An Analysis of Deixis in Avicii's Song Lyric

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ABSTRACT

Deixis is an expression in language used to point who, when, and where based on the context in the utterance. This study focuses with the deixis found in Avicii's selected song lyrics. Therefore, this study aimed to find out the types of deixis used in Avicii's song lyrics selected songs and analyze the context of situation of the deixis found in the Avicii's song lyrics. The data were analyzed in descriptive qualitatively method and used eight song lyrics by Avicii. The theory used in analyzing the data are the theory proposed by Levinson (1983: 62-85) that discusses about the types of deixis and the theory from Halliday and Hassan (1985) which was used to analyze the context situation of deixis. Through the analysis, it shows that all types of deixis are found in the eight song lyrics by Avicii. They consist of person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The result of this study shows that person deixis is the most frequently used types of deixis. Deixis is very useful for language users in order to accurately process the meaning of utterances.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most important aspects in life because it is almost used in every activity of human life, so language plays the most important role in communication. In communication, context is a crucial thing, the context can help

interlocutors to catch the meaning in communication. Sometimes, the speaker and the listener have different sense to understand the information said by the other party because they often misinterpret the speaker's utterances. This phenomenon makes people need to be aware of the context to make a clear communication for both side of the participants. One of the studies that helped a person to comprehend the meaning of a sentence conveyed by the speaker to the listener is known as Pragmatics. Leech (1983:6) states that pragmatics is the study of meaning which is related to the speech situations. In conclusion, pragmatics is the study of utterance meaning which are used in communication based on the context, and also the study of meaning in language interaction between a speaker and a listener. Pragmatics has many subclasses, one of them is called deixis, which is the concern of this study. People usually use the deictic expression to refer to something in spoken language. Based on Levinson (2004) deixis is the study that learns about the deictic expression in a language like the words *you, tomorrow, us, there.* So, deixis is used to analyze the reference of conversation, utterance, or sentence because every utterance is related to pointing about people, something, place, and time.

The meaning in an utterance will be understood by the reader or the listener if they know the context of who, where, and when the utterance is used. It would be a misunderstanding or ambiguity between the speaker and the listener if they do not fully understand the context of the utterance. To get the correct and clear meaning of the utterances, an understanding of deixis would be a crucial thing. According to Levinson (1983) theory, deixis is divided into five parts, which are person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The use of deixis could be found easily in song lyrics because the song lyrics contain of many deictic expressions. Deixis also could be found in a conversation, song lyrics, speech, movie scripts, and etc. Therefore, this study used song lyric as the data source. This study used Avicii's song lyrics selected songs as the data source because Avicii used varied themes in his songs such as love, family, adventure, and religious. So, there are many kinds of the deixis employed in his song lyrics. This study is expected to help people learning English language especially about deixis topic, because when a listener able to understand the context of the song lyrics well, it will make the listener can understand the meaning and enjoy the song more.

There are some studies that have the same topic and analyze about deixis as done by Nurjanah (2018), she analyzed the kind of deixis and the dominant deixis used in *Moana* movie script as the data source. The result of her study found all of the types of deixis used in *Moana* movie script, and the dominant deixis used is person deixis with 1.041 data found. Another research by Ilmi (2018) which analyzed about the types and function of deictic expression and describe how the use of deixis affect the meaning of the song lyrics in *Ed Sheeran Divide* album. He found all of the types of deixis in the song lyrics of *Ed Sheeran Divide* album and the used of deictic expression really affected the meaning of song lyrics.

Meanwhile, this study could be compared with those two previous studies, it has the similarity and differences. The similarity is found on the first aim of the study which analyzed about the types of deixis found, and for the difference is on the second

aims of the study. The previous study second problem is focused in the dominant deixis used and how the deixis use affects the meaning of the lyrics, while this study second problems is focused in how are the context situation of deixis used in *Avicii's* song lyrics.

