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Harmonizing Linguistics with Melody: An Analysis of Lexemic Idioms in Taylor Swift's 'Evermore' and Their Pedagogical Implications for EFL

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Abstract

Lexemic idioms refer to phrases or expressions that possess a distinct meaning that surpasses the literal interpretation of their constituent words. This study examines the lexemic idioms present in the lyrics of songs from Taylor Swift's Evermore album. This study employs a qualitative descriptive methodology, drawing on Makkai's (1972: 135-178) theoretical framework, which categorizes idioms into two distinct types: lexemic and sememic idioms. The concept of lexemic idiom can be classified into six distinct types. The topic of discussion pertains to phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions... The concept of irreversible binominal idioms is being discussed. The topic under consideration pertains to phrasal compound idioms. Utilizing verb idioms... The objective of this study is to identify and analyze the many types of lexemic idioms included in the lyrics of the record, with the aim of determining their respective meanings. The objective of this analysis is to elucidate the proficient utilization of idiomatic expressions by Taylor Swift in effectively conveying her thematic and emotional intentions, encompassing the realms of love, grief, nostalgia, and hope. The study yielded a total of 95 lexemic idioms, which have been categorized based on their respective types and forms. The distribution of idioms in the given text is as follows: 14 idioms of phrasal verbs (14.74%), 45 idioms of tournure (47.37%), 8 idioms of irreversible binomials (8.42%), 23 idioms of phrasal compounds (24.21%), and 5 idioms incorporating verbs (5.26%). No instances of pseudo-idioms were identified within the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's album evermore. The predominant categories of lexemic idioms in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's songs on the evermore album, when considering the percentage of the entire data, indicate that tournure idioms exhibit the most dominance compared to other types. Furthermore, the study's implications for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) pedagogy introduce an innovative approach to teaching, suggesting the integration of popular song lyrics for a more holistic language learning experience. This research not only contributes a fresh perspective to the field of linguistics but also underscores the profound impact of idiomatic expressions on language, culture, and emotion.

Keywords: Lexemic Idioms, Semantics, Makkai Theory. Taylor Swift, Evermore

INTRODUCTION

The utilization of language has become an essential sociocultural resource within contemporary global communities (Rao, 2019). It establishes the foundation for interpersonal connections and serves as a fundamental component of social identification. The absence of language would render the unambiguous communication of thoughts, feelings, and ideas unattainable, necessitating a more elaborate reliance on non-verbal means of expression (Van Wonderen et al., 2023). Language has a crucial role in facilitating effective communication by providing speakers with the means to express their ideas and thoughts with clarity and precision. Human beings, being social creatures, possess an inherent inclination to connect with their environment and actively pursue social engagement with fellow individuals (Samad et al., 2022). Consequently, a reciprocal relationship exists between language and society. Language serves as a fundamental medium of communication. The field of linguistics encompasses the study of language.

Linguistics is widely recognized as an academic discipline that encompasses the systematic and scientific investigation of language. The field of linguistics plays a vital role in facilitating the ongoing development of a language, enabling individuals to effectively convey meaning through language for the purpose of communication (Hiver et al., 2021). Idiomatic expressions, often described as the "spice" of a language, add flavor, depth, and cultural richness to linguistic communication. These expressions, deeply rooted in cultural, historical, and societal contexts, often transcend their literal meanings to convey nuanced messages and emotions (Alharbi, 2023). English, with its vast and varied idiomatic landscape, presents both a challenge and an opportunity for learners, especially those acquiring it as a foreign language. For English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners, these idioms, while captivating, can be perplexing. The challenge lies not just in understanding the literal meanings of the words, but in deciphering the cultural and emotional undertones they carry (Tukhtaeva & Razzakova, 2021; Türker, 2019). However, this challenge also presents an opportunity. If harnessed effectively in EFL pedagogy, these idiomatic expressions can serve as gateways to deeper linguistic understanding, cultural immersion, and authentic language engagement (Namaziandost et al., 2021; Smith, 2021; Rodríguez-Muñoz, 2022).

