



An Analysis of English Idioms Found in One Album Of Aerosmith's

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Abstract

English idioms often appear in different part of speech and variety structures. Understanding the types and structural variations of English idiom can help non native speakers recognize how English idioms exist in an oral or written communication. Therefore, this research was done in order to find the types and structural variations of English idioms in Aerosmith's song lyrics. The source of the data of this research was Aerosmith's song lyrics in the album *20th Century Masters: The Millennium Collection: The Best of Aerosmith*. It includes twelve song lyrics which are written in English. The writer applied the theory of Cowie (1985) to classify the types of idioms and the theory of Baker (1992) to analyze idiom structural variations. The writer *concluded that* there are three main classifications of the types of idiom found in Aerosmith's song lyrics; phrasal idiom, verbal idiom, and sentential idiom. Then, there are five kinds of variations of idiom found in Aerosmith's song lyrics; by changing the order of the words, deleting a word, adding a word, replacing a word with another, and changing its grammatical structure.

Keywords: Idiom; Types; Structural Variations

Abstrak

Idiom berbahasa Inggris sering muncul dalam kelas kata dan struktur yang bervariasi. Mengerti jenis dan variasi struktural idiom dapat membantu pembaca mengenali bagaimana idiom berbahasa Inggris hadir dalam percakapan lisan maupun tertulis. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menemukan jenis dan variasi struktural dari idiom berbahasa Inggris di dalam lirik lagu Aerosmith. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini adalah lirik lagu Aerosmith dalam album *20th Century Masters: The Millennium Collection: The Best of Aerosmith*. Album ini berisi dua belas lirik lagu yang ditulis dalam bahasa Inggris. Penulis menerapkan teori Cowie (1985) untuk mengelompokkan jenis idiom dan teori Baker (1992) untuk menganalisa variasi struktural idiom. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa ada tiga pengelompokkan jenis idiom yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Aerosmith, yaitu phrasal idiom, verbal idiom, and sentential idiom. Kemudian, ada lima jenis variasi idiom yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Aerosmith, yaitu dengan mengubah urutan kata, menghapus kata, menambah kata, mengganti satu kata dengan kata lainnya, dan dengan mengubah struktur grammatikalnya.

Kata kunci: Idiom; Jenis; Variasi Struktur

Introduction

As globalization grows, English becomes an international language which has been applied universally. English is rich in vocabulary including its literal and non literal meaning. Stahl (2005, p. 95) says that vocabulary is knowledge of word which does not only imply a definition, but also implies how word fits into the world. Idioms take role in enriching this vocabulary. They help us to get more colorful, interesting, and native-like language to replace literal word. For example: "Finally, I get the permission from her parents!" This conversation could be more interesting if we add an English idiom such this one: "Finally, I get the *green light* from her parents!" However, as non native speakers, we still get some difficulties in learning English, especially for some statements containing English idioms. Hooper (1980, p. 124) states that idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the meanings of the words when they stand alone. He adds that it is the most difficult part of English (or of any language) for a foreign student to master. There are some reasons why we should learn English idioms.

First, idiom is an expression in form of words which cannot be translated literally word for word, e.g. *rain cats and dogs* which idiomatically means heavy rain. Second, every language has different idiom and meaning, e.g. *cinta monyet* in Bahasa Indonesia can't just be called as "monkey love" in English. It is because English has a certain term for that, known as *puppy love*. Third, the similar terms of idioms may have different meanings between two languages. For example, the same expressions between English idiom *the cat got your tongue* which means to urge someone to start speaking and French idiom *donner sa langue au chat* (to give tongue to the cat) which means to give up. Fourth, some English idioms are not recognizable because they have idiomatic meaning but also both literal and idiomatic interpretation. For example, *take for a ride* which literally means to give a ride while idiomatically means to deceive or cheat someone. Fifth, English idioms may appear in different forms and different structures than its common use like what listed in dictionary. For example: *the tables have turned. Here, this*

English idiom gets structural variation by applying passive form of the common structure turn the tables. Because of these variations, the non native speakers will get more difficulties in understanding the idioms, while non native speakers who have been familiar with the common English idioms can still naturally catch the meanings of those idioms.

