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Deixis Analysis in Film Tenet

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Abstract.

This study was entitled “Deixis Analysis in Film Tenet”. The problems of this study were what types of person deixis are used in Film Tenet? what is the dominant person deixis used in Film Tenet? And what are the reference meanings of person deixis found in the film Tenet? The objectives of this study were to find the types of person deixis, to find the most dominant type of person deixis in film Tenet and to find out the reference meaning of person deixis in film Tenet. This study only focused on the utterances used by the main character in film Tenet. This study was purposed to find out the person deixis types, the dominant type of person deixis used in film Tenet and to find out the reference meaning of person deixis in film Tenet. This script got from internet. The study applied descriptive qualitative method. The following steps, it applied was the first, this study looked for the movie, the second, this study watched the film, then, looked for the film script of the film Tenet, the fourth, this study identified the utterance in the film Tenet based on Levinson’ theory. From the analysis, it is found that there are three types; first-person, second-person and third-person deixis and the most dominant were found is first-person Deixis with 153 data (42.5%), second-person Deixis with 132 data (36.7%), and third-person Deixis with 75 data (20.8%). The use of first-person deixis indicated if the speaker is referring himself, or both speakers, and referent group with the speaker. While, the second-person Deixis indicated if the speakers use deictic referent to a person or persons identified as the addressee. And the third-person indicated if the speaker referent to person or entities that either speakers or addresses in the utterance. which is used in this film.

Keywords: *Person deixis, pragmatics, Film Tenet.*

Introduction

Communication is an act in which humans express their feelings or express their desire to other humans (Hingne, 2013). Communication is not only uttered orally but people can apply it in a form of written work namely novel, script, short story, poem, song, etc. These entire works are also called literary works. Within those literary works, the researcher can explore their linguistic skill related to a symbol, figurative language, or deixis. According to Bohnermeyer (2009), deixis is a type of reference that is formed using a linguistic method in which the sign is used to refer to words that cannot be fully applied without additional contextual information. Words are deictic if their semantic meaning does not change but their denotation differs depending on the time and/or place. (Mizuno et al.,

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2011). Levinson (1983) also stated that deixis is part of a pragmatic associated with certain words or phrases that change because of the context. The changing context is sometimes caused by changes in the situation such as personal, time, and place.

Through linguistics, humans have studied language by using scientific methods. according to Suherman (2012) language can be defined as an organized symbol system that expresses thought and feelings. Leech (1974) explained that language has the informational and expressive function, informational function mean that language used to give new information and expressive function mean that language can be used to express speaker's feeling. Based on this statement we can conclude that Language is a system for expressing our thoughts and feeling to others. Pragmatic is a study about the listener delivered by the speaker and the listener will interpret what the speaker meant (Tologana, 2016). This research is more focused on the analysis of the meaning of what the speaker says. Pragmatic has five specific fields of study, namely deixis, presupposition, speech acts, and conversational implicature. But in this research, the researcher would discuss one of the pragmatic fields of study, deixis. Not every word in a sentence can be understood if we do not know the context of the speaker, such as the word *there*, *here*, *yesterday*, or *today*. Some sentences in the English language hard to be understood if we do not know who is talking and who the reference is. This can lead to misunderstandings about the meaning and intention between the speaker and the listener. To understand the meaning of the speaker's words, the listener must be able to identify the meaning of the speech or sentence being delivered. This can be solved by deixis.

Yule (2012) stated that based on pronouns, deixis operates in three sections, first-person (*I*, *we*), second-person (*you*), and third-person (*he*, *she*, *it*). In this research, the researcher focused on person deixis. The word *there* and *that* can be written by anyone and has so many meanings. Depending on who writes it, the sense of the word *there* can reflect several locations. If the person does not understand the written context, they can misinterpret the meaning of the word there. Deixis can be found in spoken and written languages.

In various literary works, we often encounter the use of deixis. One of them is the film, in which one are dialogues between the characters in the film point to that are many deixis elements that can be studied. In this research, the researcher uses a film directed by Christopher Nolan entitled *Tenet*.

Tenet is a science fiction action-thriller film directed and written by Christopher Nolan, produced by Emma Thomas. *Tenet* is a film that tells the story of a CIA agent, the "Protagonist" who gets recruited by an organization called *Tenet*. The Protagonist then teaming up with a partner named Neil to track the inverted object and trying to prevent world war III. The Protagonist must travel through time to complete the mission. The researcher chose this film because in this film dialogue contains many types of person deixis.

