

## Deixis of the Song 'Lovely' by Billie Eilish ft. Khalid: A Pragmatics Study

Nia Kurniati<sup>1</sup>, Ghefira Zahira Shofa<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Nurul Huda, Indonesia

Email: [niakurniati@unuha.ac.id](mailto:niakurniati@unuha.ac.id); [ghefirazisa@gmail.com](mailto:ghefirazisa@gmail.com)

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis penggunaan deixis dalam lirik lagu "Lovely" oleh Billie Eilish dan Khalid dengan pendekatan pragmatik. Deixis, sebagai elemen linguistik yang maknanya bergantung pada konteks, meliputi lima jenis utama: deixis persona, tempat, waktu, wacana, dan sosial. Analisis menunjukkan bahwa lagu ini menggunakan deixis secara efektif untuk menyampaikan narasi emosional yang mendalam. Deixis persona, melalui penggunaan I dan you, menonjol dalam menciptakan hubungan personal antara penutur dan pendengar. Deixis tempat dan waktu menggambarkan ruang dan durasi perjuangan emosional, sedangkan deixis wacana memberikan kesinambungan narasi. Sementara itu, deixis sosial meskipun implisit, mencerminkan hubungan universal yang terjalin antara penyanyi dan audiens. Hasil penelitian ini relevan dengan kajian pragmatik terdahulu, mendukung gagasan bahwa lagu sebagai teks estetis dapat menjadi medium komunikasi yang kuat. Secara khusus, penelitian ini menyoroti bahwa penggunaan deixis dalam lirik tidak hanya berfungsi untuk membangun konteks, tetapi juga untuk menciptakan pengalaman emosional yang kompleks dan relatable bagi pendengar. Temuan ini memberikan kontribusi penting bagi studi linguistik, pendidikan, dan analisis karya seni musik, sekaligus membuka peluang untuk kajian pragmatik pada teks musik lainnya.

**Keyword: Analisis Pragmatik; Deixis; Lagu**

### ABSTRACT

*This study aims to analyze the use of deixis in the lyrics of the song "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and Khalid using a pragmatic approach. Deixis, as a linguistic element whose meaning depends on context, includes five main types: person, place, time, discourse, and social deixis. The analysis shows that the song uses deixis effectively to convey a deep emotional narrative. Person deixis, through the use of I and you, stands out in creating a personal relationship between the speaker and the listener. Place and time deixis describe the space and duration of the emotional struggle, while discourse deixis provides narrative continuity. Meanwhile, social deixis, although implicit, reflects the universal relationship between the singer and the audience. The results of this study are relevant to previous pragmatic studies, supporting the idea that songs as aesthetic texts can be a powerful medium of communication. In particular, this study highlights that the use of deixis in lyrics not only functions to build context, but also to create a complex and relatable emotional experience for the listener. These findings provide important contributions to linguistic studies, education, and the analysis of musical artworks, while also opening up opportunities for pragmatic studies of other musical texts.*

**Keyword: Pragmatic Analysis; Deixis; Song**

### Corresponding Author:

Putri Wulandari,

Universitas Asahan,

Jl. Jend. A. Yani, Kisaran Naga, Kec. Kota Kisaran Timur, Kisaran, Sumatera

Utara 21216, Indonesia

Email: [putri.wulandari12329@gmail.com](mailto:putri.wulandari12329@gmail.com)



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Music has a significant role in human life as a medium of expression, communication and reflection of emotions (Hidayah, 2019). Songs as works of art not only convey tones and rhythms, but also have linguistic dimensions that are full of meaning. One of the songs that stole the show in the last decade is "Lovely" by

Billie Eilish and Khalid. The song is not only popular for its captivating melody and harmonies, but also for its profound and touching lyrics. "Lovely" features strong themes of alienation, struggling with feeling trapped, and searching for hope amidst the darkness of life. Therefore, the song is interesting to analyze from a pragmatic perspective, which can reveal the contextual and emotional meanings behind the word choice and lyrical structure.

