

ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE ARTICLE SELECTED FROM THE JAKARTA POST

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Abstract

This paper reports on the findings of a study investigating the deixis in the article selected from the Jakarta post. It was applied descriptive qualitative using content analysis to analyze the deixis found in the article selected from the Jakarta post. The findings show that the kinds of deixis found in the article selected from the Jakarta Post are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The deictic words of the person deixis found are *it* (the third person singular personal pronoun), *I*, *me*, *we* (the first person singular personal pronoun), *your* (possessive form of pronoun *you*), and *his* (possessive form of pronoun *he*). The deictic words of the spatial deixis found are *places*, *that* (demonstrative pronoun), and *here* (adverb of place). The deictic words of the temporal deixis found are *this year* and *now*.

Keywords: *deixis, person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, newspaper article*

1. Introduction

In daily communication, people may use linguistics forms to express the meaning in the different context in the forms discourse or utterance. These linguistic fields are closely connected with each other until now. Determining the meaning of various kinds of linguistics expressions is not a simple task, because the reader or the hearer has to be able to understand and interpret the writer's speaker's meaning by his/her utterance.

For one of the most basic things to do with utterances, deixis seems not very familiar. People use it so often in both spoken and written language, but they do not know the word or the term to call it. As for college students who are majoring English, the term deixis is common when they study semantics. Studying deixis means learning one aspect of natural languages that requires such reference to know (at least) who the speaker and the

hearer are, the place and the time of speaking in which the deictic terms are used.

This paper focuses only on the discussion of deixis because deixis is very important in language study. There are many words and expressions that depend on the circumstance, in order to be understood. This aspect is called deixis (Carron, 1992:22). Armed with this condition, then deixis cannot be ignored in the study of language, for ordinary language is full of their use. Particularly it will try to analyze deixis in the article selected from the Jakarta Post. This paper is started by presenting the review of related theory – deixis/deictic terms, types of deixis, and deictic usage – the analysis of deixis, and conclusion respectively.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1. Deixis/Deictic Terms

Lyons (1977:636) states that now in linguistics, the term *deixis* (which comes from a Greek word meaning ‘pointing’ or ‘indicating’) is used to “refer to the function of personal and demonstratives pronouns, of the tense and of a variety of other grammatical and lexical features” which concern to the spatiotemporal coordinates of the act of utterance.

In the same idea Lyons (1977:637) added that, by deixis is mean the location an identification of persons, objects, events, processes, and activities that being talked about or referred to relating of the spatiotemporal context are formed and determined by the act of utterance and the participant in it, usually, it is spoken by a single speaker and at least one addressee.

The idea of deixis is identification by pointing clearly as a form of referring that is tied to the speaker’s context. It relates to the ways where language encode some grammatical features of the context of utterance, wherein the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance.

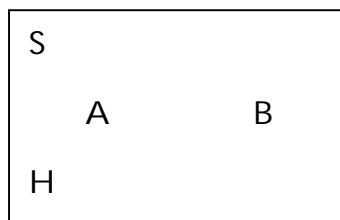
Soekemi (2000: 33) states a deictic word is one which takes some elements of its meaning from the situation of the utterance in which it is used. He gives example, Emi says “I’ll be *there*”. *I* refers to Emi and *there* refers to a particular place. Other examples of deictic words are *you, here, today, his, sini, nanti*. Deictic words help the hearer to identify the referent of a referring expression through its spatial or temporal relationships with the situation of an utterance.

In other words Carron (1992:129-130) points out that deictic markers are used to *designate* what is being spoken about by situating this within a system of reference defined by the situation of utterance. He also states that there are three essential elements of the system of reference:

- a. The *participants* of the utterance are the personal markers of the first or second person (such as pronouns: *I, we, and you*; possessives; verbal markers), put together the third person designates a non-participant.
- b. The *place* of utterance designate the positons (*here, there*) and objects (*this, that*), generally, to distinguish the position of the speaker as the reference point being near speaker or away from speaker.
- c. The *time* of utterance performs as the foundation for a wide range of temporal landmarks marked by all kinds of adverbial expressions (*now, then, yesterday, tomorrow, etc*), and also tenses.

