# A SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS IN THE ENGLISH SONG LYRIC OF "THANK YOU ALLAH" BY MAHER ZAIN

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Abstract: The song is interesting to study, because the song is a literary work that usually tends to be free in its use of grammar, so that it is outside the usual English grammar in general. Therefore, the researcher is interested in researching the syntax in the song "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain. Maher Zain's song consists of 40 lyrics and only the sentence patterns are analyzed. Then determined 25 sentences without repetition and then the song is analyzed using Carnie's theory. This study used a qualitative descriptive method and data analysis techniques used are the Miles and Huberman techniques, the steps are data reduction, data display, conclusion drawing and verification. From the research results obtained, this song employed 13 kinds of sentence patterns, there are: SVC, ASVC, SVA, SVOC, SVAA, SVOO, SVOA, SAVC, OSVO, SAVOA, SVO, SVCA, and ASVOO. Which is from all of those patterns SVC and SVOA are the most dominant. SVC covers 5 lyrics and SVOA also covers 5 lyrics. From this results, it can be concluded that the sentence pattern is not limited to SVOCA pattern, but it is varies according to the needs and creativity of the sentence maker. This knowledge can help students be more creative when composing sentences.

**Keywords:** linguistic, syntax, sentence pattern, song lyric

Abstrak: Lagu menarik untuk diteliti, karena lagu adalah karya literasi yang biasanya cenderung bebas dalam penggunaan tata bahasanya, sehingga di luar kelaziman tata bahasa Inggris secara umum. Maka dari itu peneliti tertarik untuk meneliti sintaks di dalam lagu "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain. Lagu Maher Zain terdiri dari 40 lirik dan yang dianalisis hanya pola kalimatnya saja. Kemudian ditentukan 25 kalimat yang tanpa pengulangan dan lagu tersebut dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Carnie. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan teknik analisis data yang digunakan yaitu teknik Miles dan Huberman, langkah-langkahnya yaitu: mereduksi data, mendisplay data, dan penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Dari hasil penelitian yang diperoleh, lagu ini menggunakan 13 jenis pola kalimat, yaitu: SVC, ASVC, SVA, SVOC, SVAA, SVOO, SVOA, SAVC, OSVO, SAVOA, SVO, SVCA, dan ASVOO. Yang mana dari semua pola tersebut SVC dan SVOA adalah yang paling dominan. SVC mencakup 5 lirik dan SVOA juga mencakup 5 lirik. Dari hasil ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa pola kalimat tidak terbatas pada pola SVOCA saja, tetapi bervariasi sesuai dengan kebutuhan dan kreativitas pembuat kalimat. Pengetahuan ini dapat membantu siswa lebih kreatif dalam menyusun kalimat.

Kata Kunci: linguistik, sintaks, pola kalimat, lirik lagu

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## I. INTRODUCTION

For English department stu-dents learning a language can go a long way in understanding how one language and another work. The study of language as the object of study is linguistics. Linguistic has many branches that each study part of language in deepth. Syntax is one of the branch that study sentence arrangements.

By learning syntax, students can understand the formation of a sentence, especially in English. It can also be understood why someone can make an infinite number of sentences variations, using the existing vocabulary. Fromkim et al. (2014, p. 77) explain the part of grammar that represents a speaker's knowledge of sentences and their structures is called syntax. Learning syntax help students to construct their English sentences well. Starting from arranging words into correct phrases, phrases to clauses and clauses to sentences. With a good arrangement, their grammar will be good too. One of the focuses of syntax is sentence pattern.

In English, the complete pattern of sentence is SVOCA; there are subject, verb, object, comple-ment, and adjunct. The sentence pattern can also be a variation of those compositions, for example: SVO, SVC, SVCA, SVOA and many others.

These pattern can be analyzed with various material, as long as it containts sentence, for example by using literary works.

In literary works there is an object of syntax study. In novels, poems, songs, there are sentences each of them are unique and their pattern can be studied. Songs can be very useful for learning the pattern of sentences because songs are part of everyday life. English song also one of authentic material for learning English. Therefore, the researcher chose to analyze the syntax in a song, namely the song Thank You Allah by Maher Zain. Thing that will be studied is limited to sentence pattern.

Studies in syntax have so far been focused on studying student novels or writings. Khasanah (2016) in her research entitled "The Syntax Analysis on Declarative Sentence in Ann Jungman's Lucy Keep the Wolf from the Door" has the results that this novel uses a simple sentence structure. Characterized by the frequency of simple sentences which are more than 15 sentences from 28 sentences, the noun clauses are 6 clauses, and the noun phrases are 83 phrases.