Idioms can be identified both through lexical analysis and contextual interpretation. In general, the interpretation of certain idiomatic expressions can be influenced by the specific situation in which they are used, thereby aiding in the comprehension of their intended significance (Admiati & Hartono, 2019). An idiom refers to a linguistic expression, typically in the form of a phrase or sentence, that possesses a figurative meaning that cannot be deduced only from the literal interpretation of its constituent words (Aji et al., 2022). A multiword construction is a linguistic phenomenon that encompasses multiple words, forming a cohesive semantic unit and exhibiting a distinct syntactic structure. The constituents of an idiom have the potential to undergo inflection in a manner similar to that observed in phrases. Fundamentally, an idiom can be defined as a linguistic utterance that necessitates comprehension as a cohesive unit, rather than through the interpretation of its constituent parts. Idioms possess the capacity to evoke positive or negative emotions. They have the capacity to express a wide range of emotions, including happiness, sadness, affection, hostility, bravery, shyness, and everything in between (Fatin, 2016). Idioms can be categorized from many perspectives, namely as encoding idioms (identified) and decoding idioms (non-identifiable). Additionally, the classification of idioms for the sake of decoding can be divided into two distinct sorts. The idioms mentioned are classified as lexemic and sememic idioms.

Lexemic idioms refer to idiomatic expressions that consist of recognizable components of speech like as verbs, nouns, adjectives, and prepositions. These idioms are built of several minimum free forms, where each lexon can be found in other contexts as part of a monolexonic lexeme, demonstrating a certain level of awareness. Lexemic idioms are commonly observed

in various academic contexts such as essays, lectures, and business reports. Furthermore, these lexemic idioms can also be identified in artistic mediums such as literature, film, and music (Jannah & Arham, 2016). Based on the author's own experience, it is observed that the songs exhibit idiomatic expressions that are skillfully structured in an engaging manner, so conveying hidden meanings that arouse the curiosity of listeners, compelling them to explore the underlying narratives associated with each musical composition. In the realm of popular culture, contemporary song lyrics emerge as a treasure trove of idiomatic expressions. Artists, like Taylor Swift, weave idioms into their lyrics, not just as linguistic embellishments, but as tools to convey intricate emotions, narratives, and cultural commentaries. Swift's "Evermore" album, for instance, is replete with lexemic idioms that paint vivid emotional landscapes, from the throes of heartbreak to the quiet stirrings of hope.

While there have been numerous studies on idiomatic expressions in English literature and popular culture, there is a noticeable gap in research that specifically examines the use of lexemic idioms in contemporary song lyrics and their implications for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners. The comprehension and production of idiomatic expressions are often challenging for EFL learners due to their cultural and contextual nuances. The unique idiomatic expressions found in popular music, such as Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album, have not been extensively explored in the context of EFL pedagogy (Aditya et al., 2023).

Hence, the present study seeks to inquire about the methods employed in identifying lexemic idioms, as well as the many types of meanings exhibited by lexemic idioms within the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's album, Evermore and their potential implications for EFL learners and educators. The main research questions of the study are; (1)What are the types of lexemic idioms found on Taylor Swift's songs lyrics in Evermore Album? And (2)What are the meanings of the lexemic idioms found on Taylor Swift's songs lyrics in Evermore Album?.

METHOD

The study adopts a Qualitative Descriptive Research approach. Given the intricate nature of idiomatic expressions and their embedded cultural and contextual meanings, a qualitative approach is most suitable. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the idioms, delving into their nuances and the emotions they convey within the lyrical context. The primary data source for this study is the lyrics of Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album. Each song from the album is meticulously transcribed and subjected to Content Analysis. This method enables the identification and extraction of potential lexemic idioms from the lyrics. Given the specific focus on the "Evermore" album, a Purposive Sampling technique is employed. This ensures that every song from the album is analyzed, providing a comprehensive view of the idiomatic expressions used. The dataset utilized in this research comprises the lyrics of Taylor Swift's songs from the album titled "evermore" released in the year 2020. "evermore," stylized in all lowercase, represents the ninth studio album crafted by the esteemed American singer-songwriter, Taylor Swift. The album in question was an unexpected release on December 11, 2020, distributed through Republic Records. The playlist consists of a total of 17 songs, including "willow," "champagne problems," "gold rush," "'tis damn season," "tolerate it," "no body no crime," "happiness," "dorothea," "coney island," "ivy," "cowboy like me," "long story short," "marjorie," "closure," "evermore," "right where you left me," and "it's time to go". The lyrics of Taylor Swift's songs on the Evermore album can be accessed freely on the official Taylor Swift website or the YouTube channel associated with her. Post data collection, the identified idioms undergo Thematic Analysis. They are systematically categorized based on predefined themes, which, in this case, are the types of lexemic idioms as outlined by Makkai's theory. Additionally, the context of each idiom within the song is analyzed to decipher its intended meaning and significance in the narrative. While the core of the study is qualitative, Descriptive Statistics are employed to succinctly present the data. Percentages, for instance,

