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A DEIXIS ANALYSIS OF SONG LYRICS IN NIKI'S "NICOLE" ALBUM

by

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Abstract:

This study aimed to identify the kinds of deixis as well as their influence in the formation of meaning in song lyrics. The object of the study was the entirety of songs under the album of Niki namely the "Nicole" album. The study examined 12 songs in total. The researcher used a qualitative-descriptive method to do the study as it was considered as the best method to describe the result of analysis. The result of study stated that the three kinds of deixis existed in the semantics namely the personal deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis were all found in the song lyrics. There are 99 of personal deixis, 15 of spatial deixis, and 52 of temporal deixis with the total of 166 deixis. It was identified that the song lyrics from the album mainly used personal deixis. According to the study, it could be said that deixis plays an important role in clarifying the meaning of song lyrics.

Keywords: deixis, song, lyric, nicole album

INTRODUCTION

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) identifies several key functions of language that are 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. A discourse can be conveyed through the medium of written language in the form of song lyrics (Aprilia & Neisya, 2022). 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.

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. 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. Lyons in Rahmadany & Husein (2021) classified deixis into the categories of person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. Person deixis is when the relationship between the speaker, the addressee, and other individuals mentioned in the discourse. Referencing to Levinson as cited in Lessa (2022), spatial deixis means the way of how the spatial location is expressed with regard towards the position of the participants involved in the idea of speech delivery. According to Levinson in Lessa (2022), temporal deixis, or time deixis, involves how temporal points and durations are linguistically represented in relation to the specific moment where a message was delivered or a written text was drafted.

Here, the researchers 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. Listeners sometimes still have difficulty determining the meaning of deixis contained in the English songs. Out of those few examples the researchers took the hypothesis that there are more deixis to be found in the song lyrics on Niki's 'Nicole' album, so the researchers analyzed kind of deixis and semantic meanings, as well as the influence of the deixis use for the meaning in the lyrics in NIKI's "Nicole" album.

There were also previous studies that discussed deixis in songs, one of which was Lestari, S. D., & Rustipa, K. (2022) discussed "A deixis analysis of song lyrics in Sam Smith's "Love Goes" album." In this study, the researchers analyzed the lyrics of Sam Smith's song "Love Goes," which is part of his album "Love Goes.", using a theory by Yule to identify how the deixis is used. By utilizing a descriptive qualitative technique, the author examines various types of deixis present in the song from Sam Smith's album "Love Goes." Throughout the paper, the author find the different types of deixis and put it in each classes of deixis. After that, the researchers involves analyzing the data using Yule's theory. Upon examining all of the data from the "Love Goes" album, the author identified several types of deixis, including person deixis, geographical deixis, and temporal deixis. The author found out that the album features an average of 486 deixis for person category, 41 deixis for spatial location category, and 44 deixis for time deixis category. The research above uses a different theory from this research, which is identifying deixis into its three kinds categorized by Lyons (1977), namely: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The object of study is also different, this research used the album "Nicole" by Niki, an Indonesian female singer, songwriter, and producer. The researchers chose to study Niki's "Nicole" album as it is well-liked by the public, especially teenagers. This album was released on August 12, 2022.

METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Auli (2020) defines descriptive research as a systematic, factual, and precise approach to presenting information in a study, ensuring that no crucial aspects are overlooked. The qualitative method was used to analyze the use of the three kinds of deixis, the semantical meaning, and the influence of the deixis use for the meaning in the lyrics in NIKI's "Nicole" album. Under the reason that the data collected within this study is in the form of words and utterances, the researchers decided to used a qualitative descriptive method for a better explanation of the result of the analysis.

Design

This research focused to examine kind of deixis and semantic meanings, as well as the influence of the deixis use for the meaning in the lyrics in NIKI's "Nicole" album present in the words and sentences of NIKI's "Nicole" album. The objects of study were the song lyrics

from the album, which comprised twelve English songs that were released in August 2022. The researchers used a qualitative-descriptive method to do the study as it is considered as the best method to describe the result of analysis

Data Collecting Technique

The study is done in multiple steps within the order of: (1) Listened to all the songs on the album "Nicole" by Niki for the sake of detailed understanding of the lyrics. (2) Searched the scripts of all the songs on the album "Nicole" by Niki on the internet. (3) Watched video clips of songs from the album "Nicole" to get new insights. And (4) Marked all the chosen lyrics to be analyzed.