This research used a pragmatic approach because the researcher wants to analyze the meaning of person deixis that is used in the film *Tenet*. Therefore, in this research, the researcher would analyze the dialog in the film using a pragmatic approach.

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Literature Review

Levinson (1983) stated that pragmatics is the Scientific study of the relation between the structure of a semiotic system (notable language) and its usage in context, and along with semantics, forms part of the general theory of meaning. Pragmatics is one of the most recent developments of study in linguistics. Different from semantics which deals with utterances meanings without looking at the context, pragmatics will always consider the context of the utterances to know its meanings. Trask (2007) is defining pragmatics as the branch of linguistics which studies how utterances communicate meaning in context. Then, Paltridge (2012) stated that pragmatics is the study of meaning in relation to the context in which a person is speaking or writing. After that, according to Jucker (2012), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning that arises from the use of language.

According to Yule (2010), deixis means pointing by using language. Any linguistic form used to produce this “pointing” is called deictic expression Based on Hurford et al., (2007) deixis is a Greek word that means to point. The language elements that are bound in contextually are called deictic. The word deictic is used to represent the functions of pronouns, time, demonstratives, and other grammar, and the lexical features that connect speech to space and time. That is, the word can become deixis if the referent moves from place to place depending on the speaker or the time and place where the word is pronounced.

Yule (2010) explained that Person deixis is deixis that use to point some objects (*these, those, it*), pronouns (*I, we, you*), possessives (*your, their, our*). person deixis concerns the individual engaged with an expression, for example, the people directly engaged included for example the speaker and the hearer, the people not straightforwardly included for example the individuals who hear the expression yet are not being straightforwardly engaged to, and the people mentioned in the expression. This deixis can be divided into three divisions which are first person, second person, and third person.

In this study, the focus is to find kinds of person deixis and the inference meaning of the utterance. The researcher hopes this research can provide the reader further understanding of types of person deixis and the next researcher can have a proper understanding of types of person deixis.

Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative research method. The object of this study is the transcript of *Tenet* (2020) movie. In this research case, the researcher acted as the data collector and analyst.

For collecting data, the researcher analyzed the utterances used by the main character to look for the category of deixis. The researcher then draws inferences about the kinds of person deixis. The researcher collected the data which are the transcripts from

<https://www.scriptslog.com/script/tenet-2020>. The main theory used in this research is the theory from Levinson (1983).

Findings and Discussion

The objectives of this research were to identify the types of person deixis found in the film *Tenet*, to find out the most dominant types of person deixis in the film *Tenet*, and to find out the reference meaning of person deixis found in film *Tenet*.

a. The Types of Person Deixis Found in the Film *Tenet*

The source of the data in this research was collected from the film *Tenet*. The researcher analyzed utterances that have been delivered by the main character; the Protagonist. from 232 utterances, the researcher found the types of person deixis. The types of person deixis were based on the theories of Levinson. The types were calculated and the number each was converted into a percentage. The table below described the findings of the analysis of types of person deixis.

Table 1: The types of person deixis found in the film Tenet

No	Deixis Categories	Type of Pronoun	Frequency	%	Σ	%
1	First-person deixis	I	96	26.7%	153	42.5%
		Me	13	3.61%		
		Mine	3	0.8%		
		We	37	10.3%		
		Us	1	0.3%		
		Ourself	1	0.3%		
		Our	1	0.3%		
		Ours	1	0.3%		
2	Second-person deixis	You	105	29.2%	132	36.7%
		Your	26	7.2%		
		Yours	1	0.3%		
3	Third-person deixis	He	14	3.9%	75	20.8%
		She	3	0.8%		
		It	34	9.4%		
		They	8	2.2%		
		Him	12	3.3%		
		Himself	3	0.8%		
		Her	1	0.3%		
Total			360	100%	360	100%

