

## A Deixis Analysis of Joe Biden's Farewell Address to The Nation

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### Abstract

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This study aims to identify types of deixis and analyze their pragmatic functions in Joe Biden's farewell address to the nation, delivered at the White House. This research is descriptive qualitative research that uses Stephen C. Levinson's (1983) theoretical framework of Deixis. Through analysis of transcripts obtained from the official website of The White House Government Archive, this research found a total of 330 deictic expressions classified into five types: Deictic Persona, Deictic Discourse, Deictic Place, Deictic Time, and Deictic Social. The findings show that Deixis Persona is the most dominant type (60.3%), while the smallest is social deixis (3.9%). Discourse deixis (16.1%), place deixis (10.3%), and time deixis (9.4%). This study suggests that deixis is a powerful pragmatic method for engaging audiences, asserting authority, and shaping the speaker's identity in a political environment.

#### Kata Kunci:

*Analisis, Deiksis,  
Joe Biden, Pidato,  
Pragmatik*

#### Abstrak

Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis deiksis dan menganalisis fungsi pragmatiknya dalam pidato perpisahan Joe Biden kepada negara, yang disampaikan di Gedung Putih. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif deskriptif yg menggunakan kerangka teoritis Deixis Stephen C. Levinson (1983). Melalui analisis transkrip yang diperoleh dari official website The White House Government Archive, penelitian ini menemukan total 330 ekspresi deiksis yang diklasifikasikan ke dalam lima jenis: Deiksis Persona, Deiksis Wacana, Deiksis Tempat, Deiksis Waktu, dan Deiksis Sosial. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa Deiksis Persona adalah jenis yang paling dominan (60,3%), sedangkan yang terkecil adalah deiksis sosial (3,9%). Deiksis wacana (16,1%), deiksis tempat (10,3%), dan deiksis waktu (9,4%). Studi ini menyarankan bahwa deiksis adalah metode pragmatis yang ampuh untuk melibatkan audiens, menegaskan otoritas, dan membentuk identitas pembicara dalam lingkungan politik.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Language is a vital instrument for human communication. As Yule (1996) states, language serves as a fundamental means of communication, functioning to convey propositional information. Through language, people express emotions, start conversations, give orders, tell stories, and collaborate to solve problems. Without language, effective communication would not be possible. Linguistics, as defined by Chaer (2014), is the scientific study that takes language as its object of research, encompassing various topics such as syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

One of the essential topics of pragmatics is deixis, which refers to linguistic expressions whose meanings depend on the context of the utterance such as who is speaking, to whom, when, and where. According to Levinson (1983), deixis helps identify contextual reference points that are crucial for understanding the intended meaning. Analysing deictic elements allows researchers to uncover how speakers construct perspective, identity, and relational positioning toward their audiences.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., widely known as Joe Biden, was born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. At the age of 29, he became one of the youngest Americans ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He later served as the 47th Vice President (2009–2017) under President Barack Obama and is currently the 46th President of the United States (2021–2025). Joe Biden holds a significant position in American and global politics due to his long-standing career and leadership influence. His Farewell Address to the Nation, broadcast through ABC News' official YouTube channel, has been viewed by millions of people worldwide. This speech is not only emotionally charged but also linguistically rich, especially in its use of deictic expressions.

Biden frequently uses deictic words such as *we*, *our*, *this nation*, and *here*, which function to build unity and closeness but can also create ambiguity regarding the exact referents whether he refers to himself, his administration, the American people, or the government as an institution. Because of this potential ambiguity, analysing the deixis in his farewell speech becomes important. It helps clarify how Biden constructs meaning, builds solidarity, and positions himself as both a national

leader and a member of the American community. In short, this study is conducted to provide a clearer understanding of how Biden's deictic choices contribute to the effectiveness and interpretation of his communication. (Nouval et al., 2024) deixis is not only a persuasive device but also a medium for expressing gratitude, evoking emotional resonance, and reaffirming the symbolic bond between leaders and their audiences at the end of a tenure.

### ***Literature Review***

(Mey, 1993) defined pragmatics as the study concerning the way human language is shaped by societal contexts. One part of pragmatic is deixis. (Levinson, 1983) Deixis is classified as pragmatics because its concept deals directly with the relation between language structure and context. As (Yule, 1996) stated that deixis comes from Greek and means "pointing" with language, when we use certain words to point to something in context, they are called deictic expressions.

