An Analysis of Deixis Occurred on the Lyrics in Adele's "Easy on Me, My Little Love, and To Be Loved" Songs

Nurmala Dudi[1], Rohmana, Yulius Tandi Sapan
nrmala.dudi7@gmail.com
[1,2,3]*Halu Oleo University, Indonesia*

ABSTRACT

This research analysed the deixis occurred in the song lyrics on Adele's "30" album. The purpose of this research was to determine the types and textual meaning of the song lyrics in the "30" album by Adele. This research was conducted to analyze the types of deixis based on the theory of Cruse (2000) and textual meaning based on the theory of Gerot and Wignell (1994). The researcher used a qualitative analysis method in conducting research, in which the researcher described the types of deixis based on data taken from lyricsondemand.com. The researcher found five types of deixis used by Adele, namely, personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The meaning of the deixis is also clearly stated textually because this research used the semantic domain, where personal deixis referred to first person, second person, and third person. Spatial deixis referred to the location relative to the songwriter of the song lyrics. Temporal deixis referred to a certain period of time in the setting of events in the song lyrics. Social deixis referred to the social status of participants involved in the song lyrics. Discourse deixis referred to the relationship between the utterance and the previous or next discourse.

Keywords:
Deixis, Semantics, Textual Meaning.

1. Introduction

Music or song is considerred a good medium for conveying feelings, opinions, ideas, and so on because music usually contains meaning. The main component in music to understand the meaning of music itself generally lies in the lyrics. It is said so because the lyrics consist of words or sentences that can be understand like language. Song lyrics have varied textual meanings, so it can help listeners to interpret in understanding a song's lyrics. The the song lyrics' meaning can be understand through the semantic and pragmatic realms.

Kreidler, (2002) states that the systematic of meaning is concerned of three disciplines, namely, psychology, philosophy, and linguistics. Linguistics concern with the meanings expressed by speaker's voice modulations and the process by which hearers and readers relate new information to the information they already have. Linguistics also deal with identifying the element of specific language meaning, for example, *paint* and *happy* in English words and affixes like the *-er* of *painter* and the *un-* of *unhappy*. It deals with describing how such elements go with together to express more complex meanings in phrases "*the unhappy painter*" and sentence "*The painter is*

unhappy" and telling how these are related to each other. Kreidler adds that semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistics semantic is the study of how language organize and express meaning.

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The use of deixis is often find in everyday conversation in American English. In addition, deixis also found in literary works, such as song. The song is considerred a communication system with other people using sound to convey feelings, emotions, and ideas. For some people, songs are a suitable medium to express their intentions and desires to others in the form of works of art, so every song we listen to does not only consist of sound and poetry but also meaning. For example, in some of Taylor Swift's songs, such as *Back to December*, *Dear John*, and *We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together*, the singer conveys spesific meaning to her exes. However, listeners, including the writers themselves, usually cannot understand the importance of a song if the lyrics, which are the physical context of the song itself, are not explicit, such as unknown words referring to who, when, and where the situation of the song lyrics is. Therefore, understanding deixis can help listeners know the meaning of the song they are listening to.

The researcher is interested in examining the lyrics of Adele's songs included in the album "30" because this album became the best female album according to *Spotify* as well the *best-selling* album in 2021 with sales of more than 600.000 copies in just six weeks. Moreover, this album also won the best English album category at the *BRIT Awards*. Furthermore, the pieces in this album are also enjoyable to listen to because of the way the singer carries them with full appreciation so that listeners get carried away and feel the emotions in each song. This album also received critical acclaim, such as Rob Sheffield, who is the author of *Rolling Stones Magazine*. In addition, this album is also said to be an album about the singer's divorce from her ex-husband and is dedicated to her child, so the lyrics in these songs have a deep meaning because most of the song lyrics tell the singer's life story, sadness, happiness, and anger feel by the singer.

(Cruse, 2000) categorizes five types of deixis, namely personal deixis, temporal deixis, spatial deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Similar to the theory in the previous research conducted by (Nurhalimatusadi'ah, 2018), Levinson et al., (1983) also found five types of deixis as found in this research. The research analyzes the textual meaning of the song lyrics because this research uses semantic domain. According to Gerot & Wignell (1994), textual meaning shows the relation of language to its environment, including both the verbal environment (co-text), what has been said or written before and the non-verbal (context) situational environment.

