

A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF DISCOURSE DEIXIS IN MALALA YOUSAFZAI'S SPEECH AT UNITED NATIONS YOUTH ASSEMBLY

PUTRI DWI PUSPITA*, MOHAMMED MUHASSIN, DIAN REFTYAWATI

Department of English Education, Islamic State University of Raden Intan, Lampung, Indonesia. Email: putridwip04@gmail.com

Received: 15 November 2025, Revised and Accepted: 25 January 2026

ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out and describe the discourse deixis in Malala Yousafzai's speech at United Nations Youth Assembly, the function, and the relations with anaphora and cataphora. This research is a kind of descriptive qualitative research because the data present by the descriptive. The researcher uses the theory from Stephen C. Levinson, meanwhile to analyze the data the researcher uses the theory by Miles and Huberman. The result of the research shows that in Malala Yousafzai's speech there are 39 utterances that contains of discourse deixis, 20 utterances or 51.28% for token reflexive, and 19 utterances or includes of switch reference in the same subject marker 33.33% and different subject marker 15.38%. They include of *this, that, those, these, them, they, it, their, them, I, we, he*. In addition, the utterance is also includes of anaphora and cataphora.

Keywords: Pragmatic, Discourse deixis, Anaphora, Cataphora, Speech, Malala Yousafzai.

© 2026 The Authors. Published by Innovare Academic Sciences Pvt Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>) DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22159/ijss.2026v14i2.43526>. Journal homepage: <https://innovareacademics.in/journals/index.php/ijss>

INTRODUCTION

In human's life, language is never separate from their activity. As a necessity of humans, brings language to become a very important thing. People can do many with languages, such as say what their feelings, their opinion, to influence someone, or to share a piece of knowledge or information and so on.

To make a good communications with others, we must understand well what people means by their language, sometime people do the ambiguity in their utterance; they used the signal or coding when communication. In this view, there is a study that learn about meaning or coding called pragmatic. Pragmatic is one of several branch of linguistics study. Some studies explain that pragmatic is the study of meaning depending on the context. Pragmatic itself is divided into several types based on Stephen C. Levinson, such as Deixis, conversation implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and conversational structure.

Nowadays, a lot of linguistic phenomena occur in someone's speech; many speakers used the linguistics phenomena in their speech or utterance even in the formal event or in the daily activity. For those reasons, many people are interested to learn and researching about it. There are previous researches that use the pragmatic branch as a subject of the research, the first research is by Siti Maysarah in entitled "Deixis word found in English Translation of Holy Qur'an surah Al- Baqarah" the researcher analyze the five types of deixis, such as person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The second research is by Herlina Jasa Putri Harahap in entitled "Analsis Deixis Dalam Bahasa Jerman" the researcher analyze the five types of deixis, such as person, time, place, discourse, and social deixis. The third research is by Anita in entitled "Descriptive Analysis of Discourse Deixis Used In Politics Column on Jakarta Post In April 2017" the researcher limited the focus into two that is used of the word "that" and "this".

According to the previous research above, the researcher decides to do the study entitled "A Pragmatic Analysis of Discourse Deixis in Malala Yousafzai's speech in the United Nations Youth Assembly". The similarity is the focus on the deixis study. Meanwhile, the novelty of this research is from the use of grand theory and the entire focus, if the other research used theory from Yule this research is used theory from Levinson, wherein Levinson divided deixis into five types, the

researcher limited the focus into one namely Discourse Deixis and the difference also from the object the other research that mentioned above their used Qur'an, Newspaper and speech of Donald Trump but in this study, the researcher used the speech of Malala Yousafzai.

This research is conducted to answer the research questions below:

1. What kinds of discourse deixis are found in Malala Yousafzai's speech at the United Nations Youth Assembly?
2. What are the function of the discourse deixis that found in Malala Yousafzai's speech at United Nation Youth Assembly?
3. What are the relation of discourse deixis are found in Malala Yousafzai's speech at the United Nations Youth Assembly?

