



## AN ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN SONG LYRICS ENTITLED “PERFECT” BY ED SHEERAN

**Ersa Anita Aulia**

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Sumbawa

\*E-mail: [Ersa.anita94@gmail.com](mailto:Ersa.anita94@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*Enriching knowledge, especially in English can happen in other fields such as song, movie, poetry, novel, and many more. Currently, many people prefer to increase their vocabulary by using a song that consists of a combination of music and lyrics to definite a sensitivity of heart, idea, and the way of thinking. Through the lyric plus song music, the listener can express their idea, feeling, and emotion and learn. In this research, the researcher focuses to examine the use of deixis through the song lyrics of Perfect by Ed Sheeran. The researcher analyzed it is to figure out the kinds of deixis that occur in the song of Ed Sheeran. By using qualitative research, the researchers found some fascinating results. The researcher discovered that there were two types of deixis, such as the personal deixis, and the temporal deixis. In the personal deixis, the song consisted of first person (I, me, my, we, mine, our), second person (your, your), and third person (it, she, her). The last finding was temporal deixis that concentrated on defining the time (this time, in the dark, tonight, that someday, now). Additionally, this research was conducted to help further researchers to examine deixis which focused to display or underline which is used to represent those foundations in the expression which for directly to the situation.*

**Kata Kunci:** Pragmatics, Deixis, Song

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a universal characteristic of human beings for communicating with each other. To avoid misunderstanding, the speaker has to deliver the speech appropriately based on the topic of the conversation (Cahyanti et al., 2021). Not only focused on the topic, but the speaker also has to consider the grammatical error, gestures, choice of words, intonation, etc. According to Korneeva et al. (2019), learning the language, especially enriching vocabulary, is not only used in oral or written form, but also can be used in other fields such as movies, poetries, novels, and many more. Besides, practicing how to pronounce the vocabulary can be learned by watching a movie, drama, or short music and listening to podcasts and songs.

Song is one of the most popular media in society that is used to express any thoughts or feeling through music and lyric. Supported by Thao and Herman (2020), the song is one of the systems of communication in the world that use the combination of sounds and lyrics to express an idea, emotion, feeling, or thought to other people. Currently, many people like to show their feeling through writing, listening, and sharing their ideas by song (Sitorus, 2019). It means that the lyric and the instrument of the song can describe someone although the speaker does not express it through writing. Additionally, the song can make someone enhance their feelings based on the song that they listen to. It can help the listener easy to increase their vocabulary and learn how to pronounce it correctly.

Lyric is the set of words that makes lyrics the heart of the song. It includes all genres of songs, such as pop, hip-hop, ballad, rock, reggae, country, jazz, disco, classic, etc. Generally, the composition of the lyric itself is an undersized poem that shows the personal views and outlooks of the songwriter or the composer (Damayanti, 2022). It makes the lyric not only the organization of words into sentences but also the illustration of the songwriter's sense and



passion to describe their outlooks. It can be aspiration, scuffle, love, idea, experience, emotion sad, happy, depressed, and etc. Through the lyric, the composer can send a message to the listener or someone special based on the specific position or circumstance in the lyrics of the song. Normally, when people listen to a specific song that they love, they will try imitating how the singer is singing, but they also will try to find the essence of the reader or the speaker means. Understanding what the speaker and listener mean is called pragmatics.

Learning deixis can help the speaker in communication. Deixis focused on identification (Lyons, 1983). It means the position and identification of a person, thing, event, procedure, and also activity which is being communicated about or mentioned to, in relation to the period, when the utterer says the specific utterance, or at what time the hearer recognizes it. Unsurprisingly, deixis is a term that occurs in utterances. Also, it refers conditional on the individuality of the utterer, period, and place in relation to the expression. Specifically, Levinson in 1983 divided deixis into three branches namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis.

Firstly, person deixis is expressed toward specify societies. Person deixis discusses to the meaning of casual contributors, such as utterer, pronounced, and addressed in order to mention someone. Furthermore, person deixis is distributed to be three branches, specifically first person, second person, and third person. The first person of deixis focuses on the orientation that states to the speaker or both the speaker and referents convened through the speaker. The identities of first-person were equally singular pronouns, plural pronouns, and, etc. Then, the second person of deixis focused on a people recognized to be the receiver. It can be seen when the speaker uses you, yourself, yourselves, your, and yours in the utterance. Last, the third person is involved in the utterances when the speaker deictic orientation toward a referent that is not selected as the speaker or receiver.

Secondly, Spatial or called place deixis shows the relation placement of individuals and stuffs in communication, including verbal and non-verbal language. It focuses on the location of something based on the main topic in the utterance. The main emphasis of spatial deixis is the relation of the position of the participant in the speech. This deixis can be seen when the speaker uses this, these, there, here, that, those, etc. Furthermore, spatial deixis or place deixis is disturbed with the description of places to waterfront facts in the speech occasion and classically the speaker in the communication. Additionally, in this deixis, there were two methods of stating to matters such as labelling or identifying them.

