

DEIXIS IN CHARLES DICKEN'S GREAT EXPECTATION

By :

Mohamad Yunus Laia

STKIP Nias Selatan

Email: yunuslaia_0221@yahoo.co.id

Abstract

This research aimed to know the types of deixis and how they used in the novel of Charles Dicken's Great Expectation. The terms of deixis is not familiar to the learners of English although they use it both in spoken and written language. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative research since the data are taken from words, phrases, and sentences based on deixis theory. Based on the data analysis and discussion are three types of deixis, they are person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis. *Firstly*, the result shows that person deixis dominates the most by means of emergences 207 times and the percentage is 67.21%. The person deixis is encoded by pronouns either plural or singular which reflect all characters in the novel and the referents could be speaker (first person), addressee (second person) and other participants (third person). In this novel, Pip, as the main character is highly often found since Dicken uses first- person point of view. *Secondly*, place deixis shows 58 times and the percentage is 18.83%. Demonstrative pronoun and adverb of place definitely encode place deixis which is centralized in and around England. *Thirdly*, time deixis appears the least from the others, it indicates 43 times and the percentage is 13.96%. Time deixis is symbolized by words and phrase adverb of time. Most referents of time deixis are past events.

Key words: deixis, deictic, novel

1. BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

Term of deixis is not very familiar since it is a technical word. It is used so often, but not all people who learn English know the term of "deixis". Although, it is both used in spoken or written language in our daily life, the students as the learner of English cannot understand it well.

The importance of deixis in language was stated by Hurford and Heasley (1984:62) that all languages do contain small sets of words whose meanings vary systematically according to who uses them, and where and when they are used. The function of deixis in language can be better understood by asking the question, "Could there be a language without deixis?" A language without such terms could not serve the communicative needs of its users anything like as well as a real human language. Deictic expressions bring home very clearly that when we consider individual sentences from the point of view of their truth, we cannot in many cases consider them simply as strings of words made available by the language system. The truth of a sentence containing a deictic expression can only be considered in relation to some hypothetical situation of utterance.

Deixis appears not only in spoken language but also in written language. In this paper, the writer wants to explain the use of deixis in written language because in written language the person deixis may be confusing while in spoken language is not. In spoken language, we may recognize the person, place and time deixis easily because the person who is talked about by the speaker utters some utterances. In written language, it is more difficult because we may not know who the speaker and the listener are, and the time is also

unpredictable, unless there is a clue showing the exact time, for example: "Today is 2nd July 2014".

Deixis is a two side of references and a part of language involved in locating what is talked about relative to speaker's point of view, whether in space (*here-there, this-that*), time (*now-then*), discourse (*former-latter*) or social relations (*I-you*). Traditionally, deixis is divided into three categories, although, there are two more categories which can be included into the three categories. The three categories are person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis. The two categories which are joined in the three categories: social deixis is joined into person deixis and discourse deixis is joined into time deixis. Moreover, in a formal semantics, social and discourse deixis naturally fall out.

The writer believes that there are no languages without deixis as a language is full of such deictic terms. To give clearer picture of deixis, these are two examples of deixis:

- a. John said: "I have lost the contract"
- b. Angel said: "I will send you another one"

The examples above shows that the first singular pronoun *I* is deictic. In (a) the word *I* refers to John, while in (b) the word *I* refers to Angel. Thus we can infer that the word *I* has different reference depending to who utters it.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative research since the data are taken from words, phrases, and sentences based on deixis theory. As what Krippendorff (2004:84) explains that sample of text can be taken at the level of words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters or

whole publications. Therefore, the writer draws the sample by picking out 60 paragraphs among the chapters to be analyzed.

Sarwono (2006:210) explains that the data in qualitative can come from various sources such as documents, pictures, records, and films. Thus, the writer applies documentation technique in collecting the data. The writer does the following procedures:

1. Reading and observing the novel
2. Finding the data, putting sign and making checklist on it
3. Taking the data and presenting them in data display

3.1 Source of Data

The primary of data is taken from the novel entitled "Great Expectation" by Charles Dickens, and for additional support some other sources are also taken such as encyclopedia, books or references on deixis.

