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A deixis study on the songs of Hillsong Worship in the Cornerstone (live) album

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine deixis in the song lyrics and explain the meaning of deixis in the Cornerstone (Live) album songs. The Cornerstone (Live) album by Hillsong Worship has thirteen songs and, in this study, four songs which are "Cornerstone", "Greater Than All", "Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)", and "Endless Light" will be discussed. The listeners might find difficulties understanding the meaning of song lyrics. That is why the researchers interprets the meaning of song lyrics through deixis. The result revealed that "Cornerstone and Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)" have five types of deixis namely person deixis time, deixis, place deixis discourse deixis, and social deixis. Meanwhile, "Greater Than All" and "Endless Light" only have four types of deixis. In addition, "Greater Than All" does not have place deixis and "Endless Light" does not have discourse deixis. Person deixis, time deixis, and social deixis are the types of deixis always existed in every song. Person deixis such as my, I, he and you is used to refer the speaker as subject and second person as well as third person is used to refer the object of the speaker. Time deixis such as now indicate the present time when the utterance happens. Place deixis such as come and at the cross give the location where the story of song happens. Discourse deixis such as and used to connect the previous and latest discourse. Social deixis like God is indicates the social status or relationship between the speaker and the object of the speaker.

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1. Introduction

In our human existence, we encounter various challenges and complexities in our daily lives. A method frequently employed to confront these challenges is through the auditory experience of music in the form of a song. A song, as defined by Cambridge University Press (n.d.), is a concise musical composition featuring lyrical content that is vocalized. Distinguished as one of the most ubiquitous artistic expressions, songs encompass a profound cultural diversity, drawing upon a myriad of languages from across the globe. Typically, these melodic pieces are accompanied by a musical instrument, skilfully played by the artist or musician. The amalgamation of rhythmic patterns and musical

notes produced by the instrument intertwines harmoniously with the vocalized lyrics. It is noteworthy that a song can also be rendered acapella, sans instrumental accompaniment.

In relation to every song, there is a story about why it was written. The song writer writes out their thoughts, feelings, and experience or even express the situation around them. In brief, a song is one way to express a song writer's emotions. The history of the development of song starts in prehistoric. In the past song normally is used as an accompaniment for rituals and religious ceremonies. In its development, song is used not only to communicate, educate, express, do business, but also to entertain. For instance, songs for religious ceremonies can not easily found in Catholic and Christian churches but also in all religion. The first song in the world is "Hymn to Creation", which exists four thousand years ago, and has a duration of nine minutes (Komalasari, 2022). The process to make a song has changed as well as the lyrics of song from love, friendship, sex, and life to freedom.

When the song writer chooses a title or a topic of the song, the song writer will write the lyrics that is related to the title or the topic. As we know, when the song writer writes the song lyrics it is not easy to understand the meaning of lyric. There are two forms of lyrics. The first form is direct, where we can understand the meaning right away. However, a problem occurs when the lyrics are indirect form. In common, the listeners might have different understanding of the connotation of the song. In understanding the connotation of the lyrics, an individual should have semantic and pragmatic skills. Semantic is focusing on the meaning in language Heasley et al. (2007). On other hand, pragmatics is the knowledge that studies the relationship between the language and context as basic clarification language understanding (Levinson, 1983). In pragmatic, there is a discussion about deixis. The following discussion is about deixis.

Nevertheless, not every word in text or sentence could be interpreted if we do not know the speakers' context. It is hard to understand a text or a sentence in English if we do not comprehend the speaker's context and the references. As a result, in order to comprehend the meaning, we must be able to discern the meaning of each word. Deixis can currently be utilized to tackle that problem. In writing lyrics, a lot of song writers will use deixis since it expresses the song writer's feeling. According to Lyons (1977) as citied in Rahmadany and Husein (2021) deixis is the study of interpreting the relationship of a situation with words, phrases, and elements expressed in a sentence. The use of deixis can be found easily in English songs, especially of Hillsong Worship *Cornerstone (Live)* album such as rising sun, and from the highest throne. Those examples above are just a few of the deixis the writer found in one song.

Furthermore, similar study on this topic has been found. Sitorus and Herman (2019) found in Calum Scott You Are the Reason song, that there are three types of deixis found in this song lyrics. Moreover, Nasution et al. (2018) found five types of deixis in the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album. Thus, the researchers choose to discuss this topic because there is still a little bit of discussion about deixis analysis in worship song. The subject of this discussion will be a novelty in this final report. In addition, the researchers also discuss the meaning of deixis to understand deixis in the song. As a matter of fact, songs can be the representations of the artist's feelings such as love, admiration, gratitude, and trouble. Those feelings become a way to communicate to listeners beautifully. Contrastively, the listener commonly finds difficulty not only in determining but also understanding the meaning of deixis in the song.