In Oxford English Dictionary (2014) defines speech as mind expression in the form of words addressed to the people, discourse in the ready to be spoken in front of audiences. The speaker must have prepared everything in the meaning of the contents of the speech that will be conveyed to the listener. The content of the speech is in the form of knowledge of something that will be informed to the listener so that the listener is able to understand what has been conveyed. Although a speech is not a so formal thing but the listeners generally filter the meaning of a speech. In the world of communication, the person is called the orator and what is conveyed is called speech (oration). Iriantara & Surachman (2006) said that speech is the art of persuasion, speech as an art to persuade, influence and convince audiences

Levinson (1983) defines that there are five kinds of deixis such as spatial, temporal, personal, social, and discourse. Meanwhile, Yule (1996) mentions only three types: personal, spatial, and temporal. According to Levinson (1983), person deixis appears in personal pronouns. The first-person form is used when the speaker refers to himself. Meanwhile, Yule (1996) explains that person deixis is about the speaker and the listener, and it usually works in three groups: first person, second

person, and third person. First person (I): First person deixis refers to the speaker themselves or a group that includes the speaker. It is shown through singular pronouns like I, me, myself, my, mine and plural pronouns like we, us, ourselves, our, ours. First person deixis can also be divided into exclusive forms, which refer to a group that does not include the listener. Second person (you): Second person deixis points to the listener or listeners. Examples include pronouns like you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours. Third person (he, she, it): Third person deixis refers to someone or something that is neither the speaker nor the listener. It often indicates gender or plurality. Examples are he, she, they, him, himself, her, herself.

Spatial deixis also known as place deixis. Levinson (1983) explains that place or spatial deixis deals with identifying locations based on reference points in a conversation, usually linked to the speaker. There are two main ways to refer to objects: by describing or naming them, and by indicating their location. Place deixis is often shown using words like this, these, there, here, that, and those.

Temporal deixis also known as time deixis, Levinson (1983) explains that time deixis deals with expressing points or periods of time in relation to when an utterance is made or a message is written. The key aspect of time deixis is the tense system, which in English mainly consists of two forms: present and past. Examples of time deixis include words such as now, then, ago, later, soon, and before.

Also, Levinson (1983) explains that social deixis involves signaling social differences based on the roles of participants, especially in terms of the relationship between the speaker and the addressee(s) or between the speaker and another referent. Then, Yule (1996) categorizes social deixis according to social status, distinguishing between higher and lower status. Expressions that convey respect toward someone of higher status are called honorifics. Thus, social deixis focuses on how language reflects politeness or ethical conduct in the social relationship between the speaker and the listener, as well as in relation to the topic being discussed.

Previous research highlights this perspective across diverse contexts. Safi'i (2025) examined Prabowo Subianto's religious-themed speeches and revealed that inclusive deixis, particularly the pronoun *kita* ("we"), alongside spatial and

temporal references, was strategically employed to construct unity, urgency, and shared identity in political discourse. Similarly, Dewi et al., (2023) analysed President Joko Widodo's speech at the G20 Summit, showing how deixis functioned to strengthen Indonesia's leadership image on the global stage. (Hidayah & Saraswati (2024) investigated Donald Trump's State of the Union address, demonstrating that deixis reinforced ideological positioning and legitimized political priorities, while Ratri & Bram, (2023) explored King Charles III's inaugural speech, where deixis contributed to consolidating symbolic authority within a monarchical context. Elysian Journal (2025) studies of inaugural addresses by Biden and by Lestari & Simatupang (2023) on Taylor Swift's graduation speech further highlighted the role of deixis in projecting a unifying identity and establishing a forward-looking vision.

From several studies that had been described, it can be seen that all studies have similarities where speech is the data used for the analysis and although there's a difference on the grand theory, each previous study still have the same focuses on analysing deixis types that occurs on the speech. The selection of Levinson (1983) theory of deixis to analyse Joe Biden's farewell speech is based on the completeness and precision of its analytical framework. Levinson categorizes deixis into five main types person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis which are highly relevant for examining political speeches rich in references to the audience, time, place, discourse context, and social relations. Biden's farewell speech not only delivers information but also builds an emotional connection with the audience through the use of pronouns, temporal markers, and specific contextual references. By applying Levinson's theory, the analysis can reveal how Biden affirms his identity as both a leader and an ordinary citizen, marks the transition of power, and negotiates socio-political relations with the public. This theory is also strongly grounded in pragmatics, enabling researchers to interpret the meaning of utterances more profoundly not just at the grammatical level, but also in terms of the communicative functions conveyed through each instance of deixis.