The result of this research is expected to give the contribution in linguistics study, can adding the readers' knowledge so that they can more understanding about discourse deixis.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Based on Levinson, a pragmatic study is a correlation between language and purpose, which correlates with the language structure. As the opinion above, because many words have different purposes, different contexts, and clues, pragmatic must have the continuity between the language and the structure so the people who receive the utterance can interpret well. In addition, Searle, Kiefer, and Bierwisch argue that pragmatics is a word of cognitive and society that influenced people of something which very specific but did not have a clear meaning. Based on the mean of the argument before, it can be interpreted that pragmatic contain words that belong to society and theory, which can affect others to make an impression about something being said, because in each pragmatic words do not have the specific meaning.

Definition of deixis

Deixis becomes a basic knowledge that important to learn to students according to Cutting. Based on Grundy, demonstrative words that pointing refers to closed words of a situation of the utterance is called deixis. From the Grundy, opinion deixis is a property of a closed word that the meaning refers to main in which situation the statement or sentence be spoken by someone. When the people used the deixis aspect in their sentence usually people do not mention directly the purpose to make the receiver understand the meaning, they used such as pointing

word. Furthermore, Levinson adding that the deixis phenomenon needed contextual information in which to understand the meaning of some words or a sentence. From the statement above, the researcher can conclude that deixis is a word or phrase in a context situation that requires an order to understanding the sense of an utterance in context, because deixis itself depends on the word refer based on the context.

Discourse deixis

Beside the traditional types of deixis, such as person deixis, time deixis, and place deixis. Levinson adds the categories of deixis, such as discourse deixis and social deixis. This research focus to analysis about discourse deixis. Discourse deixis is the encoding language that reference to the discourse in which the utterance is located. From the definition above, it can be interpreted that discourse deixis is language use to encoding whereas the reference is to the utterance in text.

Furthermore, from Andrea Macrae book discourse deixis refers to the particular points within a text that are not entirely disconnected from the ways deixis works in the canonical situation of utterance. From the statement above, discourse deixis is a words which the meaning refers to the points in the text, discourse deixis usually uses the demonstrative.

In addition, some study said that the personal pronouns such as *she, he, you, etc.* are one of the basis ways for declare text/discourse deixis in the English Language. Discourse deixis is divided into two categories such as Switch reference and Token reflective deixis.

Switch reference

According to Jacobsen, switch reference is the reference that consists in the fact that a switch in the subject is obligation indicated in a situation by a morpheme, which may or may not carry others meanings in addition. From the opinion above, it can be interpreted that switch reference is designating on the subject of the clause that usually by morpheme, and it is a situation indicate that can brings meaning, and also to addition the meaning.

Switch reference is marking encodes whether the subject of one clause is the same as or different from the subject of another clause. From the definition before, switch reference is the designation of the subject to know whether the subject is the same or different of one clause. There are two categories of switch reference, such as same subject marker and the different subject marker. The examples of (SS), same subject marker, and (DS) different subject marker:

"I sat down and ate" (SS)

"I sat down and he ate" (DS)

Token reflexive

According to Levinson, token reflexivity is a special subtype of discourse deixis, usually concern of the use demonstrative word *"that"* and *"this"*. As in the example below:

"Puff puff puff: that is what it sounded like"

"This is what phoneticians call creaky voice"

Based on Kaplan, the rule of token mapping of the utterance/sentence is they carry content to the context. From the argument before, it can be interpreted that a token reflective bring the content of the sentence or utterance to the context as a rule of token expression. The words can called as a token reflective if the indexical and referent aptly in the utterance. As in the example, the word *"I"* must be refers to the person who produced it, meanwhile the word *"here"* must be refers to the place when the utterance is occurs.

Anaphora

Anaphora is pointing back something that was mentioned earlier in the discourse with repetition. The use of anaphora according to previous statement usually to pointing word that the reference is back to the preceding words. For example: *"Dani doesn't like hamburger. He avoids eating it whenever possible"*

Cataphora

According to Matthews, cataphora is the relation between the anaphoric expression and an antecedent that comes later. From the definition before, the different between anaphora and cataphora is, cataphora concerns to the encoding the word with the demonstrative for the upcoming word in the sentence.

