



## Types and Meanings of Idiomatic Expressions in Justin Bieber's Songs

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**Abstract.** This research delves into the linguistic intricacies of Justin Bieber's *Justice* album, employing a comprehensive documentation analysis approach. The study aims to identify and categorize idiomatic expressions within the album, utilizing Fernando's (1996) typology, and subsequently, to explore the associated meanings through Leech's (1981) semantic framework. The research spans a ten-month period from March to December 2023, with a primary focus on idioms in the song lyrics. Through meticulous examination of a diverse range of idiomatic expressions, including pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms, the study unveils the prevalence and diversity of figurative language in Bieber's songwriting. Furthermore, an in-depth analysis of idioms' meanings reveals a predominance of connotative meanings, underscoring the album's richness in emotional and contextual nuances. The research not only advances our understanding of idiomatic expressions but also contributes to broader linguistic and pedagogical contexts. The findings offer valuable insights for English language learners, educators, and researchers, emphasizing the incorporation of contemporary music in language acquisition and the nuanced exploration of meaning types within idioms.

**Keywords:** Idiom; Idiomatic Expression; Justice Album; Meaning; Song.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

Idioms became an important area of study in recent years, with various studies focusing on their role in language learning and communication (Maisa & Karunakaran, 2013). According to Tran (2013), idioms attracted great attention from English learning researchers, particularly in assessing how well Asian language learners acquired and used idioms in communication. The use of idioms was widely believed to help learners promote an innovative communication environment, influencing the learning process of a foreign language and providing better conditions to improve communicative skills in daily contexts (Rafatbakhsh & Ahmadi, 2019). Therefore, idioms became a part of universal communication, and their use was considered essential for language learners to achieve fluency and natural expression (Je, 2015).

Despite the essentials of understanding idioms in communication, challenges were associated with them. These challenges stemmed from the figurative nature of idioms, which often departed from the literal meanings of their individual words. For non-native speakers and language learners, deciphering idiomatic expressions was like solving a puzzle, as they might not have had the cultural or linguistic context needed to understand these phrases. This was supported by Azana et al. (2022) who stated that idioms might be just a simple combination of words, but it was difficult to understand their meaning. This could lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations in conversations. Numerous studies explored the challenges associated

with understanding idiomatic expressions in various languages. Meryem (2010) stated that idiomatic expressions still posed a serious challenge for translators and foreign learners. In addition, Alhaysony (2017) also stated that the majority of language learners encountered a number of challenges when trying to acquire and comprehend idioms. To help them overcome these challenges, learners should use a variety of idiom learning methods.

There were many ways to learn idiomatic expressions. However, songs proved to be a great way to make learning a language, especially idioms, easier. Many language learners learned English through songs because it was a fun and joyful learning process for them (Sari et al., 2019). Triwardani & Yuningsih (2022) added that learning English using songs made learners enjoy themselves and made them feel more relaxed. Songs were a treasure trove of idioms, offering a real-world context in which these expressions were naturally embedded. When people listened to songs, they not only heard the idioms but also felt their emotional impact and cultural relevance. This multisensory experience enhanced memory retention, making it easier to recall idiomatic expressions when needed in everyday conversations. Additionally, songs often featured idioms that reflected the artist's creativity and storytelling, providing insight into the cultural nuances of English-speaking communities. Meanwhile, with the use of songs as a means of facilitating the learning of idioms, there was a lack of research that investigated the types of idioms contained in songs.

According to the explanation above, the researcher decided to carry out a study with the title "Types and Meanings of Idiomatic Expressions in Justin Bieber's Songs." Justin Bieber's songs were chosen as a sample for this research because the researcher found that most of his song lyrics contained idiomatic expressions that were meaningful and simple. He also had more than 200 million listeners worldwide, making him the most listened-to artist. In fact, everybody must have listened to Justin Bieber or at least had a favorite Justin Bieber song. The researcher used this opportunity to investigate the types of idioms and the meanings of idioms found in Justin Bieber's songs. Consequently, the research questions came up as follows: What types of idiomatic expressions are found in Justin Bieber's songs and what types of meanings of each idiom found in Justin Bieber's songs.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Idiomatic Expression**

Idiomatic expressions, also known as idioms, constituted a category of informal language with a meaning distinct from the words they contained. For individuals without a large vocabulary, idiomatic expressions might have been quite challenging to understand (Thao & Herman, 2021). According to Biber et al., (2003), idiomatic expressions had a meaning that was completely different from the meaning of their constituent components. Gairn and Redman (1986), as cited in Butarbutar et al., (2020) stated that an idiom was a group of words that functioned as a single semantic unit, and like many multi-word verbs, the meaning of the whole could not be inferred from a comprehension of the parts, as in the cases of "never mind," "hold on," "look after," and so on. Thao & Herman (2021) also mentioned that idiomatic expressions were groups of words that had additional meanings beyond those of the individual words because the context in which they were employed typically determined the meaning that was intended.

## **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

A qualitative approach was employed in this study since the purpose was to describe the types and meanings of idioms used in songs. Furthermore, for examining factors and issues that had been clearly identified, qualitative research was the best study methodology (Creswell, 2014).

