

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is an essential medium in human life as it refers to overall code representing something in order for human to understand each other within verbal and written methods. Through language, humans can express their feelings, ideas, and thoughts, as well as their emotions and imaginations, so that one person can be understood by others and communication goes well. According to Fajarini (2019), communication can be successful when the speaker is capable of transmitting understandable utterances to the listener. Pertiwi & Yanti (2020) stated that smooth communication is achieved by employing a suitable target language that corresponds to the context and the speaker's situation. Therefore, the language we use when communicating can have a significant impact on preventing misinterpretation or misunderstanding. The importance of language function becomes even more evident as we explore its various roles in different contexts.

Rabiah (2018) identified several key functions of language that were determined by an individual's requirements. These functions include the utilization of language as a means of self-expression, communication, integration, and social adaptation in a specific context, as well as a tool for exerting social control. In addition to serves as a device for conversation, language is frequently utilized in various other domains, including the realms

of art and literature. It can be observed in forms of entertainment and advertising that are prevalent in society, such as novels, films, and music.

Music is a form of entertainment media that is widely recognized in society. According to Hidayah (2019), music is a foundational nature for human, a daily activity that is without exception embraced, cherished, and experienced. Music has become an essential element of modern human life; it is more than just a hobby or source of entertainment for certain individuals. Instead, it has become an inseparable part of their everyday activities. When people listen to music, they might search for a song's lyrics to interpret its significance. It's not just about comprehending the precise definition of every word in the lyrics but also understanding what the speaker intends to convey.

Lyrics can be considered as a type of discourse as they contain words or phrases that serve different grammatical purposes. Based on Oxford English Dictionary's 2021 edition, discourse is defined as an exchange of language through verbal and non-verbal way along with formal discussion regarding a general topic of language. A discourse can be conveyed through the medium of written language in the form of song lyrics (Aprilia & Neisya, 2022). This indicates that discourse encompasses more than just the transmission of a piece of information from a speaker to the audiences or from a conveyer to the recipient. The textual meaning of song lyrics can vary, and listeners often have different interpretations of their significance. In order to fully comprehend the meaning of the lyrics, individuals must possess a level of proficiency in semantics. This has become a critical aspect of linguistic theories in contemporary times, as semantic analysis plays a vital role in a linguist's job.

Semantics focuses on analyzing the meaning that is conveyed by a speaker and understood by a listener. Syaputri & Leonardo (2019) explain that semantics pertains to reading comprehension and how the reader interprets and perceives the meaning of the text. This field of study is concerned with the organization of words, phrases, sentences, and other forms of discourse and how they are interconnected with the world. Palmer, in Sinambela (2020), defines semantics as the precise expression used to indicate the exploration of meaning. It is a specialized field of study that deals with the examination of meaning in language. The realm of semantics concerns the internal significance of language, delving into the meaning behind words and sentences. Semantic analysis primarily focuses on this internal meaning. It is important to note that the interpretation of certain words, including "here," "this," "today," and "tomorrow," and pronouns such as "you," "me," "she," "him," and "it," may be dependent on the condition of the speaker, which can hinder their interpretation without it. To comprehend certain sentences in English, it is necessary to know the speaker's identity and the context of the sentence, as there may be instances where the meaning or intention is not clear to the listener. To fully grasp the speaker's intended meaning, the listener must be capable of deciphering the meaning behind the sentence or utterance. Deixis is a solution that is commonly utilized to resolve this issue.

Deixis, according to Lyons quoted from Rahmadany & Husein (2021), is the study of how a situation relates to words, phrases and other elements used in a sentence. Quoting from Saeed (2009), deixis are generally known to be a phrase modified from the word in classical Greek which is "deiknymi" and it

stands for “to point out” in English. Deixis allows people to comprehend and analyze how words and other linguistics components could be used as a reference to something else. In this case, deixis are words like “here”, “now”, and “it”. There are 3 kinds of deixis known which are person, spatial, and temporal deixis (Farahmand & Hatami, 2012). This means that deixis is traditionally categorized based on its subdivisions that deal with the interpretation of language in relation to person, space, and time. Lyons in Rahmadany & Husein (2021) also classified deixis into the categories of person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis.

Here, the researcher provided chosen lyrics originating in Niki's song, which contains deixis in its lyrics, with the title "Backburner" in the "Nicole" album below:

- (1) As long as *we* keep talking
- (2) The way *you* should be, too
- (3) But guess *I* won't ever mind crisping up on *your*
backburners
- (4) Hey, are *you* still *there*?

The italicized words in the lyrics above such as *we*, *you*, *I*, *your*, and *there* are the example of deixis in song's lyrics. Out of those few examples the researcher took the hypothesis that there are more deixis to be found in the song lyrics on Niki's 'Nicole' album. Besides that, the researcher is also curious about the semantic meanings and the influence of use the deixis towards the meaning in the lyrics. However, listeners sometimes still have difficulty determining the meaning of deixis contained in the English songs.

Moreover, the researcher also wanted to know the general identification of deixis in the lyrics, along with the impact that the lyrics got from the use of deixis. Additionally, songs lyrics itself still often confuse its audience about the use and meaning of the deixis. In regard for all those reasons, the researcher chose to certify research with the title of **A Deixis analysis of song lyrics in Niki's "Nicole" album**. This album was released on August 12, 2022, by NIKI, an Indonesian female singer, songwriter, and producer. The researcher chose to study Niki's "Nicole" album as it is well-liked by the public, especially teenagers. One of her songs from the 'Nicole' album, "High School in Jakarta," hit 26 million views on YouTube in 2023. (NIKI - High School in Jakarta (Official Music Video) (2022, August 4). YouTube. <https://youtu.be/d4CF4km1rUQ>)

1.2 Problems of the Study

In agreement to the background that has been described, the researcher did the study under these two formulations:

1. What kinds of deixis and semantic meaning used by Niki in "Nicole" album?
2. How did the use of deixis influence the meaning of the lyrics in "Nicole" album?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance to the problems, the objectives of the study were formulated as follows:

1. To identify the kinds of deixis and semantic meaning used by Niki in “Nicole” album.
2. To find out the influence of deixis towards the meaning of the lyrics in “Nicole” album.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study intended to provide readers with useful information about deixis, and it had the potential to serve as an additional resource for the next researchers that do similar study and topic. Additionally, this research contributed to the theoretical understanding of deixis and may inspired future researchers who were interested in deixis. This study not only offered supplementary information but also provided practical help for readers to better comprehend deixis, including its various kinds, semantic meanings, and how the use of deixis was able to influence songs lyrics. Hopefully, the result of this research increased the reader's comprehension of deixis and made a valuable contribution to the teaching and learning of English linguistics, specifically in deixis. Additionally, it may have inspired other students who had a desire to conduct similar research in the future.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

Under this research, the researcher's objectives were to analyze the kinds of deixis, the semantic meaning and deixis's influence to the meaning in the lyrics in Niki's "Nicole" album consists of 12 songs entitled: Before, High School in Jakarta, Backburner, Keeping Tabs, The Apartment We Won't Share, Facebook Friends, Anaheim, Milk Teeth, Autumn, Oceans & Engines, On The Drive Home, and Take A Chance With Me.

