

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF DEIXIS USED IN SONG LYRICS OF
BILLIE EILISH'S SELECTED SONG**



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Submitted to the English Departement in Faculty of Cultural Sciences of
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**A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF DEIXIS USED IN SONG LYRICS BY BILLIE EILISH'S
SELECTED SONGS**

BY

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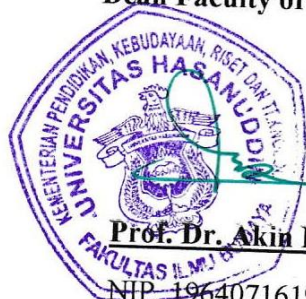
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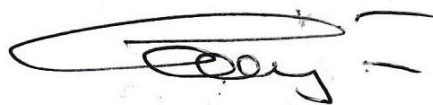
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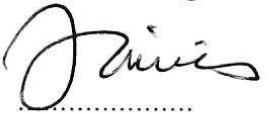
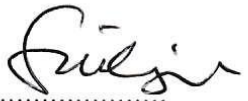



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The thesis of **NUR IFTITAH** (Student Number: **F041171005**) entitled, **A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF DEIXIS USED IN SONG LYRICS BY BILLIE EILISH'S SELECTED SONGS** has been revised as advised during the examination on Thursday, 5th August, 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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This thesis is obviously still far from the perfection. However, the writer hopes that this thesis could be helpful for the next writer and the reader. Critics, suggestions, and corrections are welcome in order to make a better result in the thesis.

Makassar, June 21th, 2021

The writer

Nur Iftitah

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ABSTRACT

Nur Iftitah. 2021. *A Pragmatic Study of Deixis Used in Song Lyrics of Billie Eilish's Selected Songs*. Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Cultural Sciences. Universitas Hasanuddin, Makassar. (Supervised by Sitti Sahraeny and Ainun Fatimah)

This research aims to 1) describe the type of deixis used in several selected songs by Billie Eilish, 2) describe the reference of deixis used in the song Billie Eilish, 3) find the dominant type of deixis in Billie Eilish's song. This research is designed using George Yule's theory. Yule in his theory argues that deixis is divided into three parts, namely person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis.

This research uses a pragmatic approach with a qualitative descriptive method as the research design. The data in this research comes from several selected song lyrics belong to Billie Eilish. There are seven songs used in this research, which are *Everything I Wanted*, *I Love You*, *8*, *Bad Guy*, *Bellyache*, *idontwannabeyouanymore*, and *Ocean Eyes*. The data was obtained by downloading the song of Billie Eilish along with the song lyrics. The data is then analyzed by reading the lyrics of the song thoroughly and then sorting out the lyrics that contain the deictic words in it.

This research shows result that all of Billie Eilish's songs used various type of deixis such as person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis. Personal deixis is divided into first, second, and third person. Personal deixis is a deixis that shows the person who utters the utterances. Spatial deixis is a deixis that shows the place or location where the utterance is spoken. Time deixis is a deixis that shows the point or distance in time where the utterance is spoken. Based on the seven Billie Eilish songs which have been analyzed, only one song does not have the three types of deixis in it, titled *idontwannabeyouanymore* which does not have spatial deixis. This research also shows that the dominant type of deixis used in Billie Eilish's song is person deixis. There are 321 words of person deixis, 33 words of space deixis, and 29 words of time deixis.

Keywords: Pragmatic, Deixis, Song Lyrics, References, Billie Eilish.