To keep this study focused, this research is restricted to examining the use of deixis in Joe Biden's Farewell Address to the Nation. Based on Levinson's

(1983) paradigm, the analysis focuses on the speech's use of person, time, location, discourse, and social deixis. The function of these deictic statements in the speech to direct audience perception and create meaning during a period of political transition is the focus of this study. Aspects like intonation, delivery, audience reactions, and multimodal cues are not examined because the analysis is restricted to the speech's official written record. By extensively examining the grammatical patterns found in the transcript, this study will also determine how each sort of deixis arises.

In line with this significance of deixis in shaping meaning and audience perception, the objectives of this study must be clearly articulated. It becomes crucial to define the aim of the study in order to build on this context. Biden's departure speech offers a perfect setting for analysing how these deictic decisions shape meaning in a moment of symbolic transition since deixis serves as a linguistic bridge that links language, context, and audience interpretation within political discourse. The speech's dual nature combining political closure with introspection creates an ideal setting for examining how deixis helps listeners track referents, comprehend contextual clues, and evaluate the address's overall message. As a result, the following are the aim of this study: to identify, classify, and quantify the deictic expressions used in Joe Biden's Farewell Address to the Nation by applying Levinson's deixis framework, which includes person, time, place, discourse, and social deixis, an approach that provides an empirical foundation for understanding the distribution and prominence of each type of deixis in the speech to analyse the pragmatic functions of these deictic expressions to determine how Biden constructs context, positions himself within the discourse, and shapes his relationship with the audience during a politically symbolic moment of transition; to examine how the use of deixis influences audience comprehension, particularly how specific deictic choices help listeners track referents, follow the progression of ideas, and interpret both the personal and political meanings embedded in the farewell address; and to evaluate the communicative impact of Biden's overall deictic strategy, assessing how deixis contributes to reinforcing shared identity, establishing emotional resonance, and framing the closing message of his presidency.

## **METHOD**

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach, as it aligns with the objectives of the research. The primary aim of this study is to describe and analyze various types of deixis found in Joe Biden's *Farewell Address to the Nation* and to explain how the use of deixis constructs meaning and shapes the relationship between the speaker and the audience. The descriptive qualitative approach enables the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of the meanings behind language use by considering social, cultural, and situational contexts rather than relying on numerical or statistical data.

According to (Moleong, 2014), qualitative research emphasizes meaning, understanding, and interpretation of phenomena within their contextual settings. This aligns with the view of (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011), who state that qualitative research involves interpreting the meanings of observed phenomena and perceives social reality as a complex and multilayered construct. Meanwhile, (Creswell, 2014) explains that qualitative research serves to explore and understand the meanings that individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. Thus, the descriptive qualitative method is highly relevant for use in this study as it allows for a deeper analysis of the linguistic and pragmatic context of political speeches. This research focuses on elaborating the forms of deixis derived from (Levinson, 1983) theory and interpreting their meaning in the context of Joe Biden's political speeches to illustrate how language is used to create closeness, identity, and image.

The data source used in this research was a speech delivered by Joe Biden entitled "Farewell Address to the Nation." The script of this speech was obtained directly from the official White House Government Archive website at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2025/01/15/remarks-by-president-biden-in-a-farewell-address-to-the-nation/>.

This speech was chosen because it carries significant linguistic and political value, as well as reflects a farewell moment rich in emotional and symbolic meaning during the transition of power. The selection of this data source is based on the fact that political speeches, particularly farewell addresses, possess rich linguistic

characteristics marked by extensive use of deixis. Moreover, the political and emotional context of such speeches allows for a deeper analysis of how a leader employs language to construct identity, establish closeness, and build a symbolic relationship with the public. The authenticity of the source from an official news channel also ensures that the speech analyzed represents an authentic form of Joe Biden's public communication.

