

## DEIXIS ANALYSIS IN THE SONG LYRICS OF ED SHEERAN'S *DIVIDE* ALBUM

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### Abstract

This research aims to analyze five types of deixis by using theory of Alan Cruse (2000), interpret the reference meaning of deixis and find out the most dominant type of deixis that found in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's album. The researcher elects *Divide* album as the object of the analysis because it is one of the best-selling album in the world. it consists of such deictic words that has reference meanings. Therefore, the song lyrics can be analyzed using pragmatic approach, specifically about deixis. This study was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. The data which is used is six songs of Ed Sheeran's album and then they are classified into the types of deixis based on their own criteria. The findings showed that the types of deixis like person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis are used in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Album. Based on discussion and finding can be concluded that all deixis are found in all songs, personal deixis is the most being found (46 Deictic words or 28%) the word "I, Me, My, You and Your" dominate all songs. in the second position Temporal Deixis is the most being found (43 deictic words or 26%) the word now dominate in all songs. the third position is Spatial deixis (41 Deictic words or 25%) in the fourth position is Discourse Deixis (20 deictic words or 12%) and in the last position is Social Deixis (15 Deictic words or 9%).

**Keywords:** pragmatics, deixis, song lyric

### Introduction

Music is often described as a "language of emotions" (Juslin and Sloboda, 2010). To many, music's expressivity unconstrained by literal meaning is what makes it a "universal language" (Cross, 2005). In sophisticated era today Music has become important part of human life. Music not only listened because of hobby or favorite activity but also it's considered as a friend to accompany in doing a lot of activities especially for teenagers like working, studying or even thinking. It's for music can evoke different feelings among audience (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). According to Piragasam et al. (2013), people will achieve pleasure and experience mood change by listening to music. It's one of reason music is important to be discussed in this article.

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. Ed Sheeran is one of the best

songwriter in the world. It's proven from his achievement in music career. His songs always get nomination in American Music Awards (AMA) even in 2015 he won in category Favorite Male Artist - Pop/Rock. And he still has other prestigious achievements. It's the reason why the researcher chose Ed Sheeran song as the object of the research. Researcher used Ed Sheeran's newest album entitled *Divide* in which there are six popular songs in this album. They are *Eraser*, *Castle on the Hill*, *Dive*, *Shape of You*, *Perfect*, and *Galway Girl*.

### 1. Song Lyrics

The song lyrics vary in terms of textual meaning. Commonly the listeners have different interpretation to understand the meaning of the songs. Not all of the words contained in the lyrics can be interpreted if we do not know the physical context of the speakers, such as the here, today, or tomorrow, and the pronouns such as you,

them, he, her and, it. Some sentences in English cannot be understood if you do not know who is talking and the reference is. Sometimes there is misunderstanding of meaning and intention between speaker and listener. In order to understand an intended meaning of the speakers, the listener should be able to identify the meaning of utterance or sentence. Nowadays, deixis is used to solve that problem.

## 2. Pragmatics

According to Cruse (2006), Pragmatics is study about aspects of meaning which are dependent on context. Pragmatics has as its topic those aspects of the meaning of utterances with cannot be accounted for by straightforward reference to the truth conditions of the sentences uttered (Gazdar, 1979, p. 2). It has to do with language use, and with going beyond the literal meaning (Kadmon, 2001, p. 3). Addition, it studies the use of language in context, and the context dependence of several of linguistic interpretation (Lycan, 1995, p. 588). From all definition above, can be deduced that Pragmatics is the study of meaning based on the context here are expression of relative distance and contextual meaning.

### a. Deixis

Deixis is a word borrowed from the greek verb meaning “pointing” or indicating. pragmatics, *deixis* is a term used to denote a word or a phrase which directly refers to entities (objects, processes, attributes, and circumstances). In other words, deictic expressions are used by the speaker to refer to or identify entities in both non-linguistic and linguistic situations. When the speaker and the addressee are in a non-linguistic situation, the identification of the referents is easy. Saeed (2003, p. 182) said that the word *deixis* is borrowed from classical Greek *deiknymi* that the meaning is “to show or point out”.

