

## Deixis Analysis of “The Last Letter From Your Lover (2021)” Movie Script By Jojo Moyes

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### Abstract

The aim of this study was to analyze the types of deixis presented in the movie script of The Last Letter from Your Lover. The research utilized a descriptive qualitative method for data collection, employing documentary techniques. The study was based on Stephen Levinson's theory, which identifies 5 deixis types: person deixis, temporal deixis, spatial deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis, as evidenced in the film script of The Last Letter From Your Lover (2021). The research data was extracted from the movie's dialogue, which has a duration of one hour and fifty minutes. The study seeks to categorize the 5 types of deixis and determine their frequencies in the film. The total of 1,409 deixes were identified in the movie script, with the following frequencies for each deixis type: person deixis (1,053), discourse deixis (98), temporal deixis (103), spatial deixis (95), and social deixis (60). Notably, person deixis was found to be the most common type of deixis in the study, with the highest frequency among all other type.

### Article History

Received: 20-May-2024

Revised : 11-June-2024

Accepted: 20-June-2024

### Keywords:

Pragmatic, Deixis,  
Movie



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## INTRODUCTION

In the field of pragmatics, the study of meaning is concerned with how meaning is communicated by the speaker (or writer) and how meaning is perceived by the listener (or reader). Effective communication relies on both understanding the literal meaning of words in a statement or sentence as well as understanding the intended meaning behind the speaker's remarks. A communication is considered effective when both the speaker and the listener comprehend the content of the conversation, both the speaker's message and the listener's interpretation (Rachmawati 2011). Speaking and expressing oneself is a method for fostering interpersonal relationships among people. Language development involves comprehending and interpreting the context of a discourse. However, if the person speaks in their mother tongue, it is quite simple, but using a foreign language to express themselves is difficult; mistakes or misunderstandings might happen. This occurs as a result of the structure of communication, which has both direct and indirect meanings. According to EF Education First, Indonesia's English Proficiency Index, or EPI, is now rated 80th out of 112 nations globally, down six places from the previous year (Komariah et al. 2023).

The best technique to communicate or demonstrate what the speaker intends is through direct communication. Deixis, one of the language's components, is still unknown to the majority of people, especially Indonesians. Deixis improves the structure and effectiveness of language, ensuring that it does not lead to divergent interpretations by the recipient. Lack of comprehension regarding the opponent's context can lead to ambiguity, perplexity, and misinterpretation (Rizqi and Sabat 2022). Most people believe that as long as the other person understands it, the arrangement of language need not be given any thought. Because of these trivializing features that are deemed unneeded, many Indonesians who are fluent in many languages make mistakes. So, it can be concluded that deixis is part of life.

Based on previous research, person deixis serves as a linguistic marker to differentiate gender (third person) as well as number (first and third person). Additionally, spatial deixis is used to indicate specific locations during a conversation, while temporal deixis is employed to highlight actions or events in time. Furthermore, there exists a linguistic phenomenon known as social deixis, which serves to convey the social relationship between the speaker and human referents, Filmore in the Asri, Januarius, and Dwi's journal (Astria, Mujiyanto, and Rukmini 2019).

Not just via speech, but also through media like newspapers, novels, books, videos, podcasts, and movies, there are many other methods to communicate. There must be something in a movie that the director want to portray; by using deixis, this may be accomplished. The use of language, particularly deixis, in *The Last Letter From Your Lover* (2021) appears to be quite intriguing to evaluate; within two hours, there must be an abundance of deixis employed to transmit messages. That is motivating researchers to do study and collect data to find out (A Stapleton 2017).

