

## SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS OF PHRASES AND SENTENCES FOUND IN THE SONG'S LYRIC "THE WORLD'S SMALLEST VIOLIN" BY AJR

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### Abstract

*This study focuses on syntactic analysis on sentences and phrases in the song's lyrics "The World's Smallest Violin" by AJR using tree diagram theory. The aims of this study are to find out the types of the phrases used in AJR "The World's Smallest Violin" song lyrics and the sentence patterns used in AJR "The World's Smallest Violin" song lyrics. The object of this study is AJR's song lyrics entitle "The World's Smallest Violin". The method of this study is qualitative analysis. The technique of collecting the data through three steps. The steps include: (1) preparing and organizing, (2) coding, and (3) representing the data. The findings show that there are 22 sentences, 1 noun phrase, 4 verb phrases, 1 prepositional phrases, 1 adverb phrases, 7 conjunctive and 3 sentence bar in the lyrics. The most common pattern of sentences are  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$ .*

**Keywords:** syntactic analysis, tree diagram, song lyrics, AJR song

### A. INTRODUCTION

In linguistics, syntax is the study of the rules and principles that govern the structure of sentences in a language. It is a subfield of linguistics that focuses on the ways in which words and phrases are combined to form sentences, and how these sentences are related to one another within a larger discourse. As stated by Yule (2010: 96), syntax is a specific method of describing the structure of phrases and sentences. Radford (2004: 1) also stated that syntax is the study of the way in which phrases and sentences are structured out of words. Syntax plays a crucial role in how we communicate and understand language, as it determines the way in which words and phrases are arranged to convey meaning. It is an essential part of a language's grammar, which includes all the rules and conventions that govern the structure of sentences.

In this study, the writers chose Tree Diagrams as a mean to analyze verses in the song's lyric "The World's Smallest Violin" by AJR. Tree diagram is one of popular theory of syntactic analysis. Supported by Yule (2010: 99) tree diagram is one of the most common ways to create a visual representation of syntactic structure. It is very interesting if we are able to analyze sentences using tree diagrams. Tree Diagrams is sentences analysis by using internal hierarchical structure of sentences as generated by set of rules. There are some advantages of using Tree Diagrams. Bornstein (1977: 48) said that a

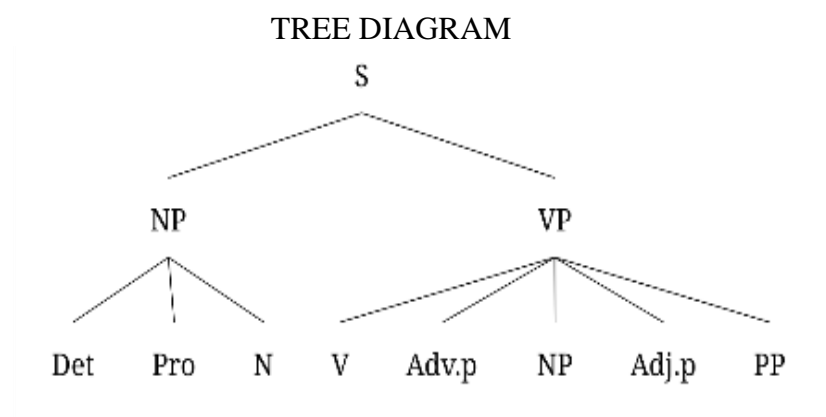
sentence is the basic unit of syntactic analysis which is easier to see the parts of phrases and subparts (parts of speech) of the sentence in a tree diagram.

