

## THE SYNTACTICAL CATEGORIES OF PHRASE IN FOUR SONGS LYRICS FROM ADELE'S 25 ALBUM

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### Abstract

English song is not only as an entertainment for the listener to enjoy the music and following the song (singing), but also as a means of learning containing full of knowledge. For example, people are able to relearn sentence structure (grammatical), enrich their vocabulary, train to pronunciation, and many more by listening and learning the song. The aspect of this analysis is Adele's songs' lyrics from 25 album. Adele is one of famous singer from England, her 25 album has many awards, and it albums became the world's best-selling album in 2015. The researcher focuses on one the linguistics study, syntax. More specifically, it is about the syntactical categories of phrase because phrase is the basis of sentences building. Additionally, student or common people who learn English before learning about sentence more, it is better to learn about phrases previously. The aims of this research are describing kinds of syntactical categories of phrases and finding out the dominant syntactical categories of phrase found in Adele's songs' lyrics. The descriptive qualitative method was used for describing, analyzing, and interpreting the data taken from four songs' lyrics of the album. The data were all of words and sentences that consist of songs' lyrics by Adele in 25 album. The technique of collecting data was used documentary and library research. Kind of phrase theory proposed by Thomas and Phrase Structure Rules theory was used to analyze the data. From the data analysis, it shows that there are five kinds of phrase in Adele's 25 album. There are noun phrase 50%, verb phrase 28%, prepositional phrase 11%, adjective phrase 4%, and adverb phrase 7%. The result shows that noun phrase is the dominant phrase in Adele's 25 album. It was supported by the using of transitive verb as the dominant verb in Adele's song lyrics since the phrase which present after verb that is noun phrase as a direct object. Then, noun phrase also commonly has two functions in the sentences such as the subject and the object. In conclusion, noun phrase is mostly found because the singer wants to mention many things of her experience and express her feelings in the past. As suggestion, readers should use songs as not only to be listened but also to be learnt.

**Keywords:** *syntax, syntactical categories, phrase, songs' lyrics.*

### INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, English song can be used as a media to learning English. For instance, people are able to relearn sentence structure, vocabulary, pronunciation, and many more by listening and learning the song. It is because song's lyric is one of the written grammatical units that contains of sentence, phrase, and idiom. Thus, it can be analyzed from structure and literary work.

In recent time, people need to study the component of language (grammar), because many advantages will be caught by studying English grammar. For example, it is easy to get the meaning and the purpose of certain sentence and utterance in communication. It helps someone avoid or decrease misunderstanding, people are able to write and speak English correctly, and others. On the contrary, without studying grammar many problems will be faced. So, grammar is important to be mastered by someone in English.

Studying grammar can be done by studying grammar's book or studying in the school but it is limited. Everyone can learn by written text such as letter, poem, magazine, song's lyric and written text and it can be used as a medium to learn English grammar. It is because a language of the written text contains of sentences. Besides, it can be analyzed into small parts by linguists. Students or common people who are interested in learning about grammar, it can be discussed in the written text is about: part of speech (verb, noun, adjective, adverb, and so on), sentence building (phrase, clause and sentence), and micro linguistic (morpheme, phoneme, and affixation).

According to Smith (1997) cited by Marina (2015) in her thesis says that song is attracting and pleasure as a tool of language learning in teaching and learning English because while the learners studied the materials of the lesson through songs lyric, the learners can get benefit from song. The researcher expected by using songs' lyric in teaching English, the learners will more enjoy and easy to catch the lesson. It needs to know that lyric is the text of a popular song which consists of a lyrics' emotion about their experience, knowledge, and feeling. Then, the songs' lyric has written by an author, it is a concrete material that can be seen, touched, reread and analyzed.

