DEIXIS IN *THE SKYLIGHT ROOM* STORY BY O HENRY

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Abstract: Language is an important thing for human in everyday life because human is a social being that used language for communicating with each other. Communication activity cannot be separated from pragmatic of deixis. Deixis word also cannot be separated from reference. This study aimed at finding out the types of deixis and the types of reference used by O Henry in his *The Skylight Room* story. To fulfill the two aims, this study used two theories, the deixis theory by Levinson (1983) in order to find out the types of deixis and the reference theory by Yule (1983) in order to find out the types of reference appeared in this story. This study was a qualitative research with content analysis as its approach. Moreover, this study used words as its data in the forms of narrations by O Henry the author of the story. The results of this study showed that there are three types of deixis found namely, person deixis, discourse deixis, and place deixis. Person deixis is found in 190 words, discourse deixis in 35 words, and place deixis in 2 words. Furthermore, there are three kinds of reference found there are anaphora, cataphora, and exophora. Anaphora reference occurs in 174 words, cataphora in 18, and exophora in 33 words in this story.

Keywords: *Pragmatic, Deixis, Person deixis, Discourse deixis, Place deixis, Anaphora, Cataphora, Exophora*

INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, we use language to be able to communicate with other people or with the wider community. Language is a system of words or signs that people use to express each other's thoughts and feelings. There is a science of language for study that is linguistic.

According to Gleason (1958: 10) Linguistics is the study of language. Gleason divides linguistics internally and externally. Internally, the science of phonology (the study of sound and language), morphology (the study of word structure), syntax (the study of how to form words in sentences), and semantics (the study of meaning in language), and externally divided into sociolinguistic (the relationship between sociology and linguistics), ethnolinguistics (the relationship between ethnology and linguistics), and psycholinguistics (relations between psychology and linguistics). To learn meaning in languages other than semantics there are also pragmatics and semiotics. Semiotic is the study of symbols in meaning while pragmatics is the study of meaning in context.

Levinson (1983: 27) defines pragmatics as a study of deixis, implicature, acts of speech, and aspects in the structure of discourse. According to Leech (1993: 8), pragmatics is the study of meaning in relation to speech situations which includes greeting elements and those addressed, context, purpose, illocutionary acts, speech, time and place. Levinson (1983) suggests that the most obvious way in the relationship between language and context is reflected in the structure of the languages themselves and in the embodiment of deixis.

Deixis is some word which its reference always changes or moves depending on the context. It's also stated that deixis is a part of pragmatics, it has connection with certain word or sentence that changes because of the context. The change of context in sentence is caused by the change of situation including personal, time and place (Levinson 1983:9). According to Hurford & Heasley (1983: 62-63) deixis refers to words that have very systematic meaning according to the use, place and time of use. Brown and Yule (1983: 27) state that we must know who the speaker is and who we are talking to, the time and place where the speech is spoken. Deixis are words that do not have a fixed reference or referent, can move from one form to another. Deixis can also be interpreted as the location and identification of people, objects, events, processes or activities that are being discussed or that are being referred to in relation to the dimensions of space and time, when spoken by the speaker or invited to speak (Lyon 1977: 637, Djajasudarma, 1993: 43). Levinson divides deixis into 5 categories, namely: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The one of literature that contain of deixis is short story.

Short story is a piece of prose fiction that typically can be read in one sitting and focuses on a self-contained incident or series of linked incidents, with the intent of evoking a 'single effect' or mood, however there are many exceptions to this (Wikipedia). Short story emerges as a more or less independent type of text at the end of the eighteen centuries, parallel to development of the novel. While the novel has always attracted the interest of literary theorists, the short story has never actually achieved the status held by length fiction. According to Klarer *"A crucial feature commonly identified with the short story is its impression of unity since it can be read-in contrast to the novel-in one sitting without interruption. Due to restriction of length, the plot of the short story has to be highly selective, entailing an idiosyncratic temporal dimension that usually focuses on one central moment of action."* (Klarer, 1998:14). Short story deals with important elements that build the story itself. All of these elements take their own role to make the story sensible. They are theme, plot, setting, character and point of view (Anderson: 1993 as cited in Hansyar: 2005).

