

**A SEMANTIC AND DEICTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH CHORUS OF
“BRIGHT AS THE SUN”: A STUDY OF MEANING IN CONTEXT**

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis dan fungsi ungkapan deiksis yang terdapat dalam bagian chorus berbahasa Inggris dari lagu “*Bright as the Sun*”, yang merupakan lagu resmi Asian Games 2018. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk mengkaji bagaimana makna dibangun melalui penggunaan ungkapan deiksis dalam lirik lagu. Analisis difokuskan pada identifikasi, klasifikasi, dan interpretasi unsur-unsur deiksis dengan mempertimbangkan makna leksikal serta penggunaan kontekstualnya. Data penelitian diambil dari bagian chorus berbahasa Inggris dan dianalisis melalui beberapa tahapan, yaitu pembacaan secara cermat, identifikasi ungkapan yang relevan, serta pengelompokan ke dalam jenis-jenis deiksis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu tersebut mengandung lima jenis deiksis, yaitu deiksis persona, deiksis tempat, deiksis waktu, deiksis wacana, dan deiksis sosial, meskipun kemunculannya berbeda-beda dalam frekuensi dan fungsi. Deiksis persona merupakan jenis yang paling dominan, terutama melalui penggunaan pronomina seperti *you*, *your*, dan *we*. Ungkapan-ungkapan tersebut berfungsi untuk menyapa pendengar secara langsung dan menciptakan rasa keterlibatan personal. Deiksis tempat tercermin dalam ungkapan yang merujuk pada konteks yang lebih luas atau global, sedangkan makna temporal disampaikan secara implisit melalui frasa yang menunjukkan urgensi dan tindakan saat ini. Deiksis wacana dan sosial juga ditemukan, meskipun kemunculannya tidak terlalu eksplisit dalam lirik. Secara keseluruhan, hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ungkapan deiksis memiliki peran penting dalam membentuk makna serta memperkuat pesan motivasional dalam lagu. Penggunaan deiksis membantu menciptakan kedekatan antara lirik dan pendengar, sekaligus menegaskan tema persatuan, dorongan, dan identitas kolektif.

Kata kunci: Asian Games 2018, deiksis, Deiksis Persona, Semantik, Lirik Lagu

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the types and functions of deictic expressions found in the English chorus of the song “*Bright as the Sun*”, the official song of the 2018 Asian Games. The study employs a qualitative descriptive method to examine how meaning is constructed through the use of deictic expressions in the lyrics. The analysis focuses on identifying, classifying, and interpreting deictic elements by considering both their lexical meaning and their contextual use.

The data were taken from the English chorus and analyzed through several steps, including close reading, identification of relevant expressions, and classification into types of deixis. The findings show that the lyrics contain five types of deixis: person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis, although they appear with varying frequency and function. Person deixis is the most dominant type, mainly through the use of pronouns such as *you*, *your*, and *we*. These expressions function to directly address the listeners and create a sense of personal involvement. Spatial deixis is reflected in expressions that refer to a broader or global context, while temporal meaning is conveyed implicitly through phrases that suggest urgency and present action. Discourse and social deixis are also present, although they appear less explicitly in the lyrics. Overall, the findings indicate that deictic expressions play an important role in shaping meaning and strengthening the motivational message of the song. The use of deixis helps create a closer connection between the lyrics and the listeners, reinforcing themes of unity, encouragement, and collective identity.

Keywords: Asian Games 2018, Deixis; Person Deixis, Semantics, Song lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in expressing ideas, emotions, and intentions. However, meaning is not always directly conveyed through words alone. In many cases, understanding meaning depends not only on the words themselves but also on the context in which they are used. This is reflected in the study of meaning in language, where semantics focuses on how words carry meaning, while pragmatics examines how that meaning is interpreted in relation to the speaker, the listener, and the situation. One important concept that connects these aspects is deixis, which refers to expressions such as “*I*,” “*you*,” “*here*,” and “*now*” that require contextual information to be fully understood (Yule, 1996; Levinson, 1983). Because of this, deixis becomes a useful way to understand how meaning is shaped through both language and context.