Hence, the main problem of learning English idioms is that the non native speakers still do not recognize the existence of English idioms itself. Therefore, this research was done in order to find the types and structural variations of English idioms in Aerosmith's song lyrics.

Types of Idiom

Cowie (1985, p. xi) classifies idioms into three headings: phrasal idiom, verbal idiom, and sentential idiom. Phrase is a group of words without a finite verb, especially one that forms part of a sentence, and have particular meaning when used together (Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary: 2011, p. 329). Phrasal idiom is divided into four subheadings. The first is noun phrase. Noun is a word that refers to a person, place or thing, quality or activity. Noun phrase is headed with noun or pronoun and functions as subject or object in a sentence, e.g. *a crashing bore*. In this example, *a* is a particle, *crashing* is an adjective, and *bore* is a noun. The second is adjectival phrase. Adjective is a word that describes a noun (e.g. black in black cat). Adjective phrase functions as adjective in a sentence, e.g. *free with one's money*. In this example, *free* is an adjective and *with one's money* is a prepositional phrase. The third is prepositional phrase. Preposition is a word used before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time, or method (e.g. of, from, or above). Prepositional phrase is always preceded by preposition, e.g. *in the nick of time*. In this example, *in* is the preposition. The fourth is adverbial phrase. Adverb is a word that adds information to a verb, adjective, phrase, or another adverb (e.g. slowly in walk slowly). Adverbial phrase functions as adverb in a sentence, e.g. *as often as not*.

Next, verbal idiom is also known as subjectless clause idiom. Verb is a word or phrase that expresses an action (e.g. drink), an

event (e.g. happen), or a state (e.g. exist). Verbal idiom can be identified in five structures. The first is Verb + Complement, e.g. *go berserk*. Complement is a word, especially adjective and noun, used after a verb describing the subject of the verb (e.g. girl in *She's a girl*). The second is Verb + Direct Object, e.g. *ease someone's mind*. Object is a noun, phrase, etc towards which the action of a verb is directed (e.g. him in *Give him the money*). Direct object answers the question of whom or what, while indirect object answers the question of for whom/what or to whom/what. The third is Verb + Direct Object + Complement, e.g. *paint the town red*. The fourth is Verb + Indirect object + Direct Object, e.g. *do somebody credit*. The fifth is Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct, e.g. *take something amiss*. Adjunct is an adverb or phrase that adds meaning to the verb (e.g. tomorrow in *I will go tomorrow*).

The third is sentential idiom. Sentence is a group of words that expresses a statement, question, etc. It usually comes in the form of proverb and saying, e.g. *A bird in a hand is worth two in the bush. Now or never*.

The writer chose the theory of Cowie because in this research the writer focused on classifying English idiom based on its grammatical function, not based on its meaning or contextual aspect. Cowie's theory has also mentioned complete and clear classification related to grammatical function.

Structural Variations of Idiom

English idiom often varies in structural common use because the speaker/writer who uses English idiom has different choice of words and expressive purpose to vary the idiom. According to Liu (2012, p. 108):

In the framework of functional linguistics, changes of syntactic or semantic element in idioms are conducive to the expression of people's experiences, people's emotions and people's interaction with others. Language users may alter their language with the aim of conveying extra meanings. In this way, many new idiom variations are formed.

Moreover, Baker (1992, p. 63) states that a speaker/writer does the variation of English idiom in order to make a joke or attempt to play on words. Fernando (2000) also says that transformation and manipulation of idiom are used to meet the speaker's communicative needs. In line with the research instrument, Aerosmith also varies some English idioms by attempting the play on words to convey extra meanings and fulfill expressive purpose in their song lyrics.

