# The syntax analysis on sentence patterns used in LouisTomlinson song lyrics

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## ABSTRAK

Sintaksis adalah struktur kalimat, aturan penggunaan yang ditetapkan untuk pengaturan kata – kata dalam kalimat menjadi bentuk dan hubungan yang tepat. Untuk lebih memahami tentang sintaksis, penulis menyajikan "The Syntax Analysis on Sentence Patterns Used in Louis Tomlinson Song Lyrics" album Walls dengan menggunakan teori pola kalimat dari Quirk and Greenbaum. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori diagram pohon dari O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, dan Katamba untuk membantu penulis dalam menganalisis pola kalimat. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data penelitian ini berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat yang berkaitan dengan analisis pola kalimat khususnya pada lagu Two of Us, Defenceless, dan Kill MyMind. Dari hasil penelitian, melalui kalimat – kalimat yang dipilih oleh penulis, penulis menemukan bahwa jumlah pola kalimat yang paling banyak terdapat pada lirik lagu Louis Tomlinson adalah pola kalimat 3: S + Vt + dO yang lebih sering digunakan.

**Kata Kunci:** Sintaksis, Pola Kalimat, Diagram Pohon

## ABSTRACT

Syntax is the structure of sentences, the recognized norms of usage for arranging the words of a sentence into suitable forms and relationships. To have a better knowledge of syntax, the researchers gives a syntactic analysis of phrase patterns employed in Louis Tomlinson song lyrics from the album Walls, based on Quirk and Greenbaum's sentence pattern theory. This study also made use of O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba's tree diagram theory to assist the researchers in analyzing sentence structures. In this study, the researchers employed a qualitative approach. This research's data consists of words, phrases, and sentences linked to sentence pattern analysis, namely in the songs Two of Us, Defenceless, and Kill My Mind. From the outcome, through the sentences chosen by the researchers, the researchers found that the most number of the sentence pattern in Louis Tomlinson's song lyrics is sentence pattern number 3: S + Vt + dO which is frequently used.

**Keywords:** Syntax, Sentence Patterns, Tree Diagram

## A. INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a medium of communication. Language is an aspect of human behavior that is closely tied to social interaction and communication. It serves as a medium and tool of communication with others. Language is thus a system of arbitrary vocal symbols through which a

social group collaborates (Lyons 3). Language allows people to learn new things and expand their knowledge. Similarly, individuals use language to write, talk about, and analyze things, such as song lyrics. Music is another way to express language. The language of music can facilitate communication with all people. People could convey their feelings and emotions in their own language and style, which they could then write down as lyrics.

Language cannot be isolated from sentences. Sentences must be used when communicating in both written and spoken languages. A sentence is a word or combination of words that represents an entire idea and has a subject and a verb. Syntax is a branch of linguistics that studies language sentences. Syntax refers to the rules that govern sentence creation (Chomsky 23). As a result, it denotes the mental grammar component that embodies speakers' understanding of phrase and sentence structures. It can also apply to the study of the architecture of a phrase, clause, or sentence. Music is the art and science of blending vocal and instrumental sounds or tones in a certain form and played on specific instruments. Music has a broader meaning since it follows a set of rules during performance; it is beautiful because it includes elements such as rhyme, tone, and harmony. Music has the ability to evoke intense emotions such as love, hope, happiness, and grief through its different lyrics.

The reason why the researchers chooses the topic "The Syntax Analysis on Sentence Patterns used in Louis Tomlinson Song Lyrics" is because sometimes it finds the words which have different interpretation in the forms of sentence pattern construction and learning the sentence patterns in the song lyric becomes crucial. The researchers chose three Louis Tomlinson song lyrics with the album *Walls* as the research object. The three songs are *Two of Us*, *Defenceless*, and *Kill My Mind*. The first song is *Two of Us*. Two of Us song tells about his late mother, Johannah Deakin. Two of Us song is a song that honours his mother's memory and describes the impact her death had on Louis Tomlinson. Two of Us song has been watched by 25 million viewers in the official video form and in the lyric video form, this song has been watched by 14 million viewers through Louis Tomlinson's youtube account. And then, the second song is *Defenceless*. In this song, he shows his honesty and vulnerability, "feeling great, youthful, and amazing one day" and "a little bit down in the dumps the next day." Defenceless song has been watched by 13 million viewers in the lyric video form through his youtube account. Finally, the third song is *Kill My Mind*. Kill My Mind song describes as the song about having fun and doing silly things when he is still young, then going through an experimental phase in his youth, and doing things that might not be good for him, but it is exciting. Kill My Mind song has been watched by 17 million viewers in the official video form and has been watched by 4,3 million viewers in the lyric video. The reasons why the researchers chooses three song lyrics as the object of this research are because the lyrics of Louis Tomlinson's songs in "Walls" album has the sentence patterns in song lyrics that are interesting to analyse. Through this analysis, the researchers also gain new knowledge about sentence patterns that the researchers can use in daily and social life. These lyrics are also written simply and are easy to understand even though based on old musical style material.