The reason of the researcher conducted this research is to show that deixis is a basic thing and must exist in the language rules of language. Regarding deixis related to this research and facilitate the means to understand deixis. This research carried out the activity of watching film content which is one of the data collection technique that is not too complicated and seems more interesting for effective learning innovation. In other reason, english movies as teaching tools because of the fact that some students would prefer to learn a new language with a better learning style and classroom environment (Albiladi, Abdeen, and Lincoln 2018). Furthermore, Netflix Media Centre has claimed that *The Last Letter From Your Lover* is an adaptation of a novel written by Jojo Moyes. "The Last Letter" is a condensed adaptation of Jojo Moyes's extensive 2010 novel of the same title, crafted by Nick Payne and Esta Spalding. This version eliminates the rough aspects of the love epic, along with the intense yearning and slow-paced emotions that come with overwhelming desire (Marquez-Sandoval 2023). In this movie script, the researcher discovered the deixis analysis and identified the predominant deixis kind. It could help other

academics who are working on the same deixis issue, and it might be helpful for teachers to provide other ways to teach deixis through movie screenplay.

This research has certain limitations in that not all aspects of deixis found in movie scripts are relevant to be written in journal. In the data findings, there are repeated aspects of deixis so that researchers choose the most representative examples or avoid repeating explanations. Therefore, research journals are easy for readers to understand and the information presented needs to be simplified and arranged in a structured manner. Too much information about deixis in films can confuse readers and interfere with the readability of the journal.

In research conducted by Desy Eva Laila Rokhmah, Selvira Tatawalat, and Martha Betaubun in 2022 with the title "The Deixis Analysis of Disney's *Raya and The Last Dragon* Movie Script". This study aims to analyze the three main types of deixis: person deixis, time deixis, and place deixis; and to determine the most dominant deixis in the film. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach through analysis context. The data collection and analysis processes consist of the following steps: (1) Downloading the original *Raya and The Last Dragon* movie; (2) Watching the original *Raya and The Last Dragon* movies; (3) Reading the script for the *Raya and The Last Dragon* movie; (4) Classifying the types of deixis in the *Raya and The Last Dragon* manuscripts; (5) Coding the data; and (6) Drawing conclusions based on the data analysis.

Research conducted by Raty Sasmita, Mei Hardiah, and Elfrida (2018) with the title "An Analysis Of Deixis And Its Reference Used By Maincharacter In "A Thousand Words" Movie Script by Steve Koren" which focuses on deixis in the film script. This research is a Qualitative Descriptive Research. This study aims to find the types of Deixis and their references by the main character in the film "A thousand Words" based on the theory put forward by Levinson. The object of this research is the film script "A Thousand Words" written by Steve Koren. This research found five types of deixis in film script, the five types are personal deixis (515 incidents), time deixis (20 incidents), place deixis (34 incidents), discourse deixis (104 incidents) and social deixis (1 incident). The similarities in this study with those 2 previous research are using the same method, qualitative. The collection technique is the same, observing and using the same media object, namely film. Equality finds again, namely the purpose of this research is to take a practical and easy-to-understand path in learning about deixis related to pragmatics.

The difference in this study with previous research are the elaboration of the selected phrases. In the elaboration of the previous research, it only categorized in general what phrases were chosen but did not describe in detail what was meant by these phrases. Not all utterances in the film script are included in this study. This study only mentions excerpts from the utterances of film actors related to the deixis category itself. This research contains a pragmatic theory and another part of the theory itself, namely, deixis. This theory plays a role in increasing students' (readers') understanding of deixis and its function in helping them reach communication goals. This research

shows the types of deixis based on the theory of Stephen Levinson. This research provides information on what types of deixis most often appear in the film scripts that have been studied.

### **Literature Reviews**

The Pragmatics is the study of how these instruments are used in meaningful communication. According to Nurdiana journal that portrays Yule offers four different definitions for pragmatics. First, pragmatics is the field of study that focuses on the analysis of how a speaker or writer conveys their intended meaning to an audience and how that meaning is received by the listener or reader. The analysis of the speaker's intended meaning in their speech has more significance (Aliffia and Arifani 2024). Second, as pragmatics focuses on the analysis of contextual meaning, it inherently involves the interpretation of persons' intended messages within a specific setting. Third, as pragmatics investigates the communication of included information, this approach must also analyze how recipients may infer meaning from direct statements in order to ascertain the speaker's intended message. Pragmatics is the field of study that analyzes how the distance of the audience, whether they are near or distant, influences the amount of information a speaker must provide (Nurdiana 2019).

