

# AN ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN *LEO* MOVIE (2023)

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## Abstract

Deixis in movies is often used to create a sense of immersion for the audience. The intricate layers of deixis help to establish a strong connection between the audience and the characters. There are five main types of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Each type serves a specific purpose in guiding the audience's understanding of the narrative and enhancing their overall viewing experience. This qualitative descriptive research aimed to find five different forms of deixis in *Leo*. Through note taking techniques and data analysis, it was found that personal deixis occurs more than other types of deixis. It was then followed by the occurrence of temporal/time and social deixis. Social and discourse deixis, which are the least common types of deixis, are also very important in raising the film's emotional impact and storytelling.

**Keywords:** Analysis; Deixis; *Leo*

## Abstrak

Deiksis dalam film seringkali digunakan untuk menciptakan kesan mendalam bagi penontonnya. Lapisan deiksis yang rumit membantu membangun hubungan yang kuat antara penonton dan karakter. Ada lima jenis deiksis utama: deiksis orang, deiksis spasial, deiksis temporal, deiksis wacana, dan deiksis sosial. Masing-masing jenis memiliki tujuan tertentu dalam memandu pemahaman penonton terhadap narasi dan meningkatkan pengalaman menonton mereka secara keseluruhan. Penelitian deskriptif kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk menemukan lima bentuk deiksis yang berbeda dalam diri *Leo*. Melalui teknik pencatatan dan analisis data, ditemukan bahwa deiksis personal lebih banyak muncul dibandingkan deiksis jenis lainnya. Kemudian disusul dengan munculnya deiksis temporal/waktu dan sosial. Deiksis sosial dan wacana, yang merupakan jenis deiksis yang paling jarang ditemui, juga sangat penting dalam meningkatkan dampak emosional dan penceritaan film.

**Kata kunci:** Analisis; Deixis; *Leo*

## INTRODUCTION

Deixis is an important field studied in pragmatics, semantics, and linguistics. It is a process whereby words or expressions rely on context for interpretation. Deixis refers to the phenomenon wherein understanding the meaning of certain words and phrases in

an utterance requires contextual information (see Erdianto & Arifin, 2024; Nurvadhilah et al, 2022; Kartika et al, 2020). Words or phrases that require contextual information to convey meaning are deictic. Deictic words are crucial in understanding the context of utterances (Sofya & Arifin, 2023; Stapleton,

2017). Without an understanding of deixis, misunderstandings and misinterpretations can easily occur in conversations. Therefore, the study of deixis plays a crucial role in language comprehension and effective communication.

Cruse (2000) stated that deixis divided into five main types: personal/person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal/time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. (Apriyana, Friatin, & Said, 2021; Simatupang, Fadhilah, & Barokah, 2021). Person deixis in movies refers to the use of first, second, and third person pronouns in the dialogue. Spatial deixis (place deixis) in movies refers to the place where the speech event occurs and deals with the distance. Temporal/time deixis in movies can be categorized into present time deixis, past time deixis, and future time deixis (Saputri, 2016; Wulandari, 2021). Discourse deixis in film involves analyzing the language choices and dialogue of characters to explore how social deixis shapes character interactions and narrative development within the film (Kiose et al, 2024). Social deixis in the movie *Beauty and the Beast* is mainly categorized into relational social deixis and absolute social deixis (Noerrofi'a & Bahri, 2019). Those five types of deixis can help EFL learners understand how deixis is used in different contexts.

A relevant study of deixis in movies the study of deixis in the movie script of *Beauty and the Beas'*, found that there are three types of deixis found in the *Beauty and The Beast* movie script in which person deixis in greater occurrences than another (Fadlilah & Septyani, 2018). Social deixis in the movie *Beauty and the Beast* is mainly categorized into relational social deixis and absolute social deixis. The dominant kind of social deixis in the movie was relational social deixis, used to express intimacy (Syaiful, 2019). Discourse

deixis is a type of deixis used in the *Black Swan* script refers to previously occurring items or something yet to come in the discourse. Examples include expressions like 'therefore' or 'however' that connect earlier and later parts of the discourse. Textual deixis refers to portions of the text itself, while anaphoric expressions connect to prior referring expressions (Saputri, 2016). EFL learners can analyze the use of content analysis thoroughly to identify different types of deixis used by characters. This will help them to aware that deixis plays a crucial role in conveying not only spatial and temporal information, but also emotional and relational nuances in dialogue. Understanding these nuances can greatly benefit EFL learners in improving their comprehension and communication skills.

