



Exploring Deixis in Maroon 5's Song "Daylight": Descriptive Qualitative Research

Sukma Septian Nasution

University of Pamulang

sseptiannasution@gmail.com

Abstract: This study aims to analyze deixis, a pragmatic concept of linguistic reference, in Maroon 5's song "Daylight." The study utilizes descriptive qualitative methodology to analyze the deixis types in the song "Daylight," aiming to describe natural phenomena and interrelationships without theoretical constraints. The primary data source is the song's lyrics, categorized into personal, spatial, temporal, social, and discourse deixis, providing insights into the communicative and emotional impact of deixis in songwriting. The research findings reveal that the song "Daylight" by Maroon 5 effectively employs various types of deixis to establish a profound emotional connection with the audience. Personal deixis engenders intimacy, while spatial and place deixis create a vivid and relatable narrative. Temporal and time deixis evoke a sense of urgency and nostalgia, and social deixis fosters a shared emotional experience. Additionally, discourse deixis guides the audience through the unfolding events. Although the research is limited to a single song, further analysis of a diverse range of songs and audiences could provide deeper insights into deixis in music. Understanding the significance of deixis empowers songwriters to create emotionally impactful lyrics, enhancing storytelling across various artistic expressions.

Keywords: Deixis, Maroon 5, Song

INTRODUCTION

Deixis is a pragmatic linguistic concept that refers to the use of words or expressions whose meaning and interpretation rely on the context in which they are used. It involves words such as pronouns (e.g., "he," "she," "this," "that"), adverbs of time and place (e.g., "now," "here"), and demonstratives (e.g., "this," "those"), which rely on the speaker, the listener, and the current situation to convey their intended meaning. Deictic expressions are inherently contextual and can change in interpretation depending on who is speaking,

where the communication is taking place, and when it occurs. The understanding and proper analysis of deixis are essential for effective communication and language comprehension, as they help establish connections between speakers and listeners and contribute significantly to the overall coherence and meaning of a discourse (Levinson, 1983).

The use of deixis in English songs is a powerful poetic and communicative tool that enhances the lyrical content and creates a stronger connection between the artist and the audience (Sinaga et al., 2020). Deictic expressions, such as pronouns, adverbs of time and place, and demonstratives, are frequently employed in song lyrics to evoke emotions, convey personal experiences, and establish a sense of immediacy. By using first-person pronouns like "I" and "we," songwriters make the audience feel like they are sharing an intimate story or experience directly with the artist. Similarly, second-person pronouns like "you" address the audience directly, making them feel personally involved in the narrative. Deictic adverbs of time and place, such as "now," "here," "there," and "yesterday," help anchor the song's events and emotions to specific moments and locations, enhancing the song's imagery and emotional impact. Furthermore, demonstratives like "this" and "that" are used to point to specific objects, experiences, or emotions, creating vivid mental images and reinforcing the song's overall message. Through skillful use of deixis, English songs can engage listeners on a personal level, making the music experience more relatable and emotionally resonant (Sitorus, 2019).

Deixis can be classified into three main types: person deixis, time deixis, and spatial deixis (Taguchi, 2011). Person deixis involves pronouns and expressions that refer to participants in communication (first, second, or third person), establishing interpersonal relationships and proximity. Time deixis points to specific moments or time frames (e.g., "now," "then") within discourse, aiding in temporal sequencing and conveying significance. Spatial deixis uses expressions to indicate locations or directions (e.g., "here," "there"), contributing to the listener's mental imagery and comprehension of described scenes. In English songs, all three types of deixis are utilized to create relatable and emotionally engaging narratives, fostering a deeper connection between the audience and the music's themes. Through this use of deixis, songwriters effectively transport listeners into the heart of the song, enhancing their understanding and emotional connection with the lyrics (Ifantidou, 2005).