According Alan Cruse (2000) there are five types of deixis. They are person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis.

### i. Person deixis

Cruse (2006, p. 127) stated that person deictic words include *pronouns* (I, you, they, we, she, he, it, me, them, us, him; mine, yours, hers, myself, yourself, herself, himself, ourselves, themselves, itself), *possessive adjectives* (my, your, our, their, his, its, her), and *verb inflection* (I like, you like, he or she likes). Person deixis consists of three categories. They are 1<sup>st</sup> person, 2<sup>nd</sup> Person and 3<sup>rd</sup> Person.

### ii. Spatial deixis

Spatial deixis is deixis which indicates the location of some spaces between the speaker and the listener. Spatial deixis is also known as place deixis or locative expressions. Cruse (2006, p. 166) points out that spatial deictic word indicates location in space relative to the speaker. The most basic spatial deictic words are adverbs, *here* and *there*.

### iii. Temporal deixis

Temporal deixis is a deixis to point to a time. As Cruse (2006, p. 179; 2006, p. 321) pointed out that temporal deictic word indicates the timing of an event relative to the time of speaking. It’s used to locate points or intervals on the time axis, using the moment of utterance point. The markers of time in deixis of time are *now*, *tomorrow*, *today*, *yesterday*, then etc.

### iv. Social deixis

(Cruse, 2006, p. 166) Stated that Social deictic words are expressions whose function is to indicate the position of the referent on the scales of social status and intimacy relative to the speaker. The pronounce system of some languages also referring grammatical information about the social identities or relationships of the participants in the conversation or utterance Saeed (2003, p. 188).

### v. Discourse deixis

Discourse deixis also known as text deixis. Discourse deixis refers to such matters as the use of *this* to point to future discourse

elements such as *listen to this, it will kill you!*, and *that* to point to past discourse elements such as *that was not a very nice thing to say* (2000, p. 323) Sometimes, certain sentence adverbs such as *therefore* and *furthermore* include an element of discourse in their meanings (Cruse, 2000). Despite, some references of discourse deixis can also be anaphoric (Cummings, 2005). Anaphora picks up a previous reference to an extra-linguistics entity and repeats it. In addition, Kreidler (1998, p. 145) noted that anaphora is a kind of secondary reference in which a previous reference is recalled by use of special function words. In *John entered the room. He looked tired*, he refers to the same person that John refers to, but it does not strictly refer to the word John itself (Cruse, 2000, p. 324).

### Methodology

This research uses descriptive qualitative method because characteristics of phenomena and the data were analyzed using the description not numbers. According to qualitative research, it entails collecting primarily textual data and examining it using interpretive analysis (Crocker (2009, p. 5) which means that the method provides description about the phenomena of the research. In this research the researcher elects lyrics of the songs of Ed Sheeran's album. The data was taken from song lyrics in Ed Sheeran's Album entitled *Divide* released in March 2017, which consists of six (6) songs: *Eraser, Castle on the Hill, Dive, Shape of You, Perfect, and Galway Girl*.

In collecting the data the researcher uses listening and take note step, those steps are:

1. First, the researcher listened to the songs of *Divide* Album in order to understand the lyrics in detail.
2. Second, the researcher searched the script of the lyrics of *Divide* album on internet.
3. Third, the researcher chose the lyrics to be analyzed from each song.
4. Fourth, the researcher marked all of the chosen lyrics to be analyzed.

After collecting the data from the script of lyrics, the researcher analyzed the data as follows:

1. First, the researcher determined some words expressions that include in deictic expressions.
2. Second, the researcher classified the deictic expressions that have been determined based on their criteria.
3. Third, the researcher analyzed the data based on the Cruse theory on deciding the types of deixis, namely: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis.
4. Fourthly, the researcher interpreted and described the reference meaning of the deictic expression as the data based on the Cruse theory.
5. Next, the researcher calculated the occurrences of each type deixis used in Ed Sheeran's Album.
6. Last, describing and explaining the finding.

