Pragmatic Deixis in King Charles III’s Inauguration Speech

Ayu Ratri, ,1\* Barli Bram2,

Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia 1,2

\*) Corresponding Author  
Email: gracis.ayu@gmail.com

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# Abstract

Deixis in English is a phenomenon of understanding words and phrases by considering contexts and actual speech action. Second learners can employ the pragmatic deixis in various literary works or other media dimensions to comprehend the Meaning of words and utterances. Hence, this study attempted to know the types of deixis in King Charles III Inaugural speech. The researchers obtained the transcript from the New York Times and analysed it using descriptive research to explore and explain the deixis types in the speech in more detail. The writers used Cruse’s (2000) theory to indicate the five types of deixis. The data revealed that all types of deixis occurred in speech, including person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The type of deixis that appears most often is person deixis, with a percentage of 71%. Meanwhile, the deixis that appears the least is social deixis, with a percentage of only 3%. The spatial and discourse deixis each have a percentage of 9%, followed by temporal deixis with a percentage of 8%. The result of this study is likely to enrich second learners of English's knowledge and vocabulary of pragmatic studies, primarily the phenomenon of deixis.

**Keywords**: deixis, King Charles III inaugural speech, pragmatics

INTRODUCTION

In communicating with other people, language is an alternative to convey feelings, opinions, and life experiences that occur in social life. Communication can run smoothly if the use of language can be used properly. According to Rabiah (2018), if the intent and purpose when communicating can be adequately conveyed, then the use of language becomes very meaningful. This statement is supported by Patel and Jain (2008), who said that language is an alternative for communicating with anyone worldwide. In other words, people can interact and maintain relationships with other living things. However, the use of spoken language tends to be more difficult grammatically, and written language is usually more complicated lexically. It also applies to the use of an international language, namely English.

In English, some expressions and words can have meanings that depend on the circumstances of the speech and can only be understood in certain circumstances. The English language can be understood deeper, and students can understand the Meaning of English using pragmatic theory. Pragmatics is a study to understand Meaning according to context, which is systematically abstracted depending on the content or logical form (Barron, Steen, & Gu, 2017). It is supported by Yule (1996), who states the study of pragmatics focuses on understanding the Meaning conveyed by a speaker or a writer and comprehended by the listener or reader during the communication process. While referring to the study of pragmatics, it is possible to define pragmatics as related to understanding the implied, contextual, and relative distance expressions or meanings the speakers or writers convey.

According to Danzer (2017), effective communication is when the listener or reader knows the importance of the words expressed or written and understands the speakers' or writers' meaning or context. However, second language users may misinterpret the Meaning of others’ expressions and utterances because language, in general, is constantly transforming, improving, and adjusting according to the conditions of its users (Mahasuari, Widiastuti, & Indarwati, 2022). In understanding language and its contexts in certain utterances, people can imply the study of deixis. Deixis is associated with pragmatics and is implemented to comprehend the Meaning of the speaker's intention or the writer. This research needs to be done because deixis pragmatics can help second language learners improve their oral communication and understand the Meaning of utterances.

Multiple researchers have applied related studies of deictic expressions with various dimensions. Ali, Rashid, and Sultan (2020). conducted one of the studies. This research aims to find out how often personal deixis is used in the lyrics of male and female English singers. In analyzing, Ali et al. (2020) used a corpus method analysis and used the theory from Cruse (2000). The data shows that female and male singers often use personal deixis. Subsequent research was conducted by Pratiwi (2018). This research aims to analyze personal deixis in the English translation of the book of As-Salat. The deixis category used was made by Levinson (1983). The third-person singular deixis was found to be the dominant deixis used in Hadith. The third research was conducted by Noerrofi’a and Bahri (2019). This research was conducted to find out social deixis in a film. In conducting his research, Levinson's theory (1983) is applied to discover the types and aims of social deixis in a movie. The data shows that 68 styles of social deixis are found in the film.

