

**A DEIXIS ANALYSIS OF SONG LYRICS IN OLIVIA RODRIGO'S  
"SOUR" ALBUM**



**A THESIS**

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Fulfillment of Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English

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**LEGITIMATION**

**THESIS**

**A DEIXIS ANALYSIS OF SONG LYRICS**

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Friday, 03 May 2024  
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AGREEMENT

On May 03, 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Anggi Ningsih (F041191050) entitled *A Deixis Analysis Of Song Lyrics in Olivia Rodrigo's 'SOUR' Album* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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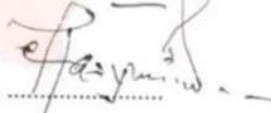
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The thesis by Anggi Ningsih (F041191050) entitled *A Deixis Analysis Of Song Lyrics in Olivia Rodrigo's 'SOUR' Album* has been revised as advised during the examination on \_\_\_\_\_ and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by himself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

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The writer realization is that this thesis has many shortcomings. This is due to the author's limited ability in terms of knowledge and experience. Therefore, all constructive criticism and suggestions will be received by the author with an open heart as material for improvement and to broaden the author's horizons in the future.

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## ABSTRACT

**ANGGI NINGSIH.** *A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in Olivia Rodrigo's "SOUR" Album* (supervised by Ayub Khan and Harlinah Sahib)

This research focuses on analyzing deixis in the songs contained in Olivia Rodrigo's 'SOUR' album. The objectives of this research are (1) to find and reveal the dominant types of deixis contained in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics in 'SOUR' album, (2) to explain the meaning references contained in Olivia Rodrigo's song lyrics in 'SOUR' album. This research uses a descriptive-qualitative method. The data used are 11 songs from Olivia Rodrigo's album SOUR, which are then classified into deixis types based on the criteria of each deixis type. The writer analyzes the types of deixis and meaning references contained in the song lyrics on Olivia Rodrigo's 'SOUR' album based on Yule's theory. Based on the analysis and the theory used, the writer finds 3 types of deixis contained in the song lyrics on the album 'SOUR', namely deixis of person, deixis of time, and deixis of place. In addition, the writer finds the meaning reference and the dominant type of deixis in the song lyrics on the album 'SOUR'. Of the three types of deixis, persona deixis is the dominant deixis because it uses first-person pronouns, namely "I, Me, My, We, You, Your, She, Her." Most of the person deixis in the song lyrics of the "SOUR" album refers to the speaker herself, which is encoded with first-person singular deixis such as "I, My, Me" which refers to the speaker herself.

**Keywords:** deixis, person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, song lyrics, Olivia Rodrigo's



## ABSTRAK

**ANGGI NINGSIH.** *Analisis Deiksis pada Lirik Lagu dalam Album "SOUR"*

*Oleh Olivia Rodrigo (dibimbing oleh Ayub Khan dan Harlinah Sahib)*

Penelitian ini berfokus menganalisis deiksis pada lagu-lagu yang terdapat dalam album 'SOUR' milik Olivia Rodrigo. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah (1) menemukan dan mengungkapkan jenis-jenis deiksis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Olivia Rodrigo pada album 'SOUR', (2) menjelaskan referensi makna yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Olivia Rodrigo pada album 'SOUR'. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data yang digunakan adalah 12 lagu dari album 'SOUR' milik Olivia Rodrigo, yang kemudian diklasifikasikan ke dalam tipe-tipe deiksis berdasarkan kriteria masing-masing tipe deiksis. Penulis menganalisis tipe-tipe deiksis dan referensi makna yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu pada album 'SOUR' milik Olivia Rodrigo berdasarkan teori Yule. Berdasarkan hasil Analisis dan teori yang digunakan, penulis menemukan 3 tipe deiksis yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu pada album 'SOUR' yaitu deiksis orang, deiksis waktu dan deiksis tempat. Selain itu penulis menemukan referensi makna dan tipe deiksis yang dominan dalam lirik lagu pada album 'SOUR'. Dari ketiga tipe deiksis, deiksis persona adalah deiksis yang dominan karena menggunakan kata ganti orang pertama, yaitu "I, Me, My, We, You, Your, She, Her." Sebagian besar deiksis orang dalam lirik lagu album Sour mengacu pada pembicara itu sendiri yang dikodekan dengan deiksis orang pertama tunggal seperti "I, My, Me" yang mengacu pada pembicara itu sendiri.

