

English Deixis in Picture Storybooks for Children

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Abstrak - *Deictic expression is a noticeable item in linguistic studies to recognize the meaning of a specific context. Thus, pragmatic analysis in this research is to find five kinds of deixis those are: personal deixis (first, second, and third person deixis), place deixis, time deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis. The theory that is used in this research is the theory of deixis by Levinson (1983). The present study investigates the use of Deictic expression in five children picture storybook. The titles of each book are **Reba wants ice cream, Gappu can't dance, Buntly and Bubbly, A new pet in the family, and under my bed.** This study employed descriptive qualitative research design. On the types of deixis found in the children story books, the finding shows that in all the data, personal deixis is the most identifiable type of deixis. Some pattern of the deixis types in children storybooks cover the word; I, now, there, this, and mother which were found in the sentences of the story.*

Keywords: *Deixis; picture storybook; pragmatics.*

Abstrak - *Ekspresi deiktik merupakan salah satu hal yang perlu diperhatikan dalam studi linguistik untuk mengenali makna suatu konteks tertentu. Dengan demikian, analisis pragmatik dalam penelitian ini adalah menemukan lima macam deiksis yaitu; personal deixis (first, second, dan third person deixis), place deixis, time deixis, social deixis dan discourse deixis. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori deiksis menurut Levinson (1983). Penelitian ini menyelidiki penggunaan ekspresi Deiktik dalam lima buku cerita anak bergambar berbeda. Judul masing-masing buku tersebut adalah **Reba wants ice cream, Gappu can't dance, Buntly and Bubbly, A new pet in the family, dan under my bed.** Adapun jenis penelitian ini merupakan kualitatif deskriptif. Mengenai jenis deiksis pada buku cerita anak ini ditemukan bahwa dari lima buku cerita bergambar untuk anak, personal deixis adalah jenis deiksis yang paling sering digunakan. Sedangkan, beberapa pola tipe Deixis dalam kalimat yang tertulis di buku cerita anak-anak tersebut, adalah seperti kata; saya, sekarang, di sana, ini, dan ibu.*

Kata Kunci: *Deiksis; buku cerita bergambar; pragmatik.*

INTRODUCTION

The existence of children's books is inseparable from the closeness of parents and children through storytelling traditions. Such tradition successfully initiates reading books for children derived from Fairy tales (Masters, 2012). According to the American Library Association (1983), children's books were specially written for children with simple words and sentences along with story ideas and characteristics of children. The same definition stated by Oberstein (in Mart, 2012), children's books concerns the roles of children as the audience. Huck et al. (in Mart, 2012) point out that one children's literature function is to unlock the imagination of children about life and thought presented in the language of the story.

Progress in the International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) (2011) reported that Indonesian students' reading abilities are low. One strategy to solve the lack of students' reading skills is encouraging learners to read extensively. Extensive reading is particularly reading for pleasure where readers enjoy to read the content of books. From this point, children's reading is classified into six categories: 1. Preschool picture books (introducing the very concepts about letters, numbers, colors and so on, books with rhythmic and repetitive sentences, picture books without text) 2. classical literature (myths, fairy tales, folk tales, legends, rhymes) 3. fiction, (fantasy, modern fiction, historical fiction) 4. biographies and autobiographies 5. science 6. poetry and verse (Anderson, 2006). So even though reading

interest in one reading category is low, children's storybooks are recommended.

Picture books for children became popular in the 1920s. The arts of visual and textual storytelling design implying that the picture book can display the side of children and that book are for them. Storybooks are part of a country's culture. Therefore, in a storybook combining language learning and cultural recognition, the language used in a storybook represents contextual meaning (Niemann, 2003). Storybooks can provide examples of linguistic structures following the original context. The combination of text and illustrations helps children understand the story and make them easy to interpret it.

The story messages in illustrated children's storybooks require a very deep context and language. Communication formed from writing and pictures will harmonize understanding. Targeting the meaning conveyed by the speaker is the basic concept of pragmatics studies. According to Yule (in Herman & Pardede, 2020) pragmatics is a study of understanding the narrator. Deixis is a way to make a connection of talk between two or more people. Deictic is a key link between time, space, and related subjects (Stapleton, 2017). Deixis is also part of pragmatic that focuses on contextual meaning (Rahayu & Kurniawan, 2020). Yule (in Stapleton, 2017) says that deixis comes from the classical Greek "deiknynai", which means "to point".

