

**THE USE OF DEIXIS IN THE TRANSCRIPTION OF *THE INTERVIEW*  
*BETWEEN OPRAH WINFREY, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND FIRST*  
*LADY MICHELLE OBAMA IN CHICAGO, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2011***

**By:**

**Sherly Marlina**

**English Department**

**Faculty of Letters, Udayana University**

**Abstrak**

*Deixis adalah bagian dari cabang ilmu pragmatik yang membahas hubungan antara bahasa dan konteks yang tercermin dalam struktur bahasa itu sendiri. Deixis mengacu pada penanda bahasa yang kontekstual serta memiliki fitur grammatikal dalam sebuah konteks ujaran dalam percakapan dan interpretasi dari percakapan tersebut serta bergantung pada analisa konteks ujaran. Dalam sebuah diskusi tanya-jawab seperti wawancara dalam sebuah acara pertunjukan di televisi, terdapat deixis yang menggunakan teori Levinson (1983). Adapun tujuan dalam penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengidentifikasi dan mengkategorikan jenis-jenis deixis yang terdapat dalam transkripsi wawancara antara Oprah Winfrey, Presiden Barack Obama dan Ibu Negara Michelle Obama di Chicago, 02 Mei 2011, sehingga dapat menyajikan presentase dari tanda-tanda deixis yang ditemukan dalam transkripsi wawancara tersebut.*

*Kata kunci: deixis, deiktik, wawancara, ujaran*

**1. Background of the Study**

The best way to understand the relationship between language and context is reflected in the structures of language themselves, through the phenomenon of deixis. Basically, deixis is concerned with the way in which languages encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus is also concerned with the interpretation of utterances which depends on the analysis of that context of utterance (Levinson, 1983).

Based on the background above, I chose the transcription of the interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. The interview was so interesting to analyze because the content of the interview is useful to us as social beings to keep the world peaceful and love in humanity life and in this interview there are a lot of Deixis. However, the results of the study will have important value as they can be used in the analysis of narrative text using Deixis theory.

## **2. Problems of the Study**

To what extent do the Deixis were used in the transcription of *the interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011?*

## **3. Aims of the Study**

To describe to what extent Deixis were used in the transcription of *the interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011*. In addition, to find out what types of deixis were more dominated in the transcription.

## **4. Research Method**

### **4.1 Data Source**

In this study, the data source is the transcription of the interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama because Oprah Winfrey Talk Show is a popular talk show produced by Harpo, Inc and broadcast by CBS International Broadcaster, Chicago. The show is popular because it always raises interesting (but still 'real') topic to talk about. Oprah Winfrey, known as The Queen of Talk Show, hosts it. She is able to conduct interactive and 'natural' interviews, with regular people or celebrities, politicians, and even the President.

### **4.2 Method and Technique of Collecting Data**

The method applied in this study was documentation method. This was done by downloading the interview video of Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011 from the internet.

**a. Method and Technique of Analyzing Data**

In analyzing the data, the methods used were qualitative-descriptive-method and quantitative method. The analysis was only focused on some sentences which were categorized based on the proposed deixis types and the use of the deictic markers. Next, it was continued by classifying those expressions based on the types of deixis. After the deictic markers were found, it was found related discourse in previous or following text. Each deictic reference had a function as the indicator of related referents. Those were all classified by Levinson, in terms of the types of deixis they belonged to and were also analyzed based on the anaphoric and cataphoric types. The quantitative method was used to analyze the frequencies of the data especially the frequencies of the deictic markers occurring in the interview. The percentages of deixis frequency as the final result were counted by dividing the number of specific types of deixis and total of deixis times 100%.

**5. Deixis in The Transcription of *The Interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011***

**5.1.1 Person Deixis**

In person deixis is concerned the encoding roles of participants in the speech event in which the utterance is delivered. It is generally known as pronouns.

**1. First Person Deixis**

**WINFREY:** *I am so honored that in these remaining days of the "Oprah" show they chose to be here.* (p.1, no.1)

At first, it may seem that *I* refers to someone and speaker. According to Levinson, this reference was categorized as singular

pronoun of the first person. This is the deictic element, in which the information signals who the speaker is.

*I* refers to the role of the first person, in which the utterance is narrated by one person. Therefore, it is tied to the speaker of this transcription named Oprah Winfrey, as a host of this show.

## 2. Second Person Deixis

*WINFREY: And now the both of **you** sit here....* (p.11, no.170)

Here *you* is the reference to person identified as addressee, which is observable in the conversation between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. Oprah encoded the presence of the audience or the viewers using deictic reference. Oprah was delighted that the guests were coming and could have conversation in the studio.

## 3. Third Person Deixis

*MICHELLE: So **he** can't just go in and say, health care shall be.* (p.7, no.106)

The personal pronoun *he* above is categorized as the third person deixis, which is used by considering the gender of the addressees, especially for male. Here *he* refers to President Barack Obama.

*“MICHELLE: It can be painful to watch. But, you know, Barack was in the Senate for many years, and I think he had a taste of how challenging it is when you work in a democracy, and that's one of the beauties of our country. We have a democracy, which means -- I always tease people, Barack is not a dictator. And that's a good thing.”* (p.7, no.106)

According to the quoted text above, this deictic phenomenon can be categorized as an anaphoric deictic, in which all the referent were described in the previous discourse.

