

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

A song is a short piece of music, usually with lyrics. In the Cambridge Dictionary (Third Edition), a song is defined as "a short piece of music with words that are sung." The Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary explains that a song is "music with words that are sung, or just the act of singing." Songs have become a significant part of our daily lives and are often heard everywhere at any time. They are interesting to study because they offer a unique way to express emotions. Songs combine diverse vocabulary and creative word choices, each serving a purpose. The language in songs is crafted in a distinct manner, making it different from regular speech. This distinction makes songs captivating, as they are usually written with beautiful and appealing words to engage and maintain the attention of listeners.

Today, many musicians are producing songs across a wide range of genres and styles of lyrics. Each artist's have their own style of music and lyrics that is exciting and enjoyable to listen to depending on listeners choice. However, listeners sometimes find it challenging to fully understand the lyrics. Song lyrics often contain hidden meanings, crafted for various purposes such as enhancing artistic appeal, avoiding explicit content, or emphasizing the song's deeper messages. The meanings behind idioms need to be further elaborated. In addition to understanding its use in songs, the

public should be informed about the different types of idioms used in various forms.

Kendrick Lamar is a critically acclaimed American rapper, songwriter, and record producer. Lamar's unique style, profound lyricism, and ability to address complex social issues have positioned him as one of the most influential artists in contemporary hip-hop. Throughout his career, Kendrick Lamar's music have received widespread praise and earned him numerous awards including multiple Grammy Awards and a Pulitzer Prize for his art. In his lyric writing abilities, Kendrick Lamar's use of idioms is notably impressive.

The selection of Kendrick Lamar's songs for this research is rooted in several compelling reasons. Firstly, Kendrick Lamar's receipt of the Pulitzer Prize Awards for Music underscores his exceptional talent and solidifies his status as a poet within the contemporary music landscape. This prestigious award recognizes his contributions to music as a form of high art and literature, making his work a valuable subject for academic inquiry.

In 2024, Lamar's music took a notable turn with the release of several songs that appeared to be part of a musical dispute with fellow rapper Drake. The songs, "Like That," "Euphoria," "6:16 in LA," "Meet the Graham," and "Not Like Us." feature intricate lyrics rich with idiomatic expression.

The five chosen songs for this study, "Like That," "Euphoria," "6:16 in LA," "Meet the Grahams," and "Not Like Us," are Lamar's most recent releases and reflect his lyric writing ability as a writer. These tracks are rich

in idiom expression, providing a fertile ground for literary analysis. By examining the idioms in these songs, this research aims to uncover the deeper meanings embedded within Lamar's lyrics.

Moreover, these songs are particularly relevant in the context of Lamar's musical dispute with Drake, offering insight into the ways in which artists use their music to engage in dialogue and critique within the industry. The analysis of these songs will not only enhance our understanding of Lamar's artistic vision but also contribute to the broader discourse on the intersection of music and literature commentary.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Kendrick Lamar is renowned for his deep, multi-layered lyricism, which often use many idiomatic expressions to convey messages beyond the surface meaning in his song lyrics. In his ongoing musical feud with Drake, Lamar released or contributed to five key tracks in 2024 “Like That,” “Euphoria,” “6:16 in LA,” “Meet the Graham,” and “Not Like Us.” Each of these songs plays a significant role in Lamar’s lyrical confrontation with Drake, packed with wordplay, critiques, and emotional depth. However, understanding the full extent of Lamar’s critique and artistry requires a detailed exploration of the figurative language within the songs, particularly his use of idiomatic phrases.

The problem stems from the complexity of Lamar’s lyrics, as they frequently incorporate idioms and expressions that carry meanings beyond their literal interpretations. For instance, “Euphoria” features over 1,300

words with almost no repetition, using idioms to subtly critique Drake and elevate the emotional intensity of the song. Similarly, “6:16 in LA” and “Meet the Graham” contain layers of meaning, often obscured behind figurative expressions that need to be decoded to reveal Lamar’s deeper messages about authenticity, morality, and the rap industry.

Given the intricate use of idiomatic expression in these songs, this research aims to identify and analyze the idiomatic expressions employed by Lamar to uncover the hidden meanings behind his lyrics. By doing so, the study will shed light on how Lamar uses these idioms to convey his critiques of Drake, his views on the rap industry, and his broader commentary on cultural authenticity.

1.3 Limitations of the Study

The writer in this paper would like to limit this research to analyze idiomatic expressions that exist in songs "Like That," "Euphoria," "6:16 in LA," "Meet the Grahams," and "Not Like Us," by Kendrick Lamar.

1.4 Research Questions

In this research, the writer aims to identify the use of idiomatic phrases in five selected Kendrick Lamar songs. The problem is divided into two parts:

1. What types of idioms are present in the songs “Like That,” “Euphoria,” “6:16 in LA,” “Meet the Grahams,” and “Not Like Us,” by Kendrick Lamar?

2. What are the meaning of idioms found in the lyrics of “Like That,” “Euphoria,” “6:16 in LA,” “Meet the Grahams,” and “Not Like Us,” by Kendrick Lamar?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to address the research questions and accomplish its objectives. The primary goals of this study are:

1. To identify the types of idioms are present in the songs “Like That,” “Euphoria,” “6:16 in LA,” “Meet the Grahams,” and “Not Like Us,” by Kendrick Lamar.
2. To analyze the meaning of idioms found in the lyrics of “Like That,” “Euphoria,” “6:16 in LA,” “Meet the Grahams,” and “Not Like Us,” by Kendrick Lamar.

1.6 Significances of the Study

This study is carried out to benefit the English department, fellow students, and other relevant individuals. The significance of this study is divided into two aspects: theoretical and practical.

Theoritically:

1. This research is expected to be one of the references and add insight into idioms phrase in song lyrics for students of the English Literature study program, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Pasundan University.
2. The result of this study are also intended for general readers who want to deepen their understanding of the variety and meaning of idioms phrase.

Practically:

1. Through the analysis of the types and meanings of idioms phrase contained in song lyrics, this research can provide more in-depth information related to the intent and message to be conveyed in the song. Therefore, readers are expected to be able to capture the interpretation and aesthetic value of song lyrics more comprehensively