Data Analysis Technique

The researchers performed data analysis to draw conclusions after the data has been gathered and processed. The results of the study were collected through several steps below: (1) Identified deixis into its three kinds categorized by Lyons (1977), into: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. (2) Analyzed the meaning semantically (3) Described the use of deixis influenced the meaning of the lyrics in Niki's "Nicole" Album. Finally, the researchers drawing a conclusion based on the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The researcher found 3 kinds of deixis on the album "Nicole" by Niki, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The total number of deixis found in the lyrics of the songs on the album "Nicole" was 166 deixis. The total was separated into 99 of person deixis, 15 of spatial deixis, and 52 of temporal deixis. The researcher presented all the data obtained as shown below:

Table 4.1

Songs	Person Deixis	Spatial Deixis	Temporal Deixis	Total
Before	10	2	11	23
High School in Jakarta	8	1	8	17
Backburner	10	1	2	13
Keeping Tabs	6	1	3	10
The Apartment We Won't Share	9	1	3	13
Facebook Friends	8	0	3	11
Anaheim	9	4	1	14
Milk Teeth	6	0	3	9
Autumn	-11	3	4	18
Oceans & Engines	6	0	10	16
On The Drive Home	6	2	3	11
Take A Chance with Me	10	0	1	11
Total	99	15	52	166

Discussion

4.1.1 Kinds of Deixis and meaning semantically in Niki's "Nicole" album

The researcher found 3 kinds of deixis on the album "Nicole" by Niki, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis.

Person Deixis

In Niki's "Nicole" album, the researcher found that the writer of the song used the first-person singular deixis "*I*," "*me*," "*my*," "myself" and "*mine*" the first-person plural deixis "*we*", "*us*", "*our*", and "*ourselves*" the second-person deixis "*you*", "*your*", and "*yours*" third-person singular "*she*", "*he*", "*his*", "*her*", and "*him*", and the third-person plural deixis "*they*", "*them*", and "*their*".

Spatial Deixis

Temporal Deixis

The researcher found that the song writer used temporal deixis "now", "soon", "since", "before", "yesterday", "tonight", "morning", "night", "day", "sunset", "sundown", "summer", "autumn", "someday", "these day", "every time", "in time", "this year", "in march", "a year", "two years", "Halloweekend", "Halloween night", "most nights", "in March", "in August", "in a week or so", "hours", "five hours", "twenty two hours", "forty-eight hours", "freshman's year's", "it's 2013", "at nine", "eight months", and "two years ago"

Table 4.2

No.	Lyrics	Kinds of Deixis	Deixis Meaning in Semantics
1.	"I wasn't, she doesn't	She (Person	"She" as a singular third person deixis
	even drink"	Deixis)	referred to Rachel
2.	"But it didn't 'cause we kissed on that Halloween night"	We (Person Deixis) Halloween night (Temporal Deixis)	"We" as plural first person deixis referred to the speaker and her ex lover who had kissed on that "Halloween night" that is a phrase that mention time this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the time where they kissed and first got together on the same holiday years prior
3.	"Hope He doesn't strike me down (strike me down)"	He, Me (Person Deixis)	"He" as a singular third person deixis referred to God and "me" as speaker was a singular first-person deixis
4.	"But you bring them up along with how much I fucking miss you"	Them (Person Deixis)	"Them" as a plural third person deixis referred to The Goo Goo Dolls
5.	"Wonder what's in the cards for us"	Us (Person Deixis)	"Us" as a plural first person deixis referred to the speaker and her exlover

<u>Lastname</u>

6.	"Funny how you thought that was gonna be New York"	That (Spatial Deixis)	"That" as a spatial deixis referred to North Carolina
7.	"We walk downtown and it's charming"	It (Spatial Deixis)	"It" is a spatial deixis referred to downtown
8.	"I wonder what sad wife lives there"	I (Person Deixis) There (Spatial Deixis)	"T" which was part of 1st person deixis in singular category, referred to the speaker who wondered what sad wife lived "there" as a spatial deixis that referred to the apartment
9.	"But baby, let up, I won't ever recognize these roads"	These (Spatial Deixis)	"These" as a spatial deixis referred to the roads
10.	"I don't think that I'll ever memorize this route"	This (Spatial Deixis)	"This" as a spatial deixis referred to route
11.	"It was Halloweekend, I just flew across the globe"	Halloweekend (Temporal Deixis) I (Person Deixis)	"Halloweekend" was a temporal deixis that showed the time when speaker and her lover first began their relationship and "I" which was part of 1st person deixis in singular category stated in regard to the speaker who hasd just flown across the globe
12.	"But I'd give anything to stop time and drive around Anaheim at sundown to teach my mind to put you first"	Sundown (Temporal Deixis)	"Sundown" was a phrase that mentioned time this made it a deixis of temporal, it talked about the specific time of the day
13.	"Twenty-two hours just to see you"	Twenty-two hours (Temporal Deixis)	"Twenty-two hours" was a phrase that mentioned time this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the

