A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in Jeremy Zucker's "You Were Good to Me" and "Comethru"

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to identify the dominating deixis among the many types of deixis in Jeremy Zucker's songs "You Were Good to Me" and "Comethru." Deixis is derived from the classical Greek phrase "to exhibit, to point out." Deixis is the study of interpreting the relationship of a situation with words, phrases, and elements expressed in a sentence. This study used a qualitative descriptive approach. According to the research, 58 words in the song "You Were Good to Me" feature various types of deixis, and 54 words in the song "Comethru." Person deixis points to objects, all pronouns, and possessives. Spatial deixis is used to indicate a location, whereas Temporal deixis is used to indicate a time.

1. Introduction

The lyrics of a song can have multiple textual meanings, yet many people have varied views of how to understand the lyrics. Lyrics are a type of discourse since they consist of words or phrases with distinct grammatical functions. A discourse is a lengthy and solemn speech. It signifies that discourse is more than just a message sent from sender to receiver or from speaker to listener (Hazat, 2018) A song is typically a brief piece of music with words that are sung (Arniati, et al., 2019; Oxford University Press, 2020). Thus, lyrics are a music component that can express feelings and emotions to others. The lyrics strive to convey the audience to a world formed by his/her imagination, causing them to ponder and react (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). As a result, the lyrics can sometimes inspire listeners in their daily lives. When people listen to a song, they strive to understand the words and the composer's message in their music.

Humans can communicate in a variety of ways. Communication is entirely reliant not just on understanding the meaning of words in an utterance or sentence but also on understanding what speakers mean by their statements (Rahman, 2018). According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by the speaker (or writer) and perceived by the listener (or reader). According to Saeed, pragmatics is the study of how we employ linguistic knowledge in context (Saeed, 2003). Context is essential in interpreting words and expressions (Cruse, 2006). To communicate properly, people must recognize the meaning of words in speech and what speakers or authors mean by their utterances. Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. A song is also a kind of communication because the composer uses the song to communicate with the audience.

According to Saeed, deixis is a technical phrase (from classical Greek deiknymi) that means "to show, point out." Deixis is the study of interpreting the relationship of a situation with words, phrases, and elements expressed in a sentence (Saeed, 1997). According to Levinson, there is a deictic center comprised of the words I, Here, and Now. As a result, deixis is classified into three types: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis (Levinson, 1983).

Person deixis is uttered to indicate people. Saeed explained that person deixis refers to the function of conversational participants, such as speaker, spoken, and addressed (Saeed, 1997; ANdini, et al., 2022). Cruse categorizes person deixis into three components. They are first-, second-, and third-person deixis. First-person deixis is a deictic reference that refers to the speaker or both the speaker and referents grouped with the speaker, such as singular pronouns (I, me, myself, my, mine), plural pronouns (I, me, myself, my, mine), and so on (we, us, ourselves, our,

ours). Second Person deixis refers to a person or people recognized as the addressee (Saeed, 2003). You, yourself, yourselves, your, and yours are some examples. Third Person deixis is a deictic reference to a referent that is not designated as the speaker or addressee, such as he, she, or they, as well as the third person singular verb suffix-s.

Place deixis (also known as spatial deixis) indicates the relative placement of people and things. This, these, there, here, that, and those are common expressions for place deixis or spatial deixis. The encoding of spatial places related to the position of the participants in the speech is referred to as place deixis. Levinson claimed that place or space deixis is concerned with the definition of places to anchorage points in the speech event and typically the speaker, and there are two main ways of referring to objects by describing or identifying them on the one hand and locating them on the other.

Time Deixis is also referred to as temporal deixis. According to Levinson, the natural and conspicuous cycles of day and night, lunar months, seasons, and years appear to constitute the foundation for methods of calculating and measuring time in most languages. Because time deixis is ultimately concerned with participant-role, it is critical to separate the moment of speech from the moment of receipt (Levinson, 1983). Every sentence refers to an event time. Only in reference to the time of the speech can time be established (Sukmawaty, et al., 2022).

2. Method

In this study, the author employed a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Creswell, the qualitative research approach is descriptive when process, meaning, and comprehension achieved through words or images are of interest (Creswell, 2013). In order to analyze the data, the author took the following steps: data reduction; at this phase, the author listened to "You Were Good to Me" and "Come Thru" by Jeremy Zucker and then drafted a script of song lyrics. Then, the author applied deixis analysis to the song lyrics script. The Second was data display. In this step, the author presents the results and contrasts the two songs regarding all data findings discovered during data reduction. The last stage was data verification. In this stage, the author explains the conclusion of the conducted results analysis.

