Deixis Analysis of the Ellen Show YouTube Channel

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Abstract

Deixis refers to the study of language usage, whether spoken or written, in order to indicate or point to something specific. The objective of this research is to analyze the deixis employed in The Ellen Show's YouTube channel and comprehend the meaning conveyed through this deixis. The study utilized a qualitative approach with content analysis. The analysis was conducted by applying deixis theory proposed by Yule. The findings reveal three categories of deixis found in the data: person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. Among these, temporal deixis is the most prevalent, followed by person deixis, and spatial deixis is the least frequently used. In addition, the analysis of the data shows that person deixis is used to clarify by whom a sentence was uttered and to whom it refers. Spatial deixis is used to clarify a sentence regarding the place and reference of a word. Meanwhile, temporal deixis is used to give a description of the time and description of an event occur. To conclude, the use of deixis in communication may convey clear information about who is talking, where it takes pace, and when it happens.

Keywords: Analysis, Deixis, Pragmatic, Talk Show

Introduction

Context and language cannot be separated. The context will shape the language used which in turn will determine the meaning. The language in use defined as text by Halliday & Hasan, (1976) is realized by grammar. In the word of (Halliday, 1994), grammar is the resource for meaning making. Consequently, different meaning will be realized by different grammar.

One aspect of grammar which can determine meaning based on context is called deixis. Yule (1996, pg. 9) elaborated that deixis derived from Greek word meaning ‘pointing’ via language and any linguistic form to realize this this pointing is known as deictic expressions. For examples, me, you (person deixis), here, there (spatial deixis), now, then (temporal deixis). These examples suggest that there are three types of deixis according to (Yule, 1996). The use of deixis is a form of referring which is chained to speaker’s context. A speaker will use a spatial deixis here to point the thing which is close to the speaker. This study raised an issue of the deixis used in talk show hosted by Ellen Guneres.

Although a lot of previous studies have been found in papers, most of them focus on song lyrics (Aryawan et al., 2022; Rokhmah & Santoso, 2022, Salamudin & Efransyah, 2021; Sinaga et al., 2020), film (Dion Ari Saputra et al., 2022; Hidayat et al., 2021), and talk show (Putri et al., 2022), to mention a few. Although deixis was also studied in talk show, the data were not taken from Ellen Guneres. Hence, there is a space to explore deixis used in this talk show.

A talk show is a program on television or radio where prominent individuals, such as experts in a specific domain, engage in discussions or interviews and frequently respond to inquiries from viewers or listeners. Investigating the deixis used in a talk show may implicate on learning English as a foreign language. The findings may help foreign language learners use deixis appropriately. The
talk show hosted by Guneres who is native may give a model of using deixis based on context. Thus, this study has two objectives as listed below.

1. What types of deixis are contained on “The Ellen Show” YouTube Channel?
2. What is the meaning of the deixis types in “The Ellen’s Show” YouTube Channel?

Theoretical Framework

Pragmatics, a division of linguistics, is concerned with the utilization and significance of language in specific situations. It encompasses various areas such as speech acts, implicature, and politeness. The pragmatic approach centers on uncovering the intended meaning of language, which heavily relies on the surrounding context. From this standpoint, deixis can be seen as the representation of the connection between language and context. Deixis pertains to the specific manner in which particular linguistic expressions are understood, depending on the context in which they are produced or interpreted, Nuryusticia and Nurrachman, (2021:72). Deixis is identifying the part of speech of grammar such as objects and adverbs as well as its function in language and communications. According to Lyons, (1977: 637), deixis is the location and identification of people, objects, events, processes, and activities that are being talked about or referred to, in relation to the time, when the speaker says the utterance, or when the hearer hears it. It means that deixis is a word, phrase, or expression that the reference moves depending on the identifying of the speaker, time, and place in relation to the utterance. According to Louise Cummings (2005: 31), Deixis is comprised of three classifications, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis.

