

An Analysis of Deixis in “Who I Am” Song Lyrics by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias

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Abstract

Songs are among the most widely used forms of media in society to convey ideas and emotions which can draw pragmatics attention. The objective of this research is to analyze the types, and the dominant type of deixis used in song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias. The researcher elects the song as the object of the analysis because the song is the result of collaboration among three talented singers and one of them is from Indonesia, Putri Ariani. The music video had been watched more than 32 million times and was included in the YouTube Music trending ranks. This research uses qualitative research method. In data collection technique, the researcher uses document analysis. All the types of deixis encompassing personal pronoun, social, discourse, place, and time deictic expressions were found in the song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias. In person deixis, the deictic expression are personal pronoun. The results of the research indicated (1) there are 99 data of five deixis types found in song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias, consisting of: 49 data (49.49.7%) of person deixis, 6 data (6.06%) of spatial deixis, 32 data (32.32%) of temporal deixis, 1 word (1.01%) of social deixis, and 11 data (11,11%) of discourse deixis. Thus, the personal deixis (49 deictic words or 49.49%) was the most frequently used deixis.

Keywords: pragmatics; deixis; song lyrics

1.Introduction

Language is essential to our day-to-day existence. One of the most valuable outcomes of human civilization is language, which allows people to engage and communicate with one another as well as the community in which they live. Humans may learn, grow, and abstract from different symptoms that arise in their surroundings through language as well. It is known that language plays a crucial part in social interactions.

As language serves so many functions, the language we use should be clear and meaningful to avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretations among readers and the speaker. Language is not only used in oral or written form, furthermore it also can be used in other fields such as song, movie, poetry, novel, and many more (Korneeva, 2019). These medium can help the hearer or the listener understand the goal of communication easily.

Songs are among the most widely used forms of media in society to convey ideas and emotions. A song is a musical composition performed by the human voice (Wikipedia, 2020). Cambridge Advance Learner’s Dictionary (2008) states that song is usually a short piece of music with words which are sung. Whereas Oxford Advance Learners’ Dictionary (2010) defines song is a short piece of music with words that you sing. Another definition of song is an artistic form of expression based on sound, generally considered a single (and often standalone) work of music with distinct and fixed pitches, pattern, and form. It can be wordless or with words but must include some form of vocalization.

Songs are an effective medium for conveying something message. Songs can capture and evoke patterns of feelings such as hope, desire, joy and even madness. A song is a series of notes combined with a harmonious and complete rhythm by poetry that forms a beautiful harmony. Songs are often used as a tool to convey a message to others. The message conveyed through song lyrics or poetry, this is an example of verbal communication and non-verbal.

Songs are verbal communication when viewed from the lyrics side. Lyrics have emerged as a primary medium for expressing ideas, feelings, or thoughts in song. Van Thao & Herman (2020) states that lyrics is not only the arrangement

of words structure, but it express the writer's feeling, and emotion that influenced the readers such as the feeling of sad, happy, depressed, etc.

Song lyrics and music can elicit memories and emotion to allow information to be stored and recalled more readily and via multiple memory routes (Calvert & Tart, 1993; Governor et al., 2013). Song lyrics convey a variety of messages from the composer to the listener. Various kinds of music lyrics provide motivation for life. When individuals listen to a song, they may strive not only to understand the meaning of the lyrics, but also to determine what the reader or speaker means.

Effective use of the target language will facilitate communication. This indicates that the language is employed in accordance with the speaker's circumstances and the nature of the narrative is implemented. It truly depends on the variables that influence language or communication, such as the other person, the speaker's goal, the issue under discussion, and the circumstances. The use of language like this is called pragmatics.

Pragmatics as a field of linguistic inquiry was initiated in the 1930s by Morris, Carnap, and Pierce, for whom syntax addressed the formal relations of signs to one another, semantics the relation of signs to their users and interpreters. There are numerous ways to describe pragmatics, and each linguist has their own definition that they adhere to. Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader) (Yule, 1996). Pragmatics studies the use of language in human communication as determined by the condition of society (Mey, 2001). Communication in society happens chiefly by means of language. However, the users of language, as social beings, communicate and use language on society's premises; society controls their access to the linguistic and communicative means. Pragmatics, as the study of the way humans use their language in communication, bases itself on a study of those premises and determiners how they affect, and effectualize, human language.

