

# DEIXIS ANALYSIS ON SONG LYRICS IN THE ALBUM OF THE BLACK PARADE BY MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE: A PRAGMATICS STUDY

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## **Abstract**

*This study focuses on a deixis analysis of the lyrics of My Chemical Romance's album "The Black Parade," especially "Welcome to the Black Parade" and "Famous Last Words" songs. The study identifies three types of deixis namely, personal, temporal, and spatial. It is a descriptive qualitative study to observe deictic expressions then Yule's theory about deixis is used to analyze the data. Result shows that the most frequent deixis used is personal after that spatial and temporal. By a detail analysis in Yule's theory, this study indicates how strategic is deixis in song lyrics. It is able to convey the listeners complex narrative and emotional levels in enhancing the listener's interpretive experience. The pragmatic approach here enlightens the deixis competence importance, when the listeners have limited lyrics understanding to meet the context and reference inside songs lyric*

**Keywords :** Deixis, Song Lyrics, Pragmatics

## **INTRODUCTION**

Poetry and music are the manifestation of language beauty and richness to elicit emotion, convey stories, and reflect on human experiences. Language advancement in these circumstances involves more expansion than a basic words and sentences comprehension; it necessitates a thorough examination of how context, intention, and interpretation influence meaning. To increase language intricacies understanding, particularly in artistic and lyrical forms, pragmatics study is beneficial. Pragmatics is a discipline of linguistics that studies how language functions in various circumstances, with a focus on how meaning is generated and interpreted in response to the situational context of an utterance.

Along the numbers of songs produced and compete in the world music chart The Black Parade was My Chemical Romance first album got in UK precious place. By the particular genre, it played the listener feeling with the emotional touch of their song. The audience summary showed five stars rating for the listeners interest. Listeners feel different sense of destiny, death, protest, and dark side of human. As it has unique ways to deliver the song with dark stuff.

Deixis is one of pragmatics scope that explains about a word which the meaning can be interpreted depends on context. It is also can be mentioned as deictic. Deixis is also a word which its referent always moves depending on the time and space of uttering the word. Yule (2006: 13) gives his opinion on deixis: Deixis is a term (from Greek) that describes one of the fundamental things we do with language. The term Deixis comes from the Greek 'deicticos', which means direct designation. In linguistics, deixis is used to describe personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, time functions, and various other grammatical and lexical features that connect utterances to a network of time and space in speech acts. A word is said to be deixis if its referent moves or changes depending on the time and place where the word is spoken.

Deixis has also been said to be a part of pragmatics that relates to certain words and sentences that change based on context, changes in the context of a sentence are often caused by changes in the situation, including person, time, and place (Levinson, 1983: 9). (Dylgjeri & Kazazi, 2013) claimed to “identify three types of deixis” and described them as follows: 1. Person ( she, he, they, I (pronouns) 2. Spatial definitions are used to refer to places (here or there) 3. Temporal definitions are used to refer to times (now, then, next week, last month) to interpret all these deictic expressions, we need to know what people, times and places the speaker is thinking about, in terms of what is close (this, here, now) and what is distant (that, there, then), it also tells you whether there is movement away from the speaker (outward) or towards the speaker (outward). Deixis concerns the ways in which language encode features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in the interpretation of utterances on the analysis of that context on utterance. According to Nisa, Asi & Sari (2020), Deixis is an important practical study when listeners (especially music lovers) do not understand the context of song lyrics. If the listener knows what the reference is or when and where the utterance took place, they can understand the lyrics of the song. This also addresses listeners who do not understand what the speaker means and communication does not proceed properly due to misunderstandings (Sari, 2015).