### Findings and Discussion

The researcher analyzed *Eraser, Castle on the Hill, Dive, Shape of You, Perfect, and Galway Girl*. Finally, the researcher found that the song writer or singer tend to use such types of deixis include person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis used in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics. Here is the one of the example analyzing process of Ed Sheeran's song, which can be seen on Table 1.

Table 1. Lyric of *Shape of You* – Ed Sheeran

No	Lyrics	Type of Deixis				
		Personal	Spatial	Temporal	Social	Discourse
1	I found a love for me	I, me	-	Found	-	-
2	just dive right in and follow my lead	My	Right in	Dive, Follow	-	-

3	Well, I found a girl,	I	-	Found	-	well
4	I will not give you up this time	I, You	This Time	Will not give	-	-
5	But darling, just kiss me slow	Me	-	kiss	-	But
6	And in your eyes you're holding mine	Min e	in your eye	you're holding	-	-
7	I whispered underneath my breath	I, my	underneath	-	-	-
8	Darling, you look perfect tonight	You	-	Tonight	-	-
9	She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home	She, my, I, her	-	Some day, I'll share	-	That
10	to carry children of our own	Our	-	Carry	-	-
11	We are still kids but we're so in love	We	-	-	-	Still, but
12	I know we'll be alright this time	I, we	know	This Time	-	-

From the table.1 above, can be seen that one of the song from 6 popular songs in *Divide* album. Type of Deixis that dominate in this song is Personal and temporal followed by Discourse Deixis and Spatial Deixis but researcher didn't find social deixis. There are 9 personal Deictic words I, Me, Mine, My, You, She, Her, We, and Our. Where there are 4 deictic words for 1st person (I, Me, Mine and My), 1 deictic word for 2nd person (you), and 4 deictic words for 3rd persons (She, Her, We, and Our). While in Temporal deixis researcher found more than 14 deictic words that dominate by verb tense. And only 5 deictic words for spatial and Discourse Deixis.

Here are the results of this research with more detail analyzed that can be seen on other tables below:

Table. 2. Person Deixis in Six Songs

No	Song Title	Personal deictic words		
		First Person	Second Person	Third Person
1	Eraser	I, Me, My, Myself	You, They	It
2	Castle on the Hill	I, My, We	You	His, It
3	Dive	I, Me, My	You, Your	It
4	Shape of You	I, Me, My, We, Our	You, Your	
5	Perfect	I, Me, My, Mine, We, Our	You, Your	She, Her
6	Galway Girl'	I, Me, My, Mine, We, Our	You, Your	She, Her

The table above can be seen that Personal deixis was found in all songs, in the song *Eraser* researcher found 7 personal deictic words, in the second and third song *Castle on the Hill*, *Dive* found 12 personal deictic words, in fourth song *Shape of You* found 7 deictic words, while in the fifth and sixth song *Perfect*, *Galway Girl* found 20 personal deictic words. From the explanation above can be deduced that the whole amount

from six songs found 46 personal deictic words in which there are 5 deictic words that dominate in all songs, they are *I, Me, My, You* and *Your*.

Table. 3 Spatial Deixis in Six Songs.

No	Song Tittle	Spatial Deictic Words		
		Distal Term	Proxi- mal Term	Projected Term and Specific Location
1	Eraser	-	Here	Inside, In a small town, lord's house, in the mirror, away, right mind, dump
2	Castle On The Hill	-	-	Mountain Grass, over the castle, on the hill, backfield, take me back, old country land
3	Dive	-	Here	Lake, Right into, Sitting Back
4	Shape of You	-	-	Bar, at the table, on the jukebox, come on, room, bedsheed, going out, backseat.
5	Perfec t	-	-	Follow, on the grass, underneath, carry.
6	Galw ay Girl'	There	-	Grafton street, room outside, on the table, on the jukbox, bar, on the stool, home, inside.