Baker (1992, p. 63) states five variations of idiom. The first is changing the order of the words, e.g. *the short and the long of it*. This example experiences a change in the order of the words from the common idiom *the long and short of it*. Second, deleting a word, e.g. *have a tooth*. The word *sweet* has been deleted from the common idiom *have a sweet tooth*. Third, adding a word, e.g. *very red herring*. This variation allows to add the word *very* to the common idiom *red herring*. Fourth, replacing a word with another, e.g. *think outside the box*. This example shows that the word *outside* can be used to vary the common idiom *think out of the box*. Fifth, changing its grammatical structure, e.g. *some beans were spilled*. This idiom gets variation of its common idiom *spill the beans* from active to passive form.

The writer chose Baker's theory of idiom variations. His theory shows complete and clear information about idiom variations structure.

Methods of the Research

This research is a qualitative research. Qualitative method explains the phenomena of language in descriptive way by focusing on the stability of study qualitatively. This research uses qualitative method because it uses descriptive data in form of texts such as words and sentences, not in table or numbers. According to Crotty (1998, as cited in Creswell: 2003, p. 9):

Thus, qualitative researchers seek to understand the context or setting of the participants through visiting this context and gathering information personally. They also make an interpretation of what they find.

Creswell (2007, p. 178-180) shows four basic types of collecting data. It includes observations, interviews, documents, and audio-visual materials. In this research, the writer used observation method which means to gather the primary data by investigator's own direct observation of relevant people, actions and situations without asking the respondent. With song lyrics as instrument, the writer became a complete observer because she observed the lyric without participating. The advantage of this research was that the writer could record information as the time fitted for collecting data. The writer used non participant observation technique or also known as *simak bebas libat cakap* method. It means that the researcher only acted as the observer of the language used by informant (Mahsun: 2011, p. 93). Document is also the types of data collection the writer used. This was due to the research instrument which was song lyric as public document. It enabled the writer to obtain the language from the participant. There were some advantages of this type. The data could be accessed whenever the writer needed. It represented data that had been written by the participant with full-attention. This written evidence also saved time and expense of transcribing. The writer didn't use interviews and audio-visual materials to collect the data because it was not suitable with the instrument of this research which was a written material.

The writer chose one of many Aerosmith's albums which included English idioms as the first step of collecting data. At the second step, the lyrics had been downloaded and printed out from the official website of Aerosmith. Third, the writer observed the lyrics to find out English idioms by using Oxford Idioms Dictionary and English Idioms electronic dictionary. Then, as an English learner, the writer also found out the meaning of those idioms. Last, the writer highlighted those idioms which had been found and wrote them in other papers. By using many references from some books and internet source, the writer used referential method in analyzing the data.

In line with Creswell theory, the writer analyzed those English idioms by classifying

them into types and analyzing the structural variation of those English idioms. The writer also applied several steps in analyzing the data. First, the writer observed that English idioms chosen are valid based on Oxford Idioms Dictionary for Learners of English (2006) and English Idioms electronic dictionary. Second, the writer classified those English idioms into types by using Cowie's theory: phrasal idiom, verbal idiom, and sentential idiom. Third, the writer identified the meaning of those idioms. Fourth, the writer observed some English idioms which get structural variation. Then, the writer analyzed the structural variation of those idioms.

Findings and Discussions

In this chapter, the writer analyzed the types and structural variations of English idioms found in Aerosmith's song lyrics. *The writer used the theory of Cowie (1985) to classify the types of idiom and Baker's (1992) theory to analyze the structural variations of English idioms. The writer found that there are 66 idioms found in the song lyrics, but in this chapter the writer discussed only a few examples due to the efficiency of time and the effectiveness of expense. The writer identified the meanings and the common uses of English idioms by using Oxford Idioms Dictionary (2006) and English Idioms electronic dictionary as guidance.*

The Types of Idiom

From what has been told in chapter I, Cowie (1985) classifies idioms into three headings. The first is phrasal idiom. The second is verbal idiom. Then, the last is sentential idiom.

Phrasal Idiom

Phrasal idiom is divided into four subheadings. The first is noun phrase. The second is adjectival phrase. The third is prepositional phrase. Then, the last is adverbial phrase.