ABSTRAK

Nur Iftitah.2021. *Studi Pragmatik Mengenai Deiksis yang Digunakan dalam Lirik Lagu dari Lagu-Lagu Terpilih Milik Billie Eilish*. Skripsi. Departemen Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Ilmu Budaya. (dibimbing oleh Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M. AppLing dan Ainun Fatimah, S.S., M.Hum)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk 1) mendeskripsikan tipe deiksis yang digunakan dalam beberapa lagu terpilih oleh Billie Eilish, 2) menjabarkan rujukan dari deiksis yang digunakan dalam lagu Billie Eilish, 3) menemukan tipe deiksis yang dominan dalam lagu Billie Eilish. Penelitian ini dirancang menggunakan teori deiksis George Yule. Yule dalam teorinya berpendapat bahwa deiksis terbagi menjadi tiga bagian, yakni deiksis persona, deiksis ruang, dan deiksis waktu.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan pragmatic dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif sebagai desain penelitian. Data dari penelitian ini berasal dari beberapa lirik lagu yang terpilih milik Billie Eilish. Terdapat tujuh lagu yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini, diantaranya ialah *Everything I Wanted*, *I Love You*, *8*, *Bad Guy*, *Bellyache*, *idontwannabeyouanymore*, *Ocean Eyes*. Data diperoleh dengan cara mengunduh lagu Billie Eilish beserta lirik lagu. Data kemudian dianalisis dengan cara membaca lirik lagu secara menyeluruh lalu memilah lirik yang mengandung kata deiksis didalamnya.

Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan bahwa semua lagu Billie Eilish menggunakan macam-macam deiksis seperti deiksis persona, deiksis ruang, dan deiksis waktu. Deiksis persona terbagi atas orang pertama, kedua, dan ketiga. Deiksis persona merupakan deiksis yang menunjukkan diri si penutur. Deiksis ruang adalah deiksis yang menunjukkan tempat atau lokasi dimana ujaran dituturkan. Deiksis waktu ialah deiksis yang menunjukkan titik atau jarak waktu dimana ujaran tersebut dituturkan. Dari ketujuh lagu Billie Eilish yang diteliti, hanya satu lagu yang tidak memiliki ketiga tipe deiksis didalamnya, yakni *idontwannabeyouanymore* yang tidak mempunyai deiksis ruang. Penelitian ini juga menunjukkan hasil bahwa tipe dominan deiksis yang digunakan dalam lagu Billie Eilish adalah deiksis persona. Terdapat 321 kata deiksis persona, 33 kata deiksis ruang, dan 29 kata deiksis waktu.

Kata Kunci : Pragmatik, Deiksis, Lirik Lagu, Rujukan, Billie Eilish

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Language is the most important tool of communication invented by human civilization. Language helps us share our thoughts and understand others. Language also involved in other fields such as language and arts. It can be found in advertisement and entertainment which appear in society such as music, novel, film or movie. One example of entertainment media is music which is familiar in society.

Music is the art and science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds or tones in varying melody, harmony, rhythm, and timbre, especially so as to form structurally complete and emotionally expressive compositions. Most people usually make music becomes one of the important things in their lives whether for enjoyment in listening, the emotional response, performing, or creating. It is a proof that music brings an immense worth for society. Language can be used to express feelings, moods, ideas, information, experiences, etc. It also applies to musicians. They put their feelings, experiences, and ideas into songs.

Song is a short piece of music. It usually consists of melody and vocals. Some composers also wrote instrumental pieces, or musical works without words that mimic the quality of a singing voice. The words which appear on a song are called lyrics. Lyrics can include a series of *verses*, the longer sections of the song that tell the story, and refrain which is a short phrase repeated at the end of every

verse. Most of music will be liked by the listeners if the content of the song has its own meaning for the listener, so that's why the song creator isn't carelessly in making the lyric (Deby, Gunawan, & Shena, 2018). Songs itself have some functions such as to tell stories, express emotions, or convey a belief in faith. They also can make a difficult work a little less tiresome because it serves to provide a consolation for some people who are less enthusiastic.

Listening to song lyrics, people sometimes do not only try to apprehend the meaning of lyric itself, but also the meaning of the speaker (the writer) means. The study of what speakers mean or speaker meaning is called pragmatics. Yule (1996) claimed pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by the speaker (or writer) and interpreted by listener (or reader). To draw the meaning, we should take into consideration how speakers come up to express what they want to say regarding who they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances. Some scopes of pragmatics include the study of deixis, presupposition, reference, entailment and speech acts. In this research, the writer uses pragmatics approach that analyses the deixis in song lyrics.

