

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a general overview of the research, including the research background, research problem, research objectives, research significance, and definition of key terms.

2.1. Background of the Research

In a country with a Presidential system of government, the role of the President has the highest authority in governance. This authority allows the President to influence the direction of policy and drive expected changes for the progress of the country in various sectors. In the United States, the President has a unique opportunity to deliver his performance evaluation, achievements, and future vision through the State of the Union Address. One example is the speech delivered by the President of the United States, Joe Biden, to the US Congress on February 7, 2023, which was his second State of the Union address.

Joe Biden outlined the plans and achievements that the United States has made during his tenure. Aspects such as job growth, improvements in the healthcare sector, security, tax policy, and various other areas were highlighted in the speech. More than that, Joe Biden also showed his appreciation for the performance of the officials present in Congress and also to the people of the United States. In his speech, Joe Biden utilized the use of social deixis to express his honor and closeness to the audience.

Deixis is a branch of pragmatics that highlights the way things are indicated or referred to through the use of language, both orally and in writing. It is a form of linguistic expression that depends on spatial context and face-to-face interaction between speaker and listener in oral communication (Febriza, 2020). When speakers of different languages refer to objects, people, places, periods, and even texts or parts of texts, they are communicating within a specific context, and this context shapes the utterance. Natural language is always

related to its context, and in the field of linguistics, the specialized branch that studies how language encodes contextual elements in communication is called Deixis (Sneft, 2014).

According to Levinson (1983), deixis is related to how language encodes or highlights certain parts of the context of an expression or speaking event. Deixis is also related to the way speech interpretation depends on analyzing the context of the expression. There are five main categories of deixis including person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

The category of social deixis stands distinct from the remaining four deixis types. Unlike referencing time, location, or individuals, it primarily pertains to the social hierarchy existing between the speaker and the addressee within society, as conveyed through language (Nurhikmah, 2019). Social deixis is a concept related to how sentences can reflect, shape, or be influenced by the specific reality of the social situation in which the utterance is delivered. It is closely related to the meaning and language structure (such as associations with levels of politeness and respectability) of the linguistic expressions used, which adjust to the specific social context. There are two principal types of social deictic information encoded in languages: relational and absolute. Relational varieties are divided into (i) speaker and referent (e.g. referent honorifics) (ii) speaker and addressee (e.g. addressee honorifics) (iii) speaker and bystander (e.g. bystander or audience honorifics) (iv) speaker and setting (e.g. formality levels). While the absolute variety is divided into authorized speakers and authorized recipients (Levinson, 1983).

Deixis is an important element in verbal communication. As in speech, speakers use contextual or situational references to communicate their message. In speech, speakers can use deixis to establish a closer relationship with listeners by referring to things that are happening, places they are, or shared experiences.

In this study, the researcher focuses on social deixis in Joe Biden's speech. The reason why the researcher chose this discussion is because Joe Biden's use of deixis elements in the speech is an important aspect. By using language that

expresses honor, closeness, and intimacy with members of Congress as well as respect for his people, Biden seeks to emphasize a warm and close relationship.

In the State of the Union address, Joe Biden not only conveys information about the state of the country but also tries to create an emotional bond with the audience. Therefore, analyzing the use of social deixis in this speech becomes relevant to examining how language can create closeness or distance with various layers of society.

Understanding how the use of social deixis in Joe Biden's State of the Union address can affect the relationship and understanding between leaders and the public, can provide a deeper insight into the power of language in politics. This research provides an understanding of how a president's verbal communication can shape perceptions, create connections, and influence audience responses.

Previous research was conducted by Nusi Heriyadi and Eli Diana in 2020 entitled "Analysis of Social Deixis in the Film 'The Dressmaker'" A qualitative approach was used to explore the domain of social deixis in the film. The purpose of this research is to explore the various types and functions of social deixis obtained from the data. This research focuses on the use of two prominent theories: Levinson's deixis theory and Hollinghead's theory of social deixis function.

This research reveals two main types of social deixis present in "The Dressmaker" movie: relational social deixis, which accounts for the largest share of 97.26%, and absolute social deixis accounts for 2.74%. In terms of function, three different functions of social deixis emerge: as a kinship marker as much as 95.37%, indicates social status as much as 3.79%, and implies empathy as much as 0.84%. This study details the reasons why relational deixis is more dominant and why absolute social deixis is used less. The researcher also explains why the function of kinship markers is used more often. Unfortunately, in this study, the researcher does not explain Hollinghead's social function theory of deixis.

Furthermore, in a study by Erfina Nuryusticia in her thesis in 2021. The title of the study is "Social Deixis Analysis on The Final Interview with The

Obamas”. The study used Levinson's deixis theory to investigate the varieties and roles of social deixis within "The Final Interview with The Obamas" using a qualitative descriptive methodology. This research is different from other studies because the researcher chose interviews as the main focus. After all, interviews offer genuine interaction and conversation without manipulation.

