



Analysis of Content Words in the Song “Who Says”

by Selena Gomez

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Abstract

To ensure that students can understand the meaning of the English they are learning, knowledge of content and function words are two important aspects that must be possessed. The aim is to avoid misunderstanding in the interpretation process, both in written and oral texts. Nevertheless, this research was made with the aim of knowing types of content words appeared in the lyrics of Selena Gomez's song "Who Says" and the function of the dominant content word in this song. In order to obtain the required data, researchers used a qualitative descriptive method. Meanwhile, the lyrics of the song were analyzed manually by giving the symbols "V", "N", "Adj", and "Adv" according to the word class. With the result that the data could be obtained, they were 83 words of nouns, 74 words of verbs, 32 words of adjectives, and 3 words of adverbs. In addition, of the 83 nouns, there was the word "you're" which was the dominant or most appearing word that could function as a subject as well as an object.

Keywords: *Content Words; Selena Gomez; “Who Says”*

Introduction

According to Barbara Dykes (2007:5) grammar is a lesson that discusses how to pronounce the language or it can be interpreted that grammar is a language for learning languages. It can be said like this because from grammar, we can learn how to communicate with language is inseparable from learning grammar. Starting from vocabulary, functions, sentence patterns, and expressions. In this research, the writer focuses on the patterns used in the song "Who Says" by Selena Gomez. The pattern here can also be referred to as a content word. Content words consist of several components, namely nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Nouns tell about where objects are and tell about actions that took place, or states. Adjectives provide descriptions of objects and people, and adverbs tell how, when, or where something is done. Then, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs provide important information necessary for knowledge.

The object of analysis in this study is spoken English grammar, by analyzing Selena Gomez's song "Who Says". The choice of this song is due to the meaning of the song which teaches about self-confidence, always trying hard, and not listening to other people's bad words. This can be a good example for those who listen and also be a motivation for students to always try hard to pursue their dreams. The song "Who Says" is also a song that has good branding in the eyes of the world. Therefore, by using this song, it will increase the reader's interest in reading the results of the author's analysis. With so many students or the public reading this analysis, the author's goal by analyzing this song will be achieved.

Analysis of content words has also been widely studied by other authors. The analysis can be in the form of analyzing textbooks, novels, and movies. Therefore, the author can find many similar analyzes and can be used as a reference. The analysis that the writer found was in journals written by Sukontip Pijarnsarid and Prommintra Kongkaew. The author discusses "An Analysis of The Content Words Used in A School Textbook, Team Up English 3, Used for Grade 9 Students". This analysis produces data which states that nouns were used with the highest frequency, nouns ranked second (7.59%). Then, it was found that transitive verbs were used most often (77.58%), followed by intransitive verbs (12.06%), conjunction verbs (10.34%). Then the writer also found another journal written by Rahmawaty Diva Antyka and Jumanto which discussed "The Content and Function Words Analysis of Climax Scene of The Movie Aladdin 2019". The results of the analysis is 62% of content words were discovered, including words such as: Not; find; Looking; Lamp; Tried; Failed; among others. Also there are 38% of function words in the text, but this is due to the existence of words. By looking at the references from the previous analysis, we can find out what things have been obtained and the shortcomings of the research.

Then for the research method, the writer chose the research method by examining the word content in the song. As is well known, the components of the content word itself consist of verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs. The use of these components can make it easier for students to find pronouns, adjectives, and can also know the proper use of pronouns and adjectives. Content word is also a suitable method for analyzing song lyrics because the writer can find out the number of conjunctions and conjunctions that are rarely known in the song. The benefits of the author's research for learning can make it easier for

teachers or lecturers to easily explain content word material. By using sound media which is now popular with children, their interest will increase. Likewise, by using the media they like, memorizing and understanding content word components becomes easy. Not only can they hear the media for this song, but by watching the music video, children will become more interested and understand more about the story.

Research Questions

Based on the explanation in the previous chapter, researcher constructed two research questions as described below:

- 1) How many types of content words are in Selena Gomez's song entitled "Who Says"?
- 2) What is the usage of the dominant content words in Selena Gomez's song entitled "Who Says"?

Method

The purpose of writing this study is to analyze what content words are used in the lyrics of one of the songs by American singer, Selena Gomez, entitled "Who Says". Thus, the authors use a descriptive qualitative method. According to Walidin and Tabrani (2015, page. 77) a study using qualitative methods has the aim of understanding the phenomena that occur around us, both human and social phenomena through explanations presented in the form of words that are comprehensive and detailed in natural background. This study method is descriptive with an inductive analytic approach, in which the subject's perspective will be the basis of the results of the research (Fadil, 2020, page. 33). While the inductive approach itself is an approach whose goal is to conclude specific events in general. Therefore, later the data obtained from the lyrics of this song will be concluded in general terms, like what are their functions.