## **METHOD**

This descriptive qualitative study focused on the deixis within *Leo* animation movie. This study attempted to find five types of deixis in *Leo* movie based on Levinson's theory through several steps: selecting the topic, selecting the object, watching the movie six times, identifying deixis expressions, classifying types of deixis, and lastly, analyzing and discussing. This research applied an interactive model of analysis by Miles and Huberman (1994) to analyze the data. The interactive model of analysis allowed for a thorough exploration of the data, leading to a comprehensive understanding of how deixis was used in the movie and its significance in conveying meaning to the audience

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The result of the data analysis for type of deixis in *Leo* is presented in table 1.

**Table 1: Types of deixis in *Leo***

Types of Deixis	Total
Personal Deixis	1124
Spatial Deixis	276
Temporal Deixis	19
Social Deixis	39
Discourse Expressions	7

The personal deixis occurs more than the other deixis. The discussion of each deixis found in *Leo* (2023) provides a comprehensive analysis of how each type of deixis is used in various contexts in the movie. The following discussions show the speaker's attitude towards the listener or their relationship with them. The discussion also shows that deixis can convey emotions, power dynamics, and social hierarchies in communication. Furthermore, it shows the contribution of deixis to the overall narrative structure of the film.

**Personal Deixis**

Personal deixis is used to refer to specific individuals or groups of people, such as "I," "you," "he," "she," or "they." There are three categories of personal deixis: first person category, second person category, and third-person category. The personal deixis within the movie can be described as follows:

**Table 2. Personal Deixis in *Leo* (2023)**

Category of Personal Deixis	Total
First Person	521
Second Person	286
Third Person	317

This type of deixis is often the most frequent in everyday language, as individuals frequently refer to themselves or others in conversation. It helps establish relationships and hierarchies within communication, as

well as convey important information about the speaker's perspective or identity.

**First person category**

Datum 1:

Class (gasps): This is our substitute?  
You have to leave? So soon?

The word "our" shows the first-person category of personal deixis because it indicates a sense of ownership and familiarity with the substitute, suggesting a personal connection. The gasps and question about leaving so soon further emphasize the speaker's surprise and disappointment at the situation.

Datum 2:

Mrs. Salinas : Well, my doctor thinks I need to rest through my pregnancy. So, until I'm back, you'll have Ms. Malkin.

The word "I" within the Mrs. Salinas' sentence shows the first-person category of personal deixis because it indicates that she is speaking about herself. The mention of her doctor and pregnancy suggests a personal reason for needing to rest, further emphasizing the personal connection in her decision to have Ms. Malkin as a substitute.

**Second person category**

Datum 3:

Squirtle : Hey. You know the 5th grade starts tomorrow again.

The word "you" in Squirtle's sentence shows the second person category of personal deixis because it indicates that he is addressing the person he is speaking to directly. Squirtle's mention of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade starting again tomorrow suggests a shared knowledge or experience between him and the person he

is speaking to, creating a sense of familiarity and connection.

Datum 4:

Mrs. Salinas : Everyone, meet your new teacher.

Class (gasps): This is our substitute?  
You have to leave? So soon?

The word “your” in Mrs. Salinas’ sentence shows the second person category of personal deixis because it indicates that she is addressing the students directly. The students’ reaction of surprise and disappointment suggests that they were expecting a different teacher, highlighting their emotional response to the situation.

### ***Third person category***

Datum 5:

Summer : Wow. It’s not like I don’t care about the other kids...  
It’s just...

The word “it” in Summer’s sentence shows the third person category of personal deixis because it indicates a general or unspecified subject. This suggests that Summer may be feeling disconnected or indifferent towards the other children in comparison to a specific group or individual.

Datum 6:

Leo : I know. It’s great you’re good at talking about yourself. When people share stuff, they feel better. So, if you get other kids talking about themselves, they’ll like being with you. More than they do already, I mean. Five-second rule.

The word “they” in Leo’s sentence shows the third person category of personal deixis, because it indicates that Leo is referring to the

other children in general. Leo is encouraging Summer to engage with the other kids by showing interest in them, suggesting that building connections through conversation can improve relationships.

