

DEIXIS IN THE NOVEL MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

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Abstract: This study which entitled “Deixis in The Novel Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie” Deixis described the relationship between language and context and the objectives of this study were (1) to find out the utterances of a major character, M. Poirot, and types of the deixis in The Novel Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie. (2) to describe the reference of each type of deixis in the Novel Murder on the Orient Express. This study applied the descriptive qualitative method. The result of this study showed that there were three types of deixis found in the utterances of a major character, M. Poirot in the novel Murder on the Orient Express, namely personal deixis (73 data), temporal deixis (18 data), and spatial deixis (9 data). The referent of the personal deixis found referred to all passenger in the Orient Express, temporal deixis refers to the time of utterance was uttered and the murder of Ratchett occurred, spatial deixis referred to the Orient Express itself.

Keywords: deixis, types of deixis, the murder on the orient express.

INTRODUCTION

Language has a significant role in social life. It helps humans to develop and solve several cases that occur in an environment. Communication goes smoothly when using the right language target depending on the situation and condition of the speakers. Due to its function, language is considered to be very meaningful. Scholars do various studies

related to language. Studies focus on language is called linguistics.

Linguistics is a scientific study of language from various aspects including the sounds, words, and grammar In using language, there are some misunderstandings between the speakers and the addressee. Some words in language cannot be understood at all, such as the words here, there, this, that, now, then,

yesterday, and most pronouns such as I, you, him, her, and them. To understand it, it is important to know about the speaker and context. The study of this problem is discussed in pragmatics of the subject is deixis as a subject.

Yule (1996, p.3) explains that pragmatics is the study of meaning delivered an author interpreted by addressee. Pragmatics has an essential role in the language used in context. It means pragmatics about the intended meaning of the speaker's utterances and concerns with how the addressee understands the meaning of utterances uttered by the speaker. The study of this issue is called deixis. Deixis has connection between language and context. Yule (1996 p. 9) also add that deixis is the primary objects in the technical term of sentences. Deixis can be found in natural language both oral and written. The deixis in oral language can be easily understood because it uses spoken words and happens directly between speaker and

addressee. Written language, consists of many elements of written words and through the reading process to interpret the content. One example of written language is novel. The novel has a complex story that describes utterance, description, and narration and leads the reader's confusion to understand it. As a result, just people with reading passion have great willingness that read a novel. According to Grellet (1981, p.3), reading is the way to comprehend a written text, to get information needed efficiently. It means a capable reader will quickly find out what they are looking for. People who have a passion for reading will be more interested in reading a written language, even further reading will become their habit.

Based on the result of students' reading habit research conducted by the Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2018,

Indonesian students were at the rank 74 from 80 countries and it means that Indonesian students' reading habit is low. It was probably because of students' problem in comprehending written language in a novel. Therefore, the writers selected a novel as the object of this study to improve the readers' comprehend of novel references.

The novel becomes a good medium for analyzing the deixis because the novel consists of utterances and sentences. After understanding the deixis, it will be easier to understand a novel. As a student of English Literature, reading a novel has a significant impact on learning deixis by reading the novel, readers will remember the assortment of characters, background, and history.

In this study, the writers focused on using deixis (personal deixis, temporal deixis, and spatial deixis) of utterances of major characters of novel *Murder on Orient Express* by Agatha Christie,

consequently, the purpose of this study is to identify type of deixis and reference in novel *Murder on the Orient Express*.

- **Pragmatics**

Levinson (1983, p.5) explains that pragmatics refers to language and its situation or context which defined the principle of comprehending the language meaning. The theory deals with language use and relationship between language pattern because the meaning of utterance depends on the context. Besides, the context can influence what is speaker says, about who, where and when the utterance happens. Context has an important role to communicate in pragmatics.

Peccei (1999, p. 5) also adds that pragmatics concentrates on the aspect of meaning that impossibly viewed by linguistic knowledge and consider our knowledge about the physical and social word. Pragmatics

concentrates on the meaning of an utterance and it depends on the context of language use. Furthermore, Yule (1996, p. 5) describes that pragmatics focuses on the relationship between linguistic pattern and the use of linguistic term.