## B. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1. Linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific and methodical study of human language (Robins 1). It is analyzed as a system that simultaneously links form, meaning, and context. Whatever it does in its daily life, it will see that linguistics plays a role in almost every aspect of human communication. Studying linguistics allows you to have a better understanding of one of the most crucial aspects of being human: the ability to communicate using language. Linguistics studies will help you understand how language works, how it is used, and how it changes and is maintained. Linguistics takes a scientific approach to language studies that extends beyond form, meaning, and context. Linguistics is a cross-disciplinary field of study.

### 2. Song Lyrics

A song is a work that is performed by singing and includes lyrics and music. Song is the arrangement of voice and instrumentation. Meanwhile, the lyrics are the content of the music and transmit a significant meaning to the listener. Song lyrics are one of the creations that attempt to convey a deep message to the listener (Ain & Triyono 261).

### 3. Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that usually includes a subject and a verb, expresses a complete thought or poses a question, and starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop (Longman 1289). Bornstein believes that sentences are the essential building blocks of the syntactical system. A sentence is a word or group of words that communicates an entire concept, including a subject and a predicate (Bornstein 245). There are four kinds of sentences.

### a. Simple Sentence

A simple sentence is one that contains only one subject and verb and expresses the entire notion. According to Manik Joshi, a simple phrase consists of one independent clause (4). On the other hand, Marcella Frank defines a simple sentence as one with only one full predication in the form of an independent clause (223). For example:

*'Ariel plays the card'*

This group of word is containing subject which is "Ariel" and verb which is "plays". Based on theexplanation above this group of word can be classified as a simple sentence. In order to make thesentence complete, the word "plays" is the verb used to describe the object which is "the card". The word "the" is the article used to describe the thing. And the word "card" stands as a

noun thatacts as the object in a sentence. Based on this explanation, and the definition of simple sentence, this group of word stands as a simple sentence in the form of simple present tense.

## b.    Compound Sentence

A compound sentence comprises two or more independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction, such as and, but, or, not, for, yet, and so. Consequently, one can deduce that a compound sentence consists of two independent clauses linked by a coordinating conjunction, such as:

*'Sandy is playing game, and Tom is doing the assignment'*

The group of words "Sandy is playing the game" and "Tom is working the assignment" contain asubject which is "Sandy" and "Tom" and a verb which is "playing" and "doing" which mean thatthese group of words stand as simple sentence that could stand alone. Based on the explanation before, simple sentence is equal with independent clause. The example shows that the independentclause are being joined with the coordinating conjunction which is "and". Based on the explanation, and the definition of compound sentence, the sentence "Sandy is playing the game, and Tom is doing the assignment" is a compound sentence.

## c.    Complex Sentence

A complex sentence contains two or more complete predications, with one being an independent clause or main clause and one or more being dependent clauses or subordinate clauses that commence with a subordinating conjunction (Frank 223). A sentence is classified as complex if it contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses (Azar 263). A complicated sentence consists of one or more independent clauses combined with a dependent clause by the use of subordinating conjunctions, for example:

*'Before you give the answer, you must read the text carefully'*

The phrase "before you give the answer" includes a subject, "you," and a verb, "give," indicating that it can be classified as a sentence; yet, it also contains the subordinating conjunction "before." The phrase "before you give the answer" might be regarded as a dependent clause, as it does not convey a complete thought. To complete the meaning, the independent clause "you must read the text carefully" is included. This sentence contains a subject, "you," and a verb, "read," without a subordinating conjunction. This sentence is a short sentence or isolated clause that conveys a complete thought. The relationship between the aforementioned sentences constitutes a complicated sentence, as defined and explained.