### **Spatial Deixis**

It refers to the use of language to describe the location of objects or people in relation to the speaker or listener. Spatial deixis helps to establish a frame of reference for communication by indicating where things are in relation to a specific point or direction. This can include words like “here,” “there,” “near,” “far,” and “next to,” which help to create a shared understanding of space between the speaker and the listener. By using spatial deixis, speakers can give precise instructions, convey specific information, and clarify relationships between objects or people within a given space.

Datum 7:

Skyler : Leo, where’d you go?  
Leo : I... I’ll be right there.

The word “there” in the Leo sentence shows spatial deixis because it indicates a specific location that Leo is referring to. This use of spatial deixis helps provide context for Skyler’s question about Leo’s whereabouts.

Datum 8:

Leo : [grunts] What’s goin’ on?  
You’re leaving me here?  
What about the kids?  
Ms. Malkin : They lost. The class embarrassed themselves and blamed you.

The word “there” in the Leo sentence shows spatial deixis because it indicates a specific location that Leo is referring to. This use of spatial deixis helps provide context for Leo’s whereabouts and Ms. Malkin’s response to the situation.

## Temporal Deixis

This deixis refers to the use of words like “now,” “then,” “later,” and “before” to establish a frame of reference for communication in relation to time. Just as spatial deixis helps to locate objects or people in space, temporal deixis helps to situate events or actions in time. This allows speakers to sequence events, provide context for conversations, and clarify the timing of different actions or occurrences. By using both spatial and temporal deixis, speakers can effectively communicate information about both the location and timing of events, creating a shared understanding with their listeners.

Datum 9:

- Ms. Malkin : Don't say that. You said the Everglades was your dream. Now you can live it out, with no chance of ever running into the children. Or their parents. Or the principal. Or the media.
- Leo : I said it was my dream. The kids are what I...

The word “now” in the Ms. Malkin sentence shows temporal deixis because it indicates a shift in time from when Leo originally expressed his dream. This suggests that the current situation provides a new opportunity for Leo to fulfill his dream without any potential obstacles.

Datum 10:

- Summer : I had so much fun at the party yesterday.
- Jayda : Did you get a bubble animal?

The word “yesterday” in the Leo sentence shows temporal deixis because it refers to a specific point in the past when Summer attended the party. This indicates that the conversation between Summer and Jayda is

taking place after the party occurred, allowing for a discussion about Summer's experience at the event.

## Social Deixis

This type of personal deixis refers to the use of language to establish social relationships and hierarchies within a conversation. Social deixis includes pronouns, honorifics, and other linguistic markers that indicate the social status, familiarity, or respect between speakers. For example, using “you” instead of “thou” may signal a more formal or respectful relationship, while using a person's title or last name can indicate a higher level of respect or even authority. Social deixis plays a crucial role in shaping interactions between individuals and can help to convey power dynamics, social roles, and levels of intimacy within a conversation. It allows speakers to navigate the complex social landscape of communication and adapt their language accordingly to effectively convey their intended meaning.

Datum 11:

- Ms. Malkin : Well, Principal Spahn, in the classroom, sometimes the old ways are the best ways. Back to your posts. No five-highing.
- Leo : Oh, that pic is fire.

Ms. Malkin uses the phrase “Principal Spahn” as social deixis because she is directly addressing him in his role as the school principal. This demonstrates a level of formality and respect in their interaction.

Datum 12:

- Jayda's dad : It's supposed to say, “Dr. Skin,” not “Dr. Skid.” S-K-I-N. No D's.
- Benji : Jayda, I dyed the cat green.

Jayda's dad asked Jayda's friends to address him as Dr. Skin to show social deixis because he wants to be recognized in his professional role as a dermatologist. This request also emphasizes the importance of correct spelling and pronunciation in his name.

### Discourse Expressions

It is the ways in which speakers signal their attitudes, emotions, and intentions through their language choices. These expressions can include tone of voice, facial expressions, and gestures that add layers of meaning to verbal communication. By combining discourse expressions with social deixis, speakers can create a nuanced and rich dialogue that conveys not only the literal words being spoken, but also the underlying emotions and social dynamics at play. This careful navigation of language and nonverbal cues is essential for effective communication and building strong relationships with others.

Datum 13:

- Leo : Wait, wait! Hold on!  
That's the number before  
75, isn't it?
- Cinnabun : What's the matter? You  
look upset.

