

An Analysis of Deixis on Whatsapp Conversation Between Postgraduate Student and Lecturers

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ABSTRACT

This current study aims at seeking the type of deixis often used by postgraduate student and lecturers. The writer applied a descriptive qualitative research method to explore the phenomena on student and lecturer interaction. Five conversations were collected from postgraduate students in which the text message from or to his lecturers. Screen shots of each conversation was taken so as to use it as it is on the WhatsApp. Then, those were analyzed on deixis Levinson theory. The research revealed that the occurrences of person deixis and address terms were prevalently committed. As the conclusion, the results of this study might become insight for students to know deixis and its type.

Keywords: Pragmatics; Deixis; Whatsapp

INTRODUCTION

Conversation is a joint activity in which two or more participants use linguistic forms and non verbal signals to communicate interactively (Susan , 2010). There are two main types of conversation, transactional conversation and interpersonal conversation (Celce-Murcia, 2007). This includes a conversation between a lecturer and a postgraduate student of Lampung University using WhatsApp (WA). Free to download for PCs and smartphones, WA is a messenger program that makes it simple and quick for users to share messages, pictures, music files, and video.

WhatsApp has been the subject of a sizable amount of study across many fields. Studies have been done in regard to WhatsApp as a well-known SMS text messaging service. (e.g., Church, & de Oliveira, 2013; O'Hara et al., 2014). Other studies were concerned with studying the users' purposes of using WhatsApp as a social media technology (e.g., Robin et al., 2017). Much more attention has been given to the use of WhatsApp messenger in the teaching and learning of language (e.g., Amry, 2014; Lam, 2015; Al Shekaili, 2016; Binti Mistar & Embi, 2016; Sayan, 2016; Marçal, et al., 2016; So, 2016; and Hassan Taj et al., 2017; Ali et al., 2019). Some studies also were conducted with respect to the pragmatic aspects of WhatsApp messages (e.g., Otemuyiwa, 2017; Ueberwasser & Stark, 2017; Yus, 2017; Lestari, 2019). The quantity of research into the language used in WhatsApp status notifications is still in its early

stages (Sanchez-Moya & Cruz-Moya, 2015). Three papers have been discovered in the search for research in this field, and they are therefore examined below.

Deixis is a component of language that is typically used in written or spoken discourse as well as everyday communication. Using WhatsApp, you can hear deixis in chat.

Pragmatics

The majority of pragmatics definitions were influenced by Charles Morris' 1938 research of the link between signals and interpreters (Mey, 1996, p. 35). Pragmatics is relevant to all human communication processes, including psychological, biological, and sociological ones, according to Morris.

According to Levinson, pragmatics is the study of how language and context are related in ways that are grammaticalized or stored in the language's structure (*ibid.*, p. 39). It is a methodical investigation into how usage affects meaning. Implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis are the primary themes of pragmatics (Huang, 2007, p. 3). Context, real-world information, and inference are pragmatics elements that are crucial in bridging the gaps brought about by language's determinism. Because of this, pragmatics needs to be incorporated into the larger notion of language competence (*ibid.*, p. 6).

In this perspective, pragmatics is examined by Yule (2010, p. 128) as a hidden meaning, or how we interpret that meaning even when it is not explicitly spoken or written. As a result, in order to effectively communicate, speakers (or writers) must be able to rely on several widely held presumptions and expectations. Using prior knowledge of word meanings, contexts in which they appear, and the message being delivered is necessary to comprehend what is being said. Our understanding of symbols is based on the writer's intended message as well as the words used (*ibid.*, p. 129).

By speaking with one another, pragmatics presupposes that people adhere to the cooperative communication concept. In other words, they agree on how they should communicate with one another. The phrase "the bus was late" can signify a variety of things, either a criticism of the bus company or another person's justification for the delay. Because the above sentence includes social, textual, and background knowledge context—that is, what people know about one another and the outside world—it requires pragmatics to ascertain what it meant. This aids us in understanding what individuals normally say and do when performing a specific genre in a specific social and cultural context (Paltridge, 2008, p. 53).

Four definitions of pragmatics were provided by Yule (1996, p. 3), each of which matched a different area of interest. first: It focuses on the analysis of the meaning that the speaker (or writer) intended to convey but that the listener instead understood (or reader). As a result, rather than focusing on the meaning of the words and phrases themselves, it is more interested in understanding what individuals mean when they speak. second: Contextually check the meaning. It discusses how context

impacts what people say and how to discern what people mean in various situations. Based on who, where, when, and under what conditions they are speaking, think about how the speaker structures what they wish to communicate. Third, pragmatics looks at how more information is conveyed than is spoken. This method looks at how a listener can infer meaning from what is being said in order to arrive at the speaker's intended meaning. It examines how much of what is not spoken is thought to be a part of what is. It is a study of invisible meaning, to put it another way. Check the phrase for relative distance in the fourth step. The decision of what is said against what is not said in this situation is made according to pragmatics. A shared experience is implied by closeness, be it physical, social, or philosophical. Depending on how far away the audience is, speakers gauge how much to say.

