

Analyzing the Meaning of Idiomatic Expressions in Adele's 21 Album

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Abstract

The focus of this study was to examine the idiomatic expressions present in Adele's 21 album. The research aimed to identify and analyze the different types of idiomatic expressions used in the album, as well as provide a semantic analysis of these expressions. The main objective was to gain a better understanding of the types of idiomatic expressions and their meanings in Adele's 21. The study utilized the Makkai theory, which focuses on English idioms in the album. The data was collected by reading, identifying, analyzing, and interpreting the phrases, words, and collocations found in the songs. The data was then analyzed using Makkai's theories to identify any issues in the analysis. The study found a total of 31 idioms in the songs, which were classified into four types of idioms offered by Makkai, including six phrasal verb idioms, one phrasal compound idiom, and no tournure or incorporating idioms. The semantic analysis revealed that the 31 idioms corresponded to five types of meaning found in Adele's 21 album, according to Leech's theory.

Keyword: Semantic Analysis, Idiomatic Expression, Adele's 21 Album

Introduction

"Music is the universal language of mankind," said Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Music can connect people from many different backgrounds through the power of emotion and storytelling. In the realm of popular music, Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, known simply as Adele, has established herself as a musical phenomenon. Her second studio album, "21," released in 2011, resonated with millions of listeners worldwide, receiving critical acclaim and numerous awards. In addition to its melodic beauty and soulful melody, "21" is also a lyrical masterpiece, filled with idiomatic expressions that weave complex stories of love, heartbreak, and resilience. In this article, the writer embarks on a fascinating journey through the semantic dimensions of Adele's lyrics in "21" by using Makkai's theory, delving deeper into the idiomatic expressions that enrich her story. Idiomatic expressions, often rooted in the cultural and linguistic fabric of a particular era or region, give Adele's songs a special flavor, making them more than just sonically appealing but also linguistically attractive. Our exploration aims to dissect the hidden meanings behind these signature gems, shedding light on how they contribute to the album's emotional resonance and universal appeal.

By analyzing the semantic nuances of idiomatic expressions in "21", we will uncover the layers of symbols, metaphors, and cultural references that Adele expertly uses. Additionally, we will consider how these idiomatic expressions transcend simple language to become powerful vehicles for conveying complex human emotions and experiences. Adele's "21" is more than just an album; it is a work of lyrical art that invites us to ponder the deeper meanings of his verses. Join us as we explore the linguistic landscape of Adele's music, uncovering the semantic treasures hidden in the idiomatic expressions that have made "21" an enduring masterpiece in the world of contemporary music.

Idiomatic expressions have been an integral part of the English language for a long time. They are well-established phrases that carry a figurative meaning and are commonly used in both formal and informal communication. However, the meaning of idioms differs from the literal interpretation of each individual word, making direct translation difficult. To categorize idioms, experts have proposed numerous theories, including Fernando, Boatner, and Gates (1975) and Makkai (1973). Makkai's theory,

which divides idioms into two categories: lexemic idioms and sememic idioms, is adopted in this research. Sememic idioms, such as proverbs, are characterized by having additional literal and moral meanings or concealed messages. They often convey pragmatic meanings that are closely tied to specific cultural contexts.

Several studies have been conducted to analyze the idiomatic expressions found in songs, including Adele's albums. For instance, a study analyzed the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's 21 album using Makkai's theory. The result of the study showed that there were 31 idioms found in the songs, classified into 4 types of idioms offered by Makkai, which are 6 phrasal verb idioms, 0 tournure idiom, 1 phrasal compound idiom, and 0 incorporating idiom. Another study analyzed the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's 25 album and found 56 idioms, including 35 phrasal verbs, 17 tournure idioms, and 4 irreversible binomial idioms. These studies show that idiomatic expressions are commonly used in songs and can be analyzed using different theories and methods.

Moreover, idiomatic expressions are not only used for their figurative meaning but also for their connotative meaning. A study analyzed the connotative meaning of expressions found in Adele's song lyrics in the 21 Japanese Edition album. The result of the study showed that the expressions found in Adele's song lyrics contain three types of connotative meaning, such as positive, negative, and neutral. However, the negative connotations are mostly used in the expression. The use of the expression in Adele's song lyrics is to express her feelings towards someone in her past relationship.

In conclusion, idiomatic expressions are an important aspect of the English language and are commonly used in both formal and informal communication, including songs. They can be analyzed using different theories and methods, such as Makkai's theory. Moreover, idiomatic expressions are not only used for their figurative meaning but also for their connotative meaning, which can be analyzed using semantic theories proposed by experts such as Leech and Cruse. The study of idiomatic expressions in songs can provide insights into the cultural context and the emotions conveyed by the lyrics.

