



AN ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE GREATEST SHOWMAN MOVIE (A Content Analysis of the Main Character Utterance)

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Abstract: The aims of this study are 1) To identify the types of deixis that used by main character in The Greatest Showman movie; 2) To find out the function of each types of deixis used by main character in The Greatest Showman movie. The data were classified based on the types to Alan Cruse theory (2000). This study is qualitative research applying content analysis. The source of the data was obtained from script of this movie. The results of this study showed there were five types of deixis used by Barnum as main character that is person deixis 344 times, spatial deixis 35 times, and temporal deixis 15 times, discourse deixis 44 times and social deixis 24 times. In this research, person deixis is the most dominant types of deixis used by main character in this movie. The function deixis is for indicating something which depends on the speaker's means.



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INTRODUCTION

Language is a symbol system for people to communicate. The symbol can be spoken, written or signed by hand. Language spoken to convey ideas, messages, feelings and opinion. Language can use to create interactions with another people in daily communication.¹ Language is also a tool for self-expression and for expressing one's identity. Language allows us to express our point of view, our knowledge of the material, the origin of the national, our educational level, and even our personality. Language has become our mirror, both as a nation and as individuals. In order for good

communication, speakers and listeners must master their own language.

The most common communication problems occurred in both speakers and listeners when speakers and listeners get miscommunicated about meaning of words that relate to the context of the situation if the listener knows context, the language can clearly understand what it means. From this, the study of meaning through a speech uttered by the speaker to the listener is called pragmatics.

Yule has states that pragmatics is related to the study of the meaning of speaker communication and listener interpretation.² Communication can identify the meaning of words and the meaning of the speaker or the speaker in a

¹ Charles W. Kreidler, *Introducing English Semantic* (New York: Routledge, 1998), 19.

² George Yule, *Pragmatics*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 3.

sentence. It is possible for language users to misinterpret the meaning at times. This comprehension is connected to the quoting of speech or sentences. To understand the quotation of speech, the reader or listener must be able to recognize the context of the speech.

According to Fromkin pragmatics describes interpretation in the meaning of a linguistic context.³ There are any words in English language cannot be understood until we know the context being spoken, particularly the physical context of the speaker. There are words like there and here, that or this, then and now, today, tomorrow or yesterday and also words like I, me, you, he, her, she, him, it, they and them. Some English phrases are genuinely difficult to comprehend if we don't know who is saying, about whom, where, and when, and this is included in deixis.

Actually, in daily communication and when read books and newspapers, watch movies, listening a song etc. And we will find deixis in them. However, we do not realize that find deixis in it because we as readers do not know about deixis before. Deixis is a technical word (derived from Greek) that refers to the use of language to "point". Deixis is the study of pointing to an utterance, classify deixis the word in utterance and explaining what the word is pointing to is a way of knowing speech context. It is simple for people to understand the meaning of an utterance until they understand the context. The place, events, objects, and activities addressed in the context of space and time given by the speakers and listeners actions in utterance are referred to as deixis.⁴ Since each utterance is linked to a reference about a

person, place, or time, Deixis is used to evaluate a conversation, expression, or sentence.

It is important that we as readers must learn about deixis. By studying deixis, the reader will easily understand what is meant by the speaker or the information obtained by the listener speaker and listener are communicating. Especially if the information can only be reached from the context. Context here means the situation of the speaker and listener communicating, and the listener's background knowledge in understanding the information obtained by the listener.

There are several effects that readers have when they do not know about deixis. The effect of not knowing about deixis is to make it difficult for listeners to understand understanding of what the speaker is in communication, especially if the information the listener gets is out of context. The deixis here helps listeners in understand what the speaker means by looking at the words used to identify people, time and place. The next effect is that they will be strange when they hear the word "deixis". It can also make them unable to answer what deixis is when someone asks about deixis.

Movie is one example of entertainment media that is familiar in society. Movies are a very important media for conveying information to the audience, because they contain the reality that occurs in daily life. Triaton has states that the movie media is "a means of communication in the form of movies; the means of communication by mass media, such as radio, television, newspapers, and magazines, provide information and influence for the people (the masses) their thoughts. Generally, movies contain various news, massage, education, entertainment and other information. In addition to entertaining the audience, the movie will be very useful if the audience

³ Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, (USA: Thomson Place, Boston, Massachuetts, 2003), 634.

⁴ J Lyons, *Semantics Volumes 2* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1977), 637.

can understand the meaning of each word.⁵

The greatest showman movie tells the story of PT Barnum (Hugh Jackman) being laid off from his company that is about to go bankrupt. Barnum also thought of borrowing money from a bank to buy a museum where the museum displays various kinds of wax sculptures. Unfortunately museum ticket sales are very low. In the midst of quiet visitors to the museum, the child gave an idea to show something "alive" for the museum. That's when he began to meet many players to be able to join in his circus shows.

