

GRAMMATICAL ERRORS AND THEIR EFFECTS IN RICH BRIAN'S SONGS

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ABSTRACT

Language helps people to express their feelings, thoughts, and ideas. Language has its own patterns and construction, which are different in every language in the world. People have their own style of language in delivering information to others, as in entertainment purposes.

In music, song writers sometimes violate some language rules. They have freedom to alter or invert standard syntax or depart from common diction or pronunciation to produce desire effect on their song lyrics, known as poetic license.

Brian Imanuel, well known as Rich Brian, is a rapper and a song writer who violates the English grammar rules in his song lyrics. Rich Brian is a 18-years old rapper from Indonesia who brought Indonesia's name to the world stage. As an Indonesian, obviously his mother language is not English. Rich Brian learned English through hip-hop songs and then later he becomes a famous rapper. It is proven from his upcoming tour, ticket concerts in London and Amsterdam are sold out. Because of that his management holds and additional concert in both places. This triggers the researcher to conduct a research on Rich Brian's songs. This research aims to analyze the grammatical errors and the possible effects found in Rich Brian's songs.

Stylistics is the most applicable approach in this research. According to Verdonk, "stylistics is the study of style, can be defined as the analysis of distinctive expression in language and the description of its purpose and effect" (2002: 4). This research uses two level of stylistic analysis. The levels of stylistic analysis used in this study are grammatical level, which consists of morphological level syntactic level, and phonological level.

Based on the analysis, there are five grammatical error processes found by the researcher in Rich Brian's songs entitled "Dat \$tick", "Glow Like That", and "Who That Be?", the grammatical error processes found in Rich Brian's songs are Omission, Double Negation, Overgeneralization, Error of Preposition and Error in Pronoun. The possible effects of the grammatical error processes are first, made in order to make the previous line rhyme to the next line and second, made in order to have the right meter in each line of the songs.

Keywords: *grammatical error, song lyrics, effects.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a principal medium for people to communicate each other. Language helps people to express their feelings, thoughts, and ideas. By using language people can exchange information one another. "Language is not only a medium for communicating information but it is also a medium for establishing and maintaining relationship with one and each other" (Trudgill, 2000:1). Meaning to say, in order to build and maintain a relationship, people exchange informations, thoughts and ideas, also express their feelings to each other. Therefore, they use language as the medium.

People have their own style of language in delivering information to others. There are various style of language, the style of language is distinctive from one to another. For example, the language style in play is a direct reference to the world phenomenon and in the other hand, the language style of poetry does not make direct reference but it provides a representation of world phenomenon through figurative language (Verdonk, 2002:12). The style of language itself can be analyzed using one of linguistics theories.

In order to be understandable, language has its own construction, also known as grammar. Downing and Locke stated that grammar is a 'position' and a 'function' of elements which relate one to another (2006:17). Grammar is essential to construct sentences, to make the sentences to be understandable. The more we aware of how it works, the more we can observe the effectiveness of the way and others use of languages. Every language in the world has their own grammar, which is distinctive from one another.

The patterns and contructions are also different from each other. When a non-native-speaker speaks foreign language, mistakes are made, since they have different grammatical-knowledge. For example is Black English, which is not considered as Standard English. As stated by Trudgill, Black English refers to the nonstandard English as spoken by lower-class African Americans (2000:52). However, there are so many song writers, singers, and rappers, who have language background of Black English, and they use their language style to make songs.

Despite the fact that language is used to communicate, it has other purposes. One of the language purposes is entertainment. By using language, people can transfer information, which in this case is amusement/enjoyment. The types of entertainment are vary, the very basic variation of entertainment are film and song. Basically, song is a composition made up of lyrics and music. Here, language has special role to be the medium to convey the message or meaning which lies on the lyric of a song.

However, sometimes song writers violate some language rules in order to get what they want in their song. Song writers purposely make grammatical mistakes in their song lyrics. They have freedom to alter or invert standard syntax or depart from common diction or pronunciation to produce desire effect on their song lyrics, this theory called poetic license. One of the poetic license example lies on one of hip-hop song entitled "Buy you a drank" by T-Pain. He uses drank instead of drunk in order to rhyme with the word bank.