The researcher comes to the conclusion that pragmatics is the study of context-dependent meaning in what was just spoken. It can transmit information about people's intentions, goals, and many types of activities. In pragmatics and semantics, the term "deixis" refers to the issues of language in which the context and speaker's orientation contribute to the meaning of certain words or phrases. We refer to these terms as deictics. The Greek word deixis, which means "to show or point," is δειξις. It is a noun belonging to the same family as the verb "deicmyini." In this case, the use of terms whose meaning depends on the characteristics of the communication act is referred to as deixis (Azzahrah, Noviyenty, and Edy 2019). This contains the act's date, time, and location as well as the participants—both the speaker and the recipient. For instance, the terms "now" and "here" denote the broadcast's time and location, respectively. Most likely, the phrase "in this city" refers to the city where the statement is made. While some pronouns can have meaning, they also serve as references to other entities. As a result, the pronoun "I" does not relate to a single individual; rather, it implies "first person singular." Draw attention to anyone using it. Although the first-person singular's meaning is constant, each user's interpretation of the reference is unique (Andreea Stapleton 2017).

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The data used in this study was taken from the script of the film *The Last Letter from Your Lover* (2021). The data sources included in this study consist of textual content presented in the format of words, phrases, and sentences resembling a screenplay for a movie. Bogdan and Biklen (1982:27) in the

Herman and Hilman journal discuss the primary role of the researcher in the initial setting of a descriptive qualitative study, and they state that the data from any instrument used in the study will be recognized soon (Herman and Pardede 2020). The method of data collecting employed in this inquiry is documentation. The data is collected by collecting the desired utterances, phrases, and words that show the deixis, as indicated in the movie screenplay. Initially, the researcher observed the film and thoroughly examined the script to identify the terms that matched the deixis forms used in each interaction. The following stage is to underline the words that conducted deixis types with different colors and gather all of the results from the previous phase (the deixis detected in the film screenplay). The technique is then finished by categorizing the data into its various types.

This study's data analysis approach model is the flow model. Data flow models are designed to show the movement of data inside an information system by delineating the procedures involved in transporting data from input to file storage and generating reports (Baronas et al. 2020). An analysis consists of six activities at the same time flows. Data reduction is the systematic procedure of selecting, concentrating, streamlining, extracting, and modifying unprocessed data in order to condense it into a smaller form. Furthermore, data display is defined as structured and actionable. The third phase of analytical work involves the development and validation of conclusions. In order to demonstrate and present the research's data results, this study attempts to apply descriptive analyses. The analysis begins with watching and studying the film and screenplay, followed by gathering the deixis that have been discovered. The deixis is then divided up into each category to make analysis easier. The data is later accumulated in the form of numerical values and percentages. Finally, the data must be thoroughly concluded.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The script for the movie "The Last Letter from Your Lover" has four different sorts of deixis once the data has been gathered and processed. They comprise person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The Last Letter from Your Lover (2021) film script.

**Table 3.1 Table of Total Deixis and Frequencies**

| No | Types of Deixis | Frequencies | Percentages |
|----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1  | Person Deixis   | 1,053       | 74.73%      |
| 2  | Spatial Deixis  | 95          | 6.74%       |
| 3  | Temporal Deixis | 103         | 7.31%       |

|              |                  |              |             |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 4            | Discourse Deixis | 98           | 6.96%       |
| 5            | Social Deixis    | 60           | 4.26%       |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                  | <b>1,409</b> | <b>100%</b> |

This study discovered a result of the frequencies of deixis in the film *The Last Letter From Your Lover* (2021) after examining and reading the data shown above. The analysis of the film started at 00:03:57 and finished at 01:42:41 out of a total runtime of 01:49:17, taking all of the dialogues of the characters in the movie. The study finds that person deixis appeared approximately 1,053 times out of a total of 1,409 occurrences in the movie. This finding defines person deixis as the most used kind of deixis in the research, accounting for 74,73% of all occurrences in the movie.