Dillon (1977:102) defines that for locating things in space relative to the speaker and the hearer, the devices are more complicated than those for the time. Since the speaker and the hearer are assumed to be at the same point in time, they are not necessary at the same point in place. The *here-there, this-that* oppositions seem to be like time at first glance if individuals think of speaker (S) and hearer (H) as together. It could be drawn as the figure 1 below:

Figure 1. The Location of Things Relative to the Speaker and Hearer that Stand Vertically (Dillon, 1977:102)



Where:

S: Speaker

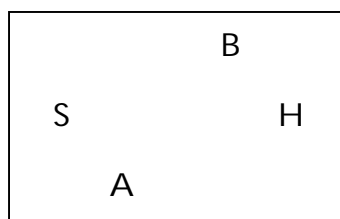
H: Hearer

A: Object 1

B: Object 2

In this case, both speaker and hearer stand vertically (but it is not same in reality). They would refer to **A** as *this one (here)* and **B** as *that one (there)*. Because **A** is closer to the speaker, rather than **B**. However the system gets more complicated when **A** and **B** stretch out between speaker and hearer. It is drawn as the figure 2 below:

Figure 2. The Location of Things Relative to the Speaker and Hearer that Stand Horizontally (Dillon, 1977: 102)



In this case, the speaker and the hearer stand horizontally even though they stand in different position. Then for the speaker, **A** is *here* and **B** is *there*, but vice versa for the hearer. Therefore, the hearer must adopt the speaker's point of view, as it were, for the moment in order to understand which things the speaker is referring by *this one*.

Further, it is generally true that deixis is organized in an egocentric way. In the sense that whoever the speaker by virtue of being the speaker, he casts himself in the role of ego and relates everything to his perspective (Lyons, 1995: 305). For the purpose of semantic or pragmatic interpretation, the deictic expressions are thought as anchored in the spatiotemporal viewpoint of the speaker to specific points in the communicative event constituting the deictic center.

2.2. Types of Deixis

There are three traditional categories of deixis, i.e. *person deixis*, *place or spatial deixis*, and *time or temporal deixis* (Levinson, 1983:62). These categories are understood in the following way.

2.2.1. Person Deixis

According to Levinson (1983:62) person deixis concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event. Person deixis clearly operates on a basic three part divisions, exemplified by the pronouns for the pronouns for first person (*I*), second person (*you*) and third person (*he, she, or it*). See his

examples below:

1. First person reference to self.
e.g. "*I* fall in love in a first sight"
2. Second person reference to addressee(s)
e.g. "*You* are Andree's sister"
3. Third person reference to others who neither speaker nor addressee
e.g. "*He* is the president of Indonesia"

Person deixis is commonly expressed by pronouns, such as *I, my, mine, you, your, yours, we, ours, us, etc* (Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams, 2003:213). Those pronouns require identification of speaker and listener for interpretation. Besides, other expression such as *this person, that man, these women, those children, etc* are also deictic since in order for the listener to make a referential connection and understand what is meant, they require pragmatic information (ibid).

2.2.2. Place or Spatial Deixis

Spatial or place Deixis refers to how languages show the relationship between space and the location of the participants in a discourse. Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2003:218) said that, the expression of place deixis require contextual information of the place of the utterance such as *here, there, this, place, that, place, this city, etc*. In English, the distinction between space and the location of the participants in a discourse is shown in demonstrative pronouns (*that-this*), or in adverbs (*here-there*), directional terms (*before-behind, left-right, front-back*) or in phrases such as *at our place, out back etc*.

In addition, Yule (1996:12) in considering spatial deixis, however, it is important to remember that location from the speaker perspective can be fixed mentally as well as physically. Based on this statements, Yule categorized spatial deictic into two forms deictic projection and psychological distance.

- a. *Deictic projection* is accomplished via dramatic performance when I used speech to represent the person, location, and feelings of someone or something else.

For example:

'I will be right *here* waiting for you'

Proximal term of *here* means the location of the speaker.

- b. *Psychological distance* is the truly pragmatic basis of deixis. Physically close objects will tend to be treated by the speaker as psychological close. Also something that is psychological with generally.

For example:

'The man *over there*'

Distal term of *over there* is refer to the location of *the man* is far from the speaker. The speaker who utters it and the word *the man* could be referred to someone, which consider as a man and know by the speaker and the speaker and the hearer.

Deixis is like reference by means of an expression whose interpretation is relative to the usually extra linguistic context of the utterances, such as who is speaking, the time and place of speaking, the gesture of the speaker, or the current location in the discourse (Lyons, 1981:170).

2.2.3 Time or Temporal Deixis

According to Levinson (1983:62) Time or temporal deixis is a reference to the time relative to a temporal reference point, this point is the moment of the utterance at which of the time of speaking (or written inscribed). Moreover 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.

For example:

1. November 22nd, 1963? I was in Scotland *then*.

In the distal expression *then* applies to past time relative to the speakers present time.

2. I will come to your house *tomorrow*.

There is a notice on someone's appointment with someone to future time.

In temporal deixis, the remote or distal form can be used to communicate not one distance from current, but also distance from current reality or facts.

2.3. Deictic usage

There are important differences in the use of deictic terms. As Fillmore in Yule's book of *pragmatics* (1996:93) points out that deictic expression can be used in one or more of three different ways, those are:

1. *Gestural used*

The terms used in a *gestural* deictic way can be interpreted by somebody physical monitoring aspect of the speech event.