In this study, the researchers decided to analyze about deixis because, this topic is important to study because deixis is studies in pragmatics subject. When the speaker and listener miscommunicate about the meaning of words related to the context situation and if the listener knows the context, the language can be understood clearly about the meaning. Deixis is very important to learn as one of the teaching materials or learning media to make it easier for students to understand an utterance and know how to analyze deixis in films. Next, she chose a movie and made students use it as a medium for learning deixis.

This movie is also very helpful because it contains a lot of deixis, and the script is easy to learn, because the words are simple and easy to understand, and this is because deixis is very helpful for understanding the purpose of the conversation and how to use it.

METHOD

This study used content analysis as the type of qualitative research. According to Kothari, The process of evaluating the content of documentary materials such as

books, magazine, and newspapers, as well as the contents of any other verbal items that may be spoken or printed, is known as content analysis.⁶ Movies can be said as verbal communication because they contain conversations in them. Therefore, the researcher uses content analysis.

The object of this research is "The Greatest Showman" movie script, which limited on utterance that produce by main character in this movie.

In qualitative research the research instrument or tool is the researcher herself called the human instrument, because it is impossible to analyze the data directly without interpretation from it and the data is the form of words or utterances that cannot be collected using other instrument. In addition researchers need other tools, such as watching movie and writing tools.

For doing this research, the writer chooses to use the documentation method in collecting the data, because the writer uses the script of the movie as the object of collecting or getting the data. The research data were collected through the utterance conveyed by the main character in the movie entitled "The greatest showman".

In analyzing the data, the researcher applied procedures as follow: Watching "The greatest showman" movie in this step, the researcher give total attention to every dialog among the movie in order to get the deixis types in the greatest showman movie, reading the script, the next step is the researcher identifying the types of deixis found in the movie by watching, and match it to the screenplay, after that the researcher separate deixis according to their types based on the theory of Alan Cruse, then the researcher analyzes the conversation in the movie based on five types of deixis

⁵ Teguh trianton, *Movie Sebagai Media Pembelajaran*, 1st edn (Yogyakarta: Graha ilmu, 2013), 57.

⁶ Kothari, *Research Methodology* (Jaipur: New Age International (P) Limited, Publisher, 2004), 110.

according to the theory of Alan Cruse and the last drawing the conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of deixis in The Greatest Showman movie, the result showed that there are 344 person deixis, 35 spatial deixis, 15 temporal deixis, 444 discourse deixis, and 24 social deixis. The types of deixis are discussed in the data below.

Person Deixis

Data 1

Barnum: Bankrupt?

I thought the company had a dozen trading ships.

The conversation is between Barnum and his Boss. The situation of the conversation above is Barnum was fired from his job because his company went bankrupt, and he doesn't believe that the company went bankrupt because he thought the company had dozens trading ships. In this sentence there was a first person deixis, I. The word "I" said by Barnum. I referred to Barnum as a speaker. And word I showed as the singular pronoun, and the function of deixis I is as a subject and point speaker itself.

Data 2

Barnum: Just between you and me.

The conversation is between Barnum and Heaviest man. The situation of the conversation above is Barnum asked the weight of the heaviest man, at first the man didn't want to say it but Barnum assured that only the two of them would know. In this sentence there was a first person deixis, 'Me'. The word 'Me' said by Barnum. 'Me' referred to Barnum as a speaker. And word 'Me' showed as the first singular pronoun deixis, and the function of deixis 'Me' as an object and refers to the speaker itself.

Data 3

Barnum: It's my fault, sir. I made her laugh.

The conversation is between Barnum and Charity Father. The situation of the conversation above is Charity was scolded by his father for laughing during his etiquette lesson and Barnum said it was because of him because he made charity laugh with his jokes. In this sentence there was a first person deixis, 'My'. The word 'My' said by Barnum. 'My' referred to Barnum as a speaker. And word 'My' showed as the first singular pronoun deixis, and the function of deixis 'My' as possessive adjective and refers to the speaker itself.

Data 4

Barnum: You are so talented, blessed, extraordinary, unique. I would even say 'beautiful'.

The conversation is between Barnum and Lettie. The situation is above, Barnum who was amazed to see the form of Litte because she was very unique to have feathers all over his body. The word 'you' in this sentence belongs to deixis that is second person deixis. And the function of the word 'you' that spoken by Barnum is to point person and referred to litte as the addressee.

Data 5

Barnum: She can't quit. No. No, I mean.. She doesn't. She just feels out of place with the other girls.

The utterance said by Barnum. The situation above is Barnum and Charity had just returned from seeing their daughter ballet performance, but he saw his daughter being bullied by others. The word "she" in the above sentence its included to the third person deixis, because it refers to a person out of the conversation and it indicates that the referent point to one person that did not exist when the conversation begins. The function of the word "she" in the

utterance is subject of plural pronoun and to point Caroline.

Spatial Deixis

Data 6

Barnum: **There** is a ballet school right down the street. Just past your parent house.

