

REFERENCES IN THE LYRICS OF NICOLE ZEFANYA'S SONGS

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ABSTRACT

In the current times, the use of cohesive devices is not only found in formal texts, but also in informal texts such as song lyrics. Accordingly, this study aims to identify the types and to analyze the functions of references from the lyrics of three songs by Nicole Zefanya; “Urs”, “Around”, and “Lose”. This study was conducted using descriptive quantitative method. Documentation method and note-taking technique were used to collect the data. In analyzing the data, this study used the theory from Halliday and Hassan (1976) about grammatical cohesion, to be specific, about reference. The analysis of data was presented using formal and informal method. The results of this study showed that all kinds of reference found in the lyrics of each song of Nicole Zefanya, namely personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. Based on the analysis, the data in the lyrics are dominated by personal reference compared to demonstrative reference and comparative reference. In detail, personal reference with 169 occurrences, demonstrative reference with 42 occurrences, and comparative reference with 11 occurrences. Thus, each reference has different functions; as the head of reference, a reference to the previous object, as a modifier, a reference to the following object, a general comparison which refers to things that similar or not similar. Based on the results of this study, reference plays a vital role in establishing coherence, ensuring clarity, and contributing to the overall meaning of the song by connecting the language elements within the lyrics.

Keywords: References, Cohesive Devices, Song Lyrics

I. Introduction

The use of cohesive devices in a text is an essential aspect that greatly contributes to improving the coherence and comprehension of written communication. Halliday and Hasan (1976) stated that effective writing can be attributed to the presence of cohesion and coherence in a text or paragraph. Cohesive devices encompass a range of grammatical and lexical tools used to connect various sections of a text, guaranteeing its logical progression and overall coherence. While traditionally associated with scholarly discourse, cohesive devices have found their way into more casual and creative spheres. Along with the times, the utilization of cohesive devices

extends beyond the realm of academic texts, permeating various forms of written communication, including informal contexts like song lyrics.

According to Putri (2021), in order to construct a meaningful discourse, it is essential to establish a connection between cohesion and coherence, which requires adept utilization of appropriate textual elements to effectively convey information through song lyrics, ensuring comprehension by the audience or the listener. According to Telaumbanua (2021), the usage of cohesive devices is so important to make meaningful language to the lyrics of the song. He also stated that the existence of both grammatical and lexical cohesion enhances cohesiveness in the lyrics. These devices ensure that the different elements within the lyrics are connected and form a cohesive whole. Reference is one of types of cohesive devices that is most commonly used in texts, according to Alarcon and Morales (2011). They stated that references are used more frequently than other grammatical cohesive devices such as substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. According to Thompson (2014), reference refers to a range of grammatical tools that enable speakers to indicate whether something is being repeated from a previous part of the text, indicating prior knowledge, or if it is being introduced for the first time, signifying new information that has not been mentioned before.

Halliday and Hasan, in their book entitled *Cohesion in English* (1976), divided reference into three types, namely personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. Personal reference is reference by means of function in the speech situation, through the category of person. The personal category includes the three classes of personal pronouns, possessive determiners and possessive pronouns (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Demonstrative reference is reference by means of location, on a scale of proximity (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Demonstrative reference is essentially a form of verbal pointing. Comparative reference is indirect reference by means of identity or similarity (Halliday and Hasan, 1976).

In this research, the focus is on analyzing song lyrics by Nicole Zefanya as the object of study. This research aims to identify the types and to analyze the functions of references employed by Nicole Zefanya in the lyrics of her songs. Nicole Zefanya was born on January 24, 1999. She is also known as NIKI (her stage name). According to Genius.com, she has gained recognition for her delightful, well-timed music rhythms and beautifully calming singing voice. While NIKI has an extensive collection of self-written songs, only specific ones were selected for analysis in this research. The chosen songs serve as valuable data sources as they contain a significant amount of grammatical cohesive devices. Additionally, these three songs were carefully selected to represent other songs that have a substantial amount of available data and frequent appearances.

This research incorporates relevant previous studies that can serve as a formal guideline. The review encompassed five studies, including two international articles and three theses. The studies were conducted by Putri (2022), Oktaviany (2021), Mandarani (2020), Koutchade

(2017), and Kailani (2017). These prior studies also examined the application of cohesive devices in various objects. However, the current research differentiates itself from the previous studies in terms of the focus of discussion, research objectives, employed theory, and the object of the study.

II. Methods

The primary data of this research was based on the data taken from the lyrics of three songs by Nicole Zefanya from her various singles or album. The three of the songs are “Urs”, “Around”, and “Lose”. The lyrics of songs were chosen to be the data since each song lyrics reflected the use of references.