Language is a means of communication that has an important role in human life, not only to convey information, but also to express emotions, ideas, and social values (Raharjo et al., 2022). In linguistic studies, one of the branches that explore the use of language in a particular context is pragmatics. Pragmatics focuses on how the meaning of language is understood based on the context of its use, which involves speakers, listeners, and specific situations (Asroriyah & Irma Nurhana, 2022). One of the important concepts in pragmatics is deixis. Deixis refers to linguistic elements whose meaning can only be understood by referring to a specific context, such as who is speaking, where the talk takes place, and when the event takes place (Billauri et al., 2022). This concept is interesting to analyze because its existence allows for a deeper interaction between language and context. By studying deixis, we can understand how speakers place themselves and others in a certain time and space through language (Sari & El Fauziah, 2023).

The urgency of this research lies in the importance of understanding the role of language in music as a powerful and universal medium of expression. Music is not only a form of entertainment, but also a medium of communication that is able to convey complex messages, both explicitly and implicitly. In song lyrics, the use of language elements such as deixis is often an effective tool to create emotional closeness between songwriters and listeners (Arnoi & Ashadi, 2021). "Lovely", as one of the popular songs released in 2018, features deep emotional nuances through the collaboration of two famous singers, Billie Eilish and Khalid. The song is about the struggle against despair and isolation, which is relevant to the feelings of many listeners, especially the younger generation. With the popularity of this song, it is important to understand how the language choices in the lyrics, including the use of deixis, contribute to the delivery of a profound message.

The song "Lovely" was chosen for analysis in this study for several reasons. First, the song is in English, which is a global language and can be accessed by many people from different backgrounds. Secondly, the theme of the song, which is about emotional struggle, is very relevant to the psychological condition of modern society, especially among the younger generation who often face mental stress. Third, the song combines strong emotional expression with simple yet meaningful language choices, making it an ideal object for pragmatic analysis, particularly in looking at how deixis is used to create emotional closeness between the singer and the listener.

The deixis theory used in this study includes five main types of deixis according to Levinson (1983), namely persona deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis (Wardhani & Febiyanti, 2024). These five types of deixis were chosen because they provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing language use in the context of song lyrics. Deixis persona refers to words that indicate who is involved in the conversation, such as I, you, and we, which are important for understanding the relationship between the singer and the listener. Place deixis includes words that indicate location, such as here and there, which are often used in songs to create an image of a particular space. Deixis of time refers to temporal elements, such as now and then, which help to understand chronology or emotional mood in songs. Discourse deixis focuses on references to other parts of the text, such as the words this or that, which connect different elements in the lyrics. And then, social deixis relates to the social relationship between the speaker and the listener which is reflected in the choice of certain words (Damayanti, 2022).

By using this theory, this study aims to identify and analyze how the five types of deixis are used in the lyrics of the song "Lovely" to convey meaning and emotion. This analysis not only helps to understand the meaning of the lyrics in depth, but also provides insight into how language functions in creating aesthetic and emotional experiences for listeners. In addition, the results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of pragmatics studies, especially in analyzing language in popular media such as music.

The benefits of this research include three main aspects, namely theoretical, practical, and social. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich linguistic studies, especially pragmatics, by providing an in-depth analysis of the use of deixis in popular media. Practically, this research can be a reference for students, researchers, or teachers who are interested in understanding more about pragmatic analysis in song lyrics. Socially, this research can help song listeners to better understand the messages and emotions that singers want to convey, thus creating a deeper appreciation of musical works of art.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the use of deixis in the lyrics of the song "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and Khalid. This method was chosen because the main objective of the research is to understand the meaning and linguistic function of deixis elements in a pragmatic context without focusing on statistical calculations or numerical generalizations (S, 2023). This research prioritizes in-depth interpretation

of data in the form of song lyric texts analyzed using pragmatic theory, especially the theory of five types of deixis proposed by Levinson (1983).

