

A Pragmatics Analysis of Deixis in The Song Lyrics “Set Fire To The Rain” By Adele

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Abstrak: “Penelitian ini menyelidiki penggunaan deiksis sebagai elemen pragmatis dalam lirik lagu “Set Fire to The Rain” oleh Adele. Tujuan utamanya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis deiksis yang digunakan dan menganalisis perannya dalam mengkonstruksi makna dan memberikan interpretasi terhadap lagu tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan berdasarkan teori deiksis Levinson (1983), penelitian ini mengkategorikan lima jenis deiksis: deiksis persona, sosial, temporal, spasial, dan wacana. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa deiksis persona paling sering muncul, yang mencerminkan keterlibatan emosional penyanyi secara langsung. Setiap jenis deiksis berkontribusi secara integratif terhadap koherensi naratif lagu, intensitas emosional, dan interaksi yang dibayangkan antara penyanyi dan pendengar. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa deiksis tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai alat referensial, tetapi juga sebagai alat naratif dan afektif yang meningkatkan kemampuan pendengar untuk menafsirkan makna implisit serta memberikan interpretasi terhadap lagu. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada bidang pragmatik, khususnya dalam mempelajari lirik lagu sebagai teks komunikatif yang bermakna dalam ranah budaya populer.”

Kata kunci: Pragmatic, Deixis, Song Lyrics, Adele

Abstract: “This research investigates the use of deixis as a pragmatic element in the lyrics of Set Fire to The Rain by Adele. The main objective is to identify the types of deixis used and analyze their role in constructing meaning and giving interpretation to the song. This research uses descriptive qualitative method and based on Levinson’s (1983) deixis theory, this study categorizes five types of deixis: person, social, temporal, spatial, and discourse deixis. The findings show that person deixis appears most frequently, reflecting the singer’s direct emotional involvement. Each type of deixis contributes interactively to the song’s narrative coherence, emotional intensity, and the imagined interaction between the singer and the listeners. This research reveals that deixis not only functions as a referential tool, but also as a narrative and affective tool that enhances the listener’s ability to interpret implicit meanings as well as give interpretations to songs. Therefore, this research contributes to the field of pragmatics, especially in studying song lyrics as meaningful communicative texts in the realm of popular culture.”

Keywords: Pragmatic, Deixis, Song Lyrics, Adele

INTRODUCTION

Language is basically a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groups to unite, communicate and identify themselves (Kridalaksana in Suardi, 2019). By using language, humans and their groups can interact and agree on everything. According to Richards and Webber (in Samaranayake, 2023) state that language is a mortal communication system expressed through sounds or written expressions that are structured to form

larger units similar as coinages, words and rulings. As language develops, communication, which is the introductory function of language, also gets development. Roman Jakobson (1960), state that "there are 6 functions of language, namely; (1) emotive function, namely language has a cerebral function to express the passions, stations and feelings of the speaker. (2) phatic, namely speech that functions to maintain social and applies to certain situations, similar as welcome, how are you, where have you been, etc. (3) cognitive, namely speech that refers to the real world which is frequently given the terms indicative and instructional, (4) referential, namely speech that functions to impact and condition the studies and gets of congregants, (5) metalingual, namely speech that functions to speak the language. This is the most abstract speech because it's used to bandy communication canons, (6) poetic, namely speech that's used in its own form by qualifying its aesthetic values" (pp. 353- 357). All aspects of language can be studied in linguistics.

Linguistics comes from Latin, "lingua" which means language. The introductory form of lingua in French is "langue/langage". In a general sense, linguistics is defined as the study of language. According to Gleason (1958:10), linguistics is a wisdom that attempts to understand language from the perspective of its internal structure. Internal structure consists of phonology (the sound system of a language, including how the sounds are pronounced), morphology (the internal structure of words, such as affixes), syntax (judgment structure and the relationship between words in a judgment), semantics (studying the meaning of words, expressions, and rulings) and pragmatics (studying the use of language in real communication surrounds).

