THE USE OF DEIXIS IN BASIC WRITING COURSE OF THE FIRST SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM IN PASIM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY: PRAGMATICS STUDY

Fristi Arfiawati
Universitas Nasional PASIM
fristiruswidiarto@gmail.com,

ABSTRACT

The research entitled The Use of Deixis in Basic Writing Course of the First Semester Students of English Study Program in Pasim National University is purposed to investigate the types of deixis as one of pragmatics study. The research used the theory from Yule (1996) and Levinson (1983). The research method applied is the descriptive qualitative. The source of data was derived from the students' work of Basic Writing class in the first semester. In addition, the data were collected, classified and analyzed by the writer. The writer found 313 data of deixis. The result shows that 313 data of deixis are divided into 133 data of person deixis, 80 data of time deixis, 75 data of place deixis, 7 data of discourse deixis, and 18 data of social deixis. Thus, the most dominant deixis is person deixis with 42.5%.

Keywords: Deixis, Person, Time, Place, Discourse, Social

INTRODUCTION

People learn language as a means of communication especially foreign language. English as an international foreign language has a crucial role since it is used by many people around the world. According to Bloch & Trager (1942) Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group cooperates. Language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written, or gestural symbols that enable members of a given community to communicate intelligibly with one another. (Brown, 2007). Studying language is very important so that people can conduct the communication smoothly and understand the meaning of language. Linguistics is the scientific study of language (Crystal, 2008) and it consists of pragmatics as one of branch of linguistics study. According to Yule (1996) Pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). In addition, Levinson (1983) stated that Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. Pragmatics comprises into implicature, presupposition, speech acts, conversational structure, and deixis. (Levinson,1983).

According to Yule (1996) Deixis is the technical term for one of the most basic things we do with utterances, namely pointing via language. Further, Levinson (1983) stated that Deixis concerns the ways in which languages encode features of the context of utterance or speech event and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context. There are some previous researches related to deixis. First, Navigating Deixis in Political Discourse: An Examination of Zelensky and Putin's Speeches (Hasanah, et al 2024), Second, The Complex Process of Mis/Understanding Spatial Deixis in Face-to-Face Interaction (Bazzanella,2019), Last, The Use of Pragmatics Deixis in Conversation Texts in Pathway to English (Ekowati & Sofwan, 2014). Therefore, the discussion about Deixis is significant as it can add the understanding of the delivery of the messages in conducting the communication especially in English Language. English language is learned by the students particularly in English Study Program as one of study programs in Pasim National University. The students learn skill of language that comprises into reading, speaking, listening and writing. Basic writing course is one of course in curriculum of English Study Program. The course of Basic Writing is aimed to teach the student in first semester how to build the sentence and paragraph well. The use of deixis in their paragraphs will be examined to know whether the students applied the types of deixis in their paragraphs. Thus, the writer conducted the research in investigating about deixis in the students' work of writing. Therefore, the title of the research is The Use of Deixis in Basic Writing Course of the First Semester Students of English Study Program in Pasim National University.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics vs Semantics

Fromkin (2011) stated that Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context, including how speakers use language in social situations and how hearers interpret speakers' intentions. Another definition comes from Brown (2007) who defines that Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and the users of those forms. This is in line with Ekowati & Sofwan (2014) who said that Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. Pragmatics is the study of the aspect of the relationship between language and context that are relevant to the writing grammar. According to Saeed (2009) Semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language and Brown (2007) stated that Semantics deals with the meaning of linguistic forms. Thus, pragmatics and semantics has a close relationship.

According to Levinson (1983) Pragmatics is devided into implicature, presupposition, speech acts, conversational structure and deixis. Deixis will be discussed further below.

Deixis

Definition of Deixis

Deixis concerns the ways in which languages encode features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context (Levinson, 1983). In addition, Yule (1996) stated that Deixis is the technical term for one of the most basic things we do with utterances, namely pointing via language. Deixis refers to the location and identification of persons, objects, events, processes, and activities being talked about in relation to the spatiotemporal context created by the act of utterance (Fillmore,1997). Cruse (2001) as cited in Ekowati & Sofwan (2014) defined that deixis signifies different things to different people. Further, Ogeyik (2007) citated in Ekowati & Sofwan (2014) mentioned that deictic expression helps readers or listeners to visualize or imagine the fictional circumstances reflected in the conversation texts. They can capture where and when the story take place; who sees the events; who talks and to whom he is talking, and the like.