The researcher is interested in choosing *Avicii's* song lyrics because his song not only tells about love story, but also tells about life story and no one used *Avicii's* song lyrics as the data source yet. The objectives of this study are; (1) to find out the types of deixis found in the *Avicii's* song lyrics selected songs, (2) to analyze the context situation of deixis found in the *Avicii's* song lyrics selected songs. The novelty of this study if compared with the previous study is in this study analyzed the deixis reference based on the context situation of deixis used, while the previous study only finds the dominant types of deixis used. By analyzing deixis in Avicii's songs, the researcher expects to give a better understanding about the deixis topic.

2. METHODS

The data source of this study was taken from Avicii's utterances in his song lyrics. The data source is can be seen from website https://genius.com , there were eight song lyrics taken from Avicii's songs, those are: (1) *The Night*s, (2) *Wake Me Up*, (3) *Waiting for Love*, (4) *Hey Brothers*, (5) *Addicted to you*, (6) *Silhouettes*, (7) *Without You*, and (8) *Levels*. Based on https://returnofrock.com those 8 songs are ranked in the top position. Avicii is getting well-known when his music reached millions of people and produced by a music label, Avicii released his song in early 2013 entitled 'Wake Me Up' which is very successful in the world wide viewer, that song is one of his most meaningful and most successful singles to date

A library research was conducted in this study. This research applied observation method in collecting the data. There were several techniques done in collecting the data, those are; (1) Listening the Avicii's selected songs, one by one for several times in order to understand the lyrics in detail, (2) Reading the song lyrics to determine which song lyrics consist of deixis, (3) Taking notes and classifying the types of deixis found in the song lyrics based on the theory used. In this research, descriptive qualitative method was used in analyzing the data. After collecting the data from the song lyrics, the data were analyzed based on two steps. First, analyzing the kind of deixis using the theory of Levinson (1983: 62-85). Next, analyzing the context of situation of deixis using the theory of context situation by Halliday and Hasan (1985). The result of the data was presented in formal and informal way. In formal method, the data were shown in table to show the classification of deixis and percentage, in informal method, the data were presented in the form of description through using words, sentences, and paragraph.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

Levinson (1983: 62-85) divides the types of deixis into five types, those are person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Each type was counted into percentage in the table below:

Table of Types Deixis found in eight song lyrics by Avicii

No	Types of Deixis	Classifications	Data	Total Data	Percentage
1.	Person Deixis	First Person	200	288	69,9%
		Second Person	61		
		Third Person	27		
2.	Spatial Deixis	Proximal	19	68	16,5%
		Distal	14		
		Specific Location	35		
3.	Temporal Deixis	Pure deictic word/Specific Time	32	32	7,8%
4.	Social Deixis	Social	22	22	5,3%
5.	Discourse Deixis	Discourse	2	2	0,5%
	Total			**412**	**100%**

The table above shows the total data of deixis found in eight song lyrics by Avicii. The result in this study, person deixis occurs in 8 songs, spatial deixis occurs in 7 songs, temporal deixis occurs in 7 songs, social deixis occurs in 4 songs, and discourse deixis occurs in 2 songs. The most dominant used of deixis among all types of deixis is person deixis, since Avicii's song tells about his personal love life story of the singer or song writer. This makes a lot of person deixis used by the singer or song writer to point to himself.

There are 288 data found of person deixis with the percentage of 69,9 percent, 32 data found of temporal deixis with the percentage of 7,8 percent, 68 data found of spatial deixis with the percentage of 16,5 percent, 2 data found of discourse deixis with the percentages of 0,5 percent, and 22 data found of social deixis with the percentages

of 5,3 percent. Based on the data above, the total of deictic words which found in Avicii's songs lyric selected song was 412.

Discussion

The discussion is divided into two parts. The first paragraph explains about the types of deixis using theory from Levinson (1983: 62-85). Next, the second paragraph analyzed the context situation of deixis using the theory of context of situation by Halliday and Hasan (1985).