			duration it took for the speaker to see her lover
14.	"Saturday sunset"	Sunset (Temporal Deixis)	"Sunset" was a phrase that mentioned time; this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the specific time on Saturday
15.	"Freshman's year's about to plummet just a little harder"	Freshman's year's (Temporal Deixis)	"Freshman's year's" was a phrase that mentioned time this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the specific time of speaker's school life

4.1.2 The use of deixis influence the meaning of the lyrics in "Nicole" album

Person Deixis

"I wasn't, <u>she</u> doesn't even drink"

"She" as a singular third person deixis referred to Rachel

"Hope <u>He</u> doesn't strike <u>me</u> down (strike me down)"

"He" as a singular third person deixis referred to *God* and "me" as *speaker* was a singular first-person deixis

"Wonder what's in the cards for <u>us</u>"

"Us" as a plural first person deixis referred to the speaker and her ex-lover

From the lyrics above, it could be seen that deixis helped prevent confusion for listeners of the song, because listeners did not know who was the speaker in the song, who was being told in the song, or whether the song was talking about the songwriter itself or someone else.

Spatial Deixis

"Funny how you thought <u>that</u> was gonna be New York" "That" as a spatial deixis referred to North Carolina

"I wonder what sad wife lives *there*"

"there" as a spatial deixis referred to the *apartment*

"We walk downtown and <u>it's</u> charming"

"It" is a spatial deixis referred to downtown

The use of spatial deixis in song was to explain where the location of speaker was. From that lyrics above it could be seen that deixis helped prevent song listeners from getting confused about the location intended by the speaker

Temporal Deixis

"It was <u>Halloweekend</u>, I just flew across the globe"

"Halloweekend" was a temporal deixis that showed the time when the speaker and her lover first began their relationship

"Twenty-two hours just to see you"

"Twenty-two hours" was a phrase that mentioned time; this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the duration it took for the speaker to see her lover

"Saturday sunset"

"Sunset" was a phrase that mentioned time; this made it a deixis of temporal, as it talked about the specific time on Saturday

The use of temporal deixis was to show the time and duration of a moment. From the lyrics above, it could be seen that deixis helped prevent confusion when the time and duration were meant by the songwriter.

Without the word deixis, the meaning of the song would be different. The use of deixis in lyrics influenced the meaning of the lyrics as a whole. With the use of deixis, the entire meaning of the song lyrics could be understood clearly, so that listeners could understand who the speaker was and who was intended and also when and for what duration the songwriter delivered.

4.2 Interpretation

Based on the findings, the researcher managed to find three kinds of deixis in all the songs on the album of "Nicole" depending on Lyons theory. 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. Lyons also classified deixis into the categories of person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The three deixis are deixis which are based on person, location, and time. The total numbers of deixis found in the lyrics of the songs on the album "Nicole" was 166 deixis. The total was separated into 99 of person deixis, 15 of spatial deixis, and 52 of temporal deixis. This number showed that the most widely used deixis is the personal deixis. The researcher assessed the dominance of this kinds of deixis as a form of writing style and the concept of the album "Nicole" itself. It is in accordance to the album of "Nicole" as it is an album Niki made dedicated to tell about her personal life, according to Kompas Cyber Media (2022), Nicole's album brought to life stories and songs written by her during high school. So it was understandable why personal deixis became the most apparent element in the album.

First, the use of deixis that referred to people or personal deixis helped the lyrics of the album songs "Nicole" have a clear point of view. According to Aikhenvald (2004), person deixis is when the use of linguistic articulation, such as pronouns and personal markers, are used to indicate the participants in a communicative event. It involved the linguistic means by which the speaker referred to themselves, the addressee, or other individuals in a discourse, conveying their roles, relationships, and social identity. Each utterance usually had a target audience who heard the information, as well as third parties who became the object of the sentence. In the lyrics of Nicole's album songs, Niki told many stories involving other people, including people she liked and friends. The large number of participants or individuals involved in the song lyrics would have created confusion for

listeners if clear references were not used in each verse of the song lyrics. The use of deixis in the form of various pronouns and others helped prevent the confusion. The listener could clearly know who was speaking and being spoken to through terms such as "I", "You", "He", etc. Therefore, personal deixis helped the lyrics of songs to have a clear cast.