Based on the abovementioned reasons, this study aims to explain the meaning of deixis used in *Cornerstone (Live)* album songs namely, *Cornerstone, Greater Than All, Beneath The Waters (I Will Rise)*, and *Endless Light*.

2. Method

For the research purposes, the writers choose four songs from the album to analyze. These songs include the following: *Cornerstone – Live, Greater Than All – Live, Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) – Live,* and *Endless Light – Live.* The writers only choose these four songs because the rest song does not have a lot of deixis types found in the lyrics.

In common, deixis is a subbranches from pragmatics that studies how to interpret the meaning of the usage of words and phrases that refer to person, time, place, discourse, and social. Deixis is a word whose referent varies or is not fixed (Winarsih et al., 2021). Many experts state their concept about deixis. There are four linguists state their theory about deixis. First, based on Cruse (2006) deixis or deictic expressions are referring communications that indicate the location of referents, using the utterer as a reference point. Then Yule (1996) defines deixis as Greek term which means "pointing" through language. As stated by Levinson (1983) deixis is the way language encrypts or grammaticalizes utterance and depends on the analysis of utterance context. Heasley et al. (2007) states deixis take meaning from the context utterance which is used.

3. Results and discussion (This part is excluded for the non-research articles)

3.1. Deixis in Cornerstone – Live

Cornerstone is a song about how Jesus is the foundation and the center of believers' faith. *Cornerstone* is also the title track of the album. In *Cornerstone* song, consist of five types of deixis which are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

Person Deixis in Cornerstone - Live

Person deixis is used to identify of the role a participant in which the speaker uttered. Pronouns are used to encode the information of a person deixis. There are four-person deixis in this song such as My, I, Him, and He. The quotations below shows the person deixis in *Cornerstone* song:

My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus blood and righteousness

I dare not trust the sweetest frame

(First stanza, lines 1-3)

The word my is used by the speaker to imply that they are related to or that anything belongs to them (Longman, 1995). My is classified as singular pronoun and possessive form of I. In that line, My is classified as person deixis that refers to speaker as the subject. My is referring to who sings the song.

When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale (Third stanza, lines 1-3)

The word his is referring to anything that has previously been mentioned that belongs with or relates to a man, lad, or male animal (Longman, 1995). His is not only a third person pronoun in singular form but possessive form of he as well. His in the line quoted is relevant as person deixis which refers to the subject matter of the speaker. His point out to Jesus.

Time deixis in Cornerstone - Live

The use of time deixis in linguistics is to point out to in a specific time when the speech is handed down by the speaker. There are two time deixis in this song namely when and through. The quotation below shows the time deixis in *Cornerstone* song:

When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in Him be found Dressed in His righteousness alone (Fifth stanza, lines 1-3)

The word when is included in the adverb that shows indication of time (Longman, 1995). The word when on the line is time deixis because it shows the indicates the time signal that it was the present moment at the time of utterance.

Place deixis in Cornerstone – Live

Place deixis is used to refer to the location when the speech was uttered by the speaker. There are two place deixis that is found in this song. Those two place deixis are come and stand before the throne. The quotation below shows the place deixis in *Cornerstone* song:

When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in Him be found Dressed in His righteousness alone (Fifth stanza, lines 1-3)

The word come is to approach the speaker or reach the location where the speaker is (Longman, 1995). Come in that line quoted is place deixis as the verb motion that is shows the indication move closer to the speaker.

Discourse deixis in Cornerstone - Live

Discourse deixis is referring to the correlation between the prior discourse and latest discourse. The writer finds two discourse deixis which are but and and. The quotation below shows the discourse deixis in *Cornerstone* song:

When darkness seems to hide His face

I rest on His unchanging grace

In every high and stormy gale

(Third stanza, lines 1-3)

The word and is a conjunction which the usage is used to connect two words, phrases, sentences, or statements that are related (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). In this song lyrics the word and do not use that often. In that lyric shown, the word and is discourse deixis because it is indicating the addition of prior discourse.