PERSON DEIXIS

Based on Levinson (1983), person deixis can be divided into three parts. They are, first person deixis which is the grammaticalization of the speaker's reference to himself, second person deixis which encodes of the speaker's reference to addressee, and the third person deixis which encodes of reference to persons and entities which are neither speaker nor addressee. Person deixis usually refers to the pronouns. It is used to indicate a person who utters the utterance.

No.	Song Title	Personal deictic words		
		First Person	**Second Person**	**Third Person**
1.	The Nights	*Our, We, My, Me*	*You, Your*	*He, It, His, Him, They*
2.	Addicted To You	*I, My, Me*	*Your, You*	*It*
3.	Waiting For Love	*I, We, Me, My*	-	*It*
4.	Wake Me Up	*I, Me, My*	-	*They, It*
5.	Hey Brother	*I*	*You*	*It*
6.	Levels	*I*	-	-
7.	Without You	*I, Me, We, My*	*You, Your*	*It*
8.	Silhouettes	*We, Us*	-	*It*

From the table above, it could be seen that the three forms of person deixis occur in the 8 song lyrics of Avicii's selected song. This study found two hundred eighty-eight (288) deictic words that belong to person deixis. It is accompanied by two

hundred (200) words of first person deixis, sixty one (61) words as second person deixis and twenty seven (27) words as third person deixis.

Data 1

*And **I'm** done sitting home without you*

*Fuck, **I'm** going up without you*

***I'm** going to tear this city down without you*

***I'm** going Bonnie and Clyde without you*

(Without You, lines 13-16)

The song lyrics above is taken from song writer's utterance of *Without You* song by Avicii. It is clear that the bold italic deictic word of the song lyric above *I* is categorized as pronouns and it is used to point the singular person deixis which is the singer (song writer) himself. The deictic word *I* in the song lyrics above means the singer (song writer).

The context of situation of the lyric that consist of deictic word above are, for the field, the singer tells about his struggles in life after his girlfriend left him. He does everything in his life only by himself. In line 15, it can be seen that the singer gets frustrated for doing everything alone without his girlfriend accompanying him. For the tenor, the deictic word I used to represent the singer (songwriter) himself and the addressee is represented in the deictic word *You* which is the singer or song writer's girlfriend who left him. The whole utterances are categorized as informal written language and delivered in spoken language by the singer, the utterances in the data above used declarative sentence, it can be seen in each lines of the data because the singer state the fact when he does everything without his girlfriend. In this situation, the singer (songwriter) expected his girlfriend come back to him and accompanying him in doing everything in his life.

SPATIAL DEIXIS

Levinson (1983: 79) explains that place deixis concerns with the specification of location to anchorage points in the speech event. The example of basic spatial deictic words are adverbs like *here, there* and *this and that.* Spatial deixis is divided into two, proximal deixis and distal deixis. Proximal deixis has the function to indicate the place near to the speaker and distal deixis to indicate the place not near to the speaker.

No.	Song Title	Spatial or Place Deictic Words		
		Proximal Term	Distal Term	Motion or Specific Location
1.	The Nights	*This, These*	*Those*	*Came out, Leave, Home*
2.	Addicted To You	-	-	*The room, Came, Coming*
3.	Waiting For Love	*This*	*There*	*Come, Coming, Church*
4.	Wake Me Up	*This*	-	-
5.	Hey Brother	*This*	*There*	*Home*
6.	Levels	-	-	-
7.	Without You	*This, Here*	*There*	*At sea, Anywhere, Home, City, Bonnie & Clyde*
8.	Silhouettes	*Here*	*There*	*Come*

Based on the table above, this study found sixty eight (68) deictic words that belong to spatial deixis and it is followed by nineteen (19) words as proximal term of spatial deixis, fourteen (14) words distal term of spatial deixis and thirty five (35) words as motion or specific location of spatial deixis.