Furthermore, Halliday and Hasan argue that cataphora is looking forward to the text to know what are the word that refers to the pronoun. From the arguments above, cataphora used to gives the marking of the upcoming word in the sentence the function is to clearly the previous word mention before. For example:

"I turn to the corner and almost stepped on it. There was a large snake in the middle of the path"

Speech function

Halliday divided speech function into four primary types such as offer, statement, command, and question. The explanation is in the table below:

No.	Speech function	
1.	Offer	Would you give me a cup of tea?
2.	Statement	I give her bucket on her birthday
3.	Command	Close the door!
4.	Question	Is there someone out there?

Definition of speech

Communication is a part of daily activity life that humans use to share the message from the others. According to Chomsky, speech is a part of daily life that become a familiar. Based on the argument before, speech is an activity that humans do in their activity that can never separate. Speech is the way to convey our messages orally; however, we can share it by others form include written text. Based on the previous explanation, speech is used to share humans message usually speech convey by orally, but it can also be used others form, such as written text, body language, and so on.

Malala Yousafzai in the description

Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora Pakistan on July 12, 1997. She is an activist of education for children and woman, her father's name is Ziauddin Yousafzai and her mother's name is Tor Pekai Yousafzai. Her life was totally changed when the Taliban came to Pakistan and attacks them. When was it that, Taliban came and forbid the children and woman to get an education, and they also crush the building school.

In September 2008, Malala was protesting about Taliban actions. In 2009, Malala back to Pakistan after fleeing to save her life from the Taliban. Start from that Malala being active to campaign for other people, the importance of education for humans with her father. On October 9, 2012, when Malala back from her school with her friends, she was shot by the Taliban on her head. In Queen Elizabeth hospital, Ingggris Malala got handling to remove the bullet that embedded on her head.

On July 12, 2013, Malala gives her speech about woman's rights, terrorism issues, and stupidity in United Nations Assembly, New York. She got appreciation from NOBEL because of her struggle. Until now, Malala still campaigns about the importance of education for humans.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative, while qualitative research is a new method and also called an artistic method because the process to get the data is lack of system, also because the data will explain by the words rather than the number. This research used a descriptive method in order to describe discourse deixis aspects or phenomenon that found in Malala Yousafzai's speech at United Nations Youth Assembly.

The instrument of this research is the researcher itself. According to Lincoln and Guba in the qualitative study, there is no other choice than to use herself as the main instrument, because everything in qualitative

research does not have a distinct form, problem, focus of the research, and also the result, so there is no better choice than the researcher as a tool to achieve those.

To collect the data, the researcher follows the steps below:

1. The researcher found the soft file of Malala Yousafzai's speech on the Internet.
2. The researcher reads the entire text of the speech
3. Identify and Signed the word or sentence that contains the discourse deixis aspect
4. Analyze the kinds of discourse deixis in the speech of Malala Yousafzai by the theory proposed by Stephen C. Levinson.
5. Analyze the function of discourse deixis in Malala Yousafzai's speech by Stephen C. Levinson theory
6. Analyze the relation of discourse deixis used in Malala Yousafzai's speech by Stephen C. Levinson.
7. Establish the most frequency of two types of discourse deixis by formula:

$$A = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

X: The percentage of two types of discourse deixis

F: The frequency of two types of discourse deixis

N: The total of the discourse deixis.

To analyze the data, the researcher uses the steps that conducted by Miles and Huberman:

- a. Data Reduction
The data are differentiated or sorting and categories depend on the type, so the researcher will easy to do the next step. In this step, the researcher omitting parts of speech that will not be examined.
- b. Data Display
In the second step, the researcher analyzes the words that are included in the discourse deixis category by Levinson and presents the data by the table.
- c. Conclusion Drawing/Verification
In the last step, after the researcher sorts and presence the data, the researcher should make a conclusion about the result, what the result can answer the formulation of the researcher or not.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher found 20 utterances (51.28%) that includes of token reflexive while 19 utterances that includes of switch reference, 13 utterances (33.33%) for the same subject marker, and 6 utterances (15.38%) for the different subject marker. Furthermore, the relation to anaphora and cataphora is the anaphora is most dominant in her speech. There are 15 token reflexive utterance that includes of anaphora and 5 utterances for cataphora.

