

## **FINAL REPORT**

# **ANALYSIS OF TENSES IN BROKEN MEMORIES ALBUM: TYPES, FREQUENCY, AND NARRATIVE FUNCTION**



**To fulfill one of the graduation requirements for the D-III English Study  
Program Politeknik Negeri Sriwijaya**

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**D-III ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM  
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2025**

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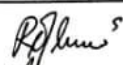
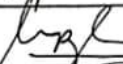




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## PLAGIARISM-FREE DECLARATION

I the undersigned,

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Declare that this scientific document Final Report does not contain any parts of other scientific works that have been submitted to obtain an academic degree at any Higher Education Institution. Additionally, there are no works or opinions written or published by others/institutions, except those properly cited and listed in the references.

I hereby declare that this scientific document is free from any elements of plagiarism. Should this Final Report later be proven to be plagiarism of another author's work and/or deliberately submit others' work or opinions as my own, I am willing to accept academic and/or legal sanctions in accordance with applicable regulations.

Palembang, 09th July 2025



Siti Rahayu

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## **PREFACE**

First, all praise be to Allah SWT, the Most Merciful and the Most Benevolent, for granting the writer the strength, knowledge, and opportunity to complete this research. This final report, titled "Analysis of Tense in Broken Memories Album: Types, Frequency, and Narrative Function", presents an in-depth linguistic analysis of Jamie Miller's debut album. The topic was chosen due to the important role verb tenses play in conveying emotions and structuring narratives in song lyrics. Music, as a form of artistic expression, combines language and emotion in a way that powerfully connects with listeners. By analyzing the types, frequency, and narrative function of verb tenses using Labov's narrative theory, this study aims to uncover how grammatical choices contribute to the storytelling and emotional impact of the lyrics. The findings and discussions in this report are presented from Chapter I to Chapter V, starting from the background of the study, literature review, methodology, results, and ending with a conclusion and recommendations.

The writer is fully aware that this report is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive suggestions and feedback from readers are greatly appreciated to improve this work. Hopefully, this research can be a useful contribution to the study of linguistics and music, especially in understanding how language is used in artistic contexts.

**Siti Rahayu**

## ABSTRACT

This study investigated the use of verb tenses in Jamie Miller's Broken Memories album to explore how grammatical choices contributed to emotional expression and narrative structure in song lyrics. Adopting a mixed-methods approach, six songs were analyzed through corpus analysis using TagAnt software to identify verb tense types and calculate their frequencies. Additionally, a qualitative narrative analysis based on Labov's theory was applied to examine how tenses supported storytelling. The results showed that the most frequently used tense was the simple present (118 times), followed by simple past (53 times), present continuous (11 times), simple future (11 times), past future (11 times), present unreal conditional (9 times), past future perfect (7 times), present perfect (5 times), past continuous (1 times), and past future continuous (1 times). Simple present and past tenses dominated in expressing emotional immediacy and memory, while less frequent tenses (e.g., conditional and future forms) conveyed hope, regret, or imagined outcomes. Labov's theory revealed that verb tenses aligned with narrative components like Abstract, Orientation, and Evaluation, guiding emotional progression. The findings affirmed that verb tenses functioned not only grammatically but also as narrative and expressive tools that enriched listener engagement and lyrical depth.

**Keywords:** verb tenses, song lyrics, narrative theory, emotional expression, Jamie Miller

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- My dearest parents, Mr. Edy Suroso and Mrs. Farida, who have been the greatest source of strength. Thank you for your unconditional love, prayers, motivation, and hard work that never cease, despite never having the opportunity to pursue higher education yourselves. Your sacrifices to provide a better life and education for your five children have been a powerful inspiration for the writer to complete this academic journey.
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