

Navigating Deixis in Political Discourse: An Examination of Zelensky and Putin's Speeches

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to comprehend the meaning and varieties of deixis that are present in the speeches of Zelensky and Putin. The writer employs a pragmatic approach when conducting research and analyzing the varieties and meanings of deixis in speech texts. The authors implement Yule's (1996) theory of deixis. In completing this analysis, the authors use a qualitative description as an analytical method. The authors employ a qualitative description as an analytical method to conclude this analysis. The data sources for the research are sentences that contain deixis elements in the text of Zelensky and Putin's speeches. These sentences are categorized into categories of deixis. The results of this study suggest that the categories of deixis employed in Zelensky and Putin's speech texts are people deixis, place deixis, and time deixis. The participant or actor derives significance from the use of person deixis. The use of place deixis means place or location. The use of time deixis has meaning at the time of the incident. About the research Here is a comparison between the speeches of Zelensky and Putin. In Zelensky's speech, the dominating deixis is place deixis. This is because in his speech Zelensky always uses the word "this" which means place, namely the country of Ukraine. And in Putin's speech the dominating Deixis is people's deixis. This is because in Putin's speeches he always repeats the word "We" which means Russian citizen.

Keywords: *Deixis, speech, pragmatics*

Introduction

Pragmatics, as defined by Levinson (1983), is the examination of language use, specifically the relationship between language and context. This relationship serves as the foundation for the explanation of language comprehension, which entails the establishment of inferences that connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. Pragmatics can effectively address issues that arise between a speaker and listener, particularly those related to differing perspectives. According to Leech (1983), pragmatics encompasses the resolution of issues from both the speaker's and the listener's perspectives. An expanded definition is derived from Yule (1996). He provides a more detailed explanation of the term "deixis." Initially, he asserted that pragmatics is the examination of the speaker's intention. Subsequently, pragmatics is the examination of contextual significance. The third field of study, pragmatics, is the examination of the manner in which more is conveyed than is explicitly stated. The final definition is that pragmatics is the examination of the expression of relative distances.

In pragmatics, more focus is on how language serves for daily communication. A speaker has to be able to utilize language in line to let the audience grasp the intended meaning. This is due to the fact that in communication, misunderstanding speakers and interlocutors can be avoided by organizing ideas in our mind, and delivering the ideas in forms of understandable words (Ekowati & Sofwan, 2014).

The use of language that is tied to context can be seen from one field of pragmatics study namely deixis. According to, Levinson (1983) it is stated that deixis concerns how to encode language grammatical features from the context of the word event and therefore important ways for interpretation of speech depend on the context analysis of the word.

Deixis refers to the dynamic relationship between the term employed in a speech act and its referent, which is not static and has the ability to change and shift. (Chaer and Leonie, 2004). In communication activities, words that refer to some of these things move or change depending on who is the speaker, words like *me*, *him*, and *you* are words that have alternate designations. The reference of these words can then be known *who*, *where*, and *at what time* the words were spoken. According to Kreidler (1998), each spoken statement contains deixis words that indicate certain objects or concepts within the immediate physical and social environment of the speaker and listener. The meaning of these words can only be understood by considering the context in which they are employed.. The selection of deixis in this study is considered interesting since it can reveal the meaning of deixis contained in a word by relating it to the context given. Dylgjeri & Kazazi (2013) explained "Certain circumstances determine the meaning of some English sentences. In order to understand these sentences we must know who the speaker is, who is he/she speaking to, about whom, where and when"

Deixis refers to how languages encode or grammaticalize aspects of the context in which speech occurs. It is concerned with how the understanding of utterances relies on analyzing that context (Levinson, 1983). In addition, Cairns (1991) emphasizes that deixis plays a crucial role in dialogue by anchoring individuals to specific points in space and time. The determination of meaning in speech events relies on the spatial, temporal, and interpersonal components, making it context-dependent (Lestari & Simaputang, 2023). Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing the deixis present in a speech.

Speech is the delivery and planting of thoughts, information, or ideas from the speaker to the general public (Partinem and Sunardi, 2011). Speech aims to provide information to listeners. Speech is an activity carried out in public in order to convey opinions or ideas about a matter or condition that is developing (Gregory, 1990). Speech is very important because it aims to convey a message to the other party to be addressed, either directly or indirectly. Messages delivered directly, usually in the form of appeals and invitations. While the message is conveyed indirectly, generally in the events delivered in the speech. The aims of the speech include providing an understanding or information to other (informative), convincing the listeners (argumentative), making other people feel happy with speech (entertaining or recreational) and influencing other people to be willing to follow the wishes desired by the orator voluntarily (persuasive). In other words, "speech is a process of communication through public speaking to give opinions, statements, instructions, and others" (Wardani & Rizkiani, 2021).

