

PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE NOVEL EXIT WEST BY MOHSIN HAMID

Nabila Anwar*

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Gujrat
nabeelaanwar38@gmail.com

Fawad Khan

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Wah, Wah Cantt, Pakistan
Fawad.khan@uow.edu.pk

Bushra Riaz

Lecturer, Department of English Languages, University of Chenab, Gujrat
bushra@lang.uchenab.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

The goal of this research is to examine the many forms, uses, and aspects of deixis in the book Exit West. With the use of deixis theories from Cruse (2000), Levinson (1983), and Kreidler (1998), the author employed a qualitative descriptive technique. According to the findings, there are 35 deixis data across five different kinds in the book Exit West, including 6 deixis data (20%) about people, 9 deixis data (18.3%) about places, 7 deixis data (28.3%) about times, 12 deixis data (28.3%) about discourse, and 11 deixis data (25%) about social deixis. According to the numerous varieties of deixis, deixis serve various purposes. They are intended to show the time at which the speech occur (time deixis), the references present in the speech acts' discourse (discourse deixis), the person's participation in the speech acts (person deixis), the speaker's and addressee's relative locations (spatial deixis), and various facets of both the speaker and addressee's social relationship. (social deixis). Participant role (33.3%), utilisation function (56.7%), social status (8.3%), formality/informality (8.3%), and closeness (18.3%) were the five deixis components that emerged from the data analysis.

Keywords: Deixis, Novel Reading, Pakistani Novels, Pragmatic Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The most essential thing in life is language. Language serves as a tool for communication that enables people to exchange ideas, information, and feelings with one another as social beings. According to Lyons (2002), language is a set of symbols used to facilitate contact and communication. A listener must be able to transmit the context and the meaning of the speaker's utterances in order for two people to communicate with one another. A conversation can be effective, according to Hendar & Anshari (2021), if both parties involved in the communication process can comprehend one another. Understanding pragmatics is important to comprehend the context and meaning of a spoken act. The study of pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, focuses on how context affects the meaning of speech acts. Mey (1993) asserts that pragmatics describes how language users are capable to resolve outward uncertainty as meaning depends on the way, the time, and the place that an utterance is made.

Since the meaning of utterances depends on how they are said, pragmatics aids speech act participants in avoiding ambiguity. According to Levinson (1983:9), pragmatics is the study of the connections among context and language that are grammaticalized or stored in a language's structural elements. According to Levinson, pragmatics is the study of the interactions among language and context that take place in spoken or written expressions. Numerous debates that are part of pragmatic studies include deixis, which is one of the discussion in pragmatic studies. Deixis is a term that refers to anything in a

* Corresponding Author

definite aspect and uses the speaker, the time, and the place of the speech as its central points. Person, geographic, discourseal, temporal, and social are the five main types of deixis. (Cruse: 2000). Deixis is frequently employed in speech to denote place, time, and objects. The usage of deixis is a phenomena that demonstrates the existence of several utterances and phrases, each of which has a unique meaning depending on the situation. As a result, this research looks at the many forms of deixis, their functions, and how deixis factors into the sentences in Rainbow Rowell's book "**Exit West**." In order to complete this research, the following questions must be addressed:

- a. What kinds of deixis are found in the book "Exit West"?
- b. How does each deixis type in the book "Exit West" serve its purpose?
- c. What variables affect the application of each deixis type in "Exit West"?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to Yule (1996: 3), pragmatics is a field of research that focuses on how listeners and speakers perceive meaning. In addition, Yule (1996) claimed that "Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning," which may be described as an examination of the meaning of a speaker's utterance. According to Yule (1996), "Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning," this indicates that pragmatics is the study of meaning in context that can be found in speech and has a particular context. One may say that pragmatics is the study of the meaning, language, and context that are present in an utterance or speech that is delivered by a speaker and understood by a listener. The word "deixis," which meaning "to point or show," has Greek origins, according to Levinson's (1983) interpretation. Deixis, according to Levinson (1983: 54), is the employment of grammatical or linguistic codes in the context of speech or utterance occurrences. Deixis is also interested in the relationship between context analysis and speech interpretation. Deixis belongs to pragmatics since it directly relates to the interaction between language structure and utterance context. Deixis exhibits a participant's social relationship and location in respect to other participants, according to Kreidler (1998). Deixis is also used to determine how one text section relates to another. According to Cruse (2000), there are five basic categories of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social dexis. Deixis' function is to indicate when a word's meaning may not be what is initially apparent. Each variety of deixis has a distinct purpose and plays a unique part in speech. Each sort of deixis, according to Levinson (1983), has distinct purposes and qualities.