The data in this study are the complete lyrics of the song “Lovely” downloaded from official sources to ensure accuracy. The data were collected through documentation technique, namely by observing and recording every word or phrase in the lyrics that contain deixis elements. Furthermore, the data were classified based on five types of deixis: deixis persona, deixis place, deixis time, deixis discourse, and social deixis. Deixis persona includes words that refer to the speaker, listener, or other parties, such as I, you, and we. Place deixis is analyzed by identifying words that refer to location, such as here or there. Time deixis includes temporal elements, such as now or then. Discourse deixis identifies the relationship between parts of the lyrics, such as the use of this and that. Meanwhile, social deixis analyzes words that reflect the social relationship between the speaker and the listener.

The analysis process was carried out in the following stages: first, identification of deixis elements in the lyrics; second, classification of these elements based on deixis categories; third, interpretation of the meaning of each deixis element in the context of the lyrics; and fourth, drawing conclusions about how deixis functions in conveying the message and emotions of the song. This analysis is conducted by considering the overall context of the song, including the theme, emotion, and relationship between the singer and the listener.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analyzing language elements that are influenced by the context of use is one way to understand the meaning behind an utterance or text. One of the important elements in pragmatics is deixis, which are words or phrases whose meaning is not fixed and can only be understood by knowing a certain context, such as who is speaking, where the conversation is taking place, or when an event occurs (Sahusilawane et al., 2023). Deixis helps create a connection between the language, the speaker, the listener, and the situation, allowing the message to be conveyed in a more specific and meaningful way. In the song “Lovely” by Billie Eilish and Khalid, the use of deixis plays a significant role in conveying the emotional message and narrative that the songwriters want to convey. This song is not only a musical work of art, but also a medium of communication that is full of meaning.

#### A. *Pragmatic Analysis of Deixis*

Pragmatically, deixis allows the listener to understand the speaker's position and perspective in a particular context. Deixis serves as a tool to create connections between speakers and listeners, both literal and emotional. In the lyrics of the song “Lovely”, deixis elements are used to convey feelings of isolation, struggle, and hope that are raised as the main themes. As a work of art, this song uses deixis to create an emotional closeness between the singer and the listener, so that each word chosen is able to describe a universal personal experience (Wijaya & Rosita, 2023).

#### B. *Types of Deixis*

According to Levinson (1983), there are five main types of deixis used in pragmatic analysis, that is persona deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

##### 1) Deixis Persona

Deixis persona refers to words that indicate who is involved in the communication, such as the speaker, listener, or other party. In the lyrics of “Lovely”, words like I and you are the main examples of persona deixis. Meanwhile, the use of you can be directed to the audience or someone who is the subject of the song, creating a direct connection between the singer and the listener (Rafilda Hanifa, 2023).

##### 2) Deixis Place

Place deixis indicates the location or space that is the context of communication (Iftitah, 2021). In the lyrics of “Lovely”, elements such as here or there can be used to create an image of the emotional or physical space surrounding the speaker. For example, phrases like “Isn't it lovely, all alone” create the impression of a space of isolation felt by the speaker. Although the space in question is abstract, this use of place deixis helps the listener imagine the atmosphere the singer is experiencing.

##### 3) Deixis Time

Time deixis refers to temporal elements that indicate when an event occurred (Hamdani, 2023). In the song “Lovely”, the use of words like now or then provide a temporal context that helps listeners understand the emotional flow of the song. For example, phrases that refer to the present (now) show the speaker's current emotional state, while references to the past (then) provide context about what has happened before.

##### 4) Deixis Discourse

Discourse deixis serves to connect parts of the text to each other. Words like this and that are used to refer to a specific part of the lyrics or an idea that has been mentioned before (Sindu & Erlangga, 2022). In the song “Lovely”, discourse deixis helps to structure the emotional narrative, creating continuity between different ideas in the lyrics.

### 5) Deixis Social

Social deixis reflects the social relationship between the speaker and the listener. In this song, although there are not many explicit elements of social deixis, social relationships are still reflected through the tone and style of language used (Damayanti, 2022). The singer uses universal and emotional language to reach out to listeners from different backgrounds, creating an inclusive social relationship.

