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THE FUNCTIONS OF VERB PHRASE IN WESTLIFE'S SONG LYRICS

By
Ismarini Hutabarat 1)
Maria Merliani Gorat 2)
Darma Agung University, Medan 1,2)
E-mail:
ismarini.hutabarat23@gmail.com 2)
anastasiauli1407@gmail.com 2)

ABSTRACT

This thesis dealt with Verb Phrase in Westlife's Song Lyrics. Verb phrase was an important part of a sentence. It was important to make a study about verb phrase. The data in this study were seven songs of Westlife from their album, The World of Our Own. The song lyrics were analyzed to find out the types of verb phrase, the functions of verb phrase and the meaning of auxiliary in the verb phrase found in Westlife's song lyrics. The method used in this study was descriptive qualitative method. The results of the study showed that the functions of the verb phrases in Westlife's song lyrics were as predicates, as noun phrases modifiers, adjective phrase complements, and verb phrase complements.

Keywords: verb phrase, functions of verb phrase, song lyrics

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berhubungan dengan Verb Phrase in Westlife's Song Lyrics (Frase Kata Kerja dalam Lirik Lagu Westlife). Frase kata kerja merupakan bagian yang penting dalam suatu kalimat. Merupakan hal yang penting untuk melakukan penelitian mengenai frase kata kerja. Data dalam penelitian ini adalah tujuh lagu Westlife dari album mereka, The World of Our Own. Lirik lagu dianalisis untuk mencari tau jenis-jenis frase kata kerja, fungsi-fungsi frase kata kerja dan makna kata kerja bantu yang ada dalam frase kata kerja dalam lirik lagu Westlife. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fungsi frase kata kerja dalam lirik lagu Westlife adalah sebagai predikat (predicate), sebagai penjelas frase nomina (noun phrase modifiers), pelengkap frase adjektifa (adjective phrase complement), dan pelengkap frase kata kerja (verb phrase complements).

Kata Kunci: Frasa Verba, fungsi Frasa Verba, lirik lagu

1. INTRODUCTION

Phrase can be found in a sentence. It may function as the subject or the predicate of a sentence. A phrase is a group of related words that does not have a subject and a predicate. A phrase performs the function of a single part of speech (Brewton, 1969:218).

The three most common types of phrases are the verb phrase, the prepositional phrase, and the verbal phrase. This study will focus on verb phrase. A verb phrase consists of a main verb and one or more auxiliaries. The italicized words in the following sentences are verb phrases.

- a. We shall eat dinner now.
- b. I am going to the movies.

Shall eat and am going are the predicate verbs that are verb phrases. Neither the prepositional phrase nor the verbal phrase can function as predicate verbs. Instead, they function as single parts of speech, usually nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that verb phrase is an important part of a sentence. So, the writer thinks it is important to make a study about verb phrase. He himself does not have enough knowledge and understanding about verb phrase. He is sure that by analyzing verb phrase, he can understand and use verb phrase better in his speaking and writing.

He also believes that many students find difficulty in recognizing verb phrase in a sentence. This becomes the reason for him to do this study.

In this research, the writer tries to analyze verb phrase in song lyrics. Song is chosen to be the source of data because people enjoy singing and listening to songs in their daily life. The songs chosen as the source of data are Westlife's songs from the album World of Our Own (2001). Seven (7) songs from the album are analyzed to find out the verb phrase found in the songs. The writer chooses Westlife's songs because the writer finds many verb phrases in the lyrics of the songs. Besides that Weslife, an Irish band who has gained popularity since 1999, is a famous band who have many fanatic fans all around the world.

Based on the background of the study mentioned previously, the writer formulates the problem of the study as follows what are the functions of the verb phrases found in Westlife's song lyrics?

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Verb Phrase

Verbs in English can be distinguished by the kinds of marking they can take and by what they can co-occur with. English verbs all function inside verb phrases (VPs). A simple VP consists of a lexical verb acting as the main verb of the

VP and anywhere from zero to four auxiliary verbs which are used to mark modality, aspect, and voice. A compound VP consists of the conjunction of two or more simple VPs.