Several ways to communicate about everything in this world are with speak the language, write the language, and cues. The products of language can be songs, poetry, plays, etc. Everyone can express their ideas based on their surroundings. According to Sapir (1939), language is composed of sounds and symbols. It is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires through a system of voluntarily produced symbols. Music is a way of communication that allows humans to work together. This means that music are considered a communication system with other people by using sound to express feelings, ideas, emotions, or thoughts. Music is often described as a “language of emotions” (Juslin and Sloboda, 2010). The role of music in the 21st century has changed to commercial entertainment that can be sold to people. Music is a cultural tool used to construct the thoughts, ideas, and opinions of society through its lyrics (Rahmadany & Husein, 2021). Furthermore, music is a social tool used to construct the life and reality of society through its lyrics (Wati, 2014).

Music has become an important part of human life not only is it listened to as a hobby or a favorite activity, but it is also considered a companion to many activities, such as work, study, and even thinking, especially for teenagers. Indeed, music can evoke a range of emotions in its listeners (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). One important element in music is song lyrics. It is called lyrics because it contain beautifully arranged words. Lyric is one of the most important elements of music because they contain of words that are well arranged and meaningful to captivate people. A song is a string of beautifully arranged words, its purpose is to express the songwriter's heart. Similar to what Bretage pointed out in Smith and Fauchon (2001: 287-289), a song is composed of lines of words and rhythmically accompanied by instruments. The goal is to convey an implicit or explicit message to the listener. According to KBBi lyrics is a literary work (poetry) that contains an expression of personal feelings or the words of a song. These lyrics are part of discourse that help the speaker or sender to communicate with the listener or receiver. Song lyrics also contain different grammatical words and sentences. This allows song lyrics to have different contextual meanings. Lyrics are not just a sequence of words in a sentence, but also an expression of the composer's emotions, describing feelings such as infatuation, sadness, happiness, jealousy, etc. (Van Thao & Herman, 2020).

The song lyrics vary in terms of textual meaning. Commonly the listeners have different interpretation to understand the meaning of the songs. In the context of song lyrics, deixis operates as a potent tool for artists to imbue their compositions with layers of meaning and emotional resonance. By strategically deploying deictic markers such as pronouns,

adverbs, and demonstratives, songwriters can evoke specific images, emotions, and narratives, thereby shaping the listener's interpretive experience. There are many statements that language is used as a medium of communication, but sometimes the utterance that the speaker conveys to the receiver can be ambiguous. In the case of English, the receiver often has difficulty understanding the speaker's intention in the context of "who," "when," and "where" (Tirza, 2018). This kind of situation can cause many communication problems. According to these statements, context is very important for the receiver to understand what the speaker is saying. Without any context, the receiver will have difficulty to understanding the speaker's intention or meaning.

This study focuses on analyzing song lyrics taken from songs sung by My Chemical Romance. This study examines the deixis employed in the lyrics of My Chemical Romance's songs based on George Yule theory. My Chemical Romance is American alternative rock band credited with helping to popularize the emo style of music, a subgenre of punk rock fusing confessional lyrics and punk aggression. Therefore the researcher only choose 2 songs from The Black Parade album, these 2 songs related to each other because its in the same album concept. First song is "Welcome to the Black Parade", compelling case study for deixis analysis due to its rich narrative structure and thematic depth. Told from the perspective of a dying protagonist reflecting on his life, the song addresses themes of mortality, identity, and existential reckoning. Close examination of narrative markers within the text allows the researcher to decipher the protagonist's psychological journey and trace his changes in spatial, temporal, and personal deixis. Second song is "Famous Last Words", the lyrics still related about "The Patient" which emphasize the patient's willingness to live and not to be afraid to walk alone and it also be seen as a reflection of the human struggle to keep living.

Thus, by using these songs, hopefully, this research gives some insights to the readers who want to know more about deixis being used in song lyrics and give insights into how deictic markers impact the listener's knowledge and emotional response by evaluating their utilization in these songs. The analysis will disclose how the songs use deixis to form narratives and inspire specific pictures and feelings, contributing to a fuller understanding of the role of language in music.