Idiom as Noun Phrase

As stated in section 2.2, noun phrase is headed with noun or pronoun and functions as subject or object in a sentence, e.g. *a crashing*

bore. One of noun phrase idioms in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *Yes I'm movin', Yes I'm movin', get ready for **the big time**.* (Rag Doll lyric)

The big time is a noun phrase idiom which means great success. It acts as the object of the sentence. This phrase consists of three words. One of the three words is *time* as a noun. It functions as the head which comes in the end of the phrase. The other two words are *the* and *big* which functions as pre modifiers which come before the head *time*. *The* is a definite article and *big* is an adjective to modify the noun *time*.

Another example of noun phrase idiom in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *Tell me how is that you can sleep in the night without thinking you lost everything that was good in your life to **the toss of the dice**?* (What It Takes lyric)

The toss of the dice is a noun phrase idiom which means to leave something to pure chance. It acts as the object of the sentence. There are five words in this phrase. One of the words is *toss* as noun. It functions as the head which comes in the middle of the phrase. The other words are modifiers. This phrase, *the toss of the dice*, consists of noun phrase *the toss* and prepositional phrase *of the dice* as post modifier. *The toss* consists of *toss* as noun which functions as the head and *the* as definite article which functions as pre modifier. The prepositional phrase *of the dice* consists of three words. The first word is *of* as a preposition. The other two words are *the* and *dice* as noun phrase *the dice*. *The* is a definite article and *dice* is a noun.

Idioms as Adjectival Phrases

Adjective phrase functions as adjective in a sentence, e.g. *free with one's money*. One of adjectival phrase idioms in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *Baby maybe you're wrong but you know it's **all right**.* (Dude lyric)

All right is an adjectival phrase idiom which means convenient or allowed. It functions as the adjective of the sentence because it modifies the pronoun *it*. This phrase consists of two words. The first word is *all*. *All* is an adjective. Another word is *right*. *Right* is also an adjective.

Another example of adjectival phrase idiom in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *I was so **sick and tired**.* (Deuces are Wild lyric)

Sick and tired is an adjectival phrase idiom which means annoyed or frustrated. It functions as the adjective of the sentence because it modifies the pronoun *I*. This phrase consists of three words. The words *sick* and *tired* are adjectives. These two words are connected by another word *and* as conjunction.

Idioms as Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrase is always preceded by preposition, e.g. *in the nick of time*. One of prepositional phrase idioms in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *Now everybody is **on the run**.* (Janie's Got A Gun lyric)

On the run is a prepositional phrase idiom which means running away or escape. It is preceded by the preposition *on*. There are three words in this phrase. The first word is *on* as preposition. It functions as the head of the phrase. The other two words are *the* and *run* as noun phrase. Noun phrase *the run* functions as post modifier which comes after the head *on*. It consists of the words *the* as a definite article and *run* as a noun.

Another example of prepositional phrase idiom in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) ***With the blink of an eye** you finally see the light.* (Amazing lyric)

With the blink of an eye is a prepositional phrase idiom which means very quickly. It is preceded by the preposition *with*. There are six words in this phrase. The first word is *with* as

preposition. It functions as the head of the phrase. The other five words are *the blink of an eye* as noun phrase. This noun phrase functions as post modifier which comes after the head. *The blink of an eye* consists of *the blink* as noun phrase and *of an eye* as prepositional phrase. *The blink* consists of *the* as a definite article and *blink* as a noun. Meanwhile, *of an eye* consists of *of* as a preposition and noun phrase *an eye*. *An* is an indefinite article and *eye* is a noun.

Idioms as Adverbial Phrases

Adverbial phrase functions as adverb in a sentence, e.g. *as often as not*. One of adverbial phrase idioms in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *I'll chase you **all the way** to the stairway honey.* (Love in an Elevator lyric)

All the way is an adverbial phrase idiom which means completely or as much as it takes to achieve what you want. It acts as the adverb of the sentence because it modifies the verb *chase* in the sentence. This phrase consists of three words. The first word is *all*. *All* is a numeral adjective. The other two words are *the* and *way* as noun phrase. *The* is a definite article and *way* is a noun.