The table above can be seen that, Project term or specific location dominates in spatial deixis in the whole songs researcher found 38 deictic words. And the researcher only found 2 proxal terms "Here" in two songs *Eraser and Dive*. And researcher only found 1 distal term "There" in one song *Galway Girl*. It means there are 41 spatial deictic words.

Table. 4 Temporal Deixis in Six Songs

No	Song Title	Temporal Deictic words	
		Pure deictic Word and Specific Time	Verb Tense
1	Eraser	Now, Everyday, Somehow	Learned, will, think, Am

		Stereotypical day.	playing, I've got,
2	Castle On The Hill	Then, the years, Friday night.	Was running, broke, make, have grown.
3	Dive	-	Came, Have travelled, call.
4	Shape of You	Now, last night, everyday, one week.	Find, will, Am singing.
5	Perfect	Never, This time, tonight, someday, future.	Found, will, Am dancing, have met
6	Galway Girl'	A week, Now, At the night	Played, Want to, Was singing, Have outstayed.

From the table above, researcher found a lot Temporal deixis. In the first song researcher found 10 temporal deictic words, consisting of 5 specific times and 5 verb tenses. In the second song researcher found 7 deictic words, consisting of 3 specific times and 4 verb tenses. In the third song, the researcher didn't find any specific time and only found 3 verb tenses. In the fourth song the researcher found 7 temporal deictic words, consisting of 4 specific times and 3 verb tenses. In the fifth song, the researcher found 9 temporal deictic words, consisting of 5 specific times and 4 verb tenses. In the last song, the researcher found 7 temporal deictic words, consisting of 3 specific times and 4 verb tenses.

From the explanation above, it can be deduced that the whole amount of temporal deixis, there are 43 temporal deictic words, in which the word "Now" dominates and is found in almost songs.

Table 5. Social Deixis in Six Songs

No	Song Tittle	Social Deictic word
1	Eraser	The Lord, Evil, Satan
2	Castle On The Hill	You
3	Dive	You, Your
4	Shape of You	You, Your
5	Perfect	Darling, you, your, Baby, Angle.
6	Galway Girl'	You, Your

From the table above can be seen that researcher found 15 social deictic words in all

songs. The word “you” and “your” dominate this kind of deixis.

Table 6. Discourse Deixis in Six Songs

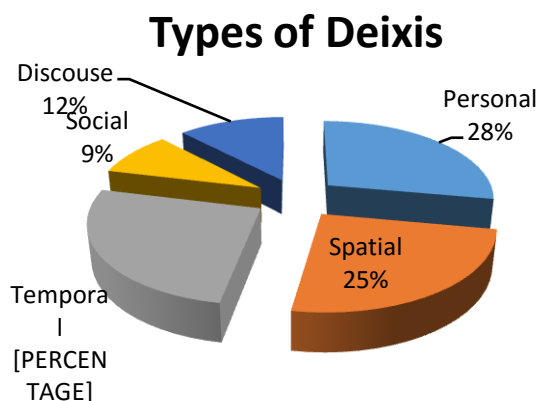
No	Song Tittle	Discourse Deictic Words
1	Eraser	So, That, Instead.
2	Castle on the Hill	But, These
3	Dive	For, Than, Unless, That
4	Shape of You	So, Then, That, Although
5	Perfect	But, That, So, This
6	Galway Girl'	But, Than, This

From the table above, it can be seen that the researcher found 20 discourse deictic words. And the words “that” and “this” dominate the whole songs.

### Conclusions

Based on the findings and discussion above, it can be concluded that all deixis are found in all songs. Personal deixis is the most being found (46 Deictic words or 28%) the word “I”, “me”, “my”, “you” and “your” dominate all songs. In the second position, temporal deixis is the most being found (43 deictic words or 26%). The word “now” dominates in all songs. The third position is spatial deixis (41 deictic words or 25%). In the fourth position is discourse deixis (20 deictic words or 12%). And, in the last position is social deixis (15 deictic words or 9%).

The Percentage of deixis analysis in Ed Sheeran’s “Divide” Album is as follow.



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