The document analysis model of qualitative research was also employed in this study. Sinaga et al. (2020) defined document analysis as the study of recorded data through analysis and interpretation to understand human behavior. The document could be books, letters, journals, reports, lyrics, or other written materials. Due to the description and analysis of the song lyrics, the study was regarded as a document analysis.

### **Location and Time of Research**

Since this research conducted through documentation analysis, it was occurred in an unspecified location, given that the study's focus was on the examination of written materials, rendering a specific geographical setting unnecessary. The temporal scope of the research spanned from March 2023 to December 2023, covering a ten-month period. Throughout this timeframe, a detailed scrutiny of Justin Bieber's Justice album took place, concentrating on

idiomatic expressions and their associated meanings within the lyrics. The documentation research approach facilitated a thorough analysis of the linguistic elements present in the song lyrics, providing valuable insights into the types and meanings of idiomatic expressions employed by the artist. The temporal boundary ensured a comprehensive exploration of the selected materials, contributing to a nuanced understanding of how idioms were utilized in contemporary music during the specified timeframe.

### **Research Subjects**

The primary data source was derived from the sixth studio album by Canadian singer Justin Bieber titled *Justice* which was released on March 19, 2021, by Def Jam Recordings. Sixteen song lyrics of Justin Bieber *Justice* Album were analyzed. As listed as 2 Much, Deserve You, As I Am, Off My Face, Holy, Unstable, MLK Interlude, Die For You, Hold On, Somebody, Ghost, Peaches, Love You Different, Loved By You, Anyone, Lonely. To accomplish this study, the data was collected from various online websites.

## **4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

### **Data Description**

The data for this study was obtained from *Justice* album by Justin Bieber which released on March 19, 2021. In the analysis, the focus was directed towards the lyrics of sixteen selected songs from the album. These songs were chosen to provide a diverse representation of Justin Bieber's lyrical expressions. The comprehensive nature of the sample, covering all tracks from the "*Justice*" album, ensured a thorough exploration of idiomatic expressions, creating a robust and representative dataset. The lyrics were sourced from various online platforms, guaranteeing a broad and inclusive collection of data for the study.

The sample of this study encompassed the complete set of sixteen songs featured on the "*Justice*" album. Within this sample, a total of 80 idiomatic expressions were identified within the lyrical content, providing a rich foundation for in-depth analysis. These idiomatic expressions were further classified into distinct types, revealing the prevalence of pure idioms (31 occurrences), semi-idioms (33 occurrences), and literal idioms (16 occurrences). Additionally, an insightful categorization of the associated meanings of these idioms was conducted. The analysis unveiled conceptual meanings (17 occurrences), connotative meanings (44 occurrences), social meanings (4 occurrences), affective meanings (11

occurrences), and reflective meanings (4 occurrences). Notably, there were no instances of collocative and thematic meanings identified within the dataset.

In summary, this study's dataset comprised a total of 80 idiomatic expressions identified in the lyrics of sixteen songs from Justin Bieber's "Justice" album. The systematic classification of idioms into pure, semi, and literal categories, along with the exploration of diverse meanings associated with these expressions, established a solid foundation for the detailed presentation and analysis of results in the subsequent sections. This section served as a crucial introduction to the richness and complexity of the lyrical content under examination.

### **Types of Idiom**

This chapter presents the types of idiom found in sixteen Justin Bieber's songs. There were 80 idioms found by the researcher. The data found were thirty one idioms in the type of pure with percentage of 39%, thirtythree semi-idioms with percentage of 41%, and sixteen literal idioms with percentage of 20%. It can be known that the song lyrics are dominated by semi-idioms. The results of this study are described as follows.

#### **a. Pure Idiom**

Pure idioms are those whose constituent parts have nothing to do with the phrase's literal meaning. This is frequently what came to mind when people thought about idioms. "Spill the tea" was an example of a pure idiom, which meant telling your secrets. However, there were a total of thirty-one (39%) pure idiomatic lines or phrases spread throughout the Justice album's songs.

##### **1) White knuckles**

The phrase "white knuckles" was considered a pure idiom because its meaning was not directly deducible from the literal meanings of its individual words. The word "White" in a literal sense referred to the color white, while the word "Knuckles" referred to the bony parts of the fingers where they joined the hand. However, when used in the idiom "white knuckles," it took on a connotative meaning. According to the online Collin Dictionary (2005), the term "white knuckles" was often used to describe a state of tension, fear, or anxiety, typically in situations where someone was gripping something tightly. For example, if someone was said to have "white knuckles" while driving, it implied that they were gripping the steering wheel tightly due to stress or fear.

The idiom conveyed a vivid image of physical tension, emphasizing the whiteness that might appear on the knuckles when someone was holding on tightly.

Since the meaning was not directly related to the literal colors of knuckles but rather conveyed a state of emotional or physical tension, it was considered a pure idiom.

2) Off my face

The word "Off" in a literal sense referred to a position away from or not on something, while the words "My face" referred to the front part of a person's head, containing the eyes, nose, and mouth. However, the online Urban Dictionary (2006) defined the words "off my face" as someone who was extremely intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, often to the point of altered perception or behavior. In this context, "off" didn't refer to a physical position but rather to a state of being disconnected from reality due to substance use.