To ensure the authenticity and credibility of this research, it utilizes transcript analysis for data collection. The primary factor analysis for this study is the official transcript of Joe Biden's Farewell Address to the Nation. This transcript was obtained from the official website of the White House Government Archives. To improve data accuracy and analysis reliability, the transcripts were systematically verified. The purpose of this two-factor checking process is to ensure that the linguistic features being analyzed, particularly deictic expressions, accurately reflect spoken discourse and to minimize discrepancies between written transcripts and actual oral delivery. By considering transcribed spoken conversations as textual data that can be analyzed, transcript analysis allows researchers to deeply explore language that emerges naturally in institutional and political contexts.

This approach allows for a thorough examination of linguistic patterns, pragmatic goals, and the construction of meaning in speech. According to Bowen (2009), the methodical interpretation of meaning contained in oral data is facilitated by qualitative textual analysis, including transcript-based analysis. Furthermore, Arikunto (2013) highlights that carefully selected and validated textual materials can be a legitimate and reliable source for qualitative research.

The data were analyzed using Stephen C. Levinson's (1983) theory of deixis. After watching the speech, the researcher searched for its script to facilitate the data analysis process. Then obtaining the script, the researcher read it and started taking notes on any words in the speech that were deixis. After that, the researcher classified the deixis into several types to make the analysis easier by using Stephen C. Levinson's theory, in which sentences could refer to certain meanings depending on their use. After reading and analyzing each sentence, the deixis found were

categorized into several types: Person Deixis, Time Deixis, Discourse Deixis, Place Deixis, and Social Deixis.

After identifying deixis and their frequency in the sentences, the researcher matched each sentence with its context and the speaker's purpose, such as who was being addressed, when, and how the sentences were intended to be delivered to the audience. Once the researcher understood the purpose of the sentences or the speech as a whole, the next step was to analyze them pragmatically, identifying the intention behind Joe Biden's statements. This included determining whether the sentences served a social function, such as appealing to the public in a communicative manner. After all these steps were completed, the researcher drew conclusions from each deixis found in the sentences and examined whether they were related to the main theme of the speech, "Farewell Address to the Nation".

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### *Finding*

The results of this study indicate that there are 330 deictic expressions found in the Farewell Address to the Nation speech delivered by Joe Biden. These deictic expressions are classified into five types, namely person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. The distribution of the number and percentage of each type of deixis is presented in Table below.

**Table 1. Distribution of Deictic Expressions in Joe Biden's Farewell Address**

| No            | Deixis Type      | Word                                                                                                                                               | Amount     | Percentage  |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1.            | Person Deixis    | I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours, they, them, their, theirs, he, him, his, she, her, hers                                      | 199        | 60,3%       |
| 2.            | Time Deixis      | Now, today, tonight, earlier, before, long ago, years ago, every day, each day, decades, years, time, future, forever, to come.                    | 51         | 9,4%        |
| 3.            | Place Deixis     | Here, there, over there, the oval office at home, overseas, in America, in this nation, this place, this desk, across the world, around the globe. | 34         | 10,3%       |
| 4.            | Discourse Deixis | This, that, those, it, its                                                                                                                         | 53         | 16,1%       |
| 5.            | Social Deixis    | President, presidency, administration, vice president, American people, citizens, nation, country                                                  | 13         | 3,9%        |
| <b>Total:</b> |                  |                                                                                                                                                    | <b>330</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## 1. Person Deixis

The number of person deixis that have been analyzed is 199 deixis, this includes first person deixis, second person deixis and third person deixis.

**Data sample No 1:** *“My fellow Americans, I am speaking to you tonight from the Oval Office.”*

In this sentence, the word "I" had been an example of first-person deixis because it had referred to the speaker himself. The pronoun "I" had also indicated the speaker's involvement and authority, which had emphasized Joe Biden's role as a national leader who had directly spoken to his people. In a political context, the word "I" had also functioned to strengthen the speaker's character and to build closeness and trust with the citizens, which had certainly supported Joe Biden's image as both a leader and a representative of the people.