The following is how Lyons (1981), cited in Al-Tekreeti (2016) on page 6, defines pragmatics: a study of utility rather than significance. a study of the non-purely true portion of the meaning. In this case, rather than emphasizing semantics, grammar, or truth, Lyons concentrated on the user and the context of language use. He defines pragmatics as "the study of rules controlling the communicative use of language, particularly those encountered in speech—principles that may be examined as putative universals or restricted to the study of particular languages," according to Crystal (2008) (quoted in Ibid).

The study of language used for communication and what it means when speakers generate utterances based on the context rather than the literal meaning of the words are both covered by pragmatics. The listener may be misled by verbal communication if it is used in an indirect manner. People occasionally fail to comprehend the meaning of hidden messages in regular communication, which leads to a variety of interpretations. Because of this, pragmatics is concerned with the implied message and how people interpret it, even when it is not expressed or written (ibid., pp. 7– 8).

Deixis

Short stories, speeches, and conversation all frequently use deixis, as do other ordinary texts and communications. Direct terms are frequently used in this language's dialogue to denote persons, locations, and times. Yule (1996) is a slang term (derived from Greek) that refers to one of his most fundamental conversational behaviors. The information from the pronouns "I" and "he," for instance, can only be comprehended from the language's context. Deixis is a phrase that is only understood in the context of conversation. Diessel (2012) did so by relying on the fact that linguistic occurrences are conceptualized from a different perspective. That is, when various speakers employ the expressions "here, there, me, and you," they are referring to distinct things.

Deixis comes in a variety of forms. This is as a result of experts' classification of deixis into various categories. Deixis can be categorized into five different categories, according to Levinson (2011) and Kesumawardani (2015) Nababan: (a) person deixis; (b) time deixis; (c) place deixis; (d) social deixis; and (e) discourse deixis. Deixis is a

potent approach to introduce yourself to the individuals you wish to interact with, demonstrating that you can understand what they are saying from their perspective. The speaker settings serve as a guide for Deixis. Deixis is useful in situations where there are non-fixed words because it serves as a connection between time periods, geographic locations, the parties involved, and what they are actually saying. can only be understood in light of references.

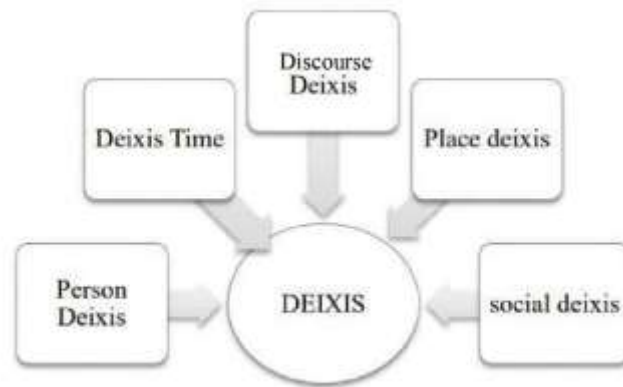


Figure 1 : Type of Deixis Levinson (2011)

Persona Deixis

Personal pronouns such as first person (I, we), second person (you), and third person can be used to convey the personal deixis (he, she, or she). Cruse (2000), cited in Pangaribuan, Manik, and Pasaribu (2015), claims that Person deixis fundamentally consists of the Speaker (First Person), the Addressee (Second Person), and Other Important Participants. depending on the circumstance, a so-called third party who is neither a speaker nor a listener. You and I can use different names to refer to persons in discussion. It is the clear focal point and relies on who is speaking. Speaking in the third person, the first person speaker may be addressing the second person listener. According to Sari (2015), who referenced Lyons (1968), the speaker establishes himself as the focal point of the conversation by using the first person. Speaking of the listener is done in the second person, while speaking about anything or anyone except the speaker and the listener is done in the third person. Pronouns must be carefully chosen by speakers while speaking in social situations. The best option must be chosen by him. Because they might convey the speaker's status in relation to those around him in society, pronouns should be used in a socially acceptable manner. Deixis is demonstrated in the following way. Asma said: *I am a teacher*

Deixis time

According to Levinson (2011), time deixis is concerned with encoding points in time that refer to where speech events occurred. The linguistic forms of expressing time deixis are the adjective time deixis *now* indicates when the speaker spoke or was heard. The distal form *then* depends on the present of the speaker. Temporal deixis also can be operated with non-deictic temporal reference such as calendar and clock time. The

psychological basis of temporal deixis is much the same as that of locational deixis. The examples of the time deixis can be seen as follows: *last night*, they came to my party.

Place deixis

Levinson (2011) states that location or spatial deixis is intended to indicate relative locations in speech events. But from the speaker's point of view, the situation can be improved both mentally and physically. The linguistic forms used to express place deixis in English are the adverbs *here* and *there* and the demonstrative pronouns *this* and *that*. Moreover, as Nababan (1987) quoted in his Willem & Psr, (2013), for language, Deixis place gives shape place and space (place) is seen from person/role place. In other words, place deixis is an expression used to indicate a position relative to the participant's position in speech. An example of place deixis is: Stay *here*, Please!