Social deixis in Cornerstone – Live

Social deixis is a deixis expression that is used to shows the closeness and social status between people in a discourse. The writer finds four social deixis in this song. The four social deixis are Lord, Jesus, Christ, and Savior. The quotations below shows the social deixis in *Cornerstone* song:

But wholly trust in Jesus name My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness (First stanza, lines 4-6)

The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew Yeshua. It means "the Lord is salvation" or "the Lord saves". The instruction given to Joseph by the angel is found in Matthew 1:20–21. Mary would give birth to a son. The angel said and Mary and Joseph were informed: "to give Him the name Jesus because He will save human from their sins" (Glorify, 2022). Additionally, (Longman, 1995) defines Jesus is the man whose life and teachings form the foundation of Christianity and who is regarded by Christians as the son of God. Jesus in this lyric is social deixis which shows as informal name. Jesus in this lyric refers to son of God.

Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord Lord of all (Second stanza, line 2-4) The word Lord is a title for a man who has a specially high rank social status (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). Furthermore, in Christian religion Lord is known as God or Jesus Christ. The word Lord is social deixis because it shows honorific or polite respect. Lord in this lyric refers to God.

In brief, the writer found all five types of deixis. In *Cornerstone* song, there are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis. The following is a list of the deixis types used in this song. The listeners can take a glance at the table below to be able to determine which deixis types are used throughout the song.

 Table 2.2 Deixis in Cornerstone

Person deixis	Place deixis	Time deixis	Social deixis	Discourse deixis
My, I, His, He	Come, stand before the throne	When, through	Lord, Jesus, Christ, savior.	And, but.

3.2. Deixis in Greater Than All - Live

Greater Than All is a song that talks about exalts the glory, authority, and sovereignty of God. It is highlighting the limitlessness of God and all the praise is toward to God's name. In this song, there are four types of deixis which are person deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis.

Person deixis in Greater Than All - Live

Person deixis is used to identify the role of a participant in which the speaker uttered. Pronouns are used to encode the information of a person deixis. There are four-person deixis in this song such as We, You, Your, and Our. The quotations below show the person deixis in *Greater Than All* song:

Our God Our God has done great things Our God is greater than all (Third stanza, lines 1-3)

The word our is possessive determiners form of we. Possessive determiner is used to show that the noun we mentioned after belongs to or is connected with us (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). Our is not only classified as a plural pronoun but also a first-person pronoun as well. In that line, our is person deixis which refers to the speaker as the subject. Our is refer to who sing this song.

The promise of wonders to come You are the Author God You complete it all (Fourth stanza, lines 2-4) The word you are used to referring to the people or person that are being spoken or written to (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). You are classified as second person pronoun and singular or plural form. In that lyric, you are person deixis which refers to the object of the speaker. You refer to God.

Time deixis in Greater Than All – Live

Time deixis is a deixis expression that is used to indicate a time when the speech happened. There is one time deixis in this song. Time deixis in this song is forever. The quotation below shows the time deixis in *Greater Than All* song:

All of the praise Unto Your Name Forever (Sixth stanza, lines 4-6)

The word forever is an adverb that indicates for all time (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). The word forever in the line quoted is time deixis because it shows indicates the time signal that always happened; never end.

Discourse deixis in Greater Than All - Live

Discourse deixis is referring to the correlation between the prior discourse and the latest discourse. The writer finds one discourse deixis which and. The quotation below shows the discourse deixis in *Greater Than All* song:

Justice and truth are Your virtues With many too vast for our words No mind contains the splendor

(Second stanza, lines 1-3)

The word and is a conjunction in which the usage is used to connect two words, phrases, sentences, or statements that are related (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). In that lyric above, the word and is discourse deixis because it is indicating the addition of previous discourse.

Social deixis in Greater Than All - Live

Social deixis is a deixis expression that is used to show the closeness and social status between people in discourse. The writer finds one social deixis in this song. The social deixis is God. The quotations below show the social deixis in *Greater Than All* song:

Our God

Our God has done great things

Our God is greater than all (Fifth stanza, lines 1-3)

The word God is a spirit or entity, frequently worshiped for controlling some aspect of the world or existence, or something that symbolizes this spirit or being (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). In Christianity belief, God is the one who made the universe. In this song lyric the word God is social deixis because it shows the title of respect.

In a word, the writer found four types of deixis. In the *Greater Than All* song there are person deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The following is a list of the deixis types used in this song. The listeners can look at the table below to be able to determine which deixis types are used in the whole song.

