

DEIXIS IN THE SONG LYRICS *GOODBYE'S* (*THE SADDEST WORD*) BY CELINE DION

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Abstract

Deixis is used in most conversations or in writing literary works, including song lyrics. The purpose of this research is to reveal the use of deixis in the lyrics of Celine Dion's *Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)*. In this study, the descriptive-qualitative method was used to collect the data. The procedure used to analyze the data starts with collecting data, using deixis, identifying the classification of data usage from person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis, and making conclusions on the use of deixis data. The theory proposed by Yule was used to analyze and classify the types of deixis. The results showed that the three types of deixis, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis, are found in the song lyrics, with details of 47 person deixis, 8 spatial deixis, and 8 temporal deixis.

Keywords: *deixis; Goodbye's; person deixis; spatial deixis; song lyrics; temporal deixis*

1. Introduction

Language is a means of communication. Language is the most powerful, convenient, and permanent form of communication. Non-linguistic symbols such as expressive gestures, signals of various kinds, traffic lights, road signs, flags, emblems, and many more such things, as well as shorthand, morse and other codes, the deaf and dumb and braille alphabets, the symbols of mathematics and logic, etc., are also means of communication. Yet they are not as flexible, comprehensive, or extensive as language is. Language is the best means of self-expression. It is through language that humans express their thoughts, desires, emotions, and feelings; it is through it that they store knowledge, transmit messages, knowledge, and experience from one person to another, from one generation to another. Most of the activities in the world are carried on through or by it. It is through it that humans interact. It is language again that yokes the present, the past, and the future together. Humans cannot be separated from social relations in their lives. To have a social relationship, communication is needed. Language is the tool of communication that plays an essential part in making communication.

Akmajian, et al. (2010) state that a language is a conventional system for communication and for conveying messages. Then they add—human language is a highly structured system within which an enormous amount of flexibility or creativity is possible. It is a certainty that language is extremely important to literary production and

discourse. Herdiyanti (2020) states that language is an important part of everyone's life because it may be used for communication and conveying ideas. Every person has a variety of languages that can be used for communication. There are spoken languages and written languages, like poetry, songs, drama, and others. In this study, the researcher analyzed the use of language in song lyrics entitled *Goodbye's (the saddest word)* by Celine Dion. Song can change ideas, feelings, and dialogue, and it is also useful to develop people's minds, ideas, etc.

According to the Oxford Advance Learner Dictionary (2018), a song is a short piece of music with words that you sing. According to Natalia (2020), music is the expression of language using rhythm, which is now much liked by many people in the world. Many people who like music cover many of the songs in the world using their first or second language. Sitorus and Herman (2019) state that song is one of the ways to communicate that enables humans to cooperate. Song is considered a system of communication with other people using sounds, and song can also be used to express a feeling, sense, idea, emotion, or thought. Nowadays, people are easygoing and like to show their feelings by writing songs. A song is another way to communicate people's feelings to someone else, and that is through lyrics. A lyric is not only the arrangement of words into sentences but also a representation of the composer's emotions to describe feelings such as falling in love, being sad, happy, jealous, brokenhearted, missing someone, hate someone, and others.

In this research, the song lyric that would be analyzed is *Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)*. It was written and produced by Robert John "Mutt" Lange, who had already worked with Dion in 1999 on *If Walls Could Talk*. Lyrically, the devastatingly emotional ballad speaks about the absolute love between a child and her mother. Celine first heard Robert John "Mutt" Lange's song in 1993s and turned it down. In October 2008s, *Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)* was included on the European version of *My Love: Ultimate Essential Collection* greatest hits, and this song was sung by Celine Dion.

Celine Marie Claudette, or Celine Dion, is a Canadian singer. She is noted for her powerful and technically skilled vocals. Dion is the best-selling Canadian recording artist and French language artist of all time. Her music has incorporated genres such as pop, rock, R&B, gospel, and classical music. The lyrics of her song are heartfelt and have a deep meaning.

Over the course of her long career, Celine Dion has received numerous awards in recognition of her music and success. Since beginning her career in 1998s, Dion has been highly recognized all over the world and received various awards, including 12 World Music Awards, five Grammy Awards, seven Billboard Music Awards, six American Music Awards, 20 Juno Awards, 50 Félix Awards, and many others. She's also the most nominated artist at the Juno Awards, with 75 nods. This is also the researchers' main reason for choosing song lyrics by Celine Dion.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Pragmatic

Pragmatics is one of the varieties of linguistics. Yule (2008: 3) says that pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. It is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It

has, consequently, more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves.

Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. This type of study necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. It requires consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with who they're talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances.

The advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes or goals, and the kinds of actions (for example, requests) that they are performing when they speak. The big disadvantage is that all these very human concepts are extremely difficult to analyze in a consistent and objective way. Two friends having a conversation may imply something and infer something else without providing any clear linguistic evidence that we can point to as the explicit source of 'the meaning' of what was communicated (Yule, 2008: 4).

Cruise (2000: 4) argues that for present purposes, pragmatics can be taken to be concerned with aspects of information (in the widest sense) conveyed through language that are not encoded by generally accepted convention in the linguistic forms used but which none the less arise naturally out of and depend on the meanings conventionally encoded in the linguistic forms used, taken in conjunction with the context in which the forms are used. Wharton (2009: 16) claims that pragmatics is by its nature a cross-disciplinary subject, with roots in philosophy and linguistics but reaching out into cognitive science, psychology, sociology, and even the study of non-human animal communication.

2.2 Definition of Deixis.

Deixis is one of the branches of pragmatics. It indicates a word or phrase that refers to objects, processes, attributes, and circumstances. An expression in pragmatics is called deixis if the phrase alternates or depends on the context of advice. According to Yule (2008: 8), deixis is a technical term (from Greek) for one of the most basic things we do with utterances. It means 'pointing' via language. Any linguistic form used to accomplish this 'pointing' is called a deictic expression. Cruise (2000: 319) says that deixis means different things to different people. Any expression that locates a referent in space or time is a deictic expression. These definitions mentioned above express that in doing communication, deixis plays an important part, whether in the context of an utterance of speech or an event. Levinson (1983: 54) defines deixis as the structure of language with the aim of indicating person, place, time, social distinctions, and roles in discourse.

2.3 Types of Deixis

Some experts classify deixis into different types. Yule (2008) classifies deixis into three types; person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. Cruise (2000: 319) recognizes five main types of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Levinson (1983) divides deixis into five types: person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The theory applied in this research is that proposed by Yule (2008), which divides deixis into three types.

2.3.1 Person Deixis

Person deixis involves basically the speaker, known as the first person; the addressee, known as the second person, and other significant participants in the speech situation, neither speaker nor hearer; these are known as the third person (Cruise, 2000: 319). Person deixis clearly operates on a basic three-part division, exemplified by the pronouns for first person (I), second person ('you'), and third person ('he', 'she', or 'it'). In many languages, these deictic categories of speaker, addressee, and other(s) are elaborated with markers of relative social status (for example, addressee with higher status versus addressee with lower status). (Yule, 2008: 10).

Example:

I am going to the movies

Would *you* like to have dinner?

They tried to hurt me, but *she* came to the rescue

In languages (like English) with gendered pronouns, the third person masculine pronoun has traditionally been used as a default when using “it” is inappropriate but the gender of its antecedent is unknown or inapplicable.

2.3.2 Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis is a kind of deixis known as place or space deixis. Cruise (2000: 320) states that spatial deixis manifests itself principally in the form of locative adverbs such as *here* and *there* and demonstratives/determiners such as *this* and *that*. Yule (2008: 12) states that the concept of distance is clearly relevant to spatial deixis, where the relative location of people and things is being indicated. Contemporary English makes use of only two adverbs, 'here' and 'there', for the basic distinction, but in older texts and in some dialects, a much larger set of deictic expressions can be found.

Example:

I enjoy living in *this* city

Here is where we will place the statue

She was sitting over *there*

2.3.3 Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis, also known as time deixis, refers to indicating a time such as *now*, *then*, *next week*, *last month*, and so on for interpreting most of the deictic expressions that the speakers have in their minds. Temporal in dexicals is expressed in time adverbials like *now*, *soon*, *lately*, *recently*, *ago*, *today*, *tomorrow*, and *yesterday* (Yule, 2008: 14). Cruise (2000: 321) also states that temporal deictics function to locate points or intervals on the time axis, using (ultimately) the moment of utterance as a reference point. There are thus three major divisions of the time axis: (i) before the moment of utterance, (ii) at the time of utterance, and (iii) after the time of utterance. The most basic temporal deictics in English are *now* and *then*. *In* some ways, *now* is a kind of temporal *here*, and displays the same capacity for indefinite extension.

Example:

It is raining *now*, but I hope when you read this, it will be sunny.

