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## A SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS OF PHRASES USED IN SONG LYRICS OF DREAM BY BABYMONSTER

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### Abstrak

*Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis sintaksis frasa yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Dream oleh Babymonster, menggunakan Bottom-up Tree Diagram Carnie sebagai kerangka analisis. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengklasifikasikan jenis dan menentukan frekuensi frasa dalam lirik tersebut. Dilakukan melalui pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, metode pengumpulan data meliputi observasi, dokumentasi, dan daftar periksa. Analisis ini mengidentifikasi lima jenis frasa sesuai teori Carnie: frasa nomina (65), frasa verba (51), frasa adverbial (16), frasa preposisional (11), dan frasa adjektiva (7), dengan total 150 frasa. Jumlah yang signifikan ini menunjukkan kekayaan sintaksis dalam lirik lagu tersebut, yang memperkuat nilainya sebagai sumber kajian linguistik dan bahan pendidikan. Pemilihan lagu Dream didasarkan pada kompleksitas liriknya dan signifikansi budayanya, yang menggambarkan bagaimana musik dapat menjadi media yang efektif untuk pembelajaran bahasa. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada bahan ajar untuk mata kuliah Sintaksis dengan menawarkan wawasan praktis dalam menganalisis dan memahami struktur frasa dalam teks otentik, serta menyoroti potensi lirik lagu sebagai alat linguistik yang menarik.*

**Kata kunci:** Analisis, Dream, Frasa, Lagu

### Abstract

This study focuses on the syntactical analysis of phrases found in the song lyrics of Dream by Babymonster, using Carnie's Bottom-up Tree Diagram as the analytical framework. The research aims to classify the types and determine the frequency of phrases within the lyrics. The data collection methods were conducted through a qualitative descriptive approach involving observation, documentation, and checklists. The analysis identified all five types of phrases outlined in Carnie's theory: noun phrases (65), verb phrases (51), adverb phrases (16), prepositional phrases (11), and adjective phrases (7), amounting to a total of 150 phrases. This significant number underscores the syntactical richness of the lyrics, establishing their value as a resource for linguistic studies and educational purposes. The selection of Dream was based on its intricate lyrics and cultural significance, illustrating how music can serve as an effective medium for language learning. The study contributes to teaching materials for Syntax courses by offering practical insights into analyzing and comprehending phrase structures in authentic texts, highlighting the potential of song lyrics as an engaging linguistic tool.

**Keywords:** Analysis, Dream, Phrases, Song

## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, songs serve as a medium for individuals to express their emotions. Through music, people can experience a range of feelings such as happiness or sadness, depending on the type of song they listen to. According to Jeff (in Fitroh, 2019), music is not a natural occurrence like air or sand; it is a creation of humans. Songs offer numerous benefits, one of which is helping people learn languages.

Language plays a crucial role in human life. According to Novari et al. (2021), language serves as a fundamental tool for communication and interaction. In education area, a language which learned at school is English. English is an important global language, widely used as an international medium of communication (Gumelar, 2018). To effectively use English, a solid understanding of linguistics especially Syntax is necessary. This ensures a clear comprehension of how to interpret the language we use.

Chomsky (in Fitroh, 2019) defines syntax as the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in a specific language. Syntax is a fundamental aspect of linguistics because it examines the rules governing the combination of words into phrases, clauses, and sentences. A phrase, as part of syntactic study, is a small group of words that does not form a complete sentence. Phrases can be analyzed into constituents, each with a specific function and realization.

Several previous researches have examined phrases in similar contexts. One such study, “A Syntactical Analysis of Phrases Used in Josh Groban Song Lyrics” by in, identified three types of phrases and three sentence patterns in Josh Groban’s song lyrics using Bornstein’s tree diagram method. Another study by Halimah (2016), “The Syntactical Structure in Hello Magazine,” found two types of phrases using the theory of Chinese boxes.

The gap issue in this study lies in its unique focus on the syntactical analysis of phrases specifically in the song lyrics of “Dream” by Babymonster, which has not been analyzed in previous research. While earlier studies, such as Daulay et al. (2021) and Halimah (2016), examined phrases in other contexts like Josh Groban’s song lyrics or Hello magazine using methods like Bornstein’s tree diagram or the Chinese boxes theory, this research introduces two distinct novelties. First, it targets “Dream” by Babymonster, a song with unique content and cultural significance that remains unexplored in existing syntactical analyses. Second, it applies the Bottom-up tree diagram by Carnie, a methodological approach that has not been used in similar studies. This combination of a novel research object and an innovative analytical

method fills a significant gap in the field, contributing to the corpus of research on K-pop lyrics and advancing the application of syntactical analysis techniques.

