

Types of Deictic Expressions Used in Selected Articles of ‘The Jakarta Post’

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are to analyze and to describe the types deictic expressions used in selected articles from a newspaper of The Jakarta Post published on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018. This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. The source of data was taken from the selected articles of The Jakarta Post and 8 articles were taken as the samples. Method of data collection that is used is documentation method. The findings showed that the types deictic expressions used are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. The deictic words of the person deixis found are he and it (the third person singular personal pronoun), I and we (the first person singular personal pronoun), his and their (possessive form of pronoun he and they), and him and them (objective form of personal pronoun he and they). The deictic words of the spatial deixis found are this, here, next to, and there, (demonstrative pronoun). The deictic words of the temporal deixis found are after Monday’s meeting, after, next year, at the same time, today and nowadays.

Keywords: *deixis, deictic expression, newspaper, article*

INTRODUCTION

Language is important means of communication in daily life. It is not simply a means of communication. Language is also known as a system of sounds and words to express one’s personal reactions, emotions and thoughts as well as to share information in daily social life (Trudgill in Raja T Nashr, 1984:140). Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that language is meaningful, when the meaning is conveyed to interact and establish relations, to influence their behavior and express their expressions

of the word (s). In this modern era, language is not only used in human but also in mass media such as magazine, newspaper, radio, and television. Newspaper (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: 2002) mentions as a set of large printed sheets of paper containing news, articles, advertisements, and other news which is published every day or every week. Article (Collin English Dictionary: 2018) is a piece of writing that is published in a newspaper or magazine. Means that article is one of the reading materials and usually deals with a particular issues or topic to give information of interest. The Jakarta Post is one of the daily English newspaper which is oriented in some various field such as headline, editorial, article, opinion, world and etc. It shows that it is very interesting to analyze the selected articles in Jakarta Post by using pragmatics field which is called deictic expression which involves linguistics forms to express the meaning.

Determining the meaning of various kinds of linguistics expressions is not a simple task, because the reader or the hearer has to be able to understand and interpret the writer's speaker's meaning by his/her utterance. Morris (1983:6) states the pragmatics is the study of the relationship between sign and symbol with the interpreters. In addition, Richards (1985:67) describes that pragmatics is the study of the use of language in communication particularly the relationship between sentences and context and situation in which they are used. Based on the arguments above, it can be said that pragmatics is defined as the study of the relationship between language and context which are used based on situation in order to get some meanings.

Levinson (1983:54) states that deixis concerns the way in which languages encode or grammatical features of the context of utterance or speech event, and also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance. Deixis is not a simple as it seems. Deixis shows the important meaning which is expressed by the writer to help the reader (s) to understand the text. A deep understanding is regarded as the important information which is focused by most of the readers. This view has motivated the researchers to study deictic expression used in the selected articles of the Jakarta Post which contains many kinds of deictic expression.

Focusing on the issues above, this study focuses only on the discussion of types deictic expression used in selected articles of Jakarta Post. There are many words and expressions that depend on the circumstance, in order to be understood. Particularly it

will try to describe and to find out deictic expression in the selected articles from the Jakarta Post which is published on October 23rd, 2018.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Soekemi (2000: 33) states a deictic word is one which takes some elements of its meaning from the situation of the utterance in which it issued. He gives example, Emi says "*I'll be there*". *I* refers to Emi and *there* refers to a particular place. There are three traditional categories of deixis, i.e. person deixis, place or spatial deixis, and time or temporal deixis (Levinson, 1983:62). These categories are understood in the following way.

Person deixis

According to Levinson (1983:62) person deixis concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event. Person deixis clearly operates on a basic three-part division, exemplified by the pronouns for the pronouns for first person (*I*), second person (*you*) and third person (*he, she, or it*). See his examples below:

1. First person reference to self.
e.g. "*I* fall in love in a first sight".
2. Second person reference to addressee(s)
e.g. "You are Andre's sister".

Place deixis

Spatial or place Deixis refers to how languages show the relationship between space and the location of the participants in a discourse. Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2003:218) stated that, the expression of place deixis requires contextual information of the place of the utterance such as here, there, this, this place, that place, this city, etc. Examples:

1. *This* is my house.
2. *That* was amazing.

Time deixis

According to Levinson (1983:62) Time or temporal deixis is a reference to the time relative to a temporal reference point, this point is the moment of the utterance at which of the time of speaking (or written inscribed). Moreover Yule (1996:14) stated that the forms of temporal reference are learned a lot later than the deictic expressions like yesterday, tomorrow, today, tonight, next week, last week, this week. All these expressions depend for their interpretation on knowing the relevant utterance time. For examples:

1. November 22, 1963. I was in Scotland *then*.

In the distal expression then applies to past time relative to the speaker's present time.

2. I will come to your house *tomorrow*.

There is a notice on someone's appointment with someone to future time.

There are important differences in the use of deictic terms. As Fillmore in Yule's book of pragmatics (1996:93) points out that deictic expression can be used in one or more of three different ways, those are:

1. *Gestural used*

The terms used in a gestural deictic way can be interpreted by some body physical monitoring aspect of the speech event.

