

# An Examination of the Deixis and Definiteness of Ed Sheeran's Song Lyrics

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## Abstract

Music has become one of the arts that is loved by many people around the world. There are many genres of music that still exist today, such as pop, rock, jazz, blues, electro, indie, and reggae. The pop genre is the most favored by music lovers, it is proven by the top 3 levels of Billboards (popular website of music charts all over the world) occupied by pop genre songs, there are reasons why pop can be the most preferred; first, because the theme raised in pop songs is usually about love, pleasure and sadness which can represent the feelings of the person who hears it, the second, because pop has a nice sound to be heard.

**Key words:** Deixis and Definiteness, Ed Sheeran's song, examination,

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## INTRODUCTION

In understanding song lyrics we must have semantics skills (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019), (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021). According to (B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019), semantics is branch of linguistics which focuses on the meaning in word, phrases, and sentences. One of material in semantic is deixis and definiteness (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018), (Kuswanto et al., 2020). According to (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021), deixis is a technical term to show or to point out, while according to (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020a), deixis is the location and identification of people, object, events and activities which is being talked about or referred to (Qomariah & Sucipto, 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020). There are three types of deixis; Person deixis which use to point to people (I, you, we, they, he, she, it) (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020a), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), Spatial deixis is to point to location (this, that, here, near) (Setri & Setiawan, 2020), (Fakhrurozi et al., 2021), and Temporal deixis is to point to a time (now, last week, tomorrow, yesterday) (Kurniawan et al., 2018), (Iriawan & Fithriasari, 2018). While definiteness is something that is clearly defined or determined, not vague or general, is fixed, precise, exact and has a definite quantity, definite direction (Al Falaq et al., 2021), (Suprayogi & Eko, 2020). The objective of this study is to find out definiteness and deixis types that used and the meaning of the word deixis to textual meaning in Ed Sheeran song lyrics. The song titles to be analyzed are *Perfect* and *Thinking Out Loud*.

The present study uses qualitative method, in which the researchers transcribed Ed sheeran song lyrics first and the second tabulating and classyfyng the deixis into person deixis, spatial dexis, and temporal deixis. Then, reseacrhers anlyzed the meaning of the word. Thus, this paper is a plain attempt to open a larger discussion about deixis in song lyrics. This study will help the reader to know what kinds of deixis that used in Ed sheeran song. This study also significant because to makes the reader know more about what kinds of deixis that use more in song especilaly in Ed Sheeran songs.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Ed Sheeran, an English singer-songwriter, has contributed songs to 17 EPs and five studio albums (Amelia, 2021b), (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019), (Pranoto, 2021). Sheeran released eight EPs prior to the release of his first studio album without signing with a label (Puspita, 2021), (Suprayogi, Samanik, Novanti, et al., 2021). These EPs were titled The Orange Room, Ed Sheeran, Want Some?, (Suprayogi, Samanik, & Chaniago, 2021) and You Need Me, Loose Change, Songs I Wrote with Amy, Live at the Bedford (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020), (Mandasari, 2020) and No.5 Collaborations Project all reached number two on the iTunes chart without any promotion or label support (Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018), (Fithratullah, 2019), selling over 7,000 copies in its first week (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021), (Endang Woro Kasih, 2018), (Journal et al., 2021). This album gained widespread attention. Sheeran signed with Asylum Records later that year (Mandasari & Oktaviani, 2018). "The A Team" was the lead single from Sheeran's first studio album, + (pronounced "plus"), which came out in 2011 (Amelia, 2021a), (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021). "You Need Me, I Don't Need You," "Lego House," and "Give Me Love" were among the songs on the album (Afrianto et al., 2021), (Kuswoyo et al., 2020).

In 2014, Sheeran released his second studio album, x, which is pronounced "multiply." The album was responsible for the smashes "Thinking Out Loud," "Photograph," and "Don't," as well as the track "I See Fire," which was also featured on the soundtrack to the sequel to The Hobbit 2017 saw the release of (pronounced "divide"), Sheeran's third studio album (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020b), (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). The singles "Castle on the Hill" and "Shape of You" came out before the album. Other major hits like "Perfect," "Galway Girl," and "Happier" were also included. The accompanying concert tour went on to

become the highest-grossing concert tour of all time (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020b). In 2019, his No. 6 Collaborations Project EP, which was released in 2011, was followed by this album. On each and every track on the album, Sheeran worked with a variety of artists (Suprayogi, 2019). The album featured Justin Bieber's "I Don't Care," Khalid's "Beautiful People," and Camila Cabello and Cardi B's "South of the Border." In 2021, Sheeran announced the release of his fourth solo studio album = (pronounced "equals") on October 29, 2021 (F. M. Sari et al., 2013). The album was preceded by the singles "Bad Habits" and "Shivers." The single "Overpass Graffiti" from the album came with a music video when it was released. The album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200.