The language used in Hip-hop songs is mostly Black English. Desiigner, Migos, and Future are the examples of rappers who use Black English in their song lyric, which means most of the sentences in the lyric are ungrammatical. Hip-hop enthusiasts are spreaded around the world. Not only as listener, many people are trying to be involved in hip-hop music industry. One of them is Brian Imanuel, which well-known as Rich Brian. Rich Brian is a 18-years old rapper from Indonesia who brought Indonesia's name to the world stage. As an Indonesian rapper who has interest in hip-hop music, Rich Brian wrote his songs in Black English. It is known that Black English do not meet the requirement of standard English.

This research aims to analyze the grammatical errors and the possible effects found in Rich Brian's songs. The study will apply stylistic as the approach to describe the phenomena. The researcher is going to observe the style of the language used in Rich Brian's songs. The grammatical errors in Rich Brian's song lyrics must have certain effects. Therefore, the interpretation of certain errors will also be analyzed.

Similar research have been conducted by Jothimalar Krishnasamy entitled "Grammatical Error Analysis in Writing of ESL Diploma Students" This research focused on the grammatical error in the use of simple past and past continuous tense of ESL (English as Second Language) Diploma Students. The object of this study are narrative works written by ESL Students. The purposes of this research is to identify the grammatical errors and investigate the various forms of errors in the use of Tenses committed by ESL learners in writing. In comparison with Krishnasamy's study which focuses on the ESL students' written narrative, the main focus of this present study is on the song lyrics. Different from Krishnasamy's study which only focuses on the grammatical errors in the use of tenses, this present study will covers all types of grammatical errors found in the song lyrics. The approach used in both study are also different. While Krishnasamy uses syntax as the approach of his study, this present study applies stylistics as an approach.

METHODOLOGY

In order to analyze the grammatical errors found in Rich Brian's songs, the study applied stylistic approach with grammatical and phonological level of analysis chosen. The writer chose this approach since the study focus on the language style and its purpose. The grammatical and phonological level of stylistic approach will help the writer by providing the theories and strategy in order to analyze the data which had been collected. Also, the stylistic theory will help the writer to conclude the pattern and possible effects of grammatical error in Rich Brian's song.

The object in the study focused on song lyrics by Rich Brian. The songs that are analyzed by the the researcher are "Who that be", "Dat \$tick", and "Glow Like Dat". In order to analyze the grammatical errors in Rich Brian's songs, there are several linguistic elements that are analyzed. The errors in Rich Brian's song lyrics are found in the sentences, phares, and words.

The researcher conducted four steps to collect the data. First by opening Rich Brian's song lyrics from www.genius.com. After that, the researcher observed the errors of the sentences, phrases, and words in Rich Brian's songs. To put the words in order, the errors are categorized according to its grammatical process on a table. Finally, the researcher analyzed the possible purpose of the grammatical errors found in the songs.

ANALYSIS

In this part, the result of the analysis is displayed. As there are 5 types of grammatical error processes which are Omission, Double Negation, Overgeneralization, Error of Preposition and Error of Pronoun.

The total of Errors occur in the 3 songs that is analyzed is 29. The table below displays the summary of error occur on the 3 songs.

Grammtical Error Process	Number	Percentage (%)
Omission	14	48 %
Double Negation	6	21 %
Overgeneralization	4	14 %
Error of Preposition	3	10 %
Error of Pronoun	2	7 %
Total	29	100 %

A. The Distribution of Errors

In this part, the errors in the 3 songs are distributed into 5 types of grammatical error, which are omission, double negation, overgeneralization, error of preposition and the last is error of pronoun. Each types of error will be placed in 5 different tables which consist of the song in where the errors are found, the grammatical error and its types. The grammatical errors occur in the songs will be analyzed and compared with the correct ones.