A verb phrase consists of a main verb alone, or a main verb plus any modal and/or auxiliary verbs. The main verb always comes last in the verb phrase. (mo = modal verb; aux = auxiliary verb; mv = main verb) (Declerck, 2006)

1. We all *laughed*

(MV)

2. Computers *can be* very

(MO)(MV)

annoying!

3. An apartment would have cost

(MO) (AUX) (MV)

less than a hotel for four of us.

4. Tony might have been waiting

(MO) (AUX) (AUX) (MV)

outside for you.

Based on the explanation above, there are two types of verb phrase:

1. Simple Verb Phrase

A simple verb phrase consists of a main verb. The verb in a simple verb phrase shows the type of clause (e.g. declarative, imperative):

- a. Your camera *takes* fantastic pictures. (Declarative clause)
- b. *Dress* smartly. *Arrive* on time.(Imperative clauses).

2. Complex Verb Phrase

A complex verb phrase may include one modal verb and one or more auxiliary verbs before the main verb. A modal verb always comes before any auxiliary verbs:

(mo = modal verb; aux = auxiliary verb; mv = main verb)

Examples:

- a. House prices could fall during the next six months. (modal verb + main verb) (MO)
 (MV)
- b. You may have played this
 game before. (modal verb + one
 auxiliary
 verb) (MO) (AUX) (MV)

(dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british
-grammar/about-verbs/verb-phrases)

2. Grammatical Functions of Verb Phrases

Verb phrases perform four grammatical functions within sentences in English language.

1. Verb Phrases as Predicates

Verb phrase can function as the predicate of a clause. A clause is defined as a grammatical structure that consists of a subject and a predicate. For example, the following italicized verb phrases function as predicates.

a. My puppy *drinks* milk.

- b. I am studying linguistics.
- c. The vase *was broken* by the cat.
- d. We have eaten all the pie.
- e. The students *will finish* their homework.
- f. She *will have earned* her degree in May.

2. Verb Phrases as Noun Phrase Modifiers

Noun phrase modifiers are defined as words and phrases that describe a noun or noun phrase. For example, the following italicized verbs and verb phrases function as noun phrase modifiers.

- a. The woman *reading the book* just yelled at me.
- b. My dog is the puppy *chewing* on the rawhide.
- c. I *saw* the man *sleeping* on the bus.
- d. Do you have a book *to read* in the car?
- e. The food *to eat* is on the table.
- f. The most recent news reported by the anchor made me sad.

3. Verb Phrases as Adjective Phrase Complements

The third grammatical function that verb phrases in the form of

infinitives perform is the adjective phrase complement. Adjective phrase complements are defined as phrases and clauses that complete the meaning of an adjective phrase. For example, the following italicized verb phrases function as adjective phrase complements:

- a. You should be excited to study grammar.
- b. My children are sad to see their grandparents leave.
- c. Your professor is curious to know why you dropped her class.
- d. The students are eager to learn about current events.
- e. His co-worker is frightened to ask a promotion.
- f. I am irrationally afraid *to* fly.

4. Verb Phrases as Verb Phrase Complements

The fourth grammatical function that verb phrases in the form of infinitives perform is the verb phrase complement. Verb phrase complements are defined as phrases that complete the meaning of a verb phrase. Verb phrase is in the form of infinitives and base forms can

function as verb phrase complements. For example, the following italicized verb phrases function as phrase complements:

- a. The students have *to pass*the test. (infinitive)
- b. She intends to attend the ceremony. (infinitive)
- c. My neighbours happen to own a hot air balloon.(infinitive)
- d. Grandpa can start the fire for the barbecue. (base form)
- e. He *helps manage the students' work*. (base form)
- f. Would you come *wash the*dishes? (base form)

(www.linguisticsgirl.com/grammaticalfunctions-of-english-verbs-and-verbphrases/)

3. Lyrics

Lyrics are words that make up a song usually consisting of verses and choruses. The writer of lyrics is a lyricist. The words to an extended musical composition such as an opera are, however, usually known as "libretto" and their writer as "librettist". The meaning of lyrics can either be explicit or implicit. Some lyrics are abstract, almost unintelligible, and, in such cases, their explication emphasizes form, articulation,

meter, and symmetry of expression. Rappers can also create lyrics (often with a variation of rhyming words) that are meant to be spoken rhythmically rather than sung.

