

Long And Short Vowels Sound In A Song Lyric by Ed Sheeran

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Abstrak - The writer analyzed an English song lyric entitled "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran based on phonetics studies. This song lyric released in 2017. The object of this analysis is the vowels sound in the song lyrics. The purpose of this analysis is to show some analysis results that are limited to the long and short vowels sound. For further analysis, the writer uses a qualitative approach as a research methodology. While for analyzing the long and short vowels sound the writer uses phonetics studies by presenting data in the form of tables as a methodological research that reveals the whole vowels sound. The results of this analysis shows that this song lyrics are dominated by long vowels sound and most of them are vowels / a /:, / i: /, / u: /, and / ai /. The role of Linguistics in Literature world is by producing language theories to analyze literary works.

Key words : linguistics, phonetics, English song lyric

Abstrak – Penulis menganalisa sebuah lirik lagu berbahasa Inggris berjudul "Perfect" karya Ed Sheeran. Lagu ini dirilis pada tahun 2017. Analisa ini berdasarkan kajian fonetik. Objek penelitian berupa bunyi vokal pada lirik lagu tersebut. Tujuan dari analisa ini adalah untuk menunjukkan bebarapa hasil analisa yang dibatasi pada bunyi vokal panjang dan pendek dalam lirik lagu tersebut. Untuk analisa lebih lanjut penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan penyuguhan data berupa table, sebagai riset metodologi yang mengungkap keseluruhan bunyi vokal. Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu ini didominasi oleh bunyi vokal panjang dan sebagian besar adalah bunyi vokal /a:/, /i:/, /u:/, dan /ai/. linguistik memiliki peran dalam dunia sastra dengan menghasilkan teori-teori bahasa untuk mengkaji karya sastra.

Kata kunci : linguistik, fonetik, lirik lagu berbahasa Inggris

INTRODUCTION

English has been recognized as being an important language for international communication, whether it is used to academic field or others. For those who want to develop themselves, they need to be able to speak English well. English has the aim of facilitating communication with people from various countries. Because humans do not live alone, humans need to communicate with people around them and even with people from different countries. English language has a role as a unifier of people around the world. English is important to know the development of the world. To be able to follow the development of the world, people must be able to speak English properly and correctly so that communication runs well and avoid misunderstandings. Learning English is closely related to the science of language, namely linguistics. Because of language is represented by sound, In linguistics, we study about among of them is how sounds classified (in phonology) and how they are produced (in phonetics).

Linguistics is a science study about the using of language and its provisions inside. Historically, linguistics comes from Latin language "lingua" which means "language", in English "language" and

in French it is known as "Parole" which means "utterance". Linguistics can be defined as the study of a language scientifically. Linguistics has an object that is human language. (John Lyons, 1975). Based on this theory it can be concluded that linguistics is a science which takes language as the object of analysis and investigates the using of a language and all aspects within it. Linguistics is the study about language. Linguistics focuses on human language as communication tool and all its aspects within it as a universal unit (Langacker, 1973). Based on this theory it can be concluded that linguistics is the study about human language which has functions as communication media to interact each other.

Language is important to connect people in the world. Language as a communication media used to express thoughts, ideas, experiences, and tell stories to readers or audiences, either written or orally form. Language is a connecting process between signs and meanings expressed by human. Language can be interpreted as a symbol that gives meaning to a concept. (Bloch and Tragger, 1942). So according to this theory, language is symbols of sound that has systematic meanings and concepts as a communication media.

According to Kridalaksana, understanding language is a meaningful sound system used for communication by human groups. (Kridalaksana, 1985; 12). According to this opinion it can be concluded that language is a sound that has a purpose or meaning conveyed by a person to another as a mean of communication to interact each other. Another opinion according to *Wibowo*, language is a meaningful and articulated sound symbols system that is arbitrary and conventional in nature. (*wibowo*, 2001:3). Based on this opinion it can be concluded that language is sound in the form of collection of letters and words produced by human speech organs that have meaning.