Based on several studies above, many researchers have tried to analyze types of deixis in various contexts and dimensions. However, research on types of deixis needs to be carried out further and in-depth, especially in speech. Research on deixis in the context of speech still needs to be done Hasanah, Mujianto, and Rukmini (2021). Moreover, the speech delivered by King Charles III on September 9, 2022, was the first time in television history that he addressed the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth nations as a sovereign. This speech received quite a lot of attention from all over the globe because King Charles III communicated his condolences to the late Queen Elizabeth II, established his status as the new king of the United Kingdom, altered the status of the entire Royal family, conferred on King Charles' new wife, Carmila and his son William as their respective titles as well as honored the life lived by his late mother Al-Maashani (2022). Therefore, this study attempted to analyze the five types of deixis uttered by King Charles III because the speech shows how he shaped the general public's attitudes and retained the trust and support of his countries and regions. This gap allows the researcher to conduct and make relevant discussions for another study.

Furthermore, this study attempted to answer two research questions which are the first question was, what are the types of deixis found in King Charles’s inauguration speech, and what is the dominant type of deixis? This study tried to determine the types of deixis that appeared in King Charles’ inaugural speech and to indicate the most frequent types of deixis in the speech. This study is convinced to provide significant Meaning because practically, this study is expected to be used as a medium for 1) additional references that can be utilized in linguistics and pragmatics learning, especially in the context of deixis types; 2) supplementary material to improve the proficiency of second learners of English connected to understanding conditions and situations by observing and reflecting on pragmatic analysis; 3) additional references that can be used to identify the elements that occur in the English language (Wahyudi, 2014; Telaumbanua, 2020; Cenoz & Gorter, 2021). Moreover, learning pragmatics, especially deixis can aid L2 learners to develop their language proficiency in terms of building their vocabulary and practicing grammar instructions. L2 learners then can be linguistically competent and know how to use L2 appropriately because they know the Meaning behind the words (Chen, 2009; Glaser, 2018; Ningsih & Megawati, 2022).

Linguistically, deixis is a study that concerns the association between context and situation. According to Yule (1996), etymologically, deixis emanates from Greek words, which denote the Meaning of "to refer" or "to indicate" the elements that exist in language so that it can refer to circumstances directly in discourse. This statement aligns with Lugea (2016), which drives deixis as a technical term for pointing through language. Stapleton (2017) also adds that the existing context also influences the pointing function of a word. Deictic words are indicated by who is speaking, who is listening, and what the words or utterances are meant (Sugianto & Muslim, 2022). In short, deixis helps listeners or readers understand the language to use when communicating. Five types of deixis were postulated by Cruse (2000). The five deixis are personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Further explanations are shown in the following part.

***Person Deixis***

Person deixis refers to the speaker or writer, who is sometimes identified as the first person. In contrast, the addresses can be indicated as the second person, and anyone who does not have a share as a speaker or listener is identified as the third person (Levinson, 1983). All types of person deixis can be found in singular and plural versions. According to Yule (1996), the speaker and the addressee who are part of the person deixis are divided into three parts. First-person deixis refers to the speakers in a conversation mentioned in singular pronouns such as (I, me, myself, and mine) while plural pronouns include (we, us, ourself, our, and ours). Second-person deixis is a deictic reference to a person or individuals considered to be an addressee such as (you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours). Third-person deixis refers to a person or group of people who are not identified as the speaker and the addressee, usually identifiable in terms of gender, such as (he, she, they, him, himself, her, and herself).

***Spatial Deixis***

This type of deixis refers to a spatial location. Deictic devices in the language require a speaker to create a frame of a situation for himself. This and that in a sentence is an example of spatial deixis, like locative adverbs (here and there) and demonstratives/determiners (Cruse, 2000). Spatial deixis can also refer to objects or things that are around the speaker and interlocutor (Colasanti & Wiltschko, 2019). It aligns with Cumming's (2005) suggestion that place deixis can be considered spatial deixis, where the distance between objects and people can be shown. Absolute references to people or things can be uncovered at certain latitudes and longitudes, while relational connections find people and places concerning each other and speakers. Spatial deixis is represented in forms such as this, these, that, those, there, and here. Grundy (2000) adds that several levels of proximity can occur in some languages. It can distinguish the proximity between the speaker and the addressee. Another spatial deixis can be in the form of "here" (proximity), "there" (distal), and where (the archaic hither, hence, thither, thence, wither, whence) left, right, up, down, above, below, in front, behind, come go, bring, take (Grundy, 2000, p. 28). In short, spatial or place deixis is an expression used to indicate the length of a location from the speaker's location. The example in sentence can be seen as follows.