3. Result and Discussion

After examining the data, the author discovered phrases from the song lyrics "You were good to me" and "comethru" by Jeremy Zucker that demonstrate the use of the deixis word in this song. There are several steps involved in this research. The author transcribes the lyric and then classifies the deixis as a person, spatial, and temporal deixis. Finally, the author provides a general interpretation of the lyrics.

3.1 Deixis Analysis of The Song Lyrics "You Were Good to Me"

The song "You Were Good to Me" is a love story about an ex-couple who desire to get back together. The song's lyrics express how they cannot forget their moment together since they believe they are the best for one another. Therefore, the term signified their past. This song contains three different sorts of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis as can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Deixis analysis of song "You were good to me"

Lyric	Person Deixis			Spatial Deixis	Temporal Deixis
	First	Second	Third		
Lyin' isn't better than silence					
Floatin', but I feel like I'm dyin'	I				
Still, no matter where I go	I				
At the end of every road				every road	At the end
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
I know it's easier to run	I				
After everything I've done	I				After
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
Leavin' isn't better than tryin'					
Growin', but I'm just growin' tired	I				

Now I'm worried for my soul	I, my				Now
And I'm still scared of growin' old	I				
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
And I'm so used to letting go	I				
But I don't wanna be alone	I				
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
God only knows where our fears go					
Hearts I've broke, now my tears flow	I, my				Now
You'll see that I'm sorry	I	you			
Cause you were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
And now I'm closin' every door	I			Every door	Now
'Cause I'm sick of wantin' more	I				
You were good to me	Me	you			
You were good to me	Me	you			
Swear I'm different than before	I				
I won't hurt you anymore	I	you			
Cause you were good to me	Me	you			

"Floatin', but I feel like I'm dyin'"

"You were good to me"

"Now I'm worried for my soul"

According to the data tabulated above, the songwriter utilizes the singular first person deixis 'I', 'me,' and 'my', and the second person deixis 'you'. The above lyrics reveal that the songwriter employs the first person deixis 'I' and 'me' to indicate who is speaking in the song. The deictic word "my" in the song's lyrics is a possessive adjective indicating that he owns something. The songwriter's usage of the word 'my' indicates that the songwriter is employing the deictic phrase possessive adjective 'my' toward the listener or reference as Jeremy for the speaker; the songwriter is the speaker. The songwriter addresses the listener in the second person with the deictic pronoun "you" in You were good to me. "You" can also act as an object because it refers to the listener as the addressee who the speaker loves.

"At the end of every road"

"And now I'm closin' every door"

The second type of deixis the songwriter employs is spatial deixis. According to the data presented in the table above, the songwriter uses the spatial deixis 'every road' and 'every door'. The purpose of spatial deixis in the song is to describe the location of the speaker and to inform the listener about the location. If the songwriter does not use spatial deixis in the song, the location of the speaker will be unclear to the listener.

"At the end of every road"

"After everything I've done"

"And now I'm closin' every door"

Temporal deixis is the third type of deixis utilized by the songwriter; examples include "the end," "after," and "now." The speaker uses the deictic word "the end" to describe an effort to disregard or forget the moment, but is unable to do so because the speaker loved the addressee "you" in that song. Deictic expression 'after' to convey everything about effort, explain in the deictic expression 'the end'. And the last "now" indicates the present time. In the song's lyrics, the phrase "I'm closin' every door" refers to the moment when the speaker gives up on a specific circumstance.

3.2 Deixis Analysis of The Song Lyrics "Comethru"

The song 'comethru' is about a man being bored. He feels insane since he never leaves his room. This song contains three different types of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. In the person deixis, the songwriter used the first person pronouns "I," "my," and "me" and the second person pronoun "you."

Table 2. Deixis Analysis of Song "Comethru"

Lyric	Person Deixis			Spatial Deixis	Temporal Deixis
	First	Second	Third		
I might lose my mind	I, my				
Waking when the sun's down					The sun's down
Riding all these highs				All these highs	
Waiting for the comedown					
Walk these streets with me	Me			These streets	
I'm doing decently	I				
Just glad that I can breathe, yeah	I				
I'm trying to realize	I				
It's alright to not be fine on your own		your		On your own	
Now I'm shaking, drinking all this coffee	I				Now
These last few weeks have been exhausting					last few weeks
I'm lost in my imagination	I, my			In my imagination	
And there's one thing that I need from you	I	you			
Can you come through, through?					
Through, yeah					
And there's one thing that I need from you	I	you			
Can you come through?					
Ain't got much to do					
Too old for my hometown	My			Hometown	Too old
Went to bed at noon				Bed	At noon
Couldn't put my phone down	My				
Scrolling patiently					
It's all the same to me	Me				
Just faces on a screen, yeah				On a screen	
I'm trying to realize	I				
It's alright to not be fine on your own		your		On your own	
Now I'm shaking, drinking all this coffee	I				Now
These last few weeks have been exhausting					last few weeks
I'm lost in my imagination	I, my			In my imagination	
And there's one thing that I need from you	I	you			
Can you come through, through?					
Through, yeah					
And there's one thing that I need from you	I	you			
Can you come through?					
Can you come Through, through Through, yeah					
And there's one thing that I need from you	I	you			
Can you come through?		you			