According to Levinson (1983), deixis has been classified into five types; person deixis (first, second and third person), place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The five deixis are explained as follows:

1. Person Deixis

Person deixis is the term of deixis to point to people. Person deixis is deixis with the role of participants in the conversation, such as speaker, spoken, and addressee. The category of person is clearly definable with reference to the notion of participant-roles. Person deixis usually localizes an entity in relation to the position of the speaker and/or hearer. First and second person pronouns typically refer to the speaking and hearing speech-participant(s), whereas third person pronouns designated the non-speech or narrated participant. Person deixis consists of three categories, namely first person, second person, and third person. The 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 persons or things other than the speaker and hearer, example, *he*, *she*, and *it* (singular) and *they* (plural).

2. Place Deixis

Place deixis or spatial deixis refers to a type of deixis that refers to the location of the speaker, listener, or object in the context of the utterance. Spatial deixis is typically expressed using deictic words and phrases, such as *here*, *there*, *this*, *that*, *near*, and *far*. The speaker's and listener's distance are indicated using spatial deixis. "Here and there" is an adverb of place that is used in spatial deixis. The purpose of spatial deixis in a speech act is to describe the distance between the location and the locations of the participants involved in conversation (Levinson, 1983). Proximal and distal are the two terms used in spatial deixis to describe the distance between the speaker and the listener. When referring to a place that is close to the speaker, the term "proximal" is used. Spatial deixis involves expressions that refer to objects, locations, and directions in relation to the speaker's or listener's position or the shared space. Deictic expressions like *here*, *there*, *this*, and *that* help establish spatial relationships and orient interlocutors within the physical or imagined space being discussed.

3. Time Deixis

Temporal deixis, also known as time deixis, is a deictic category that refers to the time of the utterance. It refers to an event of an utterance, which takes place any time relative to the speaking time and is, therefore, represented by tense, time adverbials and sometimes by spatial prepositions. It is used to express temporal relations between the speaker, the listener, and the discourse. The encoding of a spoken or written message at specific temporal points is referred to as time deixis. Any phrase that denotes a specific time is known as a temporal deixis, such as *now*, *then*, *soon*, *tomorrow*, *tonight*, *yesterday*, *today*, etc. Deictic expressions such as *now*, *then*, *today*, *yesterday*, and *tomorrow* attach events or actions in relation to the speaker's or listener's present, past, or future. Temporal deixis allows for the sequencing of events, discussing durations, and coordinating temporal references in conversation.

4. Social Deixis

The social status gap between the speaker and the listener is demonstrated through social deixis. The purpose of social deixis is to demonstrate social differences, particularly those pertaining to social interactions between the speaker and the listener or between the speaker and other participants. The speaker also employs social

discourse to demonstrate respect and courtesy to the other addressees. Social deixis focuses on linguistic markers that reflect social hierarchies, power dynamics, and social roles within speech. These markers include honorifics, titles, and kinship terms that convey respect, formality, or familiarity. Social deixis helps establish and negotiate social relationships, politeness strategies, and social norms within communication. Social deixis separated into two kinds; relational and absolute social deixis. Relational social deixis is a deictic reference to some social characteristic of referent apart from any relative ranking of referents or deictic reference to a social relationship between the speaker and addressee. For example: *my husband, teacher, cousin, mother, etc.* Absolute social deixis is a deictic reference usually expressed in certain forms of address which will include no comparison of the ranking of the speaker and addressee. For examples: *your highness, Mr. President, your majesty, etc.*

5. Discourse Deixis

Discourse Deixis refers to the use of expressions that signal a relationship between an utterance and the prior or subsequent discourse. Discourse deixis includes temporal deictic terms (*next, before, last week*), spatial deictic terms (in the last paragraph), utterance initial expressions that indicate a relationship with the preceding discourse (but, however, in conclusion, well), and the use of demonstratives (*this, that*) to refer to the preceding or following discourse.

There are some previous studies related to this research. First, is research written by Artelu & Indah (2023) entitled “Analyzing Five Types of Deixis in Cruella Movie”. The purposes of this study were to find out the five types of deixis in the novel. Second, is research written by Nafi’ah, Indah & Toyyibah (2021) entitled “English Deixis in Picture Storybooks for Children”. The study investigates the use of Deictic expression in five children picture storybooks by using the theory of deixis. Third, is research written by Lestari & Simatupang (2023) entitled “Deixis in Taylor Swift’s Speech at New York University Spring Graduation 2022: A Pragmatics Study”. The research purposes to analyze deixis types in speech conducted by Taylor Swift’s Speech at New York University Spring Graduation 2022 regarding to deixis. Fourth, is research written by Ayu & Muslim (2023) entitled “Knowledge Sharing in Social Media: An Analysis of Deixis on An Indonesian Podcast Program”. This research aims to investigate the types of deixis used in Raditya Dika’s Podcast and analyzes factors that influence its uses. Fifth, is research conducted by Sugianto & Muslim (2023) entitled “Gazing at the – you – know – who/what in Whatsapp: Deixis Used in Online Learning AMID Covid Pandemic”. The study aims to investigate the deixis employed during online learning via a whatsapp Group.