2. *Symbolic usage*

The terms used in a *symbolic* deictic way can be interpreted by knowing particular aspect of the speech event, whether this knowledge comes by current perception or not. In other words, Levinson (1983:66) states that the interpretation of symbolic usage requires knowledge of "contextual coordinates available to participants antecedent to the utterance".

3. *Anaphoric usage*

The term used in *anaphoric* way can be interpreted by knowing whether the expression is co-referential with other part of the same discourse. In Lyons (1977:657), it is "argued that anaphora also depends ultimately upon deixis".

Deictic expressions are a particular kind of referential expressions. Therefore, to establish the correct reference, Mey (1993:95) defines that the referent of deictic expression cannot be identified unless a certain minimal context is known. Further, the following examples will help to make the distinction of the three uses:

- Would you please put it *there*!
The deictic expression *there* is used gesturally. Its gestural usage can be interpreted by knowing where the speaker is pointing in order to know what place he is indicating.
- Is Mary *there*?
The symbolic usage is shown in the telephoner's utterance. Then, the word *there* is understood as relative to the place of utterance as meaning 'in the place where the speaker is'.
- I was born in Surabaya and have lived *there* ever since.
The term *there* is used anaphorically to refer to a place which had been identified earlier in the discourse, i.e. whatever place Surabaya refers to. However. The symbolic usage is also shown in this utterance, in which the deictic expressions *there* simultaneously contrasts with *here* on the deictic dimension of space, locating the utterance outside Surabaya.

3. Research Methodology

This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative because the data have been analyzed and its findings are in the form of descriptions, instead of numbers. A descriptive research determines and reports the thing. It means that this research happens naturally, has no control over the condition and situation, and can only measure what already exist (Gay & Airasian, 1992: 11).

The type of this qualitative research was content analysis which applied to written or visual material. According to Ary et al. (2002: 29), content analysis focuses on analyzing and interpreting recorded material to learn about human behavior, and the material may be public records, textbooks, letters, films, tapes, diaries, themes, reports, transcript or other documents. The research procedure was to find descriptive data in the form of written data as a result of the content analysis of document employed to the certain text such as the text in the article selected from the Jakarta post.

The data source of this research was the article selected from the Jakarta post published on 4 January 2007. The collected data gained from documentation were then analyzed to fulfill the data towards problems. It was through the techniques–data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verifying (Miles & Huberman, 1994: 16). To do so, after the data were collected, data reduction was conducted by classifying, pointing, throwing irrelevant data, and organizing data. All the data were then presented in narration, and the conclusion was drawn.

4. Findings and Discussion

To apply the theory related to deixis, it will be presented some data taken from the article *"More than 1 m New Yorkers Choose between Food or Rent"* from *The Jakarta Post* (Thursday, January 4, 2007) as source of the data:

1. *Food or Rent? That is the daily choice faced by about 1,2 million of New York's 8,2 million people.*

Deictic expression : that

That is demonstrative pronoun. It can be called spatial deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to food or rent as the New York's people choice.

2. *Faced with that choice, mostly they pay rent and rely on emergency or charity food to survive, poverty activist say.*

Deictic expression s : that, they

The deictic word *that* is demonstrative pronoun. It can be called spatial deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to food or rent as the New York's people choice. The deictic word *they* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, *they* refers to New York's 1,2 million people.

3. *"It is a struggle," said 53-year-old Pierra Simmons, who has a part-time job, as he wrapped up a bagel from his soup kitchen for later.*

Deictic expression s : it, he, his

It is the third person singular personal pronoun. It can be called person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that *it* refers to food or rent as the New York's people choice. *He* is the third person singular personal pronoun. *His* is the possessive form which is originated from the pronoun *he*. *He*, *his* belong to person deixis. All of them refer to 53-year-old Pierra Simmons, who has a part-time job.

4. *"I have a job, but the cost of living is so high, it makes it hard to buy food."*

Deictic expressions : I, it

I is the first person singular personal pronoun. After reading the whole text, we found out that *I* refers back to 53-year-old Pierra Simmons, who has a part-time job, the speaker of this utterance. The deictic word in the text, *It* belongs to person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that the first *it* refers to salary of the job and the second *it* refers to the cost of living.

5. *But, of all places in the United States, New York has perhaps the most visible income gap.*

Deictic expression : places

Places can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that *places* refers to all places in the United States.

6. *While the city's Wall Street banker are due to collect nearly US \$ 24 billion in bonuses this year.*

Deictic expressions : this year

This year is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. *This year* refers to this year 2007.

7. *"I feel angry that we still need to be in this kind of business," said Lucy Caberra, the Food Bank's president and chief executive.*

Deictic expressions : I, we

Both *I* and *we* are the first person singular personal pronoun. It refers back to Lucy Caberra, the Food Bank's president and chief executive.