3. Research Method

The research has been conducted using the descriptive-qualitative method. Based on Creswell (2001: 20), the qualitative method is descriptive in the sense that it is

interested in process, meaning, and understanding gained through words or pictures. Thus, the writer uses this qualitative method in order to analyze the use of deixis in the song lyrics entitled *Goodbye (the saddest word)* by Celine Dion. The researchers used document analysis as the sketch in this study. Data gathered by listening to the song and reading the lyrics including the following steps:

1. Collecting the data usage for person deixis, spatial deixis and temporal deixis in song lyrics *Goodbye (the saddest word)* by Celine Dion.
2. Sorting, classifying and analyzing the data on the kinds of deixis.

There are some procedures in analyzing the data, they are:

1. Collecting data usage of deixis.
2. Identifying any classifying the data usage from person deixis, spatial deixis and temporal deixis .
3. Analyzing data usage of deixis.
4. Making the conclusion usage of deixis data.

4. Discussion

In this section, in the song lyrics entitled *Goodbye (the saddest word)* by Celine Dion, a number of deixis, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis, will be analyzed in depth. Each data analysis of the deixis kinds is presented below:

Data 1:

*Mamma
You gave life to me
Turned a baby into a lady
And, mamma
All you had to offer
Was the promise of a lifetime of love
Now I know
There is no other
Love like a mother's love for her child
And I know
A love so complete
Someday must leave
Must say, "goodbye"*

From the lyrics above, it can be concluded that the composer tells the listener about the great love of a mother for her child. A mother shows her love since the child lives in her womb. Therefore, the child thanks the mother for having a great life. From the lyrics, it can also be seen that the song writer uses the first person singular "I" as a child who thanks her mother for her greatest love. Besides, he also uses the second singular person, "you" to point out the mother who has given a life to her child. The deictic "now" is used to show that since that time, the child has understood how great her mother's love is to her.

Data 2:

*Goodbye's the saddest word I'll ever hear
Goodbye's the last time I will hold you near
Someday you'll say that word, and I will cry
It'll break my heart to hear you say, "goodbye"*

In the above lyrics, the deity "I" is used to indicate that the child herself tells her mother that she will feel sad when her mother leaves her. The deictic "my" in the song lyrics above is a form of possessive adjective referring to something belonging to her. The word "my" is one of the deictic expressions that points to something belonging to the song writer. "My" is applied by the song writer to indicate that the song uses the deictic expression possessive adjective.

Data 3:

*But the love you gave will always live
You'll always be there every time I fall
You are to me the greatest love of all
You take my weakness, and you make me strong
And I will always love you till forever comes
And when you need me
I'll be there for you, always
I'll be there, your whole life through
I'll be there, this I promise you, mamma*

From the lyrics above, it can be seen that the writer uses temporal deixis, which indicates the time. The deictic "there" is used to indicate that the child tells her mother that she will always be by her side whenever she needs her.

Data 4:

*I'll be your beacon through the darkest nights
I'll be the wings that guide your broken flight
I'll be your shelter through the raging storm
And I will love you till forever comes
Goodbye's the saddest word I'll ever hear
Goodbye's the last time I will hold you near
Someday you'll say that word, and I will cry
It'll break my heart to hear you say, "goodbye"
Till we meet again
Until then
Goodbye*

In the lyrics above, the deictic "I" is used to state that the child will be the beacon of her mother through the darkness of the night. She will be her mother's wing to guide her mother's life; she will be her mother's shelter through the raging storm; and she will love her mother till ever after.

The deitic "I" is also used to indicate that the child herself tells her mother that she will feel sad when her mother leaves her in this world. The deictic "my" in the song above is a form of possessive adjective referring to something belonging to her. The word "my" is one of the deictic expressions that points to something belonging to the song writer. "My" is applied by the song writer to indicate that the song uses the deictic expression of a possessive adjective.

The analysis of the deixis can be seen in the following table below:

| No | Lyrics | Types of Deixis | Meaning Deixis in Semantics |
|----|--|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Mamma, you gave life to me turned a baby into a lady | You, me (person deixis) | "you" as the second person has given life to "me" as the first person. |

