

Deixis in the Song Lyrics of *Location Unknown* by Honne

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Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the deixis found in the lyrics of Honne's song "Location Unknown." Since the data in this study consists of song lyrics, this study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. The data collection techniques in this study are; first, observation of song lyrics and second, classifying the lyrics into several types of deixis. Data analysis in this study involved the researcher categorizing types of deixis based on Levinson's theory (1983). After the data was collected, the researcher began analyzing it by providing explanations based on Levinson's theory (1983). The results of this study found a total of 58 deixis with 42 data points of person deixis, 7 time deixis, 6 place deixis, and 3 discourse deixis. Social deixis was not found in the lyrics. Overall, this study shows that deixis in the lyrics of "Location Unknown" by Honne emphasizes the use of deep emotional expressions, distance, and longing of the singer towards his ex.

Keywords: Deixis; pragmatics; song lyrics; Honne; Location Unknown

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis deixis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Honne berjudul "Location Unknown." Karena data dalam penelitian ini berupa lirik lagu, penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini meliputi: pertama, pengamatan terhadap lirik lagu, dan kedua, pengelompokan lirik ke dalam beberapa jenis deixis. Analisis data dalam penelitian ini melibatkan peneliti dalam mengkategorikan jenis-jenis deixis berdasarkan teori Levinson (1983). Setelah data dikumpulkan, peneliti mulai menganalisisnya dengan memberikan penjelasan berdasarkan teori Levinson (1983). Hasil penelitian ini menemukan total 58 deixis dengan 42 data deixis orang, 7 deixis waktu, 6 deixis tempat, dan 3 deixis wacana. Deixis sosial tidak ditemukan di dalam lirik. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa deixis dalam lirik "Location Unknown" oleh Honne menekankan penggunaan ekspresi emosional yang mendalam, jarak, dan kerinduan penyanyi terhadap mantan kekasihnya.

Kata kunci: Deixis; pragmatik; lirik lagu; Honne; Location Unknown

INTRODUCTION

Any spoken utterance consists of words. These words have different meanings, depending on how they are interpreted in context. Therefore, understanding the context is necessary to ensure that the intended message is accurately conveyed to the listener. Good communication occurs when the meaning of a word is understood. The meaning of song lyrics plays a role in conveying the message to the listener. Every lyric in a song contains



meaning, whether implied or explicit. To understand the lyrics, context must also be considered. The meaning in each song lyric must be clearly understood; therefore, deixis analysis is necessary. This refers to the use of words in their situational context. In everyday communication, deixis words act as bridges and pointers that make it easier for listeners to understand what the speaker is saying.

According to Yule (2010) deixis comes from the Greek word “deictic,” which can be interpreted as ‘pointing’ in language. For example, in the sentence “I will meet you there tomorrow.” The meanings of I, will, meet you, there, and tomorrow cannot be interpreted separately. The sentence depends on who is speaking, the location being referred to, and when the sentence is uttered. According to Yule (2010) “it,” “this,” and “these” are pointers to objects or can be said to be discourse deixis. The second is person deixis, which refers to personal pronouns (him, them, those). The third is spatial deixis, which refers to places such as here, there, near that. Next is temporal deixis, which relates to time (now, then, last week). Deixis plays an important role in language, making it easier for listeners to understand the speaker's meaning in a given context. Agatha and Inayah (2022) stated that every language has a word for “pointing” that refers to everything within the physical and social scope of the speaker.

In everyday communication, deixis plays an important role. This is because deixis can help humans refer to and understand the context of each utterance without requiring a detailed explanation. The meaning of deixis depends on who is speaking, who is listening, where the communication takes place, and how the participants relate to each other socially. In fact, besides being used in everyday communication, deixis can be used in various forms of communication, such as in song lyrics. Song lyrics are a form of communication in the form of sentences written by the singer. Song lyrics are not only beautiful sentences, but also a form of communication media that contains meanings involving the emotions and personal experiences of the singer. This study analyzes deixis in the lyrics of the song “Location Unknown” by Honne. This song tells the story of Honne's personal feelings about the distance between himself and his loved one. The researcher feels that the existence of emotional space, personal space, distance, and time in this song makes it interesting to analyze through deixis in the lyrics.