"It's all the same to me"

"Can you come through, through"

The above lyrics demonstrate that the songwriter utilizes the deictic expressions 'I' and 'me' to indicate who is speaking in the song. The songwriter uses the deictic term "you" to address the audience in the second person. "you" functions as an object since "you" is the addressee who can accompany the speaker when he is bored.

The second type of deixis utilized by the songwriter is spatial deixis, as in "All these highs," "These streets," "On your own," "In my imagination," "hometown," "bed," and "on a screen."

"Riding <u>all these highs</u>"

"Walk <u>these streets</u> with me"

"It's alright to not be fine <u>on your own</u>"

I'm lost <u>in my imagination</u>

Too old for <u>my hometown</u>

Went to <u>bed</u> at noon

Just faces <u>on a screen</u>, yeah

The meaning of the deictic term "All these highs" is not about location but rather about enjoyment because "riding all these highs" is comparable with seeking enjoyment. The deictic term 'these streets' in 'walk these streets with me' refers to relieving the speaker of boredom. The deictic phrase "on your own" from "it's alright to not be fine on your own" showed that the songwriter attempted to convey that it is okay if you cannot meet your expectations; just be yourself. The songwriter's usage of the deictic expression "in my imagination" in "I'm lost in my imagination" indicates that the speaker has unrealistic expectations. The writer used the deictic word "my hometown" to imply that the speaker in the song is an adult who is reluctant to return to his parents' home. The deictic expressions such as "went to bed at noon," "couldn't put down my phone," and "simply faces on a screen" described that the speaker does not engage in any activities.

Some deictic expressions utilized by the songwriter are classified as temporal deixis.

"Waking when <u>the sun's down</u>"

"<u>Too old</u> for my hometown"

"Went to bed at <u>noon</u>"

"<u>These last few weeks</u> have been exhausting"

The songwriter uses the deictic expression 'sun's down' to indicate that the speaker does not have any activities because he wakes up towards dusk. The deictic term "too old" indicates that the speaker was an adult. The deictic term "noon" explains that the speaker sleeps during the midday hours. The writer uses the deictic word "these last few weeks" to explain time since the speaker has been so busy with activities during the past few weeks that he is now exhausted.

3.3 Analysis of The Distribution of The Deixis in The Song Lyrics "You Were Good To Me" and "Comethru"

The total distribution of deixis usage in both song lyrics by Jeremy Zucker can be seen in the following tables

Table 3. Distribution of Deixis in The Song Lyric " You Were Good to Me"

Types of Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
Person Deixis	49	84,4 %
Spatial Deixis	3	5,1 %
Temporal Deixis	6	10,3 %
Total	58	99,8 %

Table 4. Distribution of Deixis in The Song Lyric "Comethru"

Types of Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
Person Deixis	29	53,7 %
Spatial Deixis	18	33,3 %
Temporal Deixis	7	12,9 %
Total	54	99,9 %

The majority of deixis types identified in the lyrics of the song "you were good to me" are Person deixis (84.4%), Spatial deixis (5.1%), and Temporal deixis (10.3%) as shown in the table above. The highest proportion of all deixis is Person deixis, indicating that Person deixis is the dominating deixis in the lyrics of the song "You were good to me." The high percentage of deixis types found in the lyrics of "comethru" is Person deixis (53.7%), Spatial deixis (33.3%), and Temporal deixis (12.9%). The largest percentage of Person deixis indicates that Person deixis is the dominant deixis used in the lyrics of the song "comethru" as well.

4. Conclusion

In the lyric of "You were good to me," the writer identified 49 phrases or 84,4 % expressing Person deixis, 3 phrases or 5,1 % Spatial deixis, and 6 phrases or 10,3 % Temporal deixis. The writer discovered 29 phrases or 53.7 % Person deixis, 18 phrases or 33,3 % Spatial deixis, and 7 or 12,9 percent Temporal deixis in the lyric of "comethru." 58 words in "You were good to me" and 54 in "comethru" represent deixis. The number of deixis or types of deixis used in any song lyric indicates that the type of deixis used depends on the composer's sense and emotion to communicate their emotions in song lyrics. Discourse analysis is useful for analyzing various aspects of language in any form of communication, in this case the lyrics of a song, including the singer's desire to convey a social or personal context and the description of situations.

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