Table 2.3 Deixis in Greater Than All

Person deixis	Time deixis	Social deixis	Discourse deixis
We, Our, You, Your	Forever	God	And

3.3. Deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) - Live

Beneath the waters (I Will Rise) song talks about the power from Jesus Christ sacrifice crucified at the cross to redeem human's sins. This song focused on redemption, baptized, and new life in Christ theme. This song encourages believers to rise with Him, declaring His Lordship, and live as reflecting the power He give from His sacrifice. The writer found all five types of deixis. The five types of deixis are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis.

Person deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) – Live

Person deixis is used to identify the role a participant in which the speaker uttered. Pronouns are used to encode the information of a person deixis. There are four-person deixis in this song such as My, You, I, and He. The quotations below show the person deixis in *Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)* song:

I will rise, I will rise As Christ was raised to life Now in Him, now in Him (Third stanza, lines 1-3)

The word I is used by the person speaking or writing to refer to himself or herself (Longman, 1995). I is the first person and singular pronoun. I in this sentence is person deixis which refers to the speaker as the subject. I is refer to who sings the song.

I will rise, I will rise As Christ was raised to life Now in Him, now in Him (Fifth stanza, lines 1-3)

The word him refers to a man, lad, or male animal that has been mentioned or commonly known is referred to by this term (Longman, 1995). Him is not only a third person pronoun in singular form but object pronoun of he as well. Him in the lyric above is person deixis which refers to the object of the speaker. Him refer to Jesus Christ.

Time deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) - Live

The use of time deixis in linguistics is to point out to a specific time when the speech is uttered by the speaker. In this song, there are four time deixis which are now, end, forever, and again. The quotation below show the time deixis in *Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)* song:

As Christ was raised to life Now in Him, now in Him I live (Fifth stanza, lines 2-4)

The word now is a transition word that indicate a time relationship at present. The word now in that lyric above is a time deixis because it shows an indication of the time signal that it was present time when the utterance happened.

Your Kingdom knows no end Your praise goes on forever An on and on again (Sixth stanza, lines 6-8)

The word again is used when something already happened or has been done several times before (Longman, 1995). In that lyric above the word again is time deixis. It indicates the time signal that it is after the time of utterance.

Place deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) - Live

Place deixis is used to refer to the location when the speech was uttered by the speaker. There are two place deixis that is found in this song. Those two-place deixis are at the cross and beneath the water. The quotation below shows the place deixis in *Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)* song:

Salvation through repentance At the cross on which He died (First stanza, lines 3-4)

The phrase at the cross in that lyric above is place deixis. It shows the location where the object of the speaker is. The object in that lyric is Jesus Christ where He died at the cross.

Discourse deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) - Live

Discourse deixis refers to the correlation between the prior discourse and the latest discourse. The writer finds one discourse deixis which and. The quotation below shows the discourse deixis *Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)* song:

I stand a new creation Baptized in blood and fire No fear of condemnation (Fourth stanza, lines 1-3)

The word and is a conjunction in which the usage is used to connect two words, phrases, sentences, or statements that are related (Cambridge University Press, n.d.). In that lyric above, the word and is discourse deixis because it is indicating the addition of previous discourse.

Social deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise) - Live

Social deixis is a deixis expression that is used to show the closeness and social status between people in discourse. The writer finds three social deixis in this song. The social deixis are Christ Jesus, Christ, and Lordship. The quotations below show the social deixis in Greater Than All song:

I will rise, I will rise As Christ was raised to life Now in Him, now in Him (Third stanza, lines 1-3)

Christos, the Greek word for Christ, and messiah, the Hebrew word for Christ, both imply anointed one. In certain cases, Christ comes before Jesus like in Christ Jesus, while in other cases it comes after the name Jesus, like in Jesus Christ. (Never Thristy, n.d.). In that lyric above the word Christ is social deixis which shows as an informal name. Christ refers to Jesus.

To sum up, the writer found all five types of deixis. In *Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)* song, there are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The following is a

list of the deixis types used in this song. The listeners can take a glance at the table below to be able to determine which deixis types are used throughout the song.

Person deixis	Place deixis	Time deixis	Social deixis	Discourse deixis
My, He, I,	At the cross,	Now, end, forever,	Christ Jesus,	And
You	beneath the waters	again	Christ, Lordship	

Table 2.4 Deixis in Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise)

3.4. Deixis in Endless Light – Live

Endless Light is focusing on the themes of God's love, praise for the glory of God, and how believers live for God's glory. The writer found four types of deixis. In this song, there are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, and social deixis.

