

A DEIXIS ANALYSIS IN WESTLIFE' "BEAUTIFUL IN WHITE" SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

One of the most critical studies in pragmatics is deixis. Deixis can be found in a conversation, written text, song lyrics, etc. The aims of this study is to analyze the different forms of deixis used in Beautiful In White song lyrics and determine which ones are the most dominant. Qualitative research was applied in this research. After analyzing the results, the findings revealed that Beautiful In White song lyrics use five types of deixis, including person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis, as described by Alan Cruse (2000). Person deixis is the most commonly used deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics, accounting to 56 deictic words (71.80%), dominated by the word "You". The song lyrics also include other forms of deictic terms, such as spatial deixis 2 deictic words, temporal deixis 15 deictic words, social deixis 1 deictic word, and discourse deixis 4 deictic words.

Keywords: Pragmatic, Deixis, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most valuable outcomes of human cultures because it allows humans to communicate and interact with people from all over the world. Humans may create and abstract many triggers that occur in their environment via language. And it is undeniable that language plays a crucial role in social life. If the language goal is used correctly, communication can flow smoothly. The meaning is that language is used based on the situation and condition of the speaker and the character of the utterances (Amaliyah, 2017). Aside from communicating or speaking, there are many other ways to express language, such as song or music, poetry, novel, article, and other written text. Music is a simple way for people to express themselves. It expresses thoughts, feelings, even ideas and opinions (Nisa et al., 2020). The lyrics attempt to take the audience to a world created by his/her imagination, causing them to think and react (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). The textual meaning of the song lyrics varies. In general, different listeners of songs have different interpretations of the song's meaning. Listeners should be able to determine the meaning of the speaker's utterance in order to understand the speaker's intended meaning. Meanwhile, the study of what the speaker means is called as pragmatics. Pragmatics evolved from the study of linguistics in the form of utterances ranging from daily human speech (Fauzi, 2012) as cited in (Amaliyah, 2017). According to (Yule, 1996), pragmatics is the study of meaning as it is communicated by the speaker (or writer) and interpreted by the listener (or reader). Communication clearly depends on recognizing not only the meaning of a word in an utterance or sentence, but also what the speaker means by their words. According to (Hidayah, 2019) the study of pragmatics investigates how much of what is unsaid is known as part of what is communicated. It demonstrates how a listener could also infer meaning from what is said to reach what is the speaker's intended meaning. On the other hand, (Kreidler, 1998:19) as cited in (Purba, 2018) define; pragmatics is the ability of person to derive meanings from context of speech situation. It is carried out when people examine what people mean by their utterances and what the words or phrases in those utterances may mean

to them. Deixis, speech act, implicature, presupposition, politeness and many more are some sub studies of Pragmatics. In this case, the researcher wanted to conduct a study that used a pragmatic approach to analyze deixis in song lyrics. Beautiful In White by Westlife was chosen as the study's theme song. The researcher chose this song because it contains many deixis words and their meanings that the songwriter wishes to convey to the hearers. The researcher hopes that it will make easier for listeners to understand the meaning of deixis as sub studies of pragmatics.

Deixis, according to Yule (2010), “These are words such as here and there, this or that, now and then, yesterday, today or tomorrow, as well as pronouns such as you, me, she, him, it, and them”. “They are technically known as deictic (/daɪktɪk/) expressions, from the Greek word deixis, which means “pointing” via language”, he continued. In addition, (Ilmi, 2018) define; deixis is a context-bound expression. Every language has deictic words that refer to anything in the speaker's physical and social environment. The addressee of the utterances, for example, can be determined by knowing the context of the utterances themselves.

There are five types of deixis, according to Alan Cruse (2000) as cited in (Nasution et al., 2018). Person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis are the five main types.

1. Person Deixis

Person deixis is a type of deixis in which the person or people involved in the communication are mentioned.

Table 1. Example of Person Deixis by Alan Cruse

	Pronouns	Possessive Adjective	Verb Inflection
1st Person	I, me, mine, myself	My	I like
	We, us, ourselves	Our	
2nd Person	You, yours, yourself	Your	You like
3rd Person	He, himself, him	His	He likes
	She, herself, hers	Her	She likes
	It, itself	Its	
	They, themselves	Their	

There are three types of person deixis; first person, second person, and third person. According to (Lyons, 1974), the category first person is used by the speaker that refers to himself as a subject of discourse, example “I” (singular) and “We” (plural). Second person is used to refer to the hearer to one or more addressees; the example of second person is “You”. And third person is used to refer to person or thing other than the speaker and hearer, example “He”, “She”, “It” (singular), and “They” (plural). Based on the definition above, person deixis consists of speakers (people having a conversation), the recipient (the person who hears or answers the conversation), and the other people in conversation.

