



PAPER – OPEN ACCESS

An Analysis of Reference on Putri Ariani's Song Lyric "Loneliness"

Author : Mahriyuni Mahriyuni et al
DOI : 10.32734/lwsa.v7i2.2093
Electronic ISSN : 2654-7066
Print ISSN : 2654-7058

Volume 7 Issue 2 – 2022 TALENTA Conference Series: Local Wisdom, Social, and Arts (LWSA)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).
Published under licence by TALENTA Publisher, Universitas Sumatera Utara



An Analysis of Reference on Putri Ariani's Song Lyric "Loneliness"

Mahriyuni Mahriyuni*, Dindasari Sidabalok, Winda Ayuanda

Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

yuni.mahri@yahoo.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to make a description of the existence of reference and context contained in lyric of the song entitled "Loneliness" by Putri Ariani. This research is a type of qualitative research. The data source of this research is a song lyric which is obtained from digital media named Spotify – a kind of music application, while the data is limited from quotes of lyric which are containing elements of reference and context to be analysed. The data collection technique was carried out through literature study on a variety of written resources. Apart from that, in collecting data, researchers also used repeated reading and listening techniques, in order to gain an understanding of the whole song lyric meaning. The result of the research shows that in the song lyric, there are 11 forms of reference and context which have meanings that are interconnected with one another.

Keywords: reference; context; song lyric

Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan keberadaan referensi dan konteks yang terkandung dalam lirik lagu berjudul "Kesepian" karya Putri Ariani. Penelitian ini merupakan jenis penelitian kualitatif. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah lirik lagu yang diperoleh dari media digital bernama Spotify – sejenis aplikasi musik, sedangkan datanya dibatasi dari kutipan lirik yang mengandung unsur referensi dan konteks untuk dianalisis. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui studi literatur pada berbagai sumber tertulis. Selain itu dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti juga menggunakan teknik membaca dan mendengarkan berulang-ulang, guna memperoleh pemahaman terhadap makna lirik lagu secara keseluruhan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam lirik lagu terdapat 11 bentuk acuan dan konteks yang mempunyai makna yang saling berhubungan satu sama lain.

Kata Kunci: referensi; konteks; lirik lagu

1. Introduction

Music is a combination of lyrics and instruments. Music and song are things that will always live in human's life. The reason is because music can be used by someone to express their feelings. In addition, music does not look at the status and age of the audience. For example, a singer who has recently gone viral, namely Putri Ariani, who received a golden buzzer – an award – in the prestigious talent search event named America's Got Talent. She got the world's attention with her singing skill and musical qualities. Despite her limitation, she managed to make everyone admire her. Uniquely, the song that was performed at the event was her original song.

Ariani Nisma Putri or better known as Putri Ariani is a young blind musician who was born on December 31, 2005. She started her career in the entertainment world in 2014. Despite her limitations, Putri has never stopped developing her talent, as can be seen from her career path in music industry. Based on these things, the writers interested in knowing what experiences and feelings do Putri Ariani wants to convey as a musician who is still very young through the song lyric. In this case, the researchers will examine the reference and context contained in the lyric of the song.

The discussion of reference and context is part of pragmatics. When we speak, the symbolism we used is partly caused by the references we make and partly by social and psychological factors which is the purposes for which we make the references, the proposed effect of our symbols on others, and our own attitudes. When we hear what the speaker is saying, the symbols cause us to take actions of reference and assume attitudes that are more or less similar to the actions and attitudes of the speaker. (Ogden & Richards, 1923, pp. 10-11).

Reference is what speakers or writers do when they use expressions to select a particular person, thing, time, place, event or idea. Reference is a pragmatic action taken by senders and interpreted by taking into account the context by listeners. (Griffiths, 2006, pp. 13-14).

The meaning of reference is the meaning of language elements that are very closely related to the outside world (objects or ideas), and which can be explained by component analysis (Kridalaksana, 1984, p. 120). The referential meaning is the meaning that is directly related to the reference secured by the lexeme. First, we need to understand the meaning of reference. Referent is a reality that is segmented and is the focus of the symbol. The referent is a language element designated by the language element. Referential meaning tells us about the meaning that directly refers to something, it can be a real object, event, process, symptom, feature, and so on. If we say 'mountain', then this symbol refers to a very large hill (usually more than 600m high) in which there is hot lava (for those who are still active) or no longer emitting lava (for those who are dead). We relate the lexeme 'mountain' directly to its referent.

According to Yule (1996), reference is an act in which the speaker or writer uses linguistic forms to enable the listener or reader to identify something. These linguistic forms are referring expressions. Referring expression is any expression used in speech to refer to something or someone. The choice of expression depends on what the speaker thinks the listener already knows.