There are five types of deixis. namely: spatial, temporal, person, social, and discourse (Levinson, 1983). Personal deixis refers to a person or participant in the communication. Some examples of personal deixis are such as; I, you, we (Stapleton, 2017). Spatial or place deixis is a word pointing a direction of the utterance such as; the adverbs *here* and *there*, and the demonstrative pronouns *this* and *that*. Temporal deixis or time deixis involves a specific time (Fillmore in Rahayu & Kurniawan, 2020). The deictic time adverbs in English language are like now, today, yesterday. Discourse deixis concerns the use of expressions within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance (including the utterance itself). Social deixis is an expression used to differentiate status and level. As an example; Good day Mommy, Thank you, sir (Levinson, 1983).

Some previous research carries a pragmatic approach about the deixis types found in language literature sources in the form of songs. The various types of deixis exist in the lyrics of the song "my heart will go on" by Celine Dion (Van Thao & Herman, 2020). Two types of deixis (spatial and person) were found in dangdut song lyrics of Rhoma Irama (Natalia & Santoso, 2020). The type of deixis in the lyrics of the song "you are the reason" sung by

Calum Scott is also examined (Sitorus & Herman, 2019). Five kinds of deixis based on Alan Cruse (2000) were represented in the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's song on the Divide album identify (Nasution et al., 2018).

This study focused on children's literature (picture book for children) as the main source of data to be analyzed, entitled *Reba wants ice cream* (story 1), *a new pet in the family* (story 2), *Gappu can't dance* (story 3), *under my bad* (story 4), and *Bunty and Bubbly* (story 5). Types of deixis are analyzed based on Levinson (person deixis, temporal deixis, place deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis) as the main points to achieve the contextual meaning from the theory of pragmatic.

Additionally, this study relates to the assumption that by using the deixis type theory based on Levinson (1983) to obtain comprehensive results regarding the deixis pattern applied to picture books. This study also relates to its analysis on the assumption that picture books employ a copious variety of deixis patterns.

Furthermore, the present study can contribute to the dynamics of pragmatic studies, especially in children's literature. As a practical matter, the results of research on deixis patterns in picture books is expected to be a reference for literature developers and language teachers as well as the development of contextual meaning of text in picture books to improve children's reading skills.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a part of pragmatics study. Pragmatics as a branch of the scientific field of linguistics examines how language is used in a particular context (Slotta, 2018). One of the investigations included in pragmatic studies is deixis. The goal of this research is to focuses on the use of deixis in children's storybooks. In this research, the data collection method is the documentary technique including; reading, studying, analyzing, identifying, classifying, and collecting the required information related to the study.

The deixis analysis process consists; 1). Reading each children's storybook, 2) Identifying the type of deixis contained in every sentence of the story 3) Determining the type of deixis (person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis) that have been mentioned in Levinson's (1983) theory, and 4) drawing the conclusion on classification results of deixis.

To find out the validity of the results from a series of steps above, the researcher carried out the

investigator triangulation method. Investigator triangulation involves several investigators or evaluators in an evaluation project (Guion, 2002).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The analysis using Levinson's (1983) deixis types in each sentence of the children's story is summarized in table 1.

Table 1. Types of deixis

Types of person deixis		Story				
		1	3	5	2	4
First Person	I	6	-	1	24	10
	Me	3	-	-	5	2
	My	1	-	-	1	4
	We	1	-	-	4	-
Second Person	You	4	3	-	26	-
	Your	5	2	-	8	-
Third Person	He	2	-	1	2	-
	She	4	1	7	1	-
	It	-	1	-	16	-
	They	-	-	-	3	-
	Them	1	-	-	-	-
	Her	7	2	6	2	-
	His	-	-	1	-	-
	Him	-	-	-	6	-

In table 1, all types of deixis mentioned by Levinson (1983) only found in one data on existing children's stories. The other four children's stories cover only a few types of deixis. The findings also show that the majority of words used in the story classified as person deixis and then followed by social deixis. Meanwhile, place deixis is rarely used in the children's story above. This distribution occurred in three children's story data entitled; *Gappu can't dance*, *Bunty and Bubbly*, *A new pet in the family*. The total of 15 time deixis is in three different children's stories. Occurrence of words of discourse deixis type is not available in the story of *Gappu can't dance* and *Bunty and Bubbly*.