In this research, the aspect of the analysis is in the lyrics of Adele's songs. The researcher focuses on one the linguistics study, syntax. More specifically, it is about the syntactical categories of phrase because phrase is the basis of sentences building. Additionally, student or common people who learn English before learning about sentence more, it is better to learn about phrases previously.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the syntactical categories of phrase in Adele's 25 album with syntax. This research is used Tree diagram theory proposed by Thomas. Therefore, this research is entitled "The Syntactical Categories of Phrase in Four Songs Lyrics from Adele's 25 Album". Tourism in Bali cannot be separated from culture, tradition, religion, and other social aspects because they are the main tourism aspects which are becoming the brand images used to market Bali as a tourist haven, beside the beauty of nature that Bali has such as so many beautiful beaches. By building museums and cultural theme parks (Adams, 1995; Pemberton, 1994) and by designating specific cultural practices from different areas of Indonesia as cultural 'peaks' (Adams 1997), the Indonesian state markets cultures, identifies cultural objects for tourist attention, and encourages the modification of cultural and ethnic performances to fit in with tourist desires and needs (Howe, 2005).

There are several theories related to the research of syntactical categories of phrase in the four song lyrics of Adele's 25 album. Those theories are described as follows:

#### *Song Lyrics*

Noor (2004) states that lyric contains to express personal feelings. Lyric is also known as a poem. While the definition of song, Moeliono (2007:624) says that song is variety of rhythmic sound. Nowadays, song is not only as an entertainment for listeners to enjoy the music and following the song, but also as a medium of learning that full of knowledge. Especially this research tells about song of English language. So, people can enrich their grammatical structure, vocabulary, and other knowledge by listening and learning of song.

#### *Syntax*

According to Matthews (1981) the term "syntax" is form ancient Greek "syntaxis", a verbal noun where literary means arrangement or setting out together into phrases, or clauses and phrases or clauses into sentences. It can be concluded that syntax is one of linguistics branches which is very important to be used in analyzing sentences. In other words, syntax is a linguistic study about structure language such as like how the word becomes phrase, clause, and sentence.

#### *Syntactical Categories*

A syntactical category is a family of expression that can substitute for one another without loss of grammatically (Fromkin, et. al 2011). There are some syntactical categories. They are sentence, phrase (noun phrase, verb phrase, preposition phrase, adjective phrase, and adverb phrase) and part of speech (determiner, noun, preposition, adverb, auxiliary verb). A phrase is one or more than one word that does not contain the subject- verb pair necessary to form a clause. Phrases can be very short or quite long. Chaer (2012) says that phrase is the form of grammatical unit in the form of nonpredicative words usually called unit of word which fulfill one of syntactic function in a sentence.

Thomas (1993), states that phrasal categories such as noun phrase, verb phrase, prepositional phrase, adjective phrase, and adverbial phrase.

## METHOD

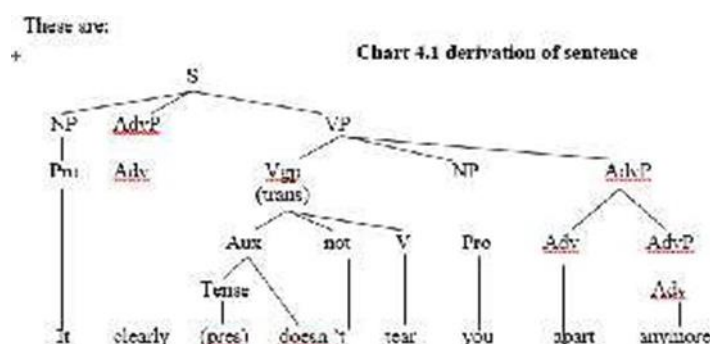
The researcher used descriptive qualitative approach. Descriptive approach was selected because the data in the form of song lyrics. Descriptive as known that analyzed about the data in the form of words of pictures rather than number (Bogdan and Biklen 1982, cited in Sugiyono 2017). In collecting the data, this research used documentary and library research technique to collect the data. Arikunto (2013 in Wahyuni 2011) documentary method which is used to collect data based on transcripts, books, newspaper, magazine, symbol and rule. Those are related to this research which told the art based on Sugiyono because this research about the song's lyrics and transcript that is about transcript of the song's lyrics based on Arikunto. Hadi (1990) cited in Harahap (2014) states that one of research type if it seems from the place of getting the data is library research. Library research is the data and the materials to finish the research which come from library such as book, encyclopedia, dictionary, journal, document, magazine, and so on. So to get the data, this research used library research to find and read the data sources which is related to the research. In analyzing the data, Miles and Huberman (1984) cited in Sugiyono (2017) explain that data analysis of qualitative research is done interactively and continuously until the research gets complete data. There are three activities in the data analysis; data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The syntactical categories of phrases used in four songs lyrics from Adele's 25 album

