

## Reference in Lyric "Beautiful Girl" by Jose Marichan: Pragmatics Study

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### Abstract

*The subject of this study is a reference found in Jose Marichan's song "Beautiful girl." The study's goals are to identify the function of reference, find the different types of referencing expressions in the lyrics and to explain how they are used. This study is based on descriptive data. Jose Marichan's song "Beautiful girl" was used as a data source for this study. The researcher discovered pronouns, proper names, definite noun phrase and indefinite noun phrase while collecting information. The researcher next analyzes the data and explains why it is classified as satisfying referring expression. According to the findings indefinite noun phrase with two data (13%), pronoun with twelve data (80%), and definite noun phrase with one data (7%), the function of reference is to allow the listener or reader to identify something, while referring expression is to identify the types.*

### Keywords

Jose Marichan; beautiful girl;  
Yule 1996; referring expression;  
reference



### I. Introduction

Nowadays, music is not just entertainment, but more than that music can improve mood and make us comfy. Music has various types, one of which is pop music. Pop music or better known as popular music is a type of music that has a commercial orientation or is often traded. The principle of pop music is that it can be accepted and appreciated by a wide audience of listeners. The singer whose genre is pop music is Jose Marichan who was born on March 11, 1945 in Iloilo, Philippines. He is a Chinese-Filipino songwriter as well as a singer and sugar merchant.

In the 1990s the song "beautiful girl" became the most popular pop song sung by Jose Marichan at that time, the music has a melodious sound and the voice of a singer who was so soft, so the listeners can feel the comfort and mood can improve too. This song tells how the singer fell in love with a girl, after a long time he had no love, but the girl left before he could confess his love. He could only hope to meet his idol again.

When a piece of music can touch a person's soul then a song's lyrics can be understood without having to show a clear intention, In other words, the listener is understanding and knowing what the songwriter is attempting to convey. Pragmatics is the study of what the speaker intends. Furthermore, according to Saeed (2003: 182) pragmatics is the study of how humans apply language information in context. Therefore, this research examines the types of referring expression and the function of reference found in the lyrics "Beautiful Girl" song by Jose Marichan. The following questions must be answered as part of this research:

- What are the types of referring expressions used by the songwriter in the song lyrics "Beautiful Girl" by Jose Marichan?
- What are the functions of reference used in the lyrics of Jose Marichan "Beautiful Girl"?

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## II. Review of Literature

### 2.1 Pragmatic

The pragmatic approach focuses on how individuals use language in a context in day-to-day interactions. People study how language is used to carry out various functions in pragmatics by looking at how variables like time, place, and the social relationship between the speaker and hearer influence this use of language. According to Levinson (2008:21), the study of pragmatics focuses on the interactions between language and context that are fundamental to any theory of language comprehension. Understanding a language means that comprehending a statement requires far more than simply understanding its meaning and grammatical structure. Understanding a statement requires drawing conclusions from previous statements. While Griffiths (2006:153) claims that pragmatics is about how we use language in context to convey more than what is literally encoded in a sentence's semantics. Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being (Purba, N. et al. (2020).

Meanwhile, Yule (1996:3) states that pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. According to him, pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or a writer) and interpreted by a listener (or a reader). It has, consequently, more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances might mean by themselves. It requires a consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to where, when, and under what circumstances.

Cutting (2002:3) explain that pragmatics is examines language use from a socio-cultural perspective, looking at how social distance affects how social norms are expressed. According to Mey (2001:6) Pragmatics is the study of language use in interpersonal communication as influenced by societal norms. It can be said that in pragmatics, the social distance between the speaker and the hearer affects how people use language.

Furthermore Yule (1996:3) divides the definition of pragmatics into 4 terms:

#### a. The Study of Speaker Meaning is Known as Pragmatics

The study of meaning as it is conveyed by a speaker and understood by a listener is the focus of pragmatics. It focuses more on analyzing what speakers mean than what the words or phrases in those statements might mean on their own.

#### b. Pragmatics is the Study of Contextual Meaning

Interpreting what people mean in a given situation and how the context affects what is said are both aspects of pragmatics. It entails how the speaker structures what they wish to say in light of who they are speaking to, where they are speaking, and the context in which they are speaking.

#### c. The Study of Pragmatics Focuses on How More is Communicated than is Actually Said

This method also looks at how the speaker's intended meaning can be deduced from the listener's interpretation of what was said.

#### d. The Study of How People Express Relative Distance is Known as Pragmatics

The speaker decides how much needs to be said based on their proximity to the listener, which is another consideration in pragmatics. The choice between the said and the unsaid will depend on this viewpoint. According to the explanation given above, it can be concluded that pragmatics is the study of how language is encoded in the language's structural elements and how it is used to communicate between a speaker and a listener.

