

The Idiomatic Expression in Taylor Swift's Songs of Folklore Album

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ABSTRACT

One aspect of language that is interesting to talk about is idiomatic expression. This is because there is an implied meaning contained in the idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expressions are most commonly seen in literary works, such as song lyrics. This study aims to identify the types of idiomatic expressions used in Taylor Swift's song lyrics in the Folklore album. This study employed Lou's theory (2007) of classification of idiomatic expression – idiomatic expression with adjectives and nouns in combination, idiomatic expression with prepositions or adverbs, idiomatic expression with two-word verbs, idiomatic expression in comparison, idiomatic verbal expressions, verbs and nouns used together idiomatically, idiomatic adjective phrases, and verbs and prepositions used together. The findings indicate that 68 idiomatic expressions appeared in the song lyrics with the most dominant being an idiomatic expression with adjectives and nouns in combination (36), idiomatic expression with two-word verbs (10), idiomatic expression with verbs and nouns used together idiomatically (9), idiomatic expression with verbs and preposition (8), idiomatic expression with preposition or adverbs (4), and idiomatic expression with adjective phrases (1). The findings of this study imply that idiomatic expressions with adjectives and nouns in combination are more popularly used in the song lyrics than other types of idiomatic expression.

Keywords: idiomatic expression, types of idiomatic expression, song

Submitted:
XX May 20xx

Accepted:
XX June 20xx

Published:
XX July 20xx

1. INTRODUCTION

Idiom have been interesting to analyze due to the fact it is a non-word with unpredictable meanings (McCarthy, 2002: 10). This means that an idiom consists of more than one word but the meaning cannot be taken from each word in that idiom. The meaning is derived from the whole words with only one meaning different from the meaning of each word. Idioms are difficult to interpret precisely, and as a result, they are often misunderstood. Idioms can even be interpreted word by word, resulting in illogical interpretations. According to many linguists, is a fixed term that cannot be comprehended literally and whose meaning cannot be found in a common dictionary. There are dictionaries designed specifically for idioms, and while some idioms can be defined by the context around them, others can only be understood and recognized from memory.

The meaning of an idiom is not the sum of its literal elements, and it frequently lacks translations in other languages. The idiom itself in *The Handbook of English Idioms* by Lou (2007, P:1) defined as "Idiom is a group of words with a special meaning, which cannot be understood by taking the meaning of the words one at a time." Laval (2003) defines idiom as "Idiomatic expressions whose literal meanings and interpretation are different from what they mean." Furthermore, idiomatic

expressions can be made up of a single word or a series of words, and their meaning is not derived solely from the arrangement of the words that make up the term.

Idiom can be used to add dynamism and character to otherwise stale writing. can also use to Express Complex Ideas Simply. Oftentimes, idioms can help express a large or abstract idea in a way that is succinct and easy to understand. It would be more interesting to say "spill the beans" instead of "reveal a secret." It can be changed to "break a leg" instead of "good luck." It would be easier to say "piece of cake" instead of "something easily done." Etc. Another reason to utilize idioms is to portray a point of view. Authors may use them to convey a certain attitude since there are often multiple idioms to describe a single common notion, each with its unique connotation. When someone dies, saying they "kicked the bucket" is a little irreverent and even hilarious way of expressing it. Saying that "someone passed away", on the other hand, is more sensitive and courteous.

Idioms are frequently used to describe the author's, writer's, or speaker's sentiments and thoughts when using figurative language. Idioms may also be used to encourage readers or listeners to be more creative in their interpretations of the words and texts being conveyed. Intriguingly, the usage of idioms has long been recognized, thus comprehension of expressions is critical for effective communication, whether through listening, speaking, reading, or writing.

Idioms may convey both the beauty and the problems of language for early language learners. Even idioms might make us feel dizzy at times, yet mastering idioms are necessary for specific situations. According to Gunawan (2019), he states, Even if learning an idiom might be difficult, there are always ways to acquire it. The use of a song is one of the most engaging ways to learn idioms. In the present period, the song is a popular fad. The majority of students seek to study English in a variety of ways. Young folks are already familiar with a variety of styles and tunes. Because the music is so beautiful. They are sometimes even familiar with the song's or the band's history singer. The songs may also be used to help students learn new words.

Many songwriters use their own experiences to be a matter of the songs. Men tend to be more directive. Besides, they used more simple words. On the other hand, women were more expressive and polite in using language. In addition, they used more gestures and words signifying feelings, and emotional and psychological states. Taylor Swift's style can be one of the representatives of female songwriters using an idiom. Taylor Swift is one of many singer-songwriters who use the idiom to deliver various points through the songs. Taylor Swift likes to talk about her past experiences in her songs by applying idioms.

Taylor Swift has nine studio albums and two re-recorded albums to her credit. Taylor Swift's eighth album "Folklore" was released in 2020. She connects Folklore to her iconic red song, which she describes as "sad, beautiful, tragic." This record was written during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic quarantine. Harris (2020) rewrote Taylor Swift's comments from an album interview on his blog website. According to Swift, *"I wrote a few pieces before quarantine, but the majority of it was done in lockdown. I began in April."*

This research limits the expression in the song lyrics in Folklore album that has the element of idiom to find the types of idioms, determine the formation of idiom, and the meaning of the idiomatic expression. The study focuses on 16 of Taylor Swift's songs from the album Folklore (2021) which are The 1, Cardigan, The Last Great American Dynasty, Exile, My Tears Ricochet, Mirrorball, Seven, August, This Is My Trying, Illicit Affairs, Invisible String, Mad Woman, Epiphany, Betty, Peace, and Hoax.