The data in this writing were taken from novel *The Rainbow Troops* written by Andrea Hirata. *The Rainbow Troops* is the English version of "Laskar Pelangi" that was translated by Angie Kilbane. This novel was used as the data source because it is a well-known and bestseller novel, which received many awards and also contains many types of deixis.

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The Data Analysis

This chapter presents the analysis of 60 data taken from some paragraphs among the 59 chapters in the novel of *Great Expectation* by Charles Dickens. The data are analyzed descriptively based on theory of deixis proposed by Levinson (1977) and Jaszczolt (2002). This research only focuses on person, place, and time deixis.

4.2 The Data Interpretation

Having analyzed the data, it is found some phenomena from the analysis as explained below:

Table 4.1. The Identity of Personal Deixis

Datum	Personal Deixis	Total
01	Me, me, my, he, he, me, I, my, I, I, he	11
02	You, me, he, me, you, me, he, me, you, me, he, me, I, Your, he, me	16
03	You, me, his, his, I, myself, I, your, you	9
04	You, his, we, I, you, your	6
05	I, you, he, I, your, she, I, her, I, your, him	11
06	They, I, her, I, her, we, I, mine, she, me	10
07	Me, we, I, him, she, her, us	7
08	He, my, your, he, my, he, my, his, my, them, he, her	12
09	I, you, she, she, she, he	6
10	I, we, she, my, her, I, he	7
11	We, I, he, his, his	
12	Me, my, he, he, me, he, you, you, I, you	0
13	Her, her, her, she, I, her, I, her	
14	He, I, me, him, you, your, you, me, mine, you	0
15	I, I, I, I, I, I, we, us, his, I, I	1
16	We, he, his, we, him, his, us, him, I, his, our,	

	I, my, him	4
17	She, his, he, her, she, her, she, her, she, my	0
18	He, me, my, me, his, he, I, he, me	
19	I, I, you, I, him, I, him, I, I, him, you, my, him	3
20	We, I, we, my, me, me, his, me, me I, he, his	2
	Σ	07

Totally, from the 20 data above show 207 personal deixis. Through the research, personal deixis is reflected directly in the grammatical categories of person by pronominal system. Further, it is found three categories of first, second and third person. *Firstly*, first person pronoun such as *I, me, my, my self, mine, we, us*, and *our* which correspond to different person depend on the context. The first person itself is distinguished between first person singular and first person plural. The first person singular (*I, me, my, myself*, and *mine*) seem to dominate than other pronouns. They generally refer to Pip. Since Pip as the main character in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* plays the most important part in the story. In addition, the first person plural (*we, us*, and *our*) are slightly found and the referents of them involve Pip and other characters.

Secondly, second person is encoded in *you* and *your*. The referents themselves could be Pip or other characters. It is often found in conversation from the novel. *Thirdly*, third person such as *he, she, they, him, her, them*, and *his* are obtained in this research. The third person singular (*he, she, him, his*, and *her*) could refer to each character included Pip himself. Then, the third person plural (*they, them*) could indicate some characters.

Table 4.2. The Identity of Spatial Deixis

Datum	Spatial Deixis	otal
21	There, there, there	
22	There, there, there, there	
23	This	
24	There, there, there, there	
25	Here, this, here, this, this	
26	There, there, there, there	
27	Here, here	
28	Here, here, here	
29	There, there	
30	There, there	
31	Here, this, these, these	
32	There	
33	This, here	
34	Here, here, here, there	
35	Here, there, there, there, there	
36	There, here	
37	Here	
38	Here, this, here	
39	There, there, here, there	
40	There, there	
	Σ	8

