The Deixis Analysis of Disney's Raya and The Last Dragon Movie Script

Desy Eva Laila Rokhmah¹*, Selvira Tatawalat², Martha Betaubun³

¹,² Department of English Literature, Universitas Musamus Merauke, Indonesia
³ Department of English Education, Universitas Musamus Merauke, Indonesia

Abstract. This study was on pragmatics, specifically deixis. This study aims to analyze the three main types of deixis: person deixis, time deixis, and place deixis; and to determine the most dominant deixis in the movie entitled Raya and The Last Dragon. The source of the data was the movie script of Raya and The Last Dragon. The data were obtained utilizing documentary techniques. There are 42 scenes in the movie script, and all of them have been studied. Based on the analysis, type of person deixis was used 677 times, including the first, second, and third person. 10 occurrences of spatial/place deixis were found. In addition, the type of temporal/time deixis was used 37 times. The results indicated that person deixis was the most dominant type of deixis in Raya and The Last Dragon's movie script.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Deixis, Disney, Movie

1 Introduction

Pragmatics is the study of how individuals utilize language in conversation. Therefore, it cannot be neglected in learning a foreign language, particularly, English. Until recently, the majority of EFL students in Indonesia viewed the English Language as a challenging topic[1]. According to Yule[2], pragmatics is the study of the contextual meaning communicated by a speaker or writer and perceived by a hearer or reader. Pragmatics is the interaction between languages and contexts that are grammaticalized or encoded in linguistic structure[3]. Pragmatics is primarily concerned with the actual meanings conveyed by words when they are employed, or with the intended speaker's meaning when something is referred to. As is commonly known, pragmatics is one of the five linguistic branches (phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics) that focuses on the study and interpretation of language meaning.

The interpretation of a word's meaning based on its context is known as deictic or deixis. Fundamentally, deictic phrases or expressions, also known as deixis (another synonym is indexicals), are derived from the Greek word deiktikos, which signifies the use of language to refer, indicate, or point [2]–[5]. Deixis is used to look for acts that occurred inside a relative time frame to the present. Yule[2] stated, "Deixis is certainly a form of refers to that is bound to the speaker's context, with the most fundamental distinction between deictic expressions being 'near speaker' as opposed to 'far from the speaker. According to Levinson[3], pragmatics is the study of the relationships between language and grammaticalized context, or as encoded in the structure of a language. Therefore, pragmatics would include the study of deixis, including honorifics, as well as the study of presupposition and speech acts. Furthermore, Levinson [3] emphasizes that there are two more deixis categories, discourse or text deixis, and social deixis, in addition to the three primary deixis categories. However, the scope of this study is limited to the 3 main categories of deixis: person deixis, place deixis, and time deixis.

Ruthrof [6] believed that explicit, or marked, deixis in Natural Language (NL) comprises just a small proportion of total deixis, which he defines as the pervasive relationship between sentence-tokens and their extra-linguistic context. Traditional research on deixis has not been able to confine its observations to deictic markers but has tended to flow over into the realm of imaginative reconstruction of speech modality. There have been many studies conducted related to deixis[7]–[11]. However, this present study is considerably different from earlier research, as it analyzes the actual types of deixis found in the Raya and The Last Dragon scripts.

Raya and The Last Dragon is the 59th movie produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios and directed by Don Hall and Carlos Lopez Estrada. This movie is based on traditional Southeast Asian cultures. It was written by Qui Nguyen and Adelle Lim. "Raya and the Last Dragon" is a Disney-themed fantasy
adventure movie set in Kumandra, a realm where humans and dragons coexist in harmony. However, when the people of Kumandra are threatened by evil, the dragons sacrifice themselves to save them. Now, 500 years later, the same evil has returned, and their fate is in the hands of a warrior named Raya, who is in search of the last dragon that can unite the lands and the divided people of Kumandra. Raya discovers on her trip that, to save the world, not just a dragon but also mutual trust and cooperation are required. Other characters include Boun, a 10-year-old clever businessman, Tong, a fierce giant, and Noi, a toddler thief who is accompanied by a troop of Ongis. This movie was released in 2021[12].

1.1 Person Deixis

Person deixis is a type of deixis that refers to individuals and can also refer to pronouns. Personal deixis, according to Levinson[3], is the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered. Person deixis, according to these interpretations, pertains to personal pronouns such as I, you, he, and they. When a speaker says I, that pronoun relates to that individual speaker. For instance, if I, “Vira,” say, “I went to school yesterday,” the meaning of the word I is Vira. The meaning of the statement is similar if we rephrase it as “Vira went to school yesterday.”