Leo uses the word "it" as discourse expression of deixis because it refers back to the number that Leo was just talking about, which is 74. This shows that Leo is trying to clarify and confirm his understanding of the number sequence.

Datum 14:

- Leo : Get all your mean jokes in  
now, 'cause the next kid  
who takes me home is the  
last kid.
- Squirtle : Sure they are, Mr. Chicken-  
to-leave.

The word "last" in the phrase "last kid" shows discourse expression of deixis because it refers to the upcoming event of Leo going home with another kid. This indicates that Leo is emphasizing the finality of the situation and setting a boundary for future interactions.

*Leo* is an animated movie that shows five types of deixis to help viewers understand the different perspectives of the characters. The movie uses more personal deixis than other types of deixis to create a deeper connection between the audience and the characters. This finding is similar to the other researches related to deixis in *La La Land* (Islamiyah & Qani'ah, 2021), *Bird Box* (Rebong & Handayani, 2023), *Black Swan* (Saputri, 2016), *Tenet* (Hanggarjito, Prastikawati, & Nur, 2021), and *First Kiss* (Fitria, 2020). Those researches showed that personal/person deixis is mostly used in the movie followed by spatial and temporal/time deixis. The use of personal/person deixis generally allows viewers to empathize with the struggles and triumphs of the characters on a personal level. The spatial deixis enhances the overall viewing experience and leaves a lasting impression on viewers long after the movie ends. In addition, strategic use of time (temporal/time deixis) in storytelling adds layers of complexity to the narrative, engaging audiences on a deeper level and prompting reflection on their own lives.

The characters of *Leo* (2023) use social deixis to show their relationships and connections with one another, drawing viewers into their world and making them feel a part of the story. This interpersonal communication technique adds authenticity and relatability to the characters, making their interactions feel genuine and impactful. Most of the social deixis in *Leo* related to their professional and social relation as the movie was set on educational setting (school). This is

similar to the social deixis in the movie *Beauty and the Beast* in which it was mainly used to express intimacy, with relational social deixis being the dominant kind of social deixis found in the dialogues (Noerofi'a & Bahri, 2019). A study on deixis within the movie *Madness of King George* found that social deixis in the movie were to express politeness and respect, to express intimacy, and to identify authority (Putra, Sofyan, & Sembiring, 2020). The analysis of social deixis in the movie helped clarify social status, identity, and intimacy of social relationships among characters. The use of social deixis immerses the audience in the story and creates a sense of closeness with the characters. The use of deixis helps to ground the audience in the characters' experiences and emotions, making the film all the more relatable and engaging.

Discourse expression of the movie *Leo* is categorized as the least dominant deixis in the research. The characters' utterances are aimed to connect the viewers on a deeper level with the characters, enhancing their emotional investment in the narrative. This result is similar to a research on discourse deixis on *A Thousand Words* (Sasmita, Hardiah, & Elfrida, 2018) found various references related to discourse deixis in the script, such as This, That, Those, These. Unfortunately, this research did not analyze the discourse deixis throughout the movie unlike a research on *Iron Man 3* (Bramanta, 2014) which found discourse deixis only in the orientation, complication, rising action, turning point only. Implementing deixis in movie *Leo* make it effectively conveys its messages, and making it a memorable cinematic experience for viewers of all ages.

## CONCLUSION

Five different forms of deixis are used in the animated movie *Leo* to help the audience better comprehend the viewpoints of the characters. The most popular kind of deixis is personal, which enables viewers to identify with the challenges and victories of the characters. The spatial deixis improves visual experiences and makes the movie more memorable. By adding layers of intricacy, temporal/time deixis engages viewers more deeply. Social deixis is utilized to depict ties and interactions, which gives the characters a genuine and approachable sense. The social deixis of the film mostly concern interpersonal and professional ties. The discourse deixis, which aims to increase viewers' emotional investment in the story and foster a closer connection with them, is the least prominent deixis. *Leo* skillfully delivers its messages, creating a visual experience that will stick in the minds of viewers of all ages.

This research demonstrates how deixis, particularly temporal/time and social deixis, play a crucial role in enhancing the storytelling and emotional impact of the film. The intricate layers of deixis help to establish a strong connection between the audience and the characters, making the viewing experience more engaging and compelling. Through *Leo*'s careful use of deixis, viewers are not only entertained but also encouraged to reflect on their own relationships and experiences, making the film a truly memorable movie.

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