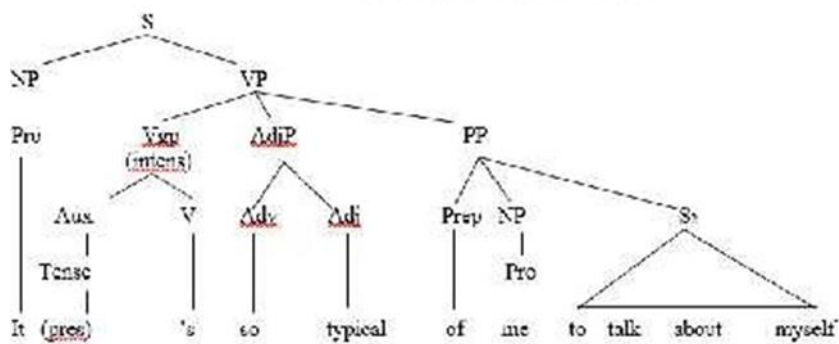
#### *The syntactical categories in the first songs' lyric entitled Hello*

In Hello song lyric, it was found five phrases those are noun phrase (NP), and verb phrase (VP), prepositional phrase (PP), adjective phrase (AdjP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). To present the example of each phrase, it will be explained randomly.



Based on the diagram, types of phrase which are used in the diagram above these are noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). NP as the subject "it" consists of Pronoun "it". VP as the predicate consists of Verb group (transitive) "doesn't tear" plus Noun Phrase "you" plus Adverb Phrase "apart anymore". Verb group "doesn't tear" consists of Auxiliary "does" plus Not plus Verb "tear", Auxiliary consists of Tense (present), Noun Phrase consists of Pronoun "you". AdvP as the adverb consists of Adverb "apart" plus Adverb Phrase "anymore", Adverb Phrase consists of Adverb "anymore". (First lyric, line 20).

Chart 4.2 derivation of sentence



It 's so typical of me to talk about myself  
 S P sC dO

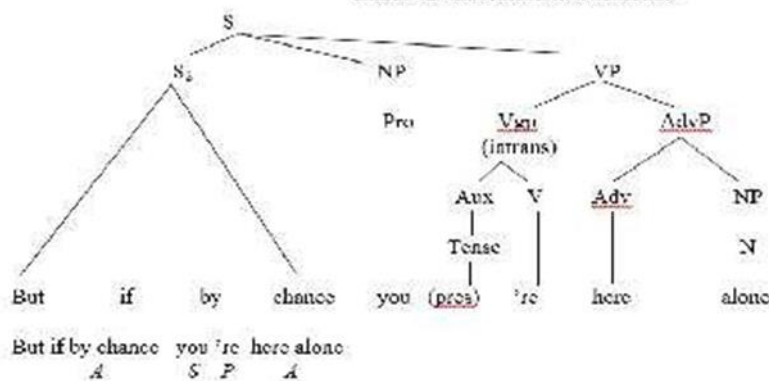
Based on the diagram, the following data will be explained about adjective phrase (AdjP) and prepositional phrase (PP).

AdjP as the subject clause consists of Adverb “so” plus Adjective “typical”. PP as the direct object consists of Preposition “of” plus Noun Phrase “me” plus S2 “to talk about myself”, Noun Phrase consists of Pronoun “me”. (First lyric, line 22).