2. Spatial Deixis

We can use spatial deixis to indicates the location between the speaker and the listener. Place deixis and locative expressions are the other terms for spatial deixis. The most basic spatial deictic words that can be found are *here* and *there*. All of these expressions depend on their interpretation, on speakers and listeners who share the same context.

3. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is used to indicate the time. Temporal deixis as known as time deixis. There are three main categories in time deixis. First, before the moment of utterance. Second, at the time of utterance. Third, after the time of utterance. The markers of time in temporal deixis are *now, tomorrow, today, yesterday, then, tonight*, and more specific times. The examples of more specific times such as showing days, years, dates, and times.

4. Social Deixis

Social deixis refers to social relations or social differences. According to (Cruse, 2006, p.166), social deictic words are used to indicate the referent's position on the scales of social status and intimacy in relation to the speaker. The tools used for deixis include various forms such as nicknames, titles, addressee, pronouns for politeness, terms of heredity and honor. The example of social deictic words are; *Grandparents, President, Student, Daughter, etc.*

5. Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis is a type of deixis that refers to discourses such as *this* or *that*. The use of *this* to point to future discourse elements, and *that* to point to past discourse elements (2000, p.323). *Therefore* and *furthermore* as sentence adverbs may include a discourse elements in their meanings at times (Cruse, 2000).

METHOD

Descriptive qualitative method was applied in this research. According to (Gay and Airasian, 1992) as cited in (Saputra & Apsari, 2021) A descriptive study identifies and reports on a topic. In other words the research takes place naturally, with no control over the condition or situation, and can only measure what is already present. The research process is carried out by formulating problems, collecting data, classifying, and explaining the results descriptively. The data for this study was derived from the lyrics of Westlife's Beautiful In White. The following are the steps taken by the researcher to collect data. First, the researcher carefully listened to the song. Second, the researcher looked up the internet for the lyrics of Westlife's Beautiful In White. Third, the researcher selects which lyrics from the song will be analyzed. Finally, the researcher tagged the deictic expressions in the lyrics. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed it in following ways. To begin, sorted out some phrases that are included in deictic expressions. Second, classified the deictic expressions sorted by their criteria. Third, examined the data based on Alan Cruse theory, specifically person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Fourth, the data was analyzed by counting the number of deixis in the form of a table. Finally, the researcher used descriptive qualitative analysis to interpret and describe the deixis analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The objectives of this study is to analyze the different forms of deixis used in Beautiful In White song lyrics and determine which ones are the most dominant. The findings revealed that Beautiful In White song lyrics use five types of deixis, including person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis, as described by Alan Cruse (2000). The researcher attempted to determine the frequency and percentages of the five types of deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics as the result in the form of table. Table 2 illustrates this.

Table 2. Deixis Frequency in Beautiful In White Song Lyrics by Westlife

No	Type of Deixis	Frequency	Percentages(%)
1	Person Deixis	56	71,80%
2	Spatial Deixis	2	2,56%
3	Temporal Deixis	15	19,23%
4	Social Deixis	1	1,28%
5	Discourse Deixis	4	5,13%
	Total	78	100%

Based on the table above, the result of analysis Beautiful In White song lyrics by Westlife with five types of deixis; person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The total frequency of deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics is 78. With 56 deictic words or 71,80% of person deixis, 2 deictic words or 2,56% of spatial deixis, 15 deictic words or 19,23% of temporal deixis, 1 deictic word or 1,28% of social deixis, and 4 deictic words or 5,13% of discourse deixis. Here are the findings of this study, as well as more detailed analysis, which can be found in the tables below:

Table 3. Types of Deixis in Beautiful In White Song Lyrics

No	Part of Lyrics	Types of Deixis
1	Not sure if you know this	You (person deixis, 2 nd person) This (discourse deixis)
2	But when we first met	We (person deixis, 1 st person) First met (temporal deixis)
3	I got so nervous, I couldn't speak	I (person deixis, 1 st person) I (person deixis, 1 st person)
4	In that very moment	That (discourse deixis)
5	I found the one, and	I (person deixis, 1 st person)
6	My life had found its missing piece	My (person deixis, 1 st person) Its (person deixis, 3 rd person)
7	So as long as I live I 'll love you	I (person deixis, 1 st person) I (person deixis, 1 st person) You (person deixis, 2 nd person)
8	Will have and hold you	You (person deixis, 2 nd person)
9	You look so beautiful in white	You (person deixis, 2 nd person)
10	And from now 'til my very last breath	Now (temporal deixis) My (person deixis, 1 st person) Very last breath (temporal deixis)
11	This day I'll cherish	This day (temporal deixis) I (person deixis, 1 st person)
12	You look so beautiful in white tonight	You (person deixis, 2 nd person) Tonight (temporal deixis)
13	What we have is timeless	We (person deixis, 1 st person)
14	My love is endless	My (person deixis, 1 st person)