*It is too cold here under the snowdrop. Can we go* ***there****, into the house?*

***Temporal Deixis***

This type of temporal deixis uses a time or times as a reference and involves the moment of speech as a sign or reference point on the time axis Cruse (2000). Three parts of the time axis can be used as a reference. The three-time axes in temporal deixis include the moment before the utterance, the moment the phrase is spoken, and after the statement. Moreover, Yule (1996) describes that some words can be used as references to show temporal deixis, such as yesterday, tomorrow, today, tonight, next week, last week, and this week. All references to the temporal deixis depend on understanding in knowing the appropriate speech time.

***Discourse Deixis***

Cruse (2006) explains that discourse deixis is based on an expression directed to a particular part of the discourse. Some words and phrases that can be utilized as references in discourse deixis like but, therefore, inclusion, to the contrary, besides, and so on. Those expressions in discourse deixis are used to connect two utterances and past discourse. In addition, discourse deixis has the benefit of helping to focus on several discourses. Furthermore, the expressions of this and that are demonstrative forms used in discourse deixis. The use of pronouns in the word "it" has an anaphoric meaning which can be categorized as discourse deixis.

***Social Deixis***

Cruse (2006) says that using words or expressions in social deixis represents the speaker's social position or level concerning the interlocutor or other people in certain situations. This social level can be demonstrated by looking at how familiar someone is with the other person and how polite or respectful the speaker is. Some languages have grammatical and rich indications of social relations in the conversation, in the language of German, French, and Balinese, for example. Most of those languages indicate the social level of the higher or lower class (Cumming, 2005). Meanwhile, expressions in English that can be used to see social status or demonstrate respect can be in the form of modal auxiliary verbs to ask a question and request permission.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive research using a qualitative approach to identifying deixis expressions contained in King Charles III's inauguration speech. According to Levitt (2021), the qualitative approach does not require a specific approach related to identifying the population. This statement is supported by Naderifar, Goli, and Ghaljaie (2017), who revealed that qualitative research provides an in-depth explanation of the data collection process and a high-quality narrative using more flexible methods. It is safe to say that through qualitative research methods. The investigation in qualitative research can be analyzed more deeply to know activity or patterns in human social life. It is essential to understand that qualitative methods are suitable for analyzing a phenomenon in English. Moreover, qualitative research involves data analysis through interviews, transcripts, videos, notes, and documents. Therefore, descriptive analysis in qualitative research was utilized to help the researchers describe and summarize data points constructively.

***Data Source***

The data source used in this study was a speech transcript of *King Charles' Inaugural Speech*. The transcript used as data in this study was taken from *https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/09/world/europe/king-charles-speech-transcript.html*. King Charles' inaugural speech is a speech represented by King Charles expressing his respect for his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who died and was King Charles's first speech to the nation as sovereign of England. This speech has several pragmatic deixis that can help English learners understand the Meaning King Charles uttered through available media. Understanding native speaker utterances can help them to improve English learners’ proficiency in English. Later on, it will be beneficial for English learners to avoid miscommunication and misconceptions with other speakers of English (Suzanne, 2017).

***Data Collection and Data Analysis Technique***

This study attempted to identify the types of deixis in King Charles' speech and find the most dominant type in that speech. The researcher was interested in conducting research using speech because it is adjustable and shows how the speaker produces their words. In doing the investigation, the researchers used several systematic and logical steps to process reliable and scientific data. There were five steps in analyzing the data proposed by Creswell (2013). The first step was preparing and reading King Charles's speech script. The words in the speech were classified by descriptive coding on the theories by Cruse (2000; 2006). After some clarifications, the data began to be analyzed descriptively. The last step was to formulate the interpretation by rechecking it several times to ensure the results were liable. The theoretical triangulation technique was used to avoid bias and establish accuracy and validity during data analysis. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2017), the theoretical triangulation technique is used to increase the validity of the data by comparing the data found with the intended theory. Consulting with experts in their respective fields can increase trustworthiness in implementing theoretical triangulation techniques. Therefore, the researcher performed the analysis repeatedly to ensure that the data followed the relevant theory. The researcher also asked for further checking from the experts.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

**Findings**

Based on the data found from King Charles III's inaugural address, it was found that the five types of deixis were used in the speech. The frequency of the deixis seen in this study is 172. The number of frequencies identified in each type of deixis is 122 words for person deixis, 16 words for each type of spatial and discourse deixis, 13 for temporal/time deixis, and 5 for social deixis. The results of the data found in this study can be seen in table 1 below.