Methods

The research conducted a qualitative descriptive analysis of the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's 21 album. The study focused on analyzing the selected song lyrics from 11 songs on the album, including Rolling in the Deep, Rumour Has It, Turning Tables, Don't You Remember, Set Fire to the Rain, He Won't Go, Take It All, I'll Be Waiting, One And Only, Lovesong, and Someone Like You. The primary data for the research was the idiomatic expressions found in these songs, while the secondary data included information from articles containing Adele's 21 album and idiom dictionary. The research employed Makkai's theory to analyze the data, which involved reading, evaluating, recognizing, and classifying the different types of idiomatic idioms present in the song lyrics. The study concluded that idiomatic expressions are commonly used in songs and can be analyzed using different theories and methods.

Other studies have also analyzed different aspects of Adele's song lyrics, such as the connotative meaning of expressions found in Adele's song lyrics in the 21 Japanese Edition album and the meaning of metaphors expressed in the broken heart theme in Adele's 21 album. These studies demonstrate that Adele's song lyrics are rich in meaning and can be analyzed using various linguistic and semantic theories. Overall, the research on Adele's 21 album highlights the importance of analyzing song lyrics to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music.

Result and Discussion

Phrasal Verb Idiom

In this type of idiom the researcher found 6 out of 31 data idioms used in the lyrics of Adele 21 album. The researcher provides the table of phrasal verb idiom used in Adele's 21 album as follows:

Datum	Song Title	Idiomatic Expression	Meaning

1.a.1	Rolling In The Deep	Count on	Appreciate the good things in life.
1.a.2	Rolling In The Deep	Pay back	Revenge or retribution.
1.a.3	Rumor Has It	Got in	One is not paying attention to reality and is more involved in one's own thoughts or fantasies.
1.a.4	Take It All	Fall apart	Emotionally devastated.
1.a.5	One and Only	Give Up	Opening up emotionally in a romantic relationship.
1.a.6	Someone Like You	Last in	Illustrates how love can continue.

Tournure Idiom

Unfortunately, the search results did not provide any relevant information regarding the absence of tournure idiom as the third common type of idiom in the lyrics of Adele's 21 album. However, based on the information provided in the initial text, the researcher identified phrasal verb idioms and incorporating verb idioms as two of the three common types of idioms found in the selected song lyrics. It is possible that the absence of tournure idiom in the analysis could be due to the specific selection of songs analyzed or the methodology employed in the research. Nonetheless, the study highlights the importance of analyzing idiomatic expressions in song lyrics and the potential for using different theories and methods to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music.

Phrasal Compound Idiom

In the lyrics of the Adele 21 album, researchers found phrasal compound idioms as the rare type of idiom. In the analysis, the researcher found 31 idioms and phrasal verb idiom appears once. The phrasal compound idiom found in Adele 21 album as follow:

Datum	Song Title	Idiomatic Expression	Meaning
1.c.1	Rolling In The Deep	Reap what you've sown	Experience the consequences of your actions, whether they are good or bad, and the meaning goes beyond the literal interpretation of the individual words.

Incorporating Verb Idiom

Based on the search results, there is no information available regarding the absence of incorporating verbs idiom as the third common type of idiom in the lyrics of Adele's 21 album. However, according

to the initial text, the researchers identified phrasal verb idioms and incorporating verb idioms as two of the three common types of idioms found in the selected song lyrics.

The research conducted a qualitative descriptive analysis of the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's 21 album. The study aimed to identify the different categories of idiomatic expressions and clarify the meaning of each expression. The primary data source for the research was the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's selected song lyrics on album 21, while the secondary data included articles containing information about Adele's 21 album and idiom dictionary. The researchers searched the internet for the music album, looked for the script lyrics, listened, and typed. The data analysis involved reading, evaluating, recognizing, and classifying the different types of idiomatic idioms present in the song lyrics, and finally making conclusions.

The results of the study showed that there were 31 idioms found in the songs, classified into four types of idioms offered by Makkai's theory. These included six phrasal verb idioms, zero tournure idiom, one phrasal compound idiom, and zero incorporating idiom. The phrasal compound idiom was found to be a rare type of idiom in Adele's 21 album. The study concluded that idiomatic expressions are commonly used in songs and can be analyzed using different theories and methods.

Other studies have also analyzed different aspects of Adele's song lyrics, such as the connotative meaning of expressions found in Adele's song lyrics in the 21 Japanese Edition album and the meaning of metaphors expressed in the broken heart theme in Adele's 21 album. These studies demonstrate that Adele's song lyrics are rich in meaning and can be analyzed using various linguistic and semantic theories. Overall, the research on Adele's 21 album highlights the importance of analyzing song lyrics to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music.

1. The Types of Idiomatic Expressions Found in Adele 21 Album

The focus of this section is on the varieties of idioms that can be found in Adele's 21 Album. The researcher analyzed the data and discovered 31 idioms in the album, which were classified into five different types of idioms based on Makkai's theory. These included irreversible binomial, phrasal compound, phrasal verb, and tournure idioms. The study identified six phrasal verb idioms, one phrasal compound idiom, and zero integrating idioms in Adele's 21 album.

