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Article

# Exploring Deixis and Politeness Strategy Committed between Student and Lecturer

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## A B S T R A C T

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This current study aims at seeking the type of deixis and politeness strategy often used by student and lecturer. The writer applied a descriptive qualitative research method to explore the phenomena on student and lecturer interaction. The data were primarily collected from student and lecturer chat on WhatsApp and Email. Then, those were analyzed on deixis and politeness theory proposed by Brown and Levinson theory. The research revealed that the occurrences of person deixis and address terms were prevalently committed. As the conclusion, the results of this study might become insight for students as an effort to create effective interaction with their lecturers.

**Keywords:** *Deixis, Politeness Strategy, Interaction.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Pragmatics is the study of meaning delivered by the speaker (or writer) and interpreted by the listener (or reader). Pragmatics is the study about the speaker's intent. In other words Pragmatics is branch linguistics that examines the intent of the speaker or the purpose of what is said by the speaker (Yule (1996). In order for that to happen, speakers (or writers) must be able to depend on a lot of shared assumptions and expectations when they try to communicate (Ramasari, 2021).

Among the fields, the two of pragmatic studies namely deixis and politeness strategy are attracted to be investigated. Because of classroom university context, recognizing the background or the context of the utterance can help students understanding the meaning of the utterance easier. Based on the context and relation of the speaker and the addressee in a speech event, the interpretation of deixis will be different for every people (Mayori, 2020; Nurvagian,2021). Deixis is the word that can be interpreted the meaning based on the context. Deixis is a Greek term which, for one of the most basic things, means 'pointing' via language (Yule, 1996).

On the other hand, politeness is also relevant and important in education, such as in classroom teaching and learning interaction. During the teaching and learning process the lecturer uses many utterances to communicate with the students which show politeness strategy. In fact, one of the emerging issues of online learning is also the use of text messaging over the WhatsApp application, among teachers and students which is concerned with students' impoliteness. A body of literature has extensively argued that students are less polite language users when sending texts to their lecturers. So, politeness is needed to be implemented since rudeness creates conflict between teacher and students (Mulyono et al, 2019; Yoga et al, 2018).

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Some investigations dealing with deixis and politeness strategy had been scrutinized. Hasanah (2021) found that the most dominant in students' speech texts is person deixis and an analysis of deixis existed on articles at Jakarta Post by Ramasari (2021), it was found that pronoun of person deixis was most frequently used. Sapitri et al (2019) find out the modesty of politeness strategies proposed by Brown & Levinson. The lecturers and students frequently used positive strategies as signs of a psychologically close relationship, reciprocity, and friendship in a group as found in Fitriyah & Ridwan's research (2019).

Types of deixis is supported by Brown and Levinson defining the deixis into five types, they are: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis and discourse deixis.

### *Person Deixis*

It clearly operates on a basic three elements, exemplified by pronouns for first person (I), second person (You) and third person (she, he, it). Person deixis involves the speaker (I) and the addressee (You). In conversation, each person constantly changes from being I to being you. The choice of one of these forms instead of another, because of the surrounding social circumstances is sometimes described as social deixis.

### *Place Deixis*

Place or space deixis refers to the specification of locations relative to anchorage in the speech event. The importance of location specification in general can be gauged from the fact that there seem to be two basic ways of referring to objects - by describing or naming them on the one hand and by locating them on the other.

### *Time Deixis*

Time deixis can also be called as temporal deixis. Temporal deixis functions to locate points or intervals on the time axis, using the moments of utterance as a reference point. People can find some examples of temporal deixis. It can be found in the use of time signal, such as: now, soon, recently, then, yesterday, this year. Besides, it is usually found in the use of tenses.

### *Social Deixis*

It encode the social identities of participants (properly, incumbents of participants roles), or the social relationship between them, or between one of them and persons and entities referred to. The usage of social deixis brings the use of polite pronouns and title of address and encodes the social relationships on the part of the participants in the conversation that determined, for example, the choice of honorific or polite or intimate or insulting speech level in addition to honorifics, examples include nicknames, informal names, and title of respect.

### *Discourse Deixis*

It is generally conceded that such words have at least a component of meaning that resists truth conditional meaning treatment. Words seem to indicate how the utterance that contains them is a response to, or a continuation of, some portion of the prior discourse. In English, there are some deictic expressions which include in discourse deixis, such as: but, therefore, in conclusion, to the contrary, still, however, anyway, well, besides, actually, all in all, so, after all, etc.

Types of politeness strategy according to the politeness theory of Brown and Levinson has become a paradigm for study on politeness strategy. The politeness strategies of Brown and Levinson (1978) could be divided into four main strategies:

bald-on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off-record politeness strategies.

### *Bald on Record*

Brown and Levinson provide the example of a bald on-record strategy and suggest that the use of bald-on record direct imperatives is evident. Imperatives are often smoothed with hedges or traditional signs of politeness.