Table 1. Omission

Song	Grammatical errors in the lyrics	Types of Omission	Omitted Words
Who That Be	You in my team	Auxiliary verb	are
	Now they red	Auxiliary verb	are
Dat Stick	People be starving	Modal	will
	People be killing	Modal	will
	You been a bitch	Perfect tense verb	have
	You be shakin'	Modal	will
	Berry gon' smell blood trail	Auxiliary	is
	We gon' pull up on the kids with a flat brim cap	Auxiliary verb	are
	The shit too crazy	Auxiliary verb	is
Glow Like Dat	I done see you	Perfect tense verb	have
	Never seen a day on campus	Perfect tense verb	have
	I be on my Mac Demarco shit	Modal	will
	Now they closed	Auxiliary verb	are
	But now you out here	Auxiliary verb	are

The grammatical errors found in Rich Brian's songs are mostly omission. Omission is defined as the term of grammatical analysis referring to the omission of a part of the structure, yet can be recovered through the scrutiny of the context (Crystal, 2008:166). There are 14 grammatical errors of omission from total 29 grammatical errors found in the three songs. The omissions mostly occur in the verb of the sentences, with the auxiliary verb as the most of the omitted verb. For example in the phrase "berry gon' smell blood trail", the word berry should be followed by auxiliary verb "is" since the phrase form is progressive tense. Therefore, the phrase should be "berry is going to smell blood trail". The second highest omission processes occur in Rich Brian's songs is omission of modal. The example is in the phrase "people be killing", the modal "will" is omitted. The correct form of the phrase is "people will be killing", since the phrase is about something that will happen in the future, therefore the modal "will" is necessary to be added to the phrase. Then in the last place is the omission of perfect form 'have'. As in the song lyrics, there is the sentence "I done seen you", where the perfect form of "have" is omitted. The correct form of the sentence is "I have done seen you". Since the correct form of the sentence is present perfect tense, the addition of perfect form "have" is necessary.

Table 2. Double Negation

Song	Grammatical errors in the lyrics
Who That be	I don't smoke no gas
	I don't pop no xans
	I don't see no such thing
	Don't wear no jacket
	You can never do nothing
Dat Stick	Ain't nobody

The double negation is the second highest grammatical error found in Rich Brian's songs. Double negatives is the use of more than one negative form in the same clause which is not sufficient in Standard English. The negation sometimes affects the logical structure and the semantic analysis of the sentence (Crystal 2008:324). There are 6 double negations of the total 29 errors. The double negations only occur in the songs Who Dat Be and Dat Stick only. While in the songs Glow Like That, there is no double negation found. The example of the double negation are in the sentence "I don't smoke no gas.". There are two negative expressions in one sentence, "don't" and "no". In Standard English double negatives expressions in one sentence is not allowed. Therefore one of the negative expressions have to be omitted in order to form the correct sentence. The correct form of the sentence are either "I don't smoke gas" or "I smoke no gas".

Table 3. Overgeneralization

Song	Grammatical errors in the lyrics	Overgeneralized
Who That Be	All these mans	noun
	'Bout no mans	noun
Dat Stick	Rogue wave on you niggas	verb
Glow Like Dat	to seein' me	verb

The Overgeneralization is the third grammatical process found in Rich Brian's songs. Overgeneralization is often defined as the learners' own way to make rules of the second language because of their incapability to differentiate between L1 and L2 rules (Matini, 2016, para. 1). From all of 29 grammatical processes found in Rich Brian's songs, there are 4 overgeneralization processes are found. The overgeneralization occurs in the noun and the verb of the phrases or the sentences. The example of overgeneralization process of noun is found in the phrase "all these mans". In the sentence, there is an overgeneralization of the noun "man", where the plural form of the irregular noun "man" is "men". Therefore the correct form of the phrase is "all these men". While the overgeneralization process of verb occurs in the sentence "Rogue wave on you niggas". Since the noun (rogue) is singular, therefore the correct verb form is "waves". Hence, the correct form of the sentence should be "Rogue waves on you niggas".