The word *Deixis* borrowed from the Greek word for **pointing** or **indicating**. Deixis is reference to a person, object, or event which relies on the situational context. First and second person pronouns such as *my, mine, you, your, yours, we, ours* and *us* are always deictic because their reference is entirely dependent on context. Demonstrative articles like *this, that, these* and *those* and expressions of time and place are always deictic as well. In order to understand

what specific times or places such expressions refer to, we also need to know when or where the utterance was said.

This research focuses on the study of deixis in song lyrics by Billie Eilish because recently there are many people are becoming a fan of Billie Eilish's songs. Nevertheless, almost all of the people do not know about the real lyric of the song. They just listened for several time and memorize it without knowing the meaning or the message that delivered in the song. One way to find out the meaning of a song is with knowing the reference of words used in song lyrics. When the listener knows the reference of the word, the meaning will become perceptible. This thing makes the writer want to analyse the deictic word used in song lyrics in order to make the reader more understand about the meaning on Billie's songs.

There are several reasons why the writer chooses Billie's songs to be analyzed. First, Billie Eilish is a very famous singer in this era. At a very young age, 18 years old, she has won so many achievements, including by holding the # 1 position on the Billboard 200. She is also noted as the first youngest singer to get a series of GRAMMY 2020 awards. The five trophies won by Billie Eilish include the Best Vocal Pop Album category, Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Best New Artist for her debut album in 2019 "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?", and still many other awards she has achieved. Second, Billie has a unique character in every song of hers. The style of her music is arguably not popular: alt-pop, which is sometimes experimented with electro-pop, indie-pop and folk-pop yet this makes many people like the song

because of the unusual genre. Last, Billie tends to have a dark impression in each her songs, such as *Bad Guy*, *Bury a Friend*, *All the Good Girls Go to Hell*, which sometimes makes it difficult for the listener to understand the meaning of the song. Those three reasons above make the writer decides to do a research about deixis in song lyrics by Billie.

B. FOCUS OF THE STUDY

In this study, the writer focuses on the types of deixis, the reference of deixis, and what is the dominant type of deixis used in song lyrics by Billie Eilish's songs.

C. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the types of Deixis used in the song lyrics of Billie Eilish's selected songs?
2. What is the referent meaning of Deixis used in Billie Eilish's selected songs?
3. What is the dominant type of Deixis used in the song lyrics of Billie Eilish's selected songs?

D. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the types of Deixis used in the song lyrics of Billie Eilish's selected song.
2. To find out the reference meaning of Deixis which is used in Billie Eilish's selectd songs.

3. To analyze the dominant Deixis used in the song lyrics of Billie Eilish's selected song.

E. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is on analyzing songs of Billie Eilish. However, the writer will give the limitation on this study in order to get a focused explanation. This study will only focus on investigating the deixis in Billie's song lyrics using pragmatic approach by theory of Yule. The writer has chosen seven songs of Billie Eilish which popular among her many songs. Those are *Everything I Wanted* (2019), *Bad Guy*, *I Love You, 8* (2018), *idontwannabeyouanymore*, *Bellyache* (2017), *Ocean Eyes* (2016).

F. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Theoretically, this study expected to be an additional knowledge of pragmatic especially in aspect of deixis. Practically, the writer hopes this study can become a contribution to the other writer who wants to study the using of deixis in song lyrics.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. PREVIOUS STUDIES

A research about analysis deixis conducted by Ali (2012) *A Person Deixis Analysis in Song Lyric of Maher Zein's Album*. This research deals with pragmatics field. It analyzes personal deixis in discourse of Maher Zein's album based on Goerge Yule theory (1996). The data are taken from Maher Zein's song in Thank You Allah album. The objects of this research are to identify the kinds and reference of person deixis in song lyrics of Maher Zain's album and analyze the reference meaning of person deixis on song lyrics in Maher Zein's Album. He used qualitative method in his research. The first technique of data analysis is reading the song lyrics. The second is identifying the person deixis in song lyrics. Third, classifying the person deixis. The result of this research shows that there are three kinds of person deixis which are first person deixis, second person deixis and third person deixis used in Maher Zain Album. The reference meaning of first personal deixis *I* and *We* refers to the singer and second personal deixis *You* refers to a woman, Allah, Muhammad and people as the hearer. While the third personal deixis *He* refers to Allah.