Person Deixis

Person deixis refers to the use of deixis in language to refer to individuals. It involves assigning roles to participants in a conversation, such as the speaker, the person spoken to, and the person being referred to. The concept of a person can be clearly defined by considering the roles of participants, as stated by Lyons (1974:276). According to Anderson & Keenan, as cited in Wati (2014:17), person deixis typically locates an entity in relation to the position of the speaker and/or the hearer. Pronouns representing the first and second person usually indicate the speaker and the hearer, while third person pronouns refer to individuals not directly involved in the speech or narration. Saeed (2009:17) explains that person deixis can be grammaticalized through the use of pronouns, where a first-person singular pronoun represents the speaker, second-person pronouns indicate the addressee(s), and third-person pronouns designate individuals who are neither the speaker nor the addressee(s).

Person deixis is divided into three distinct categories, namely first person, second person, and third person. The first person category is utilized by the speaker to refer to themselves as the subject of the conversation. Examples of first-person pronouns include 'I' (singular) and 'we' (plural). The second person is employed to address the listener or multiple individuals being addressed, with 'you' being a common example. The third-person is employed to denote individuals or objects that are neither the speaker nor the listener. Examples of third-person pronouns include 'he,' 'she,' 'it' (singular), and 'they' (plural). Furthermore, Cruse suggests that person deixis encompasses pronouns such as 'I,' 'you,' 'him,' 'mine,' 'yours,' 'her,' 'myself,' 'yourself,' and 'herself,' as well as possessive adjectives like 'my,' 'your,' and 'her.' Person pronouns can be singular or plural. First-person plural directly refers to a collective group of speakers involved in the conversation. Cruse
Deixis Analysis on the Ellen Show YouTube Channel

explains that the plural form is usually uttered by a single speaker but represents a group in terms of meaning. Moreover, Move aside clarifies that certain languages have distinct first-person plural forms. These forms can either include both the speaker and the addressee (inclusive form) or the speaker and others, excluding the addressee (exclusive form), Cruse (2006:126-127).

Table 1. The Singular and Plural Person Deixis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Person</th>
<th>2nd Person</th>
<th>3rd Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>I/me</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>He/him, She/her, It/it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>We/us</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>They/them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis, also referred to as place deixis, is a linguistic concept used to indicate the location of spaces between the speaker and the listener. According to Yule (1996:12), spatial deixis pertains to the idea of distance. In simpler terms, spatial deixis involves expressing the relative position of people and objects, often using terms like "here" and "there." Lyons (1979: 650) similarly defines the place or spatial deixis as the specification of location in relation to reference points within the speech context. It is important to note that specifying location serves as a fundamental means of referring to objects, either by describing them or by identifying their position. Spatial deixis encompasses the indication of the relative location for both people and things. This is predominantly achieved through the use of locative adverbs such as "here" and "there," as well as demonstrative adjectives or determiners like "this" and "that" (Cruse, 2000: 320). Place deixis involves the proximal dimension (close to the speaker) and the distal dimension (close to the addressee). The term "here" signifies a region that is relatively near the speaker, while "there" refers to a location that is relatively distant from the speaker. Place deixis is concerned with spatial positions relevant to the utterance. However, spatial deixis encompasses not only distance and location but also movement or motion directed either towards or away from the speaker. Additionally, determining location in spatial deixis goes beyond using generic terms like "here" and "there"; it can involve specifying particular places, such as "in the bedroom" or "in London," and so on, Yule (1996: 12).

e.g. It’s nice to meet you here; It was freezing out there.

The words 'here' and 'there' are deictic expressions that indicate the location relative to the speaker. The meaning of these expressions depends on the speaker’s position. If the speaker moves, the interpretation of 'here' and 'there' will change accordingly. In the given example, if both the speaker and the listener have moved, they can refer to the shade as 'here' and their original location as 'there'. However, when analyzing the reference of 'here', we also need to consider the deictic center. The word 'here' can be understood as 'close to you', 'close to me', or 'not close to either of us'. The third interpretation implies the presence of a third person in the conversation.

Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis refers to the use of language to indicate specific points in time. It is a form of deixis that focuses on referencing time units within the speech. Put simply, temporal deixis involves referring to time in relation to a particular moment, often the moment of speaking. It distinguishes
between the time of utterance (coding/time) and the time of reception (receiving time). Common markers used in temporal deixis include words like "now," "tomorrow," "today," and "yesterday." This aspect of deixis involves encoding temporal points and durations relative to the time when a statement is spoken or written. According to Levinson (1983: 62) and Cruse (2000: 176), time deixis or temporal deixis signifies the timing of an event in relation to the time of speaking. The term "now" represents the time at which the speaker is uttering the statement, while the term "then" refers to a time that is not now but can designate either the past or the future. Cruse further distinguishes three points in time: the time of the event, the time of utterance, and the reference time, primarily categorized as past, present, and future tenses.