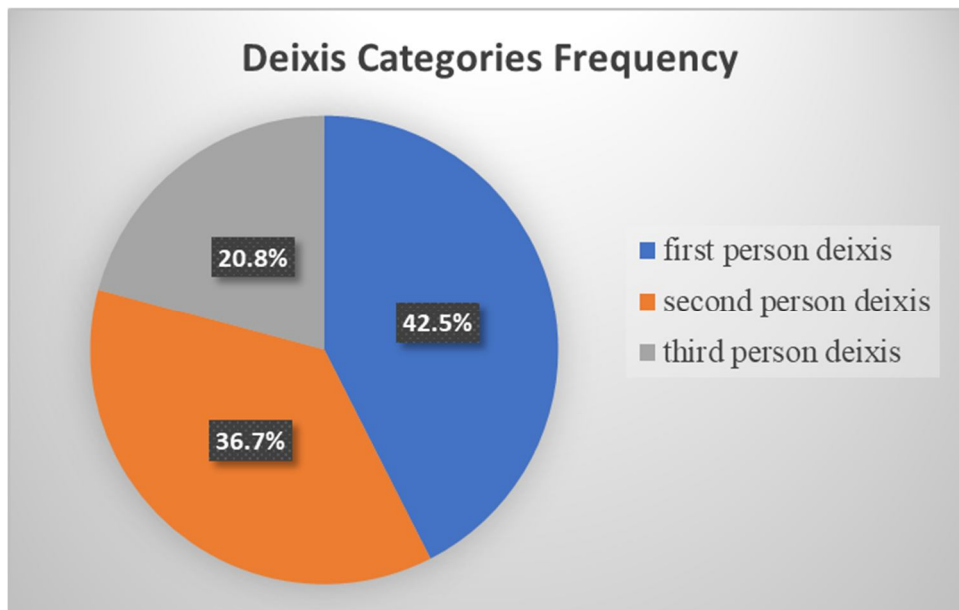
From the description of the table above, it could be seen that the first-person deixis has the highest percentage (42.5%) with some types of pronouns namely I, Me, Mine, We, Us, Ourself, Our, and Ours. Then, second-person deixis (36.7%) included You,

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Your, and Yours. It was followed by third-person deixis (20.8%) with some type of pronouns such as He, She, It, They, Him, Himself, and Her.

b. The Most Dominant Types of Person Deixis in the Film *Tenet*

Figure 1: The percentage of Person Deixis Categories



This chart showed the percentage of Person deixis categories from the highest number to the lowest one of person deixis. The most dominant type of person deixis in the film *Tenet* is First-person deixis (42,5%). Meanwhile, the second-person deixis is in the second position (36,7%), the last position is third-person deixis which has 20,8%. So, the most dominant person deixis category in the film *Tenet* is the first-person deixis.

c. The Reference Meaning of Person Deixis in the Film *Tenet*

1. First-person deixis

The first-person deixis indicated if the speaker is referring himself, or both speakers, and referent group with the speaker (S. C. Levinson, 1983). The *table 2* shows some example of utterances containing the first-person deixis found in the data.

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Table 2 :The reference of first-person deixis found in the film Tenet

Utterance Code	Utterance	Deictic Words	Referents
U-001	<i><u>We</u> live in a twilight world....</i>	We	The Protagonist and Well-dressed man
U-007	<i><u>I</u>'ve never seen encapsulation like this.</i>	I	The Protagonist
U-050	<i>If Tenets are important to you, then you can tell <u>me</u>. Everything.</i>	Me	The Protagonist
U-012	<i><u>Mine</u>, now.</i>	Mine	The Protagonist's mission
U-014	<i><u>I'll</u> take the help.</i>	I	The Protagonist
U-086	<i>Is there somewhere <u>we</u> can talk?</i>	We	The Protagonist and Kat
U-193	<i>It always counts. You're not there to kill him – you're the backstop. If we haven't lifted that algorithm and he kills himself, he takes <u>us</u> all with him, instantly.</i>	Us	The Protagonist and Kat
U-010	<i>I don't trust <u>ours</u> anymore.</i>	Ours	The Protagonist's team

The first category is the first-person deixis, the first-person deixis is the person that the purpose as the speaker in the utterance. It is the person who speaks the

utterance. The example of the first singular person deixis that is found in *Tenet* is *I, me, myself, and mine*.

Example 1:

(U-01) *We live in a twilight world...*

The utterance was said by the main character (Protagonist). There was the first-person deixis, *we*. It referred to the speaker and well-dressed man. The word *we* in conversation as the first-person deixis. This is a code to distinguish spies from others.

Example 2:

(U-07) *I've never seen encapsulation like this.*

The utterance was said by the Protagonist. There was the first-person deixis, *I*. It referred to the Protagonist. The Protagonist explains to the other teammates that he has never seen that kind of capsules.

2. Second person deixis

The second-person deixis indicated if the speakers use deictic referent to a person or persons identified as the addressee (S. C. Levinson, 1983). The table below shows some utterances containing second-person deixis found in the data.

