

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**DISCOURSE FEATURES OF LYRICS IN  
AMERICAN PATRIOTIC SONGS**

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**(Summary)**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

Music is the greatest creation of man, which touches the soul and also helps man to sympathetically manifest his unspoken desire and humanity. The effects of music on man help to distinguish him from other animals. Due to the high effects of music on the life of human beings, it is capable of breaking boundaries to unify people from different backgrounds and cultural heritages. Indeed, there is much to say about music, making it one of the most important factors in the life of human being of all races and religions. In fact, music can best be described as a wonderful force that is capable of bonding people together and instituting international brotherhood, love as well as peace.

#### **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **1.2.1. Aims of the study**

The study is aimed at clarifying the discourse features of lyrics in American patriotic songs to highlight the beauty of the lyrics through these songs. Besides, it is hoped that the results of this research can help Vietnamese learners of English understand and grasp the distinctive characteristics of the lyrics in American patriotic songs.

##### **1.2.2. Objectives of the study**

This study is intended to fulfill the following objectives:

- To identify, describe and present the syntactic structures, lexical choices, semantic fields, and stylistic devices in the lyrics of American patriotic songs (LAPSs).

- To make some suggestions for the teaching and learning of English, especially in terms of reading and writing skills.

### **1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study mainly concentrates on the analysis of the discourse features in lyrics of LAPSs through the two songbooks “**All American Patriotic Songbook**” and “**American Patriotic Songs**”. “**All American Patriotic Songbook**” is a collection of the most famous American patriotic songs, edited and produced by John L. Haag, who is the editor and producer of 72 favorite songbooks in America. The book was published in 1996 by the Hal Leonard publishing firm in the U. S. “**American Patriotic Songs**” is a selection of popular and rare tunes from the Civil War Era.

### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In order to achieve the aims and objectives of the study, the following research questions could be put forward:

- What are the syntactic structures and semantic fields of LAPSs?
- What are the stylistic devices used in LAPSs?
- What are the lexical choices used in LAPSs?

### **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Theoretically, the study provides learners of English with useful knowledge on discourse features such as syntactic structures, semantic fields, lexical choices and stylistic devices. Practically, the findings of the study can be a potential source for the teaching and learning of English through the lyrics of these patriotic songs.

It is hoped that this study can pave the way for those who are interested in investigating not only the nature of the language but

also the culture, people, and society of America through song lyrics.

## **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The thesis consists of five chapters as follows:

### **➤ Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter includes rationale, objectives, research questions, scope and organization of the study.

### **➤ Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background**

This chapter provides the fundamental knowledge of discourse features in general and of syntactic structures, lexical choices, semantic fields, and stylistic devices in particular. It presents the previous studies related to the research and the theoretical preliminaries.

### **➤ Chapter 3: Research Methodology**

This chapter is concerned itself with the research design, the research methods, data collection and analysis, research procedure and reliability and validity of the study.

### **➤ Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion**

This chapter is concerned with the findings and discussion. It presents the discourse features of LAPSs in terms of the syntactic structures, lexical choices, semantic fields, and stylistic devices together with discussion on each of these aspects.

### **➤ Chapter 5: Conclusions and Implications**

This chapter summarizes the research findings, mentions the implications for teaching and learning of English and points out the limitations of the study. Some suggestions for further researches are also presented in this chapter.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW**

There have been many studies on discourse features which contribute to the background knowledge related to the thesis. Discourse analysis is an important discipline which attracts the interest of many linguists and researchers. Up to now, there have been lots of books in which discourse and discourse analysis are mentioned by well-known scholars such as Brown and Yule [4] with “Discourse analysis”, Cook [8] with “Discourse”, Nunan [25] with “Introducing Discourse analysis”.

#### **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

##### **2.2.1. A Brief Overview of the U. S History**

The history of the United States has been an experiment in democracy for more than 200 years. Issues that were addressed in the early years continue to be addressed and resolved today: big government versus small government, individual rights versus group rights, unfettered capitalism versus regulated commerce and labor, engagement with the world versus isolationism. The expectations for American democracy have always been high, and the reality has sometimes been disappointing.