In the context of temporal deixis, the verb tense is also considered a form of temporal deixis since it indicates time. Past events, which have already occurred, are treated as distant from the speaker's current situation and are referred to as distal forms. For instance:

1. I’m standing here now
2. I will be standing there then

The initial statement is in the present tense and refers to the immediate situation of the speaker. This makes it a proximal form. In contrast, the second statement is expressed in the past tense and is considered a distal form. Furthermore, it does not relate to the speaker's current situation. From these three categories, each has an important role that is unreplaceable one each other, in any language use, in spoken and written language. Therefore, how the meaning of the language in any communication is delivered, particularly in answering who, when, and where the meaning is dealing, depends on how the deixis is used.

Method

The method applied in this study was qualitative descriptive using content analysis design. The qualitative method was used since the data in the form of texts or document which is one characteristics of this method (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Although the data were taken from talkshow, “The Ellen Show” hosted by Ellen Guneres, the video were transcribed first before the analysis. There were 15 episodes used as data downloaded from the internet. The episodes are listed below.

1. Eyebrow Threading Gives Jeannie an Idea │Good morning with Jeannie and Andy (Ep 2) │SMILE, uploaded on Dec 7, 2021;
2. Then and Now: Sophia Grace and Rosie’s First and Last Appearances on 'The Ellen Show', uploaded on Oct 12, 2022;
3. Jennifer Aniston Sings! (Season 7) │ Ellen, uploaded on Sep 27, 2022;
4. Ricky Gervais’ Hilarious First Visit to Ellen (Season 7), uploaded on Oct 4, 2022;
5. Then and Now: Mario Lopez's First and Last Appearances on 'The Ellen Show', uploaded on Oct 11, 2022;
6. Jennifer Garner Wanted to Go to Ellen’s Birthday (Season 7), uploaded on Oct 3, 2022;
7. Jennifer Love Hewitt on her Relationship with Jamie Kennedy (Season 7), uploaded on Sep 30, 2022;
The analysis was done through several steps. First, the downloaded data were initially observed before they were transformed into transcripts or written texts. Second, the three types of deixis were identified in the data. Then, the deixis found in the data were classified. After that, the classified data were analyzed. Finally, the conclusion was drawn. The steps of analysis can be illustrated in Figure 1.
Results and Discussion

Deixis found in the Ellen Show videos was analyzed based on their respective episodes. However, to streamline the process of data analysis, each episode was transcribed, summarized, and organized into an individual table. Subsequently, the various forms of deixis were computed, and their implications were elucidated using narrative explanations during the concluding stages. For the example, look at how the analysis was conducted for the first video.

Eyebrow Threading Gives Jeannie an Idea | Good morning with Jeannie and Andy (Ep 2) | SMILE, uploaded on Dec 7, 2021.

From the episode, it has been discovered that within the talk show, there exist singular first-person references such as 'I,' 'me,' and 'my,' followed by plural first-person references like 'we,' and second-person references like 'you.'

“Good morning everybody, I am Jeannie, this is Andy”

"Welcome to my show"

"Where we just bring you a lot of good news”

“Yeah, she got to marry me”

The previous statement reveals that Jeannie introduces herself as a presenter using the first-person pronoun 'I', and subsequently introduces her co-host Andy. The deictic word ‘my’ in the sentence above is form of possessive adjective referring to something belong to him. The word ‘my’ is one of deictic expression which is pointed to something belongs to him. ‘my’ is applied by the co-host to indicate that the co-host uses the deictic expression of the possessive adjective ‘my’ to show the audience that on the talk show he is also the host.