In order to obtain the necessary data for this study, the authors read the lyrics of the song carefully twice, then read them one more verse by verse while manually analyzing the content words contained therein. Authors also use some codes during the manual analysis, that are using the code "V" for words belonging to verbs, "N" for nouns, "Adj" for adjectives, and "Adv" for adverbs. After the various content words found were grouped by type, the authors counted the number and obtained data that nouns were the most frequently obtained, that is 83 words. While adverbs are the least obtained, that is only three words. Then, there are 74 words for verbs and 32 words for adjectives.

Findings

From the findings of content word research from the song "Who Says" by Selena Gomez, researchers found important points in this analysis related to content words. The researchers have conducted a research analysis of the song "Who Says" by Selena Gomez, and in this research analysis the content words have 4 types, the first are nouns, the second are verbs, the third are adjectives, and the last are adverbs, of which there are several types of the content word that will be the object of research. The following is the table of research results.

No	Content Words	Findings	Total
1.	Nouns	I	3
		Anybody	2
		You	12
		Me	11
		You're	22
		Diamond	1
		Rough	1
		I'm	5
		Thing	1
		You'd	1
		Yourself	1
		It	5
		Beauty Queen	2
		You've	2
		Life	2
		The price of beauty	4
		It's	3
		Thing	1
		They	1
		Truth	1
		Art	1
Light	1		
Stars	1		
Star	1		
Sky	1		
Movies	1		

Table 1. The use of nouns

No	Content Words	Findings	Total
2.	Verbs	Wouldn't	2
		Be	3
		Made	1
		Told	1
		Wasn't	1
		Judge	1
		Got	3
		Like	2
		Change	1
		Comes	1

		Want	1
		Says	32
		Hurting	4
		Trust	4
		Tell	2
		Mean	1
		Keep	2
		Work	1
		Gets	1
		See	1
		Let	1
		Touch	1
		Come on	1
		Can't	1
		Listen	2
		Pass	1
		Said	2

Table 2. The use of verbs

No	Content Words	Findings	Total
3.	Adjectives	Insecure	1
		Good	1
		Beautiful	8
		Right	2
		Perfect	4
		Word	4
		Only	4
		Pretty	3
		Funny	2
		Potential	1
		Presidential	1
		Best	1

Table 3. The use of adjectives

No	Content Words	Findings	Total
4.	Adverbs	Else	2
		Out	1

Table 4. The use of adverbs

- a) From each type of content word found, there were some differences in the frequency of the words used.
- The first type of content word is a noun. In this analysis, we found 83 noun frequencies. Examples of the words, such as I, you, anybody, diamond, rough, etc. For example, in the sentences:
"I wouldn't want to be anybody else". Here, the word “I” shows that it is a noun. This sentence is on line 1.
"That never gets to see the light". The word “light” that it is a noun. This sentence is on line 32.
"Keep you beneath the stars". The word “you” that it is a noun. This sentence is on line 36.
 - Then, for the second type of content word, namely verb. Verbs in this analysis found 74 frequencies. Examples of the word, such as made, told, like, judge, comes, change, etc.
 For example, sentences in this song are:
"You made me insecure". The word “made” shows the verb. This sentence is on line 2
"Told me I wasn't good enough". Here, the word “told” shows that it is a verb. This sentence is on line 3.
"But when it comes to me". The word “comes” is a verb. This sentence is on line 8.
 - Next for the third type is the adjective, where in this song the adjective analysis

found 32 frequencies. Examples of the words, such as perfect, right, beautiful, funny, pretty, etc.

Some examples of using adjectives in this song are:

"Told me I wasn't good enough". The word "good" that it is an adjective. This sentence is on line 3.

"I'm just beautiful me". The word "beautiful" shows an adjective. This sentence is on line 15.

"It's such a funny thing". Here it is the word "funny" that shows the adjective. This sentence is on line 30.

- The last type of content word is an adverb. In analyzing the song "Who Says" adverb is the type of content word that is used the least. The researchers found 3 adverb frequencies. Examples of the words, such as out and else.

For example, the sentences are:

"I wouldn't wanna be anybody else". Here, the word "else" that it shows an adverb. This sentence is on line 1.

"But they keep whiting out the truth". The word "out" is here which shows the adverb. This sentence is on line 33.

- b) At this second point, the researchers conducted another research analysis on the words most used in nouns. The word was "you". In the analysis of this song, the word "you" has different usages. The word "you" in the analysis of this song can be the subject and can be the object.

First, in the song "Who Says" by Selena Gomez, the word "you're" can be the subject, found in the sentence:

"When you're a diamond in the rough" which was found in the song lyrics on line 5.

Then, the second, word "you're" in the song "Who Says" by Selena Gomez has a position that can be an object, found in the sentences:

"Who says you're not perfect" which is on line 22.