From the 20 data above deliver 58 spatial deixis which are indicated by demonstrative pronouns (*this* and *these*) and adverbs of place (*there* and *here*). In this research, *there* and *here* dominate all spatial deixis. The adverb of place *there* indicates a place where is far from the participants, while *here* indicates a place where is

near or around the participants. The demonstrative pronoun *this* indicates the current place where some characters live, while *these* indicates plural things. In the novel of *Great Expectations*, most of the spatial deixis are centralized in England as the main scene in the story. Specifically, there are 2 main scenes. *First*, the scene of Pip's early age such as village cemetery, Pip's house, Joe's forge, Miss. Havisham's house, and Mr. Pumblecock's house. *Second*, the scene of Pip's elderly age such as London, Herbert's inn, Mr. Wemmick's office, Mr. Jaggers' house, Richmond's house, and Thames.

Table 4.3. The Identity of Temporal Deixis

Datum	Temporal Deixis	total
41	These early days, yesterday, today, that time	
42	Today	
43	After that	
44	Now, some time ago, last night	
45	Today, tomorrow, then	
46	Now	
47	This afternoon, tomorrow	
48	Now, then, that night	
49	After tomorrow	
50	Now, this day, now	
51	Tomorrow, next week	
52	Next week	
53	Now, tonight, last night, now, this evening	
54	Then, tonight	
55	Yesterday	
56	Last night	
57	Tonight, tomorrow night	
58	Tonight, now, now, now	
59	Today	
60	Now, then	
	Σ	3

From the 20 data above show 43 temporal deixis which are represented by adverbs of time. In this research, the deictic time adverbs could be obtained in terms and phrases. The terms of time adverbials are *today, tomorrow, yesterday, tonight, now, and then*. Further, phrases of time adverbials are *last night, tomorrow night, next week, this evening, this day, after tomorrow, this afternoon, some time ago, that time, after that, and these early days*. As explained by Crystal (1984:105), temporal deixis is distinguished between coding time or CT and receiving time or RT. Thus, it is also applied in written language especially for Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. In this research, the CT indicates the time on which Dickens wrote the story, and the RT indicates the time on which the writer read the novel. The assumption between CT and RT is the same; however, it is only different from the span of the time. So, it will not lead to misinterpret toward the story of the novel itself.

Table 4.4. The Percentage of Types of Deixis

Types of Deixis	Total	Percentage (%)
Personal Deixis	207	67.21%
Spatial Deixis	58	18.83%
Temporal Deixis	43	13.96%
Total	308	100%

After analyzing each type of deixis which totally shows 308 deictic expressions, it could be shown in the table of percentage. The

writer concludes that the first position is **personal deixis** (67.21%), second position is **spatial deixis** (18.83%), and third position is **temporal deixis** (13.96%). The person deixis dominates in this research significantly since the involvement of all characters much more appear than spatial and temporal deixis in the Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*.

4.3 The Discussion

From the analyses of 60 data in the Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, there are 3 types of deixis (personal, spatial and temporal deixis). The total number of deictic expressions is 308 deixis. The person deixis is analyzed from datum 1 to datum 20 and finally found 207 deictic words. The spatial deixis is analyzed from datum 21 to datum 40 and totally found 58 deictic words. Further, the temporal deixis is analyzed from datum 41 to datum 60 and could be found 48 deictic words and phrases. Through the research, the personal deixis is in the first order, and followed by spatial and temporal deixis.

The referents of each type of deixis are really contextual depend on the story of *Great Expectations*. The personal deixis refers to all characters. Since Dickens uses first person point of view, the referents of personal deixis are sketchily dominated by Pip as the main character and supported by other characters. Meanwhile, the referents of spatial deixis are centralized in England include some places in which are applied in the story. In addition, the referents of temporal deixis are time in the past. In view of Dickens himself wrote his novel in 1861, moreover, the story itself tells about past events. In conclusion, there are a lot of deictic terms that have been found through the research in the novel of *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

4. CONCLUSION

This research has been very largely concerned with the analysis of deixis. Essentially, deixis concerns the ways in which language encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns the ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance. Deictic systems in natural languages are not arbitrarily organized around the features of many different kinds of medium and context in which languages are used. So, it is necessary to comprehend all aspects which refer to the real information of utterances.

