

# RESEARCHING DEIXIS OF JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH ON “THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM AND THE EFFORT TO DEFEAT COVID-19 GLOBALLY” (2021)

Vina Christina Luhulima<sup>1\*</sup>  
Dewanto, S.S., M.Hum<sup>2</sup>  
Ari Astutik, S.S., M.Pd<sup>3</sup>

<sup>123</sup>English Department, Faculty of Language and Literature, Universitas Wijaya Putra,

<sup>1</sup>[luhulimavina@gmail.com](mailto:luhulimavina@gmail.com) ;

<sup>2</sup>[dewanto@uwp.ac.id](mailto:dewanto@uwp.ac.id);

<sup>3</sup>[ariastutik@uwp.ac.id](mailto:ariastutik@uwp.ac.id)

## Abstract

This study intends to describe five forms of use of deixis by Levinson (1983) in Joe Biden's speech. Aims to determine the types of deixis and interpret the reference meaning of the deixis in Joe Biden's speech. The data used in this study are all taken from the contents of Joe Biden's Speech. The researcher was interested in taking Joe Biden's speech as data because Joe Biden is a world-famous person and a leader of the United States so the contents of his speech will be of interest to the whole world. Data retrieval sources are available in two forms, the first on the official Whitehouse website and the second on YouTube. researchers took data on the Whitehouse website. The research was conducted by applying a qualitative descriptive method in the research. After doing research, as a result, it was found that the five types of deixis, namely person, place, time, discourse, and social deixis were all used in Joe Biden's speech by referring to different objects.

**Keywords:** Deixis, Speech

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In December 2019, the world was shocked by the presence of a fairly vicious virus, namely the Coronavirus or known as Covid-19. This incident caused every country to have a bad impact, the United States was no exception. A president from the USA referred to as Joe Biden delivered a speech about *the Covid-19 on vaccination*

*program and efforts to defeat Covid-19 globally.* To clarify that speech, the writer used deixis research. (Levinson 1983) said that deixis is the reference via an expression whose interpretation is relative to the context of utterance, including who is speaking and the time or location of speaking.

On the other hand, deixis discusses the expression or context of a sentence. deixis can help give context meaning to a sentence. The use of words in the equal deixis cannot necessarily refer to the same object but also refer to a different object in a speech, which is pretty hard for human beings to apprehend, and sometimes the phrases may be ambiguous too. In addition, the usage of deixis in Covid-19 speeches, especially in Joe Biden's speech is very important to avoid misunderstandings between the speaker and the interlocutor. Besides, there are a lot of deictic words used in this speech. That is the purpose why the writer chose Joe Biden's speech as the object of the study.

Deictical issues have attracted numerous researchers. Nasution, Setiadi, and Ilza (2018) have studied deixis within the song lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Divide album. They used the theory of Alan Cruse (2000) and found that person deixis consisting of "I, Me, my, and You" is dominating then four types of deixis are used within the album. While this study, the writer used the theory of Levinson (1983) to help in carrying out this study and speech as the object. While Duwila and Probawati have conducted the latest research of the use of personal deixis on TED Talk by British speakers. It is found that pronoun "You" is rarely used while pronoun I is mostly used by British speakers in discourse organization for exemplifying. Pronoun "You" and "We" are used in audience interaction category for managing messages (Duwila & Probawati, 2021).

This research focuses on the speech of Joe Biden. As the number one person in the United States and influential in the political field. Joe Biden is a figure worthy of study. He is a leader who has served as the 46th president of the United States since 2021. Previously he began his political career as a senator from Delaware for six terms from 1973 to 2009. At the time, he was the 5th youngest United States Senator in history. In addition, he has also served for eight years as vice president of the United States.

In analyzing the types of deixis and the referent of deixis in this study, the writer only focus on looking at the types of deixis and placing them according to the group then with the referents to each word. This study is aimed to locate the types of deixis in Joe Biden's speech and to discover referents to deixis in Joe Biden's speech. By analyzing the types of deixis and the referents can provide several advantages for every reader.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Deixis**

Deixis is the relationship between the pointer and the reference. Deictic expression is the meaning of pointing. Indexical is also known as deictic expression. An expression that receives value at once from the speech situation is called indexical. In different words, the speaker uses deictic expressions to be able to refer to or identify entities in linguistic and nonlinguistic situations. Yule (1996) stated that deixis is derived from the Greek phrase that means "pointing language" and also Abdul Chaer (2004) said that deixis is the connection between words that can be used in speech acts in reference words that are not fixed or can move and change. According to Levinson (1983) deixis has been categorized into five kinds of deixis (person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis).