Lyrics can be studied from an academic perspective. For example, some lyrics can be considered a form of social commentary. Lyrics often contain political, social, and economic themes – as well as aesthetic elements - and so can communicate culturally significant messages. These messages can be explicit, or implied through metaphor symbolism. Lyrics can also be analyzed with respect to the sense of unity (or lack of unity) it has with its supporting music. Analysis based on tonality and contrast are particular examples.

(en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyrics)

3. METODOLOGY

Method is needed in this research in order to get qualified result of study. In this thesis, the writer has applied descriptive qualitative method to do his analysis. Descriptive method is one of methods that is used in analysis by describing the data. Descriptive comes from English language which means describing. The object of the research done is reported by descriptive method in order that the readers can understand the result of research well.

The object of this research was Westlife's song lyrics. The writer analyzed verb phrases that were found in seven (7) songs from *The World of Our Own* album; *Bop Bop Baby, I Cry, Why Do I Love You, I Wanna Grow Old with You, Evergreen, To Be Loved* and *Queen of My Heart*.

The data is used and analyzed by the process of reading, listening and taking note to discover the result of the research concerning the functions of verb phrase. Through the process the researcher took some of the data related to the problems of the study as the subject analyzed in the purpose of finding the functions of verb phrase.

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The Functions of Verb Phrase in Westlife's Song Lyrics

After collecting and analyzing the data, Verb phrases perform four grammatical functions within sentences in English language. The functions can be as predicates, noun phrase modifiers, adjective phrase complements and verb phrases complements.

A. Verb Phrase As Predicates

Verb phrase can function as the predicate of a clause. As a predicate, it shows the action of the subject.

a) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in *Bop Bop Baby*

- 1. Mom always *said* nothing *would* break me
- 2. Or *lead* me astray
- 3. Who would have guessed I'd let my mind drift so far away
- 4. You always *said* I was a dreamer, now instead
- I'm dreaming of things that's making my mind go crazy
- 6. When I *call* you at home and he *answers* the phone
- 7. Or I *get* your machine and I *don't* hear me
- 8. When I *lie* in my bed with the thoughts in my head
- 9. When we *danced* and we *sang* and we *laughed* all night
- 10. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, *don't let* me go
- 11. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, just *let* me know
- 12. *Can't live* my life this way
- 13. And *put* my mind at ease for sure
- 14. I got off today
- 15. But nobody *said* the stop that *I've* taken
- 16. Now I'm alone, I'm thinking of stupid, hurtful
- 17. When I *call* you at home and he *answers* the phone
- 18. Or I *get* your machine and I *don't* hear me
- 19. When I *lie* in my bed with the thoughts in my head

- 20. When we *danced* and we *sang* and we *laughed* all night
- 21. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, *don't let* me go
- 22. Can't live my life this way
- 23. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, just *let* me know
- 24. And put my mind at ease for sure
- 25. This is when we *must set* things right
- 26. Now that we've *gone* our separate ways
- 27. I just *can't live* these desperate days
- 28. This is what I've been trying to say
 Based on the data there are twenty eight
 (28) verb phrases that function as predicates in the song.
- b) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in *I Cry*
- 1. You said goodbye
- 2. I fell apart
- 3. To I never *knew*, I *needed* you so bad
- 4. You *need* to let things go
- 5. I *know*, you *told* me so
- 6. Why did I ever *let* you slip away
- 7. Can't stand another day without you
- 8. Without the feeling, I once *knew*
- 9. I *cry* silently
- 10. Cause I *know I'll never breathe* your love again
- 11. I cry, cause you're not here with me
- 12. Cause I *know* I'll never breathe your love again
- 13. If you *could see* me now

- 14. You would know just how
- 15. How hard I try
- 16. I wish I could believe in something new
- 17. Oh, please somebody *tell* me it's not true(oh girl)
- 18. If I could have you back tomorrow
- 19. If I *could lose* the pain and sorrow
- 20. I would do just anything
- 21. Things can come and go
- 22. I know but
- 23. Baby I believe
- 24. Something's burning strong between us
- 25. *Makes* it clear to me.