In Dickens' *Great Expectations*, the story itself concerns to the experiences, in and around England, from the early childhood to the adulthood of Pip. Meanwhile, the style of the novel involves the presentation of these events in Pip's first-person manner of their temporal, spatial and emotional registers. Of course, it has the effect of identifying some elements about contextual

information which are really essential in this research. The elements of narrative structure consist of characterization, setting, theme, point of view, and plot.

Based on the data analysis and discussion, finally the writer concludes that there are three types of deixis (person, place, and time deixis) which successfully have been analyzed. *Firstly*, the result shows that person deixis dominates the most by means of emergences 207 times and the percentage is 67.21%. The person deixis is encoded by pronouns either plural or singular which reflect all characters in the novel and the referents could be speaker (first person), addressee (second person) and other participants (third person). In this novel, Pip, as the main character is highly often found since Dicken uses first- person point of view. *Secondly*, place deixis shows 58 times and the percentage is 18.83%. Demonstrative pronoun and adverb of place definitely encode place deixis which is centralized in and around England. *Thirdly*, time deixis appears the least from the others, it indicates 43 times and the percentage is 13.96%. Time deixis is symbolized by words and phrase adverb of time. Most referents of time deixis indicate past events.

But the general conclusion infers that deixis employs in both spoken and written language. In face-to-face communication, the use of context-dependent expressions is possible precisely because speaker and hearer share a context. During discourse, deictic expressions can be constructed by each speaker and reconstructed successfully by each hearer because participants are able to utilize their shared understanding of references to their shared spatial and temporal environment. Furthermore, the case of deixis in fictional narrative such as novel, however, presents a still more complicated case. Clearly, the author and reader do not share a perceptual space. Even in narratives in which the actual environment of the author does contribute a relevant orienting point for deictic expressions, that context is not readily available to the reader. Similarly, "taking the other fellow's point of view" is not a viable option for the author, since he or she is completely unaware of the reader's spatiotemporal situation. In general, the entities, events, and places that are narrated, and the relationships among them, cannot depend for their structural coherence on real-world entities, events, or places, precisely because they are fictional. Yet, deictic expressions can be found in every type of fictional narrative even nonfictional narrative or other text.

5. REFERENCES

Brown, Gillian. 1996. *Speakers, Listeners, and Communication: Explorations in Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Horn, Laurence R. & Gregory Ward. 2006. *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Hurford, James R. & Brendan Heasley. 1984. *Semantics: A Course book*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jaszczolt, K.M. 2002. *Semantics and Pragmatics*. London: Pearson Education.
- Keenan, Edward L. 1975. *Formal Semantics of Natural Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kennedy, X.J. 1966. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Canada: Little, Brown and Company.
- Krippendorff, Klaus. 2004. *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology*. California: Sage Publication.
- Levinson, Stephen C. 1983. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lyons, John. 1977. *Semantics: Volume 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Palmer, F.R. 1981. *Semantics: Second Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Peck, J. & M. Coyle. 1993. *Literary Terms and Criticism*. London: Macmillan.
- <http://www.change.freeuk.com/learning/concepts/noveltype.html> (Downloaded on Thursday, April 29, 2011 12:47 PM)
- Pickering, James H. & Jeffrey D. Hooper. 1981. *Concise Companion to Literature*. New York: Macmillan Publishing.
- Rankema, Jan. 1993. *Discourse Studies: An Introductory Text Book*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing.
- Sarwono, Jonathan. 2006. *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif & Kualitatif*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu.
- Strauss, Anselm. & Juliet Corbin. 1998. *Basics of Qualitative Research*. London: Sage Publications.
- Summers, Della, et al. 2006. *Longman: Dictionary of Contemporary English*. Edinburgh: Pearson Education.
- Yerkes, David, et al. 2003. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: Eleventh Edition*. Massachusetts: Merriam-Webster.