On the other side, Phonology is a branch of linguistics that study about the pattern of sounds system of a language. According to Kridalaksana, phonology is linguistics field that investigate sounds according to its function. (Kridalaksana, 2002). Based on this opinion it can be concluded that phonology is a branch of linguistics which study about the sounds system in a language to know its function. Phonology divided into two studies; phonetics and phonemics (phoneme). While, Chaer says that phonemics examines language sounds that function to distinguish the meaning of words. (Chaer, 2007). Based on this opinion, Phonemics is the smallest unit of sound's language study conveying a distinct meaning. It means that when pronouncing the words, the sounds like the same but different words and meaning. Such as in the words of write and right, and bed and bad. Meanwhile phonetics is the study of speech organs that produce language sounds. In phonetics also includes several points of study, namely; pronunciation disorders, tracts of the sounds, syllables in vowels (monophthongs, diphthongs, trifongs), tones and intonations, rhythm of sounds, also consonants and vowels.

Phonology and phonetic have a close correlation. Phonology is the study of sound systems in languages and study of grammatical components consisting of elements and principles that determine how sound patterns and focus on the systematic structure of sound in language. Phonetics is knowledge of language-symbol relations in language. (Erika Hoff, 2009). According to above opinion that phonetics is study about the relations among the speech organs, sounds tract, and its symbols and how to pronounce the alphabet well. The using of language in literary world is a media used by humans to convey ideas, thoughts, suggestions, and experiences of the author which delivered to the readers. The results of those

expressions are literary works in imaginative, interesting and beautiful forms to be enjoyed by the readers or audiences.

Wardhaugh opines that language is what is said by certain members of society. (Wardhaugh, 1986: 1). By this opinion, it can be concluded that language is sound that has meaning spoken by a group of people as a means of interacting with each other. According to Saussure, language is a system of signs that express ideas. (*Saussure*, 1973: 16). By this opinion, it can be concluded that language is symbols in the form of sounds arranged in detail that express thoughts or ideas.

Next is song lyric. Song lyric according to Indonesia dictionary is a literary work which is sung. Song lyric is a poem contains author's thoughts or heart feelings. (1990:528). Based on this definition can be concluded that song lyric is expression about idea and experience of the author. In expressing their idea or experience, the author processes the selected words so that they have an appeal in them. In processing it can be melody, note, meaning, and language style, so that the listener can get carried away which is created by the author. (Awe, 2003:51). It can be concluded that lyric is an art of written works which has typical characteristic namely sung and accompanied by music.

Next, Landy states that poetry is musical or at least rhythmic speech. It is also usually a harmonious speech employing words whose sounds echo each other or blend well. It may even be set to music, to be chanted or sung rather than simply spoken. (1984:413). By above definition, it means that song lyric is a poem where the composition of words ordered with rhyming lines, implying ideas, its meaning has connection each other, and accompanied by the harmony of music. And it will much easier to be remembered by the readers or listeners rather than a paragraph on textbook or other sources. On the other hand, According to Reed (1946:92) in Barnet, Berman, and Burto (1961); "poetry is attempts to put into words feelings and thoughts. Poetry also attempts to do this in a manner which will make a memorable impression; it uses memory, devices, and ideas, such as figure of speech, rhyme, and rhythm. Poetry was chosen either because of its documentary importance for a full understanding of the period and the works of the major poets, or because of its intrinsic excellence. It means that poetry is describing feelings, reactions, and attitude, daily life of human or it can also talk about the fact of social life which make it as an unforgettable experience.

Then, Phonetic is part of linguistics which study about physical form of sounds in a language. It starts from organs of speech which resulting sounds and the sound type itself. Based on phonetic studies, sound divided into unvoice, voiceless, plosive, bilabial, and the length of the sounds. The correlation it all is that the pronunciation of the words in an English song lyrics must be in accordance with the intended meaning of its words. So that the message conveyed by the authors reaches the listeners well. Therefore, phonetic guides us about the way to pronounce the words correctly, so that the meaning are also correct. Because, different pronunciation has different meaning. Language has function as communication tool is very important whether verbally or orally to communicate each other in daily life. In order to communicate well, language must learn well. Mastery spoken language is very important. With language, communication can take place well.