## 2.2 Definition of Reference

The act of a speaker or writer using linguistic forms to allow the listener or reader to identify something is known as a reference. Reference is dependent on the speaker's intention, such as referring to something, as well as the speaker's belief, such as so that the listener can identify the speaker's intention. Reference, according to Cruse (2006: 3) state that the broad word for recognizing objects in the world. In addition, according to Yule (1993: 17), the reference refers to the speaker's or writer's capacity to assist the listener or reader in identifying something.

In social interaction, speakers use language forms to refer to something. This action is done to allow the speaker as a speech partner to recognize something. In pragmatic studies, references are known as references. Yule (1996) defines reference as an act of speaking language speakers (writers, speakers) when using language to express something. Through understanding references, readers can identify references to speech (1) For example, Luffy uses the word he to designate someone. Since the participants are in the same environment with the same knowledge, Sanji knows the person in question even though Luffy uses his word. As a result, Sanji can predict and pronounce the real name correctly.

(1) Luffy: I hope he won't get lost. Though the departure of this ship soon. (The pronoun "he" refers to a man but who is that man?) With the next sentence maybe it can be identified as a traveling companion)

Sanji: I hope so, but Zoro has always been lost lately. (Sanji has the same knowledge of who Luffy is talking about)

Thus speech (1) shows that the reference has the function to identify someone or something and help the speaker understand what the speaker meant in the speech.

## 2.3 Referring Expression

Referring expression is any expression used in an utterance to refer to something or someone. (Hurford 2007:37) claim that any expression used in an utterance to refer to something or someone (or a clearly delimited group of things or people), i.e., used with a specific referent in mind, is referred to as a referring expression. A referring expression, according to Kreidler and Gisborne (2000:130), is a noun phrase that is used in an utterance and is connected to something external to language, such as a living, dead, or imaginary entity or concept or group of entities or concepts.

Meanwhile, Lyons (2009:167) state that the vast majority of referring expressions in natural languages are in some way context-dependent. (Yule 1996:134) stated that describes a referring expression as a linguistic device that permits a listener or reader to identify something. For example by Hurford (2007:37):

*Brook hit me.* **Brook** is a referring expression.

*There's no Brook at this island.* *Brook* is not a referring expression.

A referring expression is used to identify, but the identification need not be accurate and may only be valid temporarily. Even proper names don't have a singular, context-free reference, a fact that is all too frequently overlooked. The semantically significant consequence of the context-dependence of most referring expressions is that the proposition that a sentence conveys tends to change depending on the context of utterance. For example:

*My friend has just arrived.*

According to *My friend's* reference on specific occasions of utterance, it can be used to make a statement about an infinite number of different people. The stated in the explanation given above, there are various types of reference relations; referents can be found in the real world or in the mind's eye, as well as in the discourse itself, and they can be singular, plural, or collective. Depending on the context, a given expression may or may not refer to something.

## 2.4 Types of Referring Expression

Expression According to Brown and Yule (2000:208), referring expressions can be categorized into four categories: pronouns, definite noun phrases, indefinite noun phrases, and proper names. This section will define different form or different types of referring expression by making adjustments to the definition offered by pervious researcher (Xiaohui, 2006).

### a. Pronouns

Pronouns are a common way for speakers to refer to or to specific entities. Pronoun occurrences rely on some aspect of the context for their interpretation. Pronouns can also be used to express generality, but how they are understood depends on the word or phrase that is primarily responsible for it and by which they are governed (Lyons, 2009:117). The pronoun examples that follow are: *Take **it**, please, Why not send to **him**, Just tell **me** what it'll cost, **He** gave me a job, **Your** friend treats you in restaurant*

### b. Proper Names

Names may appear to be the simplest example of a reference-holding nominal. After all, names are labels for people and places, and frequently they don't seem to mean much else. Their format options include first name, last name, full name, and title plus name. For example are: *Thanks for **Mr. Gol D. Roger** that has helped us. (full name), Hey **Roger** comes here please! (last name), Good morning **Mr. Gol.** (first name), The King of pirate **Roger** (role plus name), He born in **Loguetown**.*

### c. Definite Noun Phrase

Definite noun phrases should also contain other determiner-based descriptions, such as demonstrative (this, that). In a referring expression, the definite determinant appears when the speaker (or writer) presumes that the listener (or reader) can identify the referent (Kreidler and Gisborne 2000:142). By using "the," you are letting the listener know that they are likely to understand what you are talking about and that the conversation's topic should make it easier for them to do so. For examples are: ***The whitebeard** saved my life, **The man** with a beard, **That's** my ship, **The white ship** is mine, **This** is a bigship*

### d. Indefinite Noun Phrase

Phrases that start with "a" or another indefinite pronoun, such as one or some, are considered to be indefinite noun phrases. They are frequently employed to introduce entities into the discourse. The speaker wants the listener to understand the referenced entity, so they use this form. This is used to introduce new information when the noun you want to refer to is unknown to the listener or reader or is not already a part of your shared vocabulary (Heim, 2011:86). When a referring expression is ambiguous, the hearer must choose from the noun's extension, i.e., determine which of the many potential referents is intended For examples are: *I meet **a girl** at the park, **A man** was here last night telling*

*about you, A beautiful girl in my village, Thanks for give me a ship, He always kept a sword in his hand.*

Referring expressions can take many different forms, including pronouns, definite and indefinite noun phrases, and proper names, as Yule noted. As a conclusion, Yule's classification of referring expression types has been used in this study.

