikunto (2006) states that documentation technique is used to get data from variables: notes, books, transcripts, magazines, and so on. The data of this study is script of several songs. There are 15 songs which lyrics were analyzed. The researcher took all the songs lyrics from the website *www.azlyrics.com*. In collecting the data, the researcher followed these steps. Firstly the researcher listened to the songs in order to understand the lyrics in detail. Then, the researcher search the script of the lyric that contain double negative criteria. Third, the researcher determined some words than contain the double negative. Last, the researcher marked the use of double negatives to be analyzed.

In this study, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. It means that this study is based on the characteristics of phenomena and the data were analyzed using description not the numbers. According to Heigham and Croker (2009:5), qualitative research entails primarily textual data and examining it using interpretive analysis. According to Bogdan and Tylor (1990) in Margono (2000:36), qualitative research is a research procedure which produce descriptive data both oral and written forms by people and behavior which can be observed. It means that the method provides clear description about the problem of the study. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the data as follows: First, the researcher analyzed the use of double negatives in the 15 songs lyrics. Second, the researcher classified the types of double negatives that have been determined based on their criteria. Third, the researcher interpreted and described the findings of double negatives that found in the 15 English songs. Last, the researcher give the conclusion and the suggestions of this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After looking for lyrics that contain double negatives according to the double negative criteria contained in table 1, the researcher presents the 15 data into the table

provided as follows:

Table 2. *15 English Songs Contain Double Negatives*

NO.	SONG TITLE	SINGER	ORIGINAL LYRICS (INCORRECT)	CORRECTED LYRICS
1.	Easy on Me	Adele	There **ain't no** gold in this river	There ain't any gold in this river
2.	Cheap Thrills	Sia	I **don't** need **no** money	I need no money
3.	No Money	Galantis	Sorry I **ain't** got **no** money	Sorry I got no money
4.	Need To Know	Doja Cat	I **don't** really got **no** type	I really got no type
5.	Hotline Bling	Drake	You **don't** need **no** one else	You don't need anyone else
6.	No Friends	Cadmium ft. Rosendale	I **don't** got **no** shame	I got no shame
7.	No Type	Rae Sremmurd	I **don't** got **no** type	I got no type
8.	My Forbidden Lover	CHIC	I **don't** want **no** other	I want no other
9.	That's	Bruno	I promise that	I promise that your

	What I Like	Mars	your smile **ain't** gon' **never** leave	smile ain't gon' leave.
10	Ain't No Mountain High Enough	Marvin Gaye	**Ain't no** mountain high enough	There ain't a mountain high enough
11.	Somebody To Love	Queen	But I just **can't** get **no** relief, Lord!	But I just can't get any relief, Lord!
12	Don't Stop The Music	Rihanna	I **wasn't** looking for **nobody** when you looked my way	I wasn't looking for somebody when you looked my way
13.	Another Brick In The Wall (Part II)	Pink Floyd	We **don't** need **no** thought control	We need no thought control
14.	Hound Dog	Elvis Presley	You **ain't** **nothin'** but a hound dog	You're nothing but a hound dog
15.	Do Anything You Wanna Do	Eddie & The Hot Rods	**Don't** need **no** politicians to tell me things I shouldn't be	Don't need some politicians to tell me things I shouldn't be

The results of the study show that there are 15 double negatives of original lyrics found by researchers from 15 singers. From all the data, it was found that all data (15 data)

were included in the type of sentential negation in the double negative criteria and no data (0 data) was included in the negative words. It was found 8 data using double negative "don't" and "no", it was found 5 data using double negative "ain't" and "no", 1 data using "can't" and "no" and the last is 1 record for "wasn't" and "nobody".

After getting the findings from the 15 songs studied, it was found 15 double negatives data, all of which were included in the sentential negative type if classified according to the double negative's types table. Brown (2004) in his definition of error states that errors in language are the result of an intervention from the mother tongue. What makes the results of this study interesting is that all of the 15 singers selected in the study are singers with English as their mother language. Thus, there is a finding that is inconsistent with what was stated by Brown. He also goes on to say that grammatical errors, in which double negatives are in one of them, become errors that affect sentences. That is a statement that is in line with the results of this study. Some of the lyrics indicate one thing. However, because it uses double negatives, it makes the meaning indicate something else. However, referring to what was mentioned by Wolfram & Fasold (1974), double negatives, or also called negative concord is a phenomenon or 'feature' that exists in all American English, indicating that, English singers who commit grammatical errors in the form of double negatives in fact do use negative concord as a feature that does exist in their culture. However, Wolfram & Fasold asserted that double negatives cannot be used in standard American language. What should be noted is that the song does not require the singer to use standard English. Standard English is a formal language used in an atmosphere that shows respect and gives a good impression, whereas song is a space that expresses itself and is not defined as a formal space or atmosphere. Thus, it can be seen that double negatives, despite grammatical errors, cannot be encouraged and should be avoided in song as an informal medium of self-expression.

CONCLUSION

The finding showed that there were 15 English songs contain lyrics with double negatives. Using double negative is one of the common error in English. By double negation, it is usually meant used two negative words in the same sentence. The English learners should to know that sometimes the musicians used ungrammatical sentence in their songs to adjust the rhyme of the songs. It can be concluded that the grammar was still a problem in learning process, even the native speakers sometimes used ungrammatical words or sentence to put aesthetics value on their masterpiece. Otherwise, errors need to be handled, or they will become trouble in the other day. The English learners should be aware of what is going on especially about this error analysis and keep a keen eye on this thing, so it will not become problem in the future. Through this surface awareness, the language learner will not accept something she/he just heard, and use it all the time without knowing the truth. This is important so that no chain of grammatical errors is created.

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