Based on the background description above, the author is interested in conducting the research entitled “A Syntactical Analysis of Phrases Used in Song Lyrics of Dream by Babymonster.”

## **2. Research Method**

The research method employed in this research is a qualitative descriptive method. Saunders et al. (2023) defines qualitative research methods delve into and offer a comprehensive contextual understanding of real-world issues, encompassing individuals' beliefs, viewpoints, and experiences. Qualitative data primarily consist of textual forms such as descriptions, observations, impressions, recordings, and similar types of qualitative evidence (Ary et al. in Fitroh, 2019). In this research, the author analyzed song lyrics to identify and categorize the phrases used. The findings were then presented systematically to facilitate clear comprehension of the finding.

In this research, the object analyzed was the song lyrics entitle “Dream” by Babymonster from Genius website with total 45 lines. 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. Second, the phrases found were categorized based on the theory proposed. Last, the tree diagram analysis used to analyze and describe the data.

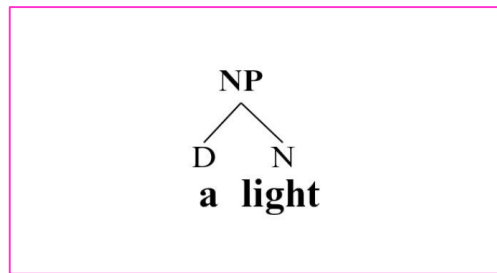
## **3. Findings and Discussion**

### **3.1. Finding**

#### **3.1.1. The Type of Phrases**

From 45 line of Dream song lyrics, the author found five type of phrases based on Carnie theory. Those are noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), adjective phrase (AdjP), Adverb phrase (AdvP), and prepositional phrase (pp). The finding of each types of phrases can see in the following below.

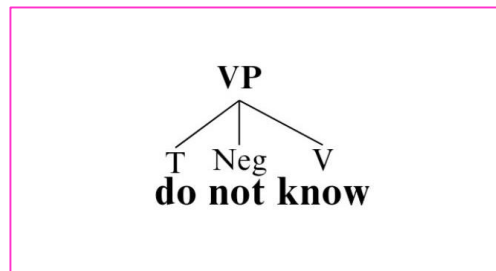
1) Noun Phrase (NP)



**Figure 1.** Tree Diagram of Noun Phrase found in Dream Song lyrics

The Figure 1. is one example of noun phrase found in subject. Based on the picture, the noun phrase found is “a light” which consist of a determiner and a noun. To found the other NP, the author used the same way like Figure 1. NPs found in the subject usually consist with only one noun or a determiner with a noun.

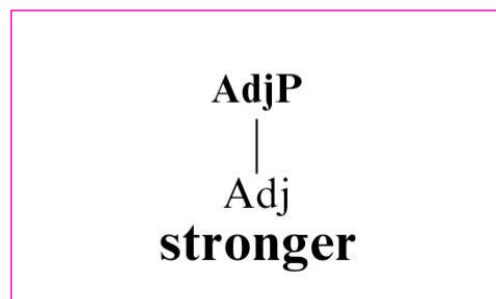
2) Verb Phrase (VP)



**Figure 2.** Tree Diagram of Verb Phrase Found in Dream Song lyrics

The Figure 2. is one example of verb phrase found in subject. Based on the picture, the verb phrase found is “do not know” which consist of auxiliary and a verb. To found the other VP, the author used the same way like Figure 2. VPs found in the subject usually consist with only one verb or an auxiliary with a verb.

