Conference Paper

Deixis in the Song Lyrics of One Direction

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the types of deixis used in the song lyrics of One Direction, to find out the dominant types used and to describe the semantic meaning of the deixis. The song lyrics are associated with deixis since they express the singer's or song writer's feelings or emotions represented by some expressions of human thoughts, ideas and opinions. This study was conducted using a descriptive qualitative research design. The data were obtained from five songs of One Direction entitled *Up All Night*, *Change My Mind*, *Everything about You*, *Little Things*, and *Right Now*. Three types of deixis were found in the five songs and there were 108 deixis found in the lyrics. Person deixis was investigated as the most dominant type used in the lyrics. All deixis had their semantic meanings based on the situations of the songs.

Keywords: Deixis, Song, Lyrics, Semantics.

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1. Introduction

Along with the development of the era of music in society music has been transformed into a commercial entertainment or economic goods. Music is a social or cultural tool that contains thoughts, ideas, opinions, of human beings, as outlined in the forms of song lyrics. The message or idea conveyed in a song has a relationship with someone's feelings or experience. The lyrics in a song are part of the discourse from the sender to the recipient and from the speaker to the listener, consisting of words or sentences that have different grammatical corridors. By writing song lyrics, people can easily show their feelings and emotions to others.

Song lyrics vary according to the context contained therein. In general, song listeners have different interpretations in understanding the meaning of the song. In understanding the meaning in the text, one must have semantic skills. In most linguistic theories today, semantic analysis is an important part of the work of linguists. Semantics is the study of meaning as communicated by the speaker and interpreted by the listener. According to Lyons (1977), semantics is the term indicated for the learning of meaning.

So it can be said that internally semantics is focused on the meaning contained in words and sentences.

However, not all words contained in a sentence can be interpreted if we do not know the speaker's context, such as the words *here, tonight, today, or tomorrow*, and pronouns like *you, me, him, he*, and, *that*. We cannot understand sentences in English if we do not know the speaker and the references. Sometimes there is a misunderstanding of the meaning between the speaker and the listener. So to understand the meaning of the listener, we must be able to identify the meaning of words or sentences. Currently, deixis is used to solve that problem.

Lyons (1977) states that deixis is a study to interpret the relation of the situation with words, phrases, and features that are uttered in a sentence. Deixis is categoriized into person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis (Lyons, 1977). Deixis is words pointed at certain things, such as people, objects, places, or time like *you, here, now*. Deixis is used to know the meaning of words or sentences, such as who the speaker is, what the reference is, where the place is, and when the communication happens (Lyons, 1979). Deixis analysis is semantically needed to interpret these songs clearly and to understand the meanings of the deixis. The word meaning becomes an important issue related to deixis in the semantic study.

The use of deixis can be found easily in English songs, especially songs of *One Direction*. *One Direction* is one of the pop-boy bands from England-Ireland formed in 2010 in London, England. This pop boy band consists of 5 personnels, namely, Liam Payne, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, and Zayn Malik. Some of the song lyrics of the song *Change My Mind* contains deixis as presented below:

1. *The end of the **night***

2. ***We** should say goodbye.*

3. *Never felt like **this** before*

4. *Are **we** friends, or are **we** more?*

There are several examples of deixes found in the lyrics: *night, we, this,* and *we*. Those are a few examples and the writers consider that there are still many deixis that can be found in the lyrics of the song. Besides that, the writers are also curious about the meanings of deixis in the lyrics. However, listeners sometimes still have difficulty determining the meaning of deixis contained in the English songs. For this reason, the writers are interested in knowing deixis in the song lyrics of *One Direction*.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Deixis

According to Lyons (1977), deixis is the location and identification of people, object, events, process, and activities being talked about or referred to; concerning the time, when the speaker says the utterance, or when the hearer hears it. It means that deixis is a word, phrase, or expression that the reference moves depending on the identity of the speaker, time, and place with the utterance. Deixis consists of three categories; those are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The explanations of deixis are presented as follow:

2.1.1. Person Deixis

Personal deixis is the term used to indicate people. Person deixis is deixis with the role of participants in the conversation, such as speaker, and addressee (Lyons, 1977). Anderson & Keenan (1985) say that person deixis usually localizes an entity about 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 designate the non-speech or narrated participant. According to Saeed (2009), the information of person deixis can be grammaticalized by pronouns; typically, a first-person singular pronoun that is used for the speaker, second-person pronouns for the addressee(s) and minimally, a third-person category for a category "neither-speaker-nor-addressee(s)".

