

## The Analysis of Language Used in “Pluto Projector” Rex Orange County Song

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**Abstract:** This study focused on analyzing language used in “Pluto Projector” Rex Orange County song. The theory used in this study is proposed by Wardhaugh which there are eight types of language. The data were collected by identify the type of language and the function of the language based on the meaning of each lyrics on the song. The “Pluto Projector” song was wrote by Alex O’Connor that inspired by wonders if he truly enough for his partner. This song was full of guitarinstrumental that build-up to explain the meanings of the lyrics. This song focusedon how to understand the meaning of being life. Therefore, it can be concluded that “Pluto Projector” song used a different types of language that Alex O’Connor used to expressed himself because he is a main character in this song who is confused about his life and his relationship, especially when stating his opinion.

## INTRODUCTION

A language is a structured system of communication. The structure of a language is its grammar and the free components are its vocabulary. Languages are the primary means of communication of humans, and can be conveyed through speech (spoken language), sign, or writing. Many languages, including the most widely-spoken ones, have writing systems that enable sounds or signs to be recorded for later reactivation. Human language is unique among the known systems of animal communication in that it is not dependent on a single mode of transmission (sight, sound, etc.), is highly variable between cultures and across time, and affords a much wider range of expression than other systems. Human languages have the properties of productivity and displacement, and rely on social convention and learning.

However, language is a complex human phenomenon, as all attempts to define it have proved inadequate. In brief, we can say, language is an „original noise“ used in actual social situations by human beings.

According to Wardhaugh (1984 cited in Ramelan) A language is a system of arbitrary vocal sounds used for human communication. This definition of language by Wardhaugh mainly insists on arbitrariness, vocal sounds, humans, and communication. Language is said to be the arbitrary vocal symbol. This implies that language consists of speech sounds (e.g., sounds produced by using speech organs) based on the social agreement or convention. A certain word has a meaning because of the language users have given it. A word and its meaning are the results of social agreement or convention. In this research, the analysis is focused on the language used on “Pluto projector” song.

Pluto Projector is a alternative or indie song, based on the Rex Orange County's album called Pony. The thirteenth song that Alex O'Connor composed for one of his albums. The song was released on October 25, 2019.

This song is selected to study because the language that used in the lyrics has many meanings that can be analyzed and searched for meaning. The song was wrote by Alex O'Connor. He was a song writer of the Rex Orange County. Alex O'Connor composed this song to expressed his opinion about being adult and his relationship. He thought that he was not understand about himself. The theory of language used is important to be studies to understand the meaning of the lyrics. Related to this phenomenon, there are two purpose of this study. The first purpose is to identify types of language used by "Pluto Projector" song. The second is to define the important function of the lyrics used by "Pluto Projector" song.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In Elijah Klein Journalist Review (November 16, 2020) entitled "Pluto Projector Review", he was analyzing the language use in the "Pluto Projector" song. The study focused on the background of the music instrument and the function of the story of the song. His study is related to this research because it analyzes about the function and the meaning of the lyrics . However, in his study he did not analyze about types of the language in the "Pluto Projector" song. His study is only focused the function of the meaning on the lyrics. This study is included the focused of the types of language that used in "Pluto Projector" song.

The next paper that reviewed is titled "Pluto Projector" (Thimai, March 8, 2022). The study focused on the meaning of the whole lyrics on the song. In the study, she found that Alex O'Connor wrote the lyrics about his emotions as a growing artist in the big music industry. He seems confused and worried about his life path. Most of the important in this study is Alex O'Connor about to figured out the truth about himself for his relationship so he wrote this song to expressed his feelings in his opinion.

Moreover, a paper titled "Rex Orange County's Pluto Projector is the Ballad We All Needed" by Daryl Perry (October 20, 2020). This study describes the whole language used and also the function of the lyrics on this song. He mentions the functions of the lyrics detail and the meanings of it, as well as to express Alex O'Connor feelings. This paper is relevant for this study, since it can help the researcher understand the applied theories of types of language used and the function of language on the "Pluto Projector" song that can be analysis.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

Alexander O'Connor, the owner of Rex Orange County, made this song using the language that can make the listeners become interested and analyze the meaning of each sentence. The language will be analyzed by identify the type and the function of the language based on the meaning of each lyric. The steps are listening to the song, observing the lyrics, finding the meaning of every lyric and analyzing the types and the function of Language used in the Rex Orange County "Pluto Projector" song. The theory that used are from Wardhaugh (1984), and Mary Finocchiaro (1983).