Similar studies have been carried out by several researchers on deixis as a research topic but with a different object. First, Wati (2014) talks about deixis in a song namely Taylor Swift's album. The purpose of this study is to explain the many types of deixis, their meanings, and why they are used in the lyrics of the song. A qualitative descriptive

method is used to conduct the research, in which the researchers described various types of deixis based on the data collected by listening to and reading the lyrics of the songs in this album. Second, analysis of deixis also conducted in a movie entitled "The Good Dinosaur" by Kholis (2016). The purpose of this study was to identify kinds of deixis and the most dominant deixis. Based on those studies, it was suggested for the next research to use the other object such as analysing interview, speech text, conference, and the like. Thus, several research related to deixis analysis on speech have been conducted. Hutagalung (2017) conducted a research in Donald Trump's speech; Minkhatunnakhriyah & Hidayat (2021) investigated deixis and its context from the comments speech used by diplomats and representatives from Indonesia; and Bunyarang & Prasongsook, (2022) analyzed the types of deixis, their frequencies, and the context of the deixis in speeches of famous Americans. This study complements those previous studies to analyze deixis in a different speech which is Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Putin Speech.

The speech of Zelensky and Putin was chosen for several reasons. First, since Putin is the President of Russia and Zelensky is the President of Ukraine, both are people whose names are very famous in the world. Second, the conflict that occurred between Ukraine and Russia at that time actually occurred after the Russian President announced an attack on Ukraine through a speech delivered by President Putin. Third, the causes of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, have attracted the attention of many parties, thus inviting the authors to explore the deixis phenomenon contained in the speeches of the two presidents.

Method

Qualitative method is employed in this study. Moleong (1983) defines qualitative research as a method that produces descriptive data through the observation of individuals or actions, which is then recorded in written or spoken form. An illustration of qualitative research can be seen in the factors that lead a specific population in each location to favor a particular kind (Prasatyo, B. A., Nopiyadi, D., & Gustary, D. T, 2022). The research process has several steps, including identifying the research objective, identifying the data source, determining the data collection method, and selecting the data analysis approach. Thus, to find deixis in the text of Zelensky and Putin's speech, the writer conducted the following steps. First, the whole speech was listened attentively to check which speech included deixis. To get the data, the researchers classified deixis into three types, namely person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis based on Yule's theory; last, the meaning of each deixis found were explained using Yule theory.

Results and Discussion

Yule (1996) categorizes deixis into three types: person deixis, place deixis, and temporal deixis. According to Yule (1996), deixis can be categorized into three types: person deixis, spatial or place deixis, and temporal or time deixis. Person deixis refers to the use of terms that indicate or refer to specific individuals, such as "me," "you," "him," and "them." Spatial deixis, also known as place deixis, refers to the use of expressions that indicate a specific position, such as "here" and "there". Temporal deixis refers to the use of expressions that indicate a certain time, such as now, then, tonight, last week, and tomorrow.

Kinds of deixis found in the speech of Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Putin

Table 1. Types of deixis in Putin Speech

Types	Deictic Words	Total Utterances
Person Deixis	I	26
	We	43
	Us	15
	Our	40
	Ourselves	2
	Your	5
	It	43
	Their	7
	Itself	1
	Total	182
Spatial Deixis	This	15
	That	3
	There	1
	Total	19
Temporal Deixis	Today	3
	Now	1
	Total	4

Table 2. Types of deixis in Zelensky Speech

Types	Deictic Words	Total Utterances
Person Deixis	I	13
	We	5
	Us	3
	You	15
	They	1
	Total	37
Spatial Deixis	This	40
	That	29
	Total	69
Temporal Deixis	Today	5
	Total	5

Based on the data above, it can be seen that types of deixis found in Putin and Zelensky's Speech is person deixis with the total occurrences; Putin's speech 182, Zelensky Speech 37, Spatial deixis with the total; Putin Speech 19, Zelensky speech 69, And temporal deixis with the total; Putin's speech 4, and Zelensky's speech 5. In Putin's speech, person deixis dominates, he uses the person deixis "we" more than the other kinds of person deixis. In this case, the word "we" refers to Russian citizens. Then, in Zelensky's speech, spatial deixis is more dominant. He uses the spatial deixis "this" more since the word "this" refers to a place that is the country of Ukraine.

Meaning of Deixis found in in Zelensky and Putin's speech

Person Deixis

Person deixis refers to the use of expressions that indicate or refer to a specific person, such as "I," "you," "we," "they," and so on. According to Yule (1996), person deixis refers to the usage of expressions that indicate the predetermined roles of participants in a speech event. This is mirrored in the grammatical categories of person. This study identifies three distinct types of person deixis. Below are samples and explanations of each category.

1. *"I consider it necessary today to speak again about the tragic events in Donbass and the key aspects of ensuring the security of Russia (Utterance 1 from Putin's speech)*

The term "I" in the aforementioned remark encompasses personal deixis, namely a singular pronoun. This is because the word "I" refers to Putin himself as the speaker at the commencement of his address. He wants to articulate his views on the tragic events in Donbass and the crucial elements of safeguarding Russia's security.

2. *This was a matter of defending ourselves (Utterance 33 from Putin's speech)*

The term "ourselves" in the aforementioned sentence encompasses personal deixis, namely a singular pronoun, as it pertains to both Putin and the entire audience in Russia.