1. Person Deixis

Persons are classified into three groups: the first person category, which includes speakers like "I" and "we," the second person category, which includes listeners like "you," and the third person classification, which includes additional accomplices like "he," "she," "it," and "them." When an utterance is delivered, person deixis serves to clarify the participants' roles in the speech act. The terms "person deixis" are also utilised to describe the individuals taking part in a discussion or speaking act. (Levinson, 1983: 62; Cruse, 2000: 320).

2. Spatial Deixis

The adverbs here and there are employed in place deixis to describe the location of the speaker in relation to the listener. According to Levinson (1983: 79), the purpose of spatial deixis in a speech act is to describe the distance between the place and the locations of the listener and speaker. In spatial deixis, the terms "proximal" and "distal" are used to indicate how far the speaker is from the listener. When referring to a place that is near to the speaker, the term "proximal" is employed. A location that is that far away from the speaker is described using the distal word.

3. Time Deixis

Time deixis, in accordance with Levinson (1983: 73), is employed to describe and demonstrate the time at which the speech is made by the speaker. There are therefore three fundamental partitions of the time axis : (i) prior to the moment of speech, (ii) during the utterance, and (iii) following the utterance, according to Cruse (2000: 321-322). The time adjectives now, today, yesterday, tomorrow, and then are often employed in time deixis.

4. Discourse Deixis

According to Cruse (2000: 323), discourse deixis relates to the use of the term *this* to denote upcoming discourse components. Anaphora is a common example of a discourse function that refers to a specific section of the discourse that has been or will be mentioned. (cataphora). Discourse deixis, according to Levinson (1983: 85), serves to highlight references to specific passages of the discourse that are present in the utterance as well as any textual references that are present. The use of the words *this* and *that* is a common example of discourse deixis.

5. Social Deixis

The social status gap among the speaker and the listener is demonstrated through social deixis. The purpose of social deixis, according to Levinson (1983: 89), is to demonstrate social distinctions, particularly those pertaining to social interactions among the listener and the speaker or among the speaker and other participants. The speaker also employs social discourse to demonstrate respect and courtesy for the other attendees. Several distinct aspects affect how deixis is used in a spoken act. Participant role factors and usage function factors both have an impact on how person deixis, spatial deixis, and time deixis are used. Usage function factor has an effect on how discourse deixis is used. Social status, closeness, and formality/informality are three variables that may have an impact on how social deixis is used.

1. Participant Role

According to Levinson (1989), a speech act's participatory role can have an impact on the usage of deixis. Each participant has a certain function to play throughout the speaking performance. Among other things, the role of the accomplice in a speech act might be that of the speaker, who is typically referred to as the first person, followed by the role of the listener for the second participant, and the role of additional participants for the third participant.

2. Usage Function

The usage function of each sort of deixis also has an impact on how it is used in a speech act. Each form of deixis has a unique purpose depending on its application, as was already explained. The purpose of person deixis is to allude to the individuals who are taking part in a discussion or speech act; the intended accomplice may be single (*I/you/he/she*) or plural (*us/we/they*). The purpose of spatial deixis is to describe how distant a location is from the listener and the speaker in relation to the speaking act; this distance can be either proximal or distal. The purpose of time deixis is to indicate the time that the speaker's utterance was made; it may have been spoken in the past, present, or future. Discourse deixis is the practise of referencing specific discourse elements inside an utterance. References can be made to discourse that has already been spoken (anaphora) or speech that is about to be mentioned. (cataphora).

3. Social status

Cruse (2000) asserts that three criteria have an impact on how social deixis is used. The first aspect that affects how social deixis is used is the social status differential. Cruse (2000: 322) indicated that "One which incontrovertibly does is where relative social status of speaker and hearer is signalled". One element that is obvious and can have an impact on the role of participants in the speech act is the social level (or social status) differential among the speaker and the listener.

4. Intimacy

Intimacy is the second characteristic that Cruse (2000) claims affects the use of social deixis. "One factor is typically defined by some such term as 'social distance,' where *tu* represents intimacy and *vous* indicates lack of intimacy or distance," according to Cruse (2000: 323). The phrase "social distance," which may be interpreted as the degree of intimacy among the speaker and the listener, describes one of the elements that affects the usage of social discourse.

5. Formality/Informality

According to Cruse (2000), formality / informality is the third variable that might affect the use of social deixis. The formality or informality of the scenario appears to be the decisive element, according to Cruse (2000: 323). The formality or informality of the circumstance influences whether social deduction is used in a speech act.

