PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF USING DEIXIS IN THE CONVERSATION BY ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM STUDENTS OF TIMOR UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This research article deals with pragmatics as a branch of linguistics that talks about the use of language.Pragmatics studies how the transmisson of meaning depends not only on linguistic knowledge of a language user but also on the context of an utterance in terms of the intent of the speaker who involves in the conversation. This means the major emphasis of pragmatics is on the contextual meaning. So,this research aims at describing the use of deixis in the conversation by the fifth semester students of English Study Program of Timor University. The problems of this research are as follows: 1) what types of deixis are realized in the conversation, and 2) how does each tipe of deixis in the conversation reflect the speaker's intention in negotiating meaning through conversation? Theoretical background of this research is based on concepts and/or ideas introduced by some pragmatists such as Levinson, Yule, Mey, Leech, and others. This research applies a qualitative research method in terms of the description of using deixis in English conversation. This research is focused on how deixis can be realized in the conversation. This means the data of the research are obtained from the fifth semester students of English Study Program in the academic year 2017/2018. The data is collected by asking the students in pairs to demonstrate their speaking ability in a conversation freely about any topic. The conversation was recorded and transcribed as natural as it was for anaysis. The recorded conversation is the primary data by choosing four recorded conversations for data analysis. In order to support the primary data in terms of the recording, then the researcher also uses observation technique to collect secondary data by observing how the students interact inside and/or outside the classroom by using English. The result of the research showed that person, place and time deixes are used by the students in the conversation which refer to a particular meaning of the speaker who involves in the conversation. On the basis of the result of the research, then it may be suggested that teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) to the students of English Study Program can be maximized and intensified by using a variety of teaching techniques or methods since the ideas in a conversation can be linguistically and/or pragmatically interpreted.

Keywords: *pragmatics, deixis, conversation, meaning, context*

INTRODUCTION

It is undeniable that language plays an important role in social interaction since it is used as a tool of communication.To communicate with others, people need knowledge and skill to interact. The process of interaction involves the speakers. Through communication the speakers negotiate meaning. The meaning of a particular utterance cannot be analyzed on the basis of linguistic evidence, since linguistic evidence cannot be interpreted on the basis of utterance meaning. The utterance meaning cannot fully reflect the speaker's intention in communication. Through communication, the speakers can communicate ideas, feelings, emotions, desires, and intention. From pragmatic perspective, when two speakers exchange ideas in a conversation, the listener can make inference about what is said in order to achieve the goal of communication. This article is related to pragmatics as a branch of linguistics which is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and a listener.

The main function of language is to help people communicate with one another, and it should be used properly in terms of its context. The meaning of any word in an utterance of the spoken form will be interpreted from which its context is called deitic or deixis. That is why deixis is the single most obvious way in which the relationship between language and context is reflected (Levinson 1983:54).The term deixis is a technical term (from Greek) for one of the most basic things we do with utterances. In short, deixis is a word that its referent moves depending on time and space of uttering the word, and it is a part of pragmatics which has a relationship with the words or sentences that change because of the context. Deixis means "pointing" via language. Any linguistic form used to accomplish this "pointing" is called deictic expression. Traditionally, deixis can be divided into three main categories – referring to people, place and time. By the 1980's deixis have expanded beyond the traditional three domains of person, place and time. Two main categories had been added - discourse and social deixis, which encode relative social status of participants and nonparticipants.In pragmatics, deixis is an important topic that sometimes the meaning of a deitic term cannot be completely understood by knowing the context alone. Indeed, it is through reference to the entities of these contexts that we can obtain the meaning of deictic expression.

The meaning of words cannot be viewed as word in isolation in terms of lexical meaning. There are some other factors that should be considered to determine the meaning of any utterances. One of those factors is context, since language makes meaning in which it is used. To determine the intended meaning of a speaker then the listener should make any adjustment to figure out what the speaker means by the utterance than words or phrases in the utterance might mean by the speaker. This involves an interpretation of what the speaker means in a particular context. The context may influence what is said than what is stated in the utterance. In order to do this, the listener should make inference about what is said to come to an interpretation of the speaker's intended meaning. This perspective in pragmatics is known as speaker's intended meaning. Through pragmatics one can talk about people's intended meaning, their assumptions, their purposes or goals. To do this it is difficult to adjust human concepts in an objective way.