The idiom conveyed the idea of someone being so affected by substances that they were figuratively "off" or removed from their normal state of awareness. As the meaning was not directly derived from the literal interpretation of the words, it was considered a pure idiom.

3) Skip a beat

According to the online Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2023), "skip a beat" was commonly used to describe a sudden, usually momentary, pause or acceleration in the regular heartbeat, often associated with strong emotions such as excitement, surprise, or attraction. The idiom conveyed the idea that something had caused a momentary disruption or acceleration in one's usual rhythm, particularly in the context of emotional or romantic experiences. As the meaning was not directly derived from the literal interpretation of the words, and it carried a figurative, emotional sense, it was considered a pure idiom.

b. Semi Idiom

Semi-idiomatic expressions were linguistic structures that incorporated aspects of both idiomatic and literal language. In contrast to idioms, they might not have had a fully set meaning, but they nonetheless conveyed a sense of familiarity or convention. For instance, the term "hit the books" denoted beginning to study. In contrast, the expression "hit the road" was another idiom for beginning a journey. If someone used the phrase "I'm going to hit the books," it was a semi-idiomatic expression, fusing the two idioms to signify beginning to prepare for a task or journey. Nonetheless, thirty-three instances of semi-idioms were found, comprising 41% of the data.

## 1) Young blood

According to the online Cambridge dictionary (2023), "young blood" was often used to refer to the optimistic or carefree mindset of youth. It also implied a sense of vitality, energy, and new perspectives that younger individuals brought. Since this phrase consisted of a dual nature, where the words could be interpreted literally but also carried a more abstract meaning, it was placed in the category of a semi-idiom.

## 2) Wrap my arms

The phrase "wrap my arms" meant covering or enclosing something in paper or other soft material according to the online Oxford dictionary (2023). Then, the word "arms" referred to part of the human body from shoulder to hand. In this context, the phrase "wrap my arms" didn't literally mean covering an arm with paper or other material, although it had the meaning of hugging someone. It could also be used metaphorically to express a gesture of embracing or holding someone or something in a protective or affectionate manner, conveying a sense of comfort, support, or closeness. Since the meaning could not be fully interpreted from the phrase, this was examined as a semi-idiom type.

## 3) Tongue-tied

The phrase "tongue-tied" could be considered a semi-idiom because it had both a literal and a non-literal meaning. In a figurative or idiomatic sense, the phrase "tongue-tied" was used to describe a person who was unable to speak or articulate themselves clearly due to nervousness, shyness, or a lack of words in a particular situation (Online Collins Dictionary, 2005).

## c. Literal Idiom

Literal idioms were expressions that, while they might have seemed idiomatic, could still be understood fairly literally. The words in these expressions carried a meaning that was closely related to their literal definitions. For example, the words "better late than never" literally meant even if it was delayed, it was better to have something occur rather than not have it happen. In the Justice album, sixteen literal idioms were analyzed, constituting 20% of the total.

## 1) Fall asleep

The phrase "fall asleep" was considered a literal idiom because its meaning was directly deducible from the combined literal meanings of its individual words. According to the online Merriam Webster Dictionary (2023), the word "fall" meant

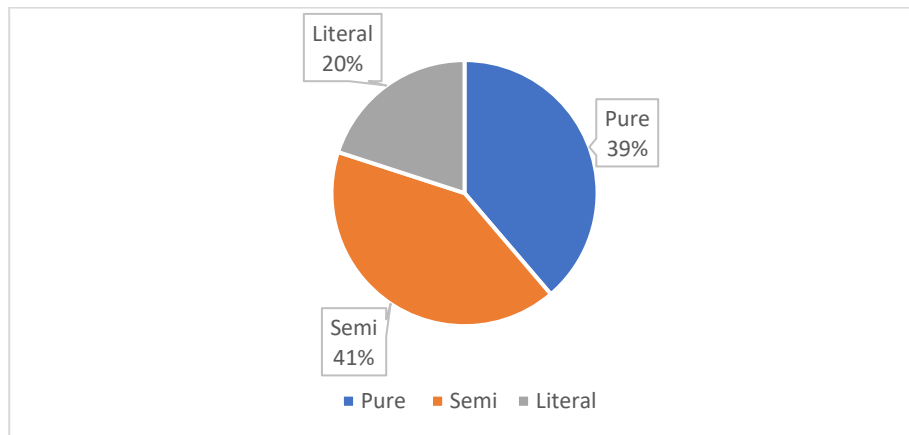
to move downward, often involuntarily, and the word "asleep" literally meant being in a state of sleep or unconsciousness. When these words were used together in the phrase "fall asleep," it simply meant to enter a state of sleep. There was no figurative or metaphorical layer of meaning; the words were employed in their most basic, straightforward sense.

## 2) Hold me

In spite of the singer's partner's support and affection, the song told a story of his doubts and anxieties that he didn't deserve his partner. The singer used the words "hold me" to say holding or hugging him. Aligned with the singer's meaning, the word "hold" meant to take or keep something in our hand or arms according to the online Cambridge dictionary (2023). This formed a literal idiom in this clause.