##### **2.2.2. Discourse**

###### ***a. Discourse and Discourse Analysis***

- **Discourse**

The term “*discourse*” has several definitions from many

linguists: According to Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics [9] discourse is defined as a general term for examples of language use". It refers to larger units such as paragraphs, conversation and in interviews which I produced as a result of an act of communication.

- **Discourse Analysis**

According to Yule [33], discourse analysis focuses on the record (spoken or written) of the process by which language is used in some context to express intention". For Cook [8], discourse analysis is the examination of "how stretches of language, considered in their full textual, social, and psychological context, become meaningful and unified for their users". Hatch [16] states that "Discourse analysis is the study of the language of communication - spoken or written", where communication is an interlocking social, cognitive and linguistic enterprise.

- b. Features of Discourse***

According to Brown and Yule [4], the two main functions of language are transactional and interactional. The transactional feature is to convey "factual or propositional information" and is primarily "message-oriented". That is to say, language is used to establish and maintain social relationships. As a unit of language, discourse also shares such features.

- 2.2.3. Syntactic Features**

- a. Syntax***

Language is conceived as "the totality of utterances that can be made in a speech community" by Chomsky [5, p.16]; or "a system of conventional signs all aspects of whose structure serve the sovereign function of meaning" by Cruse [10, p.140]. Syntax is considered as

one of the most important areas in the study of a particular language. Up to now, there have been a great number definitions of syntax.

### ***b. Syntactic Features***

According to Corbett [6], it was not until 1963 that Katz and Fodor claimed that both syntactic and semantic features were required. They actually refer to markers' and Katz [20] later tried to maintain a distinction between "markers and features" but few other scholars have accepted the distinction. Their use of the term "grammatical" rather than "syntactic" has more followers.

#### **2.2.4. Semantic fields**

The semantic structure of vocabulary of a language can be studied in a precise and systematic way by means of componential analysis of which the theory of semantic field greatly leans.

The assumption of the lexical field analysis or the semantic field analysis is that lexemes can be grouped together into semantic fields on the basis of shared meaning and that most, if not all the vocabulary of a language, can be accounted for in this way. The description of meaning, the definition of lexemes, is then undertaken within each semantic field and involves defining each lexeme in relation to the other lexemes in the field.

#### **2.2.5. Stylistic devices**

##### ***a. Stylistic devices***

In reality, having a good idea or something important to say is not enough. Everyone wishes their messages to get across to the intended recipient(s) in an attractive and effective way. Undoubtedly, how something is said is always of great importance and necessity. And it is stylistic devices that assist people in using language well.

So “stylistic devices” just means “fancy ways of saying or writing something”. Those who have excellent understanding of stylistic devices and use them artfully will certainly become masters of saying and writing.

***b. Functions of stylistic devices***

The function of SDs is most comprehensively explained by Zirmunsky: “The justification of and the sense of each device lies in the wholeness of the artistic impression which the work of art as a self-contained thing produces on us. Each separate aesthetic fact, each poetical device finds its place in the system, the sounds and sense of the words, the syntactical structures, the scheme of the plot, the compositional purport- all in equal degree express this wholeness and find justification.”

**2.2.6. Definition of terms**

***a. Patriotism***

*Patriotism* is an emotional attachment to a nation which an individual recognizes as their homeland. This attachment, also known as national feeling or national pride, can be viewed in terms of different features relating to one's own nation, including ethnic, cultural, political or historical aspects. Patriotism can be understood as the national loyalty, or the devoted love, support and defense of one's country.

***b. Patriotic songs***

*Patriotic songs* are songs with strong patriotic contents. In these two songbooks entitled “**All American Patriotic Songbook**” [35] and “**American Patriotic Songs**” [36], the content can be about the love to America, the beauty of America, the characteristic

features of the American culture, the call for joining the army, praising God, praising the solidarity spirit, praising the Army or Navy and praising the leader.