To adjust human concepts in an objective way, then pragmatics could give a major contribution. This idea is acceptable since pragmatics is the study about the relationship between linguistic form and the user of it. According to Levinson (1983:3) who defined pragmatics as the study of the relationship between language and the context, which is the basis in understanding the meaning of the language. Referring to this statement, pragmatics deals with the study of the aspects of relationship between language and context. This means pragmatics deals with language use and the relation between language and language users. It is difficult to distinguish the basic difference between semantic and pragmatics in terms of context, then Leech (1983:2) stated that "... but once meaning has been admitted to a central place in language, it is notoriously difficult to exlude the way meaning varies from context to context, and so semantics spills over into pragmatics. In addition, Yule (1996:5) states that pragmatics is the study about the relationship between linguistics form and the use of linguistic term. Based on the above ideas, it is important to note that there are some differences in concepts of the theories of pragmatists; but in some cases those theories share some common ideas and characteristics about pragmatics.

This research will mainly deal with deixis on the basis of pragmatic perspective that can contribute to the interdiciplinary effort of investigating how meanings and interpretations of deixis in the conversation are negotiated. To give a comprehensive idea of deixis, Yule (1996:9) states that deixis means 'pointing' through language. Any linguistic form to denote this pointing is called *deictic expression*. Deictic expressions are sometimes called *indexicals*.Deixis is clearly a language form that is tied up with the speaker's context. Besides, Lyons (1977:636) states that deixis is also used in linguistic function of personal and demonstrative pronouns and of tense in grammatical and lexical features. Any words which have a fixed semantic meaning that constantly changes depending on time and place are called deictic forms. A word or a phrase may have contextual information, for instance, English pronouns are said to be deictic. In pragmatics, deixis is closely related to indexicality and anaphora. Meanwhile, Levinson (1983:54) acknowledges that deixis is concerned with the ways in which languages encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance. From language teaching perspective, it is sometimes difficult for some English as Foreign Language (EFL) learners, especially for those who are beginners, to understand a word of a sentence because of the meaning of the word. This idea is reasonable since the word has various meanings, then the EFL learners often feel unsure of which meaning of the word they have to use.

Deixis is actually concerned with the ways in which language encodes the features of the context of utterance or speech event. It is also stated that deixis is a domain of pragmatics that has a connection with certain word or sentence that changes the meaning based on the context. The change of a context is caused by the change of situation including person, time and place. In general terms, the way to interpret the speech presentation and also text modes may vary from one situation to another. The words and structures used in a language are the clues to a discourse in context. Deictic forms are also words which involve implicit references within the context.

Based on the definitions above, it is important to say that pragmatics is the study about meaning conveyed by the speaker/addresser and interpreted by listener/addressee. From the speaker point of view, pragmatics deals with an analysis about meaning of the speaker's utterance rather than the meaning of a word in isolation. This means pragmatics refers to the interpretation about meaning of a person in a certain context that may influence his/her statement. Dealing with this research, pragmatic competence of the students should be maximized in order to have pragmatic knowledge, since the university students still find some difficulties in an English conversation in the classroom. This research is important in the context of language teaching. It means this research will give a contribution to language teaching particularly pragmatic aspects of the language that should be taken into consideration. So, this research will try to bridge the gap between common problem encountered by the students to interpret the

information content of messages and take into account the process of adjusting how deixis categories in the conversation are realized.

METHODOLOGY

To do a research it is important to design the research before collecting the data. This is important because it is based on the goals of the research, what will be achieved in the research should be based on the research questions. Some experts in research like Cohen et al (2007:87) stated that planning a research should refer to the research design and methodology, data analysis, presenting and reporting the results of the research. On the basis of that idea, this research is classified as a qualitative research since it describes the fact as it is. Meanwhile, Best (1981:106-107) stated that a descriptive research is a way of describing the fact in a qualitative research which is nonexperimental since it deals with a natural, rather than an articifial setting. Furthermore, McMillan and Schumacher (2001:479) also stated that qualitative research can be categorized as primarily an inductive process in order to organize the research data to be categories and identifying the relationships among the patterns.

The research was conducted in Timor University. The research data was obtained from the fifth semester students of English Study Program in the academic year 2017/2018. The sample of the research was obtained randomly, then twenty students were chosen from a class (VA semester). There were 26 students. Then, 20 students were chosen randomly to be the sample of the research. These 20 students were treated as subset of the total population. To get the number of the students to be the sample of the study, then it is necessary to consider some factors about sampling strategy, such as sample size, representativeness, access to the sample, and sampling strategy. In order to obtain the research data, the students were asked to perform a free conversation in pairs about any topic without any preparation. This is important in conducting a qualitative research to get the natural data from the fifth semester students. The students should perform an English dialog freely.The dialog was recorded by using a handycam and the recorded dialog would be transcribed carefully as natural as it was for further analysis and interpretation.The recorded dialogs would be selected to be analyzed; then four recorded data were chosen to be the primary data. Beside the recorded data in terms of dialogs, then the observation technique was also applied to observe the students' interaction when they were using English inside and/or outside the classroom. Any information about the observation were carefully collected by taking notes. The data from the observation were treated as secondary data. Both primary and secondary data would be analyzed and interpreted based on the objectives of the research. The procedures of data analysis would be at the following section.