### III. Research Method

The research must be conducted using specific techniques in order to produce meaningful results. This study uses a descriptive method to analyze the function of the reference and the types of referring expressions contained in the song "Beautiful Girl" by Jose Marichan. The author decided to use this method because to find out the object or subject that was studied in depth, broadly, and in detail. According to Sugiyono (2005: 21) states that the descriptive method is a method used to describe or analyze a research result but is not used to make broader conclusions. To complete the analysis, the authors took a set procedure. First, the researcher read the lyrics in the song to study. Then, understand the lyrics of the song and identify the types of referring expression devices contained in the lyrics of the song. After that, the author analyzes the function of the reference in the lyrics of the song. Finally, the researcher draws conclusions from this study. The following objects that will be explained and analyzed are: (1) the types of referring expressions contained in the song "Beautiful girl" by Jose Marichan (2) The function of the reference contained in the song "Beautiful girl" by Jose Marichan

### IV. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1 Definite Noun Phrase

**Beautiful girl**, wherever you are  
I knew when I saw you, you had opened the door  
(*on first and second stanza*)

As shown in the data, this analysis found that the phrase "Beautiful girl" is classified as a Definite Noun Phrase. The reason of this data occurred is because the phrase "Beautiful girl" is formed with an adjective word "Beautiful" with a noun word "girl". Therefore, the adjective word "Beautiful" affects the noun word "girl". Then it creates the noun phrase "Beautiful girl". It is classified as definite because the noun phrase specifically refers to a girl whom the singer means. There is supposed to be a definite word "The" in front of the phrase, but it is omitted.

In case, the clause "wherever you are" is referring to another phrase "Beautiful girl" because if we see a sentences "beautiful girl" and connect it to "you are" it is definitely referring to a woman. The noun phrase in this data is functioned to make the object of the plot as clear as possible to towards the reader or hearer. If it doesn't occur, then how the plot goes will be very unclear for the reader or hearer. In specific, the definite noun phrase in this data has a function to help the reader / hearer identify what the reference refers to.

#### 4.2 Pronouns

**You** said "hello" and **I** turned to go  
But something in your eyes left **my** heart beating so  
(*on fifth and sixth stanza*)



There are several pronouns exist in English, including “you”, “I”, and “my” in this data. It occurs because the writer of the lyric wants to generally specify the subject and object towards the reader or hearer. The quickest way to specify a noun is by using pronouns. If the writer doesn’t use pronoun here, it will make the context become unspecific towards the reader or listener. It may cause a problem because the reader or listener might get confused about the context or what the lyric actually tells them. The interpretation of pronoun occurrences depends on the context in some way.

The pronouns in this data are functioned to be an exegesis of the context for its reader or hearer. In other words, if the pronouns don’t exist, the context will become unclear. It will be a huge problem for the hearer or reader if they cannot understand the context. A song lyric is supposed to tell the hearer or reader about the plot of the song. If it is not clear, then the lyric will be pointless. However, how they are perceived relies on the word or phrase that is principally responsible for it. Pronouns can also be used to show generality.

#### 4.3 Indefinite Noun Phrase

Whenever you are, I fear that I might  
Have lost you forever like **a song** in the night  
(on stanzas of thirteen and fourteen)

From the data above, the word “song” is classified as indefinite noun phrase. It occurs because there is an indefinite article “a” appear before the word “song”. The combination of these words creates a phrase which is “a song”. Therefore, it is obviously stated that the phrase “a song” is categorized into indefinite noun phrase. It is called indefinite because the determiner doesn’t tell the hearer or reader about the object in specific. If it tells the reader or hearer regarding the object specifically, the data would be considered as a definite noun phrase.

In the fourteenth stanza there is a sentence "Have lost you forever like **a song** in the night". It refers to his feelings when he is not with women, he will feel lonely. Meanwhile, the phrase “a song” refers to a situation in the night where playing a song is unethical because it might annoy people around us. It describes the hearer or reader about how deep the singer’s loss is. Indefinite Noun Phrase makes the listener understand the referenced entity, so that is why this form exists.

### V. Conclusion

Based on the research, the types of referring expression used in the lyrics of “Beautiful girl” by Jose Marichan are indefinite noun phrase with two data (13%), pronoun with twelve data (80%), definite noun phrase with one data (7%) and the proper name is not found in the data in the lyric of this song because this song doesn’t mention any proper name.

The function of reference used in the lyrics “Beautiful girl” by Jose Marichan is to allow the listener or reader to identify something is known as a reference. Reference is dependent on the speaker's intention, such as referring to something, as well as the speaker's belief, such as so that the listener can identify the speaker's intention

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