Another example of adverbial phrase idiom in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) ***Again & again** & again & again & again.* (Livin' on The Edge lyric)

Again & again is an adverbial phrase idiom which means repeatedly. It acts as the adverb of the sentence. This phrase consists of three words. Two of the words are *again*. *Again* is an adverb. These two *again* words are connected by another word *and*. *And* is a conjunction.

Verbal Idioms

Verb is a word or phrase that expresses an action (e.g. *eat*), an event (e.g. *happen*), or a state (e.g. *exist*). Verbal idioms can be identified in five structures. The first is Verb + Complement. The second is Verb + Direct Object. The third is Verb + Direct Object + Complement. The fourth is Verb + Indirect

Object + Direct Object. The fifth is Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct.

V + Complement

The first is Verb + Complement, e.g. *go berserk*. Complement is a word, especially adjective and noun, used after a verb describing the subject of the verb (e.g. girl in She's a girl). One of verbal phrase idioms in form of Verb + Complement in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *I really need a girl like an open book to **read between the lines**.* (Love in an Elevator lyric)

Read between the lines is a verbal idiom which means to understand what something really means implicitly. It is preceded by the verb *read*. The phrase consists of *read* as the verb and *between the lines* as prepositional phrase. The verb *read* functions as the head of the phrase which comes in the beginning of the phrase. *Between the lines* functions as complement. It consists of the words *between* as preposition and *the lines* as noun phrase. *The lines* consists of the words *the* as a definite article and *lines* as a noun.

Another example of verbal phrase idiom in form of Verb + Complement in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) ***Livin' on the edge**, livin' on the edge.* (Livin' on The Edge lyric)

Livin' on the edge is a verbal idiom which means to have a dangerous life. It is preceded by the verb *livin'*. The phrase consists of *livin'* as verb and *on the edge* as prepositional phrase. The verb *livin'* functions as the head of the phrase which comes in the beginning of the phrase. *On the edge* functions as complement. It consists of the words *on* as preposition and *the edge* as noun phrase. *The edge* consists of the words *the* as a definite article and *edge* as a noun.

Verb + Direct Object

The second is Verb + Direct Object, e.g. *ease someone's mind*. Object is a noun, phrase, etc towards which the action of a verb is directed (e.g. him in Give him the money).

Direct object answers the question of whom or what, while indirect object answers the question of for whom/what or to whom/what. One of verbal phrase idioms in form of Verb + Direct Object in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *And you're back on the street like you didn't **miss a beat**, yeah. (What It Takes lyric)*

Miss a beat is a verbal idiom which means to be falter or experience strong emotion. It is preceded by the verb *miss*. There are three words in this phrase. It consists of the transitive verb *miss* as the head of the phrase and noun phrase *a beat*. *A beat* is a direct object because it answers the question of what to miss. Noun phrase *a beat* consists of the word *a* as an indefinite article and *beat* as a noun.

Another example of verbal phrase idiom in form of Verb + Direct Object in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *Tryin' to walk through the pain when I **lost my grip** and I hit the floor. (Amazing lyric)*

Lost my grip is a verbal idiom which means to lose control. It is preceded by the verb *lost*. There are three words in this phrase. It consists of the transitive verb *lost* as the head of the phrase and noun phrase *my grip*. *My grip* is a direct object because it answers the question of what to lose. Noun phrase *my grip* consists of the word *my* as a possessive adjective and *grip* as a noun.

Verb + Direct Object + Complement

The third is Verb + Direct Object + Complement, e.g. *paint the town red*. One of verbal phrase idioms in form of Verb + Direct Object + Complement in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *Sayin' love **put me wise** to her love in disguise. (Dude lyric)*

Put me wise is a verbal idiom which means to inform. It is preceded by the verb *put*. This phrase consists of three words. The first word is the transitive verb *put* as the head of the phrase. The other

word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is a direct object of the verb *put* because it answers the question of what to put. The last word is the adjective *wise*. It functions as complement.