The speaker uses the term "we" as a form of person deixis. This deictic word, "we," is typically used to indicate that the speaker is speaking on behalf of a group that includes both the listener and themselves. It signifies the involvement of multiple speakers and demonstrates that the speaker is using this deictic expression to address both the listener and themselves. During the talk show, the
Deixis Analysis on the Ellen Show YouTube Channel

Co-host addresses the first host directly by using the phrase "you" in the second person. The word "you" also serves as an object. The co-host uses the pronoun "she" to refer to a woman he is married to, functioning as a third person pronoun. Furthermore, the co-host uses the deictic expression "me" as an object pronoun derived from "I." The word "me" is intended to refer to the married co-host. If the researcher were to remove the deictic expressions related to person deixis, it would impact the meaning of the entire conversation, as these expressions play a crucial role in conveying the relationships and perspectives of the speakers.

"Jeannie, Andy"
"Welcome to show"
"Where just bring a lot of good news"
"Yeah, got to marry"

In the sentences above, it can be seen if the hosts do not use deictic expressions in the conversation it will causing confusion for the audience. The audience will not know what is being discussed in the talk show, whether talking about the host itself or other person.

Second, the types of deixis are used by the host and co-host is spatial deixis. From the video that has been analyzed, it can be seen that the host and co-host use spatial deixis 'this', 'that', and 'here'.

"And if this one can find somebody, anybody can"
"What does that mean"
"Here is the first piece of good news"

From spatial deixis above, the researcher finds 3 words, they are 'this', 'that', and 'here'. 'This' (demonstrative adjective) refers to find somebody, the word 'this' is one of the deictic expressions that indicate something. 'This' is used by the co-host to indicate that Jeannie has found someone to marry her.

The next spatial deixis is 'that' (demonstrative adjective) used by the co-host to ask the meaning of the word used by the host. The final spatial deixis is 'here', which serves as a locative adverb indicating the presence of someone. In this context, the person being referred to as 'here' is either Andy or the co-host of the talk show. To understand the impact of deixis on the overall meaning of sentences, one can observe the effect when the researcher intentionally excludes the spatial deixis expression.

"And if one can find somebody, anybody can"
"What does mean"
"Is the piece of good news"

From the sentence above, it can be seen that if the host and co-host do not use deictic expressions, it will cause confusion about the difference in meaning in the conversation. Where they are talking about will not be clear if there is no explanation of the place. The audience will not understand what is being said in the talk show.

Lastly, the types of deixis employed by the speaker refer specifically to temporal deixis. According to Alan Cruse (2006: 176), temporal deixis focuses on the temporal relationship between an event and the time of utterance. Within the given title, the researcher has identified multiple sentences that exemplify temporal deixis, such as:
“She was in a car accident when she was 17”

“She wanted to be able to give back and to do something so one day in a week”

“I don’t even know, I didn’t know 5 minutes ago what eyebrow threading is”

Deictic expression 'when' in the sentence is used by the host to refer to the time or situation where the person being discussed by the host in this video has an accident. The deictic word 'one day a week' in that sentence is a form of Adverb of Time which refers to something that someone wants to give and do which this thing wants to do at least one day a week. The co-host mentioned the phrase "5 minutes ago" to indicate a specific time in the past. He shared that during that period, he was initially unaware of the concept of eyebrow threading. However, when he spoke the sentence, he had gained an understanding of it. If the researcher excluded the reference to time, the impact of deixis on the meaning of the entire sentences would be evident.

“Car accident”

“Wanted to be able to give back and to do something so”

“Don’t even know, didn’t know what eyebrow threading is”

Temporal deixis is employed in the preceding sentences to indicate the specific moment when the interaction occurs among the host, co-host, and audience. If deictic expressions were not utilized, the audience of a talk show would be uncertain about the identity of the speaker, the location, and the timing, consequently altering the interpretation of the conversation. The incorporation of deixis within the sentences influences the overall significance of the discussion. By employing deixis, the comprehension of all aspects of the conversation becomes more accessible.

The analysis for other 14 videos were systematically the same with the first video. Having analyzed all videos, it can be calculated the number of each type of deixis found on the Ellen Show videos on the chart below:

The results indicate that person deixis plays a highly significant role, confirming its utmost importance. Person deixis is important because it allows speakers and writers to refer to themselves, the person they are speaking to, and other individuals in their discourse. It plays a crucial role in establishing and maintaining communication, as it helps to identify and differentiate the participants involved in a conversation. Here is the example of person deixis and its meaning:

- “I love your voice”

The speaker’s self-reference is indicated by the person deixis in the sentence "I love your voice," where the pronoun "I" is employed by the speaker to refer to themselves. The phrase "your voice" indicates that the speaker is expressing their affection or admiration for the voice of the person they are speaking to or about.