There are also several studies found that also examine deixis in song lyrics the object of research. First, a research conducted by Damayanti (2023) entitled A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in “Here’s Your Perfect” by Jammie Miller. The writer concluded that there are three types of deixis that were used on the song Here’s Your Perfect by Jammie Miller. The most dominant types of deixis that were used is personal deixis which contain of 64 data. Second, is research written by Herdiyanti, T (2020) entitled Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics “Someone Like You” by Adele. The results in this study concluded that deixis analysis on this song, the most data obtained is personal deixis which consists 28 words compared to temporal deixis which consists two words. Third, a study written by Salamuddin & Efransyah (2021) entitled Analyzing the Deixis of Song Lyrics in Adele Entitled All I Ask. The researchers concluded that all deixis which proposed by Yule are found in Adele’s song lyrics. Personal deixis is mostly found in 38 occurrences dominate in this song.

In this study, the researcher wants to analyze deixis in song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias. The aims of this study are to identify the kinds of deixis and to find the dominant types of deixis that are used in the song lyrics “Who I am”. The researcher uses pragmatics approach to analyze the deixis in the song lyrics “Who I am”. Listeners still hard to determine the exact meanings of deixis that are used in the English song (Hidayah, 2019). This song has been watched more than 32 million times in YouTube and many people use this song to express their feeling, and it will be more exciting if we study something that is relevant to our lives. For such reasons, the researcher chooses to design a research project entitled An Analysis of Deixis of Song Lyrics in “Who I Am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias. The researcher hopes this research will be helpful for the readers to understand and to know the use of deixis especially in song lyrics.

2. Method

A qualitative study is employed. In this study, the researcher acts as the instrument through which the data are collected and analysed (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The researcher uses qualitative method to analyze the use of deixis in the song lyrics in “Who I Am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias.

A content analysis in which the data are analyzed based on the deictic framework proposed by Levinson (1983), encompassing personalpronoun deixis, time deixis, place deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis is employed. In this research, the data collection method is the documentary technique including; reading, studying, analyzing, identifying, classifying, and collecting the required information related to the study.

The data are collected by doing the steps, as follow: First, the researcher listened to the songs of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias in order to understand the lyrics in detail. Second, the researcher searched the

script of the lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias on internet. Third, the researcher chose the lyrics to be analyzed. Fourth, the researcher marked all of the chosen lyrics to be analyzed.

After collecting the data from the script of lyrics, the researcher analyzed the data as follows: First, the researcher determined some words expressions that include in deictic expressions. Second, the researcher classified the deictic expressions that have been determined based on their criteria. Third, the researcher analyzed the the types of deixis, namely: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Then, these data were tabulated and presented in percentage using a table to show the frequency of the occurrences of each type of deixis and its percentage.

3. Findings and Discussion

1. Types of Deixis

The researcher collects the data by searching the script of the lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias from LyricsFind website. After collecting the data, the types of deixis in the song lyrics of Stay are classified based on the types of deixis. This study finds that the types of deixis occur in the song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias are person deixis, temporal deixis, spatial deixis and discourse deixis.

a. Person Deixis

In the song lyrics of “Who I am”, personal deixis occurs and is followed by three types of personal deixis. It can be seen in this table:

Table 1. Personal Deixis in the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”

No	Personal Deictic Words	Deixis
1.	First Person	I (25 times), my (2 times), we
2.	Second Person	You (2 times), they (2 times), your (2)times, them (four times)
3.	Third Person	It

From the table above, it can be seen that in song lyrics of “Who I am” by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias, personal deixis and three types of personal deixis occur. In the song “Who I Am” researcher found 49 personal deictic words. There are 28 words as first person deixis, 20 words as second person deixis and one word as third person deixis. The use of first person deixis in this song that is represented by the use of deictic words “I, my, we”. The word indicates second person deixis that is showed by deictic expression “you, they, your, them”. And the third person deixis represented by use of deictic word “it”. From the findings, the use of personal deixis that is followed by the three types of personal deixis occurs. The function of personal deixis is to indicate the use of personal pronoun in the song lyrics.

b. Spatial Deixis or Place Deixis

Spatial deictic word indicates location in space relative to the speaker (Cruse, 2006). From the song of “Who I Am”, the use of spatial or place deixis is found and classified.