15	And with this ring I say to the world	This (discourse deixis) I (person deixis, 1 st person) The world (spatial deixis)
16	You're my every reason	You (person deixis, 2 nd person) My (person deixis, 1 st person)
17	You're all that I believe in	You (person deixis, 2 nd person) That (discourse deixis) I (person deixis, 1 st person)
18	With all my heart I mean every word So as long...	My (person deixis, 1 st person) I (person deixis, 1 st person)
19	And if our daughter's what our future holds	Our (person deixis, 1 st person) Daughter (social deixis) Our (person deixis, 1 st person)
20	I hope she has your eyes	I (person deixis, 1 st person) She (person deixis, 3 rd person) Your (person deixis, 2 nd person)
21	Finds love like you and I did	You (person deixis, 2 nd person) I (person deixis, 1 st person)
22	But when she falls in love we'll let her go	She (person deixis, 3 rd person) We (person deixis, 1 st person) Her (person deixis, 3 rd person)
23	I'll walk her down the aisle	I (person deixis, 1 st person) Her (person deixis, 3 rd person) The aisle (spatial deixis)
24	She'll look so beautiful in white	She (person deixis, 3 rd person)
25	You look so beautiful in white So as long...	You (person deixis, 2 nd person)

Discussion

Based on the results of the research, the data showed that person deixis is the most commonly used deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics, which dominated by the word "You". It was shown that person deixis found 56 frequencies or 71,80%. The results of the analysis of spatial deixis, found 2 words in the song. For temporal deixis, there are 15 frequencies. Whereas for social deixis has the fewest number which is only one word. And the last is discourse deixis, amounting to 4 frequencies. This means that Westlife rarely used spatial deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis on the song.

1. Person Deixis

Based on the research results, there are three types of person deixis used in the Beautiful In White song lyrics; first person, second person, and third person. The researcher discovered nine deictic words related to person deixis, four words as first person (I, My, We, Our), two words as second person (You, Yours), and three words as third person (She, Her, Its). For example in the part of lyrics "*I hope she has your eyes*", includes three kinds of person deixis. "*I*" as first person, makes reference to the speaker as the subject. "*Your*" as second person makes reference to the girl or hearer. And "*She*" as third person makes reference to the object other than the speaker and hearer. Furthermore, the researcher found 56 frequencies of person deixis in the lyrics of the song.

2. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis indicates the place or location between speaker and listener. Spatial deixis focuses on *here* and *there*. Based on the analysis results, *here* and *there* did not found in Beautiful In White song lyrics. However, spatial deixis has a wide range such as showing more specific place as in the example of the song. There are two deictic words of spatial deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics that refers to specific location. They are “*the world*” and “*the aisle*”. Spatial deictic word “*the world*” found in the part of lyrics “*And with this ring I say to the world*”. While spatial deictic word “*the aisle*” found in the part of lyrics “*I’ll walk her down the aisle*”.

3. Temporal Deixis

The researcher discovered 15 frequencies of temporal or time deixis with five temporal deictic words. There are consist of pure deictic word and specific time such as; *first met*, *now*, *very last breath*, *this day*, and *tonight*. The word “*first met*” is the temporal deixis that indicates a past time. The words “*now*, *this day*, and *tonight*” is referring to present time. While the word “*very last breath*” refer to the future time.

4. Social Deixis

Social deixis refers to social relations or social differences. Based on the results, the researcher found only one deictic word as social deixis that is “*daughter*”. It can be seen in the part of lyrics “*And if our daughter’s what our future holds*”. It means that there is a social relation to the speaker, like father and daughter.

5. Discourse Deixis

The results of discourse deixis analysis in Beautiful In White song lyrics amounted to 4 frequencies with two discourse deictic words, that are “*this*” and “*that*”. It can be seen in the part of lyrics “*And with this ring I say to the world*”, and “*You’re all that I believe in*”.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research is to study pragmatic which is focused on deixis in Beautiful In White song lyrics by Westlife. The researcher analyzed the five types of deixis consisting of person deixis, spatial or place deixis, temporal or time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. From the five types of deixis, the researcher found 78 deictic words in Beautiful In White song lyrics. Furthermore, person deixis is the most commonly used deixis in the lyrics accounting to 56 deictic words or 71,80%, dominated by the word “*You*”.

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