The second result belongs to temporal deixis, also known as deixis of time, Temporal deixis is the third type of occurrence. In *The Last Letter from Your Lover* movie, the characters used temporal deixis 103 times out of 1,409 utterances, which accounts for around 7,31%. Temporal deixis refers to the specific time and moment in which a dialogue takes place in a movie scene.

The third result belongs to discourse deixis, also as demonstration deixis, which is the third most frequently observed type of deixis featured in the 2021 film *The Last Letter from Your Lover*. Discourse deixis is frequently compared to anaphora. According to (Levinson 2006), discourse deixis and anaphora differ because discourse deixis involves a pronoun that refers to a linguistic expression or part of the discourse itself, while anaphora involves a pronoun that refers to the same entity as a prior linguistic expression. It is shows that discourse deixis appeared in the movie about 98 out of 1,409 it is equal to percentages 6,96% appearances in the movie.

The fourth result relates to spatial deixis, sometimes referred to as deixis of location, which is the fourth frequently occurring kind of deixis that was depicted in the 2021 film *The Last Letter from Your Lover*. Spatial deixis, which is a parameter of pointing on or emphasizing a position of any thing on the movie, often appears in the form of this, these, those, that, and there. With an appearances probability of 95 times out of 1,409, spatial deixis is ranked fourth in terms of appearances, giving it a 6,74% appearances percentage in the film.

Social deixis is the least frequent sort of deixis in *The Last Letter from Your Lover* movie script. Approximately 4,26% of the movie script contains 60 out of 1,409 utterances. This illustrates the behaviour of the speaker towards someone who has been given authority. In order to conduct a more thorough examination of deixis, the researcher offers the following examples in the following sections. Based on the previous study, the data has previously examined five types of deixis. Each type has its own characteristics that serve as indicators for the analysis in this paper. In the movie "*The Last Letter from Your Lover*" (2021), researchers analyse the dialogues to identify specific instances of

deixis. These examples are used to provide a more detailed explanation of each deixis used in the film. These are the followings explanations of the The Last Letter from Your Letter (2021) movie deixis:

### Person Deixis

Person deixis might include additional semantic aspects, such as the gender of the third person. Furthermore, apart from pronouns and agreeing predicates, person or participant-role is indicated by numerous different means. Person deixis refers to the encoding of the roles of participants in a speech event, regardless of the specific utterance being given. (Minkhatunnakhriyah, Hidayat, and Alek 2021) The following examples illustrate examples of person deixis found in this analysis. Each form is explained based on data extracted from the movie script of "The Last Letter from Your Lover" (2021).

#### 1. First Person (I, Me, We, Us)

An example of the subject pronoun **"I"**, **"me"**, **"we/us"** in the movie script of The Last Letter from Your Lover :

- *"Jennifer, I love you."* by Anthony O'Hare.  
The subject pronouns **"I"** to show that refers himself.
- *"Mrs. Stirling did not accompany me to New York."* By Anthony O'Hare.  
The subject pronouns **"me"** refers to the person speaking, which is a first person singular pronoun that refers to the speaker himself.
- *"Shall we start?"* by Lawrence Stirling  
The pronoun **"we"** is used to talk about a group of people that includes **"us"** or an organisation that **"we"** are a part of Jennifer Stirling, Lawrence Stirling, and Anthony O'Hare.

#### 2. Second Person

An example of the subject pronoun **"You"** in the movie script of The Last Letter from Your Lover :

- *"You were lovely and funny and full of joie de vivre."* by Jennifer's best friend.  
The use subject pronoun **'You'** to show when we are addressing to two.