The Function of Discourse Deixis in Malala Yousafzai's speech at United Nations Youth Assembly.

No.	Speech function	
1.	Offer	-
2.	Statement	31
3.	Command	7
4.	Question	1

The frequency of two kinds of discourse deixis:

Switch reference

Same subject marker

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

$$X = \frac{13}{39} \times 100\%$$

X = 33.33%

Different subject marker

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

$$X = \frac{6}{39} \times 100\%$$

X = 15.38%

Token reflexive

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

$$X = \frac{20}{39} \times 100\%$$

X = 51.28%

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data the researcher concludes that in the Malala Yousafzai's speech the most frequent of discourse deixis is Token Reflexive meanwhile 31 utterances marked as giving a statement and the relation between cataphora and anaphora are the most frequent is anaphora.

REFERENCES

Abdulla, M.S. (2020). The peculiarities of text/discourse deixis in the English Language. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 10, 141.

Al-Azzawi, Q.U.D. *Establishing the effect of deixis in translation*. Iraq: University of Babylon.

Amelia, D. L. (2019). *Anaphoric and cataphoric references in surah an-nisa of holy quran translation by Abdullah Yusuf Ali*. Indonesia: State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Anely, F. (2008). *Analyzing the deixis found in surah al-dukhan*. Indonesia: State Islamic University Of Malang.

Anggara, I.G.A. (2016). *Deixis used in top five Waldjinh's popular keroncong song lyrics*. Indonesia: State University of Semarang.

Azzahra, I.K. (2019). *A pragmatics analysis of deixis in surah al-translated by abdullah yusuf ali*. English Language and Education IAIN Curup [Thesis]; 2019.

Griffiths, P. (2006). *An introduction to English semantic and pragmatics*. London: Edinburgh University Press.

Kusumawardani, T. (2016). *The analysis of deixis found in hansel and gretel: Witch hunters movie and its application to teach writing at the tenth grade of senior high school*. Indonesia: Purworejo Muhammadiyah University.

Levinson, S.C. (1893). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Macrae, A. (2019). *Discourse deixis in metafiction the language of metanarration, metalepsis, and disnarration*. New York: Routledge.

McCormack, J., & McLeod, S. *What are speech, language, and literacy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Muhassin, M., Pradana, S.A., & Hidayati, D.A. (2020). Personal deictic expression in the Qur'an: A pragmatic study on the English interpretation of Surah Al-Baqarah. *English Education Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris*, 13(1), 104-121.

Ogden, R. (2007). *An introduction to English phonetics*. London: Edinburgh University Press.

Philipp, W. (2012). *Perspectives on switch reference*. Germany: Institute Fur Linguistics Universitat Leipzig.

Recanati, F. (2013). Perceptual concepts: In defence of the indexical model. France: Institute Jean Nicod.

Ross, D. *Delimiting and demystifying switch reference: On distinguishing form and function*. United States: University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Stapleton, A. Deixis in modern linguistic. *Essex Student Research Online*, 9.

Sugiharto, S. (2014). *Reference, anaphora and deixis: An overview*. Vol. 4. Indonesia: Atma Jaya Catholic University.

Sugiharto, S. (2014). *Reference, anaphora, and deixis: An overview*. Vol. 4. English Department Faculty of Education Atma Jaya Catholic University.

Sugiyono. (2017). *Metode penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif, dan R&D*. Vol. 26. Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta Cetakan ke.

Tirza, F. (2018). *Deixis interpretation on Donald trump's speech*. Indonesia: University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara.

Tul Kubra, K., Murtza, A., & Mahmood, M.A. (2018). Deixis role as an index of style: A comparative corpus stylistics analysis of self, Pakistani and other translators. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 8(5), 87.