Next was the use of spatial deixis on the album songs "Nicole". Spatial deixis which clarified location was very important in explaining the position of objects in song lyrics. Referencing to Levinson as cited in Lessa (2022), spatial deixis means the way of how the spatial location is expressed with regard towards the position of the participants involved in the idea of speech delivery. Spatial deixis was often an important element in conveying an allegory of how something had been left behind or could no longer be achieved in Niki's songs. Spatial deixis helped provide illustrations of distance when needed so that the audience could be drawn along with the meaning of the song lyrics that Niki wanted to convey. Spatial deixis also provides clarity on the position of the object and subject of the song in general.

The last one was temporal deixis. According to Levinson in Lessa (2022), temporal deixis, or time deixis, involved how temporal points and durations are linguistically represented in relation to the specific moment where a message was delivered or a written text was drafted. Deixis, which provided clues about time information, was essential for song lyrics with a story-telling theme, such as the songs on the album "Nicole". With this deixis, song listeners could easily understand the time of the event the conveyer wanted to tell. Moreover, the existence of deixis of temporal helped an utterance to have a clear sequence, therefore song lyrics did not seem jumpy from one moment to another.

In addition to identifying the influence of using deixis above, overall the use of deixis also helped complete all forms of figurative sentences in the lyrics of the album songs "Nicole". The terms of deixis may not have represented the connotative and metaphorical meaning of the lyrics of the songs on the album "Nicole". However, its use supports the delivery of figurative sentences so as to minimize the possibility of misinterpretation.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, the researcher found three kinds of deixis in all the songs on the album of "Nicole". The three deixis were person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The total numbers of deixis found in the lyrics of the songs on the album "Nicole" was 166 deixis. The total was separated into 99 of person deixis, 15 of spatial deixis, and 52 of temporal deixis. This number showed that the most widely used deixis was personal deixis. The researcher assessed the dominance of this kinds of deixis as a form of writing style and the concept of the album "Nicole" itself. It is in accordance to the album of "Nicole" as it was an album Niki made dedicated to telling about her personal life. So it is understandable why person deixis became the most apparent element in the album.

Assessing the meaning of the lyrics of the album songs "Nicole" semantically by considering the use of deixis provided its own conclusion in this study. Based on how frequently deixis was used in the songs is, it was already clear that these deixis played an important role in shaping the meaning of the song. The intended meaning was not only about how the lyricist packaged the songs using deixis according to what they wished, but also about how deixis helped convey the meaning that the lyricist wanted to give to the audience of the songs. Deixis helped clarify clearly and specifically the what, who, when, where and how of a utterance. By studying the three kinds of deixis, the researcher was able to identify the influence in the lyrics of the album songs "Nicole" personally, spatially, and temporally.

Overall, it can be concluded that the use of deixis influenced the listener's comprehension in interpreting song lyrics. A story and messages in a song would not be conveyed if deixis were not presented significantly in the lyrics of the song with accurate use.

Limitation

Under this research, the researchers's objectives ware to analyze the types of deixis, the semantic meaning and deixis's influence to the whole 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.

Implication

Seeing how principal and essential the use of deixis is in communication and linguistics in general, the researchers would like to deliver some suggestions. It is important to realize that even though deixis is a small part of a language, it has great potential to be studied. Deixis is basically the unit that helps society to not misunderstand each other. To add up, something as basic as this is of course always going to have a big effect if used differently. This should be seen as a research opportunity to further push our comprehension in communication especially the delivery of meaning.

It is suggested that future deixis-centered study to have deeper meanings of deixis thus the studies can find more varied deixis terms in various utterances. The researchers also suggests future studies to have a heavy focus on the use of deixis in creative writing such as song lyrics. The impact of deixis on figurative language or how it could help building a personal writing style are also some of the options that future researchers have upon studying deixis. This study along with deixis studies in other song lyrics can be used as a starting basis for starting deixis research in that direction. Future researchers can find various uses of deixis in song lyrics and use them as references.

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