### 5.1.2 Time Deixis

Time deixis is reference to time relative to a temporal reference point. This point is the moment of speech event.

**WALTER:** *I was on the "Today" show then. And she sat the way I sat and she looked down at notes and so forth. (p.22, no.319)*

Here "**Today**" is used by the speaker (**Walter**) to show the situation, which refers to that time, when Oprah introduced herself in the video.

### 5.1.3 Place Deixis

Place deixis is concerned the encoding of spatial locations relative to the location of the participants in the speech event. It refers to the words indicating locations for example *here, there, yonder, etc.* which are reflected in demonstratives like *this* and *that*, or adverbs like *here* and *there*, where spatial locations are indicated by the place of speaking.

**WINFREY:** *And I am so honored that in these remaining days of the "Oprah" show they chose to be **here**. (p.1, no.1)*

**Here** in the sentence above contains an adverb of place, which is used for demonstrating such place that is relatively close to the speaker and also it is used to demonstrate the place where the show held.

### 5.1.4 Discourse Deixis

Discourse Deixis is concerned with the encoding reference to portions of the unfolding discourse in which the utterance (which include the text referring expression) is located. The analysis to the transcript can be presented as follows:

**WINFREY:** *So let's all just take **this** in for a moment. In 25 years, we have never had the leader of the free world, a sitting president, and First Lady together on our stage. (p.1, no. 1)*

In the sentence above it can be seen that the reference **this** is related to some facts. It shows that **this** refers to the same referent as some prior terms.

“**WINFREY:** *The presidential motorcade just pulled into our studios on Carpenter Street. Everybody in the building has been screened and cleared for what is an historic moment for our show.*” (p.1, no.1)

Based on the previous text, it can be seen that the reference used as reference of the situations when President Barack Obama and First Lady came to the show, and many people crowded around the studios. Therefore, it is categorized as discourse deictic which is used to refer the prior statement made by the sentence, not to the sentence, in this case, the situation when President Barack Obama was coming.

### 5.1.5 Social Deixis

Social Deixis is concerned the encoding of social distinctions that are relative to participant-roles, particularly aspects of the social relationship holding between the speaker and the addressee(s) or speaker and some referent. The aspect of language structure that encodes the social identities of participants or the social relationship between them or between one of them and persons and entities referred to.

#### 1. *Mr. President*

**WINFREY:** *Thank you, Mr. President.* (p.23, no.325)

Based on Oxford Dictionary, **President** is the leader of a Republic, especially the United States. There are two types of social deixis relational and absolute. Relational social deixis is where the form of word used indicates the relative social status of the addressee. By contrast, absolute deixis are forms uniformly attached to a social role. By the sentence above, **Mr. President** can be categorized as the absolute deixis.

#### 2. *First Lady*

**WINFREY:** *Please welcome home President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. (APPLAUSE)* (p.1, no.1)

Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word *Lady* is a word used to mean “woman” that some people, especially older people, consider more polite. “*First Lady*” means the wife of the leader (President in USA). Therefore, it can be said “*First Lady*” can be categorized as the absolute deixis.

## 5.2 Analysis of Deictic Markers Distributions

In analyzing deictic markers distribution in this transcription, the analysis was focused only on the person deixis, time deixis, place deixis and discourse deixis. The analysis was focused on those types of deixis whereas the elements have their own specific markers that have been grammaticalized and lexicalized. Meanwhile, the social deixis have no markers of their own, the elements were identified only by looking at social interaction between speaker, addressee and by stander.

### Percentages of Types Deixis

The highest frequencies of deixis are : person deixis **68, 07 %** and then followed by discourse deixis **28, 48 %**, time deixis **2, 8 %**, place deixis **0, 43 %** and the last social deixis **0, 22 %**.

## 6. Conclusion

According to the analysis in the transcription of the interview between Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in Chicago, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 could be found the Deixis elements, which were divided into several types of Deixis marked by deictic markers. The types of deixis in the transcription that can be found; they are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis. Person deixis is concerned with the encoding role of the participants which is generally indicated by pronouns establishing anaphoric or cataphoric relations such as: *I, He, She, We, They, and You*. For the time deixis, the transcription used reference encoding time such as: *two and a half years ago, today and now*. For the place deixis, this transcription mostly used locative adverbs of place such as: *here and there*. This

transcription also has discourse deixis elements such as: *It, this/these, that/those*. For the social deixis, this novel used some terms for encoding the social relationship status, such as: *Mr. President and First Lady*.

## 7. Bibliography

Ambara, I Gede Adie. 2010. "Deixis in the Novel *Eat, Pray and Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert". Denpasar: Udayana University.

Cook, Guy. 1989. *Discourse*. Oxford University Press.

Halliday M.A.K., Hasan R. 1976. *Cohesion in English*. London.

Hornby, A.S. 2005. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. London: Oxford University Press.

Jatmikawati, Linanda. 2011. "Deixis of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Speech on Climate Change Conference". Denpasar: Udayana University.

Levinson, Stephen C. 1985. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Piwek, Paul, Jan-Beun, Robert and Cremers. Anita. 2008. "Proximal and Distal in language and cognition: evidence from deictic demonstratives in Dutch".

Verdonk, Peter. 2002. *Stylistic: Introduction to Language Study Series*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.