ANALYSIS

After collecting the research data, then the data should be analyzed and interpreted in order to answer the research questions which have been stated before. This research data was collected in forms of conversation performed by the fifth semester students of English Study Program. The recorded data would be selected to further analysis, since this research was classified as qualitative research, so the analysis requires systematic steps to search, categorize, integrate, and interpret the data. Analysis involves what is in the data, in terms deixis, and the interpretation involves making sense of what the data mean. In order to do so, as a researcher, I have to analyze the data such as unit of analysis. This can be done at different levels,such as a word, a phrase, a sentence, or a clause. The data should be coded first, to find out units that contain deixis in the conversation. It is important to classify the data systematically to identify types of deixis in the conversation. In analyzing the research data, then the following procedures of data analaysis should be taken into consideration. These techniques are suggested by Cohen et al (2007: 476 -481), namely : (1) define units of analysis: the recorded data should be analyzed first to define the units of analysis. Since the objective of the research is to find out types of deixis in the conversation, so this can be done at different levels, such as word, phrase, clause, or sentence. (2) decide the codes to be used in the analysis: after defining units of analysis, then deciding the codes, this can be any codes, such as symbol, alphabets, or numbers to make it easier for data classification. This will make the analysis and interpretation becomes easy. (3) construct the categories for analysis: to analyze the data, categories as the main grouping that should be determined, since the categories are the key features of data to show links between units of data analysis. (4) conduct the coding and categorizing the data: after the codes or categories have been decided, then the data could be analyzed systematically, and (5) conduct data analysis: after the data have been coded and categorized, then the researcher could count the

frequency of each code or word in the conversation, or the number of words in the category. The interpretation would be the final steps of the whole research activities.

CONCLUSION

From data analysis and discussion in the previous part of the article, then the followings are the conclusions of the research, namely:
 (1) the result of the research showed that deixes are used in the conversation. The students of English Study Program used deixes to denote ideas or specific meaning in the conversation. The data showed that for person deixis, the students used more first personal pronoun 'I' to denote the speaker of the conversation. This personal pronoun particularly first person singular 'I' was frequently used in those four conversations. By using more first person singular 'I', it shows that the speaker in the conversation wanted to focus the conversation on himself/herself. The first person singular 'I' was used more in the conversation since the conversation was categorized as a casual conversation involving two friends. It took place in an intimate atmosphere since the conversation took place among friends as classmates.The first person singular was used to give an emphasis on the speaker himself/herself in the conversation. Besides, the speakers also used other personal pronouns, such as 'you' to denote the opponent speaker, and also the speakers used first person plural 'we'. By using 'we', the speaker wants to say that he/she is a part of the listener as the opponent speaker. It means the speaker is an insertive speaker, including the opponent speaker and others. Besides,temporal/time deixis was also used in those four conversations. The speakers used some varieties of expression to denote time deixis, such as now, tomorrow, yesterday and other time deixes. To understand this aspect of deixis, it is necessary to understand the semantic organization of time in general.The result of data analysis also showed that place deixis was also used in the conversation. There is a very small numbers of other place deixis, since the speakers mentioned a couple of times the name of the place, such as the name of the town or village nearby or indexicals like (here, there, this, that) to frame a framework of reference around the speaker. So, in short, in those conversations the three types of deixes were used to denote particular meaning since language makes sense in context and this can be linguistically or pragmatically interpreted.
(2) The result of the research also showed that those three tipes of deixis in the conversation refer to particular context in which the speaker used it in the conversation. Using more first person singular 'I' denotes that the speaker became the central part in the conversation,he/she was the focus in the conversation as well as first person plural 'we' that could denote that the speaker was an insertive one, as being a part of the opponent speaker and others outside the conversation depending on the context. Place deixis was used to denote any place being familiar to the speakers since they were influenced by the surroundings, and using time deixis denoting more present time, such as 'now', 'today', 'this morning' to reflect the speaker's intended meaning. This could be interpreted as the speakers focus their attention on what was going at the time of speaking. Finally, it is to suggest that it needs an improvement of teaching English as a foreign language in the classroom to develop the students' pragmatic competence in terms of communicative competence.

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