**The syntactical categories in the second songs’ lyric entitled When We Were Young**

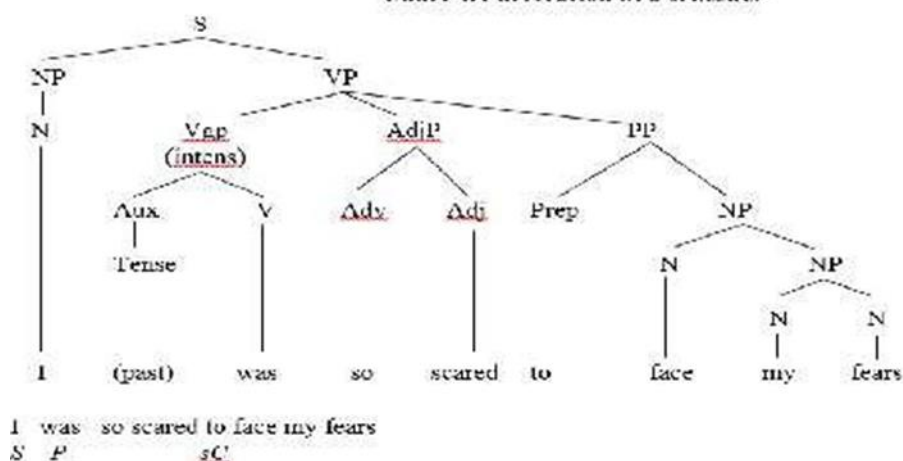
In When We Were Young song lyric, it was found five phrases those are noun phrase (NP), and verb phrase (VP), prepositional phrase (PP), adjective phrase (AdjP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). To present the example of each phrase it will be explained randomly.

Chart 4.3 derivation of a sentence



Based on the diagram, the following data explained about noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). NP as the subject “you” consists of Pronoun “you”. VP as the predicate “re here alone” consists of Verb group (intransitive) “re” plus Adverb Phrase “here alone”, Verb group (intransitive) consists of Auxiliary plus Verb “re”, Auxiliary consists of Tense “present”, AdvP as the adverb consists of Adverb “here” plus NP “alone”, NP consists of Noun “alone”. (Second lyric, line 5).

Chart 4.4 derivation of a sentence



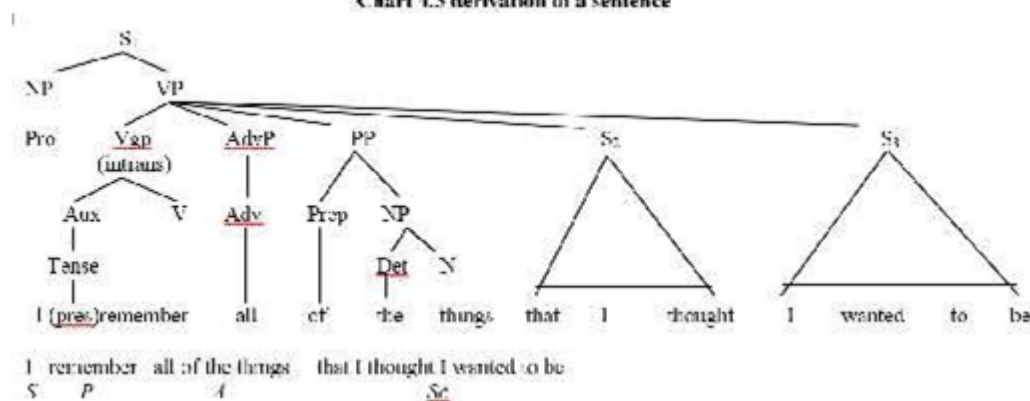
Based on the diagram, the following data will be explained about adjective phrase (AdjP) and prepositional phrase (PP). AdjP as subject clause consists of Adverb “so” plus Adjective “scared”. PP as subject clause consists of Preposition “to” plus Noun Phrase “face”, Noun Phrase consists of Noun “my” plus Noun Phrase “fears”, Noun Phrase consists of Noun “fears”. (Second lyric, line 19).

**The syntactical categories in the third songs’ lyric entitled Remedy**

In Remedy song lyric, it was found five phrases those are noun phrase (NP), and verb phrase (VP), prepositional phrase (PP), adjective phrase (AdjP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). To present the example of each phrase it will be explained randomly.

These are:

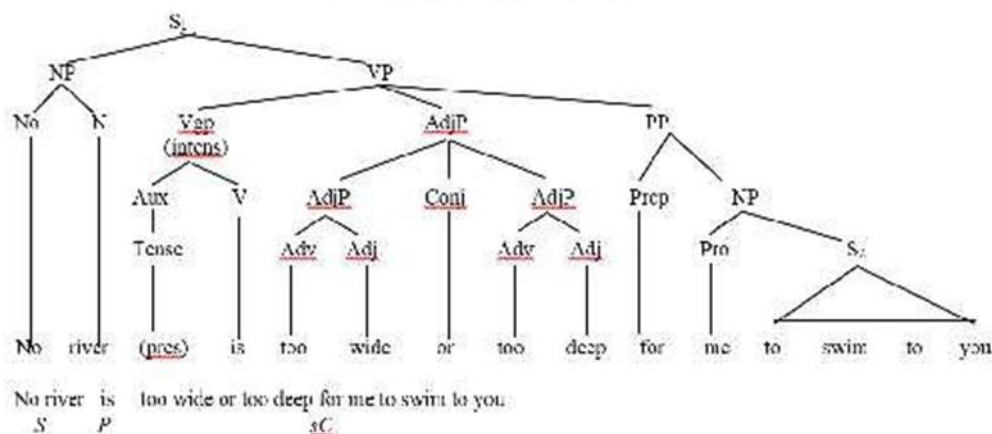
Chart 4.5 derivation of a sentence



Based on the diagram, the following data explained about noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). NP as the subject consists of Pronoun “I”. VP consists of Verb group (intransitive) “remember” plus Adverb Phrase “all” plus Prepositional Phrase “of the things”, Verb group (intransitive) consists of Auxiliary plus Verb “remember”, Auxiliary consists of Tense “present”, AdvP as the adverb consists of Adverb “all”, Prepositional Phrase consists of Preposition “of” plus Noun Phrase “the thing”, Noun Phrase consists of Determiner “the” plus Noun “things”. (Third lyric, line 1). Because the dominant religion in Bali is Hindu, this monument looks like a bell which is always used by Hindu priest. The architecture of this monument is based on Hindu architecture so this monument is also believed to be holy for Balinese people.



Chart 4.6 derivation of a sentence



Based on the diagram, the following data will be explained about adjective phrase (AdjP) and prepositional phrase (PP).

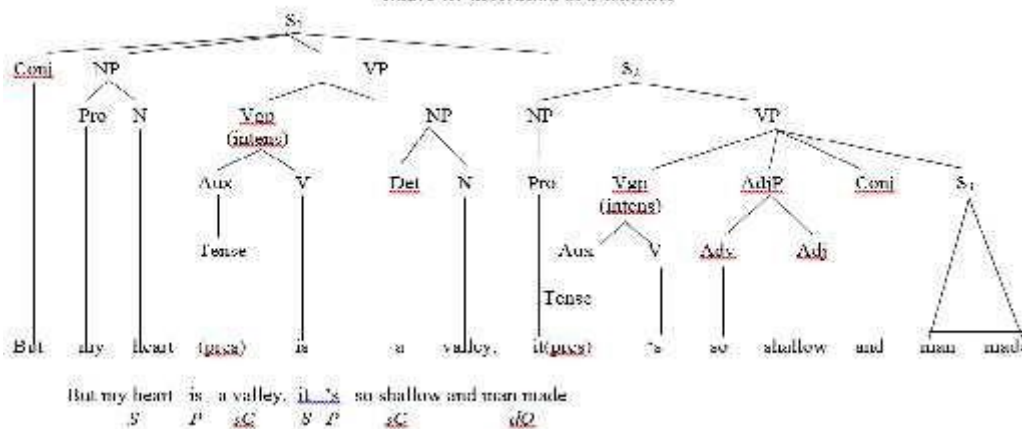
AdjP as the subject clause consists of Adjective Phrase “too wide” plus Conjunction “and” plus Adjective Phrase “too deep”. Adjective Phrase consists of Adverb “too” plus Adjective “wide”, Adjective Phrase “too deep”. PP as the subject clause consists of Preposition “for” plus Noun Phrase “me to swim to you”, Noun Phrase consists of Pronoun “me” plus S2 “to swim to you”. (Third lyric, line 12).

**The syntactical categories in the fourth songs’ lyric entitled River Lea**

In River Lea song lyric, it was found five phrases those are noun phrase (NP), and verb phrase (VP), prepositional phrase (PP), adjective phrase (AdjP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). To present the example of each phrase it will be explained randomly.

These

Chart 4.7 derivation of a sentence



Based on the diagram, the following data explained about noun phrase (NP), adverb phrase (AdvP), verb phrase (VP), and adjective phrase (AdjP). NP as the subject “my heart” consists of Pronoun “my” plus Noun “heart”. VP as the predicate consists of Verb group (intensive) “is” plus Noun Phrase “a valley”, Verb group (intensive) Auxiliary consist of Tense “present” plus Verb “is”, Noun Phrase “a valley” consists of Determiner “a” plus Noun “valley”. AdjP as subject clause consists of Adverb “so” plus Adjective “shallow”. (Fourth lyric, line 3).