**Data sample No 12:** *“Like America, the Statue of Liberty is not standing still. Her foot literally steps forward atop a broken chain of human bondage.”*

In this sentence, the word "Her" had been an example of person deixis, which had referred to the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty itself had been regarded as an embodiment of the values of freedom and progress that had characterized the United States, even though the statue was inanimate. In a political context, this deixis had transformed the monument into a representation of democratic values, which had helped Joe Biden strengthen his message and argument about continual progress and equality.

**Data sample No 13:** *“That democracy must defend and be defined and be imposed, moved in every way possible. Our rights, our freedoms, our dreams.”*

In this sentence, the word "Our" is a third person deixis that refers to Joe Biden himself and all the people who listened to his speech.

## 2. Time Deixis

In President Biden's farewell address, there are 31 occurrences of time deixis, which indicate specific moments, durations, and temporal references used by the speaker to situate events and experiences within time.

**Data Sample No 2:** "Before I begin, let me speak to important news from earlier today "

In this sentence, the word "today" had been an example of temporal deixis because it had referred to the specific day when Joe Biden had delivered his speech. The word "today" had placed the speech in a present-time context, making the message immediate and relevant. In a political context, this deixis had also functioned to connect real-time events with the speech itself, creating a sense of urgency and concern toward the ongoing national situation.

**Data Sample No 4:** " *Long ago, in New York Harbor, an ironworker installed beam after beam, day after day.*"

In this sentence, the phrase "long ago" had functioned as a temporal deixis that had referred to the nation's distant past. It had evoked the early era of America's formation and had symbolized the efforts of past generations who had built the country's foundation. In a political context, this deixis had allowed Joe Biden to honor the legacy of American workers and the historical struggles that had shaped the nation, reinforcing his message of perseverance and unity across time.

**Data Sample No 8:** "In the past four years, **our** democracy has held strong."

The first-person plural deixis "Our" in this statement refers to both Joe Biden and the American audience listening to his speech. The inclusive pronoun "our" emphasizes common responsibility for upholding democratic norms and shared ownership of those ideals. In terms of politics, this deixis demonstrates Biden's rhetorical tactic to link himself with the people rather than put himself above them, strengthening the sense of national unity and solidarity. By depicting democracy as a shared goal that is equally the responsibility of the government and its people, the frequent use of our also strengthens emotional appeal.

### 3. Place Deixis

So, in President Joe Biden's farewell address from the Oval Office, there are 34 instances of place deixis found in the speech. These include expressions such as from the Oval Office, across the country, around the world, at home, upstairs,

and the Statue of Liberty, which all refer to physical or spatial locations connected to the speaker or listener.

**Data Sample No 1:** *“I am speaking to you tonight **from the Oval Office.**”*

The sentence “I am speaking to you tonight from the Oval Office.” contains a **place deixis** in the phrase “**from the Oval Office.**” This phrase shows the specific location where the speaker is delivering the speech. The **Oval Office** is a real place it is the official room in the White House where the President usually speaks to the nation. By mentioning this place, the speaker helps the audience imagine where the speech is happening, making the message feel more formal and direct. In other words, “**from the Oval Office**” functions as **place deixis** because it provides spatial information that connects the speech to a physical setting, helping listeners understand **where** the speaker is while communicating.

**Data Sample No 3:** *“Like America, the Statue of Liberty is not standing still. Her foot literally steps forward **atop a broken chain** of human bondage.”*

The sentence “Like America, the Statue of Liberty is not standing still. Her foot literally steps forward atop a broken chain of human bondage.” contains a **place deixis** in the phrase “**atop a broken chain.**” The word “**atop**” means *on top of*, which shows the position or location of the statue’s foot. This phrase gives a clear image of **where** the foot of the Statue of Liberty is placed on a broken chain that symbolizes freedom from oppression. Because it describes the physical position of the statue’s foot in a specific place, it functions as **place deixis**. It helps the listener or reader visualize the exact **spatial relationship** between the statue and the broken chain, making the description more vivid and meaningful.

**Data Sample No 4:** *“**Upstairs in the residence of the White House,** I’ve walked by a painting of the Statue of Liberty.”*

The sentence “Upstairs in the residence of the White House, I’ve walked by a painting of the Statue of Liberty.” contains a **place deixis** in the phrase “**Upstairs in the residence of the White House.**” The word “**upstairs**” tells us the speaker’s position on a higher floor within the same building. This phrase shows **where** the speaker was when the event happened, giving a clear sense of location. Because the meaning of “**upstairs**” depends on the speaker’s current position or point of view,

it functions as **place deixis**. In addition, mentioning “**the residence of the White House**” gives a more specific reference to the place, helping the listener or reader imagine the exact setting where the speaker walked by the painting.