depict the frequency and distribution of the various types of idioms across the songs, offering a clear and concise overview.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the data that has been collected, the study analyses the data using Makkai's theory (1972:135-178) To find out the types of idioms and classify the idioms into six types of lexemic idioms on Taylor Swift's song lyrics in Evermore album. The types of idioms are phrasal verb idiom, tournure idiom, irreversible binomial idiom, phrasal compound idiom, incorporating verb idiom, and the last pseudo idiom. The writer will present some data to analysis six type of lexemic idioms and in the appendix for all data analysis.

3.1 Phrasal Verb Idiom

A phrasal verb is a verb that includes certain types of phrases. The primary word is a verb, and the minor word is a particle. The particle can be an adverb or preposition (up, in, out), an article (a, an, the), or an affix (un-, in-, -ness, -ly). Most phrasal verbs are made up of a small number of verbs (go, get, sit, come, etc.). The writer analyzed some of the data as follows:

Data 1. “Rough on the surface, but you **cut through** like a knife”

These lyrics were written to describe the love story of a woman, who has emotions like rough on the surface waves and her man, who is as calm as a ship and can easily cut through the rough on the surface waves like a sharp knife. This lyric has word lexemic idioms such as **cut through**, which has the form cut as verb and through as preposition. This form can be included in phrasal verb idioms. cut through means “quickly understand and overcome”. Based on this analysis the writer classifies data 1 into phrasal verb idioms.

Data 5. “But I **come back** stronger than a 90's trend”

This lyric describes their relationship like a willow tree that looks shaky but is very strong, because a woman who is always considered never serious in a love relationship come back in happy relationships and more colorful than a 90's trend. In this lyric, **come back** is lexemic idioms. It can be seen from the form. This is a phrasal verb, where come as a verb and back as an adverb In this sentence, **come back** means “Effective”. After the writer analysis the data, the word can be classified as phrasal verb idioms.

Data 18 “She'll **patch up** your tapestry that I shred and hold your hand while Dancing”

In these lyrics, about a woman who refuses a marriage proposal her boyfriend and made his broken. She hopes that another woman will patch up the broken feelings that she made. In these lyrics, the **patch up** is lexemic idioms, the word **patch up** as a verb and up as an adverb, it is form of phrasal verbs idioms. in this sentence patch up means “fix it”. The writer classified the patch up is phrasal verb idioms.

Data 52 “And it gets colder and colder when the sun **goes down**”

These lyrics describe the feelings of a woman who truly feels the loss of her lover and feels lonely every night, when the sun goes down. In this lyric there is lexemic idioms goes down, It is phrasal verb “**goes down**” include a verb and adverb In this sentence, **goes down** means “set or sink”. Based on the explanation goes down is category of phrasal verb idioms.

Data 81 “I know I am just a wrinkle in your new life staying friends would **iron it out** so nice.

In this lyric, it talks about a broken relationship. She said she is just wrinkle in his new life, it means she knows that she is a problem in this relationship, and be friends is the best **iron it out** this problem. Iron in out is lexemic idiom, because iron it is verb and out is an adverb it

is phrasal verb idiom. In this sentence, iron it out means “solve or settle a problem” the writer can be classified the iron it out as phrasal verb idioms.

3.2 Tournure Idiom

The Tournure idiom is a larger polylexonic lexeme than a phrasal verb. It is the most common lexemic idiom, usually having at least three words, the majority of which are verbs. A tournure idiom is usually used 39 in sentences. The writer will present some data to analyze six types of lexemic idioms and in the appendix for all data analysis.

Data 30 “Sleep in half the day just **for old times' sake**”

This song talks about the experience of a woman back to her hometown for a vacation, and she meets her old love. She wants to start again the relationship she ended first, but she can't because she already has another man, and what she's doing now is like cheating. The line Sleep in half the day just **for old times' sake**, describe about she sleeps with him in half the day just for remember the past, who has happy and beautiful memories. This lyric has lexemic idioms, **for old times' sake**. The verb in sentence, is not lead by a direct object but by preposition plus noun, this form like tournure idioms. and this idiom, has meaning “nostalgia or remember beautiful past “. The writer categories this idiom into tournure idiom.

