

**DEIXIS ANALYSIS IN THE SHORT STORY “THE LITTLE  
OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A SHOE”  
BY JOSEPH MARTIN KRONHEIM**

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**Abstract**

The research is about deixis used in the short story “The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” by Joseph Martin Kronheim. This research aims to know the categories and the meaning of deixis used in the short story. The theory used in this research is Levinson's theory, which stated that deixis could be classified into five parts, namely personal deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and deixis discourse. The article describes explicitly personal deixis, time deixis, and place deixis in the short story. The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. The data was collected using a gathering observation approach followed by a nonparticipant observational technique and combined with a noting technique. Based on the analysis results, the researcher concluded that there are personal deixis, place deixis, and time deixis words used in the short story “The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” by Joseph Martin Kronheim. The number of the deictic words is dominated by personal deixis.

**Keywords:** *Deixis, short story, The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe by Joseph Martin Kronheim*

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini membahas tentang deiksis yang digunakan dalam cerita pendek “The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” karya Joseph Martin Kronheim. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kategori dan makna deiksis yang digunakan dalam cerita pendek tersebut. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Levinson yang menyatakan bahwa deiksis dapat diklasifikasikan menjadi lima bagian, yaitu deiksis personal, deiksis tempat, deiksis waktu, deiksis sosial, dan wacana deiksis. Artikel tersebut secara khusus menjelaskan deiksis pribadi, deiksis waktu, dan deiksis tempat dalam cerita pendek. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan observasi pengumpulan dilanjutkan dengan teknik observasi non partisipan yang digabungkan dengan teknik dengan mencatat. Berdasarkan hasil analisis, peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa terdapat deiksis personal, deiksis tempat, dan deiksis waktu yang digunakan dalam cerpen “The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” karya Joseph Martin Kronheim. Jumlah kata deiktik didominasi oleh deiksis personal.

**Kata Kunci:** *Deiksis, cerita pendek, The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoekarya Joseph Martin Kronheim*

## INTRODUCTION

Deixis is a part of linguistics, or more precisely, it is a part of pragmatics. The linguistic subfields of pragmatics are related to the study of meaning. Pragmatics studies the way how the context shapes meaning. The meanings of utterances not only depend on linguistic knowledge. It depends on knowledge of utterance context, the status of those involved, such as the information deals with various expressions regarding the relative social status and familiarity, the purpose of the speaker, the place and time of the utterance. Pragmatic is considered one of the most challenging aspects of language learning and often comes through experience.

The word "deixis" comes from the Greek term "deiktitos" which means "direct appointment/show". Deixis also can be interpreted as a word whose referents always change depending on the context. Deixis also has a relationship with words or sentences that change because of the sentence's situation and context.

Deixis is a required field studied in pragmatics, semantics, and linguistics. Deixis refers to the phenomenon wherein understanding the meaning of certain words and phrases in an utterance requires contextual information. Words or phrases that require contextual information to convey meaning are deictic. (Levinson, 1983, p.54)

A word is called deictic if the referent changes depending on when and where the word is spoken. Words like *me*, *here*, and *now* are deictal words. Words like these do not have permanent referents. It is different with words like *chairs*, *houses*, and *paper*. Anyone who says the words *chair*, *house*, or *paper*, in any place, at any time, the referent referred is the same. However, the reference in *my*, *here*, or *now* can only be known if it is also known who, at what place, and at what time the words were spoken. Levinson (1983, p.62) states that deixis can be classified into five parts: personal deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and deixis discourse.

A short story is a form of fictional narrative prose. Short stories tend to be dense and straight forward in their purpose compared to other longer fiction works, such as novella (in the modern term) and novels. In short, successful short stories rely on literary techniques such as characters, plot, themes, language, and insight more broadly than with longer fiction. The story might be formed into many genres. Short stories show us the world from different angles, from the author's point of view. Short story writers such as Karen Russell, Helen Oyeyemi, Kelly Link, Ramona Ausubel, Nalo Hopkinson, and Carmen Maria Machado write about science fiction, horror, and myth. Moreover, writers including Stuart Dybek, Lauren Groff, Joy Williams, and Sarah Hall show us their unique style through structure and innovation in voice and language.