The similar studies in this field had been conducted by Ma'rif and Pramudyawardhani (2017), and Daulay, Dalimunte, and Ningrum (2021) who analyzed the song lyrics. Ma'rif and Pramudyawardhani (2017) analyzed the sentences in the song lyrics of one direction album's *Made in the A.M.* and found 82 simple declarative sentences with the pattern  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$  appeared in 19 times. After that, the study conducted by Daulay, Dalimunte, and Ningrum (2021) analyzed the song lyrics in Josh Groban involved phrases and sentences. They used tree diagram theory in the study to describe the data. The results showed that there were 3 types of phrases found in the song lyrics which were 7 noun phrase (NP), 9 adverbial phrases (AP), and 9 verb phrases (VP). Furthermore, there were 3 sentence pattern in Josh Groban which were  $S \rightarrow N + VP$ ;  $S \rightarrow S1 \text{ Conj } S2$  ( $S1 \rightarrow N + P$ ,  $S2 \rightarrow N + VP$ ); and  $S \rightarrow S1 \text{ Conj } S2$  ( $S1 \rightarrow N + VP$ ,  $S2 \rightarrow N + VP$ ). There are also several studies conducted in syntax area with various object of research such as magazine (Halimah, 2016) which focused on syntactical structure in surface and deep structure in articles sentences of the magazine, and news article (Adriani & Bram, 2021) which focused on the sentence patterns and types used in shaping news articles.

## B. METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative research. According to Sugiyono (2016: 38) descriptive qualitative belongs to research methods based on the philosophy of postpositivism used to examine the condition of natural objects. In qualitative research, the researcher is the key instrument. The result of this qualitative research is in the form of description. The purpose of qualitative study is to understand something specifically, not always looking for the course and effect of something and to deepen comprehension about something studied.

In this study, the object analyzed was the song lyrics entitle "The World's Smallest Violin" by AJR with 58 total lyrics divided in 58 lines. However, there were 19 same lyrics which means didn't count as the data, so the total lyrics that analyzed was 39 lyrics. There are three steps employed in collecting data which are preparing and organizing; coding; and representing the data. First, the song lyrics was observed to find the phrases and sentences used. Second, the phrases and sentences found were categorized based on the theory proposed. Last, the tree diagram analysis used to analyze and describe the data. The example of the tree diagram as follow:



*Description:*

S : Sentence

NP : Noun Phrase

VP : Verb Phrase

Det : Determiners

Pro : Pronoun

N : Noun

V : Verb

Adv. P : Adverb Phrase

Adj. P : Adjective Phrase

#### D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

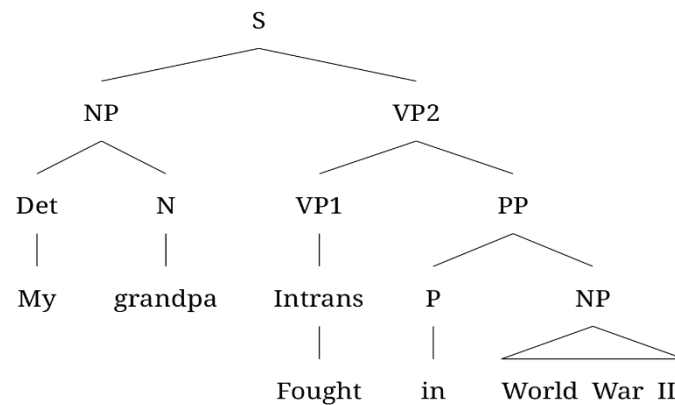
The findings show that there are 39 data found in the song lyrics that consist of Sentence (S), Noun Phrase (NP), Verb Phrase (VP), Prepositional Phrase (PP), Adverb Phrase (Adv.P), Conjunctive (Conj.), and S' (S-bar). The summary of the findings can be seen in the following table:

LIST OF PHRASES AND SENTENCES USED IN SONG

Sentences/Phrases	Count
S	22
NP	1
VP	4
PP	1
Adv.P	1
Conj.	7
S'	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

Based on the table, the song mostly uses Sentences in the lyrics (S = 22), followed by Conjunctive (C = 9), Verb Phrase (V = 4), and S' (S' = 3). The other phrases have 1 data for each category (NP, PP, and Adv.P). The explanation of the representative data as follows:

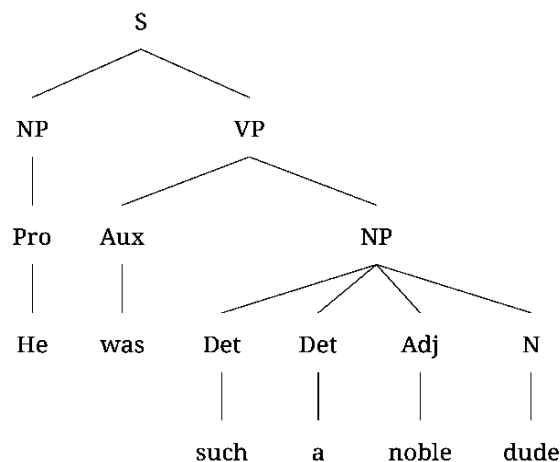
*Datum 1 (1<sup>st</sup> line of lyric): "My grandpa fought in World War II"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of noun phrase "My" as Possessive Determiner followed by "grandpa" as Noun and then followed by verb phrase that consist of Verb Phrase 2 in which there are also Verb Phrase 1  $\rightarrow$  Intrans of Fight  $\rightarrow$  "Fought" and then followed by Prepositional Phrase that contain Preposition "In" and then Noun Phrase "World War II"

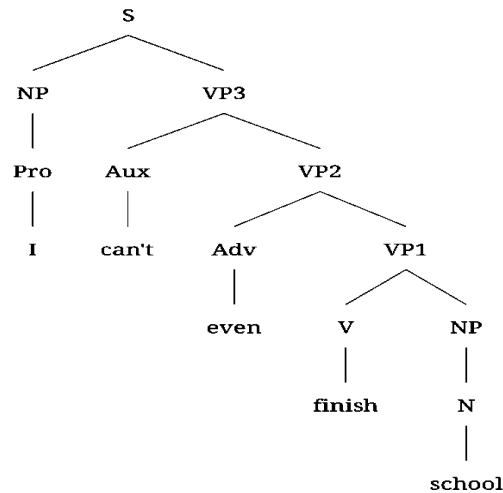
*Datum 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> line of lyric): "He was such a noble dude"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of noun phrase "He" as Pronoun and then followed by Verb Phrase that consist of Auxiliary "Was" in which there are also Noun Phrase that consist of Adjective Phrase "such a noble" and then followed by Noun "Dude"

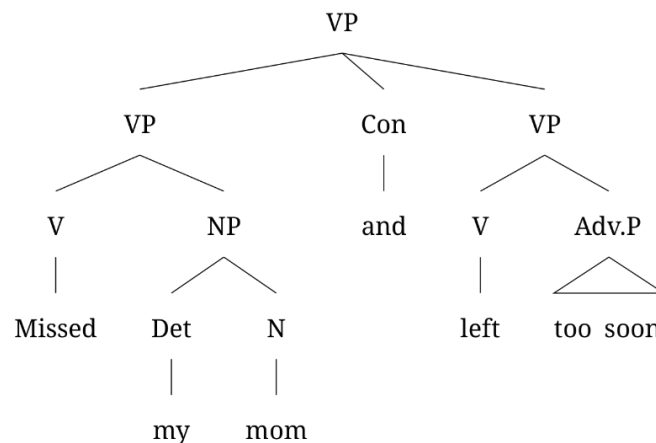
*Datum 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> line of lyric): "I can't even finish school"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of noun phrase "I" as Pronoun and then followed by Verb Phrase 3 that consist of Auxiliary "can't" in which there are also Verb Phrase 2 that consist of Adverb "even" and then followed by Verb Phrase 1 in which consist of verb "finish" and the Noun Phrase noun "school"

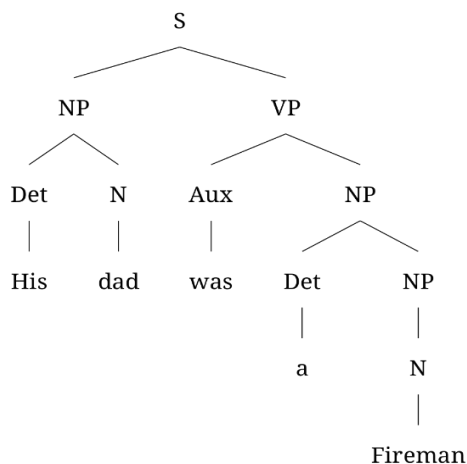
*Datum 4 (4<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "Missed my mom, and left too soon"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM  $VP \rightarrow VP + \text{CONJUNCTION (AND)} + VP$

The pattern of this diagram was a Conjunctive Verb Phrase consists of Verb Phrase in which contains Verb "Missed" and noun phrase "my" as Possessive determiner and Noun "mom" and then followed by conjunction "and" that function as a connector and after that followed by another Verb Phrase that consist of Verb "left" and also Adverb Phrase "too soon"