Songs are one form of language that often combine word meaning and contextual interpretation to create a strong connection with listeners. Song lyrics are not only created for entertainment, but also function as a medium for delivering messages, emotions, and shared experiences. Previous studies have shown that deixis plays an important role in shaping meaning across different types of discourse, including song lyrics and spoken texts (Hasanah, 2021; Paulina & Suryani, 2022). One example is the song “*Bright as the Sun*,” which was used as the official song of the 2018 Asian Games. This song reflects themes of motivation, unity, and encouragement, especially for athletes and audiences. The lyrics include expressions that directly address listeners and refer to particular situations, making them rich in context-dependent meaning.

Based on this background, this study focuses on analyzing the types and functions of deictic expressions found in the English chorus of “*Bright as the Sun*”. By identifying and classifying these expressions, the study aims to explain how meaning is constructed through the interaction between words and context. This research is expected to provide a clearer understanding of how meaning works in song lyrics, especially in relation to context-dependent expressions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Deixis

Deixis is one of the fundamental concepts in pragmatics that explains how meaning is closely related to context. In communication, speakers often use expressions whose meanings cannot be fully interpreted without considering the situation in which they are used. According to George Yule (1996), deixis refers to linguistic elements such as “I,” “you,” “here,” and “now” that depend on contextual information for their interpretation. This indicates that meaning is not only derived from words themselves, but also from the relationship between language and its context, including the speaker, the listener, the time, and the place of the utterance.

In recent studies, deixis is still considered an essential aspect of discourse analysis. Hartati et al. (2025) highlight that deixis functions as a bridge between language and context, helping readers or listeners understand meaning more accurately. Similarly, Saffah and Al-Hindawi (2021) argue that deictic expressions are highly context-dependent, making them crucial in interpreting both spoken and written discourse. These views emphasize that deixis is not merely a linguistic form, but also a communicative strategy that allows meaning to be conveyed effectively.

Types of Deixis

Deixis can be classified into several types based on how it functions in communication. Stephen C. Levinson (1983) proposes five main categories of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. These categories are widely used in pragmatic analysis because they provide a clear framework for identifying and interpreting context-dependent expressions.

- **Person deixis**, refers to the participants involved in communication, such as the speaker, the listener, and others. Common examples include pronouns like “I,” “you,” and “we.” This type of deixis is important because it shows the relationship between the speaker and the audience.

- **Spatial deixis**, (also known as place deixis) relates to the location of an event or situation. Expressions such as “here” and “there” indicate the position of objects or people relative to the speaker. This helps listeners understand where something is happening.
- **Temporal deixis**, refers to time-related expressions, such as “now,” “then,” and “today.” These words help indicate when an event takes place and are closely connected to the moment of speaking.
- **Discourse deixis**, is used to refer to parts of the discourse itself. For example, expressions like “this statement” or “that part” point to specific sections of a conversation or text. This type helps organize and connect ideas within communication.
- **Social deixis**, reflects the social relationship between participants in communication. It can indicate levels of formality, status, or familiarity. Words or expressions used to show respect or social distance are included in this category.

Paulina and Suryani (2022), confirm that these five types of deixis frequently appear together in discourse and serve different communicative functions. Understanding these types allows researchers to analyze how language conveys meaning in a more structured and contextual way.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research design to analyze deictic expressions found in the English chorus of the song “*Bright as the Sun*”. This approach is used because the data consist of words and phrases, and the analysis focuses on interpreting meaning within the lyrics. Qualitative analysis allows the researcher to examine how language is used to express meaning in relation to its context (Yule, 1996).

The study focuses on expressions in the lyrics that refer to participants, time, place, and situations. In analyzing these expressions, attention is given not only to the meaning of the words themselves but also to how their meaning changes depending on the context in which they are used. This is important because deictic expressions cannot be fully understood without considering the situation in which they occur (Levinson, 1983).