### C. Song Analysis

The song “Lovely” was released in 2018 as part of the 13 Reasons Why series soundtrack. The song is a collaboration between two talented singers, Billie Eilish and Khalid, who are renowned for their ability to convey deep emotions through music. “Lovely” depicts the struggle against despair and isolation, themes that are relevant to the experiences of many people, especially the younger generation. Through its lyrics, the song reflects an emotional journey full of pain, but also contains hope to find a way out of the darkness.

Musically, the song has a minimalist feel combined with soft yet soulful vocals from both singers. The lyrics are simple, but full of meaning, creating a deep experience for the listener. For example, phrases like “Thought I found a way out, but you never go away” reflect a feeling of hopelessness that is hard to escape. However, at the same time, there is pent-up hope, as reflected in “I hope someday I’ll make it out of here”. Through the use of deixis elements, the song not only conveys a message, but also invites the listener to feel and reflect on similar experiences. Each type of deixis in the lyrics serves to reinforce the emotional message of the song. Deixis of persona creates a direct connection between the singer and the listener, deixis of place and time helps describe the atmosphere, while deixis of discourse brings all these elements together in a coherent narrative. Here is a full explanation of the deixis in the song:

#### 1) Deixis Persona

Deixis persona in the lyrics of this song is very dominant, especially through the use of the first person singular pronoun I and the second person singular pronoun you. The word I refers to the speaker, which in this context is the narrative voice of the singer. For example, in the phrases “Thought I found a way” and “Oh, I hope someday I’ll make it out of here”, the use of I emphasizes the personal experience of the speaker. These words show the inner struggle felt by the singer, reflecting the feeling of being trapped and the desire to get out of a painful emotional situation.

Meanwhile, the word you that appears in the phrase “But you never go away” functions as a reference to an abstract entity, which may be a feeling or problem that never goes away. The use of you here is implicit and ambiguous, creating space for listeners to interpret its meaning according to their personal experiences. This strengthens the emotional connection between the singer and the listener, as the lyrics feel relatable and universal.

#### 2) Deixis Place

Place deixis in this song is used to describe the emotional and physical space experienced by the speaker. One of the most prominent examples is in the phrase “Need a place to hide, but I can’t find one near”. The word place refers to a non-specific but emotionally significant location. This location can be interpreted as a safe place that the speaker wants to escape the pain or fear they are experiencing. In addition, in the phrase “Wanna feel alive, outside I can’t fight my fear”, the word outside indicates a physical space that is in contrast to the speaker’s internal state. The use of place deixis creates a contrast between the outside world (where the speaker wants to feel alive) and the inside world (which is full of fear and vulnerability). This contrast helps the listener understand the duality that the singer experiences, namely the desire to escape but still feeling trapped.

#### 3) Deixis Time

The time deixis in this song provides a temporal context that emphasizes the emotional journey experienced by the speaker. One example is in the phrase “Even if it takes all night or a hundred years”, which describes the extreme length of time to achieve a goal or get out of a difficult situation. This time reference is not only literal but also symbolic, reflecting a long struggle that may not have a definite end. In addition, in the phrase “Thought I found a way out”, the word thought refers to the past, giving the impression that the speaker once felt optimistic, but that hope was dashed. The combination of past and future time references in this song shows the cycle of feelings of hopelessness and hope that continue to repeat themselves. The use of this time deixis deepens the meaning of the lyrics, as the listener is invited to understand the speaker’s emotional journey from the past to their hopes for the future.

#### 4) Deixis Discourse

Discourse deixis in this song is used to create relationships between parts of the lyrics, strengthening the emotional narrative being conveyed. An example of the use of discourse deixis can be seen in the phrase “Isn’t it lovely, all alone?”, where the word it refers to the state of isolation described in the previous lyrics. In the phrase “Hello, welcome home”, the word home can be interpreted as a discourse reference to the emotional state that has been described throughout the song. Home here is not a physical place, but rather a representation

of the feeling of returning to the initial state, namely isolation and solitude. This discourse deixis strengthens the structure of the song's lyrics, creating continuity between the various narrative elements.

