

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

In this research, the objective of the study here are to find out the types of deixis and also the referents or meanings of each deixis types used by President Barack Obama in The Second Presidential Election Debate versus Governor Mitt Romney on October 16, 2012. Basically the answer of research objectives has explained before in “Chapter IV”, but to make sure the research findings is correct or not, here the researcher explain the theories used to analyze the data.

According to Imai (2009:6), the origin of deixis is *deiktikos* (deictic) in Greek, meaning “pointing”, which reflects the core function of deixis. Then, Yule (1996:9) explain that deixis means ‘pointing’ via language. In addition, Levinson (1983:54) stated that essentially deixis concerns the ways in which languages encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance. So, we can take conclusion that the word deixis refers to the words or phrase that has the function to point something based on the context of speech event, it can be pointing people, place, or time setting. Based on the research finding, here the researcher also found many words and phrases that indicating or pointing something, such as “*I*”, “*you*”, “*he*” to point person, “*here*” and “*this*” to point specific place, also “*the next four years*” and “*now*” to indicate specific time based on the context.

Basically there are some theories about the deixis that related to the research. Some traditional linguist says that basically there are three types of deixis, they are **person deixis**, **place deixis**, and **time deixis**. Meanwhile some modern linguist explain five types of deixis by adding two more types, they are **discourse deixis** and **social deixis**. But in this research, the researcher focuses on three basic types of deixis as traditionally, they are person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis. According to Levinson (1983:62), the traditional categories of deixis are person, place and time. While Imai (2009:6) stated that in the literature there have been three traditionally recognized categories based on three axes, namely spatial-socio-temporal axes. Spatial deixis is categorized based on spatio-axes, (e.g., this, that, here, and there). Then, personal deixis is categorized based on socio-axes (e.g., I and you). And the last is temporal deixis is categorized based on temporal axes (e.g., now, today, and yesterday). Same with two theories has explained by Levinson and Imai, Grundy (2000:26-32) and Yule (1996:9) also explained that basically deixis can be divided into three types, they are person deixis to point person such as “*I*”, “*me*”, “*you*”, then place or spatial deixis to point the specific place such as “*here*”, “*there*”, and the last is time or temporal deixis to point the specific time such as “*now*” and “*then*”.

First is person deixis. Here, the researcher found that person deixis is the deixis types mostly used by President Barack Obama, and there are some words used to show person deixis, they are *I*, *we*, *our*, *my*, *me*, *us*, *you*, *your*, *yours*, *yourself*, *he*, *his*, *she*, *her*, *herself*, *they*, *their*, *them*, and *themselves*. Based on the findings of this research, all of those words are the pointing words used by President

Barack Obama to point the certain person, it can be the speaker himself in this case President Barack Obama as the first person, the person that invite to talk with the speaker as the second person and someone or people that were spoken as third person. Those words also can indicate one person (singular) or more than one person (plural). According to Levinson (1983:62), person deixis concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered: the category first person is the grammaticalization of the speaker's reference to himself, second person the encoding of the speaker's reference to one or more addressees, and third person the encoding of reference to persons and entities which are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterance in question. Here, some examples of person deixis found in President Barack Obama's debate speech:

1) *OBAMA: "And **we** have fought back for four years to get out of that mess. The last thing **we** need to do is to go back to the very same policies that got **us** there." (Section 1)*

Analysis: Both of the word "**we**" and "**us**" than can be found in utterances above belongs to U.S. nation, included President Barack Obama, all audiences also all off the U.S. people. Here, President Barack Obama was criticizing about the policies offered by Governor Mitt Romney about the tax rates issues for middle-class families in The United States which can be make The United States came back to the bad conditions.

- 2) *OBAMA: “We're actually drilling more on public lands than in the previous administration and **my** -- the previous president was an oil man.” (Section 2)*

Analysis: The word “**we**” in utterances above refers to U.S. government led by President Barack Obama. While the word “**my**” refers to President Barack Obama himself. Here, President Barack Obama was explaining his plan in increasing the natural energy production in The United States by drilling more on public lands which has been done by U.S. government.

- 3) *OBAMA: “**My** philosophy on taxes has been simple. And that is, **I** want to give middle-class families and folks who are striving to get into the middle-class some relief.” (Section 3)*

Analysis: The words “**my**” and “**I**” in utterances above has the same meaning. Based on the context both of those words refers to President Barack Obama himself. In this case, President Barack Obama want to convince the audiences and all of people in The United States that he has a great plan. And it shown by explaining his philosophy about the tax rates issues for middle-class family.