TABLE 1: Person Deixis

Person	Singular	Plural
First Person	I/me	We/us
Second Person	You	You
Third Person	He/him, She/her, It	They/them

2.1.2. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis indicates the location of some spaces between the speaker and the listener. Spatial deixis is also known as place deixis. According to Yule (2010), spatial deixis concerns the concept of distance. In other words, spatial deixis indicates the relative location of people and things (here, there). Lyons (1977) also states that place or spatial deixis concerns with the specification of location relative to anchorage points in

the speech events. The importance of location specification, in general, can be gauged from the fact that there seems to be basic ways of referring to objects by describing or naming them, on the one hand, and by locating them on the other (Lyons, 1977). Spatial deixis points to the location of the person and objects being shown. Spatial deixis refers to words that indicate a place like here and there, and like this and that as demonstrative or determinative adjectives (Cruse, 2006). For example:

*I'm glad we moved **here**, I was melting **over there**.*

The deictic expressions *here* and *there* are used to indicate the proximity of the location between the speaker and the receiver. If the speaker moves, the interpretation of the deictic expressions will change. When the speaker and the addressee in the example above have moved, they can call the shade *here* and their original place *there*.

2.1.3. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is used to designate a time. Time deixis shows the unit of time in the speech. In other words, time deixis is a reference to time relative to a temporal point; typically, this point is the moment of utterance (Lyons, 1977). It is a marker of the difference between the moment of the speech delivered by the speaker (coding/time) and the moment received by reception (time of reception) in the context of the conversation. The markers of time in deixis of time are *now*, *tomorrow*, *today*, *yesterday*. For example:

a. *I live here **now***

b. *I lived there **then***

The first utterance is a present tense form. It is a proximal form since it occurs in the speaker's current situation. The second utterance shows it as a distal form because the verb "live" is in the past tense. It also did not occur in the speaker's current situation. From the explanation above, the writers conclude that deixis is how languages encode-feature of the context and thus concern ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance.

2.2. Meaning

Yule (2010) defines that the meaning of the word is a field of study that is discussed in semantics. Semantics is as a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of a word

in the language, while linguistics is a science that examines the spoken and written language that has the characteristics of a systematic, rational, and empirical as the description of the structure and rules of the language (Widdowson, 1996).

According to Lyons (1977) examining the meaning of a word or giving the meaning of a word is to understand the word study which regards to the relationships between words. Meaning of a word or a sentence is a manifestation of the use of the word or sentence depending on the situation of the use of that word or sentence. In details dependence of word meaning or sentence meaning in the context speaking situation, among other experts suggests a characteristic inherent in the situation that must be identified. Meaning is what the speakers interpret or the speakers mean. Meaning is the relationship between languages with the world which has been agreed by the users so that it can be understood. It can be concluded that meaning is the result of the relationship between languages with the world. Determination of meaning occurs because of the users' agreement and the realization of meaning that can be used to convey the information that can be understood mutually.

3. Research Method

This study is conducted by using descriptive with qualitative methods. Qualitative research is related to describing the common elements of the various forms of qualitative methods. Creswell (2014) says a descriptive qualitative studys i aimed at investigating the detailed rendering of people, places, or events in a setting in a qualitative approach.

The data are song lyrics of five songs entitled *Up All Night*, *Change My Mind*, *Everything about You*, *Little Things*, and *Right Now*. The writers choose these songs randomly. Random sampling is data collection in which every person in the population has a chance of being selected which is known in advance.

In analyzing the data, Miles, Huberman, and Saldana. (2014) states that the techniques of data analysis are data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. The steps are as follows:

1. Transcribing the song lyrics of *One Direction*.

2. Investigating the types of deixis in the song lyrics of *One Direction*.

3. Counting the percentage of each type of deixis.

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

X = the percentage of the obtained items

F = frequency

N = the total number of items

4. Finding out the dominant type of deixis.

5. Describing the semantic meaning of deixis in the song lyrics of *One Direction*.

6. Concluding.

4. Result and Discussion

After collecting the data, the types of deixis in five song lyrics of *One Direction* are classified based on the three types of deixis proposed by Lyons (1977). This study finds that there are 79 person deixis, 16 spatial or place deixis, 13 temporal or time deixis. The total number of the data found in the five of *One Direction* song lyrics is 108 deixis. The detailed explanations are presented in the following tables:

TABLE 2: The total frequency and percentage of the types of deixis found in five *One Direction*'s song lyrics.

No.	Song Title	Types of Deixis			Total Frequency of Each Deixis Types Found in One Direction Lyrics
		Person	**Spatial**	**Temporal**	
1.	*Up All Night*	12	5	6	23
2.	*Change My Mind*	12	2	2	16
3.	*Everything about You*	24	3	1	28
4.	*Little Things*	19	2	-	21
5.	*Right Now*	12	4	4	20
Frequency		79	16	13	108
Percentage (%)		73.14	14.81	12.03	100

So, the dominant type is person deixis by percentage of 73.14. It is because the five songs are pointed to the role of participants in the lyric. Lyons (1977) states person deixis is used to point to people. Person deixis is with the role of participants in the conversation, such as speaker, and addressee. Spatial deixis is indicates the location of some spaces between the speaker and the listener. Temporal deixis is used to point to a time. All types of deixis have their meanings based on each situation of the songs. Therefore, the person deixis will make the song listener understand the message easier.