#### 5) Deixis Social

The social deixis in this song is more implicit than other types of deixis. The social relationship between the speaker and listener is not explicitly conveyed through specific words, but is reflected in the emotional tone and universal use of language. For example, the use of the words welcome home gives a warm yet ironic impression, as if the speaker is welcoming himself or the listener into an emotional state filled with sadness. The personal and intimate tone used in the lyrics reflects the close relationship between the speaker and listener, despite the lack of explicit social references. This allows the song to reach audiences from a variety of backgrounds, creating a sense that the experiences described in the lyrics are universal.

In conclude, a pragmatic analysis of the lyrics of "Lovely" shows how language can be used to create a strong emotional connection through an implicit context. This song is not only an aesthetically beautiful work of art, but also an effective medium of communication to convey universal messages about struggle, isolation, and hope. A pragmatic analysis of the song "Lovely" shows how the use of deixis plays a significant role in conveying meaning and emotion. Person deixis creates a personal connection between the singer and the listener, place deixis describes the emotional and physical space, time deixis provides temporal context, discourse deixis creates narrative continuity, and social deixis reflects universal emotional connections.

The use of deixis in these lyrics not only helps convey the message, but also invites the listener to feel the same emotional experience as the singer. This strengthens the function of language in creating a relationship between the artist and the audience, especially through the medium of music which is full of emotional nuances. The song "Lovely" is not only an aesthetically beautiful work of art, but also an effective medium of communication to convey universal messages about struggle, isolation, and hope. This positions songs as an effective communication medium to reach audiences with diverse emotional experiences.

The results of this analysis are relevant to previous studies that discuss pragmatics in works of art, especially music. Studies such as Levinson (1983) and Yule (1996) emphasize that deixis functions not only in direct conversation but also in texts, where the context of communication is imaginary. This study supports these findings by showing that songs as a form of aesthetic text can also utilize deixis to create contextual relationships between writers, narratives, and audiences. In addition, this study is in line with pragmatic studies on other song lyrics, such as the work of Setyaningsih (2020), which shows that persona deixis is often used to convey personal narratives, and time deixis plays an important role in building emotional storylines. However, the analysis of the song "Lovely" shows an in-depth exploration of how various types of deixis are interrelated to create complex emotional messages, providing new contributions to understanding the function of language in music.

## 4. CONCLUSION

A pragmatic study of Billie Eilish and Khalid's "Lovely" shows how linguistic elements, especially deixis, can play a significant role in conveying emotional messages and building connections with listeners. Through an analysis of five types of deixis—person, place, time, discourse, and social—it was found that each deictic element has a unique function in shaping the meaning of the song's lyrics. Person deixis provides a personal view from the speaker's perspective, creating a deep emotional connection. Place and time deixis describe the space and duration of emotional struggles, while discourse deixis helps to structure the narrative coherently. Although the social deixis in the song is implicit, the emotional tone and universal use of language demonstrate the singer's attempt to reach an audience from a variety of backgrounds. The lyrics of "Lovely" serve not only as artistic expression but also as a reflection of universal human experiences, namely feelings of isolation, fear, and hope. The song invites listeners to reflect on their own personal struggles while offering hope that it is possible to "escape" from difficult situations, even if the process takes a long time.

This study shows that songs, as a non-conventional text form, can be a rich object of pragmatic study. The analysis of deixis elements in songs proves that pragmatic aspects are not only relevant for conversations or narrative texts, but also for texts containing aesthetic and emotional elements. These findings can open up opportunities for further research on how language in music influences cross-cultural and cross-generational communication. The practical implications of this study are also relevant for songwriters and the music industry. Understanding how linguistic elements, such as deixis, can be used to create emotional connections with listeners can help artists and producers create more communicatively effective works.

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