2. METHOD

1. Research Design

In this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data with eight types of idiomatic expressions according to Lou's (2007) theory. The use of the descriptive qualitative method is about identifying the typed determining the formation and describing the meaning of the lyrics song. The writer tried to analyze Taylor Swift's songs in the Folklore album as the object of the study. The purpose of this descriptive qualitative research is to produce a factual, and accurate description or representation of the facts, qualities, and relationships between the subject under investigation.

2. Source of Data

The source of the data for this study is song lyrics that contain idioms from Taylor Swift's Folklore album (2020). There are 16 tracks on the playlist, including The 1, Cardigan, The Last Great American Dynasty, Exile, My Tears Ricochet, Mirrorball, Seven, August, This Is My trying, Illicit Affairs, Invisible String, Mad Woman, Epiphany, Betty, peace, and Hoax. The data is downloaded and streamed from the internet.

3. Research Instrument

A research instrument is an essential tool for data collection. This study uses the text of song lyrics as a research instrument to obtain data on idiomatic expression and the meaning of the idioms was consulted to an online idiom dictionary. Lyrics of songs from Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album are freely available on the internet.

4. Data Collection Procedures

The researcher conducted various procedures to gather data for this study, including; 1. Reading, in which the writer reads the lyrics to comprehend the entire text, particularly the idioms. 2. Identifying, the researcher also recognized idioms by marking lyrics that included idioms while reading the text. 3. Determine the meaning of each lyric containing idioms.

5. Data Analysis Procedures

The first purpose of analyzing the data was to classify the idiomatic expression found in the lyrics. It was done to clarify the idiomatic expression types which were used in the songs. after classification was done, the analysis could be started. The analysis began by counting the number of idiomatic expressions that were found in each song. The data would be analyzed based on the following steps:

1. Identifying the idioms in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. The researcher attentively examined the song lyrics line by line and verse by verse, looking for idiom-like words or clauses.
2. Determine the formation of the idiom based on the theory of Lou (2007).
3. Describes the meaning of idioms found in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Using idiom dictionaries, the researcher explained the meaning of the phrase in this stage.
4. A table that shows the difference between idiom statements and their true meaning.

6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result

This album consists of 16 songs and there are 68 idiomatic expressions that can be identified, as the following:

Table 1 total of idiomatic expressions found

No	Song title	Data
1.	The 1	5 Idiomatic Expression
2.	Cardigan	6 Idiomatic Expression
3.	The Last Great American Dynasty	4 Idiomatic Expression
4.	Exile	7 Idiomatic Expression
5.	My Tears Ricochet	5 Idiomatic Expression
6.	Mirrorball	3 Idiomatic Expression

7.	Seven	4 Idiomatic Expression
8.	August	3 Idiomatic Expression
9.	This Is Me Trying	3 Idiomatic Expression
10.	Illicit Affairs	3 Idiomatic Expression
11.	Invisible String	5 Idiomatic Expression
12.	Mad Woman	5 Idiomatic Expression
13.	Epiphany	3 Idiomatic Expression
14.	Betty	5 Idiomatic Expression
15.	Peace	3 Idiomatic Expression
16.	Hoax	4 Idiomatic Expression

2. Discussion

1) Idiomatic expression with adjectives and nouns in combination

...

Rose flowing with your chosen family

...

The formation is (noun) **rose** + (adjectives) **flowing**.

The meaning of this idiom is “having a good time with the people you love”

2) Idiomatic expression with two-word verbs

...

August **slipped away** into a moment in time

...

The formation is (phrasal verb) **slipped away**.

The meaning of this idiom is “leave something secretly”

3) Idiomatic expression with verbs and nouns used together idiomatically

...

I **hit the Sunday matinee**

...

The formation is (verb) **hit** + (noun phrase) **the Sunday matinee**.

The meaning of this idiom is “went to watch the show”

4) Idiomatic with verbs and prepositions used together idiomatically

...

For **digging up** the grave another time

...

The formation is (verb) **digging** + (preposition) **up**.

The meaning of this idiom is “don’t have the reason or the courage”

5) Idiomatic expression with prepositions or adverbs

...

So step right out, there is no amount

...

The formation is (preposition phrase) **right out**.

The meaning of this idiom is “take a step back”

6) Idiomatic expression with adjectives phrases

...

“Doc, I think she’s **crashing out**”

...

The formation is (adjective phrase) **crashing out**.

The meaning of this idiom is “passed out”

7. CONCLUSION

1. The idioms found in the whole song in Taylor Swift's album are 68 idioms. It contains 36 Idiomatic Expressions with Adjectives and Nouns in Combination, 10 Idiomatic Expression with Two-Word Verbs, 9 Idiomatic Expression with Verbs and Nouns Used Together Idiomatically, 8 Idiomatic Expression with Verbs and Preposition Used Together Idiomatically, 4 Idiomatic Expression with Prepositions or Adverbs, and 1 Idiomatic Expression with Adjectives Phrases.
2. The most dominant type of idiom is adjectives and nouns in combination with 36 idiomatic expressions. Stories of love, the past, longing, wrath, hope, and worry are described using Adjectives and Nouns in Combination in phrases or sentences.
3. The song is a literary work that makes extensive use of idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions are used to convey a message or to emphasize the meaning presented in the song.

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