3) Adjective phrase (AdjP)

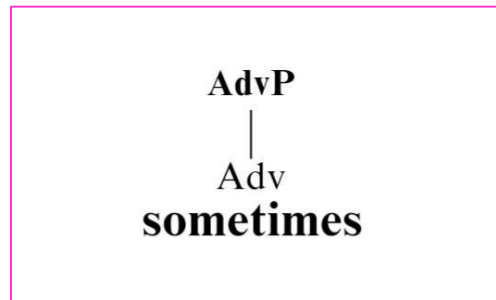


**Figure 3.** Tree Diagram of Adjective Phrase found in Dream Song lyrics

The Figure 3. is one example of adjective phrase found in subject. Based on the picture, the verb phrase found is “stronger” which consist of an adjective. To found the

other AdjP, the author used the same way like Figure 3. AdjPs found in the subject usually consist with only one adjective.

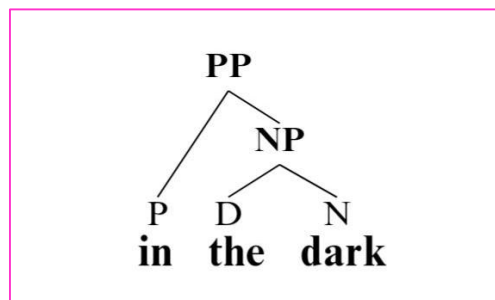
4) Adverb phrase (AdvP)



**Figure 4.** Tree Diagram of Adverb Phrase found in Dream Song lyrics

The Figure 4. is one example of adverb phrase found in subject. Based on the picture, the adverb phrase found is “sometimes” which consist of an adverb. To found the other AdvP, the author used the same way like Figure 4. AdvPs found in the subject usually consist with only one adverb.

5) Prepositional phrase (PP)



**Figure 5.** Tree Diagram of Prepositional Phrase found in Dream Song lyrics

The Figure 5. is one example of adverb phrase found in subject. Based on the picture, the prepositional phrase found is “in the dark” which consist of a preposition with a noun phrase. To found the other PP, the author used the same way like in Figure 5. PPs found in the subject usually consist with a preposition with a noun or a noun phrase.

### 3.1.2. The Sum of Phrases

The total sum of each type varies in the data. The author found 65 instances of noun phrases across all lines, 51 of verb phrases, 7 of AdjP, 16 of AdvP, and 141 of PP. The cumulative sum of data for each type can be viewed in the following table:

Table 1. The Sum of Phrases in Dream by Babymonster

No	Type of Phrases	The Sum
1.	Noun Phrases	65
2.	Verb Phrases	51
3.	Adjective Phrase	7
4.	Adverb Phrase	16
5.	Prepositional Phrase	11
<b>The sum of all phrases</b>		150

Based on the Table 1, there are 150 phrases found in subject. The most type phrase found in subject is noun phrase (NP).

### 3.2. Discussion

#### 3.2.1. The Types of Phrases in Dream by Babymonster Song Lyrics

##### 1) Noun Phrase (NP)

There are several NP found in the subject, such as:

- a) The first pattern of NP found is consisted of a noun, namely “I”. This line with Carnie (2021), who claimed that a noun phrase is a phrase contained only a noun as the simplest form. In previous research byFitroh 92019), also found the same NP pattern which consisted with “I”. The same NP pattern also found in “we” (line 26 and 28) and “you” (line 23). “We” and “you” is NP which consisted with a noun.
- b) The next NP found is “a light”, which consisted of “a” as the determiner and “light” as the noun. It called NP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that one possible pattern of noun phrase consisted of determiner + noun. This pattern also found in other lines, such as “a promise” in line 7, a hundred in line 24, “a million” in line 24, “a rise” in line 31,” a fly” in line 32, and “a game” in line 41. In previous research by Christianto (2018), also found the same NP pattern which is “a book”.
- c) The pattern “determiner + noun” also found in other lines, but the type of determiner is different. The determiner used is “the” which is found in line 3 (the dark), line 4 (the rain), line 4 (the pain), line 22 (the one), line 26 (the sky), line 28 (the lights). “The” is the determiner and “dark, rain, pain, one,

sky, lights” is the noun. The same pattern of this NP also found in previous research by Daulay et al. (2021). The NP found is “the silence” which consisted of “the” as article and “silence” as the noun.

