

DEIXIS AS A THEMATIC SUCCORING GADGET IN *THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA*

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ABSTRACT

Effective linguistic communication is a great challenge for the speakers of any language. The use of deixis makes this communication even more daring due to its vulnerability from fluctuating contexts. The identification of this problem steered the current study to search for the deployment of deixis in the literary masterpiece “The Old Man and the Sea” by Earnest Hemingway. This quantitative research study used the framework of Fillmore and Lyons (1977) for classification of deixis. The data analysis gives evidence that person deixis is the most recurrent deixis in the novel that signposts its feature of character-driven novel. Additionally, the objectivity of narration is demarcated through the use of third person pronoun. The second most widely used deixis is spatial deixis which is represented by vehement use of ‘verbs of motion’ to flaunt the eternal struggle between Man and the forces of Nature. The next deixis in frequency is temporal deixis where the use of present and future tense prove this novel a delineation of determination and resolution of the protagonist to fight for his victory. To conclude, the study claims that the novelist has employed certain deixis strategically and purposefully, rather than accidentally, to push forward the themes of struggle and determination of the protagonist in the novel successfully.

Keywords: deixis, person deixis, novel, Hemingway

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Language is a source of communication without which humans cannot even think to survive. However, language barriers always intervene in the successful transmission of the intended message of the speaker/writer to the listener/reader. Context is one of those language barriers. Keeping in view this necessity, a branch of linguistics i.e. pragmatics is intended to study exclusively the relationships between language and context (Levinson, 1983). Pragmatics dwells on the extra-linguistic factors that influence the selection of particular forms of language including the circumstances, the addressee, social status, gender, socio-economic position of the interlocutors etc. and the inferences of those particular language forms in dissolving language

ambiguities such as deixis that has been core element of numerous research endeavors since decades to disambiguate language nuances for ensuring precision of intended meaning. The term ‘Deixis’ is a Greek word meaning “pointing” or “indicating” via language. Any linguistic form used to accomplish the task of pointing is called deictic expression ((Purba, Elfrida & Sihite, 2014). Deixis is a part and parcel of every type of text whether it is literary or non-literary. The researchers hypothesize that deixis serve as double-edged weapon in the literary text i.e for linguistic and literary purpose as well. The writer deploys various deictic expressions as a gadget to render his literary goals. To test this hypothesis, the researchers have selected the novel “The Old Man and the Sea” by Earnest Hemingway to examine

whether the novelist has employed deixis strategically or accidentally in this literary masterpiece.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics established in the early 20th century as an interdisciplinary field residing on the borders of philosophy, psychology, and linguistics. Philosophers Peirce (1878) and Dewey (1929) contributed to perception how language functions in context and how it relates to action and meaning. As a sub-discipline of linguistics, it flourished in the latter half of 20th century. Pragmatics has been defined in multiple ways to unveil the function that pragmatics executes in language. Thomas (1995) defined pragmatics as a study of language meaning in use. Yule (1996) focused on the role of context and proposed that pragmatics is of contextual meaning. Likewise, Levinson (1983) postulated that pragmatics studies those relationships between the language and context which are encoded in the language structure. Hence, mainstream linguists/researchers reach on consensus that context is pivotal in mechanism of encoding a message and decoding it using contextual nuances in communication. Talking about pragmatics, is talking about people's intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes/goals, and kind of actions that they are performing via language (Purba, Elfrida & Sihite, 2014). Among various substantial fields of pragmatics, deixis is the one that lays on the verge of communication breakdown if its context is altered or misconstrued.

Deixis is a term which refers to words/expressions that cannot be understood without the contextual information. Deixis has become an imperative component in literature because pointing to the person/thing and exact identification of the pointed entity which is being talked in speech event/communication enables the interlocutors to converse the referents properly (Raputri, 2020). According to Levinson (1983:54), "Deixis concerns the ways in which language encodes or grammaticalizes features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of the context of utterance". Yule (1996: 9) demarcated that 'deixis is a form of referring that is tied to the speaker's context with the most basic distinction between deictic