Based on the data there are twenty five (25) verb phrases that function as predicates in the song.

- c) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in Why Do I Love You
- 1. Suddenly she's leaving
- 2. Suddenly the promise of love *has gone*
- Suddenly breathing *seems* so hard to do
- 4. Carefully you planned it
- 5. I *got* to know just a minute too late oh girl
- 6. Now I understand it
- 7. All the times we, *made* love together
- 8. Baby you were thinking of him
- 9. Why do I love you?
- 10. *Don't* even *want* to

- 11. Why do I love you like I do?
- 12. Like I always do
- 13. You should have told me
- 14. (*Love* you like I *do*)
- 15. Why do I love you like I do?
- 16. Ain't gonna show no weakness
- 17. I'm *gonna* smile and tell the whole world I'm fine
- 18. I'm *gonna* keep my senses
- 19. But deep down where no one *can* hear me
- 20. Baby I'll be crying for you
- 21. Can't go back
- 22. Can't erase
- 23. Oh no, I *can't think of* nothing else Based on the data there are twenty three (23) verb phrases that function as predicates in the song.
- d) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in I Wanna Grow Old with You
- 1. Another day just passes by
- 2. But now I *know* how much it *means*
- 3. The time we *spent* apart *will make* our love grow stronger
- 4. But it *hurts* so bad I *can't take* it any longer.
- 5. I wanna grow old with you
- 6. I wanna die lying in your arms
- 7. I wanna grow old with you
- 8. I wanna be looking in your eyes
- 9. I wanna be there for you, sharing everything you do
- 10. I wanna grow old with you.

- 11. It *causes* me to wonder how
- 12. Our love tonight *remains* so strong
- 13. The time we *spent* apart *will make* our love grow stronger
- 14. But it *hurt* so bad I *can't take* it any longer.

Based on the data there are twenty (20) verb phrases that function as predicates in the song.

- e) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in *Evergreen*
- 1. And I wonder (Wonder-Wonder)
- 2. I *wonder* why you *look at* me like that
- 3. What you're thinking what's behind
- 4. *Don't tell* me but it *feels*, like, love
- 5. I'm gonna take this moment (Moment)
- 6. I'm gonna give my heart away
- 7. You're the only girl that I *need* (That I need)
- 8. 'Cause you're more beautiful than I have ever seen
- 9. I'm gonna take this night and make it evergreen
- 10. And I wonder (Wonder-Wonder)
- 11. I wonder why you wanna stay the night
- 12. What you're dreaming what's behind
- 13. *Don't tell* me but it *feels*, like, love
- 14. I'm gonna take this moment
 (Moment) I'm gonna give my heart
 away

- 15. You're the only girl that I *need* (That I need)
- 16. 'Cause you're more beautiful than I have ever seen (Oh Yeah)
- 17. I'm gonna take this night and make it evergreen
- 18. *Don't tell* me but it *feels* like love
- 19. I'm gonna take this moment (Yeah)
- 20. I'm gonna give my heart away
- 21. And pray we'll stay together (Together)
- 22. You're the only girl that I need
- 23. 'Cause you're more beautiful than I have ever seen (Oh Yeah)
- 24. I'm gonna take this moment (Moment)
- 25. I'm gonna give my heart away
- 26. And pray we'll stay together (Together)

Based on the data there are twenty six (26) verb phrases that function as predicates in the song.