#### 4. Discourse Deixis

In President Biden’s farewell address, there are 53 occurrences of discourse deixis, which the speaker uses to refer to parts of his own speech, connect ideas across different sections, and guide the audience through the overall flow of the discourse.

**Data Sample No 1:** *"This plan was developed and negotiated by my team"*

In this sentence, the word "this" had functioned as discourse deixis because it had referred to a specific plan that had been mentioned earlier in the speech. The demonstrative "this" had indicated a connection to prior discourse, signaling continuity between previous statements and the current explanation. In a political context, Joe Biden's use of "this" had underscored his accountability and transparency, reinforcing the credibility of his administration's decisions by clearly referencing earlier discussions or proposals.

**Data Sample No 17:** *"And now it's bringing **those** chip factories and **those** jobs back to America where they belong"*

In this sentence, the word "those" had acted as discourse deixis, as it had referred to the specific chip factories and jobs that had been mentioned earlier in the speech. This deixis had pointed backward to the previous discourse, in which Joe Biden had discussed how industries had moved overseas. In a political context, the use of “those” had emphasized his administration’s success in reviving American manufacturing, framing the statement as evidence of tangible progress. It had served both a cohesive and persuasive function, reminding the audience of prior points while highlighting achievement and continuity.

**Date Sample No 2:** *" That's why I signed the most significant climate and clean energy law ever"*

In this sentence, "that's" had also been a form of discourse deixis, as it had referred back to the preceding discussion on environmental issues and the urgency of addressing them. The contraction "that's" (that is) had linked the justification, the reason behind signing the law, with the prior context of environmental concern. In a political context, this deixis had strengthened causal reasoning and coherence, showing that Joe Biden's legislative actions had stemmed from clearly stated values and previously discussed motivations.

## 5. Social Deixis

So, in President Biden's farewell address, there are 13 occurrences of social deixis, showing how the speaker uses forms of address, titles, and expressions of respect to mark social relationships between himself, the audience, and other individuals or institutions.

Example Sentences:

**Data Sample No 1:** *"My fellow Americans, I am speaking to you tonight from the Oval Office."*

This sentence includes the phrase **"My fellow Americans"**, which is a form of social deixis because it establishes a social relationship between the speaker (the President) and the audience (the citizens of the United States). It signals **solidarity and inclusiveness**, framing the speaker as part of the same national community as the listeners. The possessive "my" also marks an intimate but respectful tone within a formal setting.

**Data Sample No 2:** *"I've had a great partner in Vice President Kamala Harris."*

The phrase **"Vice President Kamala Harris"** is a clear example of social deixis because it uses an **official title** that reflects status and hierarchy within the political system. By including the formal title **"Vice President,"** the speaker shows **respect and recognition of institutional rank**, maintaining the proper social and professional relationship appropriate in a presidential address.

**Data Sample No 3:** *"May God protect our troops."*

The expression **"our troops"** functions as social deixis because it refers to a **specific social group** (military personnel) that carries a particular **social role and status** within the nation. The pronoun "our" reinforces a collective relationship

between the speaker, the audience, and the soldier's showing solidarity, respect, and a sense of shared responsibility toward them.

### ***Discussion***

After a careful analysis, 330 deictics were found. Personal deictics dominated other categories of deictics with a total of 60.3% of the data. From a critical and pragmatic perspective, the frequency of personal deixis, particularly the inclusive pronouns *we* and *our*, reflects Biden's democratic ideology, which values mutual identity, shared responsibility, and national unity. By continually establishing himself in the same group as the American people, Biden minimizes social distance and portrays leadership as a collaborative rather than hierarchical operation.

Biden's use of first-person singular pronouns like *"I"* and *"my"* conveys authority, responsibility, and accountability, portraying him as an independent political figure who takes ownership of his leadership decisions. While the transition use of *"I"* to inclusive pronouns like *"we"* and *"our"* signifies a commitment to ideological fairness. Personal deixis creates a shared social identity between speaker and audience, portraying political achievements as teamwork rather than individual. In a farewell message, taking a welcoming strategy reduces hierarchical distance and repositions leadership as a shared national project.

