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AN ANALYSIS OF PERSONAL DEIXIS IN KEVIN RUDD'S RESIGNATION SPEECH

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of deixis is still the dominant topic for investigation in the field of pragmatics. This study seeks to analyze types of person deixis categories in the Resignation Speech of Kevin Rudd, the former minister for Foreign Affairs in Australia. The study used the framework of deixis proposed by Stephen Levinson (1983) as well as a pragmatic approach for the analysis of distinct types of person deixis elements in this speech. The objectives of this study were to identify and classify the person deixis in the speech. It was decided that the best method for this analysis to adopt the qualitative research design. To analyze the data, theory of Deixis from Levinson (1983) covering the person deixis were used. Hence, to collect the data of the research methods of conducting the descriptive statistics was employed. This study concludes that the speech used the first person singular deixis which implied that the resignation was due to the speaker's willingness.

Key words: *deixis, person deixis, speech.*

INTRODUCTION

The single most obvious way in which languages are related is through phenomenon of deixis. Essentially, deixis is concerned with the way in which language is encoded or grammatical features of the context of utterance in the speech event, and is also concerned with the ways in the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance (Levinson, 1983).

Political discourse includes parliamentary debates, political interviews, political speeches, etc. Generally, in parliamentary debates and political interviews interactants use language in face-to-face interaction, with different interactants using the same pronouns as shifters, that is to say each time there is a new speaker the same pronoun shifts in order to accommodate the personality of the speaker. However, in the case of political speeches there is one speaker, who constantly refers to the self as 'I'. (Maalej, 2012).

Speech is one of the institutional talks. The general goal is to animate the audience by presenting a conflict and confronting two opponents, which creates an atmosphere of disagreement. The goal of the speech is not only to provide information, but also to gain the affection of the audience. (Verdonik et al, 2008)

Kevin Rudd abruptly announced his resignation as Foreign Minister on 22 February 2012, citing Gillard's failure to counter character attacks launched by Simon Crean and "a number of other faceless men" as his reasons. Speaking to the press in an early morning news conference in Washington D.C., Rudd explained that he

considered Gillard's silence as evidence that she no longer supported him, and therefore he could not continue in office. "I can only serve as Foreign Minister if I have the confidence of Prime Minister Gillard and her senior ministers," he said.

It is interesting to analyze Kevin Rudd's Resignation speech due to his reasons related to the pragmatics aspects, particularly the deixis. This study focused on the personal deixis to see whether the resignation was committed by himself or others.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Deixis deals with connections between discourse and the situation in which discourse is used. The term of 'deixis' is derived from the Greek word which mean 'to show' or 'to indicate' used to denote the elements in a language which refer directly to the situation. The presence of patterns in the use of deictic expressions can be described as idiosyncratic and these patterns interact with other textual phenomena to contribute to the impression of a fictional mind that works in a striking and peculiar way. (Semino, 2011).

According to S. Levinson, deictic categories fall into five basic types, namely **person, place, time, discourse** and **social**.

Person deixis involves the identification of the participants in a communicative situation. This category of deixis includes first, second and third persons. The first person refers to the speaker himself (I, me), whereas the second person is the speaker's reference to one or more addressees (you). Finally, the third person (he, she, and they) makes reference to people who is part of the conversational group but who are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterance.

- a) First person (I). The first person deixis is a reference that refers to the speaker or both speaker and referent grouped with the speaker which is expressed in singular pronouns (I, me, myself, mine) and plural pronouns (we, us, ourselves, our, ours). The first person deixis can be divided into exclusive first person deixis, which refers to a group including addressee.
- b) Second person (you). The second person deixis is a deictic reference to a person or persons identified as addressee, such as you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours.
- c) And the third person (He, She, It). Third person deixis is a deictic reference to a referent(s) not identified as the speaker or addressee and usually imply to the gender that the utterance refers to, for example: he, she, and they, him, himself, her, herself.

In other words, person deixis is described as expression in which to refer to person who the speakers intend to refer.

Place deixis deals with the spatial location of the entities. This category of deixis indicates the locations which are close (here, this) to and distant (there, that) from the speaker. Levinson (1983, p.79) stated that place or space deixis concerns for the specification of locations to anchorage points in the speech event and typically the speaker, and there are two basic ways of referring objects by describing or naming them on the one hand and by locating them on the other.

Briefly, place deixis is an expression used to show the location relative to the location of a participant in the speech event.