## 3) Take the stand

According to the online Farlex dictionary (2022), the words "take the stand" had a meaning not much different from the words "stand up for" which meant to state an opinion or defend one's point of view or beliefs. Along with the meaning from the dictionaries, this idiom was counted as literal idiom.



**Diagram 1** Percentage of Idiom Types in Justin Bieber Album *Justice*.

Diagram showed the percentage analysis of idiomatic terms in the Justin Bieber songs, which contained unique lyrical structures and the way language was used to convey emotions, topics, and messages:

- a) Pure Idioms (39%): The song's lyrics' percentage of pure idioms demonstrated the singer's creative use of figurative language. These expressions added to the poetic and metaphorical nature of the song, enabling listeners to relate to the emotions and ideas on a more profound, symbolic level.

- b) Semi Idioms (41%): The use of semi-idioms frequently suggested that literal and figurative language were intentionally blended. This implied an attempt to create a balance between approachable, basic information and more evocative, creative expression. Within the song's larger, symbolic framework, these semi-idioms could act as recognizable anchors.
- c) Literal Idioms (20%): The song's usage of literal idioms showed that it took a subtle approach to language. These phrases helped the song be more approachable while still adding subtle layers of significance by bridging the gap between everyday English and creative metaphor.

Overall, Justin Bieber's song displayed a careful construction of lyrics that engaged listeners on various levels, as evidenced by the dispersion of idiomatic terms in it. The use of idioms, whether wholly figurative, partially literal, or more direct, highlighted the songwriter's capacity to arouse emotions, tell stories, and explain complicated concepts through music. This breakdown offered a perspective through which to appreciate the song's linguistic diversity and the creativity of its lyrical construction.

### **Types of Meaning**

The researcher highlighted words, phrases, or sentences that had one of Leech's (1981) seven types of meaning in this chapter. The researcher discovered that connotative meaning was the most common in Justin Bieber's song lyrics, using forty-four (55%) data points. Following that, conceptual meanings came in second with seventeen (21%) data points. There were additional statistics on eleven (14%) affective meanings. There were four data sets after that, two (5%) for social meanings and two (5%) for reflective meanings. Somehow, there were no data found for collocative and thematic meanings in the songs.

#### **a. Conceptual Meaning**

This level of meaning was mostly focused on the fundamental or core meaning of a term. It referred to a word's basic, dictionary-style definition, frequently in terms of its referential value or denotation. Conceptual meaning included a word's literal, objective understanding, free from any figurative or cultural connotations. Furthermore, seventeen conceptual meanings were found, constituting 21% of the data from Justin Bieber songs.

##### **1) Watching over**

The phrase "watching over" was considered to have conceptual meaning because it went through its literal or dictionary definition. In the case of "watching over," the literal meaning would involve physically observing someone or

something. Online Oxford Dictionaries (2023) also implied the meaning of “watching over” as a sense of protection, care, guidance, or vigilance. When someone said they were “watching over” another person, they were not merely describing a visual act but suggesting a broader emotional or symbolic connection, where one person was looking out for, caring for, or overseeing the well-being of another.

2) Hold on

According to the online Cambridge Dictionary (2023), the words “Hold on” directly referred to a physical action or state. The phrase typically instructed someone to maintain their current position, grip, or connection. It could be used in various contexts, and its interpretation was straightforward and concrete. In the song’s context, the words “hold on” were used to describe the physical sense of grabbing someone’s hand, with the singer advising her to maintain her grip or not let go. Since the meaning was directly related to physically holding onto something or maintaining a particular state, there was no hidden or abstract sense; the expression was clear and direct in its instruction or encouragement. The words “hold on” were categorized as having a literal meaning.

3) Fall asleep

The phrase “fall asleep” was categorized as having a literal meaning because it directly described a physical action or state. According to the online Cambridge Dictionary (2023), “fall asleep” referred to the process of transitioning from wakefulness to a state of sleep, which aligned with the song’s context. The words “fall” and “asleep” were used in their primary and concrete sense. When someone said they were going to “fall asleep,” it meant they intended to enter a state of sleep, and there was no figurative or hidden meaning behind the words. The expression accurately described the physiological act of falling into a sleep state. This direct correlation between the words used and the action or state they represented was characteristic of literal meaning.

b. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning described the additional, subjective, emotional, or cultural connotations that a word conveyed in addition to its denotation or literal meaning. Contrary to denotative meaning, which was a word's simple dictionary definition, connotative meaning included additional layers of meaning influenced by social, cultural, and personal variables. Additionally, connotative meanings might be neutral,

negative, or positive. For instance, while the term "snake" may have referred to a particular species of reptile, its implications may also have encompassed unfavorable meanings like treachery, danger, or deceit, which were frequently associated with cultural and symbolic depictions of snakes. Forty-four connotative meanings were analyzed in the Justice album, constituting 55% of the data.

#### 1) In my blood

The phrase "now you're in my blood" was categorized as having connotative meaning because it carried additional, often figurative, and emotional layers beyond its literal interpretation. In a literal sense, the phrase could suggest a physical incorporation, as if someone or something has entered the bloodstream.