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language or speech grounded on current situations. Pragmatics is the study of conditions of mortal language uses as these are determined by the environment of society (Mey 1993). Mey's opinion explains that pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the environment of language use determined by the conditions under which communication occurs. Yule (2006:13-81) reveals that the meaning of environment in language can be known through colorful aspects of pragmatics which include (1) presuppositions, (2) speech acts, (3) implicatures, and (4) deixis.

Deixis is a subdiscipline of realistic studies. The word deixis itself comes from the Greek deiktikos which means "a matter of direct appointment". Meanwhile, according to the terms proposed by Levinson (1984), deixis concerns the ways in which languages render or grammaticalize features of the environment of utterance or speech event, and therefore also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that environment of utterance. In another description deixis is a way of pertaining to certain essentialities of using language as media and can understood meaning by pertaining on speakers and told by situations discussion (Cahyono in Sunarwan, 2014). Apart from everyday communication, deixis is also found in various literary works.

One type of literary work is song lyrics, According to Awe (2003, p.51) states that song lyrics are language style vocal games. Meanwhile, according to Dallin (1994), "lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. We could say that song lyrics is a communication media between song writer or singer and listener.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher chose one of Adele's songs entitled "Set Fire to The Rain" as the research object. Because as a fan of foreign language songs, it is of course important to know the meaning of the song so that the message the songwriter wants to convey can be well received. Hidayat (2021) Lack of understanding of the implied meaning of a song makes many people misinterpret the song. To understand this implicit meaning, choosing the field of pragmatics to interpret the meaning is the right choice. Next is because problem with machine translation, according to Riandi (2023), Google Translate generally always fails to interpret song lyrics that contain special phrases so that the meaning of the song lyrics deviates from the actual meaning. Machine translation does not understand context or meaning and only translates it literally with relatively low accuracy and credibility (Arba: 2023). Last is song also often has multiple interpretations, because songs have various meanings from listeners. The phenomenon of multiple interpretations is an inseparable characteristic of a musical work, where the meaning understood by each individual can be different, these differences are caused by various factors such as personal experience, cultural background, and the listener's knowledge.

The issue of meaning-making and interpretation in song lyrics is an interesting subject of study, as it has the potential to enhance the quality of educational media and deepen the public's understanding of a song's message. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the types of deixis used in the song lyrics and to analyze how the use of deixis in each song lyric provides meaning and interpretation in the song lyrics Set Fire to aThe Rain by Adele

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning based on the context or situation of the speaker and the interlocutor. According to Levinson (1983) pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context which underlies the explanation of the meaning of language. Betty (2013) state that pragmatics can generally be interpreted as the study of language use based on context. It can be concluded that pragmatics has a purpose in linguistics as the study of meaning related to speech situations

Pragmatic learning means that meaning can not only be conveyed through linguistic knowledge such as grammar, lexicon, etc from the speaker and listener, but meaning can be conveyed through the context of the speech, who is communicating, and the implied meaning of the speaker (Iftitah: 2021). In addition, Yule (1996), pragmatics is the meaning communicated by the speaker (or writer), and interpreted by the listener (or reader).

Based on several theories above, we can conclude that as part of the branch of linguistics, pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning based on context or conditions. Simply put, pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning.

Deixis

In language, there are many words that are still so common that they cannot be interpreted if they are not compared with other words or we cannot interpret the word if we do not know the context. For example, sometimes we use words or pronouns to indicate something, such as “you” to indicate the person we are talking to or the word “there” to indicate a certain place. This phenomenon is called deixis.

Deixis comes from the Greek *deiktikos* which means direct pointing (Hindun: 2012). Levinson (1983) state that basically deixis concerns how language codes or triggers the characteristics of speech. Unconsciously, we use deixis a lot in our daily activities, for example when we talk about someone, about an object or anyone who is talking to us, we often refer to the object with the sentences “I”, “you”, “he”, “we”, “they”, “this”, “there” and so on.

Thao (2020) state that in doing the communication, deixis plays an important part whether in the context of utterance of speech event. Yunus (2020), deixis is a word that shows something that is not fixed in nature, so that the word can be understood by understanding the context of the speech. Yule (2014) state that deixis is a demonstration through language.