Time deixis is concerned with the identification of the time of the events described in the utterance either spoken or written. Time deixis is encoded in adverbs of time (now, then), and in verb tenses (past, present). Grundy (2008, p.31-32) states another important time deixis is tense system. In fact, almost every sentence makes reference to an event time. Often this event time can only be determined in relation to the time of the utterance. Moreover, Yule (1996, 14-15) says that the basic type of temporal deixis in English is in the choice of verb tense. English only has two basic forms, the present and the past.

Discourse deixis pertains to the use of certain expressions within the discourse to refer to some portion of the discourse itself. For instance, the expression the last sentence would be analogous to last month. Levinson (1983, p.85-86) added that discourse deixis should be distinguished from a related notion that of anaphora. Moreover, discourse deixis shares with anaphora and cataphora the capacity to function as a text cohesion device.

In other words, discourse deixis is an expression used to refer to certain discourse that contain the utterance or as a signal and its relations to surrounding text.

Social deixis involves the encoding of social distinctions relative to the roles of the participants, particularly to social status and rank between the speaker and the addressee (Levinson 1983, 62-63) Levinson (1983, p.90) stated that social deixis concerns with the aspects of sentences which reflect or establish or determined by certain realities of participants or the social situation in which the speech event occurs. He adds that there are two basic kinds of social deixis information that seems to be encoded in language around the world. They are: Relational social deixis and Absolute social deixis. Briefly, social deixis is a deictic expression used to distinct social status. Social deixis separated in to two kinds relational and absolute social deixis.

Minister speeches have been subjected to linguistic inquiries for some time now. This focus is probably due to the institutional voices which these speeches project: ministers are considered the "most eligible" representatives of their countries, whose words therefore bear the semantic load of their nation's ethos and soul. **Chiluwa (2011)** stated that discursive/pragmatic strategies such as implication, indirectness, speech acts and modality have been implied to social criticism, political mobilization and social interaction.

THE METHODOLOGY

The data were taken from the resignation speech of Kevin Rudd, the former minister for Foreign Affairs in Australia to answer the research questions as follow:

1. What person deixis were found in Kevin Rudd Resignation speech?
2. What are the percentages of each person deictic marker found in Kevin Rudd Resignation speech?
3. What did the use of first person deixis imply in Kevin Rudd Resignation speech?

This speech was used as the research subject due to his controversial action to resign from his position as the minister for Foreign Affairs on 22 February 2012. This speech contains many types of deixis.

The method of the research uses the framework of deixis proposed by Stephen Levinson (1983) as well as a pragmatic approach for the analysis of distinct types of deictic expressions. Deixis categories are one of the ways of describing and interpreting Kevin Rudd's resignation speech, whereas a pragmatic approach will help to clarify the actual meaning of deixis items in the speech.

The method that was used in collecting the data was the documentation method, in which the activities mostly include watching, reading and note taking of the data from the speech. The method that was used in analyzing the data were qualitative descriptive method. The analysis focused on speech, which have representative values based on the proposed deixis types. Those all were classified based on Stephen C. Levinson theory, in terms of five types of deixis, where it belongs to. The frequencies of the data, especially the frequencies of the person deixis that occur in the speech were used in data analysis. The percentages of deixis frequency were counted by dividing the number of a specific type of deixis and total of deixis times 100%.

FINDING AND DATA ANALYSIS

The data that were used in analyzing types of personal deixis in this study were taken from *Kevin Rudd Resignation* speech.

The data which were analyzed only the representative data of types of personal deixis found in the speech of Kevin Rudd. This analysis includes types of person deixis.

Person deixis

Person deixis concerns the encoding of the role participant in the speech event in which utterance in question is delivered. In Kevin Rudd Resignation speech, there was found three types of person deixis. Those are first person, second and third person deixis.

a. First Person Deixis

I was elected by the people of this country to bring back a fair go for all Australians and I have given my absolute best to do that. (line 1)

I've given it my absolute all. In that spirit I am proud of the achievements that we have delivered to make this country fairer. (line 2)

I'm proud of the fact that we kept Australia out of the global economic recession. I'm proud of the fact that had we not done so we would have had a half a million Australians out there out of work, because that's what happened around the rest of the world. (line 3)

In the sentences above, *I* refers to the person who is currently speaking. *I* as deictic element indicate first person deixis. According to Levinson, this deictic element was categorized as singular first person pronoun. The deictic marker *I* have

role as the main character in the speech. The whole story only narrated and expressed by one speaker or one person. Therefore, *I* here directly refers to Kevin Rudd , a former ministry of foreign affairs. It can be seen obviously that Kevin Rudd was the person who was willing to resign. It was not due to someone else's interfering. He had some reasons to resign from his position.