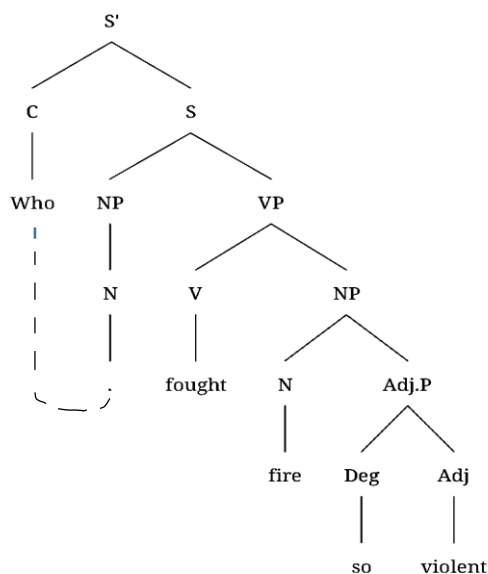
*Datum 5 (5<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "His dad was a fireman"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of noun phrase "His" as Possessive determiner and the noun "dad" and then followed by Verb Phrase that consist of Auxiliary "was" and Noun Phrase that consist of Determiner "a" and the noun "fireman"

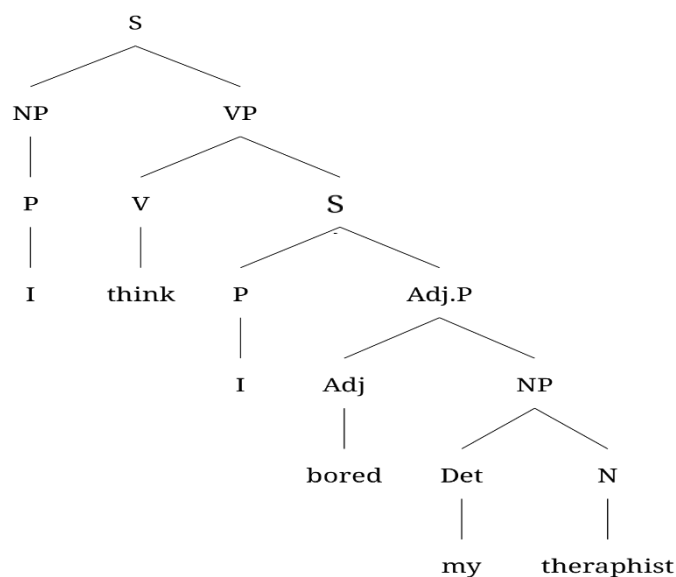
*Datum 6 (6<sup>th</sup> line of the lyric): "Who fought fires so violent"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S' \rightarrow C + S$

The pattern of this sentence bar consists of complementizer "who" as pronoun and sentence. The pattern of the sentence consist of Noun Phrase with Noun that has become "who" and move into complementizer position as in the diagram. Therefore, Noun in this sentence is written with dot ".". Then, it followed by Verb Phrase that consist of Verb "Fought" and Noun Phrase that consists of Noun "fire" and the adjective phrase "so violent" consists of "so" as Degree adverb and "violent" as adjective.

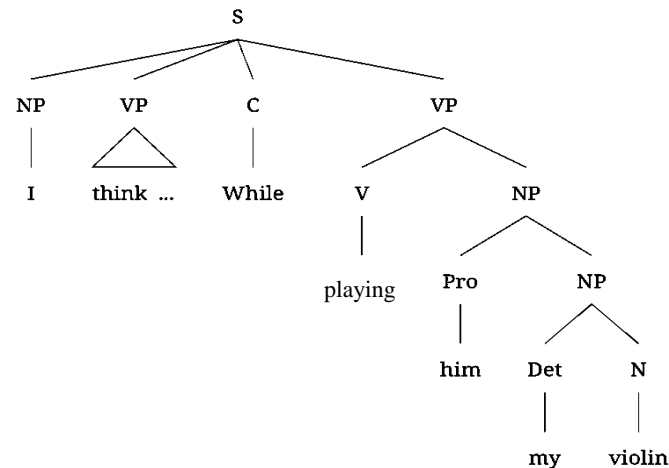
*Datum 7 (7<sup>th</sup> line of the lyric): "I think I bored my therapist"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of noun phrase "I" as Pronoun and then followed by Verb Phrase that consist of Verb "Think" and Noun Phrase that consist of Pronoun "I" and Adjective phrase that consist of Adjective "bored" and Noun Phrase that consist of Possessive Determiner "my" and the Noun "Therapist"