Types of Deixis

Deixis is divided into person, time, place, discourse and social deixis (Levinson, 1983). They will be explained below as follows:

1. Person deixis deals with the correct identification of the grammatical persons used to refer to speaker and addressee and concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered (Levinson, 1983:62). It is in form of first person deixis (I, me, myself, my), second person deixis (you, your, yours, yourself, we, our, us, ourself) or third person deixis (he, him, his, himself, she, her, herself, they, their, them, themselves).
2. Time deixis is an expression in relation to point to certain period when the utterances produced by the speaker. The deictic items that use reference can only be determined in relation to the time of the utterance in which they occur. Such as: This / last / next Monday / week / month / year, now, then, ago, later, soon, before, yesterday, today, tomorrow. Tenses also belong to time deixis, as the time line is divided into three domains: present, past, and future. In addition, Time or temporal deixis is a reference for time relative to a temporal reference point, this point is the moment of utterance in which when speaking or written (Dylgjeri & Kazazi, 2013). Further, Yule 1996:14

stated that "the forms of temporal reference are learned a lot later than the deictic expressions like yesterday, tomorrow, today, tonight, next week, last week, this week. All these expressions depend for their interpretation on knowing the relevant utterance time."

3. Place deixis is to inform the location of something discussed. The words indicating place deixis is in two forms. They can come up in the form of adverb (here, there) and demonstrative pronouns (this and that). The terms CT (coding time), RT (referential time), proximal and distal are also used in place deixes.
   For example: (1) Bring that **here** and take that **there**.
   Although there is distal from speaker's location at CT, it can also be used to mean proximal. The demonstratives this and that are complicated by both subjective and non-deictic uses.

   In addition, "spatial deixis refers to the physical and social environment or simply the space around the participants in a discourse. The most commonly used words as spatial deixis are the demonstrative pronouns this, that, these and those. Other words often used as deixis include here, there, in, on, at etc.

4. Discourse deixis is deictic reference to a portion of a discourse relative to the speaker's current location in the discourse, such as above, below, last, previous, proceeding, next or following (usually used in texts) and this, that, there, next, last (usually used in utterances). Sometimes, discourse deixis is compared to anaphora, but actually they both are different. Deictic are often used to introduce a referent, and anaphoric pronouns are used to refer to the same entity thereafter. The following example (Levinson, 1983: 86).
   Example: (2) A: That's a rhinoceros

   B: Spell **it** for me

   Example: (3) Harry's a sweetheart; he's so considerate

   Conversation (2) is an example of discourse deixis. There, the word 'it' does not to refer a rhinoceros, but it is used to mention the rhinoceros itself. It is different from the concept of anaphora in (3) where 'he' functions to refer to 'Harry'.

5. Social deixis does not deal with three main components (person, place and time) of the coordinate system of subjective orientation, but they show how different social rankings and the participants of communication utter relationships within society via language. Briefly, it is rather to refer to the level of relationship between people than to information.

Context

Hymes (1974) explained that Context refers to the setting, participants, and purposes of a speech event which influence the form and interpretation of an

utterance. Halliday & Hasan (1989) stated that Context is the environment in which a text is produced and interpreted. In line with Levinson (1983) Context includes all those factors that are relevant to the interpretation of an utterance. In addition, Yule (1996) said that Context is the physical environment in which a word is used. Context is the set of extra-linguistic factors that influence the interpretation of linguistic expressions (Lyons, 1977)

Writing

Nunan (2003) defined writing that it is the process of thinking to invent ideas, thinking about how to express them, and organizing them into statements and paragraphs that will be clear to a reader. Besides, Writing is a process that involves planning, drafting, editing, and producing a final version (Harmer, 2004). Furthermore Hyland (2003) said that Writing is a social practice that involves communicating meanings within specific contexts and communities.

Sentence

A sentence is a group of words that is grammatically complete and expresses a complete thought (Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams, 2011). In addition, Yule (2010) explained that A sentence is a sequence of words arranged according to the grammatical rules of a language. According to Yule (2010) sentences can be classified into four types based on their communicative function such as declarative sentence (sentence used to state information or facts), Interrogative sentence (sentence used to ask questions), imperative sentence (sentence used to give commands, requests, or instructions), exclamatory sentence (sentence used to express strong feelings or emotions).

METHODOLOGY

This research used descriptive qualitative method. According to Creswell (2014) qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem, and descriptive qualitative studies aim to describe a phenomenon as it is experienced by participants. In addition, descriptive qualitative research seeks to describe and interpret a phenomenon without manipulating variables (Ary et al, 2010). In this research, the students were asked to write a paragraph in Basic Writing course. Next, the writer collected, classified, analysed and interpreted the data. The data are categorized according to types of Deixis on students' work of writing in the first semester and find out the most dominant usage of deixis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. **Person Deixis**
   Data 1: I usually wake up at five in the morning

   The deictic word **I** in the sentence above belongs to person deixis as person deixis deals with the correct identification of the grammatical persons used to refer to speaker and addressee and concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered. It is in form of first person deixis (I, me, myself, my), second person deixis (you, your, yours, yourself, we, our, us, ourself) or third person deixis (he, him, his, himself, she, her, herself, they, their, them, themselves). Thus,

2. **Time Deixis**
   Data 2: My ordinary day on campus usually starts early in the morning.

