

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presented the background of the research as to why the researcher is interested in conducting this particular research. This chapter also covers some elements related to the research, such as the statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significances of the research, the scope and limitations of the research, as well as the definition of the key terms used.

A. Background of the Research

Language essentially is, a tool, one used in order to communicate with another. Communication itself refers to the act of sending meaning to transfer ideas, deliver opinions, convey thoughts, or express emotions from one's perspective to the other in the pursuit of understanding one another. Language comes in various forms and shapes, such as; spoken language which uses sound as a transmitter, written language which uses letter as a medium, or sign language which uses symbol as the instrument, and all in which purpose is to deliver meaning/information to the receiver.

There are numerous discipline science's branch exists. For instance, there's a scientific discipline that study number (i.e., *arithmetic*), or scientific discipline that study living organism (i.e., *biology*), and many other. There is also one of the branches of scientific discipline that study language, namely *linguistics*. According to Fromkin (2000), linguistics is the scientific study of human

language.¹ Linguistics explores language from various aspects/viewpoints, such as; *phonetics* which deal with how sounds are generated, *semantics* which concern with meaning, or *morphology* which examine constitutional formation of words, etc. There is also one of the branches in particular which investigate in what way context or situation affect and determine the interpretation of meaning, i.e., *pragmatics*.²

Pragmatics is one of the branches of linguistics that inspects in what manners background or circumstance influences meaning and interpretation³ (Sunubi 2016). *How am I supposed to process what just happened? And what did she mean by that?* It's a fairly common question asked when someone is not sure, trying to figure it out whether the other person was actually flirting or just being nice to them, and that exactly is the gist of what the object of the study in the domain of pragmatics is. In order to perceive or recognize what one implied or insinuated by what they said, simply knowing the meaning of the words itself (as in *semantics*) and in what way the words have been weaved together to make the sentence (as in *syntax*) wouldn't be enough. We need to recognize who delivered the sentence and in what circumstances it was uttered, while we also need to be capable of making deduction in regard as to why the other person said that and what they actually expected us to grasp and understand. To put it in another word; if *semantics* is the realm of literal, word for word, exact

¹ Victoria A. Fromkin, *Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistics Theory* (Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers Inc., 2000), 3.

² Gunter Senft, *Understanding Pragmatics* (New York: Routledge, 2014), 185.

³ Abdul Haris Sunubi, *Introduction to Linguistics* (Parepare, South Sulawesi: Dirah, 2016), 87.

meaning which study the use of language without context, then *pragmatics* is the territory of the ‘supplementary meaning’ which study the use of language in context.⁴

There is one of the main concepts in particular in the pragmatics study in which examine the use of words or phrases which ‘point’ to a circumstantially/contextually accessible ‘things’, be it someone, someplace, sometime, or something in the discourse, i.e., *deixis*. “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 utterance”⁵ (Levinson 1983). For instance, imagine that you come across a piece of paper which got brought by the wind in the middle of the day, there is a writing on it, and it says: “help me! I’ve got lost in this forest since yesterday, and my plane is scheduled to depart from this city tomorrow!”. As much as you might want to go and help the person, anyone would be confused to explain who possibly wrote that, where the forest which that person refers to, how long that person have been there since she wrote that, and whether their plane have departed already or not. Since, the expression I, me, this, yesterday, and tomorrow in the writing are all deictic word in nature and can’t possibly be understood unless you recognize who wrote it, and where or when exactly it was written.

⁴ Betty J. Birner, *Introduction to Pragmatics* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).

⁵ Stephen C. Levinson, *Pragmatics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 54.

This ‘phenomenon’ called *deixis* occurs in our day-to-day life, integrated into nearly every aspect of our interaction, especially when using language as a means to communicate. It happens, almost as naturally as we breathe, in our endeavor/attempt to exchange information and ideas with others. In spite of that, as commonly used as it is, we often failed to perceive/recognize that we actually have been exposed or even utilized said *deictic expressions* in our daily life. As the aforementioned reasons above, the researcher is tempted to conduct this research in analyzing deixis/deictic expression used in one of most popular type of literature in this modern day and age, that is novel.

Some previous studies inspired the researcher to conduct this research study. Research study by Tia Herdiyanti (2020) titled “*Deixis Analysis in the Song Lyrics ‘Someone Like You’ by Adele*”⁶ discovered that the song contains mostly personal deixis with some temporal deixis and no spatial deixis found at all. Which in this case mean that personal deixis is the more dominant type of deixis found in this particular research study. Spatial deixis being non-existent also means that not every types of deixis might be found in every situation, some might appear albeit only once or twice, and some might not even appear at all.

Another research study, this time by Ervina CM Simatupang (2021) titled “*Pragmatic Analysis of Deixis in the Novel ‘Fangirl’ by Rainbow Rowell*”⁷ discovered all five of the deixis types proposed by Levinson’s theory in the

⁶ Tia Herdiyanti, "Deixis Analysis in the Song Lyrics "Someone Like You" by Adele." *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)* 3, no. 6 (2020): 777-780.