*c. Song lyrics*

*Song lyrics* are words that make up a song, consisting of verses and choruses

“**All American Patriotic Songbook**” [35] and “**American Patriotic Songs**” [36] contain 46 songs whose content mainly concentrates on the natural beauty of the nation, the love to America, the pride and honor of being an American, the unyielding spirit of the American people, the ongoing conflict and the call for resistance movements.

### **2.3. SUMMARY**

This chapter reviews the previous studies as well as theories relevant to the study. The focus of the study is the discourse features in LAPSs, so the concepts of syntactic structures, semantic fields, lexical choices and stylistic devices are included in this chapter. Some viewpoints from linguists such as Yule [33], Chomsky [5], Crystal [11], Galperin [12], are chosen as an orientation and clarification for the analysis in the study.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODS AND PROCEDURE**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

The study is based on the combination of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative approach is used in describing and analyzing data to find out the distinctive features of LAPSs in terms of their syntactic structures, lexical choices, semantic features, and stylistic devices. On the other hand, the quantitative approach is used to find out the occurrence, the percentage of the above-mentioned aspects in LAPSs.

#### **3.2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

✓ Descriptive method: It is used to describe and clarify typical discourse features of LAPSs.

✓ Analytical method: By using this method, the researcher can clarify and justify a certain feature or characteristic.

✓ Inductive method: By means of induction, the researcher can synthesize the findings and draw out conclusions from the findings.

#### **3.3. DATA COLLECTION**

The data will be taken from the 2 songbook entitled: “**All American Patriotic Songbook**” and “**American Patriotic Songs**”. The two books contain 46 songs which well define the American patriotism. The lyric content mainly concentrates on the vast natural beauty of the nation, the love to America, the pride and honor of being an American, the unyielding spirit of the American people, the

ongoing conflict and the call for resistance movements, etc.

### **3.4. DATA ANALYSIS**

After collecting the reliable samples, the researchers identified all discourse features in LAPSs. First, the author examined and described the syntactic structures by picking out the common characteristics and presenting them in percentage in Tables. Next, the author analyzed lexical choices in LAPSs and showed the frequencies of these aspects in Table and Figure, too. Next, to deal with the semantic field, the author clarified how to classify the samples into each category and then identified and made them into groups of type as well as tabulated their distribution. In each part, the author manually counted the occurrences, gave examples, explained the function or drawn discussion and summarized these discourse features in LAPSs

### **3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

In summary, the steps involved are:

- Observing the syntactic structures of the samples and classifying them into groups.
- Finding out the lexical choices in LAPSs.
- Exploring the semantic fields in LAPSs.
- Pointing out the stylistic devices appearing in LAPSs.
- Discussing the findings.
- Providing some suggestions for the EFL language teaching and learning.

### **3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

The data collection of this study was carried out based on the

two authentic books of two famous publishers, so the quality of the data is quite reliable. Moreover, the statistics which showed the categories of the syntactic structures, semantic fields, stylistic devices and lexical choices as well as examples were properly and faithfully presented. The research procedure was strictly and logically followed. Therefore, the results of the study are reliable.

## CHAPTER 4

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES IN LAPSs

As for the study of the particular language, it is important to discover the common syntactic structures which are built up from words and governed by various linguistic rules. In this research, I investigate the most remarkable structures in LAPSs. They are Relative Clauses, Imperative Sentences and Sentence Types

##### 4.1.1. Relative Clauses

*Table 4.1. Distribution of Relative Clauses in LAPSs*

<b>Types of Relative</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Restrictive RCs	56	93.3%
Non-Restrictive RCs	4	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### 4.1.2. Imperative Sentences

*Table 4.2. Distribution of Imperative Sentences in LAPSs*

<b>Imperative Sentences</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Affirmative	107	96.3 %
Negative	4	3.6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100%</b>

It can be easily seen that the affirmative imperative sentences with a high percentage (96.3%) dominate the negative ones.

##### 4.1.3. Sentence Types

According to Quirk et al [27], sentences are simple or multiple. A sentence is a grammatical construction that makes sense on its own. In writing, it begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop.