This research employed descriptive quantitative method. In terms of analyzing the data, the collected data were interpreted using the theory of grammatical cohesive devices by Halliday and Hasan (1976), to be specific about references as the focus of this research. The documentation method utilized by a checklist instrument and note-taking technique were used to collect the data in this research. Then, the method and technique of presenting the data analysis were using formal way by using table and also informal way or presented descriptively. Descriptive explanation was needed to present the analysis in order to make the reader understand the detail of this research.

III. Findings and Discussion

Findings

Table 1. Data Findings of Types of Reference in Nicole Zefanya’s Songs Lyrics

Song	Types of Reference	Frequency
Urs	Personal Reference	61
	Demonstrative Reference	11
	Comparative Reference	3
Around	Personal Reference	50
	Demonstrative Reference	19
	Comparative Reference	5
Lose	Personal Reference	58
	Demonstrative Reference	12
	Comparative Reference	3
Total		222

Based on analysis using Theory of Cohesion by Halliday and Hasan (1976), all kinds of references were found in the lyrics of three selected songs of Nicole Zefanya; "Urs", "Around",

and "Lose". The total of data found in the three songs is 222; personal references occur 169 times, demonstrative references occur 42 times, and comparative references occur 11 times. The interpretations of the data are formed in the following Table 1.

Discussion

Personal Reference

Data 1

.....
You love **me** with **your** bones
You hold **me** when **I**'m broke
You don't ask for a thing
 Oh, **I** hope **it's you they** put **me** in the ground by

The verse part of song "Around" in Data 1 consists of 4 lines. Some personal reference items are appeared in each line. Firstly, the word **you**. In the second, third, and fourth line, the word **you** is categorized as exophoric reference and functioned as personal pronoun. It is exophoric reference because it does not refer to any particular name or term. It does not refer to the following item or earlier item neither. In this context, the word **you** is used based on the context of situation so that it is called an exophoric reference. The word **you** in this verse of song could refer to anyone who is meant by the singer or listener.

Then, there are word **I** and word **me**. The word **I** and word **me** are also categorized as exophoric reference and functioned as personal pronoun. To be clear, it is exophoric because it has no reference to any particular name being mentioned directly in the discourse. In this case, the word **I** and word **me** are designed to the context of situation, in which the composer/singer/listener may refer exophorically to himself or herself.

Another reference item appears in is the word **it**. The word **it** functioned as personal pronoun and is categorized as endophoric reference, to be specific, cataphora. Cataphora takes place when the writer refers forward. The word **it** referred to the word **you** in which existed after the word **it** itself.

The word **your** in the first line functions as possessive determiner and is categorized as cataphora. Possessive determiner is used to show who owns or 'possesses' something and technically used before the noun. In this context, the personal reference item **your** functions as possessive determiner that placed in front of the noun **bones** in order to express possession or belonging to the person **you**, in which is used based on the context of situation or it can be referred to anyone that is already known by the songwriter/singer/listener.

Demonstrative Reference

Data 2

.....
Am I **the** only one who sees right through **this**?
Yeah, all **this** bullshit, don't play me for no fool
Yeah, you don't gotta lose your mind
Every time I don't call
.....

This verse is part of song “Lose”. here are some demonstrative reference items occur. Firstly, item **the** in first line. It is categorized as definite article and it has a function as a modifier in a noun phrase **the only one**. In this context, **the** is an endophoric reference, both anaphoric and cataphoric; anaphoric because it refers back to **Am I** and cataphoric because it refers forward to **who sees right through this**. Then, another item that occurs is **this**. Both occurrence of **this** in first and second line are categorized as a cataphora reference because it refers forward to noun **bullshit**. To be specific, the second occurrence of **this** functions as modifier.

Comparative Reference

Data 3

.....
Oh, I know that we march to the beat of **different** drums
We're still so damn young
.....

A comparative reference specifically a general comparison functions as deictic. It is the word **different** in Data 3 which is part of the lyrics of song “Around”. As stated by Halliday and Hasan (1976), by general comparison is meant comparison that is simply in terms of likeness and unlikeness, without respect to any particular property: two things may be the same, similar or different (where different includes both 'not the same' and 'not similar'). In this case, the comparative reference item **different** refers to the beat of drums which is not the same or not similar to each other.

IV. Conclusion

The use of cohesive devices in the lyrics are often found in the present time. As a part of grammatical cohesive devices, reference is the most frequently used type. In this study, the types of reference found in the lyrics of Nicole Zefanya's three songs are personal reference, demonstrative reference and comparative reference. The dominant types of reference found is

personal reference which is found on 169 data from total 222 data. The functions of each reference item found in the lyrics of Nicole Zefanya's three songs are vary. The functions of personal reference are as the head of reference, referring to the previous object and make specific reference based on situational context. While the second type, demonstrative reference has functions as modifier and referring to the preceding and following sentence. The last type, comparison reference has a function as general comparison which refers to things that similar or not similar. In conclusion, references play a crucial role in song lyrics by enhancing the overall coherence, flow, and understanding of the lyrics.

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