

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented the background, problems, objectives, significance, and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background

Words are occasionally referred to as lexical items or lexemes. The meaning of a word could be defined not only by its individual features but also by its connections to other words. The term for this method is known as lexical relation (Yule, 2022). Lexical relations offer a valuable approach to grasping the genuine meanings of words and their interconnections within English texts like song lyrics. This research would explore the empirical of lexical relations within linguistics. Lexical relations pertain to the field of semantics, which is a branch of linguistics. These relations involve the meanings of words as defined in dictionaries. According to (Siregar et al., 2021) The lexical relation is determined by the connection between words and by the exploration of how vocabulary is preserved and how the meanings of lexical elements are interconnected within the lexical relationship. Each word possesses significance and correlates with other words. For example, the word "sad" is described as a state of unhappiness or sorrow. The word "sad" has a relation with a word like "unhappy", "gloomy", "downcast", "melancholy" The relationship identified here is termed a synonym. This serves as an example of a lexical connection, providing insight into how one word relates to another term. Lexical relation is the parts of the semantics that focusses on finding the meaning words or sentences. The meaning of a word is shaped not only by its individual characteristics but also by its connections to other words. These connections, known as lexical relations, are a key method in the semantic analysis of language (Yule, 2022). Furthermore, there are eight types of lexical relations.

Different types of lexical relations are categorized, and the ones utilized in this investigation adhere to (Saeed, 2016) such as synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, member collection and portion mass. A synonymy refers to words that share comparable meanings or interpretations. An antonymy denotes words that have

contrasting meanings or interpretations. A polysemy refers to the phenomenon where a word has multiple meanings, and these meanings could be discerned based on its context within a sentence. A homonymy refers to words that sound alike but have different meanings. A hyponymy is a word that represents a more specific category within the meaning of a more general word. A meronymy is a word that signifies a specific part of another word. Member collection is referring to the connection between a singular term denoting an individual entity and the corresponding plural term representing a group or assembly of those individual entities. Portion mass describes the association between a mass noun and its standard unit of measurement or subdivision.

A song lyric is a collection of words or phrases set to music in a particular key. Song lyrics are highly suitable for this research purpose because they contain meaningful content. As a result, this research integrates lexical relations theory with the lyrical content of Billie Eilish's songs, offering insights into the semantic patterns within her music. Billie Eilish first gained recognition in 2015 for the song "Ocean Eyes" and became, in 2020, the youngest person ever to win a Grammy for album of the year, for *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* Her other works include *Happier Than Ever* (2021) and the award-winning song "What Was I Made For?", which was recorded for the *Barbie* (2023) soundtrack. *Happier than ever* album draws inspiration from hip-hop artists such as Childish Gambino and Tyler, the Creator. Her debut album, *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* Was released on March 29, 2019, and reached number one on the Billboard 200 chart. And it later was awarded the Grammy for record of the year. The documentary *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry* appeared in 2021. Later that year Eilish released her second studio album, *Happier Than Ever*, which was noted for its confessional songs, a number of which deal with the downside of her celebrity.

This research aims to fill a gap in the existing literature by applying the theory of lexical relations specifically to the lyrics of contemporary music, "Lexical semantics has been broadly investigated in modern tune verses, appearing complex relations in meaning structures" (Smith & Johnson, 2015). While previous studies have explored lexical relations

in various forms of literature, few have focused on modern song lyrics, particularly within the pop and alternative music genres. By examining Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever" album, this study offers new insights into how contemporary artists utilize lexical relations to convey complex emotions and themes.

The novelty of this research lies in its unique focus on a popular and influential artist whose lyrical content resonates with a wide audience. By analyzing the specific lexical relations in Eilish's lyrics, this study not only contributes to the field of semantics but also enhances our understanding of lyrical composition and its impact on listeners. This interdisciplinary approach, combining linguistic theory with contemporary music analysis, provides a fresh perspective and broadens the scope of semantic research.

Therefore, this research aims to provide valuable insights for linguistics scholars, particularly regarding the presence and significance of lexical relations in song lyrics. Such relations enhance the artistic quality of writing and contribute to its aesthetic appeal. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing the lexical relations found in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever" album, following Saeed's theory of lexical relations.

Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested in analyzing the lexical relations found in Billie Eilish song lyrics: Happier Than Ever Album. This research revolves around eight types of relationships, as categorized by Saeed's theory of lexical relations.

1.2 Problems of the Study

As outlined above, this research has identified several issues that need to be addressed, which are listed below:

1. What types of lexical relations could be identified in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish?
2. How are lexical relations used in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish?
3. Which type of lexical relation is the most dominant in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

As outlined in the problem formulation above, this research has established specific actions with the aim of resolving the identified issues. These actions are listed below:

1. To identify the types of lexical relations found in Billie Eilish selected song lyrics.
2. To identify the use of lexical relations found in Billie Eilish selected song lyrics.
3. To identify the most dominant type of lexical relations found in Billie Eilish selected song lyrics.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research aim to determine the importance of examining lexical relations within semantics. It is divided into two main aspects of significance, as listed below:

Theoretically, readers would gain insights into linguistic concepts concerning semantics and lexical relations. Additionally, this research could serve as a reference for those undertaking similar studies in the future.

Practically, readers would develop the ability to recognize issues related to semantics and lexical relations. Moreover, this research provides inspiration for conducting analyses, particularly when employing song lyrics as the subject of study. Furthermore, this study elucidates how understanding lexical relations could enhance readers' English proficiency. For instance, by grasping synonyms, individuals could identify new words simply by recognizing their similar meanings.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is limited by its focus on analyzing song lyrics. One limitation is that the analysis is restricted to eight types of lexical relations, as categorized by (Saeed, 2016), such as synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, member collection, and portion mass. The focus object on this research is song lyrics taken from Billie Eilish Happier Than Ever album in total 16 songs.