2. *Symbolic usage*

The terms used in a symbolic deictic way can be interpreted by knowing particular aspect of the speech event, whether this knowledge comes by current perception or not. In other words, Levinson (1983:66) states that the interpretation of symbolic usage requires knowledge of "contextual coordinates available to participants' antecedent to the utterance".

3. *Anaphoric usage*

The term used in anaphoric way can be interpreted by knowing whether the expression is co-referential with other part of the same discourse. In Lyons (1977:657), it is "argued that anaphora also depends ultimately upon deixis".

Deictic expressions are a particular kind of referential expressions. Therefore, to establish the correct reference, Mey (1993:95) defines that the referent of deictic expression cannot be identified unless a certain minimal context is known. Further, the following examples will help to make the distinction of the uses:

1. Would you please put it *there*!

The deictic expression *there* is used gesturally. Its gestural usage can be interpreted by knowing where the speaker is pointing in order to know what place he is indicating.

2. Is Mary *there*?

The symbolic usage is shown in phone-caller's utterance. Then, the word *there* is understood as relative to the place of utterance as meaning 'in the place where the speaker is'.

METHOD

This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative because the data have been analyzed and its findings are in the form of descriptions, instead of numbers. A descriptive research determines and reports the thing. It means that this research happens naturally, has no control over the condition and situation, and can only measure what already exist (Gay & Airasian, 1992: 11). The research procedure is to find descriptive data in the form of written data as a result of the content analysis of document employed to the certain text such as the text in the advertisement of selected newspaper from the Jakarta post.

The source of data in this research is the selected articles in The Jakarta Post published on October 23, 2018. Data of this research are the sentences containing deictic words expression in Jakarta Post. Method of data collection that is used by researchers is documentation method. The writer does the following procedures: (1) collecting data, (2) reading and observing the data, (3) finding the data, putting sign and making checklist on it, (4) taking the data and presenting them in data display, and (5) drawing the conclusions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

To apply the theory related to deictic expressions, it will be presented some data taken from selected articles from The Jakarta Post and The Jakarta Post (Tuesday, October 23, 2018) as source of the data.

1. RI calls for thorough probe (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 1).

- a. *Al-Jubeir is visiting Indonesia to meet **his** Indonesian counterpart for the first joint commission meeting between the two countries.*

Deictic expression: his

The possessive form **his** which is originated from the pronoun **he**, it is a person deixis. The deictic word **he** has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, **his** refer to Al-Jubeir.

- b. ***This** is a very complicated murder.*

Deictic expression: this

The deictic word **this** is demonstrative pronoun. It can be called spatial deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that **this** refers to the murder of Khashoggi.

2. Jakarta, Bekasi call truce over stinky dispute (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 2).

- a. ***After Monday's meeting**, Rahmad expressed **his** relief, saying that **there** had been "miscommunication" between the Bekasi and Jakarta administration.*

Deictic expressions: after Monday's meeting, his, there

After Monday's meeting is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. **After Monday's meeting** refers to the future time of reference which is "after leaders of both regions Jakarta and Bekasi met in a meeting which held on Monday, October 22, 2018". The possessive form **his** which is originated from the pronoun he, it is a person deixis that can be in immediate context. It refers to Rahmad. **There** is called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that **there** refers to a place where the meeting held.

3. Lebanese seek to save landmark concrete-park from crumbling (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 2).

- a. ***It's** a futurist paradigm that is unique in Lebanon and the region.*

Deictic expression: it

The deictic word in the text, “**It**” belongs to person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that “**it**” refers to a giant concrete arch at the grounds of The Tripoli International Fair.

- b. *We fear **there** will be unpleasant surprises, especially during the rainy season.*

Deictic expressions: we, there

The deictic word **we** is the first person singular personal pronoun and has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, **we** refers to The Brazilian architects. **There** which is an adverb of place can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. After reading a whole text we found out that **there** refers to the International Tripoli Fair in northern Lebanon.

4. Prank sends teens to sleep next to grave (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 2).

- a. *Two teenagers in Depok, West Java, were forced to sleep **next to** a grave **after** **they** were caught wearing mukena (head-to-toe woman's prayer gown), which made **them** look like ghosts, to scare residents.*

Deictic expressions: next to, after, they, them

Next to can be called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate context. **Next to** refers to a grave. **After** is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. **After** refers to the time of reference happened in the future. The deictic word **they** has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, **they** refers to two teenagers. **Them** is deictic word that has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. It refers to two teenagers (as objective pronoun).

5. PSSI rushes to replace Milla as AFF draws near (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 3).

- a. *Time is up. **We** had a deadline for Luis to get **here**.*

Deictic expressions: we, here

Deictic word “**We**” is the first person singular personal pronoun. It refers to Joko Driyono as PSSI deputy chairman and Luis Milla (referent of the utterance). **Here** which is called a spatial deixis. Its referent can be found from the immediate

context. After reading a whole text we found out that **here** refers to an interview's place.