Not all of the words which are used in a short story can be interpreted without the knowledge about the physical context of the writer such as the word *here, this, today,* or *tomorrow,* and the pronouns such as *me, you, he, she, him,* and *it*. It could be misunderstanding of the meaning and intention between writer and reader. In order to understand the meaning of the writer, the reader should be able to identify the intended meaning of statement or sentence. This research focuses on the deixis phenomena appeared in *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry and the reference found on those deixis words, also. it is important to be researched so that reader will not misunderstand about the utterance in this story by having the knowledge or understand where those deixis words are referring to.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method of this study consists of data source, method and technique of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing data and method and technique of presenting data.

A. Data Source

The data of this study in the form of written data from the story entitled *The Skylight Room* by O Henry. This story published in The Four Million, a collection of short stories by O Henry that was first published in 1906. It was taken from The Project Gutenberg eBook entitled as The Four Million, by O. Henry that was released in August, 2001. The story told about Miss Leeson, a young typist who rent the skylight room" from Mrs. Parker, who was a bit snobbish, because it is the only room she can afford. Then in that room, Miss Leeson found a star and she named it as Billy Jackson. *The Skylight Room* story was chosen as the data source because it contains enough data in the form of the deictic words for the need of answering the problems of the study. From the linguistic point of view the role of deixis is important in studying a language.

B. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The data were collected through documentation method and the technique to collect the data was note-taking. The data were the types of deixis and the reference contained in the story. The procedure was divided into several steps. First, reading the story repeatedly to understand the content of the story. Next, identifying the types of deixis and the reference based on the context of the story. Then, bolding and underlining the word indicated as deixis that appear in the story.

C. Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

The data were analyzed through qualitative method. After all the data were collected by taking notes, the technique of analyzing the data were arranged by paragraph and describing the word that contained deixis based on the type of deixis theory that proposed by Levinson (1983), and the type of reference that proposed by Yule (1983). This research uses four steps to analyse the data. First, indicating the types of deixis contained in the data with the deixis theory by Levinson (1983). Then, describing the reason why the data is indicated in that type of deixis and where the data refers to. After that, identifying the types of reference contained in the data based on reference theory by Yule (1983)

D. Method and Technique of Presenting Data

Formal or informal method can be applied in presenting the analysed data in research. As undergraduate thesis is a qualitative research hence the analysed data were presented in informal method in which the data were described and explained in words and sentences.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the analysis of the two research questions regarding the types of deixis and the types of reference in *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry. The word that showed the deixis word in this story were typed in italic font.

3.1 The Analysis of Types of Deixis

In this section, there is an analysis of deixis word found in *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry based on the five types of deixis theory by Levinson (1983) namely person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

In *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry, there are three types of deixis found, namely; person deixis, discourse deixis, and place deixis.

a) Person deixis

According to Levinson (1983: 62) person deixis concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered. There are thirteen person deixis words found in this story, namely:

- *I*

    As on the sentence below, the word *I* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mrs. Parker who said to Mr. Skidder.

    (p. 26) "*I* didn't know you were in. *I* asked the lady to have a look at your lambrequins."

- *You*

    As on the sentence below, the word *you* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Billy Jackson.

    (p. 29) "But *you* kept where I could see *you* most of the time up there when there wasn't anything else but darkness to look at, didn't *you*?
    . . . Millions of miles . . . Good-bye, Billy Jackson."

- *They*

    As on the sentence below, the word *they* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mrs. Parker's boarding house residents who tried to open the locked door.

    (p.30) "Clara, the coloured maid, found the door locked at 10 the next day, and *they* forced it open."

- *We*

    As on the sentence below, the word *we* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to the residents of Mrs. Parker's boarding house who was tried to open Miss Leeson's door.