Person deixis is a linguistic concept that pertains to the manner in which language is employed to denote the individuals engaged in a dialogue. It helps identify the role and perspective of the speaker and the person or people they are referring to. In this case, the person deixis in the sentence establishes the speaker as the person expressing love and positions the person being addressed as the one possessing the voice being loved. The meaning conveyed by person deixis in this sentence is that the speaker, referring to themselves as "I," has a positive emotional attachment to the voice of the person they are speaking to or about, indicated by the use of "your."
In addition, temporal deixis is also important because it allows us to refer to specific points in time or time frames in our communication. This type of deixis assists us in placing events, actions, and conditions in context with the time of communication or other relevant points. Through the utilization of temporal deixis, we can establish temporal connections, arrange events in order, convey durations, and establish links between the past, present, and future. The subsequent example illustrates temporal deixis and its significance.

- “I ate 33 pancakes in 20 minutes”

The temporal deixis in the sentence “I consumed 33 pancakes within a duration of 20 minutes” points to the particular time period when the pancake consumption took place. Temporal deixis is a linguistic term that refers to the way language relates to specific points in time. In this case, the phrase “in 20 minutes” indicates the duration or timeframe in which the eating took place. It establishes a temporal reference point and gives meaning to the sentence by providing information about when the event happened. The phrase implies that the speaker consumed the 33 pancakes within a period of 20 minutes. Without the temporal deixis, the sentence would not convey the same time-related information.

Moreover, Spatial deixis is not least important because it plays a crucial role in communication and helps establish the spatial relationships between the speaker, the listener, and the objects or locations being referred to. Here are a few reasons why spatial deixis is significant:

- “Thank you for that”

Spatial deixis refers to the use of language to refer to spatial relationships between the speaker and the objects or people being discussed. However, in the phrase “Thank you for that,” the term “that” does not necessarily involve spatial deixis. In this context, “that” is being used as a demonstrative pronoun, which can refer to something previously mentioned or understood within the conversation. The meaning of “that” in “Thank you for that” is not directly related to spatial location but rather refers to a specific action, object, or information that the speaker is expressing gratitude for. For example, if someone says, “I made some cakes for you,” and you respond with “Thank you for that,” you are expressing gratitude for the action of fixing your car. The word “that” is used to refer back to the specific action that was mentioned. While spatial deixis typically involves words like “here,” “there,” “this,” or “that” to indicate physical location, in the phrase “Thank you for that,” the use of “that” is more about referring to a particular item or action rather than its spatial aspect.

Finally, it is clear that the existence of this deixis can clarify something, whether it’s a person, place, or time. Without deixis, a sentence will not be clearly addressed to whom, when and where. Therefore it is clear that this deixis is very influential, especially for everyday life. As stated by Yule (1996), deixis or deictic expression means ‘pointing’ through language. For example, a sentence when connected to the world of education, in a class, for example, when a teacher will explain about a material. The teacher can say: cannot be separated from deixis, for example the teacher says: “today we are going to discuss the material about Report Text”. The use of person deixis ‘we’ makes the utterance understandable although in verbal communication, other modes can be used.
Conclusion

The study analysis on the deixis has always been one of the impactful studies, particularly in developing science and knowledge in linguistic. In this study, the data is in line with types of deixis that are contained in the Ellen Show video. Three types of deixis, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis, were identified. The analysis reveals that person deixis is the most prevalent and frequently occurring type of deixis, followed by temporal deixis in second place, and spatial deixis in third place. In summary, person deixis dominates, while temporal deixis and spatial deixis follow in terms of frequency and occurrence. Meanwhile, the meaning of the deixis on videos that is in accordance with Yule’s theory, is that the deixis has made the message from the show understandable for the audience. It was the utterances, the talks, the language were delivering in appropriate way. Moreover, the deixis made the show to be more meaningful and attractive, and communicative which is very important for the show.

References