### d. Compound – Complex Sentence

A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that has coordinating conjunctions linking two or more independent clauses, with at least one independent clause including a dependent clause (Frank 223). A compound-complex sentence comprises multiple independent clauses connected to one or more dependent clauses (Joshi 19). Consequently, a compound-complex sentence is defined as a synthesis of a compound sentence with a subordinating clause; for instance:

*'Budi is reading the comic, and Henry is watching the film, because reading books is difficult'*

The sentence "Budi is reading the comic, and Henry is watching the film" can be classified as a compound sentence because the relation of each independent clause are being joined by coordinating conjunction, but the dependent clause "because reading books is difficult" could not stand alone. It needs the main clause, in the case is "Henry is watching the film", to express the meaning completely which mean that the compound sentence are being joined by subordinating clause. It makes the relation between each clause has a complete meaning, and formed a compound – complex sentence.

### 4. Transformational Generative Grammar

Many linguists precisely define Transformational Generative Grammar, but the differences are primarily in how they explain it or how they simplify Chomsky's explanation. According to Kridalaksana, transformational generative grammar is a linguistic theory developed by Noam Chomsky that seeks to understand and construct grammatical sentences, including sentences that have never been heard before (78). The laws of phrase construction and transformations explain how constituents in the sentence structure work. Furthermore, according to Parera, Noam Chomsky believes that transformation is the most significant aspect of Generative Grammar, and the notion of generative has two views (95). The first idea is that generative is associated with language productivity and originality, whereas the second is that generative is synonymous with formality and explicitness. Furthermore, Veit emphasizes that the transformation reorganizes or transforms sentence grammar (92).

### 5. Syntax

Syntax is the aspect of grammar that dictates the combination of words into phrases, clauses, and sentences (Radford 405). Syntax is the arrangement and relationship of words, phrases, and clauses that constitute sentences or bigger compositions according to grammatical principles. Syntax originates from the Greek words sun, meaning "with," and tattein, meaning "to put." This concept in etymology refers to a word as a collection of words or sentences, with the collection of

words being a sentence (Vehar 70). The name "syntax" originates from the ancient Greek word "syntaxis," a verbal noun that literally means "arrangement" or "setting out together" of words into phrases or clauses, and phrases or clauses into sentences (Matthews 1). It is characterized as a subfield of linguistics that examines the organization and interrelation of words, phrases, and clauses that constitute sentences (Webster 1359). Syntax is the examination of the concepts and processes involved in the construction of sentences within a certain language (Chomsky 1). Hornby asserts, "syntax is the rules for sentence construction" (877). This assertion is corroborated by Yule, who posits that syntax refers to the organization or structure of elements (80). It pertains to the arrangement of words to form clauses or larger phrases, and the combination of clauses to construct sentences (Miller 56). Based on the aforementioned definitions, the researchers conclude that syntax pertains to the arrangement and relationship. Comprising words, phrases, and clauses that constitute sentences or more extensive structures in accordance with grammatical principles.

## 6.   Sentence Pattern

Syntactic analysis examines the construction of sentences, emphasizing the categorization and identification of each component inside a sentence. The aim of doing a syntactic analysis is to ascertain how sentences are constructed from their fundamental components, namely words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Quirk and Greenbaum present around seven patterns that might be utilized to construct a complete phrase (167). The seven patterns serve as a framework for constructing a grammatically accurate statement. The subsequent sentence structures presented are as follows:

1)  S + LV + A

The first pattern of the sentence described by Quirk and Greenbaum is S + LV + A. The symbol "S" refers to the subject of the sentence, and LV is a linking verb that is formulated by the subject of the sentence with "A" which is an adverb as a complement to the sentence. This pattern is known as a common pattern used in daily life. An example of the first pattern is with the following sentences such as "*Gerald is in the bedroom'*, where Gerald (subject), is (linking verb), in the bedroom (adverb).

2)  S + LV + SC

This pattern has a linking verb (LV) after the sentence's subject (S) and a subject complement (SC) at the conclusion. The subject of the statement is described using subject complements. They can be adjectives, nouns, or pronouns. The most frequent error used adverbs as subject complements, which was entirely incorrect. Only pronouns, nouns, and adjectives may be used as subject complements to change a sentence's subject. An illustration of this pattern can be found

here. It is true that *Robert Lewandowski plays football*. Football player (subject complement), is (linking verb), and Robert Lewandowski (subject).