The writers concludes that pragmatics tells about the language meaning based on context as an important part, rather than the lexical meaning, because communication does not only recognize the meaning of the word but also recognizes what the speaker says in their utterance. Knowing the context can support to find the clear meaning of the utterances.

- **Deixis**

Levinson (1983, p. 54) states that deixis is reference by mean of an expression whose interpretation is related to the context of what the speakers are saying, namely the person who speaks, the time or place of the utterances, speakers' gesture or the current place in the discourse. The interpretation of

utterances relies on the analysis of the utterances context.

Furthermore, Griffiths (2006, p.14) argues that "deixis is pervasive in languages since it indicates the words 'when', 'where', 'who', 'what', and so on. It is important to begin with the coordinates of the expression condition. Besides, Renkema (1993, p.76) explains that the word 'deixis' came from the Greek word meaning 'to show' or 'to indicate' is used to identify aspects of language which refers precisely to the condition in spite of the deitic words are words with a orientation point depending on the speaker and is decided by the speaker's position in space and time. In other words, deixis is to point something to comprehensibly ensure what the speaker means in verbal communication refereeing to the meaning based on the available context of what the speaker intends to convey in a particular utterance.

According to Soekemi in Miftah (2000, p. 33), deictic (the noun of deixis) grabs several aspects of its meaning from situation of the utterance in its usage and is used to represent those language elements referred directly to the condition. For example, Emi says "I'll be on time". *I* refers to Emi and *there* refers to a particular place. Other examples of deictic words are *you*, *here*, *today*, *his*. Deictic words aid the listener to recognize the referent of a referring locution through the spatial or temporal relationships with the situation of the utterances.

To sum up, deixis is a syllable that function is to point something and change depending on the talker, area and period of utterance, and the relevant meaning from the context.

Moreover, Yule (2006, p. 9) mentions that deixis is classified into three classifications, namely personal deixis containing first personal deixis is (I), second personal deixis (You), and the third personal

deixis (He, She, It, They and We); spatial deixis; and temporal deixis.

- **Personal Deixis**

Personal deixis is a word that function as a personal pronoun divided into three parts: first personal as a speaker, second personal as an addressee or audience, and third personal that can be as the object of something, which is not the speaker or the audience.

Renkema (1993, p.77) adds the speaker as first personal, "I" direct the utterance to the addressee as second personal, "you" and could be talking about a third personal, "he" or "she". Supported by Levinson (1983, p. 68) personal deixis is reflected straightly in the grammatical categories of personal. The grammatical classification of personal tells the individual different roles in speech event; speaker and addressee.

- **Temporal Deixis**

Temporal deixis is a word refers to the time of utterances. Grundy (2000, p. 32) explains that an important time of deictic is tense system. In fact, almost every sentence makes reference to an event time. It sometimes can only be specified in relation to the time of utterances.

Levinson (1983, p.62) states that time deixis refers to adverb of time (in English now and then, yesterday, and this year), but depends on the tense. Time deixis essentially tells the certain period of time when saying something occurred.

In addition Renkema (1993, p. 79) explain that temporal deixis is a reference to the time relative to a temporal reference point and it's typically the moment of utterance. These language resources are the adjectives of time: yesterday, now, tomorrow, and the verb tense.

The example of place deixis are as follows.

a) Last week, I was at the bar with my brother

b) On Friday, I will come to your event again at 5 o'clock

c) I will be away at the time

d) Today will be a new history

e) I live in South Sumatera

f) I lived in Paris

Sentences (a) and (b) are easy to understand because the time of the utterance is stated, meanwhile it is different from (c) and (d) which has no specific time. At example (e) and (f) tenses indicate the time deixis, (e) is present tense refers to proximal form and (f) past tense refers to distal form.

The writers can conclude that time deixis is adverbial of time or a word indicate time when people speaking to another addressee.

- **Spatial Deixis**

According to Renkema (1993, p. 78), spatial/place deixis refers to something that is in the vicinity of further way: "this, and these" as opposed to "that and those". Spatial

deixis utilize the demonstrative pronouns and adverb of place: “here and there” and it can be the most straightforward and a very universal example of spatial deixis.