Data 59 “The fatal flaw that makes you long to **be magnificently cursed**”

This song tells the story of a woman who is married, but falls in love with another man until an affair occurs. The fatal flow means feeling love that she shouldn't want from other guy, because she has a husband, the love made she long to be magnificently cursed. This lyric has lexemic idioms. It is **be magnificently cursed**. This sentence lead is “be”, have three words and have two verbs, it is form of tournure idioms, be magnificently cursed has a meaning “karma”. Based on the explanation be magnificently cursed is category of tournure idioms types.

Data 82 “That you put **between you and me** but it's fake”

This song is about friendships that are no longer friends. because of the betrayal. The lyric that you put between you and me, but it's fake, says that they have a secret, but one of them tells the secret to another. The line between you and me is lexemic idioms. The form contains a binominal that cannot be changed, and between you and me is introduced by a preposition rather than a verb, such as in tournure idioms. This sentence has the meaning "be kept secret". After the writer analyzes this lyric, the idiom can be categorized into three types of idioms.

Data 87 “Whether weather be the frost or the violence of **the dog days**”

This song tells how a woman goes through a period of depression and tries to build confidence in all situation, and the line whether weather be the frost, or the violence of **the dog days** talk about the situation. In this lyric, **the dog days** is lexemic idioms, because the form contains compulsory definite article “the”, and contains three words like tournure idioms. in this sentence **the dog days** means “hot, sultry summer weather”. After the writer analysis, the dog days can be classified as tournure idioms types.

Data 93 “I **gave it my all**, he gave me nothing at all”

This song describes about the relationship between the singer and her music label, which betrayed her by selling the masterpieces she made. She gave it her all like abilities and wealth to each of her works, but the music label gave her nothing at all. There is no benefit just betrayed. The line that **gave it my all** is a lexemic idoms who has the form that contains the compulsory “it” in the middle, and contains at least three words and have a verb. This words like the form of tournure idioms the largest lexemic idiom among the other. **Gave it my all** have a meaning “best effort as possible”. After the writer analysis the data, **gave it my all** can be classified as tournure idioms types.

3.3 Irreversible Binomial Idiom

Binomial as a formula consist of parts A and B joined by a finite set of links l the order of which (in the overwhelming majority of cases) cannot be reversed. Morphotactically irreversible idiomatic binomials, Morphotactically reversible idiomatic binomials which become literal 60 constitutes after the reversal, Nonidiomatic binomials which are morphotactically reversible with resulting loss of institutionality

Data 7 “Every **bait and switch** was a work of art”

It is about love that has seduction tactics that love look beautiful in this lyrics, bait and switch are lexemic idioms that have a verb, the conjunction "and", and a verb, rather than morphotactically irreversible idiomatic binomials, which complement one another, which makes bait and switch classified as irreversible binomial idioms, which have the meaning seduction or sales tactic. So, after the writer analyzes this word, the writer categorizes the bait and switch on to the irreversible binomial idiom.

Data 34 “I polish plates until they **gleam and glisten**”

This story about a woman who already has men, falls in love with someone else, and devotes all her attention to seducing him with impeccable service. In the lyrics of the song, the words gleam and glisten are lexemic idioms that have a verb, the conjunction "and", and a verb, Nonidiomatic binomials which are morphotactically reversible with resulting loss of institutionality. Gleam and glisten like irreversible binominal idioms, which mean perfect and immaculate, and the writer can classify gleam and glisten as irreversible binomial idioms.

Data 35 “You’re so much **older and wiser**”

This song tells about a woman who adores older men because his mature treatment made her admire and fall in love with him. In this glance, older and wiser are lexemic idioms that have an adjective, the conjunction “and”, and the last word is another adjective. They are also nonidiomatic binomials that are morphotactically reversible with a resulting loss of institutionality and complement one another, such as irreversible binominal idioms, and the author categorizes older and wiser into irreversible binomial idioms. In this sentence, older and wiser means mature or adult.