2. Methods

This research was conducted by using the qualitative methods to analysis the subject. It was because the data obtained in this research were in the form of words, not numbers. The researcher here, analyzed, found out, and discussed the deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele. By using this method, the researcher expected to be able to investigate the data which was suitable with the theory.

In this research, the data sources were the three songs entitled *Easy on Me, My Little Love* and *To Be Loved*. The data of this research was taken from the website and also several other sites used, namely *lyricsondemand.com.*

Here, the researcher herself who was as actively and directly participant in data collection and also data analysis.

In collecting data, the researcher used the triangulation method, which is the technique of combining different data collection to find data from the same source, (Sugiyono, 2013). In this research, the data collection techniques used were observation and document. The researcher conducted some steps in which were searching the song lyrics through a site on the internet. In the data collection process, the researcher collected data by downloading song lyrics in Adele's "30" album. After going through a series of processes above, the researcher classified the types of deixis in the form of words that include deictic expressions into five parts, namely personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. After finding the data in the form of deictic expressions and their respective types, the researcher marked the data in the form of deictic presentations using italic codes in the word.

3. Result

In this research, the researcher had done analyzing the deixis occurred on the lyrics songs in Adele's album. Those songs were "Easy on Me", "My Little Love", and "To Be Loved". Based on the data, the researcher found five types of deixis based on the concept of Cruse (2000).

Table 1. Types of deixis occurred in Adele's songs

| No. | Song Titles | Types of Deixis | | | | |
		Personal deixis	Spatial deixis	Temporal deixis	Social Deixis	Discourse deixis
1.	Easy on Me	I, my, myself, me, we, our, you	This river, these waters, room	Forever, now, right now, no time	Baby, child	That

No.	Song title					
2.	My Little Love	I, my, it, your, you, me, myself, he	Here, home, on me	Daylight, recently, today, always, the first day	My little love, mommy, anyone, mama, mummy, your, dad, daddy, people	That, this
3.	To Be Loved	I, my, myself, you	House, walls, room, at the highest count	Now, then, always, time, never	Someone, mighty	-

It is evident from the table above that there are five types of deixis found in this album, namely, person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. First, personal deixis; they are *I, my, myself, me, we, our, you, your,* and *he*. Then, spatial Deixis, namely, *this river, these waters, room, here, home, on me, house, walls, room,* and *at the highest count*. Furthermore, the temporal deixis, namely, *forever, no time, now, right now, daylight, recently, today, first day, then, always, time,* and *never*. The next one is social deixis, *baby, child, little love, mommy, anyone, mama, mummy, dad, daddy, people, someone,* and *mighty*. The last one is discourse deixis, *that* and *this*.

After presenting the data, next, the researcher classifies the data above into tables based on each type of deixis, as follows:

Table 2. Personal deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele

No.	Song title	Personal deixis words		
		First-person	**Second person**	**Third person**
1.	Easy on Me	I, my, myself, me, we, our	You	
2.	My Little Love	I, my, me, myself,	You	He, it
3.	To Be Loved	I, myself	You	It

Based on the table above, it can be seen that all songs contain personal deixis in their lyrics. However, not all of them contain all types of personal deixis. In the songs My Little Love and To Be Loved, there are three personal deixis: first person, second person, and third person. However, in the song Easy on Me, the third person is not found in the song's lyrics.

Table 3. Spatial deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele

No	Song title	Spatial deixis word		
		Distal	**Proximal**	**Specific location**
1.	Easy on Me	-		This river, these waters, room
2.	My Little Love	-	Here	On me, home

3.	To Be Loved	-	-	House, walls, room, at the highest count

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the researcher grouped the temporal deixis into three parts, namely, distal, proximal, and specific location. From the results found, it can be concluded that of the three songs that became the object above, My Little Love became the only song with a proximal location. Then, all of these songs contain specific locations and do not contain distal locations.

Table 4. Temporal deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele

No	Song title	Deictic words
1.	Easy on Me	Forever, now, right now, no time
2.	My Little Love	Daylight, recently, today, always, the first day
3.	To Be Loved	Now, then, always, time, never

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that all the songs in the "30" album, which are the object of this study, namely Easy on Me, My Little Love, and To Be Loved, occur in temporal deixis.