According to Trask, There is an unbridgeable gulf between linguistics and literature. The two fields of knowledge ignore each other, not wanting to pay attention to each other. However, then the situation changed and a number of scholars tried to apply the technique of theoretical linguistics analysis to explain and study the aesthetic aspects of language in literature. (Trask, 1999: 297-298). It means that at first, the two fields there is no collaboration in creating theories related to the use of language, but then they work together and uses linguistics theories to study literature. Stylistically, literary works can be studied from all linguistics levels, namely phonology in phonetic, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. According to Sudjiman, in terms of phonetics (phonology, poetry can be assessed from the similarity of each sound (Sudjiman, 1993,4) or according to Comings and Simmons, poetry can be analyzed in terms of consonants and vowels.(Comings and Simmons, 1983). Obviously what is called grammar are morphology and syntax. A literary works can be analyzed from the meaning contained in it is the realm of semantics. On the other hand, dialogue in prose and drama can also be analyzed linguistically and this is realm of pragmatics.

In a song lyric, language is a media to express ideas, thoughts, and experiences of the author. Song lyric uses short and concise language, in the form of lines but meaningful and accompanied by music. According to Pasaribu, a song contains of two forms of expressions, they are musical expression which consists of form of rhythm or melody and linguistics expression in the form of

lyric. (1986:36). By those opinions, it means that the first element which closely related to music is the melody, while the second element which closely related to linguistics is word.

Song lyric is the combination of words coupled with the harmonious tones of musical which have given its meaning to the music teaser. Through music, language as if has the amazing power of meaning. Song lyrics without music, its beauty will be diminish and cannot be enjoyed perfectly. As we know that language is part of linguistics study, that is why linguistics cannot be separated from the process of making written literary works. Even in order to get good results of written literary works, in composing process we must use linguistics studies, especially phonology and phonetics.

Literary works is in the form of a reflection of reality that is packaged aesthetically through the language. The media conveyed in a communicative way to express the intent of the author with the aim of giving beautiful value to the readers or audiences. So in the world of literary, language also has a very important role. Without language, there will be no beautiful works that can be enjoyed up to now. Sumarjo opines that the base values of literary works encounter; appearance value, content value, and appearance value, content value, disclosure value, and value, and score value. (Sumarjo,2000). Based on this opinion it can be conclude that literary works must have those three values so that it can be enjoyed by the readers or audiences. Those values are manifested in intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

Sedgwick opines that music is simplicity and candor, high excitement, but above of all, perfect harmony in the diversity of rhythm dimensions, freedom in form and real spontaneity, perfected and united by the power of musical rhythm. With such high standards, all the lyrics of poetry cannot be imagined without the accompaniment of music. (Sedgwick, 2016: 9). In the above opinion it can be concluded that music is an expression of the author's heart and mind which is free and real but has perfect and beautiful harmony in the bandages of music rythm. Vosahlik also opines that the characteristics of lyrics are the performance of the poet and the relationship between the speaker and the listener. The listener needs a dramatic appearance and the aim of the poet is to fascinate the listener. (Vosahlik, 2016: 10).

Based on the above opinion it can be concluded that a song lyrics is a composition of beautiful words that are sung and have characteristics, namely; accompanied by music, the

singer has the expertise (voice) that fascinates the listeners or audiences, and it is sung with beauty to cheer them up. In some of the descriptions above, show that between linguistics and the world of literature are being bound closely. Linguistics provides direct benefits and very helpful for litterateur in understanding the structure of words well, that is by producing language theories. We are able to comprehend in pronouncing written literary works well, because we have good knowledge about the nature and sturcture of language through linguistics. Both factors are part of linguistics study. Moreover, literary works use special language.