Yule[2] explains that in English, proximal terms refer to deictic expressions that are "close to the speaker," such as "this," "here," and "now," while distal terms refer to deictic expressions that are "far from the speaker," such as "that," "there," and "then." Generally, proximal phrases are interpreted in terms of the speaker's location, or the deictic center; in this example, the pronoun 'now' relates to the time when the speaker is speaking. In contrast, distal phrases simply mean "distant from the speaker." In certain languages, however, distal phrases can also be used to differentiate between 'near addressee' and 'far from both speaker and addressee' Additionally, person deixis is essentially separated into three kinds. According to Yule[2], the pronouns for the first person (‘I’), second person (‘you’), and third person (‘he’, ‘she’, or ‘it’) exemplify the basic three-part division of person deixis.

The following are the three types of person deixis[2], [13]:

a) The first-person deixis category is the grammaticalization of the speaker's self-reference. In various languages, the first person may refer not only to the speaker, but also to both the speaker and the addressee, or the speaker and a group of people.

b) The Second-person deixis. The personal pronoun 'You' is the pronoun used to operate deixis in the second person. The second person is the encoding of the speaker's reference to one or more addressees, according to Levinson[3]). From Levinson's statement, it can be concluded that second-person deixis does not always relate to a single person, but can also refer to multiple people.

c) The third-person deixis is the encoding of references to persons and entities that are neither the speaker nor the recipient of the utterance. The third person deixis is the category of person deixis that does not indicate or refer to both the speaker and the addressee. There are a few pronouns that are included in third person deixis, and they are in the single and plural forms: 'he/his, 'she/her,' and 'it'

1.2 Place Deixis

Place Deixis, also known as spatial or locational deixis, is concerned with the location of persons or objects in relation to the deictic center. Furthermore, Levinson[3] argued that place deixis is concerned with the specification of location relative to anchorage points in a speech event. Simply said, place or spatial deixis relates to indicating the speaker's location or the locations shown by the speaker. The most common examples of location deixis are 'this' and 'here' for denoting nearby objects, and 'that' and 'there' for indicating distant ones.

According to Yule [2] one variant of the concept of motion toward the speaker appears to be the first deictic meaning learned by children and characterizes their use of words such as 'this' and 'here' (something that can be seen). They differ from 'that' and 'there', which refer to things that move out of the child's visual space (can no longer be seen). However, when discussing place (spatial) deixis, Yule[2] emphasizes that position from the speaker's perspective might be fixed mentally as well as physically. Furthermore, Lyons[5] added that the significance of locational specifications, in general, can be evaluated by the fact that there appear to be two basic ways of referring to objects, the first is by 'describing or naming them', and the second is by 'locating them'. From the preceding explanations, it can be inferred that place deixis refers to the speaker's location. For example, if someone says "I am here," the word here refers to his current location, “at the office". In this utterance, the word “here” refers to "at the office".

1.3 Time Deixis

The time relative to a temporal reference point is the time deixis. Time deixis is a reference to specific times in relation to another time, typically the time of utterance. Time deixis also termed temporal deixis. Temporal deictics function to locate points or intervals on the time axis, utilizing the moment of utterance as a reference point [13]. Deixis of time is concerned with the encoding of temporal points and spans relative to the time of utterance[3]. Furthermore, Yule explains that we might interpret temporal events as things that move toward us (into view) or away from us (out of vision)[2]. In addition, Yule explained that tenses can be utilized to indicate temporal deixis in English.
2 Research Method

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach [14] through content analysis. The data were derived from the scripts of Raya and The Last Dragon. This movie's whole transcript consists of 42 scenes. The analysis process was limited to three major categories of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, and time deixis. The authors utilized the documentation technique to collect the data. The data collection and analysis processes consist of the following steps: (1) Downloading the original Raya and The Last Dragon movie; (2) Watching the original Raya and The Last Dragon movie; (3) Reading the script for the Raya and The Last Dragon movie; (4) Classifying the types of deixis in the Raya and The Last Dragon manuscript; (5) Coding the data; and (6) Drawing conclusions based on the data analysis.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 The Types of Deixis Found on Raya and The Last Dragon Movie Script

3.1.1 Person Deixis

In this study, the findings revealed various grammatical categories of person deixis from Raya and The Last Dragon movie. Person deixis is directly represented in person grammatical categories.

a) I probably should have said two feet.

b) Fang legend says she is still out there.

c) He seems lonely.

d) It looks hungry.

e) We forgot to bring a gift for the Tail chief.

f) They took my family.

g) I only eat terrible foods I dried myself.

h) But they're our enemies.

i) Send her out, or we're coming in!

j) Remind me to never have kids.