## METHOD

The researcher uses qualitative research as the methodology of this research. This kind of research belongs to qualitative research which is characterized by observation and description in forms of words or sentences. Qualitative research is accomplished by giving explanation of the issue in the analysis. The data of this research were obtained from Ed Sheeran's song. The analysis started with the types of relative clauses found in the novel. The researcher will use the contrastive analysis study to contrast between Indonesian and English language.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1.1: *Perfect*

No	Lyrics	Types of Deixis and Definiteness	Meaning in Semantics
1.	I Found a love for me	"I","Me" (Person Deixis)	"I" as first person (men) who found a love from girl for him
2	Darling just dive right in And follow my lead	"My" (Person deixis)	"My" as first person deixis that said there is a girl who follow his lead
3	I never knew you were the someone waiting for me	"I","you" (Person deixis)	"I" first person that never knew there is a girl who waiting for him. "You" as second person who waiting for men
4	'Cause we were just kids when we fell in love	"We" (Person deixis)	"We" as first person plural show both of two people were just

			kids when they fell in love
5	I will not give you up this time	“I”, “You” (Person deixis).	“I” as first person who will not give up his girl. “You” as second person who will not give up by his men
6	Barefoot on the grass, listening to our favorite song	“our” (Person deixis)	“Our” as plural first person who listening their favorite song, barefoot on the grass
7	But you heard it, darling, you look perfect tonight	“You” (Person deixis), “Tonight” (Temporal deixis)	“You” as second person who heard about what his men whispered “you look perfect tonight”
8	She shares my dreams, I hope that someday I'll share her home	“She”, “My”, “I”, “her” (person deixis). “Someday” (Temporal deixis). “Home” (Spatial deixis). “She” also as personal pronouns definiteness	“She” as third person who shares her men dreams. “I” as first person who want share home with his girl. “Home” which refers to residence that will share by the men to the girl.
9	And she looks perfect	“She” (person deixis) and Personal Definiteness	“She” as third person who looks perfect on her men point of view
10	I don't deserve this	“I” (person deixis)	“I” as first person who fell do not deserve to get the girl because she is perfect
11	You look perfect tonight	“You” (Person deixis). “Tonight” (Temporal deixis)	“You” as second person who looks perfect. “Tonight” refers to time when the girl looks perfect
12	Not knowing what it was	“It” (personal pronouns definiteness)	“It” refers to love which has happened in childhood time of the man and the girl, but they are not really know what love actually is

13	Baby, I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms	“The” (Definite determiner)	“The” refers to the dark space when men and girl dancing
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Table 1.2: *Thinking Out Loud*

No	Lyrics	Types of Deixis	Meaning in Semantics
1.	When your legs don't work like they used to before	“Your” (Person deixis), “Before” (Temporal deixis)	“Your” as second person (possesive pronouns from you). The first person (men) ask his lover if later when her legs do not functional anymore
2	And I can't sweep you off of your feet	“I”, “Your” (Person deixis)	“I” as first person who said can not sweep his lover feet. “Your” as second person who cannot take care by her lover.
3	Will your eyes still smile from your cheeks	“Your” (Person deixis)	“Your” as second person. The first person ask his girl, if he can not take care of her later, whether she can still smile from her cheeks.
4	And darling I will be loving you 'til we're 70	“I”, “You”, “We” (Person deixis). “70” (Temporal deixis)	“I” as first person said that he will love his girl until 70 years old. It does not mean in 71 years old he will not love his girl again, but it is just parable that he will love his girl until he is old.
5	And baby my heart could still fall as hard at 23	“My” (Person deixis) “at 23” (Temporal deixis)	“My” as first person said that he still can broken heart in the old age later like still at 23 years old
6	Oh me I fall in love with you every single day	“Me”, “I”, “You” (Person deixis) “Every single day” (Temporal deixis)	“Me” and “I” as first person who love his girl. “Every single day” refers to time in

			which his deep love to his girl in every single day
7	Place your head on my beating heart	“Your”, “My” (Person deixis)	“Your” as second person. “My” as the first person want his girl head brought closer to his heart to know his beating heart.
8	Maybe we found love right where we are	“We” (Person deixis)	“We” as first person plural who stated that maybe they already found love right where they are
9	Cause honey your soul can never grow old, it's evergreen	“Your”(Person deixis). “Old” (Temporal deixis)	“Your” as second person stated by first person that the second person soul is never getting “old”, it is evergreen.
10	I'll just keep on making the same mistakes Hoping that you'll understand	“I”, “You” (Person deixis). “The” (Definite determiner)	“I” as first person who stated that he will just keep on making the same mistakes, and he hope that his girl (“You”) will understand. The word “The” refers to mistakes that already done before by the man.
11	But baby now Take me into your loving arms	“Me”, “Your” (Person deixis)	“Me” as first person who want (“Your”) his girl take him into her loving arms.
12	Maybe just the touch of a hand	“The” (Definite determiner)	The word “The” in the lyrics describe about how people can fall in love mysteriously, maybe because of the touch of hand.
13	Kiss me under the light of a thousand stars	“The” (Definite determiner)	“The” refers to the man who want to kissed by his girl under the light of a thousand stars

## CONCLUSION

To know the meaning of a sentence, we need to have semantics skills, so we will not misinterpreting a sentence. Starting from interpreting sentences when we have conversation in daily life, as well as to understand in understanding conversation sentences in films or novels, poems, other literary works and also including songs. In the present study, the analysis of Deixis and Definiteness in song lyrics from popular singer Ed sheeran. There are two song that has been analyzed entitled *Perfect* and *Thinking Out Loud*. Based on the analysis the person deixis is become the most used in Ed Sheeran songs especially from both songs that have been analyzed. This shows that the song from Ed Sheeran is a song that is full of relationships especially between lovers. The deixis word; "I", "You", "Your", "My", "Me" become the most deixis used in Ed sheeran song while I only found a few definiteness contained in the songs.

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