Within the scope of literature, especially song lyrics, in understanding sounds related to the pronunciation of letters and or words, we must know about the structure of sound in a language, it's in phonology study as well as phonetics. Understanding of the two sciences are very important as a provision to create literary works. Because these two sciences are complementary in understanding the pattern of sound system include the way of pronouncing a language.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Approach of the Study

In analysing the data, the writer uses qualitative descriptive method. This method gives an overview and provides temporary presumption and procedure used detaily. Qualitative approach is the method which does not using statistic data. It is associated to hypothesis generating and developing an understanding. This approach will make this study get deeper information and will be easy to collect the data. "Qualitative methods are human and social science methods that offer several traditions. These traditions may be the type of method for collecting analysis data, and written reports, or the overall design which includes all phases in the research process ". (Creswell, 1944). Based on the above definition, it can be concluded that the qualitative method is a human view through observation in order to obtain facts after observation, then collecting data reports, and conducting data analysis.

2. Data Analysis

In phonolgy study, we learn about phoneme and phonetic. Obviously, in phonetic also consist of vowels and consonants sound, it also called as phonetic alphabet and its symbols. However, in this study the writer only focuses on phonetic study for

long and short vowels sound in an English song lyric, through understanding phonetic in English song lyric. In phonetic study, long and short vowels sound pronunciation can affected the meaning of the words. So do In English song lyrics. Phonetic is also the study about speech organs which produce language sounds and also encounter some of sub studies , they are; articulation obctacles, tracts of articulation , the way to articulate all sounds, sound syllables (monophtong, diphtong, triphthong), tone and intonation, rhyme of sounds, also vowels and consonants sound.

According to Burley-Allen, the average time spent on basic skills during the daily communication process is 35% for speaking, 16% for reading, 9% for writing and 40% for listening. (Burley Allen, 1995). It means that listening aspect is the most used way by people in improving their English skills. We can polish our English skill especially in speaking is by learning to pronounce either vocal or consonant sounds well, one of them is by listening English song lyric. It all must be learned seriously. But in this analysis the writer choses vocals sound. The aim of using phonetic study as the base of this analysis is to give a description of a condition in a situation systematically, accurately, and actually, so that, it will make easier to comprehend the content's decription of its element. The elements of long and short vowels sound in Ed Sheeran song lyric, 'Perfect'. Language has the segmental elements, they are consonants and vowels sound. Linguistics and literary works have the same media that is language. The role of linguistics in literature field is to provide language theories to analyze literary works. In English language, especially English song lyric, we study about some aspects, one of them is about the way to pronounce its word. In this case the vowels sound in each word, same as long and short vowels sound in phonetic study. The evidences show that In English song lyrics have many long and short vowels sound inside. That's why linguistics has important role in understanding literary works, especially written works such as song lyrics.

FINDING AND RESULTS

1. Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

IPA is system where every symbols in a language is related to sound of specific English language. By using IPA, we will know precisely the way to pronounce English words well. It helps improving English pronunciation and more confidence in speaking English, in this case is an

English song lyrics.

The smallest unit of language is letter. Based on phonetics alphabet, there are vocal and consonant letters with its symbols. In phonetic alphabet pronunciation, there are consonant and vowels sound. In vowels sound consist long and short vowels sound.

Phonetic alphabets are the alphabets which based on Latin alphabets, which was inaugurated by an association of international phonetic organisation at the end of 19th century, as the base representation of a language sounds which spoken. Below is the table of phonetic alphabet of long and short vowels sound;

Table 1. Phonetics Alphabet of Long and Short Vowels Sounds

Phonetic Alphabet	
Long Vowels Sounds	Short Vowels Sounds
ɑ:	ɑ
i:	e
u:	æ
ɜ:	ʌ
ɔ:	ʊ
ɪə	ɒ
eə	ə
eɪ	u
eɪ	ɪ
eɪ	ɑ
ɔɪ	
aɪ	
əʊ	
aʊ	

2. Long Vowels Sound

Long vowels are vowels associated with two X-slots within the syllabic nucleus. Examples include /i/ (heed /hi; d) and /ɔ:/ (hall /hɔ:/ l) (Mc. Cully, 2009: 220). It means that when two or three vowels sound appear side by side in a syllable. The vowels sound inside a word called as nucleus. Then when vowels sound work as a team to produce a long vowel sound, the second or third vowel is not pronounced. The way to pronounce is also longer than short vowels sound. Such as in the words; “make” /meɪk/, “mate” /meɪt/, ‘twine’/twain/, ‘note’/nəʊt/, and ‘cube’ /kju:b/.

