

Deixis Found in *We Can Be Heroes* Movie

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A B S T R A C T

This research is carried out to get a depth-understanding of deixis usage found in *Movie*. The data of this research was taken from *We Can Be Heroes* movie by Robert Rodriguez that, released on December 25, 2020. The data for this research was collected using the documentation method. There are several steps to collect the data. First, download the movie transcript. Second, watching the movie repeatedly in order to find the utterances that contained deixis in the movie. Third, taking note and marking all data found, which contain the types of deixis. Lastly, analyse the types of deixis used in the movie. The data that have been collected are analyzed based on the deixis theory proposed by Levinson. The result showed that there are 419-person deixis, 44 place deixis, 50 temporal deixis, 142 discourse deixis, and 64 social deixis. Based on 719 data, the most dominant types of deixis that used in movie is person deixis.

KEYWORDS

deixis, pragmatics, types of deixis

CORRESPONDENCE

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Introduction

Humans use language to organize and socialize in society, and it's also used as a bridge to accomplish an agreement between the speaker and the listener. Therefore, the way we use language is very important in preventing miscommunication between speakers and listeners. Studying language, including branches of micro-linguistics such as morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, is one approach to avoid misunderstandings between the speakers and the listener.

Pragmatics, according to Yule (1996:3), examines meaning as it is expressed by a speaker and understood by a listener. Meaning is the information or concepts that the speaker intends to convey, in communication to the hearer. Deixis is a part of pragmatics study. Deixis plays an important role in pragmatics by aiding the interpretation of sentences based on their context.

Levinson (1983:68-94) categorizes deixis into person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. Without deixis, simple misunderstandings in communication will be uncomfortable for each speaker and hearer. Deixis is not only found in books, newspapers and song lyrics, but also in movies. In a movie there must be something that the movie wants to convey, by applying the deixis it is possible to do it properly.

Research Method

In this section, there are some components of research method, which are data source, method and technique of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing data, and method and technique of presenting analysis. The component are explained as follow:

Data Source

The data source used in this research is a movie entitled *We Can Be Heroes* by Robert Rodriguez. The movie was released on December 25, 2020. The movie is a comedy genre with a running time of 1 hour 40 minutes. The transcript of the movie was taken from <https://sublikescript.com/movie/We-Can-Be-Heroes-10600398>. The reason why this data source was used is because many conversations were carried out by the characters in the movie.

Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The data for this research was collected using the observation method. According to Creswell (2014) observation is where the researcher takes field notes on the behavior and activities of individuals. There are several steps to collect the data. First, download the movie transcript. Second, watching the movie repeatedly in order to find the utterances that contained deixis in the movie. Third, taking note and marking all data found, which contain the types of deixis. Lastly, analyse the types of deixis used in the movie.

Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

The descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the data. The first step was conducted by classifying the type of the data found based on the deixis theory stated by Levinson (1983). After recognizing the type of the deixis that found in the data, the next step conducted was concluding the analysis by explaining the result of the most dominant deixis type found in the movie.

Method and Technique of Presenting Analysis

The analysis result was presented using both informal and formal methods. The technique used in presenting data analysis is bolding the speech from the data source containing deictic markers and grouping them into respective classifications based on the type of deixis. Then, the results will be presented in table form to show the most dominant types of deixis used in the movie.

Result and Discussion

Result

Based on data have been analyzed, the researcher found five types of deixis in the *We Can Be Heroes* movie. The result showed that there are 419 person deixis, 44 place deixis, 50 temporal deixis, 142 discourse deixis, and 64 social deixis. The types of deixis are discussed in the data below.

No	Types	Frequency
1	Person Deixis	First-Person 257
		Second-Person 106
		Third-Person 56
2	Place Deixis	44
3	Temporal Deixis	50
4	Discourse Deixis	142
5	Social Deixis	64
Total		719

Person Deixis

Data 1

Missy: Can **we** put on the TV? **I** want to see if there's news about **our** parents. (00:16:25– 00:16:31)

In the dialogue above, there are three deixis expressions, namely **We**, **I**, and **Our**, which are classified as person deixis. **We**, **I**, and **Our** all represent the point of view of the speaker or speakers, in this case Missy and possibly others. The word **I** functions as a first-person singular pronoun, representing Missy's point of view or point of view. This shows that Missy is talking about herself or expressing her own wishes. Furthermore, **our** is a first-person plural possessive pronoun, indicating that something that will appear on TV belongs to Missy and her friends. Lastly, the word **we** function as a first-person plural pronoun, indicating that Missy included herself along with her friends in the request to put on the TV.