expressions being 'near speaker' versus 'away from speaker'. The term 'deixis', basically, covenants with the demonstrative and personal pronouns, specific time and place adverbs like 'now' and 'here' and a variety of other grammatical features (Purba, Elfrida & Sihite, 2014). The use of various adverbs and demonstratives drove the linguists to devise the types of deixis to classify the linguistic expressions aptly. According to Fillmore and Lyons (1977), there are three types of deixis: Personal deixis refers to a referent playing role as a participant, such as the speaker (1st person), the addressee (2nd person), and referents which are neither speaker nor addressee (3rd person); Temporal deixis refers to the moment of speaking denoted by the verb tenses and adverbs of time such as 'today', 'tomorrow', 'now', 'then', etc; Spatial deixis indicates the relative distance (physical as well as psychological) of people and things. Modern English has dichotomous adverbs 'here' and 'there' for the basic distinction. The speaker functions as the center to measure the relative distance for the people or objects. Levinson added two more deictic categories: social deixis to encode social distinctions that are relative to participant-roles, particularly aspects of the social relationship holding between speaker and addressee/referent; discourse deixis to refer to portions of the unfolding discourse in which the utterance is located. However, selection of the 3-way or 5-way classification of deixis depends on the objectives and the text under analysis in any research study. The vigorous theoretical literature on deixis stirred researchers to explore this field in diverse types of texts.

Fitrianti (2021) analyzed 'The Age of Adeline' to find out the most pervasive usage of deixis in the movie. She conducted a qualitative study and got a comprehensive picture of the deictic expressions in the film. The findings of the study claimed that personal deixis is the most often used expression. As there is further classification of personal deixis, second person pronoun is dominated the other types of deixis. Abdulameer (2019) picked the religious text investigate how the most dominant deixis used in the text affect the reader. The quantitative analysis of data succinctly projected person deixis as the most frequently employed type of deixis in the text. Second person pronoun and third person pronoun were applied to affect the reader/hearer by referring

to God. Putri and Kurniawan (2015) analyzed political speeches during USA presidential election campaign to search for the usage of deictic expressions. The analysis of the speeches of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney reflected the positive identity of the candidates and, that’s why, their speeches achieved opportunity to get the presidential position. Ekowati and Sofwan (2014) investigated the deictic words in the conversation texts from an English textbook at senior high school level and gave interpretation in its context. It was a qualitative study. The study came up with the findings that the dominant deixis used in the conversation text was person deixis to refer to describe a person in the reality. The immense literature available on analysis of deixis drove the present researchers to investigate what are the peculiarities of the deictic expressions in the literary text of a novel. It is further aimed at investigating whether deixis are deployed to serve linguistic purpose merely or literary objectives of the novel too.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Method

The present research is quantitative as its objective is to analyze deixis in a literary text in form of numbers that is the hallmark of quantitative research (Best & Khan, 2017). It is a research type that studies psychological, social and educational processes through the exploration of numeric patterns (Coghlan & Brydon-Miller, 2014). Besides being quantitative, it is a descriptive study because descriptive research states/explains a phenomenon as it is at present attempting to describe or identify it without manipulation (Ethridge, 2004). Descriptive research is aimed at describing current states of affairs through a process of data collection more comprehensively than was possible without employing this method (Fox & Bayat, 2007). To put it simply, this descriptive research describe various aspects of the use of deixis in the literary text to draw generalizations based on the findings.

Selected Text

The text selected for analysis is the novel “The Old Man and the Sea” by Earnest Hemingway. **This is a short heroic novel published in 1952 and awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The story of the novel centers on an epic battle between an aged fisherman**

and a giant marlin. This is a battle of survival for both of the contesters. This novel is pervaded with a number of dialogues between the protagonist and the surrounding characters. Hence, this literary masterpiece is an attractive ground to search for the deictic expressions and their association with the themes of the novel. As data is collected through a research tool during a research procedure (Best & Khan, 2007), observation is employed to find out the frequency and percentage of occurrence of deictic expressions in the text under analysis.

Framework

The researchers employed Fillmore and Lyons’s framework (1977) of classification of deixis. They classified deixis into three main categories: person deixis (1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person), spatial deixis (proximal, distal), and temporal deixis. The researchers have also added the case of the pronouns to the analysis to find out the most recurrent case of the pronoun. In spatial deixis, dimensions of proximal and distal deixis include adverbs (e.g. here, there), pronouns (e.g. this, that), and motion verbs (e.g. come, go, send). In the category of temporal deixis, tense of the sentence (past, present, future) and indefinite expressions (e.g. when, whenever) are considered for analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis helps to identify certain features, make interpretations, develop explanations, and draw generalizations while organizing data (Hatch, 2002). The process of analysis of data involved following steps in the study: (1) Reading of the text, (2) Pointing out the deictic expressions in the text, (3) Classifying the types of deixis (4) Tabulating the data (5) quantitative analysis of data in frequency and percentage, (6) Drawing conclusions.