First-person singular is also referred to as "speaker." The speaker is the deictic center or central person in these forms of deixis, according to Yule theory. The writer employs first-person deixis for the initial speaker, which includes the terms "I," "we," "us," "our," and "self."

3. *Your fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers did not fight the Nazi occupiers and did not defend our common Motherland to allow today's neo-Nazis to seize power in Ukraine. You swore the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people and not to the junta, the people's adversary which is plundering Ukraine and humiliating the Ukrainian people (Utterance 28 from Putin's speech)*

The term "you" in the aforementioned statement is a plural pronoun in the second person, and its meaning in this context is to all military personnel of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The plural pronoun "your" is also used in the second person in the same statement, and its significance is that it pertains to their roles as military personnel of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Putin stated in this speech that he would permit military personnel from Ukrainian associations to perform their duties.

Referring to an addressee in a discourse event is done so in the second person. The researchers discovered second-person deixis for the first speaker, which consists of the words you and your.

4. *That experience should serve as a good lesson for us, because it has shown us that the paralysis of power and will is the first step towards complete degradation and oblivion (Utterance 5 from Putin's speech)*

The term "it" in the preceding statement is a third-person pronoun. Experience is denoted by the term "it." Putin asserts in his speech that the initial stage of degradation and complete oblivion is the paralysis of strength and will, as evidenced by experience.

5. *And these words are not flattery, not courtesy, they are reality. We are together. Almost every day. We are in touch. Daily (Utterance 4 from Zelensky's speech)*

The word "They" is a plural pronoun in the third person in the aforementioned statement. The term "They" in this context denotes Ukraine and Great Britain. Zelensky asserts in his speech that we are united. Almost every day. We maintain communication. On a daily basis. The absence of a conversation today indicates that we are preoccupied with the matters we resolved yesterday..

Yule (1996) points out that "Third person is quite different from first or second person in that it does not correspond to any specific participant-role in the speech event." The use of a third-person pronoun in the speech does not indicate either the speaker or the addressee of the statement. Deixis in the third person is identified by the researchers in this discourse, which contains the terms "it," "itself," "they," and "their."

Spatial Deixis

According to Yule (1996), spatial deixis can be understood as a form of psychological remoteness. Proximity between objects leads to the perception of psychological closeness by the speaker. Moreover, an object or person that is physically far away is typically perceived as psychologically distant, as exemplified by the phrase 'the man over there'. In this interpretation, words such as 'there' lack a definitive meaning.

6. *Please agree, when there is such unity in this hall* (Utterance from Putin's speech)

The term "this" in the aforementioned statement is an example of place deixis - proximal form. It denotes an object that is near the speaker's position, specifically referring to the place where the speech was delivered. The reason for the proximity could be attributed to Putin's presence as the speaker in the room. The term "this" in this context denotes a specific location inside the discourse.

Temporal Deixis

Yule (1996) states that the proximal form 'now' is used to denote the time that aligns with the speaker's speech and the time when the speaker's voice is heard by the listener.

7. *The same is happening today. They did not leave us any other option for defending Russia and our people, other than the one we are forced to use today* (Utterance 34 from Putin's speech)

The term "Today" in the aforementioned remark pertains to the present day or the specific day on which Putin delivered the address. The term "Today" is used to indicate time deixis, specifically in a proximate sense. It displays the current state.

8. *The purpose of this operation is to protect people who, for eight years now, have been facing humiliation and genocide perpetrated by the Kiev regime* (Utterance 36 from Putin's speech)

The term "now" in the aforementioned remark pertains to the present day or the specific day on which Putin delivered the address. The phrase "now" is used to indicate time deixis, specifically referring to the present moment. It displays the current state.

Based on the aforementioned description of categories and meaning, various conclusions can be made. Firstly, it is evident that the usage of the personal deixis "We" is frequently employed in this speech. This is because both Putin and Zelensky consistently encourage the involvement of citizens in order to collectively ensure the safety of the country and prevent conflict. Muhlhausler and Harre (1990) argue that the substitution of "We" for "I" reduces the speaker's individual accountability by presenting them as working along with the listener. Furthermore, the predominant deixis observed in this discourse is the reference to the "Country" namely either Russia or Ukraine. The reason for their discussion is the topic of war and the preservation of national security in Putin and Zelensky's address. The third and most frequently employed time deixis is "today," as both Putin and Zelensky mentioned the ongoing situation in their speeches.

Conclusion

In this study, there are types and meanings of deixis that need to be answered based on qualitative analysis. It is evident that the speech contains three distinct forms of deixis. In accordance with the contents of Putin's and Zelensky's speeches, the deixis employed in this speech are people deixis, place deixis, and time deixis, for the purpose of preventing war and safeguarding national security. For the second problem, the

authors analyze the meaning of deixis in Putin's speech and Zelensky refers to different meanings according to the context. And from the comparison of the two speeches. In his speech, Putin mostly uses the deixis of people on the word "we", which refers to the meaning of Russian citizens. Then, in Zelensky's speech he uses more spatial deixis from the word "this" which refers to the meaning of place, namely Ukraine.

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