The data were taken from the English chorus of “*Bright as the Sun*”, supported by its official video (Energy18, 2017). The lyrics were collected from reliable online sources and carefully reviewed to ensure accuracy. Each line of the chorus was examined to identify expressions that indicate reference and meaning within the context of the song.

The analysis was conducted through several steps, including reading the lyrics, identifying deictic expressions, and classifying them into types such as person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis. Each expression was then interpreted based on its function and its contribution to meaning in the lyrics. The results were organized systematically to show how these expressions help construct meaning and support the message of the song.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

Based on the analysis of the English chorus lyrics of the song “*Bright as the Sun*”, several types of deictic expressions were identified. The analysis focuses on the following lines:

Show the world

You are as Bright as the Sun

We deserve to be the one

And fight your fears, come on

Don't waste your time

Raise the energy, you'll shine

And give your best

Let God do the rest

The findings show that the lyrics mainly contain person deixis, spatial deixis, and limited temporal implication, while discourse and social deixis appear in a more implicit form. Among these, person deixis is the most dominant type, indicating strong interaction between the speaker and the listener.

Table 1. Deictic Expressions and their Functions in the English Chorus of ‘Bright as the Sun’

No	Lyric Excerpt	Deictic Expression	Type of Deixis	Function
1	show the world	the world	Spatial	Refers to a global audience
2	you are as Bright as the Sun	you	Person	Refers to the listener

3	we deserve to be the one	we	Person Social (implicit)	Refers to collective participants Shows unity and equality
4	fight your fears	your	Person	Refers to listener's fears
5	don't waste your time	your	Person Temporal (implicit)	Refers to listener's time Suggest present urgency
6	raise the energy, you'll Shine	you	Person	Refers to the listener
7	come on	—	Discourse	Encourages continuation of message

Person Deixis

Person deixis refers to expressions that indicate participants in communication, such as the speaker and the listener. In the analyzed lyrics, person deixis appears most frequently through the use of pronouns like “you,” “your,” and “we.”

Examples:

- “**You** are as Bright as the Sun”
- “**We** deserve to be the one”
- “Fight **your** fears”
- “Don't waste **your** time”
- “**You**'ll shine”

The pronoun “*you*” refers to the listener, which can be interpreted as athletes or audiences. Its repeated use creates a direct and personal connection, making the message feel more motivating. Meanwhile, the pronoun “*we*” refers to a collective group, emphasizing unity and togetherness. This shows that the song not only addresses individuals but also promotes a shared identity.

Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis refers to expressions related to time, such as “*now*”, “*today*”, or “*then*”. In the selected lyrics, there are no explicit temporal markers. However, temporal meaning is implied through certain expressions.

Example: “*Don’t waste your time*”

Although the word “time” is not a specific temporal deixis, it suggests urgency and encourages the listener to take action in the present moment. This indicates that the song implicitly refers to the current situation, even without using clear time expressions.

Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis refers to expressions that indicate location or place. In the analyzed lyrics, spatial deixis appears in the phrase:

“*Show the world*”

The expression “*the world*” refers to a broad, global context rather than a specific place. It reflects the international scope of the Asian Games, where participants from different countries come together. This use of spatial deixis expands the message of the song beyond a local setting to a global audience.

Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis refers to expressions that point to parts of the discourse itself. In the analyzed lyrics, discourse deixis is not strongly marked, but it can be seen implicitly.

Example: “*Come on*”

The phrase “*come on*” can be interpreted as referring to the ongoing message in the song, encouraging the listener to follow what has been previously stated. It functions as a connector within the discourse, reinforcing the motivational tone of the lyrics.

Social Deixis

Social deixis relates to social relationships or levels of formality between participants. In the lyrics, social deixis is not explicitly expressed through formal markers, but it can be observed indirectly.

Example: “*We deserve to be the one*”

The use of “*we*” reflects equality and solidarity among participants. It removes social distance and creates a sense of togetherness, suggesting that everyone is equally important and

capable. This shows that the song promotes unity without emphasizing hierarchy or social status.