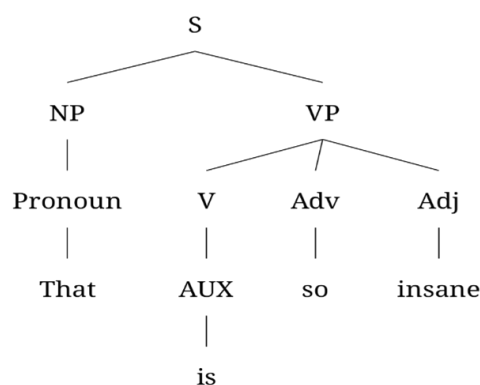
*Datum 8 (8<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "While playing him my violin"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP + C + VP$

This is a continuation of the previous line of lyric, The pattern of this phrase consists of Conjunction "while" that function as a connector between the previous line of lyric and this line of lyric, followed by another Verb Phrase is the combination between Adverb "While" and another Verb Phrase that is created from the combination of Verb "Playing" and Noun Phrases that consist of Determiner "him" and another Noun Phrase that consist of Possessive Determiner "my" and the Noun "violin"

*Datum 9 (9<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "That's so insane"*

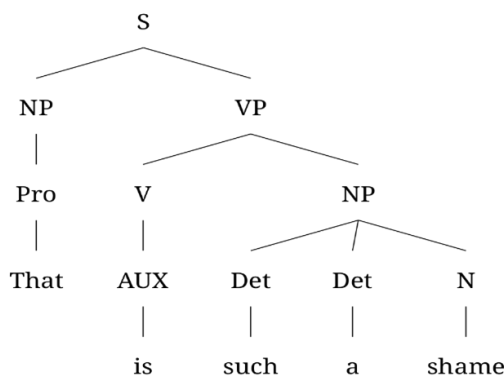


THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of Noun Phrase "That" as a pronoun, followed by Verb Phrase that consists of Verb "is", Adverb "so" and Adjective "insane"



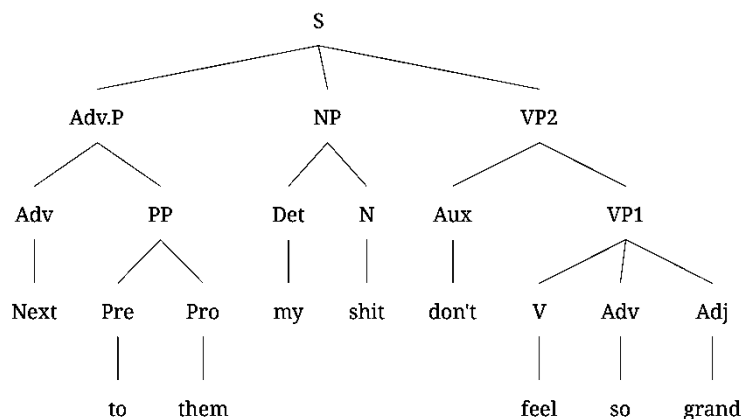
*Datum 10 (10<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "That's such a shame"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S \rightarrow NP + VP$

The pattern of this sentence consists of Noun Phrase "That" as a pronoun, followed by Verb Phrase that consists of Verb "is", Noun Phrase that consist of Determiner "Such" Article Determiner "a" and the Noun "shame"