Table 4.1

Frequency and Percentage of Deixis in the Text

	Person Deixis	Spatial Deixis	Temporal Deixis
Frequency	2863	361	426
Percentage	78%	10%	12%

Figure 4.1
 Representation of Deixis in the Text

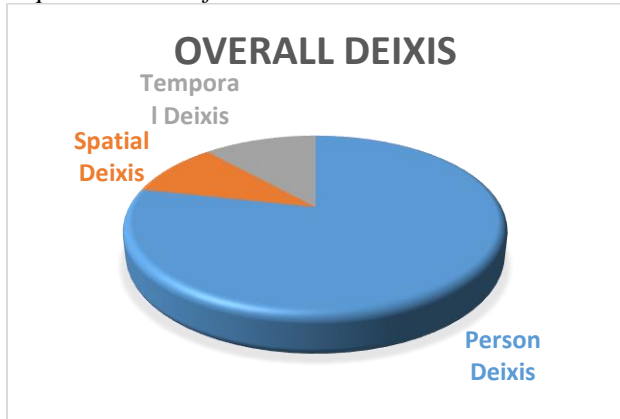
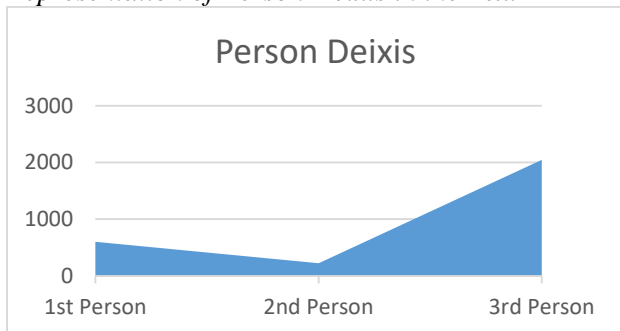


Table 4.1 shows that person deixis is the most frequently employed deixis in the novel under analysis. Its frequency (2863) and percentage (78%) are strikingly higher than temporal deixis (frequency = 426, percentage = 12%) and spatial deixis (frequency = 361, percentage = 10%) in the data.

Table 4.2
 Frequency and Percentage of Person Deixis in the Text

Case	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	Total
Subjective	516	148	1238	1902
Objective	54	39	349	442
Possessive	34	34	461	529
T. Frequency	604	221	2048	2863
Percentage	21%	8%	71%	100%

Figure 4.2
 Representation of Person Deixis in the Text



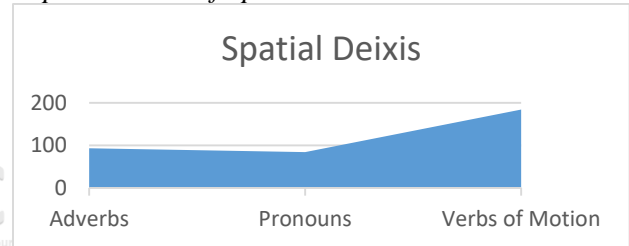
The data analysis in Table 4.2 indicates that 3rd person pronoun is the most frequently used person deixis with frequency of 2048 and 71% in the text under analysis. The second most recurrent person pronoun is 1st person pronoun with 604 frequency

and 21% in the novel. The least used type of person pronoun is 2nd person pronoun. Table 4.1 also reflects that most of the pronouns are in nominative case with 1902 frequency of occurrence. It is followed by possessive case with 529 frequency and objective case with 442 frequency of occurrence in the text under analysis.

Table 4.3
 Frequency and Percentage of Spatial Deixis in the Text

	Adverbs	Pronouns	Verbs of Motion	Total
Distal	81	76	74	231
Proximal	12	08	100	120
T. Frequency	93	84	174	351
Percentage	26%	23%	51%	100%

Figure 4.3
 Representation of Spatial Deixis in the Text



Frequency and percentage of spatial deixis is illustrated in the above given Table 4.3. It presents that verbs of motions lead the spatial deixis with the highest frequency 174 and percentage 51 in the data. Adverbs with frequency of 93 occur as the second most recurrent type of spatial deixis. Pronouns with frequency of 84 are the least employed type of spatial deixis. Comparison of distal deixis and proximal deixis reveal that distal deictic expressions are more frequently used (frequency = 231) than proximal deictic expressions (frequency = 120) with little difference of 3% between them.