**Kata Kunci:** deiksis, deiksis orang, deiksis waktu, deiksis tempat, lirik lagu



# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of The Study

Language is one of the most valuable forms of human culture, because through language people can communicate and interact with people around the world. Not only that, through language, humans can develop various abstract causes that occur in their environment. Language clearly has a very important rule in social life. Communication will be smooth if the target language is used correctly. That means the language used is based on the situation and condition of the speaker, as well as the speech characteristics used.

Every human being in this world uses language to communicate and interact with others. Language is a means of conveying meaning to other people. Language is not only used for everyday communication, but is also used for making beautiful songs. Basically, the lyrics of the song are also intended for the purpose contained in it.

Lyrics are part of the music that can convey emotions and feelings to someone. Text can be categorized as part of a discourse because it consists of words and phrases with different grammatical functions. Discourse is a long and serious speech. That means the discourse is more than a message from the sender to the recipient and from the speaker to the listener. You can easily express your

emotions and feelings by writing lyrics. The lyrics take the audience to a world created by his / her imagination and try to encourage the audience to think and



react (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). In addition, some of the song lyrics are life-inspiring. The lyrics of the song depend on the meaning of the text. In general, song listeners have made various interpretations to understand the meaning of the song. To understand the meaning of a song, people need to know the context of the song. Therefore, when people hear the lyrics. Sometimes we try to understand not only the meaning of the lyrics themselves, but also the meaning of the songwriter. The study of what a speaker means is now called pragmatics.

Pragmatics is included in the linguistic elements along with morphology, syntax, and semantics which are part of micro linguistics. Increase pragmatics is traditionally seen separately from semantic content. The flow of Anglo-American philosophy continues to advocate strict separation. Pragmatism does not go into the composition process, but it is at a completely different level, like the implications of grease.

Pragmatics arises from the study of linguistic phenomena in the form of utterances that occur in everyday human utterances (Yule (1996), where pragmatics are conveyed by the speaker (or writer) and are heard (or apparent). In addition, communication depends not only on recognizing the meaning of words in utterances and sentences but also on recognizing what the speaker means by the utterance. Sometimes language users misunderstand the meaning.

This understanding is related to references. References to utterances or ces. To understand references to utterances, the reader or listener must be identify the context of the utterance. Deixis is a part of pragmatics which ses the expression or context in a sentence. There are five kinds of deixis,





namely people deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis.

Deixis is one of the maximum simple matters in technical phrases of utterances (Yule: 1996). The phrase deixis is borrowed from the Greek phrase for pointing or indicating. Additionally, Levinson (1983: 37) said pragmatics is the have a look at deixis (at the least in past) implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and factors of discourse structure. And deixis is at once involved with the associated language and context that is contemplated in systems of language selve.

Deixis is used to research the conversation, utterance, or sentence due to the fact each utterance is associated with declaring people, something, place, or time. That means can be clean if the listener or reader is aware of who, in which, and while the utterance is uttered. Thus, deixis is used to clear up that problem. Therefore, the researcher desires to examine the deixis, its types, and its reference that means.

This research is focused on examining the song lyrics on the album “Sour” which discusses some interesting things related to love but not only that, but in this album the singer also discusses dissatisfaction with what they have and other problems. In addition, the researcher assumes that many deixis words and their meanings can be found in the lyrics of this song. But in reality, listeners

imes still have difficulty in determining the exact meaning of the deixis



used in the study of English songs about the exact meaning of deixis in the lyrics of this song is special and interesting.

## **B. Identification of the Problems**

The writer identifies that there are three problems with the research are mentioned bellows:

1. The type of deixis in the song lyrics.
2. The function of each type of deixis in the song lyrics.
3. The most dominant type of Deixis used in the song lyrics.

## **C. Scope of Problem**

Based on the problems that have been stated above, the writer is interested in analyzing the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" album. In this study, the writer will focus on analyzing the three types of deixis by Yule and explain the references meaning of deixis are used in the song lyrics.

## **D. Research Questions**

This research has two research problems which will be discussed, those are;

1. What type of the Deixis used in the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo "SOUR" album?
2. What references meaning of deixis are used in the song lyrics of Olivia



30's "SOUR" album.

3. What is the dominant type of Deixis used in the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's selected song.

### **E. Objectives of Study**

Based on the research question, the objectives of this research are:

1. to find out the type and the function of Deixis in the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" album.
2. to explain the references of Deixis used in the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" album.
3. to analyze of the dominant Deixis used in the song lyrics of Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour" album.