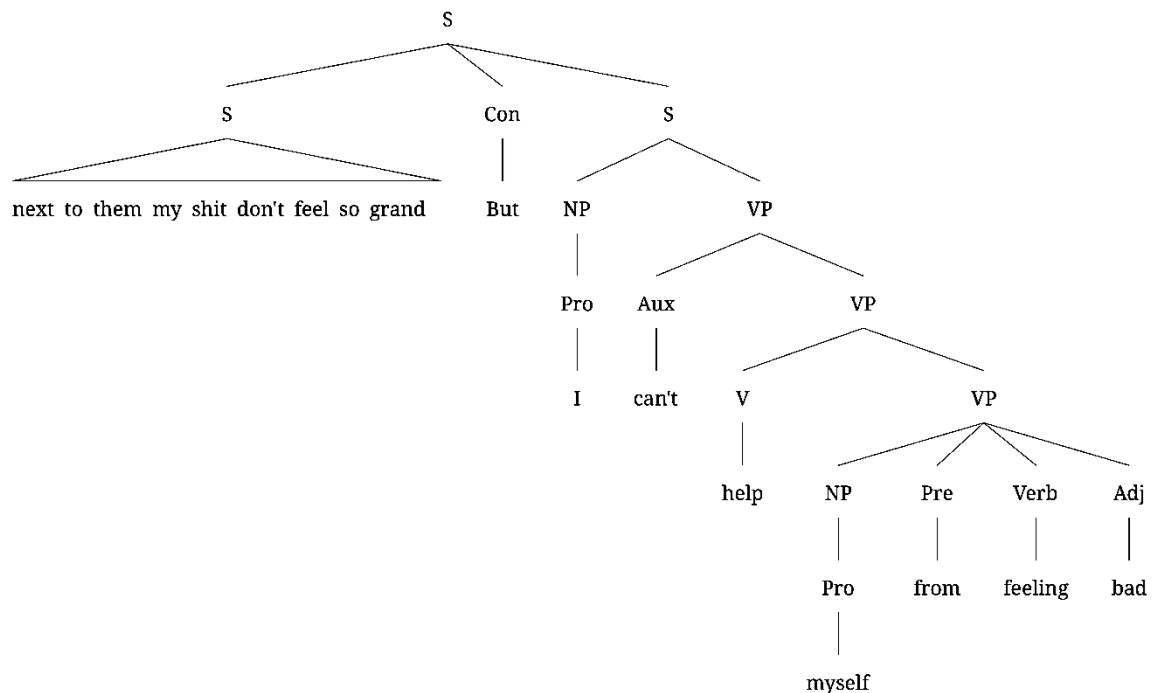
*Datum 11 (11<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "Next to them, my shit don't feel so grand"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $S \rightarrow ADV.P + NP + VP$

The pattern of this Sentence consists of Adverb Phrase "Next" as an Adverb, and Prepositional Phrase in which "to" as a Preposition and "them" as a Pronoun, followed by Noun Phrase "My" as Possessive Determiner and Noun "Shit", followed by Verb Phrases "Don't" as auxiliary verb and another Verb Phrase that consist of Verb "feel", and "so" as an Adverb and "grand" as Adjective

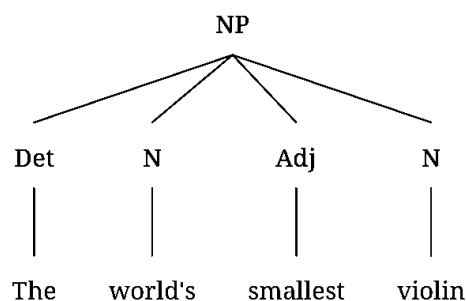
*Datum 12 (12<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "But I can't help myself from feeling bad"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS: C, S  $\rightarrow$  NP + VP

This line of lyric is the continuation of the previous line of lyric. The pattern of this diagram consists of Conjunction "but" as a connector between this sentence of lyric to the sentence from the previous line of lyric, followed by Sentence that consists of Noun Phrase "I" as Pronoun and Verb Phrases "can't" as auxiliary verb and another Verb Phrase that consist of Verb "help", and another Verb phrase that consist of Noun Phrase "myself" as pronoun and followed by Preposition "from", "feeling" as a Verb and "bad" as Adjective