Based on explanation above, we can conclude that deixis refers to how language refers to people, places, times and other aspects. These clues are important for understanding the meaning of what is being said because these clues depend on a shared understanding between the speaker and the listener about the specifics of time.

Types of Deixis

This research focuses on the types of deixis mentioned by Levinson (1983):

1. Person Deixis

Person deixis is a type of deixis that shows people and pronouns. As Levinson (1983) state that, person deixis refers to who’s communicating, whether the speaker or the interlocutor. Based on Yule (1996:9), first person is I, second person is you, and third person are he, she or it. The function of person deixis is to indicate a person who utters the utterance or sentence. Whereas person deixis according to Cruse (2000:20) he divided person deixis into 3 types, namely 1st person (I, me, we, us), 2nd person (you), and 3rd person (he, him, she her, it, they, them).

2. Social Deixis

Levinson (1983) in his theory argues that social deixis is related to social identity and social relations. Meanwhile, according to Cahyaning (2016), social deixis functions as a marker of association connections, signals empathy, and indicates social status. So, it can be concluded that social deixis is a type of deixis that expresses social differences or social status in a society.

Social deixis also divided into two forms. Levinson (2000) state that social deixis consists of two large groups, namely deixis absolute, this deixis type is absolute and the only one a term for a person of high status in particular, so they tend to be limited on was knighted royal circles and titles honorifics intended for certain people. Examples: King, Queen, Princess, etc. And the next is social deixis relations, is relative or dependent on relations between participants and tends to be related to designations honor and terms of association. Example: what happened with you, honey? The word "honey" in this sentence is addressed to a referent has a special status, namely a loved one

3. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is also familiar with time deixis (Levinson, 1983) temporal deixis has a function to locate points or intervals on the time deixis, using the moment of utterance as a reference point. Fromkin (2009: 211) stated: "The following examples are all deictic expressions of time: now, then, tomorrow, this time, that time, seven days ago, two weeks from now, last week, next April". We can conclude that concluded that temporal deixis is a deixis that refers to the use of time when an event occurs, whether in the past, present or future.

4. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis also familiar with place deixis. Levinson (1983) state that spatial deixis is a word or phrase that refers to the speaker's relative location. According to Lyons (1977:648) as cited by Levinson, the significance of locational specifications in general can be gauged from the fact that there two feel to be two introductory ways of referring to object, first is by "describing or naming them on the one hand", second is by "locating them on the other".

In addition, Grundy(2000:28) explain that there are numerous further other illustration of place deixis, they are here (proximal), there (distal), where (and the archaic hither, hence, thither, thence, whither, whence), left, right, over, down, over, below, in front, before, come, go, bring, and take

5. Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis also familiar with text deixis. Levinson (1983) state that Discourse Deixis refers to the use of expressions that gesture a relationship between an utterance and the previous or posterior converse. Next, Levinson (1983) also state that converse deixis includes temporal.

Discourse deixis is divided into two, namely anaphora and cataphora. Disclosure of corridor that have been said is called anaphora, for example "I saw the cat yesterday. That was a big one". The word "that" is also an anaphor because it refers back to the antecedent "the cat". It's a way to avoid repeating

the noun expression and maintain smooth discourse. While the second part is called cataphora, namely the exposure of the part that will be said. For example, "I saw it yesterday. That big, fluffy cat". The word "it" is a cataphora reference because it refers forward to a noun phrase that comes later in the sentence.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research in this study used a qualitative descriptive method perform analysis by collecting and analyzing data, after that the researcher draw conclusions. This study employs the lyrics of the song Set Fire to The Rain by Adele as the primary data source in the form of a textual document.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

According to Levinson (1983), there are 5 types of deixis; person deixis, social deixis, temporal deixis, spatial deixis, and discourse deixis. The researcher extends to some examples of the data for types of deixis and how deixis influence or giving meaning and interpretation in each lyric of the song. There are the data has found.