METHODS

The techniques employed in this research to collect the data were as follows: Choosing the novel to be examined, downloading the e-book version of "Exit West," selecting the deixis it contains, reading the novel, categorising the data it contains, discovering the deixis it contains, analysing the types of deixis and how they are used in the novel, and drawing conclusions are all steps in the process. The following topics will be covered in this research: (1) types of deixis found in the "Exit West" book; (2) functions of each form of deixis identified in the "Exit West" novel; (3) conclusions drawn from this research, and (3) the factors that influence the use of each type of deixis found in the "Exit West" novel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The five categories of deixis used in the data analysis are spatial deixis, person deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis. The categories of deixis are used to categorise the function of deixis. Five factors—participant role, social standing, usage function, formality/informality and closeness—are identified as influencing the use of deixis. The data that will be examined are the deixis from Rainbow Rowell's book "Exit West." The novel "Exit West" has 30 deixis types, which can be divided down into the following categories: 11 deixis of person, 9 deixis of place, 12 deixis of time, 12 deixis of discourse, and 11 deixis of society. According to the findings of this study, various deixis kinds serve distinct purposes. Person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis are all employed in speech acts in accordance with their respective purposes. The utilisation of each deixis type in our study is influenced by a number of factors. Two elements govern the usage of Person Deixis, Time Deixis and Spatial Deixis. (participant role and usage function). One element affects how Discourse Deix is used. (usage function). Social status, closeness, and formality/informality are three major variables that might have an impact on how Social Deixis is used.

1. Person Deixis

Using Data 3 . . . but that is the way of things, for when we migrate, we murder from our lives those we leave behind. (Exit West: page 14)

This phrase is from Chapter 5, where Nadia is furious that Saeed's father insisted that he couldn't enter the building with them. Saeed's father's choice to stay behind and Saeed and Nadia's acceptance of it are both given more weight and finality by the narrator's statement. The information you just read is from the first group of person deixis. The speaker uses the plural pronoun we to refer to the two individuals taking part in the discourse, hence it falls within the first type of person deixis. Explaining the roles of the conversation's participants and serving as a self-reference for the speaker are the two purposes of the first type of people. The speaker refers to herself and the other participants in the conversation using the plural pronoun we. As demonstrated in the aforementioned statistics, the speaker refers to herself and other people while referring to others as the intended participants by using the plural pronoun we. Both the participant role factor and the usage function factor have an impact on how person deixis is used in this data. The speaker's use of the pronoun we indicates the participation role factor. The speaker uses the pronoun we to refer to both himself, who is acting in the roles of the speaker, and another participant, who is playing the role of a third party who is neither the speaker nor the listener. The second factor is how the pronoun we is used. We is a two-person collective pronoun that is used to refer to participants; the speaker and others are the intended participants.

2. Spatial Deixis

Using Data 8:

"Why would we want to move?" she said.

'To be among our own kind,' Saeed answered.

'What makes them our kind?'

'They're from our country.'

'From the country we used to be from.'

'Yes.' Saeed tried not to sound annoyed.

'We've left that place.'

'That doesn't mean we have no connection.'

'They're not like me.'

(Exit West: page 30)

This conversation between Nadia and Saeed occurs in Chapter 8, when Saeed offers that they relocate into a new house in Dark London that is populated by individuals from their nation. Saeed has experienced discomfort while residing at the home, which predominantly shelters Nigerian refugees. Here, we can clearly observe the underlying contrast among Saeed and Nadia's attitudes on migration and notions of home. Because the adverbs *there* and *nation* are employed to denote how far away the speaker's location is from the location being referenced, they are incorporated in the definition of spatial deixis. *Distal* is a word that describes a location that is far away from the speaker. The purpose of an adverb is to allude to a specific thing or location that is far away from the speaker. In the previous information, Saeed's intended location is indicated by the use of the word *there*. Since the mentioned location is far away from the speaker, the adverb *there* is what the speaker uses. Participant role and usage function are the aspects that affect how spatial deixis is used in this data. The usage of the adverb *there* by Saeed in the utterance demonstrates that Saeed is playing the function of a speaker in this data since the word *there* is utilized to indicate a location that the speaker has visited. The utilisation function of spatial deixis in these data is another element that influences their use. The adverb *there* is utilized to describe a place that is somewhat distant from the speaker; in this case, it is Jesse's party, which the speaker has already been to.