However, in a connotative sense, the expression was likely used metaphorically to convey a strong emotional or personal connection. It implied a deep and intimate bond, suggesting that the person or thing being referred to is now an integral part of the speaker's identity or existence (online Collins Dictionary, 2023). The use of "blood" in a figurative sense adds a layer of emotional intensity and closeness, as blood is often associated with vital life force and familial ties.

In connotative meanings, words or phrases went beyond their literal definitions to evoke emotions, associations, or nuanced interpretations. In this case, "now you're in my blood" went beyond the physical act of incorporation and implied a profound and emotional connection with the subject.

#### 2) Pick up the pieces

The expression "pick up the pieces" was categorized as having connotative meaning because it carried a figurative or metaphorical sense beyond its literal interpretation. Literally, "pick up the pieces" referred to the physical act of gathering fragments or parts of something, like picking up scattered objects after they've been broken. In a connotative sense, however, this phrase was often used metaphorically to describe the process of recovering or restoring something after a setback, failure, or difficult situation (online Cambridge Dictionary, 2023). It implied a need for emotional or psychological healing, rather than just a physical cleanup. The "pieces" in this context represented elements of a person's life, emotions, or plans that may have been disrupted or shattered.

#### 3) Make up for

The phrase "make up for the things I'm not" was classified as having a connotative meaning since it expressed an idea that was more abstract and emotive

than it does literally. In compliance with online Cambridge Dictionary (2023), this phrase was often used to express the idea of someone trying to compensate for their perceived inadequacies or shortcomings, not necessarily in a tangible or quantifiable way, but in terms of emotional connection, support, or understanding.

The connotative meaning carried a nuanced emotional context, suggesting a desire for acceptance, understanding, or reassurance from another person. It implied a deeper, more personal acknowledgment of one's vulnerabilities or insecurities and a hope that the other person can provide a sense of completeness or fulfillment in those areas.

c. Social Meaning

Social meaning was the significance, interpretation, and implications that people or groups gave to different aspects of behavior, interaction, and communication in a social setting. Culture, social conventions, common experiences, and individual viewpoints interacted intricately to create social meaning. People's understandings of numerous facets of social life were included, both explicitly and implicitly.

For efficient communication and establishing enduring relationships in society, understanding social meaning was crucial. It supports people's ability to negotiate social relationships, decipher intentions, and modify their behavior to fit different situations. It also emphasized the nuanced ways that society and culture influenced how we viewed and reacted to the world around us. However, there were only found four (5%) social meaning type in Justin Bieber's *Justice* album.

1) Down to the river

The phrase "go down to the river" is categorized as a social meaning because it carried cultural and contextual significance beyond its literal interpretation. Literally, the phrase might suggest physically moving towards a river. However, socially and culturally, this expression often held symbolic or metaphorical implications.

In various cultural and historical contexts, "going down to the river" had been associated with activities such as seeking spiritual cleansing, renewal, or undergoing a transformative experience. In religious or spiritual practices, rivers symbolized purification or rebirth. Additionally, the phrase may have been linked to communal or social gatherings near rivers for various cultural events or rituals.

## 2) Acting selfish

The phrase "Actin' 'Selfish'" was categorized as social meaning because it involved an interpretation related to human behavior within a societal context. In this case, the term "selfish" refers to a social concept involving actions that prioritized one's own interests, needs, or desires over those of others (online Farlex Dictionary, 2017). The word carried a social or moral judgment, implying a lack of consideration for the well-being or feelings of others.

The social meaning here was built on shared societal norms and values regarding interpersonal relationships and cooperation. Calling someone "selfish" implies a deviation from expected social behaviors that often involved a degree of selflessness, empathy, or consideration for others. The phrase reflected a judgment about an individual's behavior in relation to social expectations and norms, highlighting the importance of understanding language not just in isolation but also within the broader social and cultural context.

## 3) Call for security

The phrase "You're the one I 'call for security'" was categorized as social meaning because it involved a social context and reflected a particular role or function within relationships. In this context, the term "call for security" goes beyond its literal meaning and carried a connotation related to seeking emotional or psychological support.

The social meaning was derived from the idea that the person being referred to played a crucial role in providing a sense of security or emotional stability for the speaker, which aligned with online Cambridge Dictionary (2023) definition of security. The phrase implied a level of trust and reliance on the individual for comfort and reassurance in times of need. It suggests a specific dynamic within the relationship, highlighting the importance of emotional support and the role each person played in fulfilling social and emotional needs.

## d. Affective Meaning

Affective meaning was the subjective emotional significance that people gave to words, phrases, symbols, acts, and experiences. It entailed emotions, feelings, and individual responses that were brought on by numerous stimuli. People's emotional reactions to and mental associations with various linguistic and communicative components were intimately related to the concept of affective meaning. Furthermore,

there were total 11% of affective meaning with amount eleven data found in Justin Bieber's songs.

1) Peace of mind

The statement "You were my 'peace of mind'" falls under the category of affective meaning since it conveys the speaker's emotional state and the influence of the other person on it. According to online Cambridge Dictionary (2023), "peace of mind" referred to a metaphorical condition of emotional stability, calmness, and tranquility.