The other study is by Yusuf and Jumriana (2015, p. 16) entitled "Syntactical Errors Made by the Students in Writing Thesis" has the results that the type of errors made is in writing noun phrases with 48.7%. This study is different from the previous research. It focuses to describe the

English syntax in song lyric entitled "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain. Which is has never been in research before, at least to the researcher knowledge.

Based on the explanation above, the essential of problems that would be described in this research can be expressed by following questions:

- 1. How many kinds of sentence patterns are in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain?
- 2. What kinds of sentence patterns are found in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain?
- 3. What is the most dominant sentence pattern in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain?

## II. THEORY REVIEW

# The concept of Syntax

Traditionally, the syntax is considered as the study of the combination properties of sentences and their parts. Therefore, as syntax is the study of the study of combinations of properties of sentences, it is part of grammar. Chomsky (as cited in Purnomoadjie & Mulyadi, 2019, p. 57) states that syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages. In syntax, people learn how a sentence can be arranged using a language. In this arrangement there are also rules and

principles that must be followed. With these rules, people will understand each other's sentences.

Fromkim et al. (2014, p. 80) also explain that syntactic rules reveal the grammatical relations among the words of a sentence as well as their order and hierarchical organization. In one of its roles, syntax describes how the order of words, phrases, clauses and sentences in the language. He also explains that syntax also explains how the grouping of words relates to its meaning, such as when a sentence or phrase is ambiguous. By using tree diagrams, it can be seen that two sentences that are the same, with different meanings, will have a different tree structure.

In conclusion, syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies how a phrase, clause and sentence is formed using certain rules. Syntax rules can also explain how words or sentences are in order, how they relate to their meanings, how to understand an ambiguous sentence, and how a new word or sentence can be formed.

## **Syntax Category**

The syntax category is related with noun, verb, preposition, adjective, and adverb, or also called part of speech. Fromkim et al. (2014, p. 84) explain that a family of expressions that can substitute for one another without loss of rammaticality is

called a syntactic category. Fromkim et al. (2014, p. 86) also explain that syntactic categories include both phrasal categories such as NP (Noun Phrase), VP (Verb Phrase). AP (Adjective Phrase). PP (Prepositional Phrase), and AdvP (Adverbial Phrase), as well as lexical categories such as N (Noun), V (Verb), P (Preposition), A (Adjective), and Adv (Adverb). Thus, words or phrases that can be replaced with other words or phrases are called syntactic categories. For example, noun the horse can be replaced with it.

# **Syntactic Unit**

Syntactic unit consists of elements that make up a sentence, namely words, phrases, clauses and sentences.

#### 1) Words

The word is one of the syntax units, and is the smallest unit among the other units. Mariani et al. (2019, p. 47) state that the smallest units of syntax are words. Each word has its own class. Fabb (2005, p. 11) explains that every word belongs to a word class, such as noun, verb, adjective, article, conjunction, etc. The word class or also called a category determines the type of phrase that will be formed by two or more word combinations.

#### 2) Phrase

Phrase is a unit of syntax which consists of compound words. A phrase in meaning terms expresses one of the elements of a proposition. Morley (2000, p. 26) empashizes that trammatically, it is the grouping of one or more words which together fulfil the role that in other circumstances might be expressed by a single word. Fabb (2005, p. 20) also explains that category phrases influenced by the head, which is a word belonging to a certain class of words. Phrase and its head share the same category: hence a noun is a head of a noun phrase. There are 5 types of phrases: nominal phrases, verbal phrases, adjectival prepositional phrases, phrases, and adverbial phrases.

## 3) Clauses

A clause is a group consisting of one or more phrases. Morley (2000, p. 26) emphasizes that a clause in meaning terms typically expresses a single proposition and grammatically consists of one or more phrases. In the clause there are several types, namely independent clause and dependent clause. Independent clause is a clause that can stand alone and can be a direct simple sentence if no other clauses are followed. Meanwhile, the dependent clause is a clause that cannot stand alone, because it must follow the independent

clause so that it becomes a complete sentence.

## 4) Sentence

Morley (2000, p. 25) explains that orthographically the sentence begins with a capital letter and is terminated by a full stop. He also said that the sentence is a textual unit which it has been convenient to adopt as the largest grammatical unit for the purposes of syntactic analysis. Sentences are also independent thoughts, namely units that stand alone and have complete meaning. From the explanation above, sentence units consists of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

#### **Sentence Element**

To analyze the sentence pattern, the elements of sentences are used. So that the sentence pattern consists of a combination of these elements.