Discussion

The findings of this study show that person deixis is the most dominant type used in the English chorus of the song *Bright as the Sun*. This result supports the theory proposed by George Yule (1996), who states that person deixis plays a central role in communication because it directly involves participants in interaction. The frequent use of pronouns such as *you*, *your*, and *we* indicates that the lyrics are designed to directly address the listeners and actively engage them in the message being conveyed.

Furthermore, the use of person deixis reflects how meaning is constructed through the relationship between language and context. This idea is in line with Stephen C. Levinson (1983), who argues that deixis functions not only to refer to participants but also to establish relationships between them. In this case, the pronoun *you* creates a direct and personal connection with the listener, making the message more persuasive and motivational. Meanwhile, the use of *we* reflects inclusiveness and solidarity, which is relevant to the context of the Asian Games as an international event that promotes unity among nations.

In addition, Charles J. Fillmore (1997) emphasizes that deixis is closely related to the speaker's point of view, or what is known as the deictic center. In the song, the deictic center is positioned in a way that invites the listener to become part of the message. This can be seen in the repeated use of *you*, which shifts the focus toward the audience and strengthens emotional engagement. As a result, meaning is not only derived from the words themselves but also from how they are interpreted within the communicative context.

The presence of spatial deixis in the phrase *the world* further expands the meaning of the lyrics. According to Daniel Z. Kadar (2011), spatial references in discourse can be used to broaden the scope of communication and include wider audiences. In this context, *the world* represents a global stage, reflecting the international nature of the Asian Games and emphasizing that the message of the song is intended for people across different countries.

Although temporal deixis is not explicitly expressed through clear markers such as *now* or *today*, the song still conveys temporal meaning implicitly. Expressions like *Don't waste your time* suggest urgency and immediacy. This idea is supported by Deirdre Wilson and Dan Sperber (1995), who argue that meaning in communication is often inferred through context

rather than directly stated. In this case, the listener understands the time reference through the overall message of encouragement and action.

Moreover, discourse deixis and social deixis appear in a more implicit way. The expression *come on* functions as discourse deixis because it refers to the ongoing message and encourages continuation. At the same time, the use of *we* can also be interpreted as social deixis, as it reflects equality and reduces social distance between participants. According to Penelope Brown and Stephen C. Levinson (1987), language can be used to express solidarity and politeness strategies, which is evident in the inclusive tone of the lyrics.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that deictic expressions play a significant role in shaping meaning and enhancing the communicative impact of the song. The use of deixis allows the lyrics to become more interactive, personal, and persuasive. It not only helps convey the message of motivation and unity but also strengthens the connection between the song and its listeners. Therefore, deixis can be considered an essential element in constructing meaning in song lyrics, especially in texts that aim to inspire and engage a wide audience.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to analyze the types and functions of deictic expressions found in the English chorus of the song *Bright as the Sun*. The findings show that five types of deixis are present in the lyrics, namely person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis, although they appear with different levels of frequency and function. Among these, person deixis is the most dominant type, as reflected in the frequent use of pronouns such as *you*, *your*, and *we*. These expressions play an important role in directly addressing the listeners and creating a sense of personal involvement.

The analysis also indicates that deictic expressions contribute not only as linguistic elements but also as a means of shaping meaning in context. The use of *you* helps make the message more engaging and motivational, while *we* emphasizes unity and togetherness. Spatial expressions such as *the world* reflect the broader context of the song, and temporal meaning is conveyed implicitly through expressions that suggest urgency and present action. Although discourse and social deixis appear less explicitly, they still support the overall message of encouragement and solidarity.

However, this study has several limitations. First, the analysis is limited to the English chorus of the song, which may not fully represent the use of deictic expressions in the entire

lyrics. Second, the study focuses primarily on deixis and does not explore other aspects of meaning that may also influence interpretation.

Therefore, future studies are recommended to analyze the full lyrics of the song or compare similar songs with related themes. Further research may also examine other aspects of meaning in language to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how meaning is constructed and interpreted in song lyrics.

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