- d) The pattern “determiner + noun” also found in other lines, but the type of determiner is different. The determiner used is “that” which is found in line 20 “that fire”. This type consisted of “that” as the determiner and “fire” as the noun.
- e) The pattern “determiner + noun” also found in other lines, but the determiner is different. The determiner used is “my” which found in “my wings” in line 12, 32 and 37, “my heart” in line 14 and 39, “my dream” in line 18 and 45, “my eyes” in line 20 and 29, “my head” in line 31, and “my life” in line 41. The same structure also found in previous research by Halimah (2016) which found “the winter” as one of noun phrases.
- f) The pattern “determiner + noun” also found in other lines, but the determiner is different. The determiner used is “no” which found in “no sleep” (line 21), “no billion” (line 24), “no kidding” (line 25), and “no ceiling” (line 25). It lines with Carnie (2021:52--53) who stated that nouns can be negated by no (as opposed to not or un-).
- g) The next NP found is “cross hearts”. This became a noun phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that noun can also be optionally modified by adjectives. In this case, “cross” is the adjective and the noun is “hearts”. The pattern adjective + noun also found in previous research by Halimah (2016) which found “best mom” as one of noun phrases.
- h) The next NP found is “all of the lights”. This NP consisted of noun + prepositional phrase. stated that nouns can also take prepositional phrase (PP) modifiers. “All” is noun and “of the light” is the prepositional phrase. This pattern also found in previous research by Halimah (2016). The NP found is “news of the baby”, “news” as the noun and “of the baby” as the post-modifier.
- i) The next NP also consisted of a noun with a prepositional phrase, which found in line 26 “stars in the sky”. “Stars” is noun and “in the sky” is the prepositional phrase.

## 2) Verb Phrase

The author found several verb phrases in the subject, including:

- a) The first VP found is “do not know” which consisted of an auxiliary verb or tense (T) “do” (negated and contracted with “not”) and the main verb “know”. The same structure of VP also found in line 40 (do not care) which have “care” as the main verb. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by T with negative form (not) as modifier. The same pattern of VP also found in line 40 “do not care”.
- b) The next VP found is “doubting myself again”. “Doubting” is the main verb, “myself” is the noun, and “again” is the adverb. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun and adverb as modifier.
- c) The next VP found is “cannot find a light”. “Can” served as the modal auxiliary verb or tense (T) and “not” indicates negation. The main verb is “find”. The post-modifier, “a light” completed the verb. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by T with negative form (not) as modifier.
- d) The next VP found is “am finding myself”. In the phrase, “am” is the auxiliary verb or tense (T). “Finding” is the main verb. “Myself” serves as the post-modifier of the verb. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb.
- e) The next VP found is “to get out”. “Get out” is the main verb and “to” is pre-modifier. This verb phrase is infinitive or base form verb. Carnie (2021) stated that the form of a verb found in a non-finite clause is called the infinitive. The same pattern of VP also found in line 14, 39 “to follow”, line 17 “to be”, and line 22 “to ride.
- f) “Trying to get out”. “Trying” is the main verb in its present participle form, indicating an attempt or effort. The infinitive phrase “to get out” functions as a complement, specifying what the subject is attempting to do. Carnie (2021) stated that present participles in English are always marked with -ing.
- g) The next VP found is “have come”. “Have” is the auxiliary verb or tense (T)



and “come” is the main verb. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb. The same pattern of VP also found in line 17 “was born to be”.

- h) The next VP found is “know that i have come so far”. “Know” serves as the main verb. “That I have come so far” serves as the modifier of the verb which build a complementizer phrase because “that” is a mark of it. Carnie (2021) stated that the VP rule can take a complementizer phrase under it.
- i) The next VP found is “made a promise”. “Made” serves as the main verb. “A promise” is noun phrase which functions as the complement, specifying what was made. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun or noun phrase as modifier. The same pattern of VP also found in line 7 “made a promise”, line 12 and 37 “found my wings”, line 24 “keep it”, and line 27 “envisioned it” and “pictured it
- j) The next VP found is “will never run and hide”. “Will” serves as the modal auxiliary verb indicating future tense. “Never” functions as an adverb modifying the verb phrase. “Run and hide” collectively forms the main verb phrase. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb.
- k) The next VP found is “am getting stronger” which found in line 8, 9, 11, 33, 34, and 35. “Am” serves as the auxiliary verb or tense (T) indicating present tense, specifically the present progressive aspect, expressing an ongoing action. “Getting” is the main verb, describing the process of becoming “stronger”. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb. Carnie (2021) also claimed that verbs may be modified by adverbs. The same pattern of VP also found in line 45 “am waking up”.
- l) The next VP found is “let go” which found in line 13 and line 38. “Let” is the main verb. “Go” acts as a complement, specifying the action being permitted, indicating movement or departure. Carnie (2021) stated that the verb phrase (VP) minimally a VP consists of a single verb. In this case, there are two verbs found which are “let” and “go”. So, they can categorize as a verb phrase (VP).