## 1) Subject

The subject is something that does the action in a sentence. The subject of a clause or sentence is the noun (a person, place, or thing) that performs, controls, or is responsible for the action of a verb (Herring, 2016, p.805). Subjects can be people or people, animals, places, or things. Herring (2016, p. 801) states that the

subject is at least a noun (or a pronoun representing a noun).

## 2) Predicate

The predicate is another part of the sentence besides the subject. In the minimum elements, there is a verb in it so that it forms an SV sentence pattern. The predicate is made up of at least one finite verb, the action of which is performed or controlled by the subject (Herring, 2016, p. 805).

Besides that, in the predicate there are also other parts that complement the sentence, namely object, complement, and adjunct. These parts can form a complete sentence pattern such as SVOCA. The following are parts of the predicate.

## a. Verb

In the predicate, there is at least one verb, which is in the form of a finite verb. The only verbs that can be considered finite are verbs in their base form (the infinitive form without the particle to), verbs in their past-tense form, or verbs inflected for the thirdperson singular (Herring, 2016, p. 821). Auxiliary verbs are also a finite verb. Finite verbs can also join other types of verbs, namely gerunds, infinitives, and participles.

# b. Object

Objects are things that complete the meaning of verbs. Objects are the same as subjects, that is, they can be people, animals, places, or things. Objects of verbs tell us who or what is receiving the action of the verb (Herring, 2016, p. 822). Note that only transitive verbs require an object. Objects also consist of two types, namely direct objects and indirect objects.

Direct object is the main object that is affected by the transitive verb, and it is mandatory. Direct objects are directly affected by the verbs they complete—that is, the verbs action is happening directly to them (Herring, 2016, p. 822). The direct object answers the question "what" is affected by the verb. Example of sentence with direct object is: "The kids play baseball every Sunday."

An indirect object is the person or thing that receives the direct object of the verb and appear directly between the verb and its direct object (Herring, 2016, p.822). Example of sentence with indirect object is: "He gets *me a bottle of water*." (*Me* is an indirect object and *a bottle of water* is a direct object).

## c. Complements

Complement is an important part of completing the meaning of a sentence. Herring (2016, p. 823) discusses that complements are words or groups of words that are necessary to complete the meaning of another part of the sentence. If

complement is omitted in a sentence, the sentence loses meaning or becomes incomplete. Examples:

- 1. "She is a writer." (a writer is a complement of she).
- 2. "They announce Rina *a winner*." (*a winner* is a complement of *Rina*).

## d. Adjuncts

Adjuncts are one of the five main elements in a sentence. Herring (2016, p. 860) said that adjuncts are parts of a sentence that are used to elaborate on or modify other words or phrases in a sentence. The adjuncts expand the meaning of the modified sentence, but in the absence of the adjuncts the sentence remains functional and functional. Nouns, adjectives, and adverbs can all be adjuncts (Herring, 2016, p.860).

Adverbial adjunct is that which modifies the whole part in a sentence. Here are examples of each type of phrase being used as an adverbial adjunct:

- 1. Prepositional phrase: "The group went swimming *at the beach*."
- 2. Adverb phrase: "The surfer looked calm, although the wave looked huge."
- 3. Noun phrase: "The grandfather will give his grandson his birthday present *next month*."

From the above explanation, it can be concluded that the predicate is the second part of the sentence other than the subject. Predicates can be verbs only or a combination of verbs, objects, complements, and adjuncts. It is from these elements that a sentence pattern can be seen. The sentence pattern can be in the form of SV, SVO, SVC, SVA, SVOC, SVOA, or SVOCA.

## How to Make a Tree Diagram

Making tree diagrams is useful for analyzing sentences and the composition in them. The building starts from the lexical level, the phrase, to the sentence. Here the researcher uses Carnie's (2013) tree diagram analysis. The researcher used a bottom-up tree diagram method. There were rules that had to be obeyed to link modifying items to one another. These rules are English phrase structure rules (Carnie, 2013, p.106-107):

- a)  $CP \rightarrow (C) TP$
- b)  $TP \rightarrow \{NP/CP\}$  (T) P
- c)  $VP \rightarrow (AdvP+) V (NP) (\{NP/CP\})$ (AdvP+) (PP+) (AdvP+)
- d)  $NP \rightarrow (D) (AdjP+) N (PP+) (CP)$
- e)  $PP \rightarrow P(NP)$
- f)  $AdiP \rightarrow (AdvP) Adi$
- g)  $AdvP \rightarrow (AdvP) Adv$
- h)  $XP \rightarrow XP \text{ conj } XP$
- i)  $X \rightarrow X \text{ conj } X$

## **Songs and Lyrics**

Song is a work that has lyrics and melody in it and delivered by singing. Agung et al. (as cited in 'Ain and Triyono, 2019, p. 261) state that song is a composition for voice and musical instrument. Meanwhile, the lyrics are the content of the song itself and have a deep meaning to convey to listeners. Yastanti and Setiawati (as cited in 'Ain and Triyono, 2019, p. 261) song lyric is one of the creation has a deep meaning that try to deliver for the listener.