There are two types of references according to Halliday (cited from Sulstonov, 2021, p 201), there are exophoric and endophoric reference. Exophoric reference points to something that is outside that text and usually familiar to the receiver because of the familiarity of certain situation, on the other hand, endophoric reference indicates something strictly from the text, or as the linguist states, it means that the identity presumed by the reference item is recoverable from within the text itself. Endophoric reference can vary in kind, i.e. it can be anaphoric or cataphoric. Anaphora defines a situation in text when the sender refers to something that has already been introduced. Cataphora is the opposite of anaphora, it referred to something that comes before the initial introduction.

Moeliono (1990, p. 458) defined context as a situation that has something to do with an event. The relationship can add clarity of meaning. Schiffrin (1994, p. 383) states that it is difficult to define context, because context is related to many things from the text which is related to the meaning of the situational background of an expression. While Brown (1985) concluded that context refers to the environment and circumstances that use language in it, in (Maujud & Sultan, 2019).

The elements formed the context according to Hymes (in Wibisono et al., 2016) are that the discourse context is formed by various elements, such as situation, speaker, listener, time, place, scene, topic, event, forms, mandates, codes, and channels. Whereas Halliday and Hasan (1985) stated that there are three elements that need to be considered in the context of the situation, (1) the text field; This element includes games and types of activities, as known in culture, which are partly played by language to predict meaning and experience; (2) text binding; This element includes players and actors or rather the role of interaction between those involved in the creation of texts to estimate the meaning between participants; and (3) the mode/means of the text; refers to the part of the language being played in the situation, including the selected channel whether spoken or written. Alwi et al. (2000) also stated that in order to interpret a text, the analyser must relate it to aspects of the context. Because context includes various elements such as situation, speaker, time, place, scene, topic, event, form of message, code, and tool.

Moreover, Saifudin (2018) divides context into two types: linguistic and non-linguistic contexts. Linguistic context is a reference obtained from a text or utterance that has been previously spoken. The non-linguistic type of context concerns a wider range of references because the reference can be anything other than the language in which the text occurs. The types of non-linguistic contexts are physical contexts, psychological contexts, social contexts, and shared knowledge contexts.

The physical context relates to where the communication takes place, the existing object and what activities occur. In other words, the physical context is a reference that can be directly perceived by the human senses because it is present around the narrative. The psychological context relates to the feeling conditions of the participants when speech is used in communication. Feelings of happiness, joy, anger, disappointment, and sadness will affect the speech spoken. Knowledge of the psychological condition of the speech participants is very important to have in order to understand, explain, and predict speech. The social context is related to the social attributes of the speech participants and the setting of the speech (formality). The choice of language or register is based on reference's relation to the vertical (low status) and horizontal (level of familiarity) of the speech participants, as well as formality. The first two things are the consideration of who is speaking, who is invited to speak, who is present, and who the activity doer is. Then the formality (related to procedures and regulations) is the consideration of the place of events, and the topic of speech. The context of shared knowledge – by Stalnaker (2002) is called a common ground or shared knowledge background – is the essence of context in pragmatics. This context is obtained through experience which is then stored in the human mind (memory). Through this experience, speakers can make speeches that can be understood by their speech partners.

There are many previous studies which have conducted analysis of song lyrics, including research from Wibowo et al. (2019) found that some of the character values in Ebiet G Ade's song lyrics are character values in relation to God; Religious. Character values in relation to yourself: Hard Work, Discipline, Responsibility, Independent and Curiosity. Character values in relation to people: Friendly/communicative. Character values in relation to the environment: Care for the Environment and Care for the social. Then Kakiay and Maitimu (2021) explained that the two songs analysed (Bad Guy & When the Party's Over from Billie Eilish) have the same theme and use deixis to make it easier to describe personal functions, pronouns, time, location, and lexical features. Also, it helps a lot to catch the meaning of the reference which includes who, where, and when the lyrics tell the story.

2. Method

This research was a type of qualitative research. The data source for this research has been determined and limited to the lyric of the song "Loneliness" sung and composed by Putri Ariani herself. The research data was limited to quotes of lyric which were containing elements of reference to be analysed. The lyric text was accessed from a digital media resource, namely the "Spotify" music application. The data collection technique was carried out through literature study on a variety of written resources. The data collection technique in this research was the technique of repeatedly listening and reading to the song lyrics. So, we can find one element of the song lyrics that has a referential meaning. The element can refer to something that has been mentioned previously, which is written in a different form but has the same meaning. Then the data was being grouped so it can be analyzed. Meanwhile, in data analysis, the referential matching technique was used as proposed by Sudariyanto (in Rachmatika & Indrawati, 2020). This technique is a language analysis technique using reality outside the language referred to by the language. For example, to state the equivalent of the word 'table', it must refer to the shape and characteristics of the table in the real world. At the data analysis stage, researchers first sorted the data that can be used, then analysed it using the established theory. After all the data has been analysed, the results were presented in the form of a descriptive description. With the aim that readers can understand the contents of this paper more easily.