3) S + Vt + dO

The transitive verb (Vt) comes after the subject (S) in the third pattern, and the direct object (dO) stops the sentence. The verb whose action influences the sentence's object is referred to as a transitive verb. In contrast, the direct object, which is a part of the sentence complement, is the person or thing that receives the action. "Leo is reading a car auto magazine" is an illustration of this pattern. Leo (subject) is reading a car magazine (direct object) (transitive verb).

4) S + Vt + dO + A

The transitive verb (Vt) comes after the subject (S) in the third pattern, and the direct object (dO) stops the sentence. The verb whose action influences the sentence's object is referred to as a transitive verb. In contrast, the direct object, which is a part of the sentence complement, is the person or thing that receives the action. *"Leo is reading a car auto magazine"* is an illustration of this pattern. Leo (subject) is reading a car magazine (direct object) (transitive verb).

5) S + Vt + dO + OC

The object complement is added at the end of the fourth pattern, which is comparable to the third pattern as well. The complement that backs up the sentence's immediate object is known as the object complement. The direct object in the sentence is further explained by the object complement. The object complement thus characterizes the appearance of the object. *"Ayong picks up his cousin Sandy"* is an example. Sandy (object complement), his cousin (direct object), Ayong (subject), and pick up (transitive verb).

6) S + Vt + iO + dO

The subject (S), transitive verb (Vt), indirect object (iO), and direct object (dO) come first in each of the six patterns. The transitive verb comes after the indirect object. Typically, nouns and pronouns, indirect objects indicate to whom or what the action is being performed and may not have a complete meaning on their own without the direct object. *"Mr. Anton teaches us mathematics"* is one example. We (indirect object), mathematics (direct object), Mr. Anton (subject), and teach (transitive verb).

7) S + Vi

The final pattern simply has two constituents: the intransitive verb (Vi) and the subject (S). Because just the intransitive verb—which does not require the direct object—follows the subject,

Quirk and Greenbaum categorize this pattern as the simplest. For instance, *"Willy is laughing."* "Is laughing" is an intransitive verb, and Willy is the subject. Thus, Quirk and Greenbaum classify each of the sentence pattern's nine symbols, which are used to record the patterns, based on the explanation of the sentence patterns given above. The 168 symbols that have been categorized are as follows.

S : Subject                    SC : Subject Complement
Vt : Transitive Verb           OC : Object Complement
Vi : Intransitive Verb         dO : Direct Object
A : Adverb                     iO : Indirect ObjectLV
: Linking Verb

## 7. Tree Diagram

A representation that mimics layers of components is called a tree diagram. The most common technique for showing a sentence's structure is the tree diagram (Veit 14). According to Crystal (494), a tree diagram is a two-dimensional diagram that is used in generative grammar to show the internal hierarchical structure of sentences that are generated by a set of rules. As a result, the tree diagram might show how sentence patterns are structured. Likewise, there are two different ways of building the tree diagram. One diagram is based on the traditional view, whereas the other is based on the widely held contemporary view. The following instances are given by O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba (191).
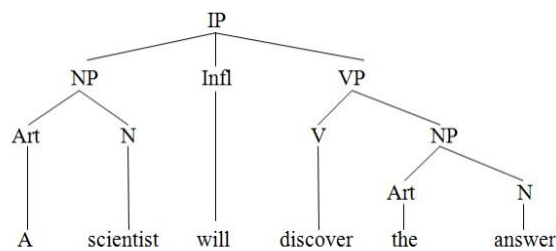
Therefore, the aforementioned figure demonstrates how S (sentence) differs from all other phrases. Because it lacks an internal structure consisting of a head, complement, and specifier, S (sentence) is unique (O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba 191). Linguists, according to O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba, think that S is the same as other sentences and has the structure shown below.
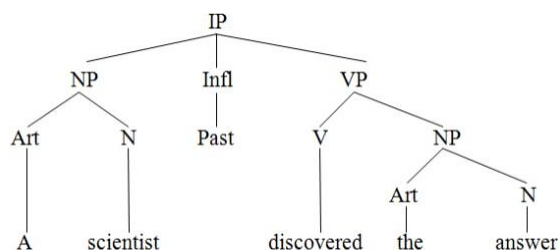


It is evident from the following diagram that the IP (Inflectional Phrase) serves as the phrase's head. According to O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba (191), sentences have an abstract category called "Infl," which is short for inflection, as their head and functions as the sentence's tense. To make it obvious whether a sentence is past tense or present tense in English, the inflection is

essential.