#### 3. Third Person (He, She, They)

An example of the subject pronoun **"he/she"** and **"they"** in the movie script of The Last Letter from Your Lover :

- *"He returned to London immediately."* by Jennifer Stirling

The pronoun “**he**” is utilised to refer to those who identify as masculine, including men and boys.

- “*My family, my friends, **they** would disown me.*” by Jennifer Stirling.  
It is a pronoun that refers to the "family" and "friends" mentioned previously. Deixis is found in “**they**” because it refers to certain people who are the speaker's family and friends.

### **Spatial Deixis**

There, here, next to, beside, etc are all examples of spatial deixis or place deixis. Place deixis may be portrayed alongside many of the same criteria as time deixis. As a result, such allusions to location might be relational or absolute in character (Levinson 2006). Within the researcher's data corpus, the writers discovered 9 different kinds of location deixis, specifically bedroom, here, archive office, room, house of spouses, France Shore Resort, ballroom, there, and Sea Legs Boat. Below is an example and an explanation for each element found in the movie script data.

#### 1. Adverb Place : Here

The word “**here**” in dialog Jennifer Stirling and hotel staf shows the occurrence of proximal place deixis.

- The first utterance is spoken by Jennifer Stirling:  
“*Hello, I’m looking for Mr. Anthony O’Hare. He’s in **room 268**.*”  
The word “**room 268**” spoken by Jennifer Stirling indicates the location where Anthony was stayed in the room are conducting the dialogue, that is in the hotel.
- The second expression is spoken by staf of hotel:  
“*Mr. O’Hare is no longer staying with us **here**.*”  
Moreover, the word “**here**” spoken by hotel staf shows the location where Anthony O’hare stayed for a while, it is in the hotel.

#### 2. Adverb Place : There

- The first utterance is spoken by Anthony O’Hare:  
“*I love New York. I’ve been offered a post **there** and i want you to come with me.*”
- The second utterance spoken by Jennifer Stirling:  
“*How can I go **there** and just leave my life behind.*”



The word “**there**” Anthony O’Hare and Jennifer Stirling shows the occurrence of distal place deixis which is shows the location where the appropriate place to head New York.

### Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis refers to the way in which the speaker's perspective is situated in relation to the past, present, and future. This form of deixis is grammaticalized in adverbs of time (such as now, tomorrow, then) and in verb tense. Below are instances of temporal deixis observed in this analysis. The explanation of each form is derived from the textual evidence found in the movie script of *The Last Letter from Your Lover* 2021.

#### 1. Present time

The time axis utilized at the moment of the word "you" is the current time type. The time that is now occurring throughout the chat is indicated by the present time. There are two different kinds of current time in our data corpus: now and tonight. Here the example and explanation of each from the data movie script *The Last Letter from Your Letter* (2021).

- “*Well, you can reopen it **now**. Please.*” by Jennifer Stirling

The writer found the phrase “now” in the conversation. It is spoken by Jennifer Stirling and the speaker at that event is Postal Staff. The term "now" is a deictic statement as it indicates the specific moment of utterance and refers to the time when speech events occur. So, it can be categorized into present time deixis.

#### 2. Past time

The past time is employed to indicate time that has passed since the dialogue began. Three different categories of past time – years, coming back, and last time – were included in our data corpus. Below is example of temporal deixis seen in this analysis. The explanation of each form is derived from the data extracted from the movie script of *The Last Letter from Your Lover* 2021.

- “*I had a really great time **last night**.*” by Ellie Haworth

The phrase "**last night**" in conversation alludes to a period of time in the past. The word "was" is to be used for the past tense with the feature "**I had....**" after the word from the last night. Consequently, the phrase "**last night**" may be included into the past time deixis.

### 3. Future time

The future time is used to indicate time that will occur in the future throughout the course of the conversation, such as tomorrow, next week, shortly, and so on. Below are examples of temporal deixis observed in this analysis. The explanation of each form is derived from the textual evidence found in the movie script of *The Last Letter from Your Lover 2021*.