- 4) *OBAMA: “**I** want to make sure **our** timekeepers are working here.” (Section 5)*

Analysis: The word “**I**” belongs to President Barack Obama himself. While the word “**our**” in utterances above belongs to President Barack Obama, Governor Mitt Romney, Candy Crowley and everyone who

involved in those second presidential election debate. Here President Barack Obama want to make sure that the time keeper who handle the time running of those election debate really work there, so the time for getting debate can be more efficient.

- 5) *OBAMA: "Jeremy, first of all, **your** future is bright. And the fact that **you're** making an investment in higher education is critical. Not just to **you**, but to the entire nation."* (Section 1)

Analysis: Both of the words "**your**" and "**you**" in utterances above refers to the voter who gave the question to both of president candidates in those election debate, named Jeremy Epstein. In this case, President Barack Obama giving the advice and explaining to Jeremy Epstein about his plan in increasing the job in The United States.

- 6) *OBAMA: "It also means that we've got to make sure that young people like **yourself** are able to afford a college education."* (Section 4)

Analysis: The word "**yourself**" here refers to the voter who gave the question, named Katherine Fenton. Here, President Barack Obama was explaining about his plan to make sure that every young people in America should afford a college education, so they can have more skills to be ready to face the future. And hopefully it can make the better future for America.

- 7) *OBAMA: "If my daughter or **yours** looks to somebody like they're not a citizen, I don't want -- I don't want to empower somebody like that."* (Section 7)

Analysis: The word “*yours*” above refers to all of the audiences of those election debate. Here, President Barack Obama was explaining to the audiences about his plan to make the immigrants which are coming to America gets an appropriate services that they are needed, because still there are many illegal immigrants caused of minimum services given before. And he want to decrease those issues by describing his plan and the example about what will happen if his children or their children looks the illegal immigrants in their environment.

- 8) *OBAMA: “**He** has a one-point plan. And that plan is to make sure that folks at the top play by a different set of rules.” (Section 1)*

Analysis: The word “*he*” in utterances above belongs to Governor Mitt Romney as President Barack Obama’s opposition during those debate. In this section, President Barack Obama was criticizing Governor Romney’s plan in increasing the job for American young people who have graduated from college.

- 9) *OBAMA: “Because **they** have been hit hard over the last decade. Over the last 15, over the last 20 years.” (Section 3)*

Analysis: The word “*they*” in utterances above belongs to the middle-class family and folks who are striving to get into the middle-class. In this case, President Barack Obama was telling about the middle-class family in America who have been hit hard for a long time caused of economic aspect, so he want to give some relief on their tax rates.

10) OBAMA: “*And, you know, I was raised by a single mom who had to put herself through school while looking after two kids. And she worked hard every day and made a lot of sacrifices to make sure we got everything we needed.*” (Section 4)

Analysis: Both of the words “*herself*” and “*she*” in utterances above have the same meaning. They belong to President Barack Obama’s mother. Here, President Barack Obama was telling about his mom’s effort to raise him, by working hard by herself.

Second is place deixis or also called as spatial deixis. Based on the findings in this research, the researcher found some words and phrases that used to indicate specific place, so it can be included as place deixis, they are: *here, there, out there, that, this, these, those, in war theater, and on the streets*. All of those words are the words that used by President Barack Obama on his debate speech to indicate specific place, it can be the place that near from speaker such United States as the country where President Barack Obama live and as the place where those election debate was being held, it also can be the place that away from speaker such in Benghazi, Libya or other countries outside of United States. Such as stated by Levinson (1983:62), place deixis concerns the encoding of spatial locations relative to the location of the participants in the speech event. Moreover, Yule (1996:9) also explain that deixis is clearly a form of referring that is tied to the speaker’s context, with the most basic distinction between deictic expression being ‘near speaker’ versus ‘away from speaker’. The circumstances in which near from speaker called as proximal terms such as *this* and *here*, while the circumstances in which away

from speaker called as distal term such as *that* and *there*. In this research, based on the research findings, the place deixis used 41 times by President Barack Obama.

Here some examples of place deixis:

- 1) *OBAMA: "Now, the most important thing we can do is to make sure that we are creating jobs in **this** country." (Section 1)*

Analysis: The word "*this*" in utterances above refers to United States as the country in where President Barack Obama live. Here, President Barack Obama was explaining how to create many jobs in the United States that hopefully can decrease the jobless.

- 2) *OBAMA: I want to make sure our timekeepers are working **here**." (Section 5)*

Analysis: The word "*here*" in those utterance refers to the place where the speech event happens, in this case it refers to those election debate was being held, that is in Hofstra University, New York. In this case, President Barack Obama want to make sure that the timekeepers who are handle the running of those election debate was still working.