- b. *The PSSI planned to keep **him** on at least until the upcoming Southeast Asia (SEA) Games in the Philippines **next year**.*

Deictic expressions: him, next year

Him is the third person singular personal pronoun. It is also called person deixis. **Him** has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, **him** refers to Luis Milla (as objective pronoun). **Next year** is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. **Next year** refers to time in the future after the year 2018 (the year 2019).

- c. *In the statement, Milla also expressed **his** disappointment of the association as **he** claimed that **it** had a poor management system.*

Deictic expressions: his, he, it

His is the possessive form which is originated from the pronoun he. **He** is the third person singular personal pronoun. **He** and **his** belong to person deixis. Both of them refer to Luis Milla. **It** is the third person singular personal pronoun. **It** is called person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that **it** refers to the coaching in national team.

- d. *Louis is a great coach. **We** learned a lot from **him**.*

Deictic expressions: we, him

The deictic word we is the first person singular personal pronoun and has anaphoric usage. In the text, **we** refers to the national team. **Him** is the third person singular personal pronoun. It is also called person deixis. In the text, **him** refers to Luis Milla (as objective pronoun).

6. Roads for communities, not commodities for Papua (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 6).

- a. ***It** has been argued that connectivity brings numerous potential livelihood opportunities to indigenous Papuans and improves access to other basic services and social interaction.*

Deictic expression: it

The deictic word in the text, “**it**” belongs to person deixis. After reading the whole text, we found out that “**it**” refers to salary of the job and the second it refers to the infrastructure development in Papua and West Papua provinces.

- b. ***They** have started expanding the market for **their** agricultural produce to farther and larger urban centers such as Sorong, Jayapura and Manokwari.*

Deictic expressions: they, their

The deictic word they has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. In the text, **they** refers to Papuans. The possessive form **their** which is originated from the pronoun they, it is a person deixis. In the text, it refers to Papuans (as possessive pronoun).

- c. ***This** has increased **their** incomes by Rp. 150.000 to Rp. 300.000 per week.*

Deictic expressions: this, their

The deictic word this is demonstrative pronoun. It is called spatial deixis. To know its referent we read the whole text. After reading the whole text we found out that it refers to the expanding market in Papua. The possessive form **their** which is originated from the pronoun they, it is a person deixis. In the text, it refers to Papuans (as possessive pronoun).

7. No cross-body intelligence sharing inhibits Our Eyes (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 10).

- a. ***He** went on to give an example saying that information collected by the Indonesian Military’s Strategic Intelligence Agency (BAIS).*

Deictic expression: he

The deictic word “**he**” is the third person singular personal pronoun. “**He**” belongs to person deixis. It refers to Multi Makarim.

- b. ***At the same time**, **he** added, there was a need to ensure that participating countries, which may have different defense issues amid common threats in the region, would be willing to share specific information.*

Deictic expressions: at the same time, he

At the same time is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. Now refers to Monday, October 2018. The deictic word “**he**” is the third person singular personal pronoun. “**He**” is called person deixis. It refers to Multi Makarim.

8. Transforming companies, empowering lives (The Jakarta Post, Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Page 18).

- a. ***Today**, **we** would like to highlight what goes right (in business practices) to motivate people to do more.*

Deictic expressions: today, we

Today is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. It refers to October 11, 2018 (the time of the annual Asia Corporate Excellence and Sustainability Awards in Fairmont Singapore). The deictic word **we** is the first person singular personal pronoun and has anaphoric usage. In the text, **we** refers to Shangari Balakrishnan and all the audiences.

- b. ***Nowadays**, people become increasingly aware that people are companies' real assets and the cost of mismanaging **them** can be disaster.*

Deictic expressions: nowadays, them

Nowadays is temporal deixis. Its referent can be found from the moment of utterance. It refers to the current time around 2018. **Them** is a deictic word that has anaphoric usage that is the referent comes before the deictic word. It refers to people in the business fields.

- c. ***I** also encourage employees to reflect on **their** strategy on the field.*

Deictic expressions: I, their

I is the first person singular personal pronoun. After reading the whole text, we found out that **I** refers to Santi, the speaker of this utterance. The possessive form **their** which is originated from the pronoun they, it is a person deixis. In the text, it refers to people who do in the business(as possessive pronoun).

CONCLUSION

Understanding the deixis is very important in studying pragmatics. As for college students who are majoring English, the term deixis is common when they study pragmatics. Studying deixis means learning one aspect of natural languages that requires such reference to know (at least) who the speaker and the hearer are, the place and the time of speaking in which the deictic terms are used. By applying the theory of deixis/deictic terms, it can be concluded that most of the utterances or the sentences in the articles used in selected articles of The Jakarta Post published Tuesday, October 23,

2018 contains deictic expressions which are taken from 8 selected articles as the samples of this research. The deictic words of the person deixis found are *he* and *it* (the third person singular personal pronoun), *I* and *we* (the first person singular personal pronoun), *his* and *their* (possessive form of pronoun *he* and *they*), and *him* and *them* (objective form of personal pronoun *he* and *they*). The deictic words of the spatial deixis found are *this*, *here*, *next to*, and *there*, (demonstrative pronoun). The deictic words of the temporal deixis found are *after Monday's meeting*, *after*, *next year*, *at the same time*, *today* and *nowadays*.

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