3. Time Deixis

Using Data 13 **We are all migrants through time.** (Exit West: page 38)

The sentiments of an old Palo Alto resident in Chapter 10 are encapsulated in this line. The elderly woman stands out as an interesting comparison to Nadia and Saeed who have had to relocate frequently in order to find security and safety since she has lived in the same house in the same city her whole life. The woman yet continues to think of herself as a migrant. Palo Alto is evolving all around her despite her inaction. Her children's goals don't align with hers, as seen by their desire for her to sell her property for a significant profit and her lack of curiosity in the money. She feels that the world is a different place even when she sees her mixed-race grandchild, probably because interracial marriages were less popular when she was younger. Hamid universalizes Nadia and Saeed's experience of change, relocation, loss, and adventure by depicting ageing—an unchangeable truth of human life—as a type of travel. The time deixis includes the usage of the adverb "time" in the aforementioned data. Time that is still in motion and hasn't come to an end is referred to as being in deixis. The utilisation function factor and participant role factor are the variables that affect how time deixis is used in this data. This quotation demonstrates the participant role element. Another factor that affects the use of time deixis in this data is usage function.

Discourse Deixis

Using Data 18 ... *they spoke different variations of English, different Englishes ... her English was like theirs, one among many.* (Exit West: page 12)

Chapter 8 describes how the homes in the London neighbourhood of immigrants start to develop their own leadership. A council made up of elders is formed in Nadia and Saeed's home, which is predominantly populated by Nigerians. One of the women welcomes Nadia as she arrives. She is shocked to discover that she can grasp the majority of what is stated after giving it some time to sink in. Nigerians speak many dialects of English in addition to vocabulary from their diverse native tongues since they do not all come from the same tribe. Nadia, who also speaks a dialect of English, feels at home among them. The exchange of words in many "Englishes" reveals a moment of unification that transcends distinctions of race, nationality, religion, and culture. This quote's use of *they* and *her* falls within the discourse deixis category.

Social Deixis

Using Data 25 ... *he stood beside where she stood, and she stood beside where he stood, ... but they did not see each other ...* (Exit West: page 261)

When Nadia and Saeed get to Mykonos, they purchase some necessities and erect a tent outside the refugee camp. The narrator describes their joint ascent of the slope above the camp. The narrator also claims that Nadia and Saeed aren't really together, if not entirely. They are standing side by side but cannot see one another. Although they exchange glances, they are unable to see one another. At various times, yet together,

they ascended the slope. To show the reader how Nadia and Saeed maintain their physical union even as they start to drift apart emotionally and mentally, Hamid utilises a sequence of absurd inconsistencies. Social deixis is the sort of deixis employed in the aforementioned data.

CONCLUSION

Five categories of deixis were identified in this study: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. In this study, 35 data were evaluated, with person deixis accounting for 11 of them (25%), spatial deixis for 9 of them (18.3%), temporal deixis for 12 of them (28.3%), discourse deixis for 12 of them (28.3%), and social deixis for 11 of them (25%). The deixis kinds that appear in the study are time deixis and discourse deixis, each of which has a total of 12 data (28.3%). According to the research, each sort of deixis has a unique purpose. Person deixis functions include identifying the persons engaged in a speech act and describing their roles in it. The location that the speaker is referring to, which may be nearby or far away, is referred to as the spatial deixis. In order to convey further context regarding the time the speaker meant to, time deixis refers to an event that is occurring at the moment the utterance is made. Discourse deixis is the display of allusions to certain discourse elements that have been discussed prior to the utterance (anaphora) and in the discourse that will be discussed following the utterance. (cataphora). The purpose of social deixis is to demonstrate politeness, demonstrate social relationships between participants, and explain social elements of relationships. The five factors that affect the use of deixis in the analysis are social status (8.3%), participant role (33.3%), among the listener and the speaker, intimacy (18.3%) among the listener and the speaker, the formality/informality situation (8.3%) that occurs at the time the utterance is being said, and the usage function (56.7%) of each kind of deixis in the speech act.

REFERENCES

- Abdulameer, T. A. S. A., & Suhair, T. A. (2019). A pragmatic analysis of deixis in a religious text. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 9(2), 292.
- Duchan, J. F., Bruder, G. A., & Hewitt, L. E. (Eds.). (2012). *Deixis in narrative: A cognitive science perspective*. Psychology Press.
- Green, K. (1992). Deixis and the poetic persona. *Language and literature*, 1(2), 121-134.
- Petersoo, P. (2007). What does 'we' mean?: National deixis in the media. *Journal of Language and Politics*, 6(3), 419-436.
- Prasch, A. M. (2016). Toward a rhetorical theory of deixis. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 102(2), 166-193.
- Van Stapele, P. (1990). The analysis of deixis as a basis for discourse analysis of dramatic texts. *Learning, Keeping and Using Language*, 333-48.