The speaker's emotional bond with the person being referred to is the source of the affective meaning. It communicated consolation, comfort, and a favorable impact on the speaker's emotional and mental well-being. The term had a deeper, subjective meaning that is connected to the speaker's feelings of security and contentment, going beyond its literal understanding.

2) Stole my heart

Given its powerful emotional connotation and ability to convey the profound and emotional influence that someone has had on the speaker, the phrase "stole my heart" falls under the category of affective meaning. "Stole my heart" was a metaphorical term used to convey the speaker's intense emotional attachment and attraction to the subject in this context.

The affective meaning extends beyond the literal understanding of removing someone's heart; it is based in the emotional domain. The statement suggested that the person being referred to has gained immense significance and importance in the speaker's emotional life. It evoked feelings of love, infatuation, or deep attachment (online Farlex Dictionary, 2022).

3) Tongue-tied

According to online Cambridge Dictionary (2023), "Tongue-tied" described a condition of emotional or psychological constraint, typically associated with shyness, nervousness, or feeling overwhelmed by powerful emotions. For this reason, it is classified as having an affective connotation. To be "tongue-tied" in this sense is to be unable to articulate oneself vocally because of a rush of feelings, most commonly astonishment, love, or deep admiration.

Emotions and sentiments that impair one's capacity for successful communication are implied by this emotional connotation. According to the concept, intense emotions can temporarily impair verbal fluency or articulation. Emotions and

interpersonal interactions are explored, beyond the literal understanding of physical restraints on the tongue.

e. Reflective Meaning

Reflective meaning, as described by Leech (1981), referred to the aspect of meaning that is derived from the setting in which a linguistic term is used, as well as the speaker's intentions and the listener's assumptions. For instance, the word "intercourse" conjured up images of sexual activity even if its true meaning is communication. Four data with a 5% reflective meaning percentage were discovered in Justin Bieber songs.

1) Gave a shit

The term "gave a shit" was classified as having a reflecting meaning since it conveys a contemptuous or uncaring attitude toward someone or something. According to online Collins Dictionary (2023), the phrase "to give a shit" here referred to a casual way of expressing worry, curiosity, or significance. When someone said they "don't give a shit," it's a sign that they are not that invested emotionally or with any care for the issue at hand.

The speaker's viewpoint or attitude toward the topic was where the reflective meaning in this instance is found. It conveys a contemptuous or indifferent attitude, implying that the speaker does not think the subject or circumstance merits their regard or attention.

2) Undercovers ain't no rubbers

The expression "undercover ain't no rubbers" was categorized as reflective meaning because it reflected a specific aspect of the speaker's personal life or experiences. In this context, the use of "undercover" and "rubbers" likely referred to a situation involving intimacy or romantic relationships.

Reflective meaning often involved the speaker sharing insights, observations, or details about their own life. In these lyrics, the mention of "undercover" implied a degree of secrecy or privacy, suggesting that the speaker is referring to a discreet or intimate situation. Additionally, the phrase "ain't no rubbers" indicated a lack of protection, possibly referring to the absence of contraceptives.

By using this expression, the speaker was providing a glimpse into a personal experience or perspective related to romantic encounters. The reflective meaning went beyond the literal interpretation of the words and suggests a specific context

within the speaker's life. It added a layer of intimacy or personal disclosure to the lyrics, allowing the audience to connect with the speaker on a more personal level.

### 3) My peaches

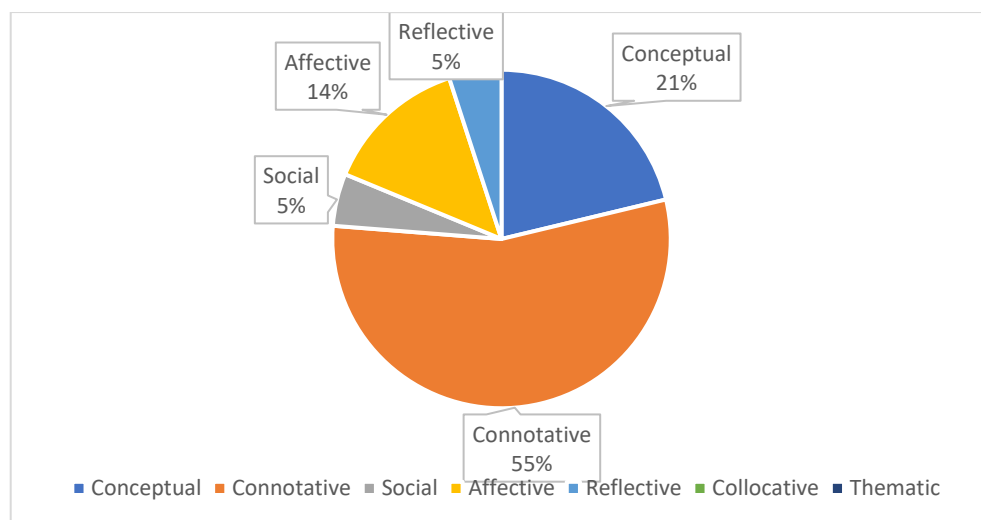
The term "peaches" in this song referred to a butt in sexual circumstances, making it a reflective meaning because the words' meanings were ambiguous and different from one another. Therefore, the line "I got my peaches out in Georgia" referred to the singer's early years as a musician, when he living in Atlanta.