The utterance is spoken by Barnum. And the addressed is Barnum family. Based on the context, the conversation is taking place in Barnum new house. The situation above is Barnum and his family have just moved into their new home and he explains that there is a ballet school here. The word "there" in the utterance included to the spatial deixis that is distal its means relatively far from the speaker when the conversation happen. The function of the word "there" above is adverb of place to point the location of ballet school.

Data 7

Barnum: Caroline. You're the best dancer on **that** stage.

The utterance spoken by Barnum and the addressed is Charity. Based on the context, the conversation is taking place in Barnum Circus building. The situation in

The utterance above is said by Barnum. The addressee is Caroline. Based on the context, When Barnum watched his daughter dance on stage he praised Caroline and said that she was the best dancer on the stage. The word "that" in the utterance included to the spatial deixis that is distal its means relatively far from the speaker when the conversation happen. The function of the word "that" above is adverb of place to point where the speaker (Barnum) is that is in Ballerina performance hall.

Data 8

Barnum: Everyone is **here**. Look at this even the Winddrops.

The utterance spoken by Barnum and the addressed is Charity. Based on the context, the conversation is taking place in Barnum Circus building. The situation in the conversation is Barnum put on a jenny singing show at the circus building and he look that everyone is here. The word "here" in the utterance included to the spatial deixis that is proximal it's means relatively close from the speaker when the conversation happen. The function of the word "here" above is adverb of place to point where the speaker (Barnum) is that is in Barnum circus building.

Data 9

Barnum: Those are your granddaughter.

The utterance said by Barnum and addressed to Charity parents. Based on the context, the conversation is taking place in Barnum Circus building .The situation above is Barnum introduces his child to charity parents. The word "those" in the utterance included to the spatial deixis that is distal its means relatively far from the speaker when the conversation happen. The function of the word "those" above is adverb of place to point the location of Barnum daughter.

Temporal Deixis

Data 10

Barnum: I can see it right **now**. "Youngest prima ballerina in the history of the city ballet."

The utterance spoken by Barnum. The word now included to temporal deixis. The word now in the conversation above refers to the situation when the utterance is made, the word now means present time, so the word now is spoken by Barnum refers to Caroline when Caroline performs ballet and Barnum says Caroline is Youngest prima ballerina in the history of the City ballet.

Data 11

Barnum: We have a show on the hour, **every hour**.

The utterance spoken by Barnum. The situation above is Barnum tries to sell the museum ticket and say every hour there will be a show. The word "every our" is included in temporal deixis. The function of word "every our" is to explain the time when the show will be held.

Discourse Deixis

Data 12

Phillips: Costume set? Fireworks? Inside the theaters?

Barnum: Yes **that's** genius.

The sentence above was spoken by Barnum. The word "that" included to the discourse deixis. In the conversation above the word that is also found and it's spoken by Barnum, the word that in the conversation above is not used to referring something but it used to refer the information uttered by Philip before, therefore it can be categorized as discourse deixis.

Data 13

Barnum: I am doing **this** for Caroline and Helen.

The conversation is between Charity and Barnum. Charity thinks Barnum did all this to prove to charity parents. The word this belongs to discourse deixis. In the conversation the word this spoken by Barnum. The information from the deictic element refers to Barnum who does everything for his family for Caroline and Helen not to prove to parents Charity. In the dialogue above the function of the word this refers to action that states by the speaker, therefore it can be classified as discourse deixis.

Social Deixis

Data 14

Barnum: You don't understand. How could you? **My father** was treated like

dirt. I was treated like dirt, **my children** will not be.

This utterance was actually spoken by Barnum to Charity as the addressed. The Word "My children and My father" in the sentence belongs to a relational social deixis. The word "My children and My father" in the utterance is to Caroline and Helene as daughter of Barnum and Barnum Father.

Data 15

Barnum: **Miss** Lind, let me get to the point.

This utterance was actually spoken by Barnum to Miss Lind as the addressed. The word "Miss" is included to absolute social deixis because it's showed formal respect from Barnum to Miss. Lind because Barnum tried to persuade her to join his business.

CONCLUSION

After the researcher's investigation on the movie titled The Greatest Showman. The following are the five types of deixis discovered by the researcher in this movie that is: Person deixis: I, me, my, we, our, you, your, he, him, she, they, their, and them. Spatial deixis: here, there, this, and so on. Now, last week, every hour, friday, last time, and so on. This and that are examples of discourse deixis. And then there's social deixis: my father, sweetie, sir, and so on. The person deixis has the most appearances in the film. The researcher discovered 462 instances of person deixis, the details of person deixis, 149 instances of first person deixis, 100 instances of second person deixis, and 95 instances of third person deixis. The researcher discovered 35 instances of spatial deixis and 15 instances of temporal deixis, 44 instances of discourse deixis, and only 24 instances of social deixis.

And the function of five types deixis found in "The greatest showman" movie script were: The function of person

deixis is to point to or refer to something or someone. The function of spatial deixis is to pointing the location of an utterance. The function of temporal deixis is indicating the time of utterance. The function of discourse deixis is to pointing some portion of discourse that contain speech. And the function of social deixis is refers to a social status between the speaker and the listener.

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