Yule (1996, p. 12) states contemporary English utilized adverbs of here and there that has some motion verbs, for instance, go and come, which keep a deictic sense when using to sign action of the speaker.

Example: okay, I can not go there

“There” means the speakers can not come to addressee place, there is not specific place but the word “there” indicate and refer to the location. It could be concluded that place deixis is word describing the location of the participant produced by the utterance in the speech event.

- **Murder on the Orient Express**

Murder on the Orient Express was a novel written by the British author which talks about mystery and crime genres, named Agatha Christie and was first published in the United Kingdom on

January 1st, 1934 by Collins Crime Club. The novel was finally adapted into a film of the same name in 1974.

Murder on The Orient Express took place during a winter on a train called Orient Express. At beginning the novel, everything looked good, however, there was a lot of turmoil going on below the surface. The most shocking problem going on was the Orient Express stopped because a snowdrift and at the same time found a passenger, Ratchett was stabbed 12 times during the night. Bouch was the first who saw the Ratchett room and tell Poirot about the murder.

The main character in the novel is Poirot. Poirot was a detective and retired police officer who boards to Istanbul. In the train, Poirot noticed two strange passengers, he suggested they are not but still suspicious of them. When the train arrived at his destination, he received a telegram

summoning him back to London because of important business. While waited for the next train, he bumped into M. Bouc. He was an old friend and as head of the Wagon Lit. M. Bouc arranged a space for Poirot on the Orient Express. In the dining room of the Tokatlian Hotel, Poirot saw at the first time Ratchett and Hector MacQueen eating dinner. Poirot aboard the Orient Express and forced to ride in a second class cabin because the train was remarkably full. Ratchett and Hector MacQueen were also at the same train.

A sixty year-old Ratchett was killed by unknown passenger. Before he died, he asked to Poirot that he will be killed by someone, but Poirot refused his demand. Poirot tried to solve the problem at the Orient Express. He interviewed all passengers, but each of them has undeniable alibis during the interview, some of the passengers confess to see a woman in a red kimono walking down to the hallway by the night of the murder, but

no one declared to possessed a red kimono. At the end, poirot ensured that all passenger related to the Armstrong case. He concluded that one of two things happened.

At the end of the novel, Poirot gathered all of the passengers in a dining car and propounded two possible solutions. The first prediction was a stranger unknownly entered the train at Vincovci and killed Mr.Ratchett. The second solution was all the passengers in the Orient Express were involved in the the homicide for all passangers are grieving for the Amstrong family They were assumed to revenge her death.

The Armstrong case was a murder of three years old child, Daisy Armstrong. She was a daughter of colonel Armstrong. A gangster named Casetti, AKA Ratchett kidnapped and killed Daisy. Mrs. Hubbarb as Linda Arden, she admits that the second

solution was a correct assumption. Poirot suggests that M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine call the police that the second solution was to defend the family. M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine agrees to Poirot's suggestion.

METHODOLOGY

The object of this study is utterances of the major character, M. Poirot in the Novel of Murder on The Orient Express by Agatha Christie. In the novel, the writers took the utterances that show the deixis in it.

The object of this study is the utterances of the major character, M. Poirot in the Novel of Murder on The Orient Express by Agatha Christie. The novel is as the object of this study was published in 1934 in The United Kingdom by The Collins Crime. In the novel, the writers took the utterances that show the deixis in it.

In collecting the data, the writers used the following steps:

- a. Reading and observing the novel for several times. This step was to get the understanding of the whole story and found out the utterance that contain deixis.
- b. Finding the data by doing note taking technique to highlighted the type of deixis in utterances. While doing the note taking, it is also important to identify the context of each utterance.
- c. Making a list of the data and classifying the types of deixis use in the novel based on the theory by George Yule.

The following steps describes the way to analyze the data:

- a. Selecting some data analyzed dealing with the problem of this research. The data were taken from the utterances of M. Poirot as a major character in the novel.
- b. Classifying the data based on types of deixis in the novel Murder on

The Orient Express by referring to Yule's theory.