1. Person Deixis

Person deixis is the participants focused on were the people in the song lyrics. The researcher found three types of person deixis in Set Fire to The Rain song, namely: first-person deixis, second person deixis, and third person deixis. First and second person deixis always appear in every song. However, it is different from third person deixis which is only found a little. As listed in the following table:

Table.1 first, second, and thierd person deixis

No	Types of Deixis	Words	Total
1	First-person deixis	I, my, me, us, we	19
2	Second person deixis	You, your	14
3	Third person deixis	They, it	5
			38

Person Deixis in this song refers to the singer through the word I. Singer emphasizes her personal and emotional love story while you refer to her ex. The function of Person Dexist in this song describes personal relationship between two people while emphasizing singer's emotional feelings towards love experience and betrayal. The use of Person Dexist also creates emotional involvement with listeners. The analysis of Person Dexist is important because it helps to understand who is talking to whom and about whom, so it can clarifying emotional connection in this song.

2. Social Deixis

Social deixis is a form of deixis, either in the form of words or phrases that indicate a social relationship, social status, or social difference between the speaker and the interlocutor. Among the two types of social deixis, namely social deixis absolute and social deixis relations, the researcher only found the

type of social deixis relations in Set Fire to The Rain song. As listed in the following table:

Table.2 Social Deixis

No	Types of Deixis	Total
1	Social Deixis	8

Social deixis in this song does not explicitly indicate social roles or absolute social deixis such as mother, father, or friend. However, the song contains elements of social deixis reflected in phrases like “until you kissed my lips” which implies that the singer had a close, romantic relationship. Later in the lyrics, the line “we were already over” indirectly signals that the close relationship has ended. This type of deixis functions to establish a personal and emotional connection, portraying an informal yet intimate relationship. Considering the context of the entire song, it can be concluded that the singer was involved in a romantic relationship that has since come to an end.

3. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is a type of deixis that helps speakers and listeners understand when an event occurs or will occur, and how the event relates to the time the utterance occurs. Temporal deixis marked by today, yesterday, now, etc. In the analysis of temporal deixis, the researcher found data are not dominant. The researcher found little data from personal deixis. As listed in the following table:

Table.3 Temporal Deixis

No	Types of Deixis	Words	Total
1	Temporal Deixis	Fell, Rose, Was, Until, Were, There's, Knew You'd, Forever, Now, Are	13

Temporal deixis in this song is predominantly marked by the use of past tense verbs such as was, were, and various auxiliary verbs, indicating that the events described are memories recalled by the singer. When examining the overall context of the song, temporal deixis expresses feelings of regret and loss. This retrospective use of time functions as an emotional reflection on a failed relationship.

4. Spatial Deixis

Spatial Deixis or place deixis is a location indicator that refers to where the speech participants and speech events occur in a context. Spatial deixis is used to give instructions, explain a location, or refer to the intended context. In the song Set Fire to The Rain, spatial deixis is more intertwined with metaphor, spatial markers such as direction, relative location, and implied location are metaphorically used to describe Adele's actions and circumstances in space, although the space is more emotional or symbolic than pure physical space. The spatial deixis in this song places the events described in one space relative to Adele's point of view. As listed in the following table:

Table.4

No	Types of Deixis	Words	Total
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1	Spatial Deixis	Lips, Arms, Feet, There, Here, By	7
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Spatial deixis in the song is conveyed implicitly through metaphorical phrases rather than concrete locational terms. For example, the lyric “without feeling into your feet” suggests an imaginary space tied to memory and emotion. This shows that spatial references in discourse can represent not only physical places but also emotional or psychological spaces, adding depth to the song’s meaning

5. Discourse Deixis

Discourse Deixis is a type of deixis that connects an expression to another part of the text or conversation. Discourse deixis refers to relevant elements in the discourse or context so that coherence is created and the conversation becomes more cohesive. As listed in the following table:

Table:4.5 Types of Deixis

No	Types of Deixis	Words	Total
1	Discourse deixis	It, well	4

Discourse deixis in the song is evident through anaphora, where elements refer back to previously mentioned terms, such as “I Set Fire to The Rain. Watch it pour as I touched your face”, which is “it” refers to “the rain”. This use of deixis maintains lyrical coherence and guides the listener through the emotional storyline. It reflects that the lyrics are not only poetic but also structured with a coherent discourse organization.