**Table 1.** Total Words of Pragmatic Deixis Identified in King Charles III’s Inaugural Address

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Types of Deixis** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| **1** | Person | 122 | 71% |
| **2** | Spatial | 16 | 9% |
| **3** | Temporal | 13 | 8% |
| **4** | Discourse | 16 | 9% |
| **5** | Social | 5 | 3% |
|  | **TOTAL** | 172 | 100% |

According to the data found above, it could be explained that the most dominant type emerging in King Charles III's inaugural address was the type of person deixis, with the highest total percentage being 71%. Each spatial and discourse deixis type has the same total percentage of 9%. The next type is temporal deixis, with a percentage of 8%. The least used type in this speech is social deixis, with 3% only. A discussion of each type of deixis discovered in King Charles III's inaugural address is clarified in the following sections.

***Deixis of Person***

According to Cruse (2000), the type of person refers to the role of a speaker, the addressee, and people not involved in a speech event. There are 71 words with the type of person deixis found that can indicate the position of King Charles or other people in this speech. The kinds of deixis are shown in the following section.

***First Person Deixis***

First-person deixis refers to the speaker or several people referred to by the speaker in the form of a singular or plural pronoun (Yule, 1996).

Excerpt 1: “***I*** *speak….”*

The word ***I*** above refers to King Charles III as the speaker of the inaugural speech for his mother, Queen Elizabeth, who has died. King Charles was the first heir to the throne when Queen Elizabeth passed. King Charles made a speech to honour his late mother and the speech was first delivered when King Charles was already king. Therefore, the word ***I*** above is indicated as first-person deixis. Terms of first-person deixis found in this speech include I, my, me, myself, we, our, and us.

***Second Person Deixis***

According to Yule (1996), the second deixis is concerned with deictic references addressed to a person or persons who can be considered recipients.

Excerpt 2: “*great sadness to so many of* ***you***.”

The word ***you*** in the example above refers to a group of people who are listening to or seeing King Charles III's speech and feeling great sadness over the death of Queen Elizabeth. From the speech, we can see that many people were mourning the cessation of Queen Elizabeth. The speech made by King Charles must be shrouded in sadness because his appointment of being a sovereign took place when his mother passed. Therefore, the word ***you*** above is identified as second person deixis.

***Third person Deixis***

The third person is a second reference intended for people who do not have the role of the speaker or addressee and to imply particular gender (Yule, 1996).

Excerpt 3: “***They*** *mean more*”

The word above refers to King Charles III's family, who has given tremendous support. The King Charles family here is not only aimed at one person but was addressed to many people, especially his family. The British royal family always accompanies and attends every opportunity and activity. With the cessation of Queen Elizabeth, it was believed that they felt deeply sad because they lost their family. The third person's words in this research are her, their, him, he, she, and herself.

***Deixis of Spatial***

The spatial deixis indicates a person's location relative to the speaker (Cruse, 2000). Excerpt 4: *“we also share with so many of you* ***in the United Kingdom****,”*

The example is identified as spatial or place deixis because of the presence of specific locations with the speaker. Queen Elizabeth II's reign reached exactly seventy years when she died. For seventy years, it is believed that many people have felt the loss of their Queen and may have been in shock at the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Moreover, Queen Elizabeth II is a humble and kind figure for the British nation. King Charles III was also in the United Kingdom at his inaugural address. Therefore, the United Kingdom indicates the area in space concerning King Charles III as the speaker and his people.

***Deixis of Temporal***

According to Cruse (2000), temporal deixis is a type of deixis intended to identify the time of an event or the time of a moment of utterance.

Excerpt 5: “*In 1947, on her 21st birthday”*

Excerpt 5 in this study shows that King Charles III gave a time reference to Queen Elizabeth when she was 21 years old. In these utterances, King Charles tries to flashback to 1947, when Queen Elizabeth II committed to devoting her life to serving her people. The emphasis made by King Charles aims to express his admiration for Queen Elizabeth II because she has carried out her duties satisfactorily. Therefore, the interval of the time axis in the example above is before the moment of utterance.