Data 2

We will never get back to

To the old school

To the old grounds, it's all about the newfound

We are the newborn, the world knew all about us

*We are the future and we're **here** to stay*

(Silhouettes, lines 5-9)

 The lyrics above is taken from song lyric by Avicii entitled Silhouettes. Through these lyrics, it can be seen the italic bold deictic word *Here* is indicating the location of the speaker or the song writer who utters the utterance or sentence which mentioned in the lyrics above. *Here* indicated the place where the speaker stays in the lyrics. It is categorized as a proximal term because it indicates the closeness place to the speaker. The deictic word *Here* in the song lyrics above means the place or situation where the speaker keeps doing his new habit and never get back to the old habit.

The next part is context situation, the field is about the speaker who is very sure of the decision he is living now, and he does not want to go back to his past condition. The tenor or the participants in the song lyrics above can be seen on the deictic word *We* in line 5,8, and 9 which is encode the speaker and his friends. The mode in the song lyrics above used the deictic word *Here* in line 9, *Here* in this lyric is categorized as the proximal spatial deixis because it indicated the location where the speaker utters the utterance. The lyrics above is categorized as informal spoken language style with declarative sentence, it can be seen in lines 8 and 9 when the speaker state that he will never get back to his old habit. Here, in this song the speaker expects that his decision that he living now is the right decision and he will always stay in this moment.

TEMPORAL DEIXIS

Temporal deixis is same with time deixis. Levinson (1983: 62) states the concerns in time deixis is encoding of temporal points when the utterance is conveyed.

No.	Song Title	Temporal Deictic Words
		Specific time
1.	The Nights	*One day, The night*
2.	Addicted To You	*Midnight, One night, Now, Before*
3.	Waiting For Love	*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday*
4.	Wake Me Up	*All this time*
5.	Hey Brother	-
6.	Levels	*Before*
7.	Without You	*Now*
8.	Silhouettes	*Before*

From the table above, it can be seen that the pure temporal deictic word or the specific time are occur in 7 song lyrics by Avicii's selected song. This study found thirty-two (32) deictic words that belong to temporal deixis.

Data 3

Dances 'round the room

Got me hypnotized

I'm getting high on love with you

*I couldn't live without you **now***

Oh, I know I'd go insane

(Addicted To You, lines 23-27)

In the song lyrics above, the italic bold deictic word *Now* refers to the temporal deixis as pure temporal deictic word that indicate the timing of an event to the time of speaking. The word Now is pointing to present time when the speaker delivers the utterance. The deictic word Now in this lyric means the time when the singer gets high in love with his girlfriend and cannot live without his lovely girl.

The next part is context of situation, for the field, this song lyric tells about the specific time when the speaker got hypnotized in the room because of his girl and gets really in love with that girl that represents in the deictic word *You* in line 25 and 25 which is his girlfriend. For the participants or the tenor in this song lyric are the speaker who utters the utterance which showed his romantic feelings and the addressee, his girlfriend that caused of the singer happiness. The thing that can be seen from the mode is, the song lyric above contains deictic word Now that belongs to the temporal deixis and used to show the time when the speaker utters the utterance. The lyrics above is categorized as informal spoken language style. The speaker expected the moment that he spends with his lover will never end.

SOCIAL DEIXIS

Levinson (1983: 89) says that social deixis reflects on an element of language that encodes the social identity of the participants or the relationship between any individuals referred to. Social deixis scopes the encoding of social relationship in linguistic expression that point to social status of the speakers and the listeners in the speech event.

No.	Song Title	Social Deictic Word
1.	The Nights	*Father, Son*
2.	Addicted To You	*Baby*
3.	Waiting For Love	-
4.	Wake Me Up	-
5.	Hey Brother	*Brother, Sister*
6.	Levels	-
7.	Without You	*Dear*
8.	Silhouettes	-

From the table above, it could be seen that social deixis occurs in four (4) songs lyric of Avicii selected song. This study found totally twenty two (22) deictic words that belong to social deixis.