"Who says you're not worth it" is on line 23.

"Who said you're the only one that's hurting" is on line 24.

Discussion

According to the results of the analysis described in the previous chapter, it is known that there are four types of content words in this song, they are nouns with a total of 83 words, verbs with a total of 74 words, adjectives with a total of 32 words, and adverbs with a total of 3 words. Another result that can be obtained by the researcher is the word "you're" which is an example of a noun as the most used word in this song. The use of the word "you're" itself is as a subject and also as an object. When the word "you're" functions as a subject, it is located after the object or complement of the sentence, for example it is located after the phrase "a diamond". Meanwhile, when it functions as an object, it is located after the verb, for example after the verb "says".

Rahmawaty Diva Antyka and Jumanto (2022) through their research that analyzed the content and function words of the climax scene of a movie entitled "Aladdin" which was released in 2019, explained that morphology is a branch of science in linguistics that

studies how a word is formed and the changes in words that occur due to changes in meaning and word class. In short, morphology is a science that focuses on word structure (Fromkin et al., 2017). In this study, the results showed that content words were used more than function words with a comparison percentage of 60% and 40%. While nouns were one of the most used types of content words, which was 26% of the total 50 data. In conclusion, the researcher wrote that understanding morphology which includes content and function words serves to prevent misunderstandings from occurring in the process of interpreting what is said in the film scene.

Furthermore, Sukontip Pijarnsarid and Prommintra Kongkaew (2017) in their article which analyzed the use of content words in an English textbook for grade 9 students, Team Up English 3, said that textbooks have an important role in English teaching classes. In addition, textbooks are also said to be important components of most language teaching programs. Therefore, understanding the differences that consist between content and function words can help us learn and understand English. In this study, it was also found that nouns were the most frequently used nouns, that is 79 words. So, based on the explanations and results of analysis in the two previous studies, it can be concluded that understanding content and function words is important in the process of learning English.

From this analysis, the same result is obtained that nouns are one of the most frequently occurring types of content words in this song lyrics. With the analysis of both content and function words in a written or spoken text, it can help students understand the meaning of the language they are learning. Then, using song media can build a fun learning atmosphere because besides being used as a medium for learning language structure (especially content words), songs can also train students' listening skills.

Conclusion

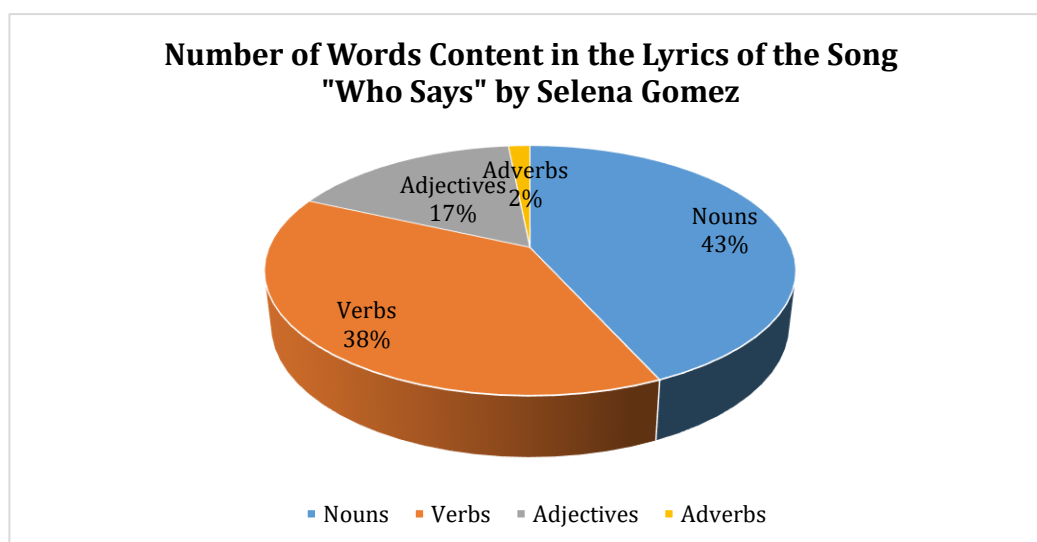


Chart 1. Analysis results

Based on the data obtained from the analysis process described in the previous chapter, the result is that nouns are the most used content words in this song. In the lyrics, the most common noun used is "you're" because in this song, the word refers to the person who is meant to make the author insecure and as a pronoun for listeners who want to be given a message so they can love themselves more. In the results of this study, it can be concluded that the use of content words in a song that has the first point of view uses a lot of nouns. Then, it is hoped that future researchers can be more detailed in researching word content using more innovative applications and methods so that readers get more detailed information. Furthermore, in researching content words, researchers can write down the functions of each component of content words, so that readers can understand the use of content words in reading and text.

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