

## Deixis Analysis in Maher Zein's Song "For the Rest of My Life"

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**Abstract.** This research analyses the Deixis in Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life" to reveal the layers of meaning embedded within the lyrics. Deixis refers to language elements that indicate specific meaning within a given context. The study employs a descriptive qualitative methodology, focusing on the types of Deixis by Levinson used in the lyrics and the intended meaning conveyed through the song. The analysis identifies five types of Deixis: person, time, place, discourse, and social. The results show that the song predominantly utilizes person, place, and time deixis, emphasizing the singer's emotional connection and lifelong commitment. Additionally, discourse deixis fosters a direct relationship with the listener, while social Deixis underscores the singer's expressions of love and devotion towards specific individuals. In the cultural and religious context, the nuanced analysis reflects Islamic values of introspection, enduring commitment, interpersonal relationships, and love as a source of strength and unity.

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### INTRODUCTION

Music is a form of artistic expression that mirrors everyday life and deeply resonates with individuals on a personal level. Its influential nature stems from the seamless fusion of lyrics and melodies, providing an escape from tedium and sameness. Compared to other art forms such as films, music is characterized by its brevity, making it a convenient medium for individuals to engage with across various occasions. The act of listening to songs allows people to derive pleasure and undergo changes in mood, thereby making music an integral part of the human experience (Piragasam et al., 2013). Moreover, Music attains heightened significance when their lyrics skilfully convey desires, fantasies, motivations, or unconventional elements, serving as a conduit for social sentiments towards cultures that may otherwise remain inaccessible (Hidayah, 2019).

The interpretation of song lyrics is inherently subjective, depending on individual listeners' unique perspectives and experiences (Bulqis et al., 2023; Rokhmah & Santoso, 2022). Moreover, the impact of songs and their lyrics will vary among individuals, contingent on their distinct perceptions influenced by the cultural conventions they adhere to. This adaptability allows lyrics to encompass various ideologies or messages that vocalists aim to convey through their songs. Lyrics, functioning as a form of discourse, comprise meticulously selected words and phrases with profound significance. They serve as a channel for emotional expression, enabling musicians to articulate their own thoughts, emotions, and intentions to their audience. Through the lyrical content, listeners are transported to their own imagination, prompting self-reflection and evoking a spectrum of emotional reactions (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). Therefore, the examination of a

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singer's intentions and the conveyed meaning in a song falls within the scope of pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics concerned with the investigation of meaning and communication.

In the fields of pragmatics and linguistics, Deixis is a phenomenon in which words or phrases depend entirely on the surrounding context (Novianty & Jihad, 2018). As defined by Yule (1996), pragmatics delves into the examination of meaning as conveyed by a speaker or writer—in this case, the singer—and how the listener subsequently interprets it. As a scientific discipline, pragmatics examines the speaker's role in conveying meaning within the framework of a specific communication context. It emphasizes understanding the intended meaning behind the speaker's words, considering the listener's perspective, and exploring the impact of relational distance on the communication process. Communication entails the intricate process of comprehending the intended meaning of words and discerning the speaker's underlying intentions within utterances or sentences. This understanding depends on navigating the referential aspects embedded within the discourse.

Song development as mass communication was not spontaneous (Raj & Muniapan, 2012). To grasp the references made in an utterance, listeners must analyze and contextualize the various factors at play. Acquiring meaning is crucial to comprehending the speaker's purpose (Pangaribuan et al., 2015). Comprehending spoken language goes beyond grasping word meanings and grammatical structures; it entails considering the contextual usage of the language, as suggested by linguistic comprehension cues (Artelu et al., 2023). When considering songs, the allusions interwoven into the lyrics can be deconstructed and examined to unravel their intended meaning (Rizka et al., 2018).

Based on the explanations, it is apparent that music possesses inherent meaning. As societal development progresses and people become more inclined to speak up, music is an exceptional medium for educating people about specific issues. This study analyses the Deixis within Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life." The selection of this particular song aims to reveal the intricate layers of meaning embedded within the song. By deeply examining the song's lyrics, this study aims to identify the types of Deixis used and analyze the hidden meaning or value conveyed through the song.

The term "deixis" originates from the ancient Greek word meaning "showing or pointing" (Yule, 1996). It pertains to indicating or pointing towards specific elements within a given context. A word is considered Deixis when its reference is variable, depending on the speaker, the timing, and the location of the words being spoken. Deixis serves grammatical roles and highlights varying meanings of words, even when used similarly in different contexts (Dylgjeri & Kazazi, 2013). Deixis encompasses lexical and grammatical contextual information, allowing for references to entities, be it objects, places, times, social, or discourse. Deixis can be understood as an expression that relies on its context for interpretation. The context determines the meaning of both the sentence and the utterance (Niswa, 2021). It serves to indicate something and assists the listener in determining the identity of the speaker, the location referred to, and the timing of the utterance. By examining Deixis, one gains insights into how language adapts and relates to the specific circumstances in which it is used. Deixis itself has its types focusing on the discourse.