Several studies on deixis have been conducted, including Damayanti (2022) who conducted a deixis study entitled “A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in ‘Here's Your Perfect’ by Jammie Miller.” The results of this study found that there are three types of deixis, with



personal deixis being the most common. This is because the song contains meanings related to the singer's personal feelings of despair about his relationship with his girlfriend. Next from Kurniati & Haryudun (2021), who is analyzed deixis in the lyrics of Adele's songs using Levinson's (1983) theory, found three types of deixis, with personal deixis being the most dominant. The last one is a study by Simanjutak et al., (2021) entitled "Deixis in the Song Lyrics of Hailee Steinfeld's Half Written Story Album," which found three types of deixis, person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis in the song lyrics contained in the album using Yule's (1996) theory. The results of this study found that the majority of each song in the album is related to feelings. In addition, each verse of the song lyrics refers to a man loved by the singer. The research questions in this study are to analyze the types of deixis in the lyrics of Honne's "Location Unknown" and to analyze the meaning contained in the deixis found in the lyrics of Honne's "Location Unknown." In addition, this study is expected to serve as a reference for future researchers analyzing similar studies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Meaning must be considered in language use, as it concerns how a message in a statement is conveyed and accepted by the listener. Context is an equally important part of communication. Context helps listeners understand the meaning being conveyed. Without paying attention to context, the message of a statement cannot be properly interpreted and may even lead to misunderstandings. In a speech event, meaning and context must go hand in hand. Pragmatics is one concept related to context. In pragmatics, the meaning of every word must be considered in context. Levinson (1983) stated that pragmatics is the study of how language and context are interconnected. In pragmatics, pronouns whose meaning refers to the context of the speech event are called deixis. According to Levinson (1983), deixis refers to how language grammaticalizes the features of speech events. This also involves how utterances are interpreted depending on the context. According to Levinson, there are several types of deixis:

Person Deixis

Levinson (1983) defines person deixis as the role of participants in a communication event. Person deixis refers to a pronoun that indicates anyone involved in a speech event. All participants in a speech event are included in personal deixis (either the listener or the speaker). Personal deixis is divided into three types, first person, which refers to pronouns

that refer to oneself or the person speaking like I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours and second person such as you, your, yours, which is the opposite of first person and refers to the listener or recipient. Finally, the third-person pronouns he, she, it, him, her, his, hers, its, they, them, their, and theirs refer to participants or third persons who are neither the speaker nor the listener.

Time Deixis

Time deixis refers to pronouns used when the discourse is taking place. According to Levinson (1983) time deixis relates to the point in time and the time span mentioned in a discourse. Time deixis refers to the use of words that describe a specific time. Time deixis can be divided into several periods: the past (yesterday, ago, then, last week, last month), the present (today, tonight, now, at the moment, currently, this morning), and the future (tomorrow, next week, next month, in 2 days). Without knowing in detail when the utterance was delivered, the listener or recipient will not be able to understand the time deixis contained in a speech event.

Place Deixis

Place or spatial deixis refers to pronouns that describe the place where the speaker is performing the communication act. According to Levinson (1983) Place deictics relate to the use of words that describe locations in speech events. This means that place deixis also involves the specific place where the discourse is taking place. Place deixis consists of expressions that refer to objects, locations, and directions related to the position of the speaker or listener or shared space. Place deixis also includes objects and places that are used as references in the discourse. Place deixis takes the form of words such as here, there, near, and far.

Discourse Deixis

Discourse refers to pronouns that describe something or a topic that was discussed previously, is being addressed in the moment, and will be discussed next. According to Levinson (1983) discourse deixis are the use of words in a statement that refer to a specific part of the discourse. Discourse deixis also includes spoken words. Discourse deixis can be described by the use of words such as “this” and “that”.

Social Deixis

Social deixis refers to pronouns that relate to the social background of participants, whether they are speakers, listeners, or recipients. Levinson (1983) defines social deixis as the use of words that represent the social identity of participants in a communication act.