Data 41 “There is happiness, past the **blood and bruise**”

In the lyrics of this song, there is a love story about two people who have gone through difficult times (pain) and chose to break up as the best way for each other's happiness. In this song, blood and bruise is a lexemic idiom that has noun and the conjunction "and" and ends with another noun. Blood and bruise is a morphotactically reversible idiomatic binomial that becomes literal after the reversal and complements one another, and it means pain or injury. After the writer analyzes the lexemic idioms blood and bruise, they can be included in the irreversible binomial idioms, a type of lexemic idiom.

Data 47 “Selling **make up and magazines**”

This lyric describes a woman who is loved as a queen among celebrities. That fills the field of make-up and magazines. The sentence fragments of these lyrics, make-up and magazines are lexemic idiom that have the noun and the conjunction "and", with other nouns, have morphotactically reversible idiomatic binomials that become literal after reversal and have an institutionalized meaning of fashion or trend. After the writer analyze this sentence, make-up and magazines can be categorized into irreversible binominal idioms.

3.4 Phrasal Compound Idiom

The majority of nominal phrasal compound idioms are made up of adjective plus noun, noun plus noun, and adjective/preposition plus noun.

Data 22 “I don’t like slow motion double vision in **rose blush**”

These lyrics are about a girl who doesn't want to compete with others when she has passionate love. In this lyric there is a lexemic idiom, rose blush, which has the form of a noun plus noun and means passionate love. After the writer analyzes the sentence, rose blush can be included as a phrasal compound idiom.

Data 28 “Time flies, messy as the mud on your truck tires”

It can be said that these lyrics are reminiscent of relationships that have been strained in the past. A man who was hurt in the past then accidentally meets his ex-girlfriend and has fun for a while to get rid of the pain in the past. In this song, time flies are lexemic idioms that have noun plus noun forms, such as phrasal compound idioms that have the meaning of Time passes surprisingly quickly. After the writer analyzes time flies, it can be said that the idiom is a phrasal compound idiom.

Data 31 “Lay the table with the fancy shit and watch you tolerate it”

In these lyrics, a woman presents herself full of love to someone. In this lyric, there is the lexemic idiom fancy shit, which has the form of an adjective plus noun found in phrasal compound idioms. And it means full of love. After the writer analyzes this sentence, it can be classified as a phrasal compound idiom.

Data 42 “I hope she'll be a beautiful fool”

It can be said that the lyrics of this song say that this relationship is better ended, and this is a happiness where the woman is no longer arranged as she pleases, and the woman prays for the man to get a replacement that can be used at will. In the lyrics, there is the word beautiful fool, which is a lexemic idiom. It has a word order that begins with an adjective plus a noun, which means that the woman's value is being physically attractive. Judging from the form of the sentence, beautiful fool is a type of phrasal compound idiom.

Data 76 “The autumn chill that wakes me up”

In this song, there is a story of a woman who is a grandmother who has an extraordinary life in the field of music, which inspires a granddaughter to follow in her footsteps and become a famous singer. She is now gone, but her granddaughter still feels her presence. In this lyric, there is the word autumn chill, which is a lexemic idiom that has the form of a noun plus noun, which is a special characteristic of phrasal compound idioms and means the holiday lull. Writers can categorize Autumn Chill into phrasal compound idioms.

3.5 Incorporating Verb Idiom

In this type corporate or formal terms can be found. Usually incorporating verb separated by (-) and usually used as verb. Incorporating verb idioms follows the patters as follows: Noun – Verb, Adjective – Noun, Noun – Noun, Adjective – Verb

Data: 6 “Now this is an open-shut case”

In these lyrics, a woman is in a strong romantic relationship, and this is a legal matter to prove. Open-shut-case are lexemic idioms that have word forms separated by a dash (-) and are usually used as verbs, which have the noun-verb form. It can be said that open-shut-case is an incorporating verb idiom, which means problem or legal matter to prove. After the writer analyzes the idioms, the writer categorized into incorporating verbs verb idioms type

Data: 14 “This dorm was once a madhouse “

The song is about a relationship ending due to mental health problems and upsetting a family with the choice of turning down a rejected marriage proposal. In the lyrics of this song, Madhouse makes it clear that the relationship is no longer sane. In these lyrics, there is lexemic idioms madhouse, which have word forms that start with an adjective and a noun and incorporate verb idioms that mean wild, noisy, or crazy. After the writer analyze these words, the writer categorizes madhouse into incorporating verb idioms.