1. Person deixis

Table 2. Person deixis

Person deixis	Types of deixis				Story no.
	Time deixis	Place deixis	Disc. deixis	Social deixis	
34	-	1	3	5	1
9	-	-	-	2	3
16	2	-	-	3	5
98	10	-	4	10	2
16	3	1	2	5	4
Σ	173	15	2	9	25

As seen in table 2, the person deixis is the first common type of deixis compared to the other four types of deixis. The dominant type of person deixis found in the story of *A new pet in the family*. The following is an example of a person deixis in a sentence contained in the story:

Can I be Thomas's pet?

You're very cute with all your scales and those very sharp teeth

But you breathe fire and would burn down the house, I told it

(from the story of *A new pet in the family*)

2. Time deixis

Table 3. Time deixis

Types of time deixis	Story				
	1	3	5	2	4
A few weeks ago	-	-	-	1	-
Few days ago	-	-	-	1	-
The whole time	-	-	-	1	-
Now	-	-	-	1	2
These days	-	-	1	-	-
Every day	-	-	-	1	-
Later in the day	-	-	-	1	-
Once a day	-	-	-	1	-
At night	-	-	-	2	1
One night	-	-	1	-	-
Each morning	-	-	-	1	-

In terms of the patterns of time deixis used by the storytellers in each word, it was found that the book has more varied word manifest the time deixis than those mentioned by Levinson (1983) such as; *now*, *then*, *this week*, *this afternoon*, *yesterday*, *today*. However, the various types of time deixis are only found in the story *A new pet in the family*. The example of time deixis in the sentence are:

A little dragon asked me a few weeks ago, its eyes wide with hope

A bunch of cute little creatures with four eyes, goggles and balloon hands asked me a few days ago

They jumped up and down the whole time

(from the story of *A new pet in the family*)

3. Place Deixis

Table 4. Place deixis

Types of place deixis	Story				
	1	3	5	2	4
There	1	-	-	-	1

The information listed in table 4 regarding the patterns of place deixis mentioned in the story *Reba wants ice cream* and *Under my bed* only raises one example, "there" and each only contains one sentence in the story. The sentence used in the story that categorize as place deixis are shown below:

There were so many kinds of ice creams that she wanted!

There is a tiger under my bed

4. Discourse Deixis

Table 5. Discourse deixis

Types of discourse deixis	Story				
	1	3	5	2	4
This	1	-	-	2	2
That	2	-	-	2	-

Table 5 demonstrates the specific results of discourse deixis. Representations of this type of deixis are few or even not found in the two stories. Only two stories mention the types of discourse deixis "this" and "that". Meanwhile, in the story *under my bed*, there is only "this". The examples are;

That's one of the best things about cats

hitting Albert is not the way to solve this

(from the story of *A new pet in the family*)

5. Social Deixis

Table 6. Social deixis

Types of social deixis	Story Number				
	1	3	5	2	4
Mother	1	-	1	-	-
Ma	4	-	-	-	5
Ma'am	-	2	-	-	-
The king	-	-	2	-	-
Mommy	-	-	-	3	-
Daddy	-	-	-	5	-
Sister	-	-	-	1	-
Brother	-	-	-	1	-

The patterns of social deixis exist in five children's stories. The type of social deixis "mother" often appears in each story. Although the word "mother" in several stories is different and replaced by the word "ma" and "mommy". However, both refer to "mother". The sentences that have the social deixis type are;

Reba runs to her Mother (from the story of *Reba wants ice cream*)

Should I call Ma? (from the story of *under my bed*)

"but mommy, Goober just wants to help you cook."

(from story of *A new pet in the family*)

6. Deixis and the context

Three types of deixis proposed by Levinson (spatial, temporal, person) are more commonly used in different modes, genres, registers, and disciplines than social deixis and discourse types (Dylgjeri & Kazazi, 2013). From the results of the analysis of this study, person deixis was mostly identified in sentences written in children's stories. The same results also has revealed in the *Black Swan* movie script are personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, and discourse deixis. A total of 1825 personal deixis are in the movie script. The first-person deixis was analyzed resulting on 276 in total such as; I, We, 250 person deixis (you), and third-person deixis with a total of 1299 in texts such as; he, she, it (Saputri, 2016).