Deixis can be categorized as a distinct type of grammatical characteristic that involves commonly recognized grammatical classifications (Sasmita & Hardiah, 2018). There are five types of deixis analysis. Those are Person Deixis, Time Deixis, Place Deixis, Discourse Deixis, and Social Deixis. Levinson (1983) defines personal Deixis as the aspect of language that relates to the roles played by participants in a speech event, specifically indicating the individuals involved in the discourse. Personal Deixis encompasses three distinct categories:

1. First person. It refers to the speaker or the person speaking. It encompasses pronouns such as "I, me, myself, and mine" in the singular form, and "we, us, and our" in the plural form.
2. Second person. It refers to the person being addressed or the interlocutor. It includes pronouns such as "you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours."
3. Third person. This category pertains to individuals or entities distinct from the speaker and the addressee. Third-person singular pronouns include "he, she, him, himself, her, herself, and it," while third-person plural pronouns include "they and their." In essence, the third person refers to the individual or entity the speaker and the addressee are discussing.

Time deixis, as defined by Yule (1996), concerns the representation of time. It encompasses the incorporation of temporal position in connection to speaking. Deictic terms like "here, there, this, and that" indicate nearness or remoteness from the speaker in both spatial and temporal dimensions. Levinson (1983) defines place Deixis as denoting a person's or object's position. It encompasses the spatial reference to the participant's presence during the speech event. Deictic words such as "here, there, this, and that" directly indicate a place. The terms "here" and "this" indicate proximity to the speaker, while "there" and "that" denote a location further away from the speaker. Discourse deixis is the referencing within a text, which aids in understanding the intended meaning of an expression in relation to the surrounding context. Discourse deixis focuses on the part of the discourse from the reader's standpoint and encompasses words such as "this, that, there, next, last." (Levinson, 1983).

According to Levinson (1983), Social Deixi indicates the speaker's or writer's social status within a specific social context. It encompasses the expression of distinctions in social attributes between the speaker or writer and the addressee or reader concerning the discussed topic or reference.

This paper introduces an analytical framework focusing on the connections between Deixis and the song. It highlights the importance of understanding how the song relates to listeners, particularly in analyzing the Deixis and its potential meaning behind it. Additionally, it emphasizes the singer's message in the cultural and religious context. This close examination shows Islamic values like thinking deeply, staying dedicated, building relationships, and seeing love as a way to stay strong and united.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative methodology. Descriptive qualitative research is a method that focuses on words rather than numbers, and there is no statistical procedure (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2009). In this study, the researcher focuses on the song lyrics concerning contemporary feminism. In this study, we chose Maher Zein song as the data source. This study takes Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life".

The data collection process employed a systematic approach consisting of the following steps. First, the researcher listens attentively to the song to comprehensively understand the lyrics. Second, the researcher conducts an online search for the official lyrics script for each song. Third, using the Levinson Theory of Deixis as a framework, the researchers analyzed the data gathered from the lyrics script. We identified words and expressions that exhibited deictic elements and classified them based on the specific criteria outlined in Levinson's classification. The data was then examined following the Levinson theory, which encompasses the traditional categories of Deixis: person, place, time, discourse, and social (Levinson, 1983). Subsequently, the researcher interpreted and described the reference meanings of the deictic expressions, drawing upon the insights provided by the theory used.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher's objective in this study is to identify the types of Deixis used and analyze the intended meaning of Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life" using Levinson theory. Past research on deixis analysis (Bulqis et al., 2023; Rokhmah & Santoso, 2022) has revealed that Deixis in song lyrics mirrors the composer's emotions, conveyed through discourse analysis. It encodes contextual details within the language, connecting the content to the time, place, and speaker, thereby aiding listeners in understanding the song's narrative across the five types of Deixis.

As stated above, Deixis analyses are divided into five categories: person, time, place, social, and discourse. The total Deixis found after the analysis is 111, as depicted in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Deixis found in Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life".

NO	TYPES OF DEIXIS	TOTAL
1	Person	89
2	Time	9
3	Place	9
4	Social	1
5	Discourse	3

### 1. Person Deixis

Person deixis refers to language that indicates the participants in a speech event, such as the speaker, addressee, or the person spoken to, and the person who is neither speaker nor addressee. It is an essential aspect of language that helps establish an utterance's context and meaning. For example, the researcher found different total data for each song in the Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life" song, as described in the table below.

