

CORPUS LINGUISTICS RESEARCH: ANALYZING THE USE OF THE DEGREE OF COMPARISON IN WESTERN SONG

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Abstract

The degree of comparison is either of the studies of grammar. It is a part of the subjects in corpus linguistics. The degree of comparison is a grammar term to denote a comparison. In comparing degrees of adjectives or adverbs, the form changes according to the level of comparison. The research analyzes the use of the degree of comparison in western songs. The western song is very well-known in many, especially among teenagers. New, several applications using western songs for blending. Initial positive and age-appropriate experiences with music have a considerable effect on English Foreign language learning, including pronunciation, vocabulary, comprehension, and expression. The research's goal is to find the degree of comparison in western songs to help learn English for EFL. This research utilizes the descriptive qualitative method in which there is data collection to convey the result.

Keywords – corpus linguistics, degree of comparison, western song

Introduction

Linguistic is the study of language. According to linguistic Theory by Langedoen (2017), Linguistic is to do a comprehensive study of the languages of the world, to decide what they share attributes and what differentiates them from what everyone agrees about are not languages, a complete analysis of the world's languages will be undertaken. Another one he mentioned, advocated by Noam Chomsky (1980), investigates a few specific languages in greater depth to see what the complex specifics are contained in all other languages. When each method extends, they combine, and eventually, the same response can be predicted.

In its nature, Corpus linguistics generalizations or abstractions, based around a wide range of methodological and theoretical viewpoints, generally include working with relatively large quantities of textual data (Barlow, 2011). Corpus Linguistic is a research methodology built over the past few decades to support empirical research on language change and usage. It leads to research results that are far more widespread and legitimate than otherwise do. One research linguistics utilizes an extensive and principled collection of natural texts, known as a corpus, as the basis for analysis. (Biber. Reppen, & Friginal, 2012). Analysis grammar is a contribution of corpus linguistics. Part of grammar is a degree of comparison.

In the Kurniawan and Oktalia papers (2017), Murcia (1999) notes that comparison is the primary English construction used to express similarities or differences of degree or magnitude.



The contrast degrees are called the positive, the comparative, and the superlative. The positive does show the grade of the word. Usually use the correlative conjunction "as ... as." Positive is the standard of the adjective or adverb—only comparative and superlative exhibition grades, actually. Corpus linguistics, by its essence, usually includes dealing with comparatively large volumes of textual data and exploring general statements or abstractions grounded in a broad range of methodological and theoretical perspectives. (Kurniawan & Oktavia, 2017).

Based on The Semantics of Degree by Creswell (1976), For the comparative, it can write as —er than. The comparison ranges used to change from adjective to adjective. (e.g., Jack is a taller man than Joe). Furthermore, Wallwork (2012) gave the form of comparative and superlative. There are —er, -est, and irregular forms. Every monosyllable adjective need —er/-est. Nevertheless, there is an exemption in a few words. Every adjective with three or more syllables needs more/ most.

For example:

- Java is more enormous than Bali
- Focus on the first line is more effective than reading all the text
- It is my biggest dream
- Lala is the most beautiful girl in my class

Spell (1936) in Wikipedia (2021) stated that the western was guided by English, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland folk music. Many cowboy songs were sung around the 19th-century campfires, such as "Streets of Laredo," retraced back to folk songs from Europe. The western song is a style of country music that consists of and is about the people who settled in Western and Western Canada. The western song celebrates the cowboy's lifestyle in the open areas of western North America's Rocky Mountains and Prairies. The Mexican people are directly connected with old English, Ireland, Scottish, and folk ballads. Currently, the modernization of western songs is such varieties. Also, the listener of it increases too.

Ikrimah's study (2010) by the subject of a comparison study in George Eliot *Silas Marner: Weaver of Raveole*, which focuses on grammar elements based on research previously carried out at Surya, is a comparative degree. His three forms of comparative degree were found and be the most commonly used degree in the novel. Furthermore, in the article entitled *An Analysis of Students' Mastery in Using Degrees of Comparison at the 1st Semester of the 10th Grade of SMK PGRI 4 Bandar Lampung in the Academic Year of 2016/2017*, Kurniawan and Oktalia (2017) also give their suggestions that the teacher should be innovative in teaching comparison degree, such as using games or images that allow all students to participate in learning



activities. Besides, the teacher should also motivate and encourage the students to increase their mastery in using degrees of comparison. Through western songs, the research can identify the degree of comparison. Therefore, the advantage of this research can help linguists or English learners who are learning about corpus linguistics.