Table 3:: The reference of second-person deixis found in the film *Tenet*

Utterance Code	Utterance	Deictic words	referents
U-002	<i>You've been made.</i>	You	Well-dressed man
U-003	<i>This siege is a blind for them to vanish <u>you</u>.</i>	You	Well-dressed man
U-004	<i>Bring <u>you</u> in or kill <u>you</u>.</i>	You	Well-dressed man
U-005	<i><u>You'll</u> do. Get him to the rally point.</i>	You	SWAT teammate
U-008	<i>Did <u>you</u> have an out?</i>	You	Well-dressed man
U-084	<i>I've never met <u>your</u> husband.</i>	Your	Kat's husband
U-167	<i>Andrei Sator holds all our lives in his hands. Not just <u>yours</u>.</i>	yours	Kat's lives

The second category is the second person deixis. The second person is the addressee/listener that exists in the speech event. The second-person deixis that occurred in the film *Tenet* are *You, Your, and Yours*.

Example 1:

(U-02) *You've been made.*

The utterance was said by the Protagonist. There was second-person deixis, *you*. The function of the word *you* referred to the well-dressed man. The Protagonist explained to the well-dressed man that he has been found out.

Example 2:

(U-03) *This siege is a blind for them to vanish you.*

The utterance was said by the Protagonist. There was second-person deixis *you*. The function of the word *you* referred to the well-dressed man. Based on the utterance, the Protagonist explains that this operation's purpose is an attempt to get rid of the well-dressed man.

3. Third-person deixis

Third-person deixis is indicated if the speaker referent to person or entities that either speakers or addresses in the utterance (S. C. Levinson, 1983). The table below shows some utterances contained third-person deixis found in the data.

Table 4: The reference of third-person deixis found in the film *Tenet*

Utterance Code	Utterance	Deictic Words	Referents
U-003	<i>This siege is a blind for <u>them</u> to vanish you.</i>	Them	Unknown terrorist organizations
U-006	<i>Get <u>him</u> to the rally point.</i>	Him	Well-dressed man
U-009	<i>Take this, take <u>him</u>, take his exit.</i>	Him	Well-dressed man
U-016	<i>Test? <u>They</u> pulled my teeth out.</i>	They	The Ukraine guys
U-065	<i>Tell me about <u>him</u>.</i>	Him	Sator
U-011	<i>Covering <u>their</u> tracks.</i>	Their	Unknown terrorist group
U-179	<i>That's why I trust <u>her</u>.</i>	Her	Kat
U-068	<i><u>He's</u> into art?</i>	He	Sator
U-072	<i>Her husband? Does <u>she</u> know it's a forgery?</i>	She	Kat
U-023	<i>How can <u>it</u> move before I touch <u>it</u>?</i>	It	bullet

U-186	<i>Everyone's last. We have to lift the algorithm from the dead drop without Sator knowing. If he believes it's in there, he kills <u>himself</u>.</i>	Himself	Sator
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The last category is third-person deixis. Third-person deixis is encoded of reference to the person that is neither speakers nor addressee of the utterance. In the film *Tenet*, third-person deixis can be identified by the use of words *He, She, It, They, Him, Himself, and Her*.

Example 1:

(U-003) *This siege is a blind for them to vanish you.*

The utterance was said by the Protagonist. There was third-person deixis *them*. The function of the word *them* referred to unknown terrorist organizations. Based on the utterance, the Protagonist explains that this operation's purpose is an attempt to get rid of the well-dressed man.

Example 2:

(U-006) *Get him to the rally point.*

The utterance was said by the Protagonist. There was third-person deixis *him*. The function of the word *him* referred to the well-dressed man. According to the utterance, the Protagonist asks a SWAT teammate to escort the well-dressed man to his destination point.

The first finding showed that there were three types of person deixis in film *Tenet*. the first type is first-person deixis. first-person deixis deictic reference that highlighted the speaker, or both the speaker and referents grouped with the speaker (Yule, 2010). The deictic words that belongs to first-person deixis are singular pronouns (*I, my, myself, mine, me*), plural pronouns (*us, we, our, ourselves ours*). The second type is second-person deixis. This deictic reference is to point to a person or a group who speak to the speaker (Yule, 2010). The deictic words that belongs to second-person deixis are *you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours*. And the last type is third-person deixis. Third-person deixis, encoding reference to one or more people that are not involved in the conversation (yule, 2010). The deictic words that belongs to first-person deixis are *he, she, it* (singular), and *they* (plural).