Social deixis also includes social relationships between participants or between one of them, and also social relationships between people mentioned in a discourse.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses descriptive qualitative research to analyze the use of deixis in Honne's song "Location Unknown." A qualitative approach is needed since the data from this study consists of words, phrases, and sentences. Denzin & Lincoln (2018) defined qualitative research as a method that involves an interpretive and natural understanding of the world. It means that researchers study things in their natural settings and attempt to make sense of phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. This study uses the lyrics of Honne's song "Location Unknown." The instrument of this study is the researcher, who collected, identified, classified, and analyzed the data. The data for this study comes from song lyrics available on online websites. The data collection process in this study involves observing song lyrics and classifying them into several types of deixis. For data analysis, the researcher first categorized the lyrics into five kinds of deixis based on Levinson's (1983) theory: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Second, after data collection, the researcher began analyzing them and provided explanations based on Levinson's (1983) theory. Then the researchers will discuss the meaning contained in the deixis found. Finally, researchers will describe the conclusions of the conducted analysis and prepare a summary.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing the deixis in the lyrics of the song "Location Unknown" by Honne, the researcher found that this song tells the story of the distance between the singer (Honne) and the addressee (his ex). The separation over time caused their relationship to become strained and eventually end. This was due to emotional feelings that could not be expressed appropriately, as a result of the significant distance between the two. Several meanings of this song can be conveyed well using deixis analysis.

Findings

Person deixis

From the data above, several types of person deixis were found in the song Location Unknown by Honne, including first pronouns such as: I, my, me, and we. The first pronouns in the lyrics refer to the singer/songwriter. Second pronouns such as: you and your were also found, referring to objects in the lyrics.

Data 1: “**I** still think of **you** a hundred times a day”

In these lyrics, the personal pronoun “I” is found, which is singular. The use of the pronoun “I” in these lyrics refers to the subject speaking, the singer (Honne). In these lyrics, there is also a second pronoun, “you,” which refers to someone Honne loves, his ex-girlfriend. These lyrics convey that Honne (the subject) wants to express to his ex-girlfriend (the recipient) that he still thinks about her, even though their relationship has ended.

Data 2: “**My** mind's running wild with **you** far away”

In the lyrics of this song, there is a personal pronoun in the form of “My,” which is a singular possessive pronoun. The use of “My” in the lyrics of this song functions as a form of possession from the first-person pronoun. ‘My’ in these lyrics refers to the singer's own uncontrollable thoughts and chaotic internal feelings. “You” in these lyrics is a second pronoun that refers to the recipient who is dear to the singer. In these lyrics, Honne expresses his feelings that his mind is chaotic due to the situation and conditions he faces, which require him to be physically separated from his loved one. In this context, the presence of “you” significantly affects the speaker's (Honne) emotions.

Data 3: “**I** look over **your** photograph”

In the lyrics of this song, the deixis “I” refers to the speaker, who is none other than the singer himself (Honne). The use of “I” in this context functions as the subject of the lyrics. The singer (Honne) states that he (I) saw the photo of the person for whom he created the object (recipient). “Your” here is also a personal pronoun that refers to the recipient or object of the discourse in these lyrics. The use of “your” here is a possessive pronoun that refers to the photo. The use of the second possessive pronoun “**your**” creates a sense of closeness between the two participants. By using a possessive pronoun here, the singer (Honne) emphasizes that he and the recipient (the owner of the photo) are separated by distance.

Time deixis

In the lyrics of the song, there are several time deixis in the form of specific times using past verbs that refer to time (seen, knew, was) and the use of time references in a statement (in ages, first flight, a million years, a hundred times a day).

Data 4: “Travelling places, I ain't **seen** you **in ages**”

In the song lyrics, there is a time deixis in the form of “seen,” which is a past tense verb. The use of ‘seen’ in the context of these song lyrics refers to a verb that describes an action that was done a long time ago in the past. This is followed by “in ages” which also refers to a specific time when the singer (Honne) last met the recipient, who is Honne's loved one (you). The use of “in ages” emphasizes that the singer (Honne) has not seen their ex-lover for a very long time. This emphasizes that the connection between the singer (I) and their ex-lover (you) has been severed in the real world for quite a long time.

Data 5: “Cause I will never find a love like ours out here, In **a million years, a million years**”

In these lyrics, the expression that indicates time deixis is “**a million years, a million years**,” which refers to a specific time. This time, deixis is directed by the singer (Honne) to the recipient, namely his ex-partner. Time deixis in this context uses slightly exaggerated language to refer to the singer's (Honne) statement, “Cause I will never find a love like ours out here,” which previously stated that he would not be able to find love like the one he had felt with his ex-partner at that time. The time deixis emphasizes that the singer (Honne) will never have time, even after millions of years, to find the love he once felt.