- f) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in *To Be Loved*
- 1. I *know* it's real, that's how it *feels*
- 2. There's nothing real, that I wouldn't steal
- 3. If everybody *knows*, it's only 'cause it *shows*
- 4. A kiss that *sets* your soul alight
- 5. Would it be all right if I spent tonight
- 6. If everybody *knows*, it's only 'cause it *shows*

- 7. Your love is released
- 8. And you *move* me with ease
- 9. And you *rescue* me time after time
- 10. Oh~ oh you give your all
- 11. And you take it all in your stride
- 12. That's how my heart *beats*
- 13. When you're holding me
- 14. I *can't conceal*, this is how it *feels*
- 15. If everybody *knows*, it's only 'cause it *shows*
- 16. Because I take your love,
- 17. Everywhere I go
- 18. I know what it is I need,
- 19. It's as it *seems*, my only dreams
 Based on the data there are nineteen (19)
 verb phrases that function as predicates in
 the song.
- g) Analysis of Verb phrase as predicates in *Queen of My Heart*
- 1. So here we *stand*
- 2. You take my hand
- 3. And it *feels* like home
- 4. We both *understand*
- 5. It's where we belong
- 6. So how do I say
- 7. *Do* I *say* goodbye
- 8. We both *have* our dreams
- 9. We both *wanna* fly
- 10. So *let's* take tonight
- 11. I'll always look back
- 12. As I *walk* away
- 13. This memory will last for eternity
- 14. When I *find* my way back
- 15. You know you are

- 16. So *let's* take tonight
- 17. And never *let* go
- 18. While dancing we'll kiss
- 19. As the stars sparkle down
- 20. I'll treasure this moment
- 21. Til we *meet* again
- 22. I just *close* my eyes (just *close* my eyes)
- 23. Until we *meet*
- 24. I'll always look back
- 25. As I walk away
- 26. This memory will last for eternity
- 27. No matter how many years it *takes* (queen of my heart)
- 28. I'm coming home to youBased on the data there are twenty eight(28) verb phrases in the song.

Below is the analysis of some of the data.

- 1. When I *call* you at home and he *answers* the phone (*Bop Bop Baby*)

 The lyric contains more than one verb phrase, *call* and *answers*. Both are simple verb phrases and both function as predicates because they show what the subjects, *I* and *he*, do.
- Cry)

 The lyric has one complex verb phrase, could lose, which consists of modal (MO): could and main verb (MV): lose. It functions as the predicate of the subject, I.

If I could lose the pain and sorrow (I

Baby you were thinking of him (Why Do I Love You)

The lyric above contains a complex verb phrase, were thinking, which consists of auxiliary (AUX): were and main verb (MV): thinking. The complex verb phrase functions as the predicate of the subject, you, because it shows what the subject was doing.

3.

- 4. I can't conceal, this is how it feels
 (To Be Loved)

 The lyric contains two verb phrases.
 One is a complex verb phrase, can't conceal and the other is simple verb phrase, feels. Both of them function as the predicate of the subjects, I and he.
- This memory will last for eternity
 (Queen of My Heart)
 The lyric has a complex verb phrase, will last, which functions as the predicate of the subject, this memory.

B. Verb Phrase As Noun Phrase Modifiers

Noun phrase modifiers are defined as words and phrases that describe a noun or noun phrase. There are five (5) lyrics that function as noun phrase modifiers in Westlife's selected song lyrics. They are:

Maybe it's time to say goodbye (Bop Bop Baby)
 This lyric contains verb phrase as noun phrase modifier because the

2.

- verb phrase, *to say* modifies the noun phrase, *time*.
- Maybe it's time to let this fly (Bop Bop Baby)
 Same as the previous lyric, the lyric has verb phrase that functions as noun phrase modifier. The verb phrase, to say, modifies the noun phrase, time, in this lyric.
- 3. For you to stay right here with me (I Wanna Grow Old with You)

 This lyric also contains a verb phrase that functions as a noun phrase modifier. The verb phrase, to stay, in this lyric, modifies the noun phrase, you.
- I wanna be there for you, sharing everything you do (I Wanna Grow Old with You)
 This lyric contains more than one verb phrase. But the verb phrase that functions as a noun phrase modifier is sharing. It modifies the noun phrase, you.
- 5. A smile *to put* you on a high (*To Be Loved*)

 It can be seen clearly that this lyric contains a verb phrase. The verb phrase is *to put*. It functions as a noun phrase modifier because it modifies the noun phrase, *a smile*.