The researchers classified the data into three types of deixis based on Yule's theory, namely personal deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis.

- c. Describing the reference of each type of deixis. After the data are classified, the researcher describe the reference of deixis contained in it.
- d. Interpreting the finding data into a conclusion of the study from doing previous steps.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The writers presented findings and interpretation of the study. There were three types of deixis, spatial deixis, personal deixis and temporal deixis found in the utterances of M. Poirot as a major character in the novel Murder on the Orient Express. The writers found 73 utterances which showed for personal deixis, 18 utterances

for temporal deixis and 9 utterances for spatial occur in the novel.

1. *"Nothing presses—I shall remain there as a tourist for a few days."* (page 8)

The condition showed a context in the platform of the Taurus Express. This was the conversation between M. Poirot and Bouch. In the utterance above, *I* was the personal deixis. The word *I* in the sentence categorize as a singular first person and function was as a subject. The referent of the deictic word *I* was the speaker, M. Poirot.

2. *"La Sainte Sophie, I have heard it is very fine."* (page 9)

The context showed when M. Poirot was having a conversation with Bouch about Germany in sleeping car compartment. In the utterances above, *I* was the personal deixis. The referent of the

deictic word **I** was the speaker, M. Poirot. The function of it was as a subject.

3. “*There are not many people travelling, I imagine?*” he said. (page 10).

The utterance above uttered when M. Poirot was asking to the concierge. The personal deixis in the utterance above was **I**. The referent of the deictic word **I** was M. Poirot as the speaker. Its’ function was as subject.

4. “*Can you get me a sleeper?*” (Page 15)

In the utterance above, there were two types of personal deixis. The deictic word **you** was categorized as a singular second person. The referent is the concierge. The function of the deictic word **you** was an object in the sentence. The deictic word **me** categorize as a singular first person. The referent was the speaker, M. Poirot. The function of the deictic word **me** was an object.

5. “*Yes. I have just asked them to get me asleeper. It was my intention to remain here some days, but I have received a telegram recalling me to England on important business.*” (page 16).

The context of the situation above was when M. Poirot was having a chat with Bouch in the restaurant. He meet Bouch after the writer gives the food. In the utterance above, there were two types of deixis. The word **I**, **them** and **me** were the personal deixis and the word **here** was spatial deixis.

The personal deixis **I** and **me** were classified as a singular first person. The referent of the deictic words **I** and **me** was the speaker, M. Poirot. The function of the words **I** and **me** was as a subject. The personal deixis **them** was categorized as a singular first person. The referent of the deictic word **them** was the concierge. The function of the word **them** was an object. Ll

In the utterance above, the spatial deixis was *here*. The referent of the deictic word *here* was the Totkalian Hotel where M. Poirot getting to sleep for a while to take the rest. The function of the deictic word was as adverb of place.

6. “*Eh bien,*” said Poirot. “*What do you think of those two?*” (page 17).

The context of the situation above is in the restaurant car, M. Poirot look at two American who sit not far away of his table. The deixis found in the utterance above was personal deixis. The deictic word *you* was personal deixis was categorized as a singular second person. The referent of the deictic word *you* was Bouch, because the M. Poirot asking to Bouch about the American in the restaurant. The deictic word *those* was categorized as a singular third person. It had a function as the object. The referent of the deictic word *those* was two American.

7. “*You are Mr. Harris?*” (Page 19).

The context of the situation above was when M. Poirot was asking about the berth to the conductor. There is no available second class berth for M. Poirot, but at 7 berth the gentlemen has not come. The owner of the 7 berth is A. M. Harris. In the utterances above, there was personal deixis, *you*. *You* was categorized as a singular second person. The referent of the deictic word *you* was Mr. Harris

8. “*What is it you wish me to do for you, M.—er—Ratchett?*” (page 26).

In utterances above, the situation was when Ratchett was asking help to M. Poirot. Ratchett tell to M. Poirot that he has an enemy and wish M. Poirot wants to help her. In the utterance above, there was a personal deixis, *you*. The deictic word *you* was categorized as a singular second person. The referent of it was Mr. Ratchett.