Researcher investigated deixis in English education for various crucial reasons. Firstly, deixis plays a fundamental role in language comprehension and effective communication, equipping students with essential skills for real-life scenarios. Secondly, studying deixis helps educators tailor teaching

approaches to address challenges faced by diverse learners, identifying specific difficulties and designing targeted materials. Moreover, deixis analysis enhances critical thinking and language analysis skills, fostering a deeper appreciation of language as a context-sensitive tool for expression. Additionally, exploring deixis facilitates innovative teaching methods through music, literature, and multimedia, creating immersive learning experiences. Ultimately, researching deixis advances linguistics and language teaching, generating valuable insights into language function and empowering learners to thrive in an interconnected world (Gomes & Hidayah, 2019).

Previous research on the analysis of deixis in songs has revealed the profound impact of deictic expressions on the emotional resonance and engagement of the audience (Gomes & Hidayah, 2019; Kakiay & Maitimu, 2021; Lisnawati & Parmawati, 2023; Purba, 2018; Salamudin & Efransyah, 2021; Sinaga et al., 2020; Sitorus, 2019). Studies have focused on popular songs from various genres, investigating how person deixis, time deixis, and spatial deixis contribute to the lyrical narratives and overall message conveyed by the artists. Researchers have found that the strategic use of pronouns, adverbs of time and place, and demonstratives allows songwriters to create a sense of intimacy, immediacy, and relatability, fostering a deeper connection between the audience and the music. Moreover, these analyses have demonstrated how deixis enriches the storytelling aspect of song lyrics, making the listeners feel personally involved in the unfolding narrative and enhancing their overall listening experience. By examining deixis in songs, previous research has provided valuable insights into the linguistic and communicative significance of deictic expressions in music, contributing to a broader understanding of language use and expression in artistic contexts.

Researcher conduct a research study on "Exploring Deixis in Maroon 5's Song 'Daylight': A Comprehensive Analysis" to delve into the intricate use of deixis in this popular song and understand its impact on the song's lyrical storytelling and audience engagement. By examining how person deixis, time deixis, and spatial deixis are employed in the song's lyrics, the study aims to shed light on the communicative and emotional effects of these deictic expressions. Through this comprehensive analysis, researchers seek to uncover how Maroon 5 skillfully utilizes deixis to create a sense of immediacy and connection with the listeners, making them feel like active participants in the song's narrative. Moreover, the research intends to contribute to the broader understanding of deixis in the context of popular music, offering valuable insights into the significance of this pragmatic linguistic phenomenon in the realm of songwriting and its potential implications for language education and communication.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study utilizes a descriptive qualitative methodology to analyze the types of deixis in the lyrics of the song "Daylight." By using qualitative descriptive research, the study aims to describe the natural phenomena occurring in the song's lyrics and their interrelationships, without being confined by a particular theoretical framework. The primary data source is the song's lyrics, collected from the internet, and categorized into personal, spatial/place, temporal/time, social, and discourse deixis. The researchers first familiarize themselves with the song, then mark the relevant parts to be analyzed, and associate them with deictic expressions. Through this research, the prominence of different deixis types in the song will be explored, providing valuable insights into the communicative and emotional impact of deixis in songwriting (Glaser & Strauss, 2017).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

Table 1. Types of Deixis in Daylight Song

No.	Lyric	Types of Deixis
1.	"Here I am waiting, I'll have to leave soon." (I, my, me)	Personal Deixis
2.	"Why am I holding on?" (I)	Personal Deixis
3.	"We knew this day would come, we knew it all along." (we)	Personal Deixis
4.	"This is our last night." (our)	Personal Deixis
5.	"I will have to slip away." (I)	Personal Deixis
6.	"Here I am staring at your perfection." (here)	Spatial/Place Deixis:
7.	"In my arms, so beautiful." (my)	Spatial/Place Deixis:
8.	"The sky is getting bright, the stars are burning out." (the)	Spatial/Place Deixis:
9.	"Here I am staring at your perfection." (here)	Spatial/Place Deixis:
10.	"Why am I holding on? We knew this day would come." (soon, this day, come, all along, come so fast)	Temporal/Time Deixis:
11.	"This is our last night but it's late." (last night, late)	Temporal/Time Deixis:
12.	"And when the daylight comes I'll have to go." (when, comes, go)	Temporal/Time Deixis:
13.	"The sky is getting bright, the stars are burning out." (getting bright, stars are burning out)	Temporal/Time Deixis:
14.	"We knew this day would come, we knew it all along." (we)	Social Deixis