As previously stated, the use of the first person singular 'I' in the sentence (a) alludes to Raya, the main character who is attempting to save the world and become Kumandra. While the third singular person 'she' used in sentences (b) refers to Sisu, the Dragon who saved the Kumandra. In this scenario, the author utilized person deixis to redirect attention away from Sisu. Meanwhile, the usage of the third person 'he' in the sentence (c) refers to Spine's warrior, one of the characters in this movie. Furthermore, the other types of pronouns used in the example phrases above suggest a specific referent. From this script, it can be identified how the author used personal pronouns to explain the participants' roles in the discourse. The preceding example just represents 677 of the total data finding. Table 1 below has been provided with more details.

Table 1. The distribution of person deixis found in Raya and The Last Dragon movie script

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Category of Person</th>
<th>Type of Pronoun</th>
<th>Amount of data finding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Myself</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>We</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Us</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Our</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>185</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Your</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yours</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>She</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>He</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Her</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>His</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2 Spatial/Place Deixis

Spatial/place deixis refers to the speaker's location. This finding was classified based on the types of expression. The following sentences are related to the spatial/spatial deixis found in Raya and The Last Dragon movie script.

a) I’ve searched every river to find you, and now I’m here at the very last one.

b) You weren’t there when Namaari betrayed me.

c) Sisu, there are a few things I need to catch you up on.

d) Now there is nothing to stop the Druun.

e) Sisu, I think maybe it’s safer for you to stay here on the boat.

f) My sword here says we’re not.

As can be observed in sentence (a), the term 'here' was used to indicate a specific location during the conversation, indicating that the audience's position is close to the speaker. The word 'there' in sentence (b) refers to Heart, the city where Raya was born. Meanwhile, in sentence (c), the term 'there' does not refer to a location, but to some items or a few words that Raya wishes to convey to Sisu. It is further demonstrated in sentence (d) that the word 'there' does not refer to a location, but rather to a strategy or method of combating the Druun, the monster in this movie. Following that, the word 'here' in sentence (e) refers to a boat, while the word 'here' in sentence (f) refers to Raya's hand, as she was carrying her sword at that moment when she uttered the word.

These sentences must be clarified by the speaker for us to comprehend them. Therefore, the distance was divided into two terms: proximal (near the speaker) and distal (far/away from the speaker). The total amount of spatial deixis found in the movie can be seen in the following table.
Table 2. The distribution of place/spatial deixis found in Raya and The Last Dragon movie script

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of distance</th>
<th>Type of expression</th>
<th>Amount of finding data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximal</td>
<td>Here</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal</td>
<td>There</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.3 Time/Temporal Deixis

Deixis relating to the time of speech is referred to as temporal deixis. If the speaker inquired, the word ‘when’ does not denote a time that coincides with the previous event, but rather one that occurs immediately after it. Temporal deixis is the grammaticalization of temporal relationships of occurrences relative to the coding time. The following sentences are related to the time/temporal deixis found in Raya and The Last Dragon movie script.

a) Raya, Princess of Heart, my daughter, you are now a Guardian of the Dragon Gem.

b) Wait a second.

c) But then, the Druun came.

d) My name is Boun. I’ll be your server today.

e) Yeah, I’m gonna pay it back later.

f) It’s been such a long time since I’ve last peered into the eyes of a trembling enemy.

g) Well, that all began five hundred years ago.

As shown in sentence (a), the usage of ‘now’ suggests that the utterance occurred close to the speaker. The use of “a second” in sentence (b) implies temporal deixis, similar to the use of “a second” in sentence (c). The use of ‘today’ in sentence (d) relates to the day Raya and Sisu attempt to flee from Namari, who is chasing them. The above examples are simply representative of 38 total finding data. Table 3 below has been provided with more details.

Table 3. The distribution of time/temporal deixis found in Raya and The Last Dragon movie script

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Type of expression</th>
<th>Amount of finding data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximal</td>
<td>Now</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distal</td>
<td>Then</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal</td>
<td>Long time</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Today</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Later</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ago</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Once more</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Since</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five Hundred years</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that Raya and The Last Dragon Analysis contain all three major types of deixis. It is evident from the study that it is difficult to comprehend the movie’s contents if we do not comprehend the actual meaning of all deixis. Especially if we cannot comprehend the topic or context that the speaker pointed out. This is why the research was conducted, with the aim that it will be beneficial and provide insight to readers who wish to learn more about deixis.

The study reveals that Person Deixis had the greatest total score, followed by Time Deixis and Place Deixis. Interestingly, Time Deixis's temporal categories have yielded diverse results, such as five hundred years, once again, and a long time. These kinds of terms sometimes cause confusion as to whether they are part of Time Deixis or not. Although the analysis still needs development, the authors believe it will be useful for others who wish to learn about Deixis.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by Universitas Musamus Merauke. Therefore, the authors express their gratitude to the Rector of Universitas Musamus and Dean of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Musamus University for their support and assistance during the study.

References


