

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

Effective communication is essential for human interaction and societal functioning, facilitating the exchange of information and ideas. Language plays a critical role in this process. Song lyrics represent a unique form of communication, allowing individuals to express their feelings, emotions, and messages through words accompanied by music. When engaging with song lyrics, listeners not only strive to understand the literal meaning of the words but also seek to uncover the underlying messages intended by the artist. This study focuses on pragmatics, the field that explores the intended meaning behind messages.

Pragmatics, as defined by Yule (1996, p. 3), involves analyzing meaning within the context of how it is communicated by the speaker or writer and understood by the listener or reader. Effective communication relies on grasping not only the words themselves but also their intended meanings. Ambiguities and misunderstandings can arise when the meaning of an utterance is unclear. Context is crucial for fully comprehending the references and intentions behind utterances. Pragmatics encompasses various aspects, including presuppositions, the cooperative principle, conversational implicature, deixis, and speech act theory. This study employs pragmatic approaches to examine deixis in song lyrics.

Deixis, derived from the ancient Greek term meaning "to display" or "to point out," refers to the interpretation of the relationship between a situation and the words, sentences, and elements within a sentence (Saeed, 2009, p. 191). Deixis includes categories such as person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Deictic words specifically refer to entities such as people, objects, places, or times (e.g., "you," "here," "now").

The usage of deixis is prevalent in songs; however, listeners may encounter challenges in understanding deixis within English lyrics. This study aims to conduct an analysis titled "Deixis Analysis in the Song Lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* Album" to illuminate this aspect and enhance our understanding of deixis within song lyrics.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Several issues motivate the examination of this particular topic based on the background presented. Firstly, deictic expressions often pose challenges for listeners, leading to potential ambiguities in interpretation. In the context of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album, the presence of deictic words and phrases necessitates analysis to enhance comprehension. Secondly, the use of deictic expressions in song lyrics is crucial for preventing misinterpretations of the intended messages. A careful analysis of deixis can enable listeners to gain a clearer understanding of the conveyed emotions and themes. Thirdly, deixis serves as a tool to facilitate comprehension of the true meaning expressed in sentences that may otherwise be challenging to grasp. Examining the referential meanings of deixis in the *Midnights* album using Cruse's theory of deixis can provide valuable insights for listeners.

## **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

The scope of this study focuses on the analysis of deixis in Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album, with the aim of enhancing comprehension and preventing misinterpretations of the intended messages. The emphasis is on understanding the difficulties associated with deictic expressions and their potential ambiguities in listener interpretation. The application of Cruse's theory of deixis is utilized to examine the referential meanings of deixis in the *Midnights* album, contributing to the understanding of both readers and listeners.

## **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

The problems addressed in this research are formulated as questions, which are as follows:

1. What are types of deixis in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album?
2. What is the dominant type of deixis in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album?
3. What are the referential meanings of deixis found in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album?

### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To identify the types of deixis in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album.
2. To identify the dominant type of deixis in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album.
3. To analyze the referential meanings of deixis found in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's *Midnights* album.

### **1.6. Benefit of the Research**

This research aims to provide benefits to various to related parties, including:

a) Theoretical Benefits

Theoretically, this research intends to illustrate the usage of deixis in English songs and provide deeper insights into the referential meanings of deixis in this context.

b) Practical Benefits

Practically, the findings of this research will be beneficial to other academics interested in examining songs with similar themes. This study is expected to serve as a valuable linguistic reference for English students in the English Language and Culture Department at Darma Persada University, enabling them to comprehend and appreciate linguistic works, particularly those related to deixis.

## 1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research

This study is organized into five chapters, each presented as follows:

### **CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION**

This chapter introduces the foundation and general overview of the research undertaken. It includes background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

### **CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter defines key concepts relevant to the study, including pragmatics, deixis, types of deixis, reference, and context. It also reviews previous studies on deixis in song lyrics, identifying research gaps that this study aims to address.

### **CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter outlines the methods employed in the research. It covers the time and location of the study, research approach and methodology, research objects and data, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

### **CHAPTER 4 : DEIXIS IN THE SONG LYRICS OF TAYLOR SWIFT'S *MIDNIGHTS* ALBUM**

In this chapter, the research data are analyzed in detail, addressing the problems outlined in the formulation of the problem section in Chapter 1. This chapter provides answers to the research questions, facilitating the achievement of the study's objectives.

## **CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION**

This chapter presents the conclusions drawn from the findings and discussions, summarizing the research outcomes and their implications.