⁷ Ervina CM Simatupang, "Pragmatic Analysis of Deixis in the Novel Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell." *English Journal Literacy Utama* 6, no. 1 (2021): 453-459, <https://doi.org/10.33197/ej lutka.vol6.iss1.2021.2655.4585>.

novel. Each types of deixis appear in a similar quantity, with no drastic difference between each other.

Based on the previous research studies above, the researcher intends to conduct a deixis analysis research study, investigating the utterances of every characters in *The Canterville Ghost* novella that contains deictic expression in order to discover every possible deictic word that might be used in the story. *The Canterville Ghost* is a novella (i.e., short novel) which was written and regarded as Oscar Wilde's first ever published piece of fiction in year 1887. The story follows an American minister (as in delegate/government official) and his family, who relocated into the Canterville castle, an English chateau which they bought despite the ominous notice of possible occurrence from the lord of Canterville that the residence is believed to be haunted (as in inhabited by spiritual entity, i.e., ghost).

Upon initial inspection, the researcher identified that there is a substantial amount of *deictic expressions* prevails throughout the novel. And contrary to the eerie theme the title gives off such as a haunted house and ghost being present, the story itself actually leaning further toward an entertainingly humorous and comical story, rather than it being a horror one. The researcher finds it particularly engaging how a quite frightening story title such as 'The Canterville Ghost' turns out to be a whimsical and hilarious tale to read. Based on the aforementioned reasons above, the researcher is inspired to conduct this analysis research study entitled "*An Analysis of Deixis in 'The Canterville Ghost' Short Story by Oscar Wilde*".

B. Research Question

The formulated research problems of this research are as follows:

1. What types of deixis are found in ‘The Canterville Ghost’ short novel?
2. What is the most frequently used type of deixis in ‘The Canterville Ghost’ short novel?

C. Research Objective

Based on the formulated research problems above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To identify the types of deixis that are found in ‘The Canterville Ghost’ short novel.
2. To determine the most frequently used types of deixis in ‘The Canterville Ghost’ short novel.

D. Significance of the Research

The data findings, knowledge, and information acquired from this research are envisioned not only to enrich the field library of linguistics study, but also give contribution to academic intellectuals, including but not limited to:

1. English Language Educator

As one of the main agents of the educational systems in which role is to instill knowledge, guide, and to aid students in their learning growth and development, this research is expected to contribute toward their aspiration to teach English language by gaining insight into the use of language in context, especially the use of deictic expression in the

prospective learning materials they would use or personally arrange in the future.

2. English Language Learner

As for students, who is the primary participant of education, this research is hoped to contribute toward assisting them in their pursuit of knowledge related to English language by improving their awareness of the existence of the phenomenon called deixis in the field of language study, and deepen their understanding of the usage of deictic expressions in a sentence that they might have/have not known before, which the researcher believed that it will in turn lead to the improvement on the students language skills, especially their reading and writing skill.

3. Other Researchers

The result of this research is likely to contribute to other researchers who investigate similar topic or in similar field of linguistics study. For instance, affecting the course of their research process, or influencing their arrangement in conducting their research, or causing them to reconsider their approach in executing the research to further improve it, or simply giving them ideas on the subject related to their research. This research might also serve as a reference, object of review, or even as an object of comparison for other researcher of similar field in linguistics study.

E. Scope and Limitation

This research is designed to analyze deixis phenomenon that is found within Oscar Wilde's short novel titled 'The Canterville Ghost'. The research centered around the three types of deixis originated from George Yule's theory, that is *personal deixis* (i.e., character-related deixis), *spatial deixis* (i.e., location-related deixis), and *temporal deixis* (i.e., time-related deixis).

In addition, this research is limited and concentrated exclusively on analyzing the utterance / spoken words of the characters found within The Canterville Ghost short novel by Oscar Wilde and does not expand or go on beyond that, limited to only the utterance / spoken words (both monolog or dialogs alike) and exactly just that.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Analysis

It is an organized process of gathering, managing, and representing data to generate conclusion out of it.⁸ (Sugiyono 2014)

2. Deixis

It is a terminology, originated from Greek language which represents 'pointing' through the utilization of language.⁹ (Yule 1996)

⁸ Sugiyono. *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Pendekatan Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*. (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2014), 244.

⁹ Yule, *Pragmatics*, 9.

3. Deictic Expression

It is any form of language unit utilized to carry out the act of ‘pointing’ in deixis.¹⁰ (Yule 1996)

4. Referent

It is the specific person, place, or time that deictic expression points to / referring to when said deictic expression being used within a particular context in the speech event.¹¹

¹⁰ Yule, *Pragmatics*, 9.

¹¹ *Ibid.*