Person deixis usually refers to the speaker who is presently speaking in the speech and represents the speaker and reference. There are three kinds of person deixis called Levinson (1983) namely: 1<sup>st</sup> person, 2<sup>nd</sup> person, and 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Meanwhile, deixis which shows the location space or place between the speaker and listener is spatial deixis. Spatial deixis is also called place deixis. Place deixis issues the encoding of spatial places relative to the area of the individuals inside the speech event. Levinson (1983) The most spatial deictic words are there and here, and demonstratives/determiners such as this and that. Moreover, consistent with Levinson (1983), time deixis is related to the encoding of temporal points and time span relative to the time in which an utterance becomes spoken. The markers of time in deixis are present tense, future tense, and past tense.

Deixis is related to giving references to the elements of the further discourse where the utterances that include the expressions reference text are called discourse deixis. The words *that* and *this* is the examples of discourse deixis. Levinson (1983) points out that discourse deixis concerns the use of expressions within a few utterances to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance. And the last one is social deixis, Levinson (1983) explains that social deixis is an initial determination of social differences relative to the role of participants, the main thing of social relationship holding between speakers and addressee or speaker and some referent.

### **2.2 Speech**

Speech is a type of public speaking as well as a formal speech given to an audience. Speech under different situations will need different kinds of speech. Hendrikus (1991) stated that several factors like the purpose, situation, place and also content of the conversation are needed to determine the kinds of speech. Speech factors are *political speech, special opportunity, official opportunity, and informative meeting*. Political speeches usually aim not to teach, but to influence and inflame audiences. While Special Opportunity is a speech that is often used at meetings where participants already recognize every other including family meetings also meetings between members of company leaders. Besides that, Official Opportunity is a speech that aims to stir feelings and not to instill rationality, such as an inauguration speech. Meanwhile, Informative Meetings are speeches delivered on serious, scientific, objective, and rational occasions such as lectures. In this research, the researcher will focus on the political speech delivered by President Joe Biden

### **2.3 Previous Study**

Several studies are related to this research; First, *Deixis Analysis in the Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Divide* was conducted by Nasution, Setiadi, and Ilza (2018). That study used a qualitative design and the results were all types of deixis are used in the divide album. Those five are person deixis (28%), temporal (26%), spatial (25%), discourse (12%) and in the last, and social deixis (9%). Second, *Cultural Views of Society Through Taylor Swift's Song* conducted by Ginting, Levana (2021), that study used a descriptive qualitative method and found three types of deixis are used in song lyrics of Swift's Folklore album: person deixis, temporal deixis, and spatial deixis.

In addition, previous studies differ from this study in terms of the object and the subject, because the previous studies and this study has different problem and data. the problem of previous studies is analyzing the types and meanings used in song albums. This study analyzed the types and referents of deixis used in a speech based on actual life situations, so it can be seen directly the use of deixis in everyday life and help to know the references of deixis in the communication.

## **3. METHODS**

This study used the qualitative design because the data were analyzed using a speech. According to Lodico (2006) qualitative research processes accumulate information thru observation, interviews, document analysis, and summarize the findings in general via narrative or verbal way. In this study, the writer describes the types of deixis found in the text of Joe Biden's speech and the meaning of references in the kinds of deixis found in the text of Joe Biden's speech. The research data was the text of Joe Biden's speech and the source of the data is Joe Biden's speech about

*Remarks by President Biden on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program and the Effort to Defeat COVID-19 Globally* the speech is delivered at the Tregenna Castle Resort Cornwall, United Kingdom on June.10,2021. The speech script was accessed on [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

There are several steps to collecting data. The first writer collected data by searching for Joe Biden's speech scripts available on the website [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Second, the writer downloads and prints the script. then the writer reads the script and highlights the deixis in the script. After completing the data, the writer analyzes the data according to the technique of data analysis. First, read the text that contains deixis, the second is to identify the utterances that contain deixis, the third is to classify the types of deixis in Joe Biden's speech, and the fourth is to find and describe referents types of deixis found in Joe Biden's speech, and the last the writer giving the conclusion.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After the data is collected and analyzed, the writer found all types of deixis occur in Joe Biden’s speech namely person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The writer will show 2 results for each type of deixis. This study found that there are several kinds of person deixis that are used such as I and me. The detailed result of this discussion is presented in the following section:

##### 4.1 Person deixis

*Table. 1 Person deixis in Joe Biden’s speech*

No	Personal deictic words					
	First person		Second person		Third person	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1	I	We	Yours	You	He	They
2	Me	Our	-	Your	-	Their

Table 1 above shows that the words “I” and “me” are a singular person in 1<sup>st</sup> person and refer to Joe Biden. While “we” is plural, there are three personal pronouns “we”

which refers to Joe Biden and His Wife, Joe Biden and prime minister Johnson, and Americans. After that, the word “*our*” is a first-person category possessive adjective that refers to a different object such as Joe Biden and Prime minister Johnson, Joe Biden and Albert Bourla. In the second person, “*yours*” is a singular person who refers to Albert. Besides the word “*you*” refers to the people at Tregenna Castle Resort. Meanwhile “*your*” is plural and refers to all heads of every country. And the last one is the third-person category. “*He*” is the third-person singular referring to Albert Bourla. The word “*They*” is plural and refers to four objects: President Franklin Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, UK, Vaccines, and American workers. While deictic “*their*” is also the plural person that refers to different objects such as Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt, and Americans. From the explanation above can be deduced that using the same deictic can not necessarily refer to the same object but can also refer to a different object.