Data 2

Ms. Granada : Everyone... this is Missy. She will be joining **you** today. Missy, I'd appreciate it if **you** would take a seat right there and quietly continue **your** studies along with the other children. Children... thank **you** for respecting my rules. **Your** parents will be very proud when I tell them of **your** exceptional behavior. (00:09:35–00:09:58)

Miss Granada said this sentence when she took Missy to her new class. In this sentence, the words **you** and **your** are examples of second person deixis. In this case, Miss Granada addresses Missy directly, instructing her to sit down and continue her studies quietly. Additionally, Miss Granada greeted the children and reminded them of the importance of following her rules. The function of **you** and **your** is to indicate the person being spoken to, show their involvement in the conversation and convey Miss Granada's instructions and expectations to them.

Data 3

Wheels : All right, let's see who's left. That's Blinding Fast's kid, Slo-Mo. **He's** actually moving very fast, but somehow, **his** powers have **him** stuck in a time warp. (00:13:27 – 00:13:40)

In this context, **he**, **him**, and **his** all serve as person deixis, specifically referring to the character introduced as Slo-Mo. In this case, **he**, **him**, and **his** all denote the third person singular, representing Slo-Mo as an individual separate from the speaker and the listener. These pronouns help maintain clarity and cohesion in the narrative by specifying who is being discussed and avoiding repetitive use of the proper noun Slo-Mo.

Place Deixis

Data 4

Missy : So don't ask us how we know this, but aliens are about to attack, and we're no longer safe **here**. (00:26:04 – 00:26:10)

Missy said this sentence when trying to convince the guard that aliens would attack the headquarters. The word **here** in this sentence is categorized as spatial deixis. By using the word **here**, Missy establishes a spatial context in her narrative, showing that the characters are physically present in a particular location that is now considered unsafe.

Temporal Deixis

Data 5

Missy : An "I love you" **at 8:00 a.m. on a random Tuesday?** (00:04:37–00:04:40)

This time reference consisted in this data is **at 8:00 a.m. on a random Tuesday** within the utterance performed by the character of Missy, *An "I love you" at 8:00 a.m. on a random Tuesday?* The utterance is categorized as temporal deixis since it provides the day (Tuesday) as well as the hour (8:00 a.m.), when the act *I love you* occurred. The utterance is deictic relative not to the time of utterance but rather to the time of the last-described event. In other words, it refers to a time reference in the past or describes past event.

Discourse Deixis

Data 6

Miracle Guy : There's not a camera on me, and **it's** kind of liberating. I can be my true self, and my true self doesn't like you, or you, or you. (00:41:40–00:41:49)

In sentence above, the word **it** is a form of discourse deixis. The word **it** here refers to something that was stated previously, namely the absence of cameras around Miracle Guy.

Social Deixis

Data 7

Marie Moreno : Ah. Okay, **nieta**, your turn. (00:38:31–00:38:34)

Based on the sentence above, the first expression of social deixis is **nieta**. In this case, **nieta** is a Spanish term meaning granddaughter. Marie Moreno uses **nieta** to greet her interlocutor in a familial and affectionate way, showing the close family relationship between herself and her interlocutor.

Discussion

The researcher explains the conclusion based on the results of classifying the types of deixis and identifying the dominant deixis found in the *We Can Be Heroes* movie, as well as finding analysis for each deictic word. Using Levinson's theory, the researcher determined that there are five types of deixis used in the *We Can Be Heroes* movie: person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis.

The dominant type that appeared in this research is person deixis. Person deixis is related to the encoding in the speaking that is contained in the utterance (Levinson, 1983). Person deixis functions to make it easy to point the person in the utterance. The least dominant type of deixis is place deixis, as it is known that place deixis is the process of encoding spatial places where the speech participants are located (Levinson, 1983).

Conclusion

Deixis's words and phrases need context to understand their meaning. This means that the utterances can only be understood with context. Based on the 719 data, the researcher has data on the types of deixis. The researcher found utterances that used person, temporal, place, discourse, and social deixis in the *We Can Be Heroes* movie. The most dominant type of deixis that appeared in the movie script is person deixis.

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