The analysis approach is used to explain the meaning of important lyric that found in the "Pluto Projector" song and describe it in order to tell the function of the meaning . The data were analyzed using Wardhaugh theory of types of language (1984) and the using theory of language function by Mary Finocchiaro (1983). There are four steps in collecting the data, such as listening to the "Pluto Projector" song, after that it will observing the lyrics of the song, also finding the

meaning of every lyric and analyzed the meaning of the lyrics language function. After all of the steps in collecting data it will develop a conclusion.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Result

#### a. Type of Language

The researcher uses Wardhaugh (1984) because the theory is able to discover the types of language in relation with the way Alex O'Connor speak in his song specifically. Wardhaugh theory provides specific definition of the types of language. There are eight types of language features as the every lyrics on the "Pluto Projector", as follows:

- 1) **Standard/Polite/Formal** refer to language that sticks to the rule and is essentially presented as the, "proper" form of English. In practice, this is not necessarily practical English, but rather the sort of English we'd expect to see in formal writing or polite situations.
- 2) **Colloquial/Informal** is effectively anything that is not formal, often described as, "spoken" language. It is informal as the aim is to communicate rather than stick rigidly to rules, so it is where we see contractions and idiomatic language being used. There are countless varieties of this, and it is a blanket term that really covers all of the other terms below.
- 3) **Regional Dialect** are varieties of language that emerge based on regionally specific use. There are many examples within the UK alone, from the broad differences between the English spoken in the North and South to the more specific, localised dialects, such as those spoken in certain cities, some of which have their own names.
- 4) **Social Dialect** emerge like dialects, but within a specific class or culture, instead of a region (though they can be further developed to fit certain regions). This may also be referred to as a minority dialect, highlighting the variation is not the predominant use.
- 5) **Lingua Franca** english is used as a lingua franca all over the world, more commonly in fact than it is used by native speakers, and in some cases may even be taught in a specific form to fit these needs, rather than as standard English.
- 6) **Pidgin** it often come from merging two or more languages together rather than as something true to one common language. Pidgins can therefore develop their own vocabulary and rules that can be very independent of the original source languages.
- 7) **Creole** aspects that make a creole different to pidgin or dialects is that it has its own unique rules with a full range of functions, and maybe taught as a mother tongue.
- 8) **Vernacular** is the term used to describe language as it is used naturally by a specific people. What it describes can therefore vary depending on what we wish to specify: we could speak about the vernacular of a country or a smaller community within a city, or of a certain time and place.

#### b. Function of Language

There are five language functions proposed by Mary Finocchiaro (1983), these functions are:

- 1) **Personal.** The personal function enables the user of a language to express his innermost thoughts; his emotions such as love, hatred, and sorrow; his needs, desires, or attitudes; and to clarify or classify ideas in his mind.
- 2) **Interpersonal.** The interpersonal function enables him to establish and maintain

good social relations with individuals and groups; to express praise, sympathy, or joy at another's success; to inquire about health; to apologize; to invite.

- 3) **Directive.** The directive function enables him to control the behaviour of others through advice, warnings, requests, persuasion, suggestions, orders, or discussion.
- 4) **Referential.** The referential function enables him to talk about objects or events in the immediate setting or environment or in the culture; to discuss the present, the past, and the future.
- 5) **Imaginative.** The imaginative function enables him to use language creatively in rhyming, composing poetry, writing, or speaking.

## 2. Discussion

The analysis shows the language functions used by "Pluto Projector" song. It can be seen that there are 5 language function features used by Alex O'Connor in his song.

According to the language function above, the five features found are Personal, Interpersonal, Directive, Referential, and Imaginative. The meaning of the lyrics will be describe for this language function on the "Pluto Projector" song. The further analysis will be presented in detail for each feature.

### a. Personal

Personal function is the most dominant feature that used by Alex O'Connor who is main character of "Pluto Projector" song. This show his emotions about being himself and confused of his life path.