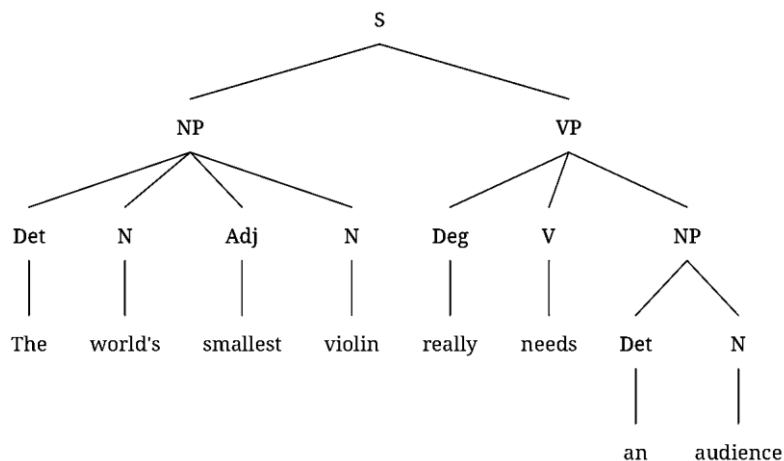
*Datum 13 (14<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "The world's smallest violin"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS: NP  $\rightarrow$  Det + N + Adj + N

This lyrics belongs to phrases called Noun Phrase. The pattern of Noun Phrase consists of Determiner "The" in the form of article, Noun "world's", Adjective "smallest", and Noun "violin". The last noun in the phrase is the head, so the category of the phrase is Noun Phrase.

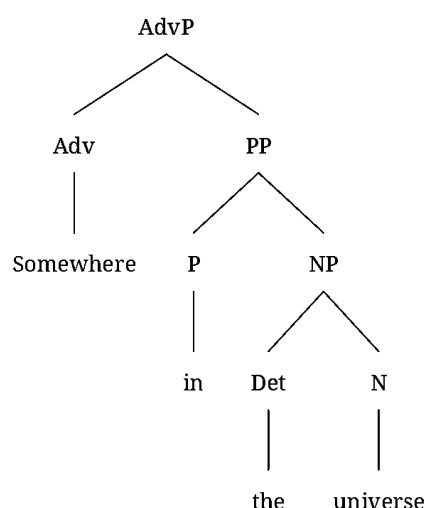
*Datum 14 (15<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "Really needs an audience"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS: VP → Deg + V + NP (Det + N)

This line of lyric is the continuation of the previous line of lyric and form a complete sentence if they are combined together. The phrase of this lyric is Verb Phrase consists of Degree Adverb "really", Verb "needs", followed by Noun Phrase consists of Determiner "an" in the form of article and Noun "audience".

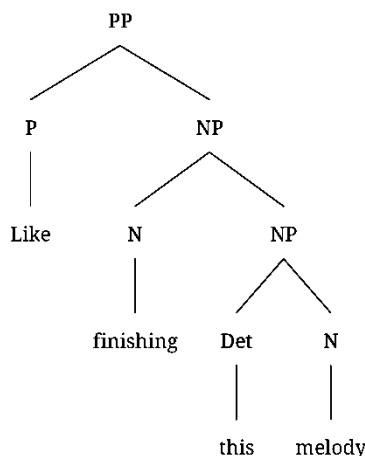
*Datum 15 (39<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "Somewhere in the universe"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS: AdvP → Adv + PP

The phrase of the lyric in line 39 is Adverb Phrase consists of Adverb "Somewhere" and Prepositional Phrase in which "in" as a Preposition, followed by Noun Phrase that "the" as Determiner and "universe" as Noun.

*Datum 16 (32<sup>th</sup> line of lyric): "Like finishing this melody"*



THE FORMULA OF THE DIAGRAM IS:  $PP \rightarrow P + NP$

This lyrics belongs to phrases called Prepositional Phrase since the word "Like" categorized as Preposition. The pattern of the phrase consists of "Like" as Preposition, followed by "finishing" as Noun in the form of gerund. Then, it has Noun Phrase in which "this" as Determiner, and "melody" as Noun.

## E. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, writers can conclude that in the song's lyric "The World's Smallest Violin" by AJR, the most common occurrences are in the form of sentences which are 22 sentences found in the lyric. The most common pattern of the sentences in the song's lyric "The world's smallest violin" by AJR are  $S \rightarrow NP+VP$ . The other pattern of the sentences are  $S \rightarrow NP+VP_2+VP_1$ , and  $S \rightarrow Adv.P+NP+VP$ .

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