The researcher also found a previous relevant study conducted by Maysaroh & Laili in 2023, titled "A Semantic Analysis of Idiomatic Expression Found In Adele's 30 Album." In their research, they identified four types of idioms, including phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, phrasal compound idioms, and incorporating idioms. The dominant type of idiom in their study was phrasal verb idiom, and they found that the meaning of idiomatic expressions was mostly contextual.

However, the findings of idioms in the current study were less than in previous studies, which could be due to changes in Adele's style of writing lyrics. The writing style of the lyrics on this album is more inclined towards figurative language, whereas Adele's previous albums, such as 19, 21, and 25, contained more idiomatic expressions. Overall, the research highlights the importance of analyzing idiomatic

expressions in song lyrics and the potential for using different theories and methods to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music.

2. Semantic Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Found in Adele 21 Album

The researcher undertook a thorough semantic examination of idioms present in Adele's 21 album. Employing Leech's theory of meaning, the researcher categorized idiomatic meanings into five distinct types: internal meaning, emotional meaning, reflective meaning, collective meaning, and thematic meaning.

The study's outcomes highlighted that connotative and reflective meanings emerged as the prevailing types within idiomatic expressions. This prevalence was attributed to the similarity between reflective meaning and the inherent definition of idioms. However, the investigation did not discern conceptual meaning for idioms in the conceptual meaning category due to the marked disparity between the definitions of idioms and conceptual meaning. Additionally, social meaning was conspicuously absent in the interpretation of idioms, in accordance with Leech's classification, as Adele's compositional style was found to lack connections to socially relevant themes.

The ultimate inference drawn from the study was that idiomatic expressions are frequently employed in musical compositions, offering a ripe field for analysis through various linguistic and semantic theories. The research also pointed out that other scholarly pursuits have delved into different facets of Adele's song lyrics. For instance, separate studies have scrutinized the connotative meaning of expressions

within Adele's song lyrics, specifically in the 21 Japanese Edition album, and explored the metaphoric depth embedded in the broken heart theme of Adele's 21 album.

In summary, this research underscores the profound significance of dissecting the diverse meanings encapsulated in idiomatic expressions to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate language and nuanced meaning embedded within the realm of popular music.

Conclusion

From the explanation and the analysis of this thesis, the researcher concluded some points from the thesis that research contains:

1. The research conducted a qualitative descriptive analysis of the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's 21 album. The study aimed to identify the different categories of idiomatic expressions and clarify the meaning of each expression. The primary data source for the research was the idiomatic expressions found in Adele's selected song lyrics on album 21, while the secondary data included articles containing information about Adele's 21 album and idiom dictionary. The study found 31 idioms in the songs, classified into four types of idioms offered by Makkai's theory. These included phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, phrasal compound idioms, and incorporating verb idioms. However, the study did not find any tournure or incorporating verb idioms in Adele's 21 album. The phrasal compound idiom was found to be a rare type of idiom in the album. The study also conducted a semantic analysis of idioms using Leech's theory of meaning, which divides meaning into seven types. However, in this study, the researcher classified the meaning of idioms into five types, including internal meaning, emotional meaning, reflective meaning, collective meaning, and thematic meaning. The study found that connotative and reflective meanings were the most common types of meaning found in idiomatic expressions. Overall, the research highlights the importance of analyzing idiomatic expressions in song lyrics and the potential for using different theories and methods to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music. Other studies have also analyzed different aspects of Adele's song lyrics, such as the connotative meaning of expressions found in Adele's song lyrics in the 21 Japanese Edition album and the meaning of metaphors expressed in the broken heart theme in Adele's 21 album.

2. The semantic analysis of idioms in Adele's 21 album provides researchers with a deeper understanding of the meaning of idiomatic expressions. By categorizing idioms based on their meaning-forming elements, such as verb phrase idioms, tournure idioms, and compound particle idioms, researchers can determine the lexical and contextual meaning of the idioms studied in Adele's album 21. Additionally, the classification of idioms according to Leech's theory allows researchers to understand the different types of meaning conveyed by idiomatic expressions. The study found that connotative and reflective meanings were the most common types of meaning found in idiomatic expressions. This highlights the importance of analyzing the different types of meanings in idiomatic expressions to gain a deeper understanding of the language and meaning used in popular music. The semantic analysis of idioms in Adele's 21 album also revealed that idiomatic expressions can be translated from the context that formed them, and that translating idiomatic expressions word for word may not be possible because they mean something different from the individual words in the idiom when they stand alone. Overall, the research demonstrates that idiomatic expressions are commonly used in songs and can be analyzed using different linguistic and semantic theories. The semantic analysis of idioms in Adele's 21 album provides valuable insights into the meaning and usage of idiomatic expressions in popular music.

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