I'm proud of the fact that the first thing we did in Government was ratify the Kyoto protocol. I'm also proud of the fact that we boosted the renewable energy target to 20 per cent. I'm proud of the fact that we tried three times to get an emissions trading scheme through this parliament, although we failed.(line 19)

In the sentences above, I shifted to we. The first person singular shifted to the first person plural. It is in line with the study by Malamud (2012), to include an independently motivated type-shifting mechanism for feature-joining, and offers the first step towards a principled way of constraining interactions between the personal and impersonal pronominal paradigms.

From the sentences above, it can be seen clearly that the minister, Kevin Rudd, did his duty for the sake of the Australian citizens. He was proud of working together with the citizens for their country, Australia.

When we look back on this in a decade's time, and the fact that we've made the Australian Government, for the first time in our history, the dominant funder of our nation's public hospital system. This will be seen as a very, very deep reform. (line 21)

The word *we* in the sentence has a role as a subject and the word *our* has a role as possessive determiner. From those sentences, it explained that Kevin Rudd involved the people during his duty as the minister of Foreign affairs. He didn't work alone.

Vukovic (2012) study explores the use of subject pronouns and the person of the verb in the Parliament of Montenegro. The results of the analysis of the subject pronouns used, as well as the subject of the verb, strongly suggest that in speeches, which are prepared in advance, Montenegrin politicians will use more of the first person plural (*we*) perspective, while its use will be significantly less in spontaneous talk.

It is in line with the study done by Mulderrig (2012). She argued that the pronoun *we* was an important rhetorical tool by which New Labor was able to legitimate its policy decisions through the idea of neoliberal 'consensus' on the context of education.

From line 3 to line 22 (see Appendix), Kevin Rudd declared his pride of some situations during his duty as the Minister of Foreign affairs. It can be implied that his speech contains the quotative marker *be + proud of* in the environment of his office and surroundings. Lamerichs and TeMolder (2009) also explored the discursive uses of a self-quotation that contains the quotative marker *be + like* in the environment of gossiping among adolescents.

b. Second Person Deixis

You know if you go out there and people are suffering from cancer, it does alter your priorities. (line 13)

The word **you** in the sentence has a role as a subject and the word **your** has a role as possessive determiner. That was a replacement for someone who has a role as addressee. The information about the deictic element of the personal pronoun can be seen in the previous discourse.

That's the funny thing about health isn't it, has an effect on you. (line 14)

The word *you* in the sentence as to the second person deixis. Many European languages have two forms of second person deixis. **You** is thus used to address a person superior to oneself in status. **Li (2009)** concluded that in translating **you** we should keep in mind that a correct understanding and proper translation of **you** cannot be achieved if context clues for the social and pragmatic meanings of you in a source language are not taken into considerations.

Imagine being a Prime Minister with a seat Brisbane, with everyone rolling into your electorate office, holding them personally accountable for everything I have done here. Let's bear a thought for them. They are wonderful people. (line 34)

Here, **them**, as the second person deixis. **Sowinska & Dubrovskaya (2012)** explores discursive construction of *them* within the context of the debates on the placement of the US anti-ballistic missile defense system in Central and Eastern Europe.

c. Third Person Deixis

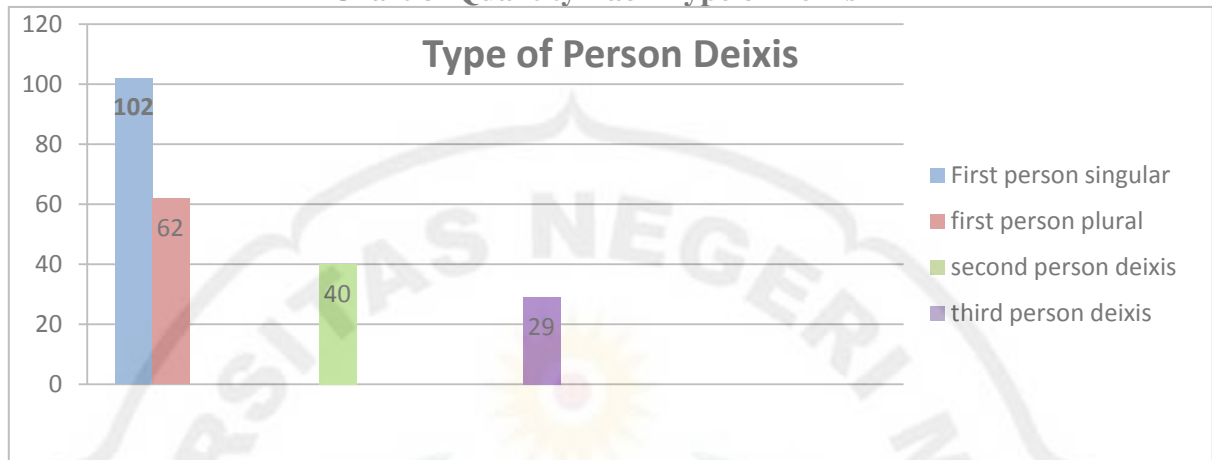
She's always more succinct than me. And much better looking. The work Therese has done in the community is formidable. And whether it's disabilities, homelessness, UNICEF. This is a very good person. A very, very good person and one of life's eternal mysteries is why she ever married me in the first place. She is a very good person, as are these fantastic kids of mine.