## METHOD

This study was descriptive qualitative research. According to Denzin and Lincoln (as cited in Rahmi, 2018) defined that qualitative research is doing in a natural setting and using a process of building a complex and holistic picture of the phenomenon of interest as well as being inductive in nature. There are generally five steps to analyzing the data, which are as follows: First, during data preparation, the researcher selected the song lyrics to be recognized. Furthermore, the researcher recognizes it in order to be associated to the emphasis and formulated problems. Second, after compiling the data, the researcher carefully reads the entire song lyrics to determine the sorts of Deixis contained within the selected song lyrics. Third, the researcher employs a qualitative code-book.

According to Cresswell (2009), qualitative code-book is a table which contains predetermined codes, forth data confirmation, after all types of Deixis were certainly found, the data were then confirmed by using the theory of Yule (1996) in Fitria (2015). By using this method, the researcher observed the deictic expression in My Chemical Romance song lyrics. This research data taken from the "The Black Parade" album by My Chemical Romance that available on the official media platform of My Chemical Romance such as YouTube and Spotify. However, the researcher only limits it by analyzing only 2 songs from the album, which is the main track from this album, "Welcome to The Black Parade" and the b-side track, *Famous Last Words*

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis shows that there's three are types of Deixis that used in song lyrics of My Chemical Romance *Welcome to the Black Parade* and *Famous Last Words* songs. The types of deixis used are various and have different references and meanings. The detailed findings of the data for "Welcome to The Black Parade" can be seen in the following table 1.

Table 1  
Types of deixis in the Welcome to the Black Parade Album

| Types of Deixis | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Person Deixis   | 56        | 78,8%      |
| Temporal Deixis | 5         | 7,04%      |
| Spatial Deixis  | 10        | 14,08%     |
| Total           | 71        | 100%       |

After analyzing the data using Yule's theory in My Chemical Romance's "Welcome to The Black Parade" Album, the researcher found three types of Deixis, namely: person deixis, temporal deixis and spatial deixis. Person deixis is a type of deixis that is used to show people and it can be indicates the person or people in communication, person deixis is also deictic reference to the participant role of a referent, which means first person deixis, second person deixis and third person deixis. Temporal deixis is indicates the timing of an event relative to the time of the speaker said. Spatial deixis is pointing the location in space between the listener and the speaker, but it is relative to the speaker.

Based on the table 1, the result of analysis "Welcome to The Black Parade" and "Famous Last Words" song lyrics by My Chemical Romance with three types of deixis; person deixis, temporal deixis, and spatial deixis. The total frequency of deixis in "Welcome to The Black Parade" and "Famous Last Words" song lyrics is 71. With 56 deictic words or 78,8% of person deixis, 5 deictic words or 7,04% of temporal deixis, 10 deictic words or 14,08% of spatial deixis. Here are the findings of this study, as well as more detailed analysis,

### *Person Deixis*

Person deixis relates to individuals and sometimes includes pronouns. Levinson (1983: 62) defines personal deixis as the encoding of an individual's place inside a speech event during which a query is delivered. There are 56 person deixis in the lyrics. According to Yule (1996: 10), personal Deixis is divided into three elements: first person ('I'), second person ('you'), and third person deixis ('he','she', or 'it'). This is demonstrated by the use of pronouns. In this study, the researcher found all three person deixis elements.

*"When I was a young boy"*

The sentence above is the part of the lyrics from Welcome to The Black Parade song, it categorized first person deixis as it includes the pronoun "I" which directly refers to the speaker's personal reference and subjective experience. First-person pronouns such as "I" are classic examples of deictic expressions, furthermore the speaker is the only one who can determine who they relate to. The use of "I" refers to the speaker, and its meaning depends entirely on who is speaking. (Yule, 1996, p. 10)

*"Your memory will carry on"*

The phrase above is the part of the lyrics from Welcome to The Black Parade song, it

categorized second person deixis as includes the pronoun "Your" which referring directly to the person being addressed. Indicated by the pronoun "Your" making it clear that the memory belongs to them (the person being adressed).