3. Short Vowels Sound

Short vowel sound is a simple vocalic segment occurring within the nucleus of a syllable (Mc.Cully:2009:223). This sound created when there is one vowel sound in a word. The way to pronounce

is shorter than long vowel sound. Such as in the words ; ‘mat’ /mæt/, ‘pet’ /pet/, /‘twin’ /twɪn/, ‘not’ /nɒt/ ‘cub’ /kʌb/.

4. English Song Lyric by Ed Sheeran

This analysis focuses on long and short vowels sound based on phonetic study in English song lyrics by Ed Sheeran, “Perfect”. Ed Sheeran is a singer, musician, and actor who was born in England. He starts creating songs in 2011. Some of his songs are famous and got awards from music industries. His songs mostly tell about love. Among of them is song lyric ‘perfect’.

Phonetic alphabet and its symbols help people who work in literary field and or readers to comprehend written literary works which use language. Phonetic helps people understanding the way in pronouncing English words.

The ‘Perfect’ song itself is released in 2017. It song got some awards from ‘Teen choice award’ for single singer category in 2018, ‘Much Music Video award of the year’ for single singer category in 2018, and ‘Radio disney Music award’ in 2018.

This song lyric consists of eighteen lines and tells about love. A woman love. The woman who loves in a man since she was teenager. Even her love still continuing when she is adult. She still loves in that man and she doesn’t care about how hard an bad the situation happens to him. She still keeps in loving him.

Finally the man knows about her love to himself and accepts the woman as his girl. He promises to love and willing to marry her to live together. They will love and care each other until old time.

Below are the lyrics of the song and table which describe long and short vowels sound inside. The words which have long and short vowels sound are marked by bold and underline.

English song Lyrick “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran;

‘Perfect’
I found a love for me
Darling, just dive right in
And follow my lead
Well, I found a girl, beautiful and sweet
I never knew you were the someone waiting for me
‘Cause we were just kids when we fell in love
Not knowing what it was
I will not give you up this time
Darling, just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own

*And in your eyes, you're holding mine
Baby, I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms
Barefoot on the grass, we're listenin' to our favorite song
When you said you looked a mess, I whispered underneath my breath
But you heard it, darling, you look perfect tonight
Well, I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know
She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home
I found a love, to carry more than just my secrets
To carry love,...*

Table 2. Long Vowels Sound in English Song Lyrick 'Perfect'

No	Line	Long Vowels Sound
1	I found a love for me	/aɪ/, /faʊnd/, /fɔːr/, /miː/
2	Darling , just dive right in	/'dɑː.lɪŋ/, /dʒaɪt/, /daɪv/, /raɪt/
3	And follow my lead	/'fɒl.əʊ/, /maɪ/, /liːd/
4	Well, I found a girl , beautiful and sweet	/aɪ/, /faʊnd/, /gɜːl/, /'bjʊː.tɪ.fəl/, /ænd/, /swiːt/
5	I never knew you were the someone waiting for me	/'aɪ/, /njuː/, /juː/, /wɜːr/, /ðiː/, /'sʌm.wʌn/, /fɔːr/, /miː/
6	Cause we were just kids when we fell in love	/kɔːz/, /wiː/, wɜːr/, /wiː/
7	Not knowing what it was	/'nəʊ.ɪŋ/
8	I will not give you up this time	/aɪ/, /juː/, /taɪm/
9	Darling , just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own	/'dɑː.lɪŋ/, /miː/, /sləʊ/, /jɔːr/, /hɑːt/, /ɔːl/, /aɪ/, /əʊn/
10	And in your eyes, you're holding mine	/ænd/, /jɔːr/, /aɪ/, /juː/, /ɑːr/, /'həʊl.dɪŋ/, /maɪn/
11	Baby , I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms	/'beɪ.bi/, /aɪ/, /dɑːns.ɪŋ/, /dɑːk/, /juː/, /bɪ'twiːn/, /maɪ/, /ɑːmz/
12	Barefoot on the grass, we're listenin' to our favorite song	/'beə.fʊt/, /ðiː/, /grɑːs/, /wiː/, /ɑːr/, /tuː/, /əʊər/
13	When you said you looked a mess, I whispered underneath my breath	/juː/, /juː/, /,ʌn.də'niːθ/, /maɪ/, /miː/
14	But you heard it, darling , you look perfect tonight	/juː/, /hɪəd/, /'dɑː.lɪŋ/, /juː/, /'pɜː.fekt/
15	Well, I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know	/aɪ/, /faʊnd/, /'wʊm.ən/, /ðæn/, /aɪ/, /nəʊ/
16	She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home	/ʃiː/, /ʃeər/, /maɪ/, /aɪ/, /həʊp/, /'sʌm.deɪ/, /aɪ/