Data: 51 “Sorry for not making you my centerfold”

In this song, it is about a relationship that ended because the two partners did not prioritize each other in their lives, which eventually became a regret. There is a lexemic idiom called centerfold, which has a word form that starts with a noun and a verb, like a formula for incorporating verbs into idioms that have meaning priority. After being analyzed, the writer classifies these idioms as incorporating verb idioms

Data: 85 “Sending signals to be **double-crossed**”

In these lyrics, a person is depressed because she was betrayed, and a men comes to make her rise from betrayal. Double-crossed is a lexemic idiom that has a word form separated by dash (-) and a word form that begins with an adjective-verb, which has the characteristic of incorporating verb idioms, which means deliberate betrayal. The writer can classify double-crossed as incorporating verb idioms.

Data: 88 “**Cross-legged** in the dim light.

In this song, a woman must follow her heart when she feels she has to go, cross-legged in the dim light. What is said in these lyrics is shushed in silence, which means she is silent and thinks to follow her heart. In this song, there is a lexemic cross-legged idiom, which has a word form that has an adjective-noun, which is a form of incorporating verb idioms, which means hushed in silence or relaxed. After the writer analyzes these words, the idiom can be categorized into the type of incorporating verb idiom

3.6 Pseudo Idiom

Pseudo idioms words or phrases in which one of the constituents. Sometimes this type of trapping and can be misleading or misinformed to listeners or readers who are not alert. 77 In this type, pseudo idioms are not found in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's album Evermore because pseudo idioms are idioms that can mislead or give wrong information to unwary listeners and are polylexonic lexemes in one or more of the constituent lexicons. Even though morphotactics are permissible words, they are not at the same time the realization of independent lexemes in other environments either.

The study concludes the total of lexemic idioms found on taylor swift’s song’s lyrics in evermore album by using the following formula:

$$X = F/N \times 100\%$$

Where:

X = Percentage of the type of lexemic idioms

F = Frequency of the lexemic idioms

N = Total number of the lexemic idioms

Table 1. Total Lexemic Idioms

No	Types of leximic idioms	Total	Percentage
1	Phrasal Verb Idioms	14	14,74%
2	Tournure Idioms	45	47,37%
3	Irreversible Binominal Idioms	8	8,42%
4	Phrasal Compound Idioms	23	24,21%
5	Incorporating verb idiom	5	5,26%
TOTAL		95	100%

After analyzing and classifying the data, the findings revealed that the types of lexemic idioms found on Taylor Swift's song’s lyrics in evermore album. The writer found 95 lexemic idioms, which are classified into each type and form. There are 14 idioms of phrasal verbs idioms (14.74%), 45 tournure idioms (47.37%), 8 irreversible binomial idioms (8.42%), 23 phrasal compound idioms (24.21%), and 5 incorporating verb idioms (5.26%). and no pseudo-idioms were found on Taylor Swift’s song lyrics in evermore. Tournure idioms are widely used

to convey song messages written on Taylor Swift's song lyrics in evermore album, which means tournure idioms is the most dominant types, because the idioms used containing the compulsory "it", the form contains the compulsory definite and indefinite, contains binomial that cannot be changed, there is a direct object in a context and the next modifier that might follow is the primary verb, lead with "Be", and form the verb as a leader, the point is that beginning with a verb is not followed by a direct object but with a preposition added with a noun or sometimes none.

In this study, the writer also found the meaning of the lexemic idiom contained in the lyrics. lexemic idioms have literal explanation meaning of a word or phrase. The lexemic of the word and explanation of a word made on the subjective interpretation of the elements contained the word or phrase in idioms. The lexemic idiom contained in the song's lyrics is the meaning of the words used by the singer to convey a message that cannot be predicted directly, but can be predicted through the context and meaning of the words combined as a whole (Werner & Tegge, 2020).