In contrast, the research above only identified the person deixis by using George Yule theory in the Maher Zein's songs, while the current study focused on the three types of deixis based on George Yule theory in the different subject which is Billie Eilish's songs.

Next, a research about deixis has been conducted by Hazat S (2018) with a title *Deixis Analysis on The Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran "DIVIDE" Album*. He used qualitative method in his research. The aim of the research is to analyze the kinds of deixis, the function of deixis, and the effect of the deixis to the meaning of song lyrics by Ed Sheeran by using Cruse's theory. The first technique of data analysis is listening the songs for several times. The second is searching the script of the lyrics. The third, determining some words that includes as deictic expression. Last, marking the deictic word in song lyrics based on Cruse's theory of deixis. The result of the research shows that there are five types of deixis in Ed's song. There are person, spatial, temporal, social, and discourse deixis. Those five types of deixis have their own effect to the meaning of songs.

The study of deixis has been also conducted by Kartika Anggraeny (2018) entitled *Deixis Used by Adeline in The Age of Adeline Movie*. This study focuses on deixis by using Levinson's theory of deixis. The aim of the research is to identify the kinds of deixis and the referent meaning of deixis used by Adeline Bowman as a main character in the *The Age of Adeline* movie. The result of the study shows that Adeline's utterances contain five major types of deixis by Levinson. The most dominant type of deixis in this study is first singular person deixis *I* which refers to Adeline's herself.

To compare, those three previous studies above have different things with the current study. The previous study used Cruse's and Levinson's theory, while the current study focused on the theory of George Yule. The objects of the study are also different. The study conducted by Hazat S used *Ed Sheeran's* songs as his

object and Kartika A used *The Age of Adeline* movie as her object. Moreover, the study by Hazat focuses on the effect of deixes used in song lyrics, while the current study focuses on the dominant types of deixis in song lyrics and its referent meaning.

B. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between context and meaning. Context is the elements outside the language which studied in pragmatic. This study learns how the meaning can be delivered not only on linguistic knowledge (grammar, lexicon, etc) from the speaker and listener but also from the context of the speech, knowledge of anyone that involved in conversation, and the implied meaning of the speaker. There are several definitions of pragmatic from some linguists. According to Levinson (1983:24) pragmatics is the study of the ability of language users to pair sentences with the contexts in which they would be appropriate. Besides, Leech (1983: 6) states that pragmatics is the study of meanings in relation to speech situation.

Hence (1993: 42) defines pragmatic is the study of the conditions of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society. Addition, Griffiths (2006: 1) states that pragmatics is concerned with the use of knowledge and its patterns in meaningful communication. He also notes that pragmatic is a relationship between semantic knowledge and human knowledge of the world by paying attention to the use of context. As well as, Yule (1996: 3) points out pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker

(or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). In communication, people have to recognize the meaning of words in utterance and also what speakers or writers mean by their utterance to be able to communicate clearly.

Yule (1996: 3) actually divides pragmatic into four definition, as following; (1) “pragmatics is the study of the speaker meaning”, it means pragmatics analyse what people mean by their utterances rather than what the words or phrases means in those utterances. (2) “pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning”, it means pragmatics study what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences the utterance. In short, context is an essential thing in pragmatics. (3) “pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said”. Yule said that listener can make inferences about what is said in order to arrive at interpretation of the speaker’s intended meaning. Last, (4) “pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance”, it means speaker determine how much to be said in paying attention to how close or distant the listener is.

From the definition above, mostly of them point out “context” as a part in pragmatics. We can conclude that pragmatic is very closely related to context. Pragmatics can convey about people’s intended meanings, their purposes or goal, and also any kind of actions.

2. Deixis

The word *Deixis* borrowed from the Greek word for **pointing** or **indicating**. However, some linguists have their own opinion in defining and explaining deixis. Yule (1996: 9) writes deixis is derived from Greek word means “pointing Via language”. Levinson (1983:54) deixis is the single obvious way in

which the relationship between language and context is reflected in the structures of language themselves. Levinson added that deixis concerns the ways in which languages encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance. Next, deixis is the relation of the reference to the point of origin to the utterance (Grundy, 2000).