Discourse deixis

Levinson (2011) pointed out that discourse deixis involves the use of phrases within an utterance to indicate the part of the discourse that contains the utterance. It contains speech signals that connect speech signals to the surrounding text. Discourse deixis can be expressed in demonstrative *this* and *that*. An example from Discourse deixis can be seen here: You know I've already known *that*.

Social Deixis

According to Levinson (2011), social deixis is an encoding of social distinctions reflected or determined by the role of the participant or the specific reality of the social relationship between speaker and receiver or speaker and referent. related to Social deixis can be expressed with "polite" pronouns and the title of the addressee. Examples of social deixis are: Excuse me, *ma'am*.

Whatsapp

A free cross-platform texting service is WhatsApp. Regardless of the recipient's device, it enables users of iPhone and Android cellphones as well as Mac and Windows PCs to call and send free text, photo, audio, and video communications to anybody anywhere in the world. In contrast to Apple iMessage and Messages by Google, which both require cellular networks and Short Message Service, WhatsApp allows cross-platform communication over Wi-Fi (SMS). Barney, Nick (2022)

A relatively new and widely used form of communication, WhatsApp Messenger uses instant messaging (Sanchez-Moya & Cruz-Moya, 2015). One billion people used WhatsApp as of February 2016, however by July 2017, one billion users were sending 55 billion messages daily in 60 languages. In addition to text messages, this software gives users the option of real-time messaging or conversation, which enables them to share media and information (Ahad & Lim, 2014). They consist of emoticons, photographs, pictures, voice notes, videos, connections to websites, and other things. Also, WhatsApp users have the option of building their own digital profiles with their personal data. Users are urged to include a photo and a 139-

character status that describes their online persona (Sanchez-Moya & CruzMoya, 2015).

METHOD

The writers of this study employ a descriptive qualitative methodology. Perry (2005), referenced by Dewi, Hernawan, and Apsari (2019), asserts that vocal descriptions of data are a distinctive feature of qualitative research. As a result, the authors gathered discussions from graduate students in which the student received a text message from or directed to one of his teachers. To utilize each chat exactly as it appears on WhatsApp, screen photos of each conversation were obtained. They were then examined using the Deixis Levinson theory. to determine the most common deixis type utilized in conversations between postgraduate students and lectures at Lampung University using WhatsApp.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis of deixis in conversation on whatsapp, the result showed that there are 13 person deixis, 3 temporal deixis, 1 discourse deixis, and 8 social deixis. The types of deixis are discussed in the data below

Table 1. Forms of Deixis

| No | Types of Deixis | Total Amount |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Person Deixis | 13 |
| 2 | Temporal Deixis | 3 |
| 3 | Discourse Deixis | 1 |
| 4 | Social Deixis | 9 |
| TOTAL | | 26 |

To identify the type of deixis the author use difference color in utterance Person Deixis is **blue**, Temporal Deixis is **red**, Discourse Deixis is **purple** , Social Deixis is **green**

Data 1.

Student : “**next week my** group will discuss about discourse theory, does the topic appropriate to discuss in SLA, **Sir?**”
 Lecturer : “Yes. Discourse theory is a part of SLA theory”.

Data 2 :

Student : “Morning, **Prof.** Bambang, if **you** don’t mind **I** would like to order Teaching Language Skill book. **My** Name is Mulyadi”

Lecturer : " Please contact **mbak** Nur. TU Bahasa".

Data 3 :

Student : " Assalamualaikum **Prof.** here is the group work division based on of instruction. **We** need verification."

Lecturer : "chapter has been discussed **this morning**. Or are **you** going to discuss **it** again?"

Data 4 :

Lecturer : **I** will provide the assignment segment in v class for **you** to upload the matrix of steps **you** have in designing". " everyone upload the matrix eventhough **you** work in group"

Students : "is the matrix steps from the expert or **we** have redesign **ma'am**?"

Lecturer : "as the result of **your** reading"

Student : "Alright **ma'am**"

Data 5 :

Student : " Tolong disuruh **ketua kelas** menghubungi **pak** mahpul sekarang ya!"
(Please, tell the leader of class to contact Mr. Mahpul **right now**!

Lecturer : " Siap **Ma'am**, sudah fix" (ready ma'am, Fix)

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above the researcher can conclude that the type deixis most used in conversation between postgraduate student and lecturers are person deixis " you" which because the interaction mostly influence by the social status of lecturer.

After getting the result of the analysis, the researcher would like to give some implication which are important for the lecturer, students and the next researcher.

1. For the lecturers

The lecturers can use whatsapp in teaching-learning process to understand about types of deixis.

2. For the students

The researcher hopes that this research can be used by students to study and learn more about deixis. Furthermore, student also can apply the theory in real life especially in class during teaching learning activity.

3. For the readers

The researcher hopes the article can make the readers understand about deixis. Furthermore, the researcher hopes the readers know the definition of deixis and types of deixis from this article.

4. For the researcher

This research is expected to be a reference and can be helpful for other researchers with the same topic or type of research. The researcher also suggests

the other researchers to develop a similar research with different data source and a better research technique.

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