Person deixis in Endless Light – Live

Person deixis is used to identify the role of a participant in which the speaker uttered. Pronouns are used to encode the information of a person deixis. There are three person deixis in this song such as You, Your, and Us. The quotations below show the person deixis in *Endless Light* song:

You laid down Your life For the likes of us Great is the love of the Savior (First stanza, lines 3-5)

The word us is used by the speaker or writer to refer to both themselves and one or more other individuals (Longman, 1995). Us is classified not only plural first-person pronoun but also as the object pronoun of we. In the lyric above us is person deixis which refers to the subject of the speaker. Us refers to humans.

Time deixis in Endless Light – Live

Time deixis is a deixis expression that is used to indicate a time when the speech happened. There are four time deixis in this song. Time deixis in this song is forever, rising sun, night, and moment. The quotation below shows the time deixis in Greater Than All song:

From the rising sun To the still of night Every waking moment (Fifth stanza, lines 1-3) In those lines above there are one phrase and two words that indicate a time signal. The phrase rising sun is time deixis because it is showing the indication time signal it was morning at the time of utterance. Besides that, there are two other time deixis which are night and moment. Moment is time deixis which shows the time signal it was the current time at the time of utterance.

Place deixis in Endless Light – Live

Place deixis is a deixis expression that shows the location where the speech was uttered by the speaker. In this song, the writer found four place deixis. The place deixis is from the highest throne, earth, mountain, and valley. The quotation below shows the place deixis in *Endless Light* song:

- From the mountain heights To the valleys low All created things
- (Fourth stanza, lines 1-3)

In those lines above there are words that indicate a place deixis. The first word is mountain places deixis because the speaker refers that all created things that live at the mountain heights live to Jesus' glory. The second word valley is also place deixis.

Social deixis in Endless Light – Live

Social deixis is a deixis expression that is used to show the closeness and social status between people in discourse. The writer finds three social deixes in this song. The social deixis is Savior, God, and Jesus. The quotations below show the social deixis in *Endless Light* song:

Every human heart Will declare as one Great is the love of the Savior (Second stanza, lines 3-5)

According to Cambridge University Press, n.d. the definition of a savior is a person who saves someone from danger or harm. In Christianity, the savior is referring to Jesus. In that lyric above, the savior is social deixis shows an indication as a nickname. Savior refers to Jesus.

In summary, the writer found four types of deixis. In *Endless Light* song, there are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, and social deixis. The following is a list of the deixis types used in this song. The listeners can take a glance at the table below to be able to determine which deixis types are used throughout the song.

Person deixis	Place deixis	Time deixis	Social deixis
You, Your, Us	From the highest throne, earth, mountain, valley	Forever, rising sun, night, moment	Savior, Jesus, God

Table 2.5 Deixis in Endless Light

4. Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writer can conclude that there are Five types of deixis are found in four song lyrics of Hillsong Worship Cornerstone (Live) album. That five deixis are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Those five deixis types are found in two songs and the other two songs have four types of deixis. The two songs that only have four types of deixis are *Greater Than All – Live* and *Endless Light – Live*. *Greater Than All* song does not have place deixis. Moreover, Endless Light song does not have discourse deixis. Three types of deixis, namely, person deixis, time deixis, and social deixis always existed in Cornerstone – Live, Greater Than All – Live, Beneath the Waters (I Will Rise), and Endless Light – Live.

Moreover, person deixis is used to identify the role of the participants in which the speaker uttered. Furthermore, the first, second, and third person have different functions. The first person such as my and we is used to refer to the speaker as the subject, the second person such as you is used to refer to the object of the speaker, and the third person such as his and our can refer to the speaker nor the recipient/s. Place deixis which indicates the location when the utterance happened. The place deixis such as come and at the cross in the songs provides the location where the story of the song happens. Next, the time deixis such as now is used to show the time signal when the utterance was happening. Time deixis in these songs gives a time signal when the story of the song happens. In addition, discourse deixis tries to connect the earlier discourse with the later discourse. Discourse deixis like and in the songs helps the story or the idea of the song go smoothly. The last is social deixis which is used to show the social status, the relationship, or the social identity between the people in speech. In these songs, social deixis such as Jesus and Christ are showing the social status and how the closeness between the speaker and the object of the speaker. Hence social deixis helps the listeners have a good understanding of the meaning of the song. The writer when writing this final project has limitations in the discussion. The writer only gives what types of deixis that are used and the meaning of that deixis. The writer does not give information about how often the deixis is used in the song. Additionally, the writer does not give information about which deixis is the most often used in the songs.

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