Musicians do not only think about the melody in composing the song, but also the lyric in it. Sutompul (as cited in Suharto, 2004, p. 4) emphasizes that it is clear that musicians do not only learn the melody or music but also learn its lyrics as a source of the study to find interpretation and expression in the song. So that listeners can understand the meaning of the song if they understand the words, phrases, clauses contained in the song. Oktariani et al (as cited in 'Ain and Triyono, 2019, p. 261) explain that all of words, phrases, in a song lyric need to be understood to catch what the information conveyed in song lyric. Because of that, in syntax analysis, not only the structure of the song is understood, but also the meaning of the song.

#### III. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Sugiyono (2010, p. 67) says that the qualitative descriptive method is a procedure of solving problems by describing the state of the object of research based on the facts that appear as they are. This method is adapted to the purpose of the study, which is to know a syntactical analysis the English song lyric of "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain.

The data source in this study is the subject of the data obtained. The data recourse in this research is a data document. This research uses English song "Thank you Allah" by Maher Zain. The lyric in song Thank you Allah by Maher Zain consist 25 English lyrics without repetition.

The research instrument in this research is the researcher herself. Moleong (2017, p. 168) states that researchers in qualitative research are instruments because they are tools for collecting data such as tests in quantitative research. Thus the researcher is the key in that research.

Sugiyono (2012, p. 224) explains that data collection techniques in qualitative research data collection techniques obtained by recording, repeating the recording to get a data. There are several steps used in data collection in this research: understand the lyrics, separate the

lyric used, makes the tree diagram with Carnie's theory, identify each sentence pattern of the song, and find how many patterns and find what pattern is dominant in the song Thank You Allah by Maher Zain

In this research, the re-searcher used construct validity and the researcher used peer debriefing. Bungin (2011, p. 266) explains that peer debriefing is discussion with those who understand research problem, and it can give meaningful information as well as an effort to test the validity. The researcher selects a peer to validate the results of the research by forming an employment contract. Where the peer validates the research results of the researcher, and the researcher also did the same to the peer.

Reliability in qualitative research is dependability. Emzir (2014, p. 80) explains that dependability is whether the research results will be the same if an observation is made for second time. The reliability will be improved by analysis sentence patterns in song "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain repeatedly to avoid error in obtaining the results.

This research used data analysis technique proposed by Miles and Huberman. Emzir (2014, p. 129-135) explains that the steps are:

#### a. Data Reduction

The researcher filtered what data is needed in this research. The data required is sentences contained in the song "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain.

#### b. Data Display

In this step, the researcher displayed the data in a list so that the analysis that is being carried out can be seen, and conclusions can be easily drawn later.

# c. Conclusion Drawing and Verification

The last step is conclusion drawing and verification. The conclusion that has been drawn can be verified by looking back at what has been analyzed. Thus, in the end the researcher conclude the data by writing what kind of sentence patterns, how many sentence patterns, and what the dominant sentence pattern found in the English song lyric Thank You Allah by Maher Zain.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# **Research Results**

From the analyzed it is found many kinds of sentence patterns in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain. There are 13 sentence patterns found in the lyrics. The patterns found are SVC, ASVC, SVA, SVOC, SVAA, SVOO, SVOA, SAVC, OSVO, SAVOA, SVO, SVCA, and ASVOO. And the most dominant are SVC that covers 5 lyrics and SVOA that covers 5 lyrics.

The following is kinds of sentence patterns found in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain.