    (p. 30) "Nothing *we* could do would bring her to. It's a young woman, a Miss Elsie— yes, a Miss Elsie Leeson. Never before in my house—"

- *He*

    As on the sentence below, the word *he* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to the doctor who came to the Mrs. Parker's boarding house.

    (p. 30) "*He* stopped and let loose the practised scalpel of his tongue, not loudly."

- *She*

    As on the sentence below, the word s*he* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mrs. Parker who met the doctor coming back bearing Miss Leeson.

    (p. 30) "On the first landing *she* met him coming back bearing the astronomer in his arms."

- *Me*

    As on the sentence below, the word *me* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Miss Leeson who said to Mrs. Parker about her condition.

    (p. 26) "Dear *me*! I'm not Hetty if I do look green. I'm just a poor little working girl. Show *me* something higher and lower."

- *His*

As on the sentence below, the word *his* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mr. Skidder who has the door.

(p. 26) "Mr. Skidder jumped and strewed the floor with cigarette stubs at the rap on *his* door."

- *Her*

As on the sentence below, the word *her* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mrs. Parker who was smiling to Mrs. Skidder.

(p. 26) "Excuse me, Mr. Skidder," said Mrs. Parker, with *her* demon's smile at his pale looks."

- *Gentleman*

As on the sentence below, the word *gentleman* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to the man who had occupied Mrs. Parker's room for eight years.

(p. 25) " You would not dare to interrupt her description of their advantages and of the merits of the *gentleman* who had occupied them for eight years.

- *Us*

As on the sentence below, the word *us* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to the room tenants at Mrs. Parker's boarding house.

(p. 26) "Goodness me! Why didn't you keep up with *us*?"

- *Men*

As on the sentence below, the word *men* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mr. Skidder, Mr. Hoover, and Mr. Evans who live in Mrs. Parker's boarding house.

(p. 27) " Miss Leeson sat on the middle step and the *men* would quickly group around her."

- *Him*

As on the sentence below, the word *him* is indicated as person deixis because it refers to someone. Based on the context, it refers to Mr. Evans who set up a hollow cough to induce Miss Leeson to ask him to leave off cigarettes.

(p. 27) " And especially very young Mr. Evans, who set up a hollow cough to induce her to ask *him* to leave off cigarettes."

b) Discourse deixis

According to Levinson (1983: 85) discourse deixis concerns the use of expressions within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance (including the utterance itself). Discourse deixis has to do with the encoding of reference to portions of the unfolding discourse in which the utterance (which includes the text referring expression) is located. There are six discourse deixis words found in this story, namely:

- *Their*

As on the sentence below, the word *their* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to double parlours that has an advantage.

> (p. 25) "You would not dare to interrupt her description of *their* advantages and of the merits of the gentleman who had occupied them for eight years."

- *It*

As on the sentence below, the word *it* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to the skylight room.

> (p. 25) " *It* occupied 7×8 feet of floor space at the middle of the hall. On each side of it was a dark lumber closet or storeroom."

- *Those*

As on the sentence below, the word *those* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to people who failed to qualify as doctors or dentists, and led the way to the second floor back.

> (p. 26) "Mrs. Parker gave her the incredulous, pitying, sneering, icy stare that she kept for *those* who failed to qualify as doctors or dentists, and led the way to the second floor back."

- *They*

As on the sentence below, the word *they* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to Mr. Skidder's room that showed by Mrs. Parker.

> (p. 26) "*They*'re too lovely for anything," said Miss Leeson, smiling in exactly the way the angels do."

- *Them*

As on the sentence below, the word *them* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to the home papers that brought by Miss Leeson at night.

> (p. 27) "At night she brought home papers with handwriting on *them* and made copies with her typewriter."

- *Her*

As on the sentence below, the word *her* is indicated as discourse deixis because it refers to something. Based on the context, it refers to the night.