An auxiliary verb may show up in the head position when a sentence's tree diagram is being drawn, and it will be identified as the inflection category. For instance, the free forms can and will are regarded as "Infl" when they appear in the tree diagram. You can use auxiliary verbs in the head position.

IP
NP        Infl        VP
Art    N                V        NP
                                Art    N

A    scientist    will    discover    the    answer

## C.  METHOD

In this research, the researchers used qualitative research to analyze the data. Qualitative research is a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning (Shank 5). By systematic, it means that everything planned, ordered, and public, following rules agreed upon by members of the qualitative research community. By empirical, it means that this type of inquiry is grounded in the world of experience. Inquiry into meaning says researchers try to understand how others make sense of their experience. In the data of this research, there were 3 lyrics of Louis Tomlinson's songs. The data sources were Louis Tomlinson's album entitled *Walls*, this album was produced in 2020. The data were taken from the internet on 17 May 2021 with https://www.azlyrics.com/. The researchers chose 3 songs from **Walls** album from 12 songs, those were *Two of Us*, *Defenceless*, and *Kill My Mind*. The data were words and sentences in the songs. Likewise, there are five processes involved in gathering data for the study was You Tube lyric videos, the researchers first listened to three Louis Tomlinson songs from the album Walls. Second, in order to enable a thorough analysis, the researchers downloaded three lyric scripts from Louis Tomlinson's album "Walls" from the internet and fully transcribed them. Before creating the coding in accordance with the research objectives, the researchers examined every sentence in each song's lyric title that was used for the analysis. The findings were then grouped by the researchers based on theoretical elements. For classification purposes, examine the language and sentence constructions in Louis Tomlinson's "Walls" album lyrics. Fifth, the findings or necessary information for analysis were approved by the researchers. Referring to (Miles and Huberman 11) states the three stages of analyzing data such as data reduction, data display, and conclusion. The process of choosing, streamlining, abstracting, and modifying material inside transcriptions is known as data reduction. The researchers looked at every sentence that could be analyzed in the lyrics of three Louis

Tomlinson songs. that, the researchers looked at the sentences in every lyric, paying particular attention to those that showed new categories and sentence patterns. While conclusion drawing is the last step in the data interpretation process, data display is the gathering and arrangement of information to help generate conclusions.

## D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

## 1. Type of Sentences

## a. Simple Sentence

The simple sentences was the first sentence type to be examined. A simple sentence consists of one independent phrase or main sentence. One subject and one verb make up a simple sentence, which can function as an independent clause on its own. The most fundamental components are found in simple sentences. For it to stand alone, it needs a subject and a verb in the following pattern: *Subject + Verb/Linking Word. The* researchers collected five data sets of simple sentences. Here is an illustration of a short statement from a song's lyrics.

## Data 1. I can ease the pain
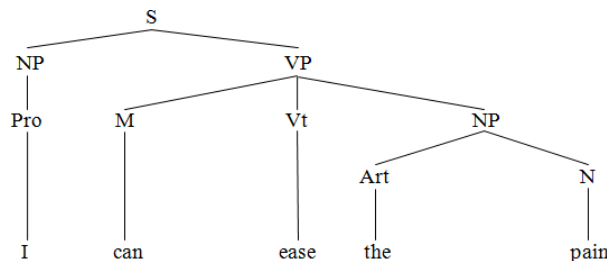


The sentence above presents a simple sentence with a single subject and a single verb. The analysis's conclusion indicates that the sentence above is made up of three constituents: the direct object "the pain," the transitive verb "ease," the modal verb "can," and the subject "I." Theoretically, the sentence that embodies those three components falls under the third sentence pattern (S + Vt + dO).

Noun phrases (NP) and verb phrases (VP) are the two main groups into which the sentence is separated in the tree diagram above. The pronoun "I" organizes the Noun Phrase (NP). For the Verb Phrase (VP), the Modal (M) "can," the Transitive Verb (Vt) "ease," and the Noun Phrase (NP) are created with the Article (Art) 'the" and the Noun (N) "pain".