The second finding is the most dominant type of person deixis in film *Tenet*. Based on *figure 4.1*, the most dominant type of person deixis in the film *Tenet* is First-person deixis (42,5%). Meanwhile, the second-person deixis is in the second position (36,7%), the last position is third-person deixis which has 20,8%. So, the most dominant person deixis category in the film *Tenet* is the first-person deixis.

The last finding is the reference meaning of person deixis found in film *Tenet*. The first type is first-person deixis. this type of deixis appears in utterance many times. According to Levinson (1983), the indication when to use first-person

deixis is when the speaker wants to refer to himself. In this film, the main characters tend to use *I* to pointing himself as first-person compared to *me*. Sometimes the main character uses *we* when he is pointing himself and another person. Depending on the speaker's meaning, *we* is the sole personal pronoun that may (a) be both inclusive and exclusive, as well as (b) claim both authority and communality (Pennycook, 1994). Deictic word *we* were used more frequently than *us* when the main character pointing himself and the other person.

The next is second-person deixis. Levinson (1983) declared that second person deixis use when the speaker references one or more addresses. In the film *Tenet*, when the main character wants to point the other person, he tends to use *you*. The main character rarely referring things or belonging to the addressed person so the use of *your* and *yours* are rarely used in the utterances.

The way the main character uses third-person deixis in the film *Tenet* tends to use *it*. *It* is a very versatile deictic word to use to point out subject or object pronoun in most utterances spoken by the main character. *It* has two uses, one that is similar to the other pronouns in the class and one that is unique from anything found with other personal pronouns (Seppänen, 2002). When the main character points out the third person, he tends to use *he* than *she*, this perhaps caused by the gender of the actors in this film. Pronoun *he* must represent a male, *she* must represent a female, and *it* must represent an item of no sex (Bodine, 1975). There is more male actor than female in this film. This can explain why the main character tend to use *he* than *she*.

Levinson (1983) defined the function of speaker's reference in person deixis categories as to point out to the speaker or addresses or someone not as speaker or addresses in the utterance. The deictic word *I* is used in utterance number 1 in *table 4.2*. The word *I* functioned as a pronoun to refer to the speaker in the utterance, which in this case it refers to the Protagonist. The deictic word *Me* in utterance code *U-050* (*see table 4.2*) refer to The Protagonist and we can see the utterance is spoken by The Protagonist. The Protagonist is the speaker of the utterances. Utterance in utterance code *U-050* is uttered when The Protagonist wants an explanation about the organization named *Tenet*.

The next is second-person deixis. The first deictic word is *you*. *You* used in utterance number 1 in *table 4.3*. the word *you* functioned as a pronoun when the speaker wants to refer to the addressee. This utterance is uttered by The Protagonist. the deictic word *you* is referred to the well-dressed man. This utterance happened when The Protagonist meets the well-dressed man and he tried to save him from the terrorist attack.

The last one is third-person deixis. The first deictic word in *table 4.4* utterance code *U-068* is *he*. The word *he* functioned as a pronoun when the speaker wants to refer to someone, not a speaker or the addressee, but it mentioned in preceding utterance (Yule, 2010). In this utterance word, *he* referred to Sator. This utterance happened when The Protagonist asked Kat if Sator love art.

Finally, it can be concluded the main character in film *Tenet* mostly use first-person deixis. This is because the film maker is more focused on the development

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of the main character. The main character also like to work as a team, this can be seen from the way he is pointing other characters as part of the team by using first-person deixis in plural pronouns like *we*, *our*, and *us*.

Conclusion

From this research, certain conclusions are attained as follows:

There were three types of person deixis In the film *Tenet* namely first-person deixis, second-person deixis, and third-person deixis.

First-person deixis became the most dominant types of person deixis (42.5%), then second-person deixis (36.7%), and followed by third-person deixis (20,8%). First-person deixis found in this film is used by the speaker to refer to himself in the utterance. Second-person deixis in this film is used by the speaker to refer to the addressees. And third-person deixis is used to point out to the speaker or addressees or someone not as speaker or addressees in the utterance.

The researcher hopes this research can provide the reader further understanding of types of person deixis. Also, the researcher hopes this research can increase the curiosity to study deixis, especially person deixis. By using this research, the next researcher can have a proper understanding of types of person deixis. The next researcher also can use this research to examine different research objects. The researcher suggests analyzing the person deixis in a different object other than film, for example, talk show, speech, or song. The researcher also suggests making research on a deeper level in one of the types of person deixis.

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