The last point of deixis is temporal or time deixis. This deixis can be seen when the speaker mentions the ordinary and noticeable sequences of day and night, seasons, months, and also years. It concerns the encoding of temporal points and distances which relatives to the period at which an expression is pronounced. Then, this deixis can be classified based on the choice of verb tense it makes every sentence refers to an event time. Naturally, it can be seen in the past and present tense. The present tense focuses on the proximal form. It means that the deictic center of the present tense is nearby toward the speaker or is deliberated proximal. It can happen as the speaker is motionless elaborated in an existing condition in which the speaker expressed the expression or condition is unmoving in an improvement. However, the past tense focuses on the proximal form. It means that the situation does not exist anymore. It can be seen constructed on the understanding of contributors on deliberating the appropriate utterance period.

There were some researchers who have conducted previous research related to deixis in numerous fields. Sari and Zakrimal (2020) discovered the use of deixis in a film entitled Avengers Infinity War. By observing the data that used the qualitative method, the investigator discovered all categories of deixis in the dialogues. First, in person deixis, the dialogues consisted of person deixis, second deixis, and third deixis. Those person deixis are applied



because the speaker applied I, we, you, he, she, it, and they. Second, temporal deixis occurred when the speaker mentioned the time, such as today, and now. Last, place deixis followed in the speakers' utterances when they mentioned the location of something, such as here and there. Similar to the previous research, personal deixis was the central deixis that occurred in the investigation. It absorbed to discovered the deixis in the Black Swan movie script (Saputri, 2016). By watching several times and analyzing it, the research found all types of deixis. It can happen because the speakers mention time, place, and someone.

Furthermore, deixis can occur in the novel. Solihah et al. (2021) analyzed the use of deixis in a novel entitled "Catching the Sun by Tony Parsons". By focusing on the conversations in section 29, section 30, and section 31, the researchers applied the qualitative method to observe the data. Surprisingly, the researchers found plentiful data on person deixis. It made the person deixis the central deixis in the investigation. Furthermore, it is followed by spatial and temporal deixis. Spatial deixis occurred twenty four periods and temporal deixis occurred nine periods. Similarly, Sundari (2021) investigated deixis in a popular novel entitled Ketika Cinta Bertasbih 1 by Habiburrahman El-Shirazy. By transcribing and grouping the data based on the characteristic, form, and function of the dialogue, the researcher found fascinating results. The researcher discovered all varieties of deixis in the novel. Person deixis applied when the speakers used I, you, they, we, and he/she in their utterances. Then, temporal deixis occurred when the speaker used now, tomorrow, and later. Last, spatial deixis occurred when the speaker used here in their utterances.

Not only in written fields but deixis can also be seen in oral communication. One of oral communication is a song. (Herdianti, 2020) investigated deixis in the song entitled 'Someone like you' by Adele. The researcher applied some steps to collect the data, such as numbers lessening, numbers presentation, and numbers substantiation as the foundation of the qualitative method. By consuming Levinson's notion (1983), the researcher found that the song consisted of two categories of deixis, such as person deixis and temporal deixis. The person deixis consisted 28 times and also the temporal deixis occurred twice in the song. Also, Rokhmah and Santoso (2022) found that the track entitled 'You were good to me' and 'Comethru' by Jeremy Zucker consisted of all types of deixis. By using the qualitative method, the researcher discovered those songs used person deixis to point out objects, pronouns, and possessives. Spatial deixis focused to point out a position. Last, Temporal deixis concentrated to specify the period.

Moreover, referring to those research, there is a gap among those researches relating to conducting the present study, especially in the object of the deixis. A deixis investigation of song lyrics in "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran is the main topic of this research. It can happen because this song is famous as a wedding song. This research focused on the theory purposed by Levinson in 1983. The theory was chosen because it focused on analyzing the use of deixis to help the researcher gain information about it. The researchers chose this theory because most of the previous research that analyzed deixis applied Levinson's theory to support the data. Additionally, this research can support the data that will be useful for further researchers to conduct the study, especially in deixis.

## METHOD

In this investigation, the researcher applied the qualitative technique to examine the facts. Using the qualitative method can help the researcher distinguish the findings because this approach focuses on describing the data. The number contains in the finding supports the data, not the main data in this research. This research focuses to discover the varieties of deixis, specifically person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis proposed by Levinson's idea in 1983. The main object of this research is the lyric song entitled "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. In



collecting and analyzing the data, the researcher applied some steps, such as: 1) downloading the song, 2) searching the lyric on the internet, 3) pinpointing the data, 4) labelling the data based on the theory, 5) calculating the data to support the main data, 6) interpreting the data, and 7) drawing a conclusion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Afterward observing the data on this research, the researcher revealed expressions from the track lyric entitled “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran that contained the use of deixis in the song. The researcher explored the lyric and classified the deixis into some branches, such as person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. In this part, the researcher presented the results of the kinds of deixis found in the track lyric titled “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran.