#### 4.2 Spatial/Place deixis

Table 2. Spatial deixis in Joe Biden’s speech

No	Spatial deictic words	
	Distal term	Proximal term
1	There	Here
2	Across the UK	-

The table above can be seen that there is the distal term and the proximal term. The distal term indicates that far from the speaker. While the proximal term is close with the speaker. So, deictic “*here*” is the proximal term that indicates that it is close to the speaker. The word “*here*” refers to the United Kingdom because Joe Biden delivered his speech in the United Kingdom. After that, the researcher also found the distal term which means the opposite of the proximal term. Deictic “*there*” is a distal term that refers to Kalamazoo Plant and also “*across the UK*” that refers to Every city in the UK. So, “*there*” and “*across the UK*” are far from the speaker.

### 4.3 Temporal/Time deixis

Table 3. Temporal deixis in Joe Biden's speech

No	Temporal deictic words		
	Present	Future	Past
1	Today	Tomorrow	Eighty years ago
2	This year	Later this year	Four and half months ago

From the table above the researcher found the deictic “*Today*” for present tense which refers to Thursday, 10 June 2021 the day the speech is being held, and “*this year*” refers to 2021. The word “*Tomorrow*” for future tense refers to Friday, 11 June 2021, and the words “*later this year*” refers to December. The last is the words “*Eighty years ago*” for past tense which refers to 1941, and “*four and half months ago*” refers to the 135 days.

### 4.4 Social deixis

Table 4. Social deixis

No.	Social deictic word
1	Her Majesty
2	President

Table 4 above, show the social deictic. The deictic “*Her Majesty*” which refers to Queen Elizabeth II as the Queen of the United Kingdom. After that, the social deictic “*President*” refers to Joe Biden as the president of the United States and at the same time as the speaker. The words “*Her Majesty*” and “*President*” show the different social between the speaker and the audiences

### 4.5 Discourse deixis

Table 5. Discourse deixis

No.	Discourse deictic Words
1	This
2	That

Table 5 indicated the discourse deictic such as “*This*” also “*That*”. Deictic “*This*” refers to Covid-19 with the utterance “*More deaths from COVID-19 in the United States than from World War One, World War Two, the Vietnam War, and 9/11 combined — combined.*”. And the word “*That*” refers to a promise between the UK and the U.S. with the utterance “*a promise that the United Kingdom and the United States would meet the challenges of their age and they would meet it together.*”

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion the writer can draw the conclusion that in Joe Biden’s speech all types of deixis have been found. The writer found 49 data in Joe Biden’s speech which consists of 16 deixis person, 6 deixis place, 17 deixis time, 6 deixis social, and 4 deixis discourse. Joe Biden often used deictic words such as I and me in his speech, which refer to himself. And also in Joe Biden’s speech, are also notified some distal and proximal expressions of spatial or place deixis like “here” for proximal and “there”, and “across the UK” for distal. Joe Biden's speech described far away from his feelings about eradicating the virus that is sweeping the world by vaccinating the world and the spatial distance that separates everyone and country. Furthermore, temporal deixis refers to a specific time, namely in the present, future, and past. Joe Biden aims to tell about things that have and will happen both in the past, in the present, as well in the future. There is social deixis also in Joe Biden such as Her Majesty, President, Prime Minister, and Prince that show the different social classes between the audiences and the speaker. And the last one is discourse deixis such as this and that which show to the different utterances before.



## REFERENCES

- Cruse, A. 2000. *Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Chaer, A & Agustina, L, 2004, *Sosiolinguistik*, Jakarta: PT Rineka Cipta.
- Deby, R.A.N., Gunawan, S. and Shena, S.I. 2018. "Deixis Analysis in the Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Divide Album". 2<sup>nd</sup> English Language and Literature International Conference (ELLiC). Vol. 2, 2018. Pp. 376-382.
- Duwila, S. A. Y. P. ., & Probowati, Y. (2021). Personal Metadiscourse Features on TED Talks by British Speakers. Proceedings of the Thirteenth Conference on Applied Linguistics (CONAPLIN 2020), 546(Conaplin 2020), 520–526. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.210427.079>
- Ginting, D. 2021. "Cultural Views of a Society Through Taylor Swift's Song". *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa*. Vol. 8, No.1, 2021. Pp. 34-49.
- Hendrikus, Dori Wuwur. 1991. *Retorika Terampil Berpidato, Berdiskusi Berargumentasi, Bernegosiasi*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Kansius.
- Levinson, S. C. 1983. *Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lodico, Marguerite G. et. al. 2006. *Methods in Educational Research: From Theory to Practice*. USA: A Wiley Imprint.
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.