### **F. Significance of the Research**

After completing this research, the writer hopes that this research can be useful and provide valuable contributions both theoretically and practically. The significance of this study is that it can show the use of deixis in the song, the function of that deixis, and the effect it has on the listener. The study's results may be helpful to other researchers who are interested in investigating other songs with the same topic. The writer also hope that this research will be useful for future researchers as linguistic references that will help them understand and their own language work in Deixis.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In this chapter, the writer discusses theories related to the research topic. The literature review relates to previous studies related to deixis and the theoretical framework consists of pragmatics, deixis, references, context, and types of deixis related to the analysis. These related research studies have the benefit of being able to clearly describe the differences in research that has been carried out by other researchers.

#### **A. Previous Study**

There are some previous researchers have investigated about deixis. They are:

##### **1. Debi Wati (2014) “A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in Taylor Swift’s ‘RED’ Album”**

In her research the researcher discussed about analyzing the deixis used in song lyrics of Taylor Swift’s “Red” album using John I. Saeed theory. The study in this paper explained the kinds of deixis, the meaning and why deixis is used in the song lyrics. This researcher used descriptive qualitative method to describe the type of deixis. The result of this study showed that there are three kinds of deixis in the song lyric od Tailor Swift’s “Red” album, those are person, spatial, and temporal. This fourth study indeed dealt with the same object as mine, but my study analyzes the function of deixis used in song lyric, while this fourth study did not analyze the function of the deixis.



**2. Lestari (2015) “The Study of Deixis in Song Lyrics of Bruno Mars ‘Doo Wops and Hooligans 2010’ Album”**

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. She classified the deixis based on the five types of deixis that used theory of Levinson and also describe the reference meaning of deixis that were found in song lyrics of Bruno Mars’ Doo wops and Hooligans 2010 album. The result of type study is person deixis mostly used in every song lyric than spatial and temporal which is used in song lyrics of Bruno Mars’ Doo wops and Hooligans 2010 album.

**3. Hazat Sailal IImi (2018) “Deixis Analysis on The Song Lyrics Of Ed Sheeran ‘Divide’ Album”**

This research is aimed to analyze the deixis which is used in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran “Divide” album by using Cruse’s theory. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. The objectives of this research are identifis and classifies the function and the effect of deixis used in the song lyric. The findings of this research are that types of deixis such as person, spatial, temporal, social, and discourse deixis are used in the song lyrics of Ed sheeran “Divide” album.



**Dzulfikar Zakaria Musafak (2020) “A Deixis Analysis of the Lyrics of the Songs on Maroon 5’s Overexposed Album.**

This research is aimed to analyze the deixis which is used in the song lyrics on Maroon 5's Overexposed album. This research used descriptive qualitative method as the research method. The objectives of this research are identify and classify the function and the effect of deixis used in the song lyric. The result of this research showed that there are three kinds of deixis exist in Overexposed album songs, those are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The function of person deixis is to point someone or thing. The function of spatial deixis is to point the location. The function of temporal deixis is to point the time of the utterance happens.

## **B. Theoretical Background**

### **A. Pragmatics**

According to Nadar (2013: 2), pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the language used to communicate in certain situations. Almost the same understanding was put forward by Nababan that pragmatics is about using language effectively and naturally to communicate in certain situations (Sudaryat, 2011: 120).

Yule (2014: 3) suggests that pragmatics is the study of the meaning conveyed by speakers to the addressee or interlocutor. This study has much to do with the analysis of the speaker's intentions towards his speech rather than the meaning of the words or phrases used in the speech itself. In addition,



this study also deals with the distance between the speaker and the addressee. In addition, pragmatics is the study of linguistics related to context. That is, we need a context of consideration about how speakers arrange what they want to say and adapt to the interlocutor. The context in question relates to who is speaking, what is being discussed, to whom, and where the conversation is taking place (Yule, 2011: 4).

Based on the above statement, the researcher concludes that pragmatics is a science that studies meaning based on context. It can convey the meaning people want, their goals, and a variety of behaviors. Pragmatics is a sub-discipline of linguistics. It comes from various languages, philosophical and sociological traditions. It learns the relationship between natural language and its use in certain situations.

## **B. Deixis**

Deixis is one aspect discussed in pragmatic. The term deixis is technically derived from the Greek language which means “appointment”. In other words, lexical and grammatical contextual information refers to certain things in the form of objects, places, and time that refers to the form associated with the context of the speaker. (Yule, 2014: 13). According to Sudaryat (2011: 120), deixis (deixis) is a form of language that functions as a pointer to certain things or functions outside the language. Djajasudarma (2012: 50) suggests

deixis phenomenon is the most obvious to describe the relationship between language and context in the structure of the language itself.