All languages have their own deictic words which ‘point’ to ‘things’ in the physical social context from the speakers and addressees then whose referents can only be determined by knowing the context in which they are used. These are examples of deictic words: (1) pronouns *I*, *you*, and *we*, which point to participants in any speech act then *she*, *he* *it* and *they* are used when they refer to others in the environment. (2) locative expressions such as *here*, *this/these*, *that/those*, and *there*, which designated space of the speaker. (3) temporal expressions *now*, *then*, *yesterday*, *today*, *tomorrow*, *last week*, *next month* and so on, it relates to the time when they are used (Kreidler, 1998).

There are several types of deixis. Some linguist has different opinion about the types of deixis. Based on Yule (1996: 9), there are three types of deixis. They are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. Furthermore, Levinson (1983) advanced deixis into 5 types, those are person deixis, place deixis and time deixis which are belongs to the traditional categories and then he expanded deixis types which are discourse and social deixis. From the statements above, it is clear that deixis is indicating or pointing person, place, time the context of utterances.

We will know who the speaker or listener is, when, and where the sentence is uttered.

3. Types of Deixis

In pragmatics study, there are some opinions about types of deixis. We use deixis to point to things (*it, this, these boxes*) and people (*him, them, those idiots*), sometimes called person deixis. Words and phrases used to point to a location (*here, there, near that*) are examples of spatial deixis, and those used to point to a time (*now, then, last week*) are examples of temporal deixis. In this research, the discussion is focused only on three parts of deixis based on Yule's theory.

3.1. Person Deixis

Person deixis is familiar with pronouns. The basic grammatical distinctions here are the categories of first, second and third person. Based on Yule (1996:9), first person is *I*, second person is *you*, and third person are *he, she, or it*. The function of person deixis is to indicate a person who utters the utterance or sentence. Person deixis concern the person involved in an utterance, such as; (1) the persons directly involved e.g. the speaker and the addressee, (2) the person not directly involved e.g. those who hear the utterance but are not being directly addressed, (3) the persons mentioned in the utterance.

Addition, Cruse mentioned that person deictic words include pronouns (*I, You, him, mine, yours, hers, myself, yourself, herself*), possessive adjectives (*my, your, her*) and verb inflection (*I love, You love, he or she loves*). Nevertheless, the

form of plural and singular is used to analyze the deictic expressions of person deixis.

Example : “I can’t sleep yet”

The underline deictic word of the example above (*I*) is the first person and as a person who utters the sentence. In short, deictic word (*I*) refers to a speaker himself in the sentence.

3.2. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis is clearly relevant to the context of distance. In considering special deixis, however, it is important to remember that location from the speaker’s perspective can be fixed mentally as well as physically (Yule, 1996: 12). Spatial deixis has two types of deictic words which are proximal deixis, which is known as near from the speaker, using *this*, *these*, *here* and distal deixis, known as away from the speaker or both speaker and addressee , using *that*, *those*, *there*.

Example : I’m on the path now

The deictic word “*the path*” is indicating location of person who utters the utterance or sentence. It also indicates that place or location of speaker. The writer concludes from explanation above if spatial deixis pointed the location of speaker’s said.

3.3. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is also familiar with time deixis (Levinson, 1983). Temporal deixis has a function to locate points or intervals on the time deixis, using the moment of utterance as a reference point.

Temporal deixis concerns itself with the various times involved in and referred to in an utterance, such as, tonight, last week, yesterday, before, after, and so on. It also includes time adverbs like now, then, soon, and so forth. Yule (1996: 14) states the distal term “then” for temporal deixis applies to both past and future time relative to the speaker’s time.

Example : **[a] I was in London then**

[b] Ok. I’ll see you then

These forms of temporal reference can be learned a lot later than the deictic expressions such as yesterday, tomorrow, today, and so forth. The examples tells that it is important to know the relevant utterance time. From the explanation above, the writer conclude that temporal deixis is indicating the timing at which the utterance was spoken.

4. Context

Discussing about pragmatic and deixis, it is clearly related to the context. Pragmatics is study about aspects of meaning which are dependent on context. Meanwhile, in order to understand about a reference of utterance that uses deictic expressions, readers or listeners should be able to identify the contexts of utterance.