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2 | And mamma, all you had to offer was the promise of a lifetime of love | You (person deixis) | “you” as the second person has offered many things for her lifetime as the promise of love. |
| 3 | Now I know, there is no other, love like a mother's love for her child | Now (temporal deixis) There (spatial deixis) I (person deixis) | “I” as the first person has known that there is no other love like her mother’s love |
| 4 | And I know, a love so complete, someday must leave, must say "goodbye" | I (person deixis) Someday (temporal deixis) | “I” as the first person knows her mother’s complete love, and knows that one day her mother must leave her. |
| 5 | Goodbye's the saddest word I'll ever hear | I (person deixis) | “I” as the first person has heard that “goodbye” is the saddest word. |
| 6 | Goodbye's the last time I will hold you near | I , you (person deixis) Last time (temporal) | “I” as the first person will say goodbye, and then hold her mother for the last time. |
| 7 | Someday you'll say that word, and I will cry | Someday (temporal deixis) You, I (person deixis) That (spatial deixis) | Someday “you” as the second person will say goodbye and “I” as the first person will cry. |
| 8 | It'll break my heart to hear you say, "goodbye" | It, my, You (person deixis) | When “you” as the second person says the word goodbye, “it” as the third person or the word goodbye will break “my” as the first person who is broken-hearted. |
| 9 | Mamma, you gave love to me turned a young one into a woman | You, Me (person deixis) | “you” as the second person gives love to “me” as the first person. |
| 10 | And mamma all I ever needed was a guarantee of you loving me | I, You, Me (person deixis) | “I” as the first person tells that the mother’s love is the guarantee from “you” as the second person who is loving her child, |
| 11 | Cause I know, there is no other, love like a mother's love for her child | I (person deixis) | “I” as the first person has known that there is no other love like her mother’s love |
| 12 | And it hurts so, that something so strong, someday will be gone, must say goodbye. | It (person deixis) That (spatial deixis) Someday (temporal deixis) | “it” as the third singular person will hurt the child very much because someday her mother must leave her. |
| 13 | But the love you gave will always live | You (person deixis) | “you” as the second person singular has given the love and it always live. |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 14 | You'll always be there every time I fall | You, I, (person deixis) There (spatial deixis) Every time (temporal deixis) | “you” as the second singular person always stays in the place of “I” as the first person every time |
| 15 | You are to me the greatest love of all | You, me (person deixis) | “you” as the second person becomes the greatest love for “me” as the first singular person. |
| 16 | You take my weakness, and you make me strong | You, my, You, me (person deixis) | “you” as the second person takes the weakness to the strong of “my” as the first person |
| 17 | And I will always love you till forever comes | I, You (person deixis) | “I” as the first person will always love “you” as the second person until forever come. |
| 18 | And when you need me | You (person deixis) | “you” as the second person needs “me” as the first person |
| 19 | I'll be there for you, always | I, You, (person deixis) there (spatial deixis) | “I” as the first person always stays beside “you” as the second person |
| 20 | I'll be there, your whole life through | I, your, (person deixis) there (spatial deixis) | “I” as the first person always stays beside “you” as the second person in a whole of life |
| 21 | I'll be there, this I promise you, mamma | I, I, (person deixis) there (spatial deixis) | “I” as the first person promises to always stay beside “you” as the second person |
| 22 | I'll be your beacon through the darkest nights | I, your, (person deixis) nights (temporal deixis) | “I” as the first person will be the beacon of “your” as the second person in the time of night. |
| 23 | I'll be the wings that guide your broken flight | I, your (person deixis) That (spatial) | “I” as the first person will be the wings of the broken flight for “your” as the second person. |
| 24 | I'll be your shelter through the raging storm | I, your (person deixis) | “I” as the first person will be the shelter through the raging storm of “you” as the second person. |
| 25 | And I will love you till forever comes | I, You (person deixis) | And “I” as the first person will love “you” as the second person until forever comes. |
| 26 | Till we meet again, until then goodbye. | We (person deixis) Then (temporal deixis) | “we” as the first person meets each other, then says goodbye. |

5. Conclusion

Three types of deixis, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis, are vividly reflected in the song lyrics entitled *Goodbye (the saddest word)* by Celine Dion. Person deixis has the function of finding the participant's role in the participant. Of the three types of deixis, person deixis is used more in the song lyrics by Celine Dion, namely the first person singular "I", and the second person singular "you". Spatial deixis, indicating the place between the speaker and the hearer, includes the locations "there" and "that". The temporal deixis used to point out the time of an event includes the adverb time, namely "now", "someday", "last time", "every time", "night" and "then". The researchers conclude that the deixis is useful to describe the functions of the person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis to analyze the song lyrics. The research results show that 47 person deixis, 8 spatial deixis, and 8 temporal deixis are found in the song lyrics. With the deixis, meaning can be analyzed semantically to know what the substantive meaning is and how the deixis usage affects the whole song's lyrics.

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