		/ʃeər/, /hɜːr/, /həʊm/
17	I found a love, to carry more than just my secrets	/aɪ/, /faʊnd/, /tuː/, /'kær.i/, /mɔːr/, /ðæn/, /maɪ/, /'siː.krət/
18	To carry love,...	/tuː/, /'kær.i/

Table 3. Short Vowels Sound in English Song Lyrick 'Perfect'

No	Line	Short vowels Sound
1	I found a love for me	/ə/, /ʌ/
2	Darling, just dive right in	/dʒaɪt/, /daɪv/, /raɪt/, /ɪn/
3	And follow my lead	/ænd/
4	Well , I found a girl , beautiful and sweet	/wel/, /ə/
5	I never knew you were the someone waiting for me	/'nev.ər/, /weɪt.ɪŋ/
6	'Cause we were just kids when we fell in love	/dʒaɪt/, /kɪd/, /wen/, /fel/, /ɪn/, /ʌv/
7	Not knowing what it was	/nɒt/, /wɒt/, /ɪt/, /wɒz/
8	I will not give you up this time	/wɪl/, /nɒt/, /gɪv/, /ʌp/, /ðɪs/
9	Darling, just kiss me slow , your heart is all I own	/dʒaɪt/, /kɪs/, /ɪz/, /kɔːz/, /wiː/, wɜːr/, /wiː/
10	And in your eyes , you're holding mine	/ɪn/
11	Baby, I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms	/ɪn/, /ðiː/, /wɪð/
12	Barefoot on the grass, we're listenin' to our favorite song	/bɜːn/, /'lɪs.ən.ɪŋ/, /'feɪ.vər.ɪt/, /sɒŋ/
13	When you said you looked a mess , I whispered underneath my breath	/wen/, /sed/, /lʊk/, /ə/, /mes/, /aɪ/, /'wɪs.pər/, /breθ/
14	But you heard it , darling, you look perfect tonight	/bʌt/, /ɪt/, /lʊk/, /tə'naɪt/
15	Well , I found a woman , stronger than anyone I know	/wel/, /ə/, /strɒŋ.ɜːr/, /'en.i.wʌn/
16	She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home	/ðæt/, /wɪl/
17	I found a love , to carry more than just my secrets	/ə/, /ʌv/, /dʒaɪt/
18	To carry love ,...	/ʌv/

CONCLUSION

In this part the writer concluded the analysis of *Ed Sheeran's* song lyric. First, the role of linguistics in literature field is to provide

language theories to analyze literary works. Second, Linguistics and literary works have the same media that is language. Third, The phonetics alphabet and its symbols help people to comprehend the way of pronouncing sounds of a language. Because every sound defines different meaning, that is why learning phonetics study is important. Fourth, the writer found the meaning of the song lyric is tell about a woman's love to a man but she hides her love until she is adult. The last, the writer found that this English song lyric is dominted by long vowels sound; /ɑ:/, /i:/, /u:/, and /a:/.

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