*Table 4.3 Distribution of Sentence Types in LAPSs*

<b>Sentence Types</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Simple	392	66.3%
Complex	97	16.4 %
Compound	69	11.6 %
Compound-Complex	33	5.58 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100%</b>

From Table 4.3, we can see that, with 591 occurrences found in LAPSs, the simple sentences which account for 66.3% with 392 instances are commonly used. The second most popular type is the complex sentences, which make up to 16.4% with 97 instances. The compound sentences account for 11.6% with 69 instances, and compound-complex sentences occupy the lowest rate with nearly 6% in the total amount.

## **4.2. LEXICAL CHOICES IN LAPSs**

### **4.2.1. Descriptive Adjectives**

*Table 4.4. Forms of descriptive adjectives in LAPSs*

<b>Descriptive adjectives</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Base form	309	93.3%
Comparative form	6	1.8 %
Superlative form	16	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>100%</b>

As can be seen from Table 4.4, the base form of descriptive adjective appears with a very high frequency in LAPSs (93.3% with 309 cases). This means that the writers have a great tendency to use

descriptive adjectives when expressing patriotism. The use of comparative adjectives is low (1.8% with 9 instances), whereas superlative form takes up the higher percentage (4.8% with 16 instances). Although comparative and superlative forms do not occur frequently, they are still some of notable lexical features that contribute to the success of LAPSs.

#### 4.2.2. The Apostrophes

The apostrophe is a single raised comma. It performs two quite different functions in English: indicating a genitive relationship and indicating that a word is contracted or abbreviated. In LAPSs, there are totally 362 apostrophes which play the two functions as mentioned above.

#### 4.2.3. Proper Names

*Table 4.5. Proper Names in LAPSs*

<b>Proper nouns</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Names denoting places	191	74.9%
Names denoting people	49	19.2%
Names denoting important objects	15	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4.5 shows that proper names are primarily used to refer to the names of places in LAPSs. 191 instances of them are found, taking up the highest percentage (74.9%). The using of proper names expressing the names of people is ranked second in LAPSs. They are widely used, accounting 19.2% with 49 cases. Lastly, proper names referring to the important things occur only 15 times, taking up the lowest rate (5.8%).

### **4.3. SEMANTIC FIELDS IN LAPSS**

According to Crystal [8, p.346], semantic field is defined as “the view that vocabulary of a language is a system of interrelated lexical networks and not an inventory of independent items, also called lexical field theory.” Examples include the fields of vehicles, fruits, clothing, color, and part of the body. Not all aspects of experience nearly divide into semantic fields, however, and it is always necessary to consider the context before assigning a lexical item to a field.

#### **4.3.1. The love to America**

Theodore Roosevelt, the only U.S. president to be elected four times, said that, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” This is a strong message for every American to love their nation.

#### **4.3.2. The beauty of America**

The United States is one of the biggest countries in the world that contains many beautiful, peaceful and gorgeous landscapes.

#### **4.3.3. The characteristic features of the American culture**

Sports and music are among the typical characteristic features of the American culture. Baseball is a kind of sport which seems to embody many of the values coming to dominate an urbanized and industrialized America. A number of scholars have suggested that baseball may be perceived as a sort of mirror in which values, power, politics, fashion, class, economics, and race may be viewed in microcosm by Briley [29].

#### **4.3.4. The call for joining the army**

The American military has had recruiters since the time of the colonies in the 1700s. In times of war like the Civil War or World War I, it is necessary more than ever. According to Wikipedia between 1915 and 1918 in the U.S, 42% of all army recruitment posters were themed primarily by patriotism.

#### **4.3.5. Praising God**

“This is a Christian Nation.” That’s what the Supreme Court of the United States declared in 1892. This is easily confirmed by an honest review of even a few statements made by our founding fathers.

#### **4.3.6. Praising the solidarity spirit**

Solidarity spirit is one of the striking features of the Americans, especially in time of war, this spirit brought the people together and created strength to gain independence and freedom for the nation.

*(4.71) Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all,  
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall;  
In so righteous a cause let us hope to succeed,  
For heaven approves of each generous deed.*

#### **4.3.7. Praising the Army or Navy**

According to Wikipedia, the U.S Army has the following missions:

- Preserving the peace and security and providing for the defence of the United States, the Commonwealths and possessions and any areas occupied by the United States
- Supporting the national policies

- Implementing the national objectives
- Overcoming any nations responsible for aggressive acts that imperil the peace and security of the United States.