*"A world that sends you reelin"*

The phrase above is the part of the lyrics from Welcome to The Black Parade song, it categorized seond person deixis as it includes the pronoun "you" which directly addresses the listener or reader.

*"So many bright lights, they cast a shadow,"*

The phrase above is the part of the lyrics from Famous Last Words song, it categorized third person deixis as it includes the pronoun "They", in this context "They" refers to "bright lights", which are external to both the speaker and the listener. This makes the reference third-person.

*"And I know there's nothing I can say"*

This phrase above is part of Famous Last Words song lyrics, it categorized first person deixis as it includes the pronoun "I". The phrase "I know" situates the speaker in the statement, making it clear that the knowledge or awareness is possessed by the speaker.

### ***Temporal Deixis***

The researcher discovered 5 frequencies of temporal or time deixis. Temporal deixis, as defined by pragmatic theory developed by George Yule, describes statements that place a circumstance or event in relation to the speaking moment. Temporal deixis provides essential information about the timing of events and situations, anchoring them in relation to the speaker's present moment (Yule, 1996, p. 14).

*"Because one day, I'll leave you a phantom,"*

This phrase is a part of Welcome to The Black Parade song lyrics, it categorized temporal or time deixis due to its use of the expression "one day" that is referring to an indeterminate future period. It places the event ("I'll leave you a phantom") relevant to the current instant of speaking but does not indicate when it will occur.

*"To lead you in the summer"*

This phrase is a part of lyrics from Welcome to The Black Parade song, it categorized temporal deixis as it includes the time expression "in the summer" provides temporal information, indicating when the event of leading will take place (during the summer season).

*"Defiant to the end"*

This phrase above is a part of Welcome to The Black Parade song, it categorized temporal deixis as it involves the phrase "the end" which refers to a specific time in the future, but its exact timing is not defined within the phrase itself.

### ***Spatial Deixis***

Spatial deixis indicates the place or location between speaker and listener. Spatial deixis involves terms that indicate location, movement, and direction relative to the speaker's or listener's point of view (Yule, 1996, p. 12). Based on the analysis results, the researcher found 10 frequencies of spatial deixis.

*"My father took me into the city"*

This sentence is a part of lyrics from Wecome to The Black Parade song, and it categorized spatial deixis as it involves the expression "into the city" conveys details about the location

in relation to the speaker. It denotes travel from within the city to a site that is probably outside of it.

*"I am not afraid to walk this world alone"*

This phrase is a part of lyrics from Famous Last Words song, it categorized spatial deixis as it involves references to spatial relationships and locations, the expression *"this world"* refers to the speaker's immediate physical surroundings or existence. It offers a spatial context, suggesting both the speaker's local surroundings and the entirety of the world.

## CONCLUSION

The study examines deixis in the lyrics of My Chemical Romance's album "The Black Parade," focusing on the songs "Welcome to the Black Parade" and "Famous Last Words." It distinguishes three types of deixis: personal, temporal, and spatial, with person deixis being the most common. Person Deixis is often used in the lyrics, accounting for 56 occasions (78.8% of all deixis discovered). It contains first-person (e.g., "I"), second-person (e.g., "you"), and third-person (e.g., "they") references, which are necessary for identifying the communication's participants. Temporal Deixis which refers to the timing of occurrences, appears 5 times, accounting for 7.04% of all deixis. Examples include references to time, such as "one day" and "in the summer." Spatial Deixis found 14.08% of the total, indicating places relative to the speaker and listener. Examples include the phrases "into the city" and "this world". The findings show that deixis is an important feature in lyrics, helping to express the narrative and emotional depth of the music. By deliberately employing deictic expressions, the band effectively immerses the listener in the protagonist's journey, expressing themes of mortality, identity, and the human struggle to survive. This approach emphasizes the significance of comprehending deixis when reading song lyrics, particularly for listeners who may not understand the context or references without this linguistic framework.

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