9. *Me, I am very well here. It is most peaceful. (page 28)*

The utterance's situation above was when the conductor of the Orient Express tell to Poirot that his compartment was changed by Mr. Bouch to compartment number 1. In the utterance above, there were the personal and spatial deixis. The personal deixis is *I*. The deictic word *I* categorize as a singular first person. The referent is the speaker, M. Poirot. The spatial deixis was *here*. The deictic word *here* was categorized as an object. The referent of the deictic word *here* was the compartment No. 1.

10. *“Decidedly I suffer from the nerves,” said Poirot and retired to bed again. This time he slept till morning.(page 33).*

The context of the situation above was when M. Poirot in his compartment, he could not sleep well. In the utterance above, there are personal and temporal deixis. Personal deixis was the word *I*. The referent

was the deictic word *I* was the speaker, M. Poirot. The function of the word *I* was as a subject and it was categorized as a singular first person. The temporal deixis occurred in the utterance above was *morning*. The referent of the deictic word *morning* indicates the time of m. Poirot sleep. The function of the deictic word *morning* is as adverb of time.

Based on the analysis above, the writers found the total number of deixis in the utterances by a major character, M. Poirot was 74 utterances. From that data, there were three types of deixis that uttered by M. Poirot as the major character. The types of deixis that the writers found are Personal deixis, Temporal deixis and Spatial deixis. Personal deixis also divided into three types, namely First Personal Deixis, Second Personal Deixis and Third Personal Deixis. There are 73 data types of personal deixis., 18 data of

temporal deixis and 9 data of spatial deixis.

Personal deixis has three categories: First Person Deixis, Second Person Deixis and Third Person Deixis. The first person deixis found was the deictic word **I**, the referent was the speaker itself, M. Poirot as a major character in the novel. The function of first person deixis is to change the function of a person who is speaking about himself, M. Poirot.

The second person deixis is the word **you**, the most dominant referent of the deictic word **you** is all passengers in the train who has the interview. The function of second person deixis was used to change the function of another person who he or she who told with M. Poirot as a major character.

The third person deixis was **she** and **him**, in this novel the writers found that the referent of third person deixis was the suspect of the murder. The function of the third person deixis was to change the function of another person.

The grammatical functions of person deixis were similar to the functions of the English pronoun, such as the subject of a sentence or utterance, the object of a sentence or utterance, the possessive adjective, possessive pronoun and reflexive or intensive pronoun

Furthermore, temporal deixis that the writers found is the deictic word morning (1), now (8), days (1), last night (5), a night (1), the night (1), and this morning (1). The most dominant referent of temporal deixis is the deictic word now and last night, it refers to time of the interview, coinciding with the speaker's utterance and the time of the speaker's voice being heard and the murder of Mr. Rachett.

Finally, the referent of spatial deixis in this study is the place in the train, most dominant referent of spatial deixis in the restaurant car where the interview happens. Spatial Deixis

functions in giving shape to the place, identified from the location of the characters in the speaking event, they were: (a) which is close to the speaker marked by the locative adverb here, (b) far from the speaker but near to the listener marked by the locative adverb there, (c) which is far from the speaker and the listener.

Based on the results of the study, the writers found that the most dominant type was personal deixis. It was almost found in the utterances of the major characters, M. Poirot. Because the major characters almost appears in the novel as a detective to solve the problem in the train, Orient Express. It makes the major character having a lot of conversation with all passengers in the train.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data, it could be concluded that the kinds of deixis found in the novel Murder on The Orient Express based on the theory George Yule

are 73 for personal deixis, 9 for spatial deixis, and 18 for temporal deixis. The most dominant types of deixis were personal deixis that 73 data from 74 data of the Major character, M. Poirot. Then the referent of the three types of deixis was (1) personal deixis is the character in the novel Murder on The Orient Express, (2) spatial deixis was the place in the train, the most dominant referent of spatial deixis in the restaurant car where the interview occurred and (3) temporal deixis was the time referred to the time of the interview and the murder.

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