***Deixis of Discourse***

Discourse deixis is a type of deixis to provides references to certain parts of the discourse that the previous speaker has conveyed (Cruse, 2000).

Excerpt 6: *“Together with* ***that*** *fearless embrace of progress.”*

The word of ***that*** in the example above refers to the previous sentence conveyed by King Charles III that as long as Queen Elizabeth was still alive, she led tenaciously to make her nation a great nation. The existing devotion of Queen Elizabeth II is expected to continue. Therefore, King Charles III attempted to increase the spirit of his people and keep moving forward. A deixis reference to the previous section, such as the word "that" in excerpt 6, can be considered a discourse deixis.

***Deixis of Social***

Social deixis is intended to show the position or level of social status and intimacy scales with the speaker (Cruse, 2000).

Excerpt 7: *“And to my darling* ***Mama****.”*

The word Mama in the example above refers to Queen Elizabeth showing relative intimacy and respect for her mother. Even though Elizabeth II had the royal title of Queen, King Charles III was still a child of Queen Elizabeth II. It caused him to keep calling her "mama" in his inaugural speech. Therefore, the utterance of "mama" in excerpt 7 is considered a social deixis to show intimacy and respect for King Charles' mother.

**DISCUSSIONS**

In this study, researchers attempted to answer two research questions. The first question asked in this study is about the types of deixis uttered by King Charles in his inaugural speech. The theory used to determine the types of deixis in this inaugural speech is the theory proposed by (Cruse, 2006; 2000). The types of deixis proposed by Cruse (2000) are personal deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, discourse deixis, and spatial deixis. After conducting more in-depth data analysis, the researchers found all types of deixis in King Charles' inaugural speech. However, the type of deixis that appears most frequently in this study is personal deixis. According to Cruse (2000), the type of person deixis can have something to do with the role of a speaker, the addressee, and people not involved in a speech event. The total person deixis in this study is 122 words. Even though the speech was King Charles's inaugural as the new sovereign, he still paid tribute to his late mother. Therefore, this speech has person deixis as the most dominant type in this speech. This study shares a similarity and differentiation with the study conducted by Anggara (2017). The similarity that emerges with research conducted by Anggara (2017) is that the most dominant type of deixis is the personal deixis type. The person deixis in this research aims to maintain interaction between Waldjinah and her audience. However, the research object is the difference in research conducted by Anggara (2017). Anggara (2017) used songs as data sources for his research data. Moreover, the previous studies do not emphasize how King Charles III's speech has a profound meaning apart from providing an attribute to his late mother but is also related to stating a commitment to serve the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth diligently. Thus, this research is more significant than the other studies.

CONCLUSION

This study strives to determine the types of deixis in King Charles' inaugural speech and the most frequent type shown in the speech. According to Stapleton (2017), deixis can be considered a phenomenon of using English words and phrases whose Meaning depends on the space and time the words or phrases are spoken. Deixis itself is a part of pragmatics which has the connection that the Meaning of a word or phrase can change according to the background of the context and utterances. Recognizing the background of other people's utterances, words, or phrases will help second English learners understand the meanings of English more deeply and avoid misunderstandings. Cruse (2000) proposed that deixis is divided into five types of deixis such as person deixis, spatial deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

Research data on King Charles' inaugural speech reveals that the speech has all types of deixis. The type of deixis that appears most often is person deixis, with a percentage of 71% of all contexts. Meanwhile, the deixis that appears the least is social deixis, with a percentage of only 3%. The spatial and discourse deixis each have a percentage of 9%, followed by temporal deixis with a percentage of 8%. Person deixis is the type that appears the most because King Charles, in his first speech as sovereign, wanted to express his condolences for the late Queen Elizabeth II, who had reigned as Queen for 70 years.

Moreover, this study cannot avoid limitations and imperfections due to the time constraints in conducting the study. Reasonably, the researchers recommend further discussing the influence of the first language on deictic English in some other dimensions of literary works. Realizing the influence of the first language can enrich second English learners to understand pragmatics further and more profoundly. Last but not least, deixis can help second-English learners or users better understand the context of pragmatics. Therefore, the researchers suggest developing English proficiency by covering other literary works besides speech.

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