#### 1. SVC

a. I was so far from you

S V C

b. All praise is to Allah

S V C

c. I was too proud to see the truth

S V C

d. And prostrated to you

And (I) prostrated to you

S V C

e. And that is when you opened the\_

s v

C

doors for me

## 2. ASVC

a. Yet to me you were always so

A S V C

\_\_close

b. Now Allah, I realise what I was\_

A S V

 $\mathbf{C}$ 

missing

#### 3. SVA

a. I wandered lost in the dark

S V A	c. You have done for me through all my
	years I have been lost
b. You put in my way	You have done for me through all
S V A	S V O A
	my years (when) I have been lost
c. <u>I</u> <u>walked</u> <u>every day</u>	
S V A	d. You guided me from all the ways
	S V O A
4. SVOC	that were wrong
a. I closed my eyes to all the signs	
S V O C	e. I wanna thank you for bringing me home
	I want to thank you for bringing
5. SVAA	S V O A
a. Further and further away from you	me home
( <u>I walked every day</u> ) further and	
S V A A	8. SAVC
further away from you	a. <u>I</u> never thought about
	S A V C
6. SVOO	
a. O Allah, you brought me home	9. OSVO
S V O O	a. All the things you have given to
	me
7. SVOA	All the things (that) you have
a. I thank you with every breath I take	O S V
I thank you with every breath	given to me
S V O A	O
(that) I take	
	10. SAVOA
b. I wanna thank you for all the things that	a. <u>I</u> never thank you once
you have done	S A V O A
I want to thank you for all the	
S V O A	11. SVO
things that you have done	a. Until <u>I</u> took the first step
	S V O

b. Allah, I wanna thank you
Allah, I want to thank you
S V O

#### **12. SVCA**

a. By being far from you
(<u>I realise what I was missing</u>) by
S V C A
being far from you

## **13. ASVOO**

a. <u>Indeed you gave me hope</u>

A S V O O

Some lyric do not have pattern because they are just phrases. Thus the researcher decided to borrow the lyric from above it to make it a complete sentence. It can be done because the lyrics of the song are different with sentences in a book. Usually one sentence can be separated into two lyrics or more.

#### Discussion

From the analysis carried out on the lyrics of the song Thank you Allah from Maher Zain with a total of 25 lines of lyrics, the following results were obtained. There are 13 kinds of sentence patterns found in the lyric song. The patterns are: SVC, ASVC, SVA, SVOC, SVAA, SVOO,

SVOA, SAVC, OSVO, SAVOA, SVO, SVCA, and ASVOO.

SVC found in the lyric 1, 10, 14, 15, and 17. ASVC found in the lyric 2 and 18. SVA found in the lyric 3, 5, and 6. SVOC found in the lyric 4. SVAA found in the lyric 7. SVOO found in the lyric 8. SVOA found in the lyric 9, 21, 22, 23, and 25). SAVC found in the lyric 11. OSVO found in the lyric 12. SAVOA found in the lyric 13. SVO found in the lyric 16 and 20. SVCA found in the lyric 19. And the last ASVOO found in the lyric 24. All of them are 13 patterns. And the most dominant are SVC and SVOA.

SVC and SVOA are the most dominant sentence patterns found in the lyric because each pattern covers 5 sentences. The lyrics of SVC pattern are: 1) I was so far from you. 2) All praise is to Allah. 3) I was too proud to see the truth. 4) And (I) prostrated to you. 5) And that is when you opened the doors for me. The lyrics of SVOA pattern are: 1) I thank you for every breath I take. 2) I wanna thank you for all the things that you have done. 3) You have done for me through all my years I have been lost. 4) You guided me from all the ways that were wrong. 5) I wanna thank you for bringing me home. From these two patterns it can be seen that SVC pattern has simple and short sentences compared to SVOA pattern that is long and has two clauses (main clause and subordinate clause).

From this results, it can be concluded that the sentence pattern is not limited to SVOCA pattern, but it is varies according to the needs and creativity of the sentence maker. This knowledge can help students be more creative when composing sentences. The results of this research can be compared with previous researches.

#### V. CLOSING

#### Conclusion

From the analysis, syntac-tically, the sentences in the song Thank you Allah from Maher Zain have 13 patterns, as follows: SVC, ASVC, SVA, SVOC, SVAA, SVOO, SVOA, SAVC, OSVO, SAVOA, SVO, SVCA, and ASVOO.

The most dominant pattern found in the English song lyric "Thank You Allah" by Maher Zain are patterns SVC and SVOA. Where SVC covers 5 lyrics and SVOA also covers 5 lyrics.

From this results, it can be concluded that the sentence pattern is not limited to SVOCA pattern, but it is varies according to the needs and creativity of the sentence maker. This knowledge can help students be more creative when composing sentences.

# **Suggestions**

At the end of the research, the researcher would like to give some suggestions based on the conclusions, as follow:

- For the students: The students can use this research paper to add their knowledge about syntax especially sentence patterns.
- For the readers: This research can be useful to enrich the knowledge and comprehension about kinds of sentence patterns.
- 3. For the other researchers: This study can be useful as a reference to analyze the other research dealing with the syntax material

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