### *Positive Politeness*

The second strategy is constructive politeness and is usually found in groups of friends or in situations where people of certain social circumstances are reasonably familiar to each other. It typically tries to minimize the difference between them by demonstrating friendliness and a keen interest in wanting to follow the address, i.e. this technique aims to minimize the danger to the audience.

### *Negative Politeness*

The negative politeness is the core of the respective compartment, just as the heart of families and joking is positive politeness. In addition, Brown and Levinson (1978) say that the negative politeness outputs in all forms are used in general for social distancing. Therefore, they are likely to be used whenever a speaker or a sender wants to put a social brake on the course of interaction.

### *Off-record*

The off-record strategy as a communicative act is done in such a way that a clear communicative intention cannot be attributed. In this situation, the actor leaves himself "out" by giving some defensible interpretations. In addition, Brown and Levinson (1978) listed one of the main strategies of non-recording and its sub-categories, giving hints, giving association clues, presupposing, understating, overstating, using tautologies, using contradictions, being ironic, using metaphors, and using a rhetorical question.

Deixis and politeness studies which explore deeply about the English students' communications are still finite and therefore, need to be further explored. In this study, the writer tries to examine two of the field of Pragmatics study namely deixis and politeness strategy on student and lecturer communication via WhatsApp and email. The more detail research questions are: (1) what types of deixis prevalently used by the lecturer and the student? (2) What types of politeness strategies commonly used by the lecturer and the student?

### METHOD

This research was regarded as a qualitative descriptive study, a sit showed the communication situations experienced by student and lecturer. It involved a process of analysis. In qualitative research, inquirers employ theory as a wide explanation (Creswell and Creswell, 2017). To analyze and describe the type of politeness strategy and deixis in conversations between student and lecturer, indeed this used descriptive technique.

Data Colleting Technique and Analysis is as follow the data were primarily collected from WhatsApp and email chats between 1 student and 6 lecturers on different events. The student enrolled in one of state university in Lampung. From those, the writer tried to get some chatting to be analyzed. It led the writer to follow Miles and Huberman model that consists of data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing/verification (Miles and Huberman, 1994).

The data were further analyzed using model of politeness strategy and deixis offered by Brown and Levinson (1987) which consist five types of deixis: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis and four main types of politeness strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record (indirect). The data from the

documents were then confronted to provide the descriptions to answer research question 1 and 2.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result of the data analysis, the types of deixis as follows

Table 1. The use of deixis

No	Types of Deixis	Frequencies	Specifications
1	Person deixis	15	(I, you, we)
2	Place deixis	4	(here)
3	Time deixis	5	(Beok pagi, sore nanti, tadi siang, besok senin, the next)
4	Discourse deixis	5	(that, then,terus, more than)
5	Social deixis	14	((Sir, mam, bu, Bpk,)

As provided in table 1 above, person deixis is utilized the most in interaction. The first personal deixis has got its plural and singular forms. Its singular personal pronouns forms include "I, me, my, mine". The first person singular pronoun "I" usually preponderates in speeches. "I" and its variants basically express the identity of an individual speaker. In this case, "I" represent the student that communicates with lecturer in particular thing based on the intension of communication.

The pronoun "you" traditionally refers to the person (s) spoken to by the speaker. In this case, lecturer as the use of personal name and direct pronoun as address terms was prompted by the familiarity of the interlocutors in the communication. It is normal to call student using "you" because lecturer elder and has high level at that circumstances.

While, "we" become first person deixis used here, since it positioned the student as representative of sending the group task and "we" belongs to plural because the member of the group consist more than one person.

Types of politeness strategy analysis explain as follow; this part provides the politeness expressions used by the student in his communication. The strategies can be seen in the forms of greetings, thanks, address terms, and apologies.

Table 2. The use of politeness strategies

No	Types of Politeness Strategy	Frequencies	Expression
1	Greetings	9	(Assalmualaikum, Walaikumsalam, selamat sore)
2	Thanks	8	(Thanks, Thanks a lot, Thank you very much, Terima kasih)
3	Address terms	14	(Sir, Mam, Bu, Bpk,)
4	Apologies	5	(I do apologize, Mohon maaf)

By seeing the table 2, it can be stated that address terms is exist the most. The detail analyses are then explained. These address terms made their communication (student and lecturer) more polite such as in asking questions and in requesting during the communicating. Using address terms reduce the possibility of face threatening caused by activities like asking questions and requesting. Such as to address the female lecturer by using mam and male lecturer by using sir, those were considered as the respectable person. Student positioned herself as a child. This utterance indicated that he had good emotional relationship, and felt close to his lecturer.

## CONCLUSIONS

All types of deixis and politeness strategies of Brown and Levinson were used by the student and lecturer in their interaction. The results can also become meaningful input to other institutions in Indonesia, especially for practitioners of the EFL classroom interaction (e.g. teachers or lecturers and students) dealing with how they should behave in communication in order to grasp effective ways of interaction in the English language teaching. The findings of this study are also expected to contribute to the literature of deixis and politeness investigation especially in interaction context.

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