8. *"I would rather be giving my expertise to try and solve the hunger issue in a third-world country, where they have no food."*

Deictic expressions : I, my, they

I is the first person singular personal pronoun. It is a person deixis. The possessive form *my* which is originated from the pronoun *I*, it is a person deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that *I* and *my* refer back to Lucy Caberra, the Food Bank's president and chief executive. The deictic word *they* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to 1,200 Community groups and charities in the city.

9. *"Here we have the food, "she said, as workers zipped about the warehouse floor on pallet jacks filling agency food orders.*

Deictic expressions : Here, we, she

Here which is an adverb of place can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that *here* refers to an industrial section of New York's Bronx borough. *We* as the first person plural personal pronoun. It refers back to workers. *She* is the third person singular personal pronoun. It is called person deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to Lucy Caberra, the Food Bank's president and chief executive.

10. *"When I first came here it was a lot of minoritas, drug users, now it is the families, the struggling person." Said Executive Director Sister Mary Alice Hannan.*

Deictic expressions : I, here, it, now

I is the first person singular personal pronoun. *I* is also a person deixis because it refers back to Mary Alice Hannan, the speaker of this utterance. *Here* which is an adverb of place can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that *here* refers to The Mary Alice Hannan's work place. The

deictic word in the text, *It* belongs to person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that the first *it* refers to the struggling person. *Now* is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. *Now* refers to this year 2007.

11. *"There's just some kind of a lack of awareness of the size of your family versus your income, your ability to live," Hannan said.*

Deictic expression : your

The possessive form *your* which is originated from the pronoun *you*, it is a person deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that *your* refers back to the families.

12. *"You don't have to be homeless to be hungry," said POTS kitchen manager Daune Moore, who is known as Diz, as she stood with her arms folded watching over the lunchtime crowd.*

Deictic expressions : you, she, her

You is the second person singular personal pronoun. It refers to 100 people. The possessive form *her* which is originated from the pronoun *she*, it is a person deixis. It refers to POTS kitchen manager Daune Moore as the speaker of this utterance.

13. *"I get my child a hamburger, French fries an soda and they're satisfied and it is only cost me 99 cents - I go to the supermarket and I can't even get a can of beans for that," Cabrera said.*

Deictic expressions : I, me, they, it

I and *me* is the first person singular personal pronoun and they also a person deixis because they refer back to Cabrera, the speaker of this utterance. The deictic word *they* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, *they* refers to French. The deictic word *it* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, *it* refers to an soda.

14. *"It is about being able to feed people in a way so that they stay healthy, continue to work." Cabrera said.*

Deictic expressions : it, they

The deictic word in the text, *It* belongs to person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that *it* refers to food. The deictic word *they* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In

the text, *they* refers to people.

15. *Virgilio Avilius, 45, limps back to his table carrying his lunch. In 1988 he was working as a window washer, earning up to \$1,00 a week, when he fell four floors.*

Deictic expression s : he, his

The possessive form *his* which is originated from the pronoun *he*, it is a person deixis. The deictic word *he* has anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, *he* refers to Virgilio Avilius.

16. *After spending six months in a coma and 10 years in hospitals, Avilius now has apartment of his own that costs him \$200 a month rent. His government income is \$250 a month.*

Deictic expression s : now, his, him

Now is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. *Now* refers to this year 2007. The possessive form *his* which is originated from the pronoun *he*, it is a person deixis. And also *him* is the third person singular personal pronoun. It is also called person deixis. *His* and *him* have anaphorical usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, they refer to Avilius.

17. *"That's all I have to my name," he said. "I have to eat here. I can't be spending \$10 a day food."*

Deictic expression s : that, I, my, he, here

The deictic word *that* is demonstrative pronoun. It can be called spatial deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to the costs of a month rent. *I* is the first person singular personal pronoun. It is a person deixis. The possessive form *my* which is originated from the pronoun *I*, it is a person deixis To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that *I* and *my* refer back to Avilus. *He* is the third person singular personal pronoun. It is called person deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to Avilus. *Here* which is an adverb of place can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that *here* refers to the part of the solution (POTS) soup kitchen and food pantry in the Bronx borough of New York.

5. Conclusion

Understanding the deixis is very important in studying semantics. As for college students who are majoring English, the term deixis is common when they study semantics. Studying deixis means learning one aspect of natural languages that requires such reference to know (at least) who the speaker and the hearer are, the place and the time of speaking in which the deictic terms are used. By applying the theory of deixis/deictic terms in the analysis of the article, it could be conclude that most of the utterances or the sentences in the article contains deictic expression. Therefore by understanding the deixis in the article, it will help us to understanding the article better and correctly.

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