This research will discuss deixis used in the short story. The author chooses a short story to be analyzed because it is one of the literary works that are formed in written text and has complete and detailed utterances. It is

shorter than a novel and usually deals with only a few characters. Although the short story is relatively small, it gives the "complete" feelings to the readers. Today, the short story is a genre that is different from autonomous and is still developing. People love to read short stories because it is not too long, it gives complete feelings and can get much value for the generation.

"The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" is a short story written and illustrated by Joseph Martin Kronheim. He is a famous children's stories writer. This little children's book contains familiar nursery rhymes with the color illustrator of pen-and-ink line drawings and watercolors suitable for children. This works can delight another generation of children. "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" is a story about an old woman who had many children who lived with her, and she had to take care of them. She loved the children so much, and so do they. This short story brings a message about sacrifice, family love, and togetherness.

When speaking or writing, we are continually using deixis. It is words or phrases that cannot be fully understood without contextual information. Deixis is a "speaker-centric notion." Speakers use deixis and deictic elements when producing language so that deixis can be interpreted as a speaker-centric notion. Deictic elements' meaning comes from the speaker and his or her location, time of speaking the utterance. Deictic words' meaning changes according to the speaker or writer. Levinson (1983, p.62) states that deixis can be classified into five parts: personal deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and deixis discourse.

Personal deixis words belong to the subject pronoun (*I, you, we, they, he, she, it*), object pronoun (*me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them*), possessive adjective (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their*), possessive pronoun (*mine, yours, his, hers, ours, and theirs*) and reflexive pronoun (*myself, yourself, himself, herself, themselves, yourself, yourself*).

Personal deixis concerns the participants' concealing in the speech

event in which the utterance in question is sent. The types of personal deixis are divided into three: the first person is the grammatically of the speaker's reference himself, and the second person encodes the speaker's reference to one or more addressees. Third persons encode of reference to person and entities that are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterance in question. (Levinson, 1983, p.62)

For more details, we see an example of personal deixis in the sentence "She has to earn much money for the family". In the sentence, the speaker is a woman but can refer to other women when other women say the same thing. The word *she* cannot change, but the referent can change depending on who says it—the word *she* is the singular form of the subject pronoun of the third person pronoun. If we look at the sentence "He hurts himself", there are two forms of personal deixis. The first is *he*, and the second is *himself*. These two words refer to the speaker. The word *he* is the singular form of subject pronoun of the third person pronouns,

while the word *himself* refers to the singular reflexive pronoun of the word *he*.

Time deixis is relatively easy to know if the speaker and the audience understand the time and the purpose of the conversation. Several words belong to time deixis, including: *now*, *yesterday*, *tomorrow*, *today*, *months*, *afternoon*, etc. According to Levinson (1983), it is essential to distinguish between the moment of utterance and reception. Time deixis is concerned with the encoding of relative to a temporal reference point.

Let us take a look at the example in the sentence "Tomorrow is Monday". The word *tomorrow* is included in the time deixis because it refers to the relevant day. From the conversation, the conversation was discussed on Sunday because the word *tomorrow* refers to Monday. While in the sentence "I met her last week", the word *last week* is included in time deixis because it refers to the exact time when the conversation is discussed.

A place or location can be deixis if it can be seen from the people who

communicate in the conversation. Deixis of place can be seen from the demonstrative pronoun use like the words: *this* and *that*. It can also be seen as demonstrative adverbs that declare places like: *here* and *there*. In the sentence "There you go," the word "*there*" is an adverb of place. It refers to a place that the speaker knows, and the speaker knows the purpose of the place.

## METHOD

The overall approach of this research was qualitative descriptive. The approach is the most suitable for this research because the researcher wanted to describe the linguistic phenomena of personal deixis found in the utterances uttered in the short story "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by Joseph Martin Kronheim. The research data would be expressed through the description. The researcher collected primary data by herself. The data used in this research is descriptive data by gathering observations.

The source of data in this research was a short story entitled

“The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” by Joseph Martin Kronheim that contains personal deixis, time deixis, and place deixis in the utterances. In this research, the researcher observed the utterances uttered by all the characters in the short story. The technique is followed by nonparticipant observational technique. In this technique, the researcher acted as an observer of the language, which means the researcher was not involved directly in the story.