From the same genre, there were 515 person deixis in the *A Thousand Words* movie script written by Steve. The type of person deixis used are; I, Me, We, Us, My or first-person deixis. You, Your as second person deixis. He, She, It, They, Them, Him, Her or third person deixis (Sasmita et al., 2018). As for the *Maleficent* movie script, the type of person deixis dominates the results of research conducted by (Wiguna et al., 2018).

In song lyrics, the personal deixis is also very often used by the writer of the story. In the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album using the theory of Alan Cruse (2000), the word of personal deixis dominates the song lyrics (Nasution et al., 2018). Different finding show the dominant use of person deixis and spatial deixis in song lyrics written by Rhoma Irama. Of the two types of deixis, person deixis is superior (Natalia & Santoso, 2020).

The type of deixis in the lyrics of the song *My Heart Will Go on* by Celine Dion involves three types of deixis (person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis). However, the person deixis dominating the lyric (Van Thao & Herman, 2020). In addition, personal deixis is an important component in linguistic studies where person deixis introduces social status, interpersonal relationships, and other factors involved in the context of a conversation (Li, 2009).

Interestingly, the type of social deixis categorized as deixis that is rarely found actually gets the second position. Based on Levinson's theory, the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* written by Charles Dickens shows that social deixis gets a total of 164 out of a total of 510 (Khalili, 2017). The patterns of social deixis in the novel include; *Lady, Sir, Wife, Husband, Brother, Sister, Mother, Madam, President*. Compared with the types of social deixis found in this study, the use of *Brother, Sister, and*

Mother is more common in children's stories. Meanwhile, such social deixis as *Madam, President, Lady, Sir, Wife, Husband* are not listed in the text. Steinbeck (in Mart, 2012) argues that children's stories must be personal. One of them is the use of familiar characters. In choosing children's stories, one should pay attention to whether or not children can identify the main character compared to any other character (Niemann, 2003). While in this study, the sentences used in picture books show the emphasis on the character of the mother which is more dominantly introduced from all children's stories that are used as data in this study.

On the other hand, in different modes of speaking, some researchers focus on one type of deixis that underlies the speaker's speech. Al-khalidy examined the use of spatial deixis in the Jordanian parliament's speech in his discussion of the 2017 general budget. The three-dimensional deictic center expressions (proximal, medial, and distal) are based on the Arabic language structure. Proximal deictic center expressions such as masculine (this) *hādā* هَذَا, feminine (this) *hādīhi* هَذِهِ and locative deictic (here) *hūna* هُنَا are overuse in speech. It is known that there are 180 proximal expressions in speech (Al-khalidy, 2019). Meanwhile, Latupeirissa focused his research on analyzing the use of personal deixis in Korbafo dialect. The results show that personal deixis in its singular form includes; the speaker Au (I Singular), the addressee Ko (II Singular), and the non-speaker Ndia (III Singular). Furthermore, the personal deixis in the plural form includes; Ita (I Plural Incl), Ami (I Plural Excl), Kemi (II Plural), Sila (III Plural) (Latupeirissa, 2016). Another study examined the social deixis of TU and VOS forms according to Brown and Gilman in 1960 in Tae 'Bastem language and in English. Six pronouns represent TU and VOS in Tae 'Bastem. In English language, the TU and VOS forms cannot be found (Nasriandi et al., 2020).

The deixis phenomenon in both written and verbal data cannot be determined without clarity of contextual information. It is because deixis has a function to show or detail participants' perspectives in their speaking or writing (Pangaribuan et al., 2015). Hence, deictic is a word that indicates varieties and it also shows instability depending on who is speaking, where, and when it is delivered (Khalili, 2017).

CONCLUSION

The discrepancies of the type of deixis that exist in the results of this study and previous findings do not indicate which one is better or worse. However, deixis aims to understand and get the meaning intended by the speaker. With this pragmatic approach, understanding what is written

and said will be easier. As well, when reading children's illustrated stories that seem trivial and not altogether serious to improve adult literacy and it is simple to have a literal understanding of the text for most readers. However, interpretations come from many parties and arise to different meanings. Sometimes one meaning that the author intended does not fit the perspective of another individual. This issue leads to the importance of knowing deictic expression. Although the data chosen in this study were pictorial reading books for children, the deixis portion from the book shows variation. Since this research only focus on five picture book stories for children, other researcher can use multiple data to have more comprehensive results about deixis.

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