- m) The next VP found is “decided to follow my heart” in line 14 and line 39. “Decided” is the main verb. The infinitive phrase “to follow my heart” functions as a post-modifier or complement, specifying what the decision entails. Carnie (2021) stated that the past tense is typically marked with an -ed suffix or the verb comes with a special past tense form.
- n) The next VP found is “was born to be”. “Was” is the auxiliary verb or tense (T) indicating past tense, while “born” is the main verb. “To be” is an infinitive complement, specifying the purpose or intended state. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb.
- o) The next VP found is “waking up”. “Waking up” qualifies as a verb phrase because it includes a main verb, “waking,” which serves as the head word, and is modified by an adverbial particle, “up.” Carnie (2021) claimed that verbs may be modified by adverbs.
- p) The next VP found is “keep them lullabies”. “Keep” serves as the main verb. “Them” is a pronoun, and “lullabies” is a noun. “Them lullabies” acts as post-modifier. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun or noun phrase as modifier.
- q) The next VP found is “have been the one to ride”. “Have” is auxiliary verb that indicate the present perfect continuous tense. “The one to ride” is a noun phrase functioning as the post-modifier or complement. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun or noun phrase as modifier.
- r) The next VP found is “will see you later”. “Will” is the auxiliary verb indicating future tense, while “see” is the main verb. The phrase “you later” serves as the modifiers, where “you” is the noun phrase acting as the object and “later” is an Adverb Phrase specifying time. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb. Carnie (2021) also claimed that verbs may be modified by adverbs.
- s) The next VP found is “keep it a hundred”. In this phrase, “keep” is the main verb. The pronoun “it” acts as the direct object, and “a hundred” functions

as a complement, providing additional information about the manner in which “it” is to be kept. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun or noun phrase as modifier.

- t) The next VP found is “breathe and live” in line 30. Both “breathe” and “live” function as main verbs. The conjunction “and” serves as a coordinating conjunction, linking the two main verbs within the verb phrase. It called VP based on Carnie (2021) stated that the verb phrase (VP) minimally a VP consists of a single verb.
- u) The next VP found is “let it die” in line 30. “Let” serves as the main verb. The noun phrase “it” acts as the direct object of the verb. Finally, “die” functions as the complement, completing the action described by the verb “let”. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun or noun phrase as modifier.
- v) The next VP found is “lift up my head” in line 31. The main verb “Lift” serves as the head word. “Up” functions as an adverb, providing additional detail about the direction of the action. “My head” constitutes a noun phrase, specifying the object of the action. While “lift” stands alone as the main verb, the inclusion of “up” and the noun phrase “my head” modify and complement the action, respectively. It called VP based on Carnie (2021), which stated that verb can also take noun and adverb as modifier. The same pattern of VP also found in line 32 “spread out my wings”.
- w) The next VP found is “fly high” in line 32. “Fly” serves as the main verb, “high” functions as an adverbial modifier, specifying the manner or extent of the action. Carnie (2021) claimed that verbs may be modified by adverbs.
- x) The next VP found is “going to run away” in line 32. The main verb “run” is preceded by two auxiliary verbs, “going to”, which together indicate future intention or plan. “Away” is an adverb, providing additional information about the direction of the action. Carnie (2021) stated that present participles in English are always marked with -ing.
- y) The next VP found is “do not wake me up” in line 42. “Do” functions as the auxiliary verb or tense (T), indicating negation in this context, while “not” modifies it. “Wake” serves as the main verb. “Me” as the pronoun, and “up”

serves as an adverbial modifier indicating direction. This became a verb phrase based on Carnie (2021), who claimed that the verb phrase can build by tense (T) and a verb. Carnie (2021) also claimed that verbs may be modified by adverbs. The same pattern of VP also found in line 42, 44, 45.