Methodology

The subject of this research is a degree of comparison in western songs. According to Creswell (2018), the research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The instruments of the research are fifty western songs in which pop song genre. Mounika (2016) mentioned that the Western song genre is Art Song, Classic Song, and Pop Song. The descriptive qualitative method uses a data collection technique which is, in this research, by listening and analyzing the lyric of western songs. The data (consisting of positive, comparative, and superlative) was collected by adding figures, tabling, and using the alphabet for the result, then counting the data to find the most used degree of comparison in western songs.

Findings & Discussion

In this part, the researchers analyze the use of the degree of comparison in several western songs. The researchers found three degrees from fifty western songs. They are the positive degree, comparative, and superlative. After listening to the songs, the researchers analyze the lyrics of the songs then draw the figure to know the highest grades of three degrees.

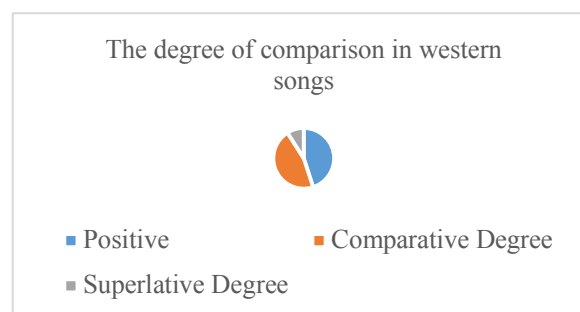


Figure 1. The degree of comparison in western songs

The figure above shows that the highest usage of degree is comparative degree followed by positive and the last is superlative degree. The positive degree is almost the same as the comparative degree. It can happen because the title of the western songs sustains the degree of

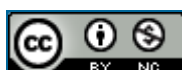


comparison, and the message from the singers requires the lyrics to use the degree of comparison.

After drawing the figure, the researchers tabulate the data consisting of songs' titles and the singers followed by positive, comparative, and superlative. The data is listed alphabetically to show the result.

Table 1. Positive Degree in fifty western songs

No	Title	Positive
1	As I Am-Justin Bieber	11
2	As Long As You Love Me--Justin Bieber	22
3	A Thousand Years-Christina Perri	5
4	At My Worst-Pink Sweats	9
5	Beauty And The Beast-Ariana Grande, John Legend	7
6	Beautiful In The White-Shane Filan	17
7	Better When I'm Dancin'-Brian Mcknight Jr.	2
8	Deeper-Pamungkas	3
9	Easier- 5 Seconds Of Summer	3
10	Everything At One-Lenka	37
11	Farther Along-Brad Paisley	4
12	Favorite Girl-Justin Bieber	43
13	Good Night Good Night-Kara's Flowers	15
14	Harder Better Faster Stronger-Daft Punk	
15	Harder Than The First Time-Blake Mcgrath	18
16	Harder Than You Know-Escape The Fate	14
17	Higher-Creed	12
18	Higher Than Ever-Pamungkas	7
19	I'm The Coolest-Alice Cooper, Alice Cooper	7
20	Love Me Harder-Ariana Grande	4
21	Man In The Mirror-Michael Jackson	13
22	Marry Your Daughter-Brian Mcknight Jr.	8
23	Man Smart (Women Smarter)-Harry Belafonte	5
24	Miracles-Axel Johansson	9
25	More Than Friends-Jason Mraz	12
26	More Than Words-Extreme	4
27	More Than You Know-Axwell A Ingrosso	8
28	My Love--Westlife	12
29	Never Seen Anything Quite Like You-The Script	11
30	Older-Sasha Sloan	7
31	Perfect-Ed Sheeran	12
32	Say You Won't Let Go-James Arthur	11
33	Send My Love To Your New Lover-Adele	24
34	Smaller Than This-Sara Kays	
35	Strongest-Alan Walker	4
36	Stuck With You-Ariana Grande	3