   The deictic word **in the morning** belongs to Time Deixis as Time Deixis is an expression in relation to point to certain period when the utterances produced by the speaker. The deictic items that use reference can only be determined in relation to the time of the utterance in which they occur. Such as: This / last / next Monday / week / month / year, now, then, ago, later, soon, before, yesterday, today, tomorrow. Tenses also belong to time deixis, as the time line is divided into three domains: present, past, and future.

3. **Place Deixis**
   Data 3: I like to relax for moment on the campus bench

   The deictic word **on the campus bench** belongs to place deixis as place deixis is to inform the location of something discussed. The words indicating place deixis is in two forms. They can come up in the form of adverb (here, there) and demonstrative pronouns (this and that). The terms CT (coding time), RT (referential time), proximal and distal are also used in place deixis. Other words often used as deixis include here, there, in, on, at.

4. **Discourse Deixis**
   Data 4: Next, I grab a quick simple breakfast

The word deictic **Next** belongs to discourse deixis as discourse deixis is deictic reference to a portion of a discourse relative to the speaker's current location in the discourse, such as above, below, last, previous, proceeding, next or following (usually used in texts) and this, that, there, next, last (usually used in utterances).

Data 5: This class is generally more interactive
The word deictic **This** belongs to discourse deixis as discourse deixis is deictic reference to a portion of a discourse relative to the speaker's current location in the discourse, such as above, below, last, previous, proceeding, next or following (usually used in texts) and this, that, there, next, last (usually used in utterances).

5. **Social Deixis**
   Data 6: At noon, I take a break and have lunch with my friends

The deictic word **friends** belongs to social deixis as social deixis show how different social rankings and the participants of communication utter relationships within society via language. Briefly, it is rather to refer to the level of relationship between people than to information.

After analysing the data of deixis, the writer presented the frequency of the occurances of deixis on the students work of writing. They are as follows:

Types of Deixis	Frequency	Percentage
Person Deixis	133	42.5%
Time Deixis	80	25.5 %
Place Deixis	75	24%
Discourse Deixis	7	2.2%
Social Deixis	18	5.8%
Total	313	

Based on the identified data above, the result of the data showed that the most dominant deixis is person deixis with 42.5%.

CONCLUSION
The writer found 313 data of all types of deixis in the students work of writing. This analysis which applied Levinson's type of deixis found deixis which is comprised into 133 person deixis, 80 data time deixis, 75 data place deixis, 7 data discourse deixis, and 18 data social deixis. Thus, the most dominant deixis is person deixis with 42.5%. The data in this research were obtained from the students work

of writing. Therefore, this result showed that the students strongly applied the person deixis in their writing and they still have to improve the use of discourse deixis.

REFRENCES

Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorensen, C., & Razavieh, A. (2010). *Introduction to research in education* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Bazzanella, C. (2019). The Complex Process of Mis/Understanding Spatial Deixis in Face-to-Face Interaction. De Gruyter.

Bloch, B., & Trager, G. L. (1942). *Outline of linguistic analysis*. Baltimore: Linguistic Society of America.

Brown, H. D. (2007). *Principles of language learning and teaching* (5th ed.). White Plains, NY: Pearson Education.

Creswell (2014). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Sage Publications.

Crystal, D. (2008). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics* (6th ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Dylgjeri, A., & Kazazi, L. (2013). *Deixis in modern linguistics and outside. Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2*(4), 87–96. https://doi.org/10.5901/ajis.2012.v2n4p87

Ekowati & Sofwan (2014). The Use of Pragmatics Deixis in Conversation Texts in Pathway to English. FBS. Universitas Negeri Semarang Indonesia

Fillmore, C. J. (1997). *Lectures on deixis*. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2011). *An introduction to language* (9th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1989). *Language, context, and text: Aspects of language in a social-semiotic perspective* (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hyland, K. (2003). *Second language writing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Harmer, J. (2004). *How to teach writing*. Harlow: Longman.

Hasanah,et al (2024). Navigating Deixis in Political Discourse: An Examination of Zelensky and Putin's Speeches. DEIKTIS

Hymes, D. (1974). *Foundations in sociolinguistics: An ethnographic approach*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Levinson, S. C. (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lyons, J. (1977). *Semantics* (Vol. 2). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Nunan, D. (2003). *Practical English language teaching*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Saeed, J. I. (2009). *Semantics* (3rd ed.). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Yule, G. (2010). The Study of Language (4th ed). Cambridge University Press.