#### f. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning referred to the associations and relationships that words develop when they are frequently used together in specific combinations or contexts. In other words, it's the meaning that results from the habitual collocation of words, in which particular phrases tend to come together more frequently than by chance. Comprehending how words interact with one another in language and how their meanings might be altered by their linguistic partners is crucial to comprehending collocational meaning. However, the researcher cannot find any collocative meaning in the lyrics of *Justice* album.

#### g. Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning, sometimes referred to as "thematic structure" or "thematic organization," is a linguistics concept that referred to how information is organized within a phrase or speech to highlight particular parts as the subject or focus of the message. In order to express the main concept or subject of a sentence or longer piece of text, clauses and phrases must be organized. Nevertheless, Justin Bieber's *Justice* album had no thematic meaning data found in the lyrics.



**Diagram 2** Percentage of Idiom Types in Justin Bieber Album *Justice*.

The breakdown of different forms of meaning in a Justin Bieber song was shown in the diagram. The size of each slice of the pie represented the proportion of that form of meaning in the song's lyrics, and each slice represented a certain sort of meaning.

**Connotative Meaning (55%):** The connotative meaning category took up the greatest portion of the pie chart. The emotional, cultural, and associated connotations that words and phrases evoked were all part of this form of meaning. These associations on an emotional and contextual level account for almost half of the song's meaning.

**Conceptual Meaning (21%):** Conceptual meaning made up the second-largest slice. This refers to the definitions of words as they appeared in a basic dictionary and how they help the listener to comprehend the song as a whole. It made up a sizable chunk of the song's significance.

**Affective Meaning (14%):** Affective meaning, which made up 14% of the song's overall meaning, referred to the song's emotional and individualized components. The impact of the song as a whole was influenced by the emotions and feelings that the song's words elicited in the listeners.

**Social Meaning (5%):** The 5% that made up social meaning referred to the connotations and cultural influences that formed the song's meaning within a larger societal framework. It illustrated how the song related to societal standards and tendencies.

**Reflective Meaning (5%):** The reflective meaning accounted for 5% of the song's overall meaning. This kind of meaning incorporated reflection, individual interpretation, and more profound ideas that listeners may have had when engaging with the lyrics of the music.

**Collocative Meaning (0%):** There were no instances of collocative meaning that could be found in the song's lyrics because the lyrics focused on straightforward expressions, devoid of intricate word associations or connotations. This absence could result in a more direct and literal communication of thoughts or emotions, stripping away the nuanced connections between words. Despite the rarity of collocative meaning in song lyrics, it highlighted the diverse ways in which artists used language to communicate with their audience.

**Thematic Meaning (0%):** *Justice*'s album songs prioritized mood and ambiance over a specific theme, offering an open-ended experience. With a lacking a clear thematic meaning, these songs allowed listeners to interpret and connect personally, emphasizing emotions and individual experiences. The focus was on creating a sensory and emotional connection through wordplay, rhythm, and abstract expressions.

The numerous sorts of meaning that contribute to the song's lyrics' richness and depth were seen by visualizing this breakdown in the pie chart. The different segment sizes brought attention to how important each form of meaning was in determining the song's overall meaning and impact.

## Discussion

### Types of Idiom.

In this section, the researcher delved into addressing the first problem statement of the research, aiming to identify the types of idiomatic expressions present in Justin Bieber's songs, specifically within the *Justice* Album. The thorough data analysis conducted revealed a total of 80 idiomatic expressions within the album, classified into three distinct types according to Fernando's theory (1996): pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. Within the scope of this research, a detailed breakdown of the types of idioms discovered in *Justice's* album included thirty-one instances of pure idioms, thirty-three instances of semi-idioms, and sixteen instances of literal idioms. Notably, the researcher identified instances where similar words manifested with different idiomatic interpretations.

Drawing comparisons with a relevant previous study conducted by Ariyani (2021) on Bruno Mars' songs, which utilized Seidl & McMordie's (1988) theory for idiom types and Leech's (1981) theory for meaning types, the present research deployed Fernando's (1996) theory to analyze idiom types. The comparison highlighted the evolution in analytical approaches, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of idiomatic expressions. Unlike the prior study, the current research surpassed the number of identified idioms, attributed to the refined analysis methods and varied data sources. Notably, the findings underscored that the writing style in *Justice's* album leaned heavily towards figurative language, emphasizing the prevalence of idiomatic expressions.

Furthermore, this research went beyond merely identifying idiom types, extending its focus to the contextual meaning of these idioms within the lyrics. Moreover, the study classified the meanings of idioms based on Leech's theory (1981), offering a nuanced exploration of the semantic dimensions. This dual approach not only enhanced the understanding of idiomatic expressions within the context of the songs but also provided a valuable framework for future research in semantic analysis. In essence, the researcher's meticulous exploration serves not only to uncover the linguistic intricacies within Justin Bieber's lyrics but also to contribute to the broader field of semantic analysis.