Data 4

*Now I'm running away my **dear***

From myself and the truth I fear

My heart is beating I can't see clear

How I'm wishing that you were here

(Without You, line 17-20)

The italic bold deictic word *Dear* in the song lyrics above is categorized as social deixis because the speaker has intimacy in relationship with the addressee. The word *Dear* in the lyrics above refers to the singer or song writer's ex-girlfriend that he really loves. The deictic word *Dear* in the song lyrics above means the singer or song writer's ex-girlfriend who already left him, the speaker showed his deep feeling of love by call his ex-girlfriend Dear.

The next part is context situation, the field is about a person or the speaker who is in a chaotic situation and looks so stressed because his ex-girlfriend left him. The tenor or the participants in the song lyrics are the speaker that looks very messed up and being in hard situation that he cannot accept the fact that he has been left by his

girlfriend, and the addressee which is the singer or songwriter's ex-girlfriend that left the speaker. Here is the mode in the song lyrics above, it used the deictic word *Dear* in line 17, *Dear* in this lyric is categorized as the social deixis because it indicated the social identity by both of the participants. The lyrics above is categorized as informal spoken language style with descriptive sentence, it can be seen when the speaker describes about his conditions after his girlfriend left him. The thing that expected by the speaker in this song lyrics is his ex-girlfriend will always stay close to him so, his life will be wonderful again.

DISCOURSE DEIXIS

The concern of discourse deixis is pointing to the things inside the speech. According to Levinson (1983: 85) in discourse deixis certain a form where the utterance signals its connection to the text around it. Discourse deixis can be categorized as cohesive devises, as studied by Ayomi (2018)

No	Song Title	Discourse Deictic Word
1.	The Nights	-
2.	Addicted To You	-
3.	Waiting For Love	*That*
4.	Wake Me Up	*That*
5.	Hey Brother	-
6.	Levels	-
7.	Without You	-
8.	Silhouettes	-

From the table above, it could be seen that discourse deixis occurs in four (2) songs lyric of Avicii's selected song. This study found two (2) deictic words that belong to discourse deixis.

Data 5

They tell me I'm too young to understand

They say I'm caught up in a dream

Well life will pass me by if I don't open up my eyes

*Well **that** is fine by me*

(Wake Me Up, line 5-8)

The use of italic bold deictic word *That* in the lyrics above is indicated as discourse deixis because it is pointing to the things inside the utterance that utters by the speaker. In the song lyrics above, *That* means all of the problems that people around him say to him make the speakers keep fine in living his life.

Based on the context of situation, the field is about the singer's life who got lost in the village and has different appearance with the people there so the speaker is looked at cynically by those people around him. He often gets judged because he lives in a small village but his appearance looks like he lives in a modern city, and the people around him often consider that his behavior is bad. Then, for tenor or the participants in this lyric are the speaker that represents in the deictic word *I* and *Me* in lines 5, 6, 7, and 8 and the person that represents in the deictic word They by the speaker in lines 5 and 6, which is the people around him who do not like him. The things that can be explained in mode is that the whole utterance above is categorized as informal written language and delivered in spoken language by the singer. In the line 8, the songwriter uses declarative sentence because he states the fact of what does he feel. In that situation the singer (song writer) expected that he can find the right place, where the people around him can accept him also has the same perspective and style with him so he can enjoy living his life.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that the Avicii's Song Lyrics used all of the types of deixis which are person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. From all the types of deixis used, the dominant used in these song lyrics is person deixis with 288 data found and followed by spatial deixis with 68 data found, then temporal deixis with 32 data found, social deixis with 22 data found, and the last discourse deixis with 2 data found. The total data that have been got in this study is 412 data.

For context situation in Avicii's Song Lyrics selected songs, from the field analysis it points what happening in the song lyrics, mostly Avicii's songs tell about love, whether love that he gives to his girlfriend or his family. For the tenor, which is about who are the participants that taking part between the singer or songwriter and the addressee in the song lyric. The last is mode, which is what part the language is playing, mostly, the language used in this album is declarative sentence because the singer (songwriter) is stating his love story and his personal family story.

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