According to discourse theories of political legitimacy, leaders attempt to uphold symbolic authority through solidarity and harmony with public identity, rather than supremacy alone. This also shows how deixis is used as a strategic instrument to represent ideology, power, and balance in political conversations. Also, the low prevalence of social deixis (3.9%) supports this ideological perspective. Biden's use of social deictics indicates an effort to prevent power asymmetry, rather than highlighting social hierarchy or formal role inequalities. This approach can be understood as a pragmatic attempt to humanize political authority and emphasize unity over rank, particularly in a closing statement that prioritizes feelings over institutional control. The lack of social deixis strengthens equal treatment and national cohesion.

These findings align with previous studies on deixis in political discourse. Safi'i's (2025) analysis of Prabowo Subianto's speech aligns with the use of inclusive personal pronouns ("we" and "our") as a cohesive political weapon, emphasizing urgency and shared national identity. Dewi et al.'s (2023) research of Joko Widodo's G20 speech identified that singular personal deixis ("I", "my") can shape a leader's public image and position by conveying power. This study develops on previous research by examining how the use of "I" and "we" balances authority and engagement during farewells.

From a linguistic perspective, this research helps to contribute to pragmatic and discourse analysis by revealing that deixis serves not just as a symbolic device in political speech, but also as an indicator of ideology, relationships of authority, and speaker posture. The findings emphasize how deictic choices support speakers in constructing identity, managing authority, and guiding audience perception in certain sociopolitical circumstances.

Pedagogically, this study has practical implications for teaching pragmatics, discourse analysis, and political communication. Analysis of actual political speech can be used to teach students about how context, speaker intention, and listener relationship shape meaning. By exploring deixis in real-world discourse, students are able to acquire a critical understanding of how language is utilized persuasively and effectively in public communication.

Overall, this research shows that deixis is not a passive linguistic indication, but rather a strategic communication instrument. Biden's intended use of deixis supports him to exert authority, build emotional connections, and develop an insightful leadership identity which positions him within the shared identity of America.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research shows that deixis plays an important role in shaping the pragmatic meaning of Joe Biden's Farewell Address to the Nation. Not just as linguistic markers, the deictic expressions in the speech actually serve as tools to build interpersonal intimacy, strengthen leadership identity, and frame the nation's

collective experience during a time of transition. The advantages of deixis highlight Biden's efforts to position himself as both an individual leader and a part of a unified national community. Inclusive language like "we" and "our" creates emotional solidarity, while the singular first-person pronouns convey personal responsibility and authority.

Discourse deixis, place, and time also strengthen the coherence and persuasiveness of a speech. Discourse deixis allows the speaker to connect ideas throughout the speech, therefore strengthening the flow of arguments and clarity. Deixis of place places the message within a formal and authoritative national context, which reinforces institutional legitimacy. Meanwhile, temporal deixis connects past achievements, the current situation, and future expectations, forming a narrative that supports reflection and closure. Social deixis, although less prominent, functions symbolically to affirm respect, hierarchy, and national values.

From a practical perspective, these findings have several implications. For pragmatic and discourse studies, this analysis demonstrate that deixis extends beyond its grammatical function, serving as a tool for establishing interpersonal relationships, reinforcing speaker identity, and shaping the discourse context. Additionally, for English language teaching, particularly in pragmatic and discourse-oriented instruction, this research can serve as an example of using authentic political texts to guide learners in understanding contextual meaning, speaker intent, and audience position.

However, this study has limitations. The analysis focuses on a single political speech, contributing to limiting the generalizability of the findings to other leaders or political contexts. In addition, the theoretical framework is limited to Levinson's (1983) deictic classification, without incorporating other pragmatic or discourse-based approaches that could provide deeper insights.

Therefore, future research is suggested to expand its scope by analyzing various speeches, different political figures, or comparative contexts. Combining deictic analysis with other pragmatic frameworks such as speech act theory or critical discourse analysis has the potential to provide broader insights.

Additionally, a comparative study between farewell speeches and inaugural addresses can reveal the evolution of pragmatic strategies and identity construction at various stages of political leadership.

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