Discussion

The intricate tapestry of idiomatic expressions in Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album offers a unique lens through which EFL learners can explore the English language. The album, rich in lexemic idioms, serves as a testament to Swift's lyrical prowess and her ability to convey complex emotions through idiomatic expressions. Upon meticulous analysis, this study identified 95 lexemic idioms within the "Evermore" album. These idioms were classified into distinct types:

- Phrasal verbs idioms: 14 (14.74%)
- Tournures idioms: 45 (47.37%)
- Irreversible binomial idioms: 8 (8.42%)
- Phrasal compound idioms: 23 (24.21%)
- Incorporating verb idioms: 5 (5.26%)

Interestingly, no pseudo-idioms were detected in the album's lyrics. The dominance of tournure idioms, constituting nearly half of the identified idioms, is particularly noteworthy. These idioms often contain the compulsory "it", feature both definite and indefinite forms, and sometimes lead with the verb "Be". Their structure might begin with a verb not followed by a direct object but with a preposition, sometimes complemented by a noun. Such idioms, with their unique syntactic and semantic properties, can be challenging yet enlightening for EFL learners (Afriyuninda & Oktaviani, 2021). Tournure idioms in the "Evermore" album are not just linguistic constructs; they are tools Swift employs to convey her narratives. Their prevalence suggests that they offer a nuanced way to express emotions, stories, and cultural commentaries, making them invaluable for linguistic and cultural exploration in EFL classrooms. Furthermore, the lexemic idioms in the album carry meanings that transcend their literal interpretations. While they have a literal explanation, their true essence is often revealed through the context in which they are used. This contextual dependency underscores the importance of teaching idioms within authentic contexts, allowing EFL learners to grasp both their literal and figurative meanings.

For EFL pedagogy, the findings of this study have several implications; (1) Contextual Teaching: Given the contextual nature of lexemic idioms, it's vital for educators to teach them within authentic contexts, allowing students to grasp their nuanced meanings. Using song lyrics, like those from the "Evermore" album, can provide such authentic contexts, (2) Cultural Exploration: The dominance of tournure idioms and their unique structures can serve as a starting point for discussions on cultural nuances in language, offering students insights into

the cultural fabric of the English language, and (3) Linguistic Analysis: The varied structures of the identified idioms can be used to enhance students' syntactic and semantic analysis skills, fostering a deeper understanding of the English language's intricacies.

CONCLUSION

Upon conducting an analysis of the lexemic idioms found in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's album "evermore," the authors have drawn the following conclusions. These results are derived from an examination of the six types of lexemic idioms as outlined in Makkai's theory (1972:135), which the writer has thoroughly scrutinized. The author's research yielded a classification of five distinct categories of idioms, namely phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, irreversible binominal idioms, phrasal compound idioms, and integrating verb idioms. Based on the theoretical framework and empirical findings discussed in the preceding chapter, the author has identified five distinct categories of lexemic idioms. These categories include: 14 instances of phrasal verb idioms, accounting for 14.74% of the total idiomatic expressions; 45 instances of tournure idioms, representing 47.37% of the total; 8 instances of irreversible binominal idioms, comprising 8.42% of the whole; 23 instances of phrasal compound idioms, making up 24.21% of the total; and finally, 5 instances of incorporating verb idioms, constituting 5.26% of the total. The lexemic idioms that are most prevalent in Taylor Swift's song lyrics on the evermore album, when considering the percentage of the entire data, are tournure idioms, which exhibit a greater dominance compared to the other four types.

The exploration of lexemic idioms in Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album has not only provided a comprehensive understanding of the idiomatic expressions used but also illuminated their significance in the broader context of songwriting and linguistic expression. This study, with its meticulous approach, bridges the gap between popular culture and linguistic research, offering a fresh perspective on the analysis of song lyrics.

One of the standout novelties of this research lies in its unique intersection of contemporary music and linguistic analysis. While idiomatic expressions have been studied extensively in various contexts, their exploration within the realm of contemporary music (Adika & Budiarsana, 2023), especially in the works of an artist as globally recognized as Taylor Swift, is relatively uncharted territory. This research, therefore, contributes a novel dimension to the field of linguistics, emphasizing the importance of idioms in semantic studies within a modern, culturally relevant context.

Furthermore, the study's implications for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) pedagogy introduce an innovative approach to teaching and learning. By integrating popular song lyrics into the curriculum, educators can provide students with authentic, engaging, and culturally rich language input (Degrave, 2019). This not only enhances their linguistic competencies but also fosters cultural understanding, making language learning a more holistic experience (Afriyuninda & Oktaviani, 2021).

In essence, this study has carved a niche by merging the worlds of contemporary music and linguistic analysis. The findings, rooted in the rich tapestry of Taylor Swift's "Evermore" album, underscore the profound impact of idiomatic expressions on language, culture, and emotion, setting the stage for future studies in this interdisciplinary domain.

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