### **3) Adjective Phrase (AdjP)**

In the subject, the author found some adjective phrase with same pattern. The first is “stronger”, this AdjP pattern is consisted of an adjective. This line with Carnie (2021), who claimed that one of possible pattern of an adjective phrase is consisted with an adjective. The same AdjP pattern also found in line 8, 9, 11, 33, 34, 36.

### **4) Adverb Phrase (AdvP)**

In the subject, the author found some adjective phrase, there are:

- a) The first pattern of AdvP found is consisted of an adjective, namely “Sometimes” in line 1. This line with Carnie (2021), who claimed that an adverb phrase can contain only an adverb as the simplest form. The same structure of AdvP also found in line 12,15, 37, 43, 44 which have “finally” as the main adverb, in line 17, 27, 30 which have “just” as the main adverb, and in line 42 which have “never” as the main adverb.
- b) The second AdvP found in subject is “so far” in line 6. The head of this AdvP is “far” as main adverb. Carnie (2021), claimed that one of possible patterns of adjective phrase consisted of a pre-modifier + adverb. “So” acts as the pre-modifier because appeared before the main adverb “far”. Therefore, “so far” qualified as an Adverb Phrase according to the criteria set by Carnie theory.

### **5) Prepositional Phrase (PP)**

In the subject, the author found some adverb phrases, there are:

- a) The first PP found in subject is “in the dark” in line 6. This structure is constructed with preposition and a noun phrase based on Carnie theory. The preposition is “in” and the noun phrase is “the dark” (Carnie, 2021). This same structure is found in all prepositional phrases in the subjects, except in line 13, 28, and 38.
- b) The next PP is found in line 13, 28 and 38. The PP consisted of a preposition “of” and a noun “everything”. In line 38, the preposition is “of” and the noun is

“the lights”.

Based on the finding analyzed with Carnie's theory, there are five types of phrases were consistently found: noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase, and prepositional phrase.

### **3.2.2. The Sum of Phrases in Dream by Babymonster Song Lyrics**

A phrase is a compact group of words that doesn't qualify as a sentence. The analysis of phrases using Carnie's theory reveals variations in each line of the subject. Carnie's theory identifies five types of phrases: noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase, and prepositional phrase. Each line in the subjects contains different types of phrases.

The analysis of “Dream” by Babymonster song lyrics revealed a total of 150 phrases of various types distributed across each line. The first type identified was noun phrase (NP), which appeared once in lines 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, 29, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 45. It occurred twice in lines 3, 20, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 41, and four times in line 24, totaling 65 instances across all lines. The second type, verb phrase (VP), totaled 51 occurrences and was found in lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 45. It appeared twice in lines 6, 7, 22, 27, 32, 42, 43, and 44. The third type, Adjective Phrase (AdjP), occurred 7 time which found in line 8, 9, 11, 22, 33, 34, and 36. Adverb Phrase (AdvP), was identified in lines 6, 12, 15, 16, 17, 27, 27, 30, 35, 37, 42, 43, and 45, totaling 16 instances. The final type, prepositional phrase (PP), occurred 11 times and was found in lines 3, 4, 5, 13, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28, and 38.

## **4. Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the research titled "Linguistic Phrasing in K-pop Lyrics: A Syntactical Examination of Babymonster's 'Dream'", the study focused on analyzing the types and total occurrences of phrases in the song lyrics. The analysis revealed that phrases appeared in all 45 lines of the lyrics. Following Carnie's theory, the study identified five phrase types: noun phrase (NP), verb phrase (VP), adjective phrase (AdjP), adverb phrase (AdvP), and prepositional phrase (PP). In total, 150 phrases were identified, with NP being the most frequent (65 occurrences), followed by VP (51), AdvP (16), PP (11), and AdjP (7).

The author suggests that the findings can be used by teachers, lecturers, and students as educational material, particularly for studying phrases in syntax. Additionally, this research can serve as a reference for future studies focusing on phrase analysis and syntactical structures.

The study also encourages future research to explore practical methods for teaching and learning phrases more effectively.

For further improvement, the author highlights the need for more specific guidance on future research directions, such as investigating phrase usage in various genres or developing innovative teaching tools for syntax education. Practical applications of the findings, such as integrating song lyrics into language learning curricula, should also be elaborated. Finally, a reflection on the limitations of this study, such as its focus on a single song and reliance on qualitative methods, is recommended to provide a clearer context for future research.

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