37	The Best-Tina Turner	7
38	The Best Day-Taylor Swift	10
39	The More I Seek You-Kari Jobe, Gateway Worship	4
40	The More We Get Together-Raffi	
41	The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get-Morrissey	6
42	The Most Beautiful Girl In The World-Prince	15
43	The Most Beautiful Thing-Bruno Major	
44	The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year-Andy Williams	6
45	To The Bone-Pamungkas	1
46	Treat You Better-Shawn Mendes	3
47	Water Runs Dry-Boyz II Men	
48	Worse-New Hope Club	13
49	Younger-Ruel	6
50	Your Biggest Mistakes-New Found Glory	3
Total		457

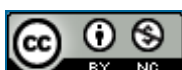
The positive degree is the one that does not show the grade and only shows the adjective and adverb in the basic form. Table 1 shows the positive degree found in western songs. A few examples of positive degree used in western songs such as:

- As long as you love me
- As sly as a fox, as strong as an ox
- As quite as a mouse, as big as a house

Those show the adjectives in the lyrics. The word "long" is not giving the degree but only stands as an adjective. The same thing goes for "sly", "strong", "quiet", and "big".

Table 2. Comparative Degree in fifty western songs

No	Title	Comparative Degree
1	As I Am-Justin Bieber	
2	As Long As You Love Me--Justin Bieber	
3	A Thousand Years-Christina Perri	9
4	At My Worst-Pink Sweats	
5	Beauty And The Beast-Ariana Grande, John Legend	
6	Beautiful In The White-Shane Filan	
7	Better When I'm Dancin'-Brian Mcknight Jr.	16
8	Deeper-Pamungkas	23
9	Easier- 5 Seconds Of Summer	16
10	Everything At One-Lenka	
11	Farther Along-Brad Paisley	6
12	Favorite Girl-Justin Bieber	1



13	Good Night Good Night-Kara's Flowers	1
14	Harder Better Faster Stronger-Daft Punk	66
15	Harder Than The First Time-Blake Mcgrath	6
16	Harder Than You Know-Escape The Fate	8
17	Higher-Creed	8
18	Higher Than Ever-Pamungkas	10
19	I'm The Coolest-Alice Cooper, Alice Cooper	1
20	Love Me Harder-Ariana Grande	33
21	Man In The Mirror-Michael Jackson	7
22	Marry Your Daughter-Brian Mcknight Jr.	2
23	Man Smart (Women Smarter)-Harry Belafonte	17
24	Miracles-Axel Johansson	18
25	More Than Friends-Jason Mraz	11
26	More Than Words-Extreme	8
27	More Than You Know-Axwell A Ingrosso	26
28	My Love--Westlife	1
29	Never Seen Anything Quite Like You-The Script	9
30	Older-Sasha Sloan	12
31	Perfect-Ed Sheeran	2
32	Say You Won't Let Go-James Arthur	4
33	Send My Love To Your New Lover-Adele	17
34	Smaller Than This-Sara Kays	12
35	Strongest-Alan Walker	6
36	Stuck With You-Ariana Grande	5
37	The Best-Tina Turner	7
38	The Best Day-Taylor Swift	2
39	The More I Seek You-Kari Jobe, Gateway Worship	12
40	The More We Get Together-Raffi	15
41	The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get-Morrissey	13
42	The Most Beautiful Girl In The World-Prince	
43	The Most Beautiful Thing-Bruno Major	
44	The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year-Andy Williams	
45	To The Bone-Pamungkas	
46	Treat You Better-Shawn Mendes	12
47	Water Runs Dry-Boyz II Men	1
48	Worse-New Hope Club	41
49	Younger-Ruel	7
50	Your Biggest Mistakes-New Found Glory	1
Total		472

A comparative degree is a degree to compare two things. The data above shows that the fifty western songs have the comparative degree in most. By using the comparative degree, the comparison of two things can be identified based on the comparative degree. The lyric that includes of comparative degree makes the comparison to the words. It requires the words added



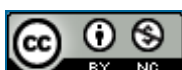
by ‘-er’ or ‘more’ to show the comparative. Some samples of the lyrics from the fifty western songs are as follow:

- I will always wish I was smaller than this
- Well, I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know
- From the samples above, the adjective move to comparative is added –er at the last
- Small becomes smaller
- Strong becomes stronger

It shows that the lyrics compare two things. The things that can be more priority than else.