### b. Complex Sentence

The second sentence type to be analysed is complex sentence. Complex sentence is the sentence containts one independent clause and one or more dependent clause with the following pattern such **(Subject + Verb/Linking Word/Modal + Object + Subordinating Conjunction + Subject + Verb/Linking Word + Object Compliment)**. There were 5 data of complex sentences found by the researchers. Below is an example of complex sentences found in the song lyric.
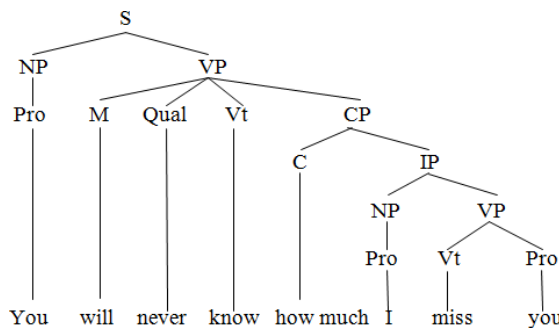


**Data 2.  You will never know how much I miss you**

In the above diagram that there is just one independent clause and one dependent clause, the statement above is regarded as complicated. Following sentence analysis, the researchers determine that pattern 3 is the sentence's pattern. The subject "I," the transitive verb "will never know how much," and the direct object in the form of a noun clause "I miss you" make up the phrase. When the components are put together, the phrase pattern 3 is created: **S + Vt + dO.** Additionally, the researchers discover that noun and verb phrases are the two main types of inflection phrases. NP => Pro "I" and VP => M "will" + Qual "never" + Vt "know" + CP => C "how much" + IP => NP Pro "I", VP => Vt "miss" + Pro "you" are the category structures.

### c. Sentence Patterns

A simple sentence is a tool used to construct a sentence. The many types of sentences—such as basic and complex sentences—are what help the writers create the right sentence structures. There are many distinct kinds and quantities of sentence patterns in English that have been suggested by various specialists. While some experts simply offered patterns, others suggested seven. Researchers discovered four data sets of language patterns based on Quirk and Greenbaum's theory.

**Sentence Pattern 3**: **S + Vt + dO**

The sentence pattern 3 is the second sort of sentence pattern that was examined. The transitive verb (Vt), which comes after the subject (S) and finishes with the direct object (dO), forms the sentence in this pattern. A transitive verb is one whose action influences the sentence's object. The direct object, on the other hand, is the person or thing that benefits from the action, such as when a sentence is completed. The researchers discovered five data points for sentence pattern 3. An illustration of sentence pattern 3 from the song's lyrics may be seen below.

### Data 3. You kill my mind
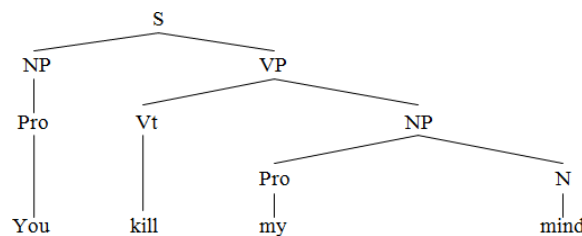


The simple sentences are shown in the diagram, where the sentence is constructed with a subject and verb pair. The subject "you," the transitive verb "kill," and the direct object "my mind" are the three primary components that make up the sentence. As a result, the third sentence pattern (S + Vt + dO) is created when the components are arranged grammatically.

In terms of grammatical structure, the noun phrase (NP) and the verb phrase (VP) split the sentence above. The structure of the phrases is as follows: the verb phrase contains the transitive verb "kill," the noun phrase (NP) of the pronoun (Pro) "my," and the noun phrase (NP) of the pronoun (Pro) "you."

## E. CONCLUSION

The researchers used syntax analysis to analyze the data in order to respond to the study question. The researchers identified the sentence types and patterns and created tree diagrams of the selected sentences. According to the data study, Louis Tomlinson's Walls album featured four patterns: two in the song "Kill My Mind," one in the song "Defenseless," and seven in the song "Two of Us." Patterns 2: S + LV + SC, 3: S + Vt + dO, 4: S + Vt + dO + A, and 5: S + Vt + dO + OC were those patterns. Thus, from the findings, pattern 3 is S + Vt + dO—is the most prevalent sentence pattern in Louis Tomlinson's song lyrics, appearing five times in each of the identified songs. Three patterns are ultimately not utilized at all: pattern 1 is $S + LV + A$, pattern 6 is $S + Vt + iO + dO$, and pattern 7 is $S + Vi$.

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