- 1) The great protector  
Is that what I'm supposed to be?  
What if all this counts for nothin'  
Everything I thought I'd be?  
What if by the time I realize  
It's too far behind to see?
- 2) I feel at home when I'm around you  
And I'll gladly say again  
I hope the encore lasts forever
- 3) I don't think so  
I don't think I'm meant to understand myself

In this lyrics, Alex O'Connor as the song writer to use personal function rather than other features. He used this function because he want to expressed his emotion with his opinion. The (1) lyrics he wrote was the confusing feeling being adult and artist in the music industry. For the (2) lyrics he showed that he really grateful to be with his relationship. And the (3) he want to showed that he was not at a stable self and he still feels not sure understand enough of himself.

### b. Interpersonal

In the song, Alex used the Interpersonal function to show his sympathy with his relationship.

- 1) And it's you that knows my darkness And you  
know my bedroom needs
- 2) This right here still feels like the honeymoon When  
you say my name, nothing's changed

In this lyrics, Alex O'Connor as the song writer to use impersonal function rather

that other features. He used this function because he want to expressed his sympathy for his relationship. The (1) lyrics is talk about his begging to his girlfriend for stay because she the only one that Alex O'Connor want to. And for the (2) is about his feeling everytime they spend their time together even when his girlfriend called his name it is still the same way as usual.

**c. Directive**

There are some lyrics that Alex O'Connor wrote with the directive function.

- 1) I'll do the same as you, I'll try and hold it up
- 2) And maybe in time, maybe one day
- 3) Stay forever

The lyrics above are directive function because Alex O'Connor showed his request, order and suggestion. In some example , The lyrics (1) he was showed his suggestion for himself to understand about his life. The next lyrics (2) Alex O'Connor showed his request to himself to ready for the future. And the (3) he asked for order for his girlfriend to stay by his side forever because he really love her and adore her. Therefore, Alex O'Connor use this feature, so that he can get his answered from himself or from his girlfriend.

Furthermore, the sentence number 1,2,3 are actually his deepest story to told, in all of the lyrics above showed the hard situation that he been thru for a long time for him. It gives a story to be told that he was not ok and he really needed someone to talk to.

**d. Referential**

Alex O'Connor used the referential function to talk about his present, past or future feelings or situations.

- 1) Is that what I'm supposed to be?
- 2) Spendin' the years together  
Growing older every day
- 3) Soon I hope, or as soon as I'm old enough

The lyrics above used the referential function because Alex O'Connor talked about his feelings and also his situation. The (1) he wondered that his past situation going well or not for his future situation. For the (2) lyrics he talked about his situation that on going well with his girlfriend and he wanted to be much better for his relationship.

Furthermore, the lyrics (3) is about what he want to be in the future, in the lyrics he want to understand himself about handle his worry that relate to his life. Moreover, all of the lyrics above tell us that Alex O'Connor try to be better and focus on his future. It gives a hint to people that he will be okey and he want to try his best for this because of his feeling and the situations.

**e. Imaginative**

- 1) The great protector
- 2) Seventy mil' projector
- 3) This right here still feels like the honeymoon
- 4) You could blast me and my secrets

In the last function, Alex O'Connor used the imaginative function to show his creatively about writing the "Pluto Projector" song. The (1) lyrics he talked about his expetations in his life. He want to show that his past is worth it even when he still confuse about it. For the (2) Alex O'Connor used the imagination about a wide lens camera that can capture a lager and wider pictures. In this lyrics, he want to tell that all he want is

just a simple romantic relationship because Alex O'Connor much more to offer his relationship than anyone would ever do. Also the (3) he show his imagination about his feeling that still same day by day for his girlfriend. He still love her and it's get much bigger and deeper. The last lyrics (4) tell us about the things that he want his girlfriend to be always with him and stay with him forever with all of their story in the relationship.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion above, the function of the language can be used by "Pluto Projector" song. There are five function that can be used such as Personal, Interpersonal, Directive, Referential and Imaginative. This song use the function of the language to expressed every emotional details that showed in the lyrics. Alex O'Connor wrote this song to told his understanding himself is an ongoing journey. He believes that life goes on and he will be as better person. The things that on this song he wrote about how to support each other should be in a relationship. Love and support each other to grow and be the best version of themselves is the key to a happy life.

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