Another example of verbal phrase idiom in form of Verb + Direct Object + Complement in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *Yeah you **drive me crazy**, crazy, crazy, for you baby. (Crazy lyric)*

Drive me crazy is a verbal idiom which means to cause insanity or infatuated. It is preceded by the verb *drive*. This phrase consists of three words. The first word is the transitive verb *drive* as the head of the phrase. The other word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is a direct object of the verb *drive* because it answers the question of whom to drive. The last word is the adjective *crazy*. It functions as complement.

Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object

The fourth is Verb + Indirect object + Direct Object, e.g. *do somebody credit*. One of verbal phrase idioms in form of Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *You're **cryin' me a river** but I got to get across. (The Other Side lyric)*

Cryin' me a river is a verbal idiom which means to weep profusely or excessively. It is preceded by the verb *cryin'*. This phrase consists of four words. The first word is the transitive verb *cryin'* as the head of the phrase. The other word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is an indirect object because it answers the question of for whom to cry a river. The last words are noun phrase *a river*. It functions as complement. *A river* is a direct object of the verb *cryin'* because it answers the question of what to cry. It consists of the words *a* as an indefinite article and *river* as a noun.

Another example of verbal phrase idiom in form of Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *Girl you been **givin' me that line** so many times.* (Crazy lyric)

Givin' me that line is a verbal idiom which means to give someone freedom and then stop it when the time comes. It is preceded by the verb *givin'*. This phrase consists of four words. The first word is the transitive verb *givin'* as the head of the phrase. The other word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is an indirect object because it answers the question of for whom to give that line. The last words are noun phrase *that line*. It functions as complement. *That line* is a direct object of the verb *givin'* because it answers the question of what to give. It consists of the words *that* as an adjective and *line* as a noun.

Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct

The fifth is Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct, e.g. *take something amiss*. Adjunct is an adverb or phrase that adds meaning to the verb (e.g. tomorrow in I will go tomorrow). One of verbal phrase idioms in form of Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) *Yes it's true - Loneliness **took me for a ride**.* (Angel lyric)

Took me for a ride is a verbal idiom which means to cheat or deceive someone. It is preceded by the verb *took*. This phrase consists of five words. The first word is the transitive verb *took* as the head of the phrase. The other word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is a direct object because it answers the question of whom to take. The last words are prepositional phrase *for a ride*. It functions as adjunct because it adds meaning to the verb *took*. *For a ride* consists of *for* as a preposition and noun phrase *a ride*. *A ride* consists of the word *a* as indefinite article and *ride* as a noun.

Another example of verbal phrase idiom in form of Verb + Direct Object + Adjunct in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) *You loved me, you hate me, you **cut me down to size**.* (The Other Side lyric)

Cut me down to size is a verbal idiom which means to show that somebody is not as important as they think they are. It is preceded by the verb *cut down*. This phrase consists of five words. The first word is the transitive verb *cut down* as the head of the phrase. The other word is pronoun *me*. *Me* is a direct object because it answers the question of whom to cut. The last words are prepositional phrase *to size*. It functions as adjunct because it adds meaning to the verb *cut down*. *To size* consists of the word *to* as a preposition and *size* as a verb.

Sentential Idiom

Sentence is a group of words that expresses a statement, question, etc. Sentential idioms come in the form of proverb and saying. One of sentential idioms in Aerosmith's lyrics can be seen as following:

- (1) ***Never judge a book by its cover.*** (Dude lyric)

Never judge a book by its cover is a sentential idiom which means that we shouldn't form an opinion about somebody from their appearance only. It is usually uttered as proverb. In this sentence, there are three immediate constituents. Two of them are stated explicitly. Those are verb phrase and prepositional phrase. Verb phrase is the major constituent in this sentence. The verb phrase is *never judge a book* and the prepositional phrase is *by its cover*. The verb phrase *never judge a book* consists of verb phrase *never judge* and noun phrase *a book*. *Never judge* consists of the words *never* as adverb and *judge* as verb. *A book* consists of the words *a* as indefinite article and *book* as noun. The prepositional phrase *by its cover* consists of the preposition *by* and noun phrase *its cover*. Noun phrase *its cover* consists of the words *its* as possessive adjective and *cover* as noun. Another constituent is the noun as the subject of the sentence. The subject of this sentence is the understood subject which can be the first person pronoun

plural (we) or the second person pronoun singular (you) implicitly.