Table 4. Error of Preposition

Song	Grammatical errors in the lyrics	Correct preposition
Who That Be	Yo' bitch on me	into
	I'd call the cops on myself	by
Glow Like That	Book a flight up to Manhattan	to

Error of preposition can be defined as the wrong usage of preposition by the speaker. Of the total 29 grammatical processes found in Rich Brian's songs, 3 of them are error of preposition. The examples of error of preposition in the songs are in the lyrics "I'd call the cops on myself" and "book a flight up to Manhattan". The error of preposition that occurs in the phrase "I'd call the cops on myself" have the error of preposition of "on", which should be change into "by". While in the phrase "book a flight up to Manhattan", "up to" is indicating maximum amount, however the preposition "up to" in that phrase is followed by the name of a city. So the preposition "up" should be omitted in order to make the phrase grammatical.

Table 5. Error of Pronouns

Song	Grammatical errors in the lyrics	Correct pronoun
Who That Be	Look at he	him
	You don't wanna fuck with we	us

The error of pronoun is the least grammatical process found in the songs. Error of pronoun is a grammatical process of the wrong usage of pronoun by speaker. Of all Rich Brian's songs, the error of pronoun only found in the song Who That Be which are in the phrase "look at he" and "you don't wanna fuck with we". Since both pronouns he and we are an object in the phrase, therefore the pronouns he and we should be changed into possessive pronoun "him" and "us".

B. Possible Effects of the Grammatical Process

There are two possible effects of the Grammatical Error in Rich Brian songs, which are following poetic license and language of song. The term poetic license refers to a work of a poet's when they have ignored the grammar rules to create effect (Koski, 2016, para.5). The overgeneralization and error of pronoun were made in order to make the previous line rhyme to the next line. For example on the song "Who That Be", the overgeneralized noun of "men" in the phrase "bout no mans" is to rhyme the previous lines "I don't smoke no gas," and "I don't smoke no xans". It can be seen from the lyrics:

God damn, bitch, I don't smoke no gas
I don't pop no Xans, hella cake
I just need that ass, don't worry 'bout no mans

Also in the same song, Rich Brian misuses the pronoun *he* and *we* in the line “look at he” and “you don't wanna fuck with we” with the same reason, which is to rhyme with the previous line, “look at me” Rich Brian purposely violate the grammatical rules in order to create an effect to the lyrics.

Look at me,
look at he,
you don't wanna fuck with we

The double negation, omission and error of preposition processes were made in order to fit the meter of the song. The example are in the line “Yo bitch on me but you can never do nothing” of *Who That Be* song, the double negations is made in order to make the line fit with the meter of the songs. Since the song has trochaic hexameter, in order to make the lyrics fit to the meter, the double negations is applied:

/ / / / / /
 Yo bitch \ on me \ but you \ can ne\ver do \ nothing.

In the song *Dat Stick*, there is an omission of modal *will* in the sentence “And I know you be shaking” this error is also purposely made in order to make it fit with the meter. The meter in this lyric is iambic trimeter,

/ / /
 I know \ you be \ shaking

While in the phrase “book a flight up to Manhattan” from *Glow Like Dat* song, Rich Brian is adding the preposition *up*, so that the line is match with the meter, which is trochaic tetrameter.

/ / / /
 Book a \ flight up \ to Man/hattan

Rich Brian is purposely making the grammatical error in order to create an effect to the song and follow the language of song, since there are a requirements on how text, music and song structure interact (Turpin and Stebbins, 2010:3-5).

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that the most grammatical error processes found in the three samples of Rich Brian's songs is Omission. There are three types of omission occur. The first common omission occurs is in the verb of the sentences, followed by omission in modal and last is omission in perfect form 'have'. The second highest grammatical error process found is double negations with 6 errors from the total of 29 errors, and the third position of highest grammatical error process occurs is overgeneralization with 4 errors from the total of 29 errors. The overgeneralization process occurs in the noun and the verb. Then the lasts two grammatical processes are error in preposition and pronoun.

The possible effects of the grammatical error, which are rhyme and metrical pattern, are because Rich Brian is following the pattern of poetic license and language of song. The poetic license is seen in the use of overgeneralization process in the song. Meanwhile the pattern of language of song is seen in the use of double negation and omission process.

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