- *"I will see you again sometime soon."* By Ellie Haworth.

The phrase "**soon**" in conversation alludes to a period of future event. The term "soon" is a deictic statement indicating the upcoming occurrence of speech events and is used about the time after pronouncing the word "**you**." In this context, the speaker, Ellie Haworth, urges the addressee, Rory, to contemplate the future. So, it can be categorized into future time deixis.

### Discourse Deixis

It focuses on how language is used in speech to connect with different parts of communication that are used inside the speech itself. Deixis discourse refers to specific segments of a conversation that have been mentioned or are being discussed, helping the interpretation and understanding of the conversation (Haloho and Johan 2020). Here the following example from the data movie script. Here are some of examples from the dialogues in the scripts:

#### 1. Following example using word "**this**"

- Housemaid : *"Mrs. Stirling, this just came for you."*

The phrase "**this**" is found in this conversation to indicate that the housemaid received a written letter that the housemaid was holding for Mrs. Stirling. Thus, the phrase "**this**" is categorized in the proximal discourse deixis and indicates an object in her hand.

#### 2. Following example using word "**that**"

- Lawrence Stirling : *"Darling, I think **that's** enough."*

The phrase "**that**" belongs discourse deixis. The word that is also utilized and said by Lawrence Stirling in the exchange above refers to acts of a wine that drank by Jennifer Stirling, hence it may be classified as discourse deixis.

3. Following example using word **“these (or include those)”**

- Ellie Haworth : *“I met with Mr. O'Hare, with Anthony, and, um, he wanted me to give you **these**.”*

The phrase **“these”** is found in this conversation to indicate that speaker Ellie Haworth gave and pointed to several written letters from Mr. O'Hare to Jennifer Stirling where the letters at Jennifer Stirling's desk. Thus, the phrase **“these”** is the plural form of **“this”** and can be categorized in proximal discourse deixis.

### **Social Deixis**

In a given social setting, social deixis is the use of language to transmit information about a person's identity, status, or role. Here are some of examples utterances from the script :

- Housemaid : *“I'll show you to your room, **Madam**”*
- Anthony O'Hare : *“Don't try to fix me, **Mrs.** Stirling.”*
- Jennifer Stirling : *“Come, Mr. Boot. Dance with me.”*
- Lawrence Stirling : *“Everything is going to be fine, **Darling**.”*

The phrase **“Madam”**, **“Mr/Mrs”**, and **“Darling”** is spoken several times by the cast of the movie and according to this film, the term **“Mr/Mrs”** is considered polite and creates a sense of social distance between the speaker and the person being addressed. It can be classified as a form of social deixis since it involves the relationships that occur in social situations, such as those between a housemaid and employer, prosperous people and the middle class, and partners/spouses and acquaintances.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study concludes that, in accordance with Stephen C. Levinson's thesis (1983), there are five varieties of deixis in *The Last Letter From Your Lover* movie. Following our conclusion of deixis in the preceding explanations, it is saw that the use of deictic terms that refer to person deixis, spatial deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis was an easy situation. According to the results of the data collection, the deixis types in the *The Last Letter From Your Lover* movie script include person, discourse, place or geographical, time or temporal, and social 1,409 pieces of total data that display deixis.

Person deixis is the deixis kind that occurs most frequently in the movie. There are around 74,73% or 1,053 out of 1,409 utterances. It suggests that the characters in the movie mostly employ person deixis as a form of communication. Temporal deixis is the second degree of occurrence after person deixis proportion. The characters in this movie use this kind 103 times out of 1,409 data, or around 7,31%. Discourse deixis makes up the third percent of the event. There are 98 expressions out of 1,409 in the movie script, or around

6,96%. The fourth is spatial deixis reaches out of 1,409 pronunciations, the characters in this movie use it 95 times, or 6,74% of the time. The last and the lowest is social deixis used for about 60 times or 4,26% of the time.

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