The techniques were combined with the noting technique where the researcher took notes of some data from the source and segmented the data based on three kinds of deixis. After that, the data was analyzed using equalizing, differentiating techniques, and equalizing the main point techniques. The researcher analyzed the utterance uttered by the characters in the short story and found out the type and meaning of personal deixis used in "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by Joseph Martin Kronheim.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Many deictic words belong to personal deixis, time deixis, and place deixis found in the short story “The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” by Joseph Martin Kronheim. The time deixis words can be seen in table 1.

**Table 1: Number of Personal Deixis Word**

Personal Deixis Words	Number of Personal Deixis Words
It	7
Its	1
They	15
He	24
She	8
Him	10
Her	16
Them	1
Their	8
Total	89

Table 1 reveals the number of personal deixis words used in the short story. The total number is 89, and it is dominated by the word *he*, which is 24. The other personal deixis words are *it* (7), *its* (1), *they* (15), *she* (8), *him* (10), *her* (16), *them* (1), and *their* (8).

The personal deixis example in a sentence can be found in the sentence, "This shoe stood near a great forest, and was so large that *it* served as a house for the Old Lady and all her children." The word *it* refers to the shoe that stood near a great forest. It is categorized as third-person deixis, which refers to the person that is neither speakers nor addressee of the utterance. While the sentence "Then the Old Lady thought that *they* had better take shelter in the shoe until *they* could build a new house." contains two personal deixis words, which are *they*. The word *they* refers to the Old Lady and her family who were looking for the father. It also belongs to the third-person deixis type. The example of the word *them* can be seen in the sentence, "This shoe stood near a great forest, and was so large that it served as a house for the Old Lady and all her children, of which she had so many that she did not know what to do with *them*." The word *them* refers to the Little Old Lady's Children that are so many. The number of time deixis words used in the short story "The Little Old Woman

Who Lived in a Shoe" by Joseph Martin Kronheim will be described in table 2 below:

**Table 1: Number of Time Deixis Word**

Time Deixis Words	Number of Time Deixis Words
Now	5
There	1
Soon	2
After	2
Once at a time	1
Once	1
Total	12

Table 2 describe the number of time deixis words used in the short story. The number is dominated by the word *now*, which is 5. The other time deixis words are *there* (1), *soon* (2), *after* (2), *once at a time* (1), and *once* (1). In total, 12 deictic words are categorized as time deixis. The word *now* can be found in the sentence, "They were *now* quite ready; Strong-arm gave the order to march, and they started for the forest." It refers to the time after Strong-arm bought a dozen sharp swords, and Peter made as many strong shields and helmets, as well as cross-bows and iron-headed arrows. The word *there* in the sentence, "Once on a time, *there* was a Little Old Woman who lived in a Shoe." refers to once on a time when a Little Old

Woman lived. There is also the word *after* "After her sons had started she gave way to the most bitter grief." Which refers to the time when she gave way to the most bitter grief.

The number of place deixis words can be seen in table 3.

**Table 1: Number of Place Deixis Word**

Place Deixis Words	Number of Place Deixis Words
There	1
Here	1
Total	2

The researcher found two deictic words of place deixis in the short story "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by Joseph Martin Kronheim, which are *there* (1) and *here* (1). The word *there* is found in the sentence, "But *there* lived in a huge castle beyond the forest, a fierce giant, whom one day came and laid their house in ruins with his club; after which he carried off the poor wood-cutter to his castle beyond the forest." It refers to the giant's house, which is a huge castle beyond the forest. While, the word *here* can be found in the sentence, "*Here*, they all lived happily for many years, but the Little Old Lady never forgot her husband and his

sad fate." It refers to the shoe where they take shelter until they could build a new house.

## CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that there are three types of deixis found in the short story "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by Joseph Martin Kronheim. They are personal deixis, time deixis, and place deixis. The conclusion is based on the data analysis results obtained in the previous chapter. The personal deixis occurs most often in the text, followed by time deixis, and then the last is place deixis. The researcher suggests the next researcher explore this research in a more expanded explanation about all types of deixis in other literary works. The researcher suggests for the next researcher to use theories that are different from this research. The next researcher may use the other object as the source of the data. This study still needs improvement in some parts of the analysis. The next researcher who wants to conduct research about the



same topic can take all information needed from this research to get a better result.

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