Table 5. Social deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele

No	Song title	Social Deixis	
		Relational	Absolute
1.	Easy on Me	Baby, child	-
2.	My Little Love	My little love, mommy, anyone, mama, mummy, your dad, daddy, people	-
3.	To Be Loved	Someone	Mighty

Based on the table above, it can be seen that social deixis is divided into two categories, namely relational and absolute. In contrast, Adele's song in the "30" album uses relational social deixis and does not use absolute social deixis.

Table 6. Discourse deixis occurred in the "30" album by Adele

No.	Song title	Deictic words
1.	Easy on Me	That
2.	My Little Love	That, this
3.	To Be Loved	-

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that not all the songs on the "30" album by Adele occur the type of discourse deixis, which shows a certain discourse in the song lyrics. Easy on Me and My Little Love song occur discourse deixis while To Be Loved does not.

4. Discussion

The objective of this research is to identify the deixis that occurred in the "30" album by Adele and their meaning textually. Based on the theory used, the theory of Cruse (2000) the researcher finds that there are five types of deixis contained in the "30" album, namely personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Based on Cruse's concept, personal deixis consists of the speaker, listener, and other people who enter into the speaking situation. Personal deixis is used to show the participants in the story from the lyrics of Adele's song on the "30" album. In this album, personal deixis is the dominant type of deixis compared to other types of deixis found in the lyrics of the songs, where the researcher found 145 data on this type of deixis. The use of spatial deixis in the "30" album by Adele is to show the location used so that listeners understand this album. Yule (1996) divides it into two locations, namely the proximal term, which indicates a close place and the distal term, which indicates a far place. The researcher found 11 data on this type of deixis. Temporal deixis is used to show the time of using an utterance. Cruse (2000) divides it into three parts to show time, namely before the speech act, at the time of the speech, and after speech time. The researcher found 22 data on this type of deixis. Social deixis aims to provide positions based on social differences. Levinson et al. (1983) categorizes it into two types of social deixis, namely relative and absolute. The researcher found 13 data on this type of deixis. Discourse deixis refers to things that use to point to the discourse element of the future, for example, "Listen to this. It'll kill you". Also, the elements of the past, such as "that was not a very nice thing to say" (Cruse, 2006). The researcher found 6 data on this type of deixis.

This research is useful for music listeners, especially Adele's song from the "30" album, to understand the meaning of the song, and listeners or readers can also know and identify all types of deixis along with examples of each used in Adele's song. In addition, this research is also recommended for teachers who will teach English courses about grammar, especially deixis or reference. This research can help teachers and serve as a reference in the teaching process. In addition, teachers can also develop the material contained in this research to support them in teaching.

5. Conclusion

Based on the results and discussions that have been carried out in the previous chapter of this research, the researcher can conclude that there are five types of deixis found in song lyrics on the album "30" by Adele, namely personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Personal deixis is used to find the role of the participant of the song, where the use of personal deixis will provide an overview for listeners so that they can easily understand the message of the song. Based on data analysis, the researcher found three types of personal deixis in song lyrics. First personal deixis is used to indicate the songwriter or speaker, second personal deixis is used to indicate the addressee, and third personal deixis is used to indicate a referent which is not identified as the songwriter or the addressee. Spatial deixis refers to the setting of the actions in the song lyrics happen. Temporal deixis is used to show a certain period of time of an event that occurs in the song lyrics which refers to the past in year 2019. Social deixis is used to show the social status of the participants in the song lyrics. Discourse deixis is used to show the relationship

between utterances and previous or subsequent discourse in the song lyrics. In addition, the researcher concludes that deixis is useful to describe the function of the personal, time, pronoun, demonstrative, and lexical features that are relative to the songwriter, which connects utterances with the relationship between place and time.

The meaning of song lyrics from deixis was found using a textual meaning where personal deixis refers to first person, second person, and third person. Spatial deixis refers to the location relative to the songwriter. Temporal deixis refers to a certain period of time. Social deixis refers to the social status of participants. Discourse deixis refers to the relationship between the utterance and the previous or next discourse.

Provide a statement that what is expected, as stated in the "Introduction" chapter can ultimately result in "Results and Discussion" chapter, so there is compatibility. Moreover, it can also be added the prospect of the development of research results and application prospects of further studies into the next.

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