Here **she** is deictic reference refers to third person deixis or Levinson categorized that deictic element as singular third person deixis, that is used for considering the gender of addressee especially for female. Here **she** refers to Therese who is the wife of Kevin Rudd.

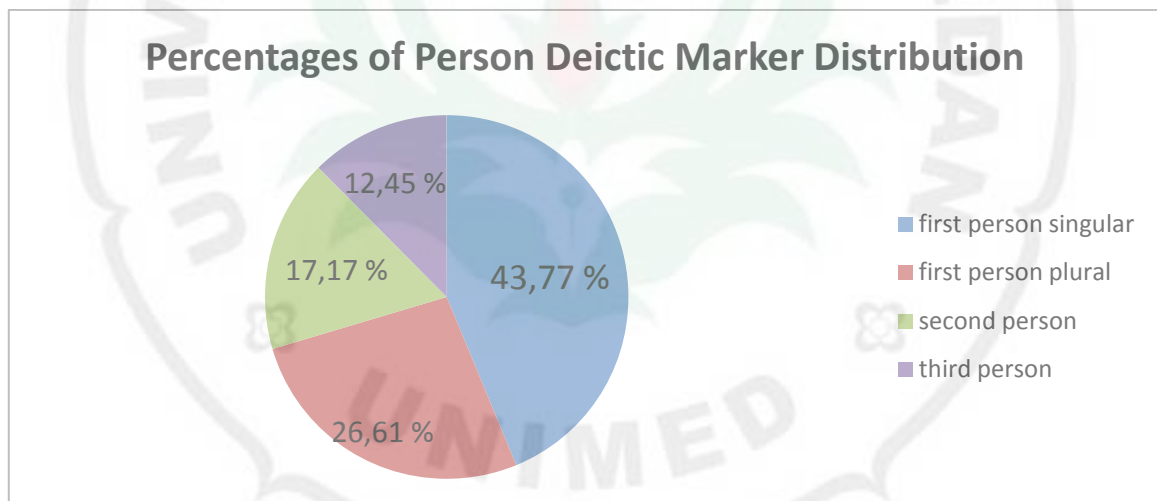
Analysis of Person Deictic Markers Distribution

The analysis of deictic markers distribution are only focused on the types of person deixis, first person deixis, second person deixis, and third person deixis.

Chart of Quantity Each Type of Deixis



Percentages of Each Type of Deixis



Based on the analysis of the person deictic marker and types of deixis above, first Person deixis was as the highest number of percentage deictic marker because person deixis was strongly influenced by the dominance that the speaker (first person) exerted over the text in the speech. The resignation speech is only narrated by one speaker (I). Therefore, the personal pronoun *I* as the most dominant of deictic markers in the Resignation speech of Kevin Rudd.

It can be implied that Kevin Rudd resigned from his positions as the Minister of Foreign Affairs due to his own willingness, not due to someone else's interfering.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion, there are three conclusions for each of the problems. Firstly, the types of person deixis in the resignation speech that can be found are first person singular deixis, first person plural deixis, second person

deixis, and third person deixis. Deictic markers marked each type of deixis. Secondly, the percentages of the first person singular deixis is 43,77%, first person plural deixis is 26,61%, second person deixis is 17,17%, and third person deixis is 12,45%. This results show that first person singular is the dominant person deixis in Kevin Rudd speech. The use of person singular deixis implies that the speaker resigned due to his own willing.



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