**Table 2.** Person Deixis Found in Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life"

No	Person Deixis			Total
	First Person	Second Person	Third Person	
1	I (37), My (20), Me (4), Myself (1)	You (23), Your (4),	-	89

The table illustrates that the song "For the Rest of My Life" contains a total of 89 instances of person deixis. An example of this is the lyric "I praise Allah for sending me you, my love," which encompasses two instances of person deixis "I" and "My". The first one being the second person deixis "I" referring to singer Maher Zein and functioning as the subject of a singular pronoun, while the second is the first-person deixis "my," referring the same as before and functioning as a singular possessive pronoun object. Additionally, another instance occurs in the lyric "but when it heals, it beats for you," where the third person deixis "it" refers to Selena's heart and acts as the object of a singular pronoun. Overall, the song effectively employs all three types of personal Deixis throughout its lyrics.

The lyrics contain instances of first-person Deixis, emphasizing the singer's personal experiences and emotions. Examples include "I praise Allah," "I feel so blessed," and "I'll be there for you." The abundant use of first-person Deixis in the lyrics signifies the singer's deep emotional connection and personal experiences. In Islamic tradition, personal expressions of devotion to Allah and personal love experiences are highly regarded. Therefore, Maher Zein's utilization of

pronouns such as "I," "me," and "my" emphasizes the individual's relationship with Allah and the profound love shared with the subject of the song. This personal Deixis demonstrates the singer's emotional involvement and evokes a sense of introspection and self-reflection within the listener. It encourages individuals to contemplate their spiritual connections and the depth of their relationships.

## 2. Time Deixis

Time or Temporal deixis is present in the lyrics, indicating the passage of time and the duration of the singer's commitment and love. The instances of time Deixis not only convey the passage of time but also evoke a sense of permanence, aligning with the song's themes of unwavering dedication and devotion.

**Table 3.** Time Deixis Found in Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life"

No	Time Deixis	Total
1	the end of my time	3
2	days and nights	3
3	Now and forever	3

The phrase "the end of my time" carries profound implications within the song's context. By referencing the concept of "end," Deixis alludes to the whole of the singer's existence. It signifies a commitment that spans a lifetime—a commitment that persists until the culmination of the singer's earthly journey. This phrase aligns with the Islamic concept of life as a finite and purposeful period, emphasizing the value of utilizing time for meaningful relationships and devotion.

The reference to "days and nights" underscores the continuity of the singer's emotions and commitment. This time Deixis encapsulates the cyclical nature of time, implying that the song's subject remains a constant presence in the singer's thoughts and feelings. The juxtaposition of "days" and "nights" reflects the entirety of the temporal experience, signifying a commitment that endures regardless of circumstances or changing phases of life.

The phrase "now and forever" encapsulates a timeless sentiment of everlasting love and devotion. This time, Deixis transcends the constraints of linear time, suggesting a commitment that exists beyond the confines of the present moment. "Now" signifies the immediacy of emotions and dedication, while "forever" extends the temporal horizon to eternity. This phrase resonates with the idea of eternal bonds in both human relationships and spiritual devotion.

The temporal Deixis employed in the lyrics plays a pivotal role in conveying the singer's unwavering commitment and dedication. The employed time deixis collectively underscores the timelessness of the singer's loyalty and love. The song describes a message of enduring devotion that transcends temporal limitations by referencing the entirety of life, the cyclical nature of time, and the concept of eternity. This temporal Deixis aligns with Islamic teachings that emphasize the significance of enduring relationships in the temporal world and the hereafter. It fosters a sense of timelessness and eternity within love and faith.

## 3. Place Deixis

The song includes limited instances of place Deixis, as the focus is more on personal and temporal aspects. There are no explicit references to specific locations or spatial relationships.

**Table 4.** Place Deixis Found in Maher Zein's song "For the Rest of My Life"

No	Place Deixis	Total
1	my heart	3
2	In front of me	1
3	in jannah	1
4	home	1
5	by your side	3

Though the instances of place Deixis are limited, their significance lies in their ability to evoke vivid imagery and emotional resonance. These instances invite listeners to connect the abstract sentiments of commitment and love with tangible and relatable physical spaces. Despite the absence of explicit references to specific locations or spatial relationships, the employed place deixis subtly enriches the emotional landscape of the song.

The phrase "my heart" functions as a place deixis that transcends the physical realm. It is a metaphorical space where the singer's emotions, devotion, and commitment are housed. This symbolic use of place deixis highlights the profound emotional investment and the sacred nature of the singer's feelings. The heart becomes the locus of love and devotion, aligning with the concept of spiritual connection and sincerity within Islamic teachings.