3. Results

Loneliness song lyric in general can be interpreted as a song that talks about the broken heart feeling by a woman. This can be seen from the fragment of the lyric which says:

"you break my heart, break my hope"

"make me so down in a loneliness"

From the results of the analysis carried out, in the lyric of the song Loneliness there are 11 references which have different types. The lyric quotes that have references in the song lyric can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Types of references.

No.	Type of reference	Words containing references
1	Cataphoric	<i>your, I remember when we were still o</i>
2	Cataphoric	<i>love</i>
3	Anaphoric	<i>someone</i>
4	Cataphoric	<i>her, I know</i>
5	Exophoric	<i>hope</i>
6	Exophoric	<i>scene</i>
7	Cataphoric	<i>prince</i>
8	Exophoric	<i>pink, blue</i>
9	Exophoric	<i>all things that we have written</i>
10	Cataphoric	<i>flower, beautiful</i>
11	Cataphoric	<i>wrong</i>

From the 11 lyric fragments previously described in Table 1, the following is a discussion of the references and contexts of each lyric quote.

1. "Your laugh, your voice, and your bright eyes"

In this lyric, the main focus is the word 'your'. The word 'your' in the lyric has reference or refers to a man who is her lover. If seen from the previous sentence which sounds, 'I remember when we were still one' (I remember when we were still together), it can be seen the context which states that they are in a relationship. So it can be understood that this story states a situation between two lovers.

2. "We're together in this love"

In the lyric, the word that becomes the main focus of the analysis is the word 'love'. The word 'love' in the lyric refers to the form of relationship that exists between the woman and the man. Love can basically be interpreted as a bond. It can be to parents, siblings, friends and others. This is also reinforced by the word 'together' which exists in the middle of the lyric. However, based on the context of shared experience, it can be understood that the word 'love' is understood as a reference to a relationship. This clarifies the context of their relationship which is based on love.

3. “Cause you find someone better”

In this section, the main focus of the analysis is found in the word ‘someone’. The word ‘someone’ in this lyric is a form of reference to “another” woman. This can be seen from the context of the situation where this song is sung by a woman to her partner. So that it can be ascertained that the referral is for other people who have something in common with the singer (gender similarity).

4. “You are in that way with her, and one thing I know”

In this part of the lyric, the main highlight is the reference to the word ‘her’. ‘Her’ is the third person singular form of the pronoun. So it can be understood that this word refers to a woman who is an affair with her lover. Furthermore, the ‘I know’ clause in the lyric refers to the lover's own affair. The context of the situation that occurs is when the woman sees her lover with another woman. Then later he finds out the truth that his lover is having an affair.

5. “You break my heart, break my hope”

In this part of lyric, as a whole it can be understood to refer to feelings of heartbroken and disappointment. The word ‘hope’ has a feeling context full of expectations or estimates that really want to be realized. In general, when someone's hopes are destroyed, then usually he will feel disappointed. So that it can be understood that this part of lyric refers to a disappointment.

6. “Thought you are my best scene”

In this part of the lyric, the highlight of the word that becomes the material for analysis is the word ‘scene’. The word ‘scene’ in the lyric refers to a place. In English, the word ‘scene’ itself can mean scenery, scenes and places. However, in the context of this song, the most appropriate reference to refer to this word is place. If a meaning is drawn, it can be interpreted that the woman feels that her lover is the most comfortable and best place for her.

7. “Being my prince, but I was wrong”

In this part of the lyric, the highlight of the analysis is focused on the word ‘prince’. The word ‘prince’ in the lyric can be understood to refer to a partner. When seen in context, usually the word ‘prince’ is always paired with a princess. So an understanding can be drawn that the word prince in this lyric refers to or has references to a partner.

8. “Baby, you change a pink into the blue”

Overall, the lyric highlight references to the words ‘pink and blue’. The word ‘pink’ in the context of shared understanding can be interpreted as a heart. So that it can be said that this word refers to the feeling of love, because in general, the symbol or icon of the heart is usually used by people to express feelings of love. Then the word ‘blue’ refers to sadness. The context can be seen that when rain will come, the sky and its surroundings will turn blue, while rain in the shared understanding can be understood as crying or sadness.