Deixis is a thing of function that shows something outside of language. In deixis, there is the use of pronominal terms or pointing words, interpretations, and so on which have a deixis function (Kridalaksana, 2009: 45). Deixis is a word whose referent varies or is not fixed which refers to a form related to the context of the speaker. (Wijana in Putrayasa, 2014: 38). The researcher concludes that deixis is a study of how to analyze words or phrases that are directly related to the people, time, and place. It involves the encoding of many different aspects of the environment, which uses the relationship between the structure of language and context. Deixis studies how to interpret utterances based on the analysis of the context.

### C. Type of Deixis

In utterance, some linguists have different views on the types of deixis. First, Yule (1996) pointed out that there are three kinds of deixis. Second, Levison (1983) pointed out that deixis has five types. Last, Cruse (2000) divided the deixis also into five types.

Such linguists have defined their opinion about types of deixis which can be seen in text above. However, in this study, the classification of deixis only focused on three types of deixis (person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis).

#### 1. Person Deixis

According to Lyons, the term *persona* comes from the Latin word *persona* as a translation of the Greek word *prosopon*, which means



'mask' (the mask worn by a playwright), and also means the role or character played by the playwright. The choice of this term by linguists at that time was due to the similarity between language events and plays. The reference appointed by the pronominal person changes depending on the role that is carried by the participant of the speech act. The person who is speaking has a role called the first pronominal persona. If he does not speak again, and then becomes a listener then he changes to wearing a mask called the second person. Meanwhile, people who are not present at the place where the conversation takes place (but become the subject of discussion) or who are present close to the conversation (but are not actively involved in the conversation) are given a mask called the third person (Djajasudarma, 2013: 52).

Yule (2014:15) applies three basic divisions of persona deixis, which are exemplified by the first pronoun (I), the second person (you), and the third person (he is a man, a woman, or things/something). According to Djajasudarma (2013: 52), the pronominal function of the Persona is an appointment to the speaker, speech, and what is being discussed. In addition, Kushartanti, et al. (2005:112) states that personal deixis can be seen in the form of pronouns. The pronominal form itself is divided into first person pronouns, second person pronouns, and third person pronouns.



## 2. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis or place deixis is deictic reference to a location relative to the location of a participant in the speech event, typically the speaker (Levinson 1983 : 62). Place deixis is closely related to the concept of distance. Place deixis is where the relationship between people and things is shown. In place of deixis, Yule uses two adverbs, namely 'here' and 'there'. Yule (1996) also defined that proximal terms are indicate near place from the speaker, while distal terms are indicating far place from the speaker. It depends on the position of the people or thing's location from the speaker as a deictic center.

The same thing was also stated by Putrayasa (2014: 48) that the starting point of the difference between the three is in the speaker. If something that is pointed out is close to the speaker, then the word here is used, if something that is pointed out is a bit far from the speaker, then the word there is used. If something that is pointed out is far from the narrative, the word there is used. Because it refers to a location, place pronouns are often used with prepositions to refer to, in/to/from, so that there are several forms of place pronouns, namely: here, here, from here, there, there, from there, there, to there, from there.



### 3. Temporal Deixis

Levinson (1983) stated that temporal deixis is familiar with time deixis. There are three major divisions of time deixis, which are before event, at the time of event, and after the event. Therefore, cruse (2006) stated that the verb tense is concluded as deictic words. It is useful to distinguish three points: the time when the event occurred (I the past), the time when the sound was made (now), and the reference time (in the future).

Meanwhile, Yule (2014: 22) uses the proximal form of 'now' which shows the time related to when speaking and when the speaker's voice is heard (the listener is 'now'). In addition, it also uses a non-deixis time reference system that details such as calendar time and clock time.

From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that temporal deixis is indicating of timing the utterances of speaker said. This research analyzes the temporal deixis depends on time, such as today, tomorrow, yesterday, and any other.

#### D. The Function of Deixis

According to Yule's theory, the role of deixis is to point. Point here refers things or people, we call it human referents. The function of person deixis

- o point out the things or people that speak. The function of spatial deixis
- o point out the position or position of the thing or person speaking, while



the function of temporal deixis is to point out the time of the thing or person speaking.

### **E. Definition of Context**

If we talking about pragmatics, and deixis then if we do not discuss about context, it is incomplete. Pragmatics is study of meaning which depend on the context. At the same time, in order to understand the utterance reference using deictic expressions, the reader or listeners should be able to recognize the context of utterance.

Cruse (2006) pointed out that context is a necessary factor in the interpretation of words and expressions. The most important aspect of context are: (1) before and after discourse and/or expression (“common text”), (2) current physical condition, (3) broader condition, including social and power relations, and (4) it is assumed that the knowledge shared between the speaker and the audience.

In the end, the researchers concluded that context is any information needed to explain an utterance or sentence, including people, time, place, or things, although in oral or written form.