> (p. 28) "At night my room is like the shaft of a coal mine, and it makes Billy Jackson look like the big diamond pin that Night fastens *her* kimono with."

c) Place deixis

According to Levinson (1983: 62) place deixis concerns the encoding of spatial locations *relative* to the location of the participants in the speech event. Probably most languages grammaticalize at least a distinction between **proximal** (or close to speaker) and **distal** (or non-proximal, sometimes close to addressee). Such distinctions are commonly encoded in demonstratives (*this* vs. *that*) and in deictic adverbs of place (*here* vs. *there*). There are two place deixis words found in this story, namely:

- *It*

As on the sentence below, the word *it* is indicated as place deixis because it refers to location. Based on the context, it refers to Mr. Skidder's room.

> (p. 25) "He wrote plays and smoked cigarettes in *it* all day long."

- *Here*

As on the sentence below, the word *here* is indicated as place deixis because it refers to location. Based on the context, it refers to the steps of the high stoop as a place that the roomers sat and see Miss Leeson's star.

> (p. 28) "He doesn't show up very well from down *here*," said Miss Leeson."

3.2 The Analysis of Types of Reference

In this section, the deixis word found in *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry are analysed based on the types of reference theory by Yule (1983) namely anaphora, cataphora, and exophora.

a) ANAPHORA

As on the sentence below, based on reference theory by Yule (1983) the word *her* is identified as anaphora because this word refers back to Mrs. Parker in previous sentence.

> (p. 25) " First Mrs. Parker would show you the double parlours. You would not dare to interrupt *her* description of their advantages and of the merits of the gentleman who had occupied them for eight years."

b) CATAPHORA

As on the sentence below, based on reference theory by Yule (1983) the word *I'am* is identified as cataphora because this word refers forward to Miss Leeson in the next word.

> (p. 26) "But *I'am* neither a doctor nor a dentist," said Miss Leeson, with a shiver."

c) EXOPHORA

As on the sentence below, based on reference theory by Yule (1983) the word *me* is identified as exophora because the reference lies outside the text; it refers to the writer of this story.

> (p. 31) " In the next morning's paper I saw a little news item, and the last sentence of it may help you (as it helped *me*) to weld the incidents together."

CONCLUSION

After analysing the deixis words found in *The Skylight Room* story by O Henry it can be concluded that there are three types of deixis found in this story, they are person deixis, discourse deixis, and place deixis. In addition, there are three types of reference found, namely exophora, anaphora, and cataphora.

Person deixis was the most found, as many as 190 words in this story. This deixis found in the word that refers to someone. It makes the story easier to read and understood by the reader. Then, the writer does not need to write the name of character repeatedly in the same context in one paragraph. The writer of this story used person deixis word in first, second, and third person perspective. The next deixis found in this story is discourse deixis. This deixis was found as many as 35 words. This deixis concerns with the use of

expressions within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse which contains that utterance (including the utterance itself) (Levinson, 1983). This deixis was found in the word that refers to discourse thing. It also makes the writer of this story does not need to write the discourse repeatedly in the same context in a paragraph. Then, the last and the least deixis found in this story is the place deixis. This deixis was found as many as 2 words in this story. This deixis concerns with the specification of locations relative to anchorage points in the speech event (Levinson, 1983). This deixis was found in the word that refers to a place. It can be concluded that the writer of this story does not need to write the name of place repeatedly in the same context in a paragraph.

After analysing the deixis word with the type of deixis theory, it is continued by identifying the reference contained in those deixis words. Based on the analysis presented in chapter III, there are three kinds of reference based on reference theory by Yule (1983) namely anaphora, cataphora, and exophora. The most common type of reference found in this story is anaphora appeared in 174 words. Anaphora reference occurs when a word refers to something that mentioned earlier in the discourse. Its works for indicating that something has already been mentioned before. So, the writer of this story does not need to mention the discourse thing repeatedly in the one phrase. Then, the next reference found is cataphora. This reference appears in 18 words. This cataphora reference occurs when a word refers to something that mentioned later in the discourse. Then, the last kind of reference found is exophora appeared in 33 words in this story. Exophora reference occur when a word refers to something that lies outside the discourse.

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