Table 4.4
 Frequency and percentage of Temporal Deixis in the Text

	Past	Present	Future	Indef. Expressions	Total
T. Frequency	20	154	151	101	426
Percentage	5%	36%	35%	24%	100%

Figure 4.4

Representation of Temporal Deixis in the Text

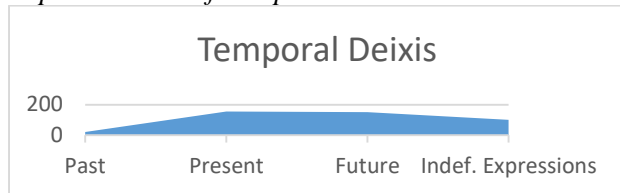


Table 4.4 gives a quantitative description of temporal deixis in the text. Present tense with 154 frequency of occurrence and future tense with 151 frequency are the most recurrent type of temporal deixis. Category of indefinite expressions is the next most employed category with 101 frequency of occurrence. The least use temporal deictic expression is past tense with the least frequency (20) and percentage (5%).

Results and Discussion

The comprehensive analysis of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" brings significant deictic features of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" on the surface. The most pervasive type of Deixis in the novel is person Deixis to indicate that the text of the novel under analysis spins around the characters. It gives evidence that this is a character based novel. This novel is teamed with the indirect references to the Old Man (Santiago), his apprentice (Manolin), and the Big Shark (marlin). Among the three person pronouns in person deixis, 3rd person pronoun is the most dominant. This pronoun refers to a person who is a non-participant-referent in the conversation. Employment of 3rd person pronoun reflects objectivity and impartiality of the characters and the narration of the novel. Moreover, subjective case of pronoun is the most recurrent in the data which makes it obvious that the structure of most of the dialogues is active voice to show the authority/power of the subject of the sentence. As the theme of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" is determination and will, the use of the subjective case of the person deixis successfully claims that the theme of the novel is aptly carried on by the deictic expressions dexterously used in this novel.

The second most often employed type of deixis is spatial deixis. The in-depth analysis of the spatial deixis in Table 4.3 indicates that frequency of the 'verbs of motion' is the highest than that of adverbs and pronouns in spatial deixis. This overriding use of

the verbs of motions such as *come, go, sent* is also meaningful and suggestive. The pronouns and adverbs are comparatively passive and static if these are compared to the verbs of motions. It suggests that the novelist, Hemingway, employed that sort of spatial deictic expressions which are active, dynamic and vibrant to support the theme of struggle and contest in the novel under analysis. The noticeable point is the use of distal spatial deixis more often than that of proximal spatial deictic expressions (just like frequent use of 3rd person pronoun deictic expressions) to show objectivity and detachment and facts/reality in the novel.

In the case of temporal deixis, Table 4.4 shows that present tense and future tense are overly used than past tense and indefinite expressions such as *when, whenever, etc.* The use of present tense and future tense is in close association with the theme of the novel i.e determination, struggle, and fight. The least used type of temporal deixis is past tense. In fact, this novel is written to portrait the continuous struggle between Man and the forces of Nature. That's why present and future tense are the most appropriate to delineate this incessant struggle between the eternal warriors.

CONCLUSION

The concise deictic analysis of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" shows that the novelist, Earnest Hemingway, has skillfully employed deixis in the novel to lend additional vigor and implication to the themes of *struggle*, and *determination* of the novel. The pervasive use of person deixis, 3rd person pronoun, verbs of motions in spatial deixis, and present and future tens in temporal deixis provide strong evidence that the novelist has employed deixis to serve as double-edged weapon i.e to function as linguistic device and to push forward the themes of the novel. The writer has deployed various deictic expressions as a gadget to render his literary goals in the novel. It can be sued that Hemingway has utilized deixis in "The Old Man and the Sea" to glorify the eternal struggle of Man against the forces of Nature through the skillful and strategic manipulation of various deictic expressions.

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