Context is the central aspect in doing the interpretation of the meaning in utterances. By understanding the context, it was avoid to the misunderstanding and misinterpreting. Leech (1983:13) explains that the context is focused on the physical and social aspects of utterances between addressee and addressor in understanding and interpreting to the utterances whether in spoken or written language. Furthermore, Yule (1996:21) views context as the physical environment in which a referring expression is used. Addition, Mey (1993: 3) said that context is more than just a reference and of understanding what things are about, it gave a deeper meaning to utterance.

Finally, the writer concludes that context is any information that needed for interpreting the utterance or sentence which consists of person, place or thing although in the spoken or written forms. It the important factor to complete the meaning of utterance or sentence.

5. Description of Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell (born December 18th, 2001), better known by her stage name Billie Eilish, is an American singer and songwriter signed to Interscope Records. She is best known for her successful debut single, 'Ocean Eyes.' She was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Belonging to a family of musicians, she was destined to make a career in performing arts. She joined a choir at the age of 8, and by the time she turned 11, she had begun writing and singing her own songs. Her elder brother, Finneas O'Connell, was the biggest influence in her life while she was grewing up. He had written a song named 'Ocean Eyes' and asked his sister to record it in her

voice. This accidental song turned out to be the breakthrough success for Billie and boosted her career. The song was uploaded on 'SoundCloud' in early 2016, and by March, the music video was released. The song shot up and registered more than 10 million hits within a short period of time. This success was unexpected and made way for many more versions. In November 2016, a music video with Billie dancing on the song was released. It turned out to be another success.

In February 2017, Billie released the single, 'Bellyache,' which was produced and co-written by her brother. The music video for the song, directed by Miles and AJ, was released in March 2017. She also collaborated with famous American singer Khalid and worked with him on a single titled 'Lovely,' which was released in mid-2018. The song became immensely popular.

Later that year she issued a pair of singles, "You Should See Me in a Crown" and "When the Party's Over," which both landed on her full-length debut, *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*. Issued in March 2019, the breakthrough effort showcased her hybrid blend of pop, electronic, and hip-hop textures with a rock edge. Debuting at number one on the Billboard 200, the LP quickly became a worldwide smash and one of the most critically lauded efforts of 2019. While an international tour kept her on the road into 2020, she released a standalone single "Everything I Wanted" -- a bittersweet reflection on her meteoric rise to fame -- and became the youngest artist to be nominated in the four major Grammy categories (Record and Song of the Year for "Bad Guy," Album

of the Year, and Best New Artist). At the award ceremony in 2020, she made history by sweeping those main fields, becoming the second person -- and first since 1981 -- to pull off such a feat.

Billie Eilish is known as Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter who blends ethereal indie electro-pop with dark thematic tones. She is also being famous for her distinctive quirky style. This young and talented artist managed to bring a song that many people like. Interestingly, various fantastic achievements of his work occurred in a relatively short time. As it has been said, she usually made music that consist of dark themes inside.

One of her songs, for instance, titled *Bad Guy*. This song has an upbeat rhytym such as happy vibes which people may want to dance into. *Bad Guy* is a song written by Billie and Finneas, released in 2018 from album *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go*. In contrast with the upbeat rhytym, the meaning of this song is quite pathetic and terrify. This song is about abusive relationship that sometimes happen around people who have been a couple. Billie starts the song with the lyric *white shirt, now red my bloody nose*. The song told the listener indirectly from the lyrics about the man who has tortured his girlfriend physically. At a glance, people may think that the *Bad Guy* is the man, but it turns out that Billie, as a girlfriend, is a bad guy instead. In the refrain part of the song, there is lyric sounds *I'm the bad guy, duh*. It stated the real situation where Billie is the man's mistress. As a mistress, she obliquely takes control of him and he finally can not let Billie away from him. So, the subject pronoun *I* in the lyric refers to Billie herself. It proves that knowing the referent in utterances is important to

understand the meaning properly. Therefore, the writer decided to analyse the deixis in the song lyrics of Billie Eilish.