15.	"This is our last night." (our)	Social Deixis
16.	"I was afraid of the dark, but now it's all that I want." (I)	Social Deixis
17.	"Here I am waiting." (here)	Discourse Deixis
18.	"This is our last night." (this)	Discourse Deixis
19.	"And when the daylight comes I'll have to go." (when, I'll)	Discourse Deixis

According to table 1, the incorporation of various deixis expressions in the song's lyrics serves as a powerful tool to forge a profound emotional connection between the artist and the audience. By employing deixis, the songwriter artfully highlights the narrator's intimate experiences and emotions, allowing the listeners to empathize and relate to the sentiments conveyed. The use of personal deixis, such as "I" and "you," enables the audience to perceive the song as a personal dialogue, making them active participants in the unfolding narrative. This immersive approach fosters a sense of intimacy, as if the listeners are directly engaged in a heartfelt conversation with the artist (Levinson, 1983).

Moreover, deixis plays a pivotal role in constructing a vibrant and relatable storyline that captivates the audience's attention from the very first line. As the song progresses, deixis markers like "here," "soon," and "last night" guide the audience through the temporal and spatial dimensions of the narrator's experience. The strategic use of temporal deixis, in particular, evokes a poignant emotional response. The fleeting nature of the moment, highlighted through expressions like "when the daylight comes," creates a palpable sense of urgency and anticipation, intensifying the emotional impact of the impending farewell. Additionally, the temporal deixis contributes to a nostalgic undertone, emphasizing the bittersweet memories that will soon become cherished moments of the past. In this way, the skillful application of deixis enables the song to resonate deeply with the listeners, evoking a range of emotions and leaving a lasting impression.

Discussion

The singer of the song "Daylight" by Maroon 5 strategically employs personal deixis to establish a strong emotional connection with the audience. By using pronouns like "I," "my," and "me," the singer makes the lyrics more intimate and relatable, drawing the listeners into the personal experiences and emotions of the narrator. The use of "we" emphasizes a shared experience, fostering a sense of unity and understanding between the singer and the audience. Additionally, the inclusion of "our" and "I" reveals the narrator's vulnerability and inner conflict, as they grapple with the inevitability of parting ways. By utilizing personal deixis, the singer effectively engages the

listeners on a personal level, making them active participants in the story being told and eliciting a stronger emotional response to the song's themes of love, farewell, and the passage of time (Yule, 1996).

In the song "Daylight" by Maroon 5, the singer strategically employs spatial and place deixis to create an intimate and evocative experience for the audience. By using expressions like "here" and "my," the singer establishes a strong sense of immediacy, as if the listeners are present in the moment, sharing the narrator's emotions and sensations. The use of "here" draws the audience into the scene, allowing them to visualize the narrator directly, gazing at the subject of affection, emphasizing the personal and intimate nature of the encounter. Similarly, the possessive "my" intensifies the emotional connection, conveying a deep sense of ownership and tenderness. Additionally, the reference to "the sky" and "the stars" with spatial deixis further enhances the visual imagery, creating a celestial backdrop that adds a romantic and ethereal quality to the narrative. The singer's adept use of spatial and place deixis contributes to a vivid and relatable storytelling experience, immersing the listeners in the singer's emotions and painting a vivid picture of the scene being described (Yule, 1996).