The following presents the complete lyrics of Set Fire to The Rain along with an analysis of its meaning and interpretation

Table.6

Analysis Code	Lyrics	The Meaning and Interpretation
A.1	<i>I let it fall, my heart</i>	When my heart is shattered
A.2	<i>And as it fell, you rose to claim it</i>	During that downturn, you tried to conquer my heart
A.3	<i>It was dark and I was over</i>	Before you came, I was helpless and hopeless.
A.4	<i>Until you kissed my lips</i>	Until a kiss from you made me wake up
A.5	<i>And you save me</i>	And you saved me from hopelessness
A.6	<i>My hands they were strong, but my knees were far so weak</i>	I’m a strong person but I’m not capable enough to survive.
A.7	<i>To stand in your arms without falling into your feet</i>	To stay in your hug without genuflect to you.
A.8	<i>But there’s side to you, that I never knew</i>	But there’s another side of you that I never knew about.
A.9	<i>All the things you’d say, they were never true</i>	Everything you say is just a lie

A.10	<i>And the games you'd play, you would always win</i>	Your will prevails in everything, and I can't fight it
A.11	<i>But I Set Fire to The Rain</i>	In this rain, I will burn our relationship down (end)
A.12	<i>Watched it pour as I touched your face</i>	Because the sadness/injury is just as great as my love.
A.13	<i>Well, it burned while I cried</i>	But the power is gone when I cry
A.14	<i>Cause I heard it screaming out your name</i>	Because I keep missing you
A.15	<i>When laying with you</i>	When I was with you
A.16	<i>I could stay there</i>	I don't want to separate
A.17	<i>Close my eyes, feel you here forever</i>	I imagine that you are with me forever.
A.18	<i>You and me together, nothing is better</i>	But I know nothing will be better if we are together
A.19	<i>And I threw us into the flames</i>	I really ended our relationship
A.20	<i>When we fell, something died</i>	When we broke up, I was numb
A.21	<i>Cause I knew that that was the last time</i>	Because it was the last time I fell in love.
A.22	<i>Sometimes I wake up by the door</i>	Sometimes I often wake up near the door
A.23	<i>That heart you caught must be waiting for you</i>	Because my heart is still waiting for you
A.24	<i>Even now we are already over</i>	Even though we've broken up
A.25	<i>I can't help myself from looking for you</i>	I can't get rid of the feeling of longing.
A.26	<i>let it burn</i>	Let the love and memories turn to ashes.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of the song lyrics, the researcher identified a total of 69 instances of deixis. This finding significantly addresses the research problem by demonstrating that the use of deixis not only contributes to the meaning and interpretation of the song's text but also functions as a pragmatic tool that fosters an emotional connection between the singer and the listener. Thus, deixis in the lyrics serves not merely as a referential marker but also as a means of expressing complex emotional and interpersonal dynamics.

Conclusions

1. Deixis plays a crucial role in conveying meaning and interpretation in the song through references to time, place, and person, thereby developing the narrative and emotional connection between the singer and the listener.

2. Temporal and spatial deixis express emotions metaphorically, while discourse deixis maintains interaction and coherence within the lyrics.
3. All types of deixis in the song work synergistically to convey the message, build emotional bonds with the audience, and provide meaning and interpretation.

Suggestions

1. For Future Researchers: extending the scope of analysis to encompass multiple songs or diverse musical genres is recommended to achieve a more comprehensive generalization of deixis phenomena.
2. For Educational Practitioners: the utilization of songs as educational media has the potential to enhance the quality of learning, particularly within literary studies.
3. For the General Public and Music Lovers: this research aspires to elevate public awareness by portraying songs not merely as a form of entertainment but as significant communicative instruments imbued with meaningful discourse.

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