It is clearly that it plays an integral part in preserving the peace and protecting the country.

#### **4.3.8. Praising the leader**

George Washington was the first president of the United States, Commanding General during the American Revolution and remains as one of the most influential and famous figures in American history. In LAPSs, the name Washington was repeated many times as the symbol of the U.S.

#### **4.4. STYLISTIC DEVICES IN LAPSs**

*Table 4.4. Stylistic Devices Used in LAPSs*

<b>Phonetic SDs</b>	<b>Lexical SDs</b>	<b>Syntactical SDs</b>
Onomatopoeia	Simile	Repetition
Alliteration	Metonymy	Parallelism
Rhyme	Metaphor	Euphemism
		Stylistic Inversion
		Polysyndeton

#### **4.4.1. Phonetic Stylistic Devices**

##### ***a. Onomatopoeia***

Galperin [12, p. 124] defined that onomatopoeia is a combination of speech sounds which aims at imitating sound produced in nature, by things, by people and by animal.

**b. Alliteration**

According to Galperin, alliteration is a phonetic stylistic device which aims at imparting a melodic effect to the utterance

**c. Rhyme**

Rhyme is the repetition of identical or similar terminal sound combinations of words. There are two kinds of rhymes: full rhymes and incomplete rhymes.

**4.4.2. Lexical Stylistic Devices**

**a. Simile**

Edgar Leslie and Archie Gottler in the song “*America, I love you*”, has given us a vivid example of simile like this:

(4.104) *You're **like** a sweetheart of mine,*

*From ocean to ocean,*

*For you my devotion,*

*Is touching each bound'ry line.*

*Just **like** a little baby,*

*Climbing its mother's knee,*

*America, I love you,*

*And there's a hundred million others **like** me.* [35, p. 16]

A clear message is conveyed through this example is that the writer considers America as his loved sweetheart. Although the sentence is short and simple, it touches the heart of listeners because of the love to his country. The feeling to America is not only like the love between two lovers but also the close relationship between the mother and her baby. The writers also emphasize that millions of other people have the same emotion like him. In this illustration,

similes can make listeners think about things in a new way, and can create a long lasting effect.

### ***b. Metaphor***

Metaphor is defined by Galperin [12, p. 140] as the power of realizing two lexical meaning simultaneously like in this example:

(4.107)“*Oh, ma honey, oh, ma honey, there's a fiddle with notes that screeches,*

*Like a chick-en, like a chick-en, and **the clarinet is a coloured pet***” [35, p. 3]

### ***c. Metonymy***

(4.108)*We know you love your land of liberty*

*We know you love your U.S.A.*

*But if you want the world to know it*

*Now's the time to show it*

*Your **Uncle Sammy** needs you one and all*

*Answer to his call* [35, p. 40]

“**Uncle Sammy**” represents a manifestation of patriotic emotion. “**Uncle Sammy**” is a common national personification of the American government or the United States in general. Metonymy in this case has the effect of creating a concrete and vivid image of the American government.

## **4.4.3. Syntactical Stylistic Devices**

### ***a. Repetition***

Repetition is the deliberate use of a word or phrase, structure more than once in a sentence or a text to create a sense of pattern or form or to emphasize certain elements in the mind of the reader or

listener. Repetition is a major rhetorical strategy for producing emphasis, clarity, amplification, or emotional effect.

***b. Parallelism***

- Parallel Structures with Verbs
- Parallel Structures with Adjectives
- Parallel Structures with Phrases

***c. Stylistic Inversion***

Stylistic Inversion is a technique in which the normal order of words is reversed in order to achieve a particular effect of emphasis.