- 3) *OBAMA: "I send them **there**, oftentimes into harm's way." (Section 8)*

Analysis: The word "*there*" here refers to the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya. Here, President Barack Obama was talking about his order to send the soldier and some American people to secure the American embassy in Benghazi, and told that he takes full responsibility for that.

The last is time deixis or sometimes called as temporal deixis. In this research, the researcher found that the words and phrases: *now*, *right now*, *tomorrow*, *then*, *during*, *today*, *the future*, *the last decade*, *in decades*, *the next day*, *two weeks ago*, *the next four years*, etc., that can be included as time deixis. All those words and phrases used by President Barack Obama to point the specific times, it can be the time when the speech event happens, before, even after the speech event happens. It also indicate the time that short or near from speaker (proximal term) such as the word “*now*” and the specific time that away from speaker such as in phrase *two weeks ago*. According to Levinson (1983:62), explain that time deixis concerns the encoding of temporal points and spans relative to the time at which an utterance was spoken (or a written message inscribed). He also explained that time deixis is commonly grammaticalized in deictic adverbs of time (like English *now* and *then*, *yesterday* and *this year*), but above all in tense. In this case, the use of the tenses also can give effect to the time that pointed. Such as explained by Yule (1996:15), the present tense is the proximal form and the past tense is the distal form. Here, the time deixis used 77 times by President Barack Obama on his debate speech. This is some examples of time deixis used by President Barack Obama on his debate speech:

- 1) *OBAMA*: “*And let's take the money that we've been spending on war over **the last decade** to rebuild America, roads, bridges schools.*”
(*Section 1*)

Analysis: The phrase “*the last decades*” here refers to the specific time before speech event happens. In this case, it refers to some years,

exactly about ten years before those election debate was being held. Here, President Barack Obama was talking about the money spent to build America around ten years before those election debate was happening.

- 2) *OBAMA: “Now, does that mean you're not struggling? Absolutely not. A lot of us are.” (Section 6)*

Analysis: The word “**now**” in utterances above refers to the specific time when the speech event happens. In this case it refers to the time when those election debate was being held. Here, President Barack Obama was explaining about what he have done for last four years as The U.S. President.

- 3) *OBAMA: “But there have been too many instances **during** the course of my presidency, where I've had to comfort families who have lost somebody.” (Section 9)*

Analysis: The word “**during**” in utterances above refers to the time when President Barack Obama becoming U.S. President, start from 2008 until those debate was being held. In this section, President Barack Obama was telling about what happen in America toward the assault weapons issues when he became The U.S. President for the last four years.

- 4) *OBAMA: “**Then** companies won't come here.” (Section 10)*

Analysis: The word “*then*” in utterances above also refers to the specific time. In this case, it refers to the time in the future that are going to happen if the U.S. government didn’t equip the trained engineers.

- 5) *OBAMA: “That’s why I’m asking for your vote and that’s why I’m asking for another four years.” (Section 11)*

Analysis: The phrase “*another four years*” above refers to the time that asked by President Barack Obama to become the U.S. President in the next period after those campaign has done. Here, President Barack Obama was asking to all audiences and American people to choose him to become a U.S. President once again, so he can finish his plan well.

Based on explanation above, we can know that the deixis types that mostly used is person deixis, then time deixis, and place deixis as the minimum that used by President Barack Obama on his debate speech in The Second Presidential Election Debate versus Governor Mitt Romney in October 16th, 2012. And in this study, the word “*I*” and “*we*” become the most easily to be found in President Barack Obama debate speech. In this case the word “*I*” and “*we*” used by President Barack Obama to make his position equal with the audiences, so the audiences can catch easily the meaning and understand what he was talking about. It also proofed that as the U.S. President, he also become one of the good American people that has the same chance with the other people there.

By the result of this research, there are so many things that can be learned, not only about the theories of deixis, how to use it or how to know the real meaning, but also many aspect from President Barack Obama as The U.S. President. So, by

finding of this research, the researcher can understand more about how President Barack Obama think about problem solving and also can understand more how to interpret or extract the meaning of the deixis found based on the certain context. The researcher also hope that the everyone who read the finding of this research can know more and learn much about the theory of deixis including the types, how to use the deixis correctly by reading the explanation about the data or deixis for each types has found that explained by the researcher, even how to extract the real meaning correctly for each types based on the certain context. Because the deixis is not easy to be interpreted or extracted the meaning. The same 'pointing word' not always has the same meaning, it depends on the context or situation such when, where, how, or for whom the speaker is speaking. By the finding of this research, the reader also can understand about President Barack Obama's thought, about how he solve the problem or issues in the daily life and also how to think about the planning for the better future.