### Person Deixis in the Song Lyric Entitled “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran

Person deixis focuses on the character of double or more individuals’ communication in a dialogue. It emphasizes in what way the speaker tries to exchange the information around it, who is the utterer, the hearer, the aim of communication, the addressee of the statement, and from what or from what foundation the expression is achieved. Person deixis is distributed to be three branches namely first person, second person, and third person.

The leading part of person deixis is the first person. In the first person, it focuses on the situation that mentions to the speaker or both the speaker and referents convened with the speaker. The identities of first-person were as singular pronouns, plural pronouns, and so on. The first person of person deixis is involved in the song lyric “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran. After analyzing the data, it occurred forty-seven times in the song. ‘I’, ‘me’, ‘my’, ‘we’, ‘mine’, and ‘our’ were the words that occurred in the lyric.

**I found a love for me**

Darling, just dive right in and follow **my** lead

'Cause **we** were just kids when **we** fell in

And in your eyes you're holding **mine**

Barefoot on the grass, listening to **our** favorite song

According to the tracks above, the songwriter utilized the singular, plural, and so on of first person deixis, such as 'I', 'me', 'my', 'we', 'mine', and 'our'. The lyrics revealed that the composer employed the first person deixis 'I', 'we', and 'me' to designate who was talking in the track. The deictic term 'my', 'our', and 'mine' on the song's lyrics were possessive adjectives representing that he maintains roughly. The songwriter's custom of the term 'my' indicated that the composer was engaging the deictic expression possessive adjective 'my' to the hearer or orientation as Ed Sheeran for the utterer.

The second part of the person deixis is the second person. In the second person, it focuses on an individual or persons recognized as the target. It can be realized when the speaker uses you, yourself, yourselves, your, and yours in the utterance. The second person of person deixis is involved in the song lyric “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran. After analyzing the data, it occurred seventeen times in the song. 'You' and 'your' were the words that occurred in the lyric.

**And in **your** eyes you're holding mine**



According to the lyrics above, the composer addressed the hearer in the second person with the deictic pronoun 'your' and 'you'. The lines revealed that the composer employed the second person deixis 'your' to specify the possessive pronoun of the owner of eyes. The deictic expression 'you' in the track's lines can similarly perform as an objective since it mentions to the hearer as the target who the speaker dears.

The third part of the person deixis is the third person. The third person is involved in the utterances when the speaker deictic orientation to a referent that is not selected as the speaker or receiver. It can be seen when the speaker applied 'he', 'she', or 'it'. The third person of person deixis is involved in the song lyric "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. After analyzing the data, it occurred five times in the song. 'She', 'her', and 'it' was the words that occurred in the lyric.

**She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share **her** home**

**Not knowing what **it** was**

According to the lyrics above, the composer addressed the hearer in the third person with the deictic pronoun 'she', 'her', and 'it'. The lyrics revealed that the composer employed the third person deixis 'her' to direct the possessive pronoun of the owner's home/heart. The deictic word 'she' and 'it' in the song's lyrics can be used as an entity because it states to the hearer as the receiver who the speaker loves.

### **Temporal Deixis in the Song Lyric Entitled "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran**

This deixis can be seen when the speaker mentions the ordinary and noticeable sequences of day and night, seasons, months, and also years. It concerns the encoding of temporal points and distances which relatives to the period at which an expression is pronounced. Then, this deixis can be classified based on the choice of verb tense it makes every sentence refers to an event time. Naturally, it can be seen in the past and present tense. The present tense focuses on the proximal form. It means that the deictic center of the present tense is nearby toward the speaker or is deliberated proximal. It can happen as the speaker is motionless elaborated in an existing condition in which the speaker expressed the expression or condition is unmoving in an improvement. However, the past tense focuses on the proximal form. It means that the situation does not exist anymore. It can be seen constructed on the understanding of contributors on deliberating the appropriate utterance period. The temporal or time deixis is involved in the song lyric "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. After analyzing the data, it occurred ten times in the song. 'This time', 'tonight', 'now', and 'that someday' were the words that occurred in the lyric.

**I will not give you up **this time****

**You look perfect **tonight****

**Now I know I have met an angel in person**

**She shares my dreams, I hope **that someday** I'll share her home**

According to the lines above, the songwriter addressed the listener in the temporal deixis with the words 'this time', 'tonight', 'now', and 'that someday'. In this part, it is utilized by the songwriter, such as 'this time', 'tonight', 'now', and 'that someday'. The songwriter used the deictic word 'this time', 'tonight', and 'now' to describe and emphasize the time at this moment. Furthermore, the deictic word 'that someday' is described their future.



## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion above, the researcher settled that not all of the deixis is applied in the song lyrics of “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran. The composer did not usage spatial or place deixis in the lyric. It happen because the song did not focus on the location of the song. Meanwhile, the song focused to describe the wonderful creature of his lover. Also, it focused on the time which was now and the future. As a result, the songwriter applied two kinds of deixis, namely person deixis and temporal or time deixis. Person deixis is distributed into three kinds, namely first person (47 times), second person (17 times), and third person (5 times). Last, Temporal deixis occurred 10 times in the song lyric. Meanwhile, the songwriter did not apply spatial or place deixis in the masterpiece.

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