Further, some examples of types of deixis found in top five song lyrics of *One Direction* are presented as follows:

TABLE 3: Examples of Person Deixis

Title of the Song	Person Deixis	Semantic Meaning
Up All Night	**She**'s on replay	"She" as participant and third person on replay.
Change My Mind	**We** should say goodbye	"We" indicates the first person plural referring to two people who should say goodbye.
Everything about You	**I** see it's just a matter of fact, girl	"I" as the first person who sees a matter of fact.
Little Things	**I** won't let these little things	"I" as a participant and first person who won't let these little things.
Right Now	But **I** know that I won't be on **my** own, yeah.	"I" as a participant and first person who know that I won't be on "My" as possessive pronoun.

All types of person deixis are found in the form of first, second, and third person. The first person is indicated by the use of pronoun *I*, *We*, etc. However, the use of the second person is found in the form of possessive pronouns such as "my" in the words "my own".

Then, the third person is recognized by the use of some pronouns or words related to gender such as *She* and *Her*. The most common use of person deixis is in the form of first-person; this is related to the function and messages conveyed in the song. The following tables show the examples of spatial deixis found in five song lyrics of *One Direction*:

TABLE 4: Examples of Spatial Deixis

Title of the Song	Spatial Deixis	Semantic Meaning
Up All Night	Nobody's going **home tonight**	"Tonight" as a temporal deixis referring to present tense to show the time that nobody' going "Home" as a place.
Change My Mind	Never felt like **this** before	"This" as demonstrative adjective expression referring to never felt before.
Everything about You	**I**'ll be **there** in two,	"I" as a participant and first person who will be "There" as locative adverbs.
Little Things	If **I** let **you** know I'm **here** for you	"I" as a participant and first person who let "You" as a second person know, and "Here"as locative adverb referring to the place.
Right Now	**I** hear voices singing songs in the **street**	"I" as a participant and first person who hear voices singing songs in the "Street" as the place.

Temporal deixis is found in all the five songs. The number of temporal deixis is more frequently used in the *Up All Night* song than the others. The lyrics on the five songs do not include specific purposes like telling stories or experiences. Therefore, the number of place deixis is less than the others.

TABLE 5: Examples of Temporal Deixis

Title of the Song	Temporal Deixis	Semantic Meaning
Up All Night	**I** wanna stay up all **night**	"Night" as temporal deixis that shows the time where "I" as a participant and first-person wanna stay up.
Change My Mind	The end of the **night**	"Night" as temporal deixis that shows where the time ends.
Everything about You	**Now** ask **me** why **I** want to	"Now" as a temporal deixis refers to present tense to show the time why "I" want to.
Little Things	-	-
Right Now	Cause **right now**,Everything is new to **me**.	"Right now" to show the time where everything is new to "Me" as the first person.

Similar to spatial deixis, the number of time/temporal deixis is also more frequently used in the *Up All Night* song than other songs. For example, like *night, now*, and *right now*. This deixis aims to present the time on the lyrics. Besides, temporal deixis is not found in the lyrics of *Little Things*.

Based on some tables presented before, the three types of deixis can be found in the five songs of *One Direction*. Person deixis is identified as the most dominant types used. All of these song lyrics tell about life story the songwriter. This has been analyzed with Lyons (1977) theory. Related to that, all types of deixis have their semantic meanings based on each situation of the songs. The message of the song could influence the types and the number of deixes are involved. Lyons (1977) examines that the relationships among or between words determine the meanings of the words and this is surely important for the readers, or speakers as well as the audience to get the meaning entity.

Meaning of a word or a sentence is a manifestation of the use of the word or sentence depending on the situation of the use of that word or sentence. The example is *Up All Night*. The lyrics of the song tell about a girl and the lover is trying to say that they can have fun together.

5. Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writers conclude that from the five songs of *One Direction* entitled *Up All Night*, *Change My Mind*, *Everything about You*, *Little Things*, and *Right Now* there are three types of deixis found: person deixis, spatial deixis (place), and temporal deixis (time).

Person deixis is the dominant deixis found in the song lyrics of *One Direction*. It is to find out the participant role in the song. There are three types of person deixis used by the songwriter in song lyrics of *One Direction* namely first-person deixis, second person deixis, and third-person deixis. The most person deixis used is singular first-person *I* and *Me*, because all of these song lyrics tell about life of the songwriter. Spatial deixis is indicating the location between the speaker and the listener, including the locative adverb *here* and *there* and demonstrative adjective *this* and *that*. Temporal deixis is used to point to a time of event relative to the time of speaking, including the adverbs like *now*, and *tonight*.

The deixis meaning can be analyzed semantically to know the substantive meaning and the effects of the use of deixis for the lyrics. Song lyrics analysis is depending on the hearer, or the singer of the song lyrics. The context of the song does not refer to a specific setting, and participant.

Acknowledgments

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