Another example of sentential idiom in Aerosmith's lyrics is:

- (2) ***The tables have turned***, yeah. (Cryin' lyric)

The tables have turned is a sentence idiom which means to reverse/change a situation. It is usually uttered as saying. In this sentence, there are two immediate constituents. The first constituent is *the tables*. *The tables* is a noun phrase as the subject of the sentence. It consists of *the* as definite article and *tables* as noun. Then, another constituent is *have turned*. *Have turned* is an intransitive verb as the verb phrase.

Structural Variations of Idiom

As an expression of the language, English idiom often gets variation in its daily use. As stated in section 2.3, there are some reasons of why idiom variation exists: to express people's experiences, emotions, and interaction with others, to convey extra meanings, to meet the speaker's communicative needs, and to make a joke or attempting a play on words. As the references of finding the common English idiom, the writer also used Oxford Idioms Dictionary for Learners of English (2006) and Idioms electronic dictionary. According to Baker (1992, p. 63), there are five structural variations of idiom, and those which the writer found in the lyrics can be seen as following:

Changing the Order of the Words

Idiom can get structural variation by changing the order of the words. For example, *the short and the long of it*. This example experiences a change in the order of the words from the common idiom *the long and short of it*. There is one idiom structural variation found in Aerosmith's song lyrics by changing the order of the words:

- (1) *the dice I'm tossin'* - *the toss of the dice*

The dice I'm tossin' is a variation of its common idiom *the toss of the dice*. It means to leave something to

pure chance. Both of them are noun phrase idioms. This idiom gets changed in the order of the words. In the lyric, the word *the dice* comes earlier than *I'm tossin'* which implicitly gets connected by a conjunction (that/which). Meanwhile, in the common idiom, the word *the toss* comes earlier than *the dice* and gets connected by the preposition *of*.

Deleting a Word

Idiom can get structural variation by deleting a word. For example, *have a tooth*. The word *sweet* has been deleted from the common idiom *have a sweet tooth*. Some examples of idiom structural variation found in Aerosmith's song lyrics by deleting a word are presented below:

- (1) *break the walls* - *break the fourth wall*

Break the walls is a variation of its common idiom *break the fourth wall*. It means to communicate with reality directly. This idiom is verbal idiom. In the lyric, idiom used is *break the walls*, while the common idiom uses *break the fourth wall*. It means that in the lyric the idiom used has been varied by deleting the word *fourth*.

- (2) *hit the ground* - *hit the ground running*

Hit the ground is a variation of its common idiom *hit the ground running*. It means to start doing something quickly and successfully. This idiom is verbal idiom. In the lyric, idiom used is *hit the ground*, while the common idiom uses *hit the ground running*. It means that in the lyric the idiom used has been varied by deleting the word *running*.

Adding a Word

Idiom can get structural variation by adding a word. For example, *very red herring*. This variation allows adding the word *very* to the common idiom *red herring*. Some examples of idiom structural variation in Aerosmith's song lyrics by adding a word are presented below:

- (1) *saying long goodbyes*- *say goodbye*

Saying long goodbyes is a variation of its common idiom *say goodbye*. It means to separate from someone. This idiom is verbal idiom. In the lyric, idiom used is *saying long goodbyes* while the common idiom uses *say goodbye*. It means that in the lyric, the idiom used has been varied by adding the word *long* as an adjective to modify the noun *goodbyes*.