Place deixis

In the data, several place deixis were found that refer more to the use of adverbs of place in song lyrics (home, miles away, places, far away, my location unknown, out here).

Data 6: “Tryna find a way back **home** to you again”

In these lyrics, “**home**” is a word that belongs to place deixis. “Home” in these lyrics refers to a specific place or location that is meaningful to the singer (Honne). Place deixis in this context does not refer to a place that can be inhabited or visited, but rather to a comfortable space that involves the singer's emotional feelings of returning home and leaning on someone, namely their ex-lover (you).

Data 7: “Given that I’m **miles away**”

In this lyric, the expression that indicates place deixis is “miles away”. The use of place deixis in the context of this song refers to the distance between the singer (Honne) and the recipient (his ex). “Miles away” indicates how far the distance separates the singer from the recipient (his ex). In this context, place deixis emphasizes that the singer (Honne) and the recipient (his ex) are not only separated by physical distance but also emotionally, highlighting longing and the desire to have a reunion.

Discourse deixis

Data 8: "I just need to know **that** you're safe"

The discourse deixis in these lyrics is shown in the expression "that." In the context of these song lyrics, "that" refers to the idea or information that the singer (Honne) wants to convey to the recipient (ex). Discourse deixis in these lyrics refers to the singer's (Honne) statement that he hopes and intends to ensure the addressee (his ex) by using the discourse deixis "that" in these lyrics, the singer wants to convey and connect his emotional feelings with the recipient (his ex).

Discussion

The results of this study show that several types of deixis are found in the lyrics of Honne's song "Location Unknown", including person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, and discourse deixis, while discourse deixis was not found. The use of person deixis in this study includes the use of first-person pronouns such as "I", "my" and "me," which depict the singer's chaotic and uncontrolled personal feelings. In addition, the use of second-person pronouns, such as "your," indicates that the singer has a very intimate relationship with their loved one. The pronoun "your" is a second-person pronoun that functions as a possessive. In this song, "your" can only refer to someone with a very close relationship to the singer, his ex. These findings are similar to the results of a study by Damayanti (2022), which found that singers use personal deixis to express their personal experiences.

The researchers also found time deixis in the lyrics of these songs, which use specific times such as "in ages," "a million years," "a hundred times a day," "first flight," and also use past tense verbs such as "knew," "was," and "seen." Aside from several previous studies (Damayanti, 2022; Simanjutak et al., 2021; Kurniati & Haryudun, 2021), this study adds several findings of the time deixis. The use of time deixis in this song highlights that time never changes the singer's feelings and love, even though distance. Aside from several previous studies (Damayanti, 2022; Kurniati & Haryudun, 2021; Simanjutak et al., 2021), this study adds several findings of the time deixis. The use of time deixis in this song highlights that time never changes the singer's feelings and love, even though distance keeps him apart from his ex.

The next result is place deixis such as "home," "far away," "miles away," "places," and "location unknown." The word "home" in this song points to a sense of belonging to a place that is emotionally safe for the singer. The use of place deixis in the lyrics of

this song reflects not only physical distance but also emotional distance. This finding has a similar pattern to the study conducted by Simanjutak et al., (2021). Moreover, this study also found discourse deixis that functions as a connector between lines and verses, to maintain that every feeling contained in the lyrics is conveyed to the listener. In this study, no social deixis was found. This was due to the intimate relationship between the singer and the listener.

CONCLUSION(S)

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that this study shows several types of deixis based on Levinson's (1983): person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, and discourse deixis in Honne's song "Location Unknown". In this song, person deixis highlights the singer's close relationship with his ex. Time deixis in this song shows that the love and longing felt by the singer lasts throughout time. Place deixis serves as an emotional space for the singer to share longing and belonging with his ex. Discourse Deixis helps to connect one verse to another, which plays a role in maintaining the emotion in the lyrics. Social deixis is not found in this song because it tells of the singer's personal feelings towards someone special to him. This causes the loss of social construction between them. In addition, Honne's Location Unknown was created in 2019, where the use of words is simpler but still conveys a deep meaning. Overall, this study shows that deixis in the lyrics of "Location Unknown" by Honne emphasizes the use of deep emotional expressions, distance, and longing of the singer towards his ex.

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