C. Verb Phrase As Adjective Phrase Complement

Adjective phrase complements are defined as phrases and clauses that complete the meaning of an adjective phrase. There is only one datum of verb phrase as adjective phrase complement in the data.

Suddenly breathing seems so hard to do (Why Do I Love You)
 There is only one verb phrase that functions as adjective phrase complement in all the data. The verb phrase can be seen in the lyric above. It is to do. It functions as adjective phrase complement because it complements the adjective phrase, hard.

D. Verb Phrase As Verb Phrases Complements

Verb phrase complements are defined as phrases that complete the meaning of a verb phrase. Verb phrase is in the form of infinitives and base forms can function as verb phrase complements.

- a. Verb phrase in As Verb Phrases
 Complements Bop Bop Baby
- 1. Or lead me *astray*
- 2. Who would have guessed I'd let my mind *drift* so far away
- 3. I'm dreaming of things that's making my mind *go* crazy
- 4. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, don't let me *go*

- 5. Ooh, da bop bop baby, please, just let me *know*
- 6. This is what I've been trying *to say*Based on the data there are six (6) verb
 phrases that function as verb phrases
 complements in the song.

b. Verb phrase As Verb Phrases Complements in *I Cry*

- 1. You need to let things go
- 2. *To break* the spell
- 3. Why did I ever let you *slip* away
- 4. Not to wonder why
- 5. To make you see, you still love me Based on the data there are seven (7) verb phrases that function as verb phrases complements in the song.

Verb phrase As Verb Phrases Complements in Why Do I Love You

1. I got *to know* just a minute too late oh girl

Based on the data there is only one (1) verb phrase that functions as verb phrase complement in the song.

- c. Verb phrase As Verb Phrases

 Complements in I Wanna Grow

 Old with You
- 1. The time we spent apart will make our love *grow* stronger
- 2. I wanna *grow* old with you
- 3. I wanna *die* lying in your arms
- 4. I wanna grow old with you
- 5. *I* wanna *grow* old with you.
- 6. It causes me to wonder how

7. The time we spent apart will make our love *grow* stronger

Based on the data there are seven (7) verb phrases that function as verb phrases complements in the song.

d. Verb phrase As Verb Phrases Complements in *Evergreen*

- 1. And make it *last* forever (Forever)
- 2. I wonder why you wanna *stay* the night
- 3. And make it *last* forever (Forever)

 Based on the data there are three (3) verb

 phrases that function as verb phrases

 complements in the song.

e. Verb phrase As Verb Phrases Complements in Queen of My Heart

- 1. We both wanna *fly*
- 2. So let's *take* tonight

Based on the data there are two (2) verb phrases that function as verb phrases complements in the song.

Below are the analysis of some of the data:

1. I'm dreaming of things that's making my mind *go* crazy. (*Bop Bop Baby*)

This lyric actually contains more than one verb phrase. There are two complex verb phrases, 'm (am) dreaming and 's (is) making one simple verb phrase, *go*. The simple verb phrase, *go*, in the lyric, functions as verb phrase complement

- because it complements the complex verb phrase 's (is) making.
- 2. *To make* you *see*, you still love me (*I Cry*)

This lyric contains three simple verb phrases, *to make*, *see* and *love*. The verb phrase, *see*, functions as a verb phrase complement because it complements the verb phrase, *to make*.

- 3. I got *to know* just a minute too late oh girl (*Why Do I Love You*)

 It can be seen clearly in the lyric that the verb phrase, *to know*, functions as verb phrase complement because it complements the verb phrase, *got*.
- 4. The time we spent apart will make our love *grow* stronger (*I Wanna Grow Old with You*)

 The verb phrase, *grow*, in the lyric, functions as verb phrase complement because it complements the verb phrase, *will make*.
- Heart)
 This lyric also a verb phrase that functions verb phrase complement.
 The verb phrase, take, complements

So let's take tonight (Queen of My

5. CONCLUSION

the verb phrase, *let*.

5.

Based on the result of the analysis, it can be concluded that:

1. The verb phrases found in Westlife's song lyrics function as predicates, noun phrases modifiers, adjective phrase complements, and verb phrase complements.

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