Moreover, Maroon 5 strategically employs temporal and time deixis to evoke a profound sense of urgency, nostalgia, and anticipation in the audience. By using expressions like "soon," "this day," "come," and "all along," the singer conveys a keen awareness of the passage of time and the impending eventuality of separation. These temporal markers heighten the emotional impact of the lyrics, accentuating the narrator's struggle to hold on to a fleeting moment. Additionally, the reference to "our last night" and "late" intensifies the emotional weight of the farewell, creating a poignant atmosphere of finality. The use of "when," "comes," and "go" in conjunction with "daylight" reinforces the transient nature of the moment, as the arrival of daylight signifies the inevitable departure. Furthermore, the description of "the sky getting bright" and "stars burning out" through time deixis highlights the ephemeral nature of time, symbolizing the fleeting beauty and impermanence of the shared experience. The singer's adept use of temporal and time deixis adds a layer of emotional depth to the song, allowing the audience to empathize with the narrator's feelings of loss and cherish the present moment as it slips away (Yule, 1996).

Meanwhile, Maroon 5 utilizes social deixis to establish a sense of shared experiences and emotions with the audience. By using the pronoun "we," the singer includes the listeners in the narrative, creating a feeling of collective understanding and connection. The expression "our last night" further reinforces this sense of togetherness, as if the singer and the audience are experiencing the farewell together. This use of social deixis strengthens the

emotional impact of the song, as the listeners feel included in the emotions and memories being expressed. Additionally, the singer's personal disclosure through "I" in "I was afraid of the dark, but now it's all that I want" allows the audience to relate to the singer's vulnerability and growth, making the song more relatable and intimate. Through skillful employment of social deixis, the singer forges a meaningful connection with the audience, making them active participants in the song's heartfelt exploration of love, fear, and acceptance (Yule, 1996).

Last, Maroon 5 employs discourse deixis to structure the narrative and guide the audience through the unfolding events. The use of "here" in "Here I am waiting" immediately sets the scene and creates a sense of presence, as if the listeners are witnessing the moment alongside the singer. Furthermore, the expression "this is our last night" serves as a focal point in the storyline, marking the emotional climax of the song. By using "this," the singer directs the audience's attention to the significance of the moment, intensifying the feelings of farewell and finality. Moreover, the temporal deixis "when" and "I'll" in "And when the daylight comes I'll have to go" emphasizes the inevitability of the separation, creating a poignant sense of anticipation and longing. The skillful use of discourse deixis helps the singer craft a cohesive and emotionally engaging song, guiding the audience through the emotional journey of love, departure, and cherishing the present moment before it slips away with the coming daylight (Yule, 1996).

CONCLUSIONS

According to previous explanation, the findings of this research demonstrate the powerful and skillful use of deixis in the song "Daylight" by Maroon 5, allowing the singer to establish a profound emotional connection with the audience. Through personal deixis, the singer engenders a sense of intimacy, making the listeners feel like active participants in the emotional journey of the narrator. Spatial and place deixis contribute to creating a vivid and relatable narrative, immersing the audience in the scene and enhancing the visual imagery. Temporal and time deixis evoke a poignant sense of urgency and nostalgia, emphasizing the transient nature of the moment and intensifying the emotional impact of the song's themes. Social deixis fosters a sense of shared experiences and emotions, forging a meaningful connection between the singer and the audience. Lastly, discourse deixis aids in structuring the narrative, guiding the audience through the unfolding events and heightening the emotional climax of the song. However, a limitation of this research is the focus on a single song, suggesting further analysis of a broader range of songs from different artists and genres to gain a more comprehensive understanding of deixis in music. Future research in this area could also

explore the impact of deixis on different age groups and cultural backgrounds of the audience, providing valuable insights into its universality and cultural nuances in music. Overall, the research highlights the significance of deixis in songwriting and music composition, enabling artists to create emotionally impactful lyrics and enhancing the storytelling potential in various forms of artistic expression.

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