***d. Enumeration***

Enumeration is a stylistic device by which separate things, objects, phenomena, actions or properties are named one by one so that they produce a chain. The links of the chain are forced to display some semantic homogeneity. [12, p. 216]

***e. Polysyndeton***

According to Galperin [12, p. 226], polysyndeton is the stylistic device that connects sentences, or phrase, or syntagms or words by using connectives before each component part

**4.4.4. Combination of Several Types of Stylistic Devices**

There are many combination of different SDs in LAPSs making the lyrics become far more beautiful, interesting, colourful and vivid

**4.4.5. Frequencies of SDs Used in LAPSs**

Here is a table showing the frequencies of SDs used in LAPSs. From the table and the figure, it can be seen that the highest percentage of the SDs used in LAPSs is rhyme, which is considered

a must in song lyrics with 75.8%. This is followed by syntactical SDs such as parallelism, which accounts for 5.77%, repetition with 4.77% and stylistic inversion with 3%. Lexical stylistic devices are used with a more modest rate in LAPSs with simile, 2.99%, metaphor, 0.44% and metonymy, 0.33%. In short, from the data collected, it is discovered that compared to the lexical SDs and syntactical SDs, the occurrences of the phonetic SDs in LAPSs are more frequent with the percentage of over 80% in total.

*Table 4.6. Frequencies of SDs Used in LAPSs*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Types</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Onomatopoeia	2	0.22%
2	Alliteration	45	5%
3	Rhyme	683	75.8%
4	Simile	27	2.99%
5	Metonymy	3	0.33%
6	Metaphor	4	0.44%
7	Repetition	43	4.77%
8	Parallelism	52	5.77%
9	Euphemism	1	0.11%
10	Stylistic Inversion	28	3.1%
11	Polysyndeton	13	1.44%

#### **4.5. SUMMARY**

This chapter summarizes all the findings that appear in LAPSs in terms of their syntactic structures, semantic fields, lexical choices and stylistic devices. With the syntactic features, I found the

structures commonly used in LAPSs. They are relative clauses, imperative sentences and sentence types. As regards lexical choices, I investigated adjectives, apostrophes and proper names. With the semantic fields, the researcher found eight different semantic fields in LAPSs. In stylistic devices, after investigating, the researcher found that there are eleven stylistic devices commonly used in LAPSs and they are divided into three types - phonetic SDs, lexical SDs and syntactical stylistic devices.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

*"Discourse features of lyrics in American Patriotic Songs"* is a study of what discourse features are used commonly in these songs. With this aim, the analysis of LAPSs has been conducted to find out the syntactic features, lexical choices, semantic fields and stylistic devices.

#### 5.2. IMPLICATIONS

It is hoped that the thesis can make some considerable contributions to the task of writing or composing patriotic song lyrics as well as the teaching and learning of English.

##### **To teachers**

The thesis is expected to be a useful reference source for teaching English at schools, particularly at colleges majoring in music. The findings of this research will provide teachers with the general knowledge of discourse features of song lyrics, especially patriotic song lyrics in terms of syntactic features, lexical choices, semantic fields and stylistic devices. As a result, the teachers can design their lessons as well as convey the knowledge to their students effectively.

##### **To learners**

This research will be also beneficial to learners of English, especially to those who major in music in general and in composing music in particular. It provides learners with the knowledge of discourse features in terms of syntactic features, lexical choices,

semantic fields and stylistic devices. Mastering these features, learners can improve their linguistic background and discover the effective ways to compose a song, especially a patriotic song.

### **To writers**

Lyrics in American Patriotic Songs are powerful means to attract listeners' attention, directly convey the messages of patriotism to them. Therefore, the findings of this research would be helpful for those who want to complete the mission of composing or writing good LAPSs.

### **5.3. LIMITATIONS OF STUDY**

The thesis only focuses on syntactic features, lexical choices, semantic fields and stylistic devices of LAPSs. Due to the lack of discourse knowledge, reference materials and the shortage of time, the shortcomings of the research are unavoidable. Consequently, the research result has not reached a deep and thorough level as expected.

### **5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCHES**

For the aim of making further researches into this domain, some suggestions would be put forward as follows:

1. An Investigation into Pragmatic Features of the Lyrics in American Patriotic Songs
2. Discourse Analysis of Speech Acts of the Lyrics in American Patriotic Songs