- (2) *the word out on the street - the word on the street*

The word out on the street is a variation of its common idiom *the word on the street*. It means the rumors or news which spreads. This idiom is noun phrase idiom. In the lyric, idiom used is *the word out on the street* while the common idiom uses *the word on the street*. It means that in the lyric the idiom used has been varied by adding the word *out* as adjective.

Replacing a Word with Another

Idiom can get structural variation by replacing a word with another. For example, e.g. *think outside the box*. This example shows that the word *outside* can be used to vary the common idiom *think out of the box*. Some examples of idiom structural variation in Aerosmith's song lyrics by replacing a word with another are presented below:

- (1) *Never judge a book by its cover – Don't judge a book by its cover*

Never judge a book by its cover is a variation of its common idiom *Don't judge a book by its cover*. It means that we shouldn't form an opinion about somebody only from their appearance. This idiom is a sentential idiom. In the lyric, the idiom uses the word *never* while the common idiom uses the word *don't*. It means that in the lyric the idiom used has been varied by replacing the word *never* with *don't*. Even though the words have been replaced, but both still have the same meaning which shows prohibition.

- (2) *breathing room - breathing space*

Breathing room is a variation of its common idiom *breathing space*. It means home for resting between two periods of

hard effort. This idiom is a noun phrase idiom. In the lyric, the idiom uses the word *room* while the common idiom uses the word *space*. It means that in the lyric, the idiom used has been varied by replacing the word *room* with *space*. Both are nouns and have the same meaning which shows distance or place.

Changing Grammatical Structure

Idiom can get structural variation by changing its grammatical structure. For example, e.g. *some beans were spilled*. This idiom gets variation of its common idiom *spill the beans* from active to passive form. Some examples of idiom structural variation in Aerosmith's song lyrics by changing its grammatical structure are presented below:

- (1) *the spell that he was under - under somebody's spell*

The spell that he was under is a variation of its common idiom *under somebody's spell*. It means so attracted or interested in someone. In the lyric, the idiom used is *the spell that he was under* which is a noun phrase. It consists of noun phrase *the spell* as the head of the phrase and clause *that he was under* as modifier. Noun phrase *the spell* consists of *the* as a definite article and noun *spell*. The clause *that he was under* consists of the word *that* as conjunction, noun *he* as subject, *was* as linking verb, and adjective *under* as complement. Meanwhile, the common idiom is *under somebody's spell* which is a prepositional phrase. It consists of *under* as preposition as the head of the phrase and noun phrase *somebody's spell* as modifier. *Somebody's* is a possessive adjective and *spell* is a noun. It means that in the lyric the idiom used has been varied by changing its grammatical structure from noun phrase into prepositional phrase.

- (2) *take the loss - at a loss*

Take the loss is a variation of its common idiom *at a loss*. It means uncertainty. In the lyric, the idiom used is *take the loss* which is a verbal phrase. It consists of the verb *take* as the head of the

phrase and noun phrase *the loss* as post modifier. *The* is a definite article and *loss* is a noun. Meanwhile, the common idiom is *at a loss* which is a prepositional phrase. It consists of preposition *at* as the head of the phrase and noun phrase *a loss* as post modifier. *A* is an indefinite article and *loss* is a noun. It means that in the lyric, the idiom used has been varied by changing its grammatical structure from verbal phrase into prepositional phrase.

Conclusions

After analyzing the data, the writer found that there are 66 idioms in the twelve lyrics of Aerosmith. Those idioms fulfill the types and variations based on the theory of Cowie and Baker.

The writer concluded that there are three main classifications of the types of idiom and five structural variations of idiom. The types of idiom are phrasal idiom, verbal idiom, and sentential idiom. The writer found 31 phrasal idioms, 31 verbal idioms, and 4 sentential idioms in the song lyrics. Some English idioms found in the lyrics get five structural variations. The writer found 1 variation of idiom by changing the order of the words, 2 by deleting a word, 4 by adding a word, 6 by replacing a word with another, and 5 by changing its grammatical structure.

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