Table 3. Superlative degree in fifty western songs

No	Title	Superlative Degree
1	As I Am-Justin Bieber	4
2	As Long As You Love Me--Justin Bieber	
3	A Thousand Years-Christina Perri	
4	At My Worst-Pink Sweats	6
5	Beauty And The Beast-Ariana Grande, John Legend	
6	Beautiful In The White-Shane Filan	
7	Better When I'm Dancin'-Brian Mcknight Jr.	
8	Deeper-Pamungkas	
9	Easier- 5 Seconds Of Summer	2
10	Everything At One-Lenka	
11	Farther Along-Brad Paisley	
12	Favorite Girl-Justin Bieber	2
13	Good Night Good Night-Kara's Flowers	2
14	Harder Better Faster Stronger-Daft Punk	
15	Harder Than The First Time-Blake Mcgrath	1
16	Harder Than You Know-Escape The Fate	
17	Higher-Creed	
18	Higher Than Ever-Pamungkas	
19	I'm The Coolest-Alice Cooper, Alice Cooper	12
20	Love Me Harder-Ariana Grande	
21	Man In The Mirror-Michael Jackson	
22	Marry Your Daughter-Brian Mcknight Jr.	6
23	Man Smart (Women Smarter)-Harry Belafonte	1
24	Miracles-Axel Johansson	
25	More Than Friends-Jason Mraz	
26	More Than Words-Extreme	
27	More Than You Know-Axwell Λ Ingrosso	4
28	My Love--Westlife	4
29	Never Seen Anything Quite Like You-The Script	



30	Older-Sasha Sloan	3
31	Perfect-Ed Sheeran	
32	Say You Won't Let Go-James Arthur	1
33	Send My Love To Your New Lover-Adele	
34	Smaller Than This-Sara Kays	
35	Strongest-Alan Walker	
36	Stuck With You-Ariana Grande	
37	The Best-Tina Turner	4
38	The Best Day-Taylor Swift	5
39	The More I Seek You-Kari Jobe, Gateway Worship	
40	The More We Get Together-Raffi	
41	The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get-Morrissey	
42	The Most Beautiful Girl In The World-Prince	4
43	The Most Beautiful Thing-Bruno Major	2
44	The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year-Andy Williams	10
45	To The Bone-Pamungkas	1
46	Treat You Better-Shawn Mendes	
47	Water Runs Dry-Boyz II Men	3
48	Worse-New Hope Club	
49	Younger-Ruel	2
50	Your Biggest Mistakes-New Found Glory	8
Total		87

The last is superlative degree (see table 3). It makes the lyric can be the only one as the most. A superlative degree compares three or more things. It is a higher grade than others. The songs that include the superlative can make the lyrics more expressive because the lyrics point out that there is the most one. The adjective in the superlative degree also replaces the form of the superlative degree. The adjective followed by '-est' or begin with 'most' to show the degree. Some superlative degrees found in the fifty western songs' lyrics are as follow:

- She'll be the most beautiful bride that I've ever seen
- You know it is your biggest mistake

From the examples above, the word "beautiful" and "big" move to the superlative degree by adding '-est' or 'the most.' The word that replaces the superlative degree can be identified that it is the most one.

Conclusion

All in all, the researchers conclude that the research finds all the grades of the comparative degree. Not only to give the positive degree, that shows the main form of adjective or adverb, but also to show the word degree. All of the data found in 1016 findings from the western



songs. The three degrees used to express the grade of degree and the meaning of the adjective or adverb. The comparative degree is the most occur in the western songs. The songs that have a comparative degree indicate comparing two things. The songs can point out the meaning from a comparative degree in case of which one becomes the main concern.

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