Table 2. Spatial Deixis in the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”

No	Spatial or Place Deictic	Deixis
1.	Distal Term	-
2.	Proximal Term	-
3.	Project Term & Specific Location	In all the right ways, in the clouds, on me, into the crowds, into the blue, next to you

The table above can be seen that 6 spatial deictic words are found. All the spatial deictic words are project term and specific location. There is no proximal term and distal term found in the song lyrics. It is concluded that only project term and specific location in spatial deictics words occurs in the whole song lyrics of “Who I Am”.

c. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deictic word indicates the timing of an event relative to the time of speaking (Cruse, 2006). From the song “Who I Am”, the researcher identifies and classifies the song which show that the temporal deixis or time deixis occur.

Table 3. Temporal Deixis in the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”

No	Temporal Deictic	Deixis
1.	Pure deictic word and specific time	On to June
2.	Verb Tense	Don't say (4 times), I'm not playing (2 times), they were made (2 times), I won't break (2 times), I'll make (2 times), save all (2 times), don't wanna waste, I'm gonna be, I do not fit (2 times), It's all making (2 times), I'll not gonna be, awake, can take, dive, wanna miss, fall in love, know, may hold, go (3 times).

From the table above, researcher found Temporal deixis. In the song lyrics “Who I Am” researcher found 33 temporal deictic words, consisting of 1 specific times and 32 verb tenses. From the whole lyrics, the words “don't say” dominates in the verb tense of temporal deictic.

d. Social Deixis

Social deixis concerns the social information that is encoded within various expressions, such as relative social status and familiarity. From the song “Who I Am”, the researcher identifies and classifies the song which show that the temporal deixis or time deixis occur.

Table 4. Social Deixis in the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”

No	Social Deictic	Deixis
1.	Relational	Baby
2.	Absolut	-

From the table above, researcher only found one relational of Social deixis. There is no absolut social deixes found from the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”.

e. Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis is a deictic reference to a part of discourse relative to the speaker's current location in the discourse. This type of deixis can be distinguished from their function (anaphora and cataphora). From the song “Who I Am”, the researcher identifies and classifies the song which show that the Discourse deixis occurs.

Table 5. Discourse Deixis in the Song Lyrics “Who I Am”

Discourse Deictic	this (6 times), that (4 times), there
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From the table above, it can be seen that the researcher found 11 discourse deictic words. And the word “this” dominate the whole song lyrics..

2. The dominant types of deixis

Details of data analysis as the dominant types of deixis in "Who I Am" song lyrics by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias drawn in this table below.

Table 6. The percentage of dominant types of deixis in Who I Am" song lyrics by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias

No	Types of Deixis	Frequency	Percentage
1	Personal Deixis	49	49.49%
2	Spatial Deixis	6	6.06%
3	Temporal Deixis	32	32.32%
4	Social Deixis	1	1.01%

5	Discourse Deixis	11	11.11%
Total		99	100 %

There are five types of deixis are found in "Who I Am" song lyrics by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias, which are: personal deixis, time deixis, place deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis. Based on the table 6, the researcher gets 99 data containing deixis in "Who I Am" song lyrics. Personal deixis is the most being found (49 Deictic words or 49.49%). In the second position, temporal deixis is the most being found (32 deictic words or 32.32%). The third position is spatial deixis (6 deictic words or 6.06%). In the fourth position is social deixis (1 deictic word or 1.01%). And, in the last position is discourse deixis (11 deictic words or 11.11%). Thus, the most dominant type of deixis found in "Who I Am" song lyrics by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias is personal deixis.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings aforementioned, this study reaches some conclusions. First, all the types of deixis encompassing personal pronoun, social, discourse, place, and time deictic expressions were found in the song lyrics of "Who I am" by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias. Second, there are 99 data that categorized as personal, place, time, discourse and social deixis in the song lyrics. In the song lyrics of "Who I am" by Alan Walker, Putri Ariani and Peder Elias, the researcher finds 49 utterances (49.49%) categorized as personal deixis, 6 utterances (6.06%) categorized as spatial deixis, 32 utterances (32.32%) that categorized as temporal deixis, 1 utterance (1.01%) categorized as social deixis and 11 utterances (11.11%) categorized as discourse deixis. Third, based on the data findings, it can be concluded that the most dominant type of deixis is personal deixis (49 Deictic words or 49.99%).

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