There are 301 phrases that found in all of songs' lyrics. In the four songs' lyrics, noun phrase found 150 phrases, verb phrase found 84 phrases, prepositional phrase found 32 phrases, adjective phrase found 13 phrases, and adverb phrase found 22 phrases.

Based on analysis, noun phrase is the most frequent phrase pattern found in data since it is found 51%. The second form of phrase which is often used is verb phrase with the frequent found in this research is 26%. The third, prepositional phrase is 11%. The fourth phrase, adjective phrase is 4%. The last frequent that is adverb phrase 7%.

Furthermore, in the frequency of occurrence of kinds of phrase stated that noun phrase as the mostly phrase which exists in the four songs' lyrics in Adele's 25 album. These are three reasons that why noun phrase as the dominant phrase in the four songs' lyrics from Adele's 25 album. The first reason, noun phrase commonly has two functions in the sentence such as the subject and the object. It is difference from other phrases like verb phrase, prepositional phrase, adjective phrase, and adverb phrase which is only has one function in the sentence.

The second reason, verb phrase has the classification they are Transitive, Intransitive, Ditransitive, Intensive, Complex-Transitive, and Prepositional (Thomas, 1993). In the fourth songs' lyrics, Transitive found 35 phrases, Intransitive found 12 phrases, Ditransitive found 9 phrases, Intensive found 27 phrases, Complex-Transitive found 1 phrase, and prepositional does not find in the songs' lyrics. Transitive verb become the mostly verb which exist in the data since this result of the analysis stated that phrase which many appeared in the data is noun phrase. It is because as well-known like the statement from Thomas (1993:36), transitive verb has to have a direct object to be complete. So the phrase which will be appeared after transitive is noun phrase as a direct object.

All of the song lyrics in 25 album tell Adele's love story and her past life experience. Based on letsingit.com, Adele says that the lyrical content features themes about yearning for her old self and her nostalgia. That is her melancholia about the passage of time.

There are some explanations about the content of the four songs' lyrics in this research based on Stummer (2015). The first song lyric in this research is Hello. Hello song lyrics, it can be seen as being conversational, revolving around (all the relationship of Adele's past, ranging from friends, family members, and ex partners). The second song lyric is When We Were Young. Adele says that this song lyric is making up for lost time. She further explained that she felt bad for always wishing to get older and to move onto the next thing. Now, she wishes she had it all back, so in this album, she is revisiting herself at age 25 to make peace with the past. The third song lyric is Remedy. "Remedy" is a heartfelt ballad about Adele's three-years-old song, Angelo, but the song's promise to "be your remedy" also applies to her other loves one. The song is a tender promise to be there for those Adele cares about. The last song lyric is River Lea. River Lea tells about coming to terms with who you are and how where you have come from does or does not effect that person.

The reason of Adele created 25 album above is related to the finding of this research that is noun phrase as the mostly found in the song lyrics. Adele's song lyrics in 25 album tell about her past life experience, particularly, the song lyrics tell about Adele's past love story. Based on the statement above, noun phrase can consist of subject and object, Adele's song lyrics more emphasize subject and object because the singer wants to mention many things of her experience and express her feelings in the past.

## CONCLUSION

In this research, it can be concluded there are five kinds of phrase that found in the lyrics. They are noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), prepositional phrase (PP), adjective phrase (AdjP), and adverb phrase (AdvP). Based on analysis, noun phrase is the most frequent phrase pattern found in data since it is found 50%. The second form of phrase which is often used is verb phrase with the frequent found in this study is 28%. The third, prepositional phrase commonly used 11%. The fourth, adjective phrase frequent is 4%. The last, adverb phrase is 7%. Noun phrase as the mostly phrase in four song lyrics in Adele's 25 album because noun phrase commonly has two functions in the sentence such as the subject and the object. Transitive verb is the mostly verb which exist in the data since this result of the analysis stated that phrase which many appeared in the data is noun phrase. Noun phrase in the



form of subject and object are mostly found because the singer wants to mention many things of her experience and express her feeling in the past.

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