### **Types of Meaning.**

In this part, the researcher explored the meanings associated with idiomatic expressions in the *Justice* album. By employing Leech's (1981) theory, which categorizes meanings into seven types, including conceptual, connotative, social, affective, and reflective, the researcher scrutinized the lyrics. However, within the *Justice* album, five types of meaning were identified: conceptual meaning (seventeen occurrences), connotative meaning (forty-four occurrences), social meaning (four occurrences), affective meaning (eleven occurrences), and reflective meaning (four occurrences). Among these, connotative meaning stood out as the most prevalent type found in the idioms scattered throughout the album. The researcher's thorough analysis revealed the nuanced layers of meaning embedded in these expressions, showcasing the album's richness in connotations that extended beyond literal interpretations.

Interestingly, the limited presence of collocative and thematic meanings in Justin Bieber's songs became evident, attributed to the artist's preference for a language style that surpassed conventional understanding. Bieber's lyrical craftsmanship leaned towards a poetic and abstract expression, emphasizing metaphors, emotions, and personal sentiments over conventional and structured word combinations. This stylistic choice made collocative meanings, relying on specific word pairings, less common, as Bieber aimed to evoke emotions and convey intricate feelings rather than conforming to typical language patterns. Similarly, identifying thematic meanings became challenging within Bieber's songwriting, as his exploration delved into personal experiences, emotions, and reflective narratives that didn't rigidly adhere to explicit thematic structures. The deliberate use of a language style that transcended traditional interpretations added a distinctive and emotional layer to Justin Bieber's lyrics, underscoring his commitment to conveying profound emotions and complexities through his music. In essence, this analysis not only unveiled the intricacies of meaning types in idiomatic expressions within the *Justice* album but also provided insights into Bieber's deliberate choice of linguistic expression, contributing to the artist's distinctive lyrical identity.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusions**

In this research, the investigation into idiomatic expressions within Justin Bieber's Justice album aimed to address the first problem statement by identifying and categorizing types of idioms. The analysis, grounded in Fernando's (1996) theory, revealed a total of 80 idiomatic expressions classified into three types: pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom.

Beyond mere identification, this research delved into the investigation into types of meaning associated with idiomatic expressions within the Justice album, utilizing Leech's (1981) theory, further enriching our understanding. Five types of meaning were identified: conceptual, connotative, social, affective, and reflective. Connotative meaning emerged as the most prevalent, showcasing the album's richness in connotations that surpassed literal interpretations. The limited presence of collocative and thematic meanings highlighted Bieber's preference for a poetic and abstract expression, underscoring his commitment to conveying profound emotions and complexities.

Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge the limitations of this study. The research solely focused on identifying idiomatic expressions within Justin Bieber's songs, specifically within the Justice album. Future studies could broaden the scope by exploring idioms across various platforms such as movies, television shows, or other forms of media. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how idiomatic expressions are used in different contexts and artistic mediums, contributing to a more holistic analysis of linguistic and cultural influences.

In addition, this research not only advanced our understanding of idiomatic expressions and their meanings within Justin Bieber's Justice album but also contributed to the broader fields of linguistics and semantic analysis. The research provided educators and language learners with valuable insights into the richness and complexity of figurative language in contemporary music. The identification of 80 idiomatic expressions and the classification of their meanings, particularly the prevalence of connotative meanings, offered a practical resource for English language educators to incorporate real-world, culturally relevant examples into their teaching materials. Moreover, by recognizing the album's emphasis on poetic and abstract expression, educators gained an understanding of how language is creatively manipulated for emotional and thematic impact. This study thus contributed not only to linguistic knowledge but also to the enhancement of pedagogical approaches in English language education, providing a bridge between academic analysis and practical classroom applications.

## Recommendations

Several recommendations can be derived from this research. The first one is for English language learners. This study suggests incorporating contemporary music, such as Justin Bieber's Justice album, into language acquisition strategies. Engaging with the idiomatic expressions identified in the research can enhance language comprehension and cultural awareness. Learners can explore the nuanced meanings embedded in idioms from songs. This approach not only made the learning process more enjoyable but also cultivated a broader understanding of colloquial language use in everyday communication.

In terms of teaching and learning strategies, educators are encouraged to integrate idiomatic expressions into their curriculum, emphasizing the practical application of language skills. Incorporating authentic materials, such as song lyrics, fosters a dynamic and culturally relevant language learning environment. Furthermore, teachers can design interactive activities that encourage students to not only identify idioms but also comprehend their nuanced meanings and usage. This approach promoted a holistic language learning experience, equipping students with both linguistic competence and cultural literacy.

Furthermore, for future research, it is recommended to explore idiomatic expressions across diverse media platforms beyond song lyrics. Investigating idioms in movies, television shows, and other cultural artifacts can provide a more comprehensive understanding of how these expressions function in various contexts. Additionally, researchers may delve into the impact of idiomatic language on language learners of different proficiency levels and cultural backgrounds, contributing to the development of tailored language learning materials and teaching strategies.

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