9. "And what does it mean all the things that we have written"

The analysis of the references to the lyric when viewed as a whole refers to or intends to express a memory. This can be seen from the fragment 'all things that we have written' (all the things that we have carved). The word already in the lyric can be interpreted as something that has passed, coupled with an understanding of the context of this song as a whole, it can be said that these lyrics refer to a memory. The woman finally realized that all these memories meant nothing to her lover.

10. "Perfect definition of sadly flower"

In this lyric fragment, the focus of analysis is directed at the word 'flower'. In this section, there is a confusion to determine the reference of this lyric fragment. The word 'flower' in the concept of mutual understanding can be understood as a parable of a love or it could be a girl. Flowers are synonymous with beauty, so the adjective 'beautiful' in them can be a metaphor for love or a girl who also has beautiful value. However, when referring to the previous lyric which sound, 'the great conversation and a beautiful flower' it can be interpreted that this context occurred because of an act, thus it is indicating a result or consequence. Hence it can be determined that this word refers to the feeling of love which ultimately causes the woman to be crushed and her heart broken.

11. "I was wrong"

The focus of the analysis on this lyric focuses on the part of the word 'wrong'. The word wrong in this lyric refers to the verb to love the lover. When viewed in the context of the previous lyric, it can be seen that the woman feels disappointed and regretful, so in the lyric she says that she feels guilty for loving her lover too much.

4. Conclusions

From the analysis of the results of the discussion above, the writers can conclude that there are 11 quotes of song lyric that contain references. Those references refer to people, relationships, feelings, places, love, grief, and the past. The context of the song lyric contains the heartbreak felt by a woman after the departure of her lover.

As a recommendation, future researchers can look at the use of reference and context analysis in comparing two or more different songs to find out the implied meaning of the lyrics of the songs. In addition, other objects can also be used such as advertisements, jargon, or poetry. The authors of this article hope that this article can become an enrichment reference for future researchers in analysing references and contexts using a pragmatic approach.

References

- [1] Alwi, H., Moeliono, A. M., Lapoliwa, H., & Dardjowidjojo, S. (2000). *Tata bahasa baku bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- [2] Griffiths, P. (2006). *An introduction to English semantics and pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- [3] Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1985). *Language, context, and text: Aspects of language in social-semiotic perspective*. Melbourne: Deakin University.
- [4] Kakiay, T. W., & Maitimu, L. S. (2021). A pragmatic analysis of deixis and reference on Billie Eilish Songs: Bad Guy & When the Party's Over. *Journal of Applied Linguistics, Literature and Culture*, Vol. 1(2), <https://doi.org/10.30598/huele.v1.i2>
- [5] Kridalaksana, H. (1984). *Kamus linguistik*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- [6] Maujud, F., & Sultan, S. (2019). *Pragmatik: Teori dan analisis makna konteks dalam bahasa*. Mataram: Sanabi.
- [7] Moeliono, A. (1990). *Kamus besar bahasa Indonesia*. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.
- [8] Ogden, C. K., & Richards, I. A. (1923). *The meaning of meaning*. New York: Harvest Book.
- [9] Rachmatika, A. D. & Indrawati, D. (2020). Implikatur percakapan antartokoh dalam film-film karya Ernest Prakasa. *Jurnal Bapala*, Vol. 7(2), 1-11.
- [10] Saifudin, A. (2018). Konteks dalam studi linguistik pragmatik. *Jurnal Bahasa Sastra dan Budaya*, Vol. 14(2), 108-117. <https://doi.org/10.33633/lite.v14i2.2323>
- [11] Sciffirin, D. (1994). *Approaches to discourse analysis*. London: Blackwell Publisher.
- [12] Stalnaker, R. C. (2002). Common ground. *Linguistics and Philosophy*, Vol. 25, 701-721. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1020867916902>
- [13] Sulstonov, K., & Numonova, Z. (2021). The analyses of reference in discourse and its main types. *European Scholar Journal*, Vol. 2(4), 200-202.

- [14] Sutomo, J. (2015). Konteks, referensi, dan makna: Kajian semantik. *Dinamika Bahasa dan Budaya*, Vol. 10(2), 26-34. <https://doi.org/10.35315/bb.v10i2.3748>
- [15] Wibisono, L. K., Maharani, R., & Trahutami, S. (2016). Kontek dan referensi wacana iklan Ajinomoto versi bahasa Jepang. *Jurnal Japanese Literature*, Vol. 2(1), 1-12.
- [16] Wibowo, A. S., Harmanto, H., & Jacky, M. (2019). Analysis of lyrics values Ebiet G. Ade's song as a source of character education. *The Indonesian Journal of Social Studies*, Vol. 2(1), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.26740/ijss.v2n1.p1-10>
- [17] Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.