The result of this research shows that there are 24 data classified as relational social deixis. 5 data are included in social deixis speaker and referent, 2 data are included in social deixis speaker and addressee, 16 data are included in social deixis speaker and bystander and 1 data is included in social deixis speaker and setting. On the other hand, 12 data are classified as absolute social deixis, including 2 data that are included in the authorized speaker and 10 data that are included in the authorized recipient. The function of social deixis in the interview is found in 5 data that are classified as expressions that have function as a social status differentiator, 20 data are included in the function of politeness, and 11 data are included in the function of social identity. Unfortunately, based on the study's results, it is not explained why the social type of speaker and bystander deixis and politeness function become more dominant among other types and functions.

The last is research conducted by Nur Amalin Nabila, in her thesis entitled “Social Deixis Used by Eric Nam and Johnny of NCT in K-Pop Daebak Show Podcast” in 2023. The research uses Levinson's social deixis theory by focusing on analyzing the type of social deixis and the function of social deixis found in the podcast. The research used a descriptive qualitative method. On Eric Nam's podcast with Jhonny as the interviewee, the results showed that from 62 data found in the podcast, 49 data were classified as relational social deixis expressions. Of these data, 34 data are interactions between speakers and referents, 4 data are between speakers and addressee, 9 data are between speakers and bystanders, and 2 data are related to settings. In addition, there are 13 data of absolute social deixis expressions identified in this study. Of these, 5 data refer to authorized speakers, while 8 data refer to authorized recipients. Other findings indicate that there are three functions of social deixis found in

the utterances in the podcast by Eric Nam and Johnny from NCT in K-pop Daebak Show. These functions include 3 functions as social status differentiators, 34 functions as a form of politeness, and 25 functions related to social identity. The uniqueness of this study is in its emphasis on social deixis in a conversational context, providing deep insight into how language is used to reflect and shape social situations. However, the researcher did not explain why one of the types and the functions of social deixis used in Eric Nam's podcast became more frequently used.

This research is different from all studies, especially from the object and theme. There has been no research that examines social deixis with political themes, especially in state speeches. This study uses Joe Biden's second State of the Union address to the United States Congress as the object. Researcher will analyze the types of social deixis and the social deixis function of the speech. This research will also explain why the types and functions of some of them are more frequent or dominant than others, as well as the reasons why the lowest ones are rarely used by Joe Biden in the speech.

The uniqueness of this research lies in a very specific political context, namely Joe Biden's speech at the second joint session of the United States Congress. In this study, the focus on social deixis provides a deeper understanding of how the president uses language to build relationships and communicate certain messages to members of Congress and the public. By exploring social deixis in this political context, this research provides insight into the dynamics of social interaction that occur in formal situations such as state speeches.

2.2. Statement of Problem

To understand how the use of social deixis in this speech affects the creation of closeness or distance with various layers of society, the researcher determines that two questions will be the primary focus of this study:

1. What types of social deixis were used by Joe Biden in his Second State of the Union Address to the United States Congress?

2. What is the function of social deixis used by Joe Biden in his Second State of the Union Address to the United States Congress?

2.3. Research Purpose

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To identify the types of social deixis used by Joe Biden in his Second State of the Union Address to the United States Congress.
2. To identify the function of social deixis used by Joe Biden in his Second State of the Union Address to the United States Congress.

2.4. Research Significances

The research significance serves as a statement elucidating why the study is essential. It provides reasoning for the research's relevance, its potential to advance knowledge in the field, and the benefits it may offer to various stakeholders.

Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to:

1. Enrich the repertoire of pragmatics knowledge, especially in the field of deixis.
2. Adding knowledge for researcher and readers about the use of social deixis.
3. A source for further related research.

Practically, the findings of this study are expected to:

1. Contribute to the teaching of pragmatics, especially in terms of the politeness and effectiveness of social deixis in state speeches.
2. A source of reference for students of English study programs who are interested in researching pragmatics, especially in the context of social deixis.

3. Provide an in-depth view of the use of social deixis in the context of state speeches to students who are interested in understanding further.

2.5. Clarification of Terms

1. Deixis

Deixis is the aspect of pragmatics that examines the way language is used in communicative contexts. In particular, deixis studies how an expression refers to an object in a certain context. The object referred to can be spatial, temporal, or personal context. With deixis, people can interpret how the meaning of an expression varies depending on the situation and context in which it is used.

2. Social Deixis

Social deixis is a type of deixis that highlights the hierarchical aspects and social relations between speakers and listeners that affect language communication. Social deixis is a concept related to how sentences can reflect, shape, or be influenced by the specific reality of the context in which the utterance is expressed.

3. State of the Union Address

The State of the Union address is an annual speech delivered by the President to the United States Congress. Generally, the President discusses various topics that affect the country.

4. The United States Congress

The United States Congress is the bicameral legislative body of the United States federal government. Congress consists of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, with members elected through direct elections. The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. is the meeting place for Congress.