The instance "in front of me" introduces a spatial dimension to the song, albeit abstractly. While not specifying a physical location, this place deixis invites listeners to imagine a presence that is visually accessible and emotionally present. It underscores the idea that the song's subject is not distant or elusive but rather within reach, fostering a sense of intimacy and closeness.

The phrase "in jannah" incorporates a specific Islamic concept with deep spiritual and cultural significance. "Jannah" refers to paradise in Islam, signifying a realm of ultimate bliss and reward in the hereafter. By referencing this place, Deixis, the song aligns with Islamic teachings about eternal rewards and unity in the afterlife. This choice of place Deixis underscores the transcendence of the singer's commitment beyond the temporal world.

The word "home" conveys a sense of security, belonging, and comfort. While not elaborated upon in the lyrics, this place deixis alludes to a shared space where the singer and the song's subject find solace and togetherness. It symbolizes a sanctuary where the emotional bond thrives, resonating with a harmonious domestic environment.

This place Deixis encapsulates both physical and emotional closeness. While it can be interpreted literally as physical proximity, it also carries a metaphorical weight. "By your side" signifies a commitment to standing by the subject's emotional journey, offering support and companionship. It echoes the Islamic value of being there for one another in need and sharing life's experiences.

The place Deixis used in "For the Rest of My Life" adds nuance and emotional resonance to the song's themes of commitment and love. These instances invite listeners to engage with the song more profoundly by visualizing the emotional spaces and connections that transcend physical boundaries. The subtle yet impactful use of place Deixis contributes to the holistic experience of the song, inviting listeners to contemplate the interplay of personal, temporal, and spatial dimensions within the context of devotion and unity.

#### 4. Discourse Deixis

The lyrics contain instances of discourse deixis, referring to elements within the text and establishing connections between the singer and the listener. The indications of discourse deixis can be found in this lyric:

### **Datum 1**

"You've found your home, it's here with me"

It in the lyric above is indicated as Discourse Deixis. It is a type of pronoun to represent a particular person and thing. This Maher Zein song "For the Rest of My Life" refers to a place where the wife can go home in the singer's soul. The music tends to describe how the husband or the singer is the only destination where the wife could grant home and Allah.

### **Datum 2**

"I know it deep in my heart"

It in this lyric persuades how the singer's behaviour towards his wife. As we can see, the lyrics emphasize that, to begin with, the singer should provide his wife with love for the rest of her life, as indicated "Days and Night". The singer tries to convey his devotion towards his wife and accompany her in every condition.

The use of discourse deixis in the lyrics fosters a profound connection between the singer and the listener, creating an intimate and shared emotional experience. Maher Zein's strategic employment of these discourse markers aims to elicit an emotional response and promote a collective journey of introspection and gratitude. Using discourse deixis, the singer invites the listener to reflect on their experiences and emotions, strengthening the connection to the song's message.

## **5. Social Deixis**

The lyrics incorporate social Deixis, reflecting the singer's expressions of love and commitment towards a specific person. The references to "my love," "my wife," and "my friend" indicate a relational social deixis, highlighting the singer's connections and roles. The relational social Deixis employed in the lyrics reflects Maher Zein's expressions of love, devotion, and gratitude towards a specific person. The references to "my love," "my wife," and "my friend" not only indicate the singer's deep appreciation for these relationships but also exemplify the importance of companionship, support, and respect within Islamic teachings. Social Deixis highlights the significance of mutual care and respect within interpersonal connections, aligning with Islamic principles of family values and the notion of love as a source of strength and unity. Maher Zein's intentional use of social Deixis reinforces the idea that love and devotion are personal and embedded within the social fabric of relationships.

## **CONCLUSION**

The deixis analysis of Maher Zein's "For the Rest of My Life" provides valuable insights into the pragmatic aspects of the lyrics, highlighting the interplay between personal, temporal, discourse, and social Deixis. The analysis reveals how the singer effectively employs Deixis to convey his emotions, establish connections with the listener, and express deeply held religious and social values. Maher Zein creates a powerful emotional experience that resonates with listeners while encapsulating cultural and religious principles of love, devotion, and lifelong commitment through this song. In the cultural and religious context, a nuanced deixis analysis of "For the Rest of My Life" reveals the interplay of personal emotions, temporal references, discourse connections, and relational social dynamics. The personal Deixis reflects the value placed on introspection and self-reflection within Islamic teachings, promoting an individual's spiritual journey. The time deixis aligns with the belief in enduring commitments and eternal love,

underscoring the temporal dimension of faith and devotion. Discourse deixis establishes a direct and intimate connection between the singer and the listener, fostering an emotional bond and shared experience. Lastly, social Deixis emphasizes the importance of mutual respect, support, and unity within interpersonal relationships, resonating with cultural and religious values.

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