

## AN ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS USED IN FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM POSTED BY EFL STUDENTS

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### Abstract

The aims of this study are to find out types of deixis used, the most dominant deixis and the interpretation of deixis used by EFL students. Descriptive research was used for this study. The participants of this research was 65 EFL students in English Language Department batch 2020 Universitas Tanjungpura Pontianak. The data source was the English posts in Facebook and Instagram posted from January 2022 until December 2022. The research findings showed that 5 out of 5 types of deixis with in total 571 data used by EFL students in their Facebook and Instagram posts. The most dominant deixis used is person deixis with 363 data or 63,57%, place deixis with 97 data or 16,98%, and time deixis 65 data or 11,38%. The interpretation of person deixis as the dominant used by the EFL students to interpret the used of Instagram and Facebook to share their stories, from their point of view of how a person felt at the moment. The implication of this research helps EFL students to navigate the use of context, improving the ability to communicate affectively and understand the variations in both written and spoken English.

**Keywords:** Deixis; Facebook; Instagram

### INTRODUCTION

Social media are used as essential instruments for communication and self-expression. For example, Facebook and Instagram have emerged as important platforms among many types of online communication, it helps to promote interactions between diverse user communities. According to Lakhal (2021) social media have become extremely important for today's youth. Young generation especially university students grow up in the era of using social media as daily activity and primary needs. Whether using it as entertainment, informational and socializing. Rezaul Karim et al., (2022) stated that in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) settings the use of social media provides several opportunities for students to improve their English language skills. Especially English is known as a global language since it is used all over the world to communicate with one another. EFL students actively engage in social media, they utilized language to express their thoughts, emotions, and experiences in form of post in Instagram and Facebook.

EFL students communicate in social media using English language in order to connect with each other. According to Ginting and Syahri (2021), language is a set of symbols used to connect and communicate among people. Delivering ideas and experiences help human to grow. EFL students employed social media as a way to learn English. EFL students post something in their Facebook and Instagram using English while applying pragmatics feature into their posts in Facebook and Instagram. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is the study of meaning and ways to communicate by the speakers also how the listeners interpreted the messages. This study helps to understand the context especially the unsaid words and phrases from the speakers. One of the study in pragmatics include the use of deixis in language usage from the EFL students. Therefore, deixis is a major key in writing and speaking for EFL students in Universitas Tanjungpura. This research helps the sixth semester even the first

semester students in English language education study program to increase their awareness about deixis used in a simple conversation and basic English writing without them knowing what it is.

Deixis helps EFL students to explore how to use English language in social media to expand English skill. According to Williams (2020), deixis is a phenomenon in which the meanings of some referential expressions in human languages alter based on various aspects of their usage context. Yule (1996), stated that deixis comes from Greek which mean “pointing”. Expressions that refer to some extent to the context of their utterances are classified as deictic expressions. EFL students used deixis in their social media posts in order to engage both linguistically and culturally. According to Levinson (1991), there are five types of deixis including person, place, time, discourse, and social deixies.

Person Deixis is used in order to give variations of personal pronouns of people. According to Levinson (1991), Person deixis refers to the language expression to specify conversation participants such as the speaker, addressee, or others. It plays significant role to see how individual used language expressions to refer to themselves and others. It can show the social hierarchies, participants perspective and relationship in social interaction. Natalia and Santoso (2020), stated that the pronouns *I, You, Him, Mine, Yours, Her, My, Your, and Herself* are followed by the possessive adjectives *My, Your, and Her*. Deixis is made up of the first, second, and third persons. The speaker refers to himself in the first person. The third person refers to an individual or group of individuals, while the second person is the speaker's reference to one or many past "*You*." According to Pratiwi (2018), identification of the text's participants is known as person deixis. It denotes a phrase that refers to the individual to whom the speaker or writer is referring. First, second, and third persons are the deixis categories.

Place deixis is a deictic reference to a location in relation to the location of a speaker or other participant in the speech event. Levinson (1991), stated it is important to know the location specification in order to see how and where is the situation happened with the speakers. According to Dwipayani et al., (2020), the location of some spaces between the speaker and the listener is related to the concept of place. The position of persons and things is known as deixis of place. The two categories of place deixis are proximal (near to the speaker) and distal (sometimes close to the addressee). Proximal which is here, for the example is the use of “You can meet me *here*” it indicates a place that near the speaker, for instance the speaker says *here* refers to garden as a place that the speaker and listener is currently meet. Distal which is there. The use of there as the example “I’ll meet you *there*” there in this sentence refers to a place that is close to the speaker, there indicates as the place that they promise to meet afterward like the forest.

Time deixis is used to indicate the expression to tell the time such as *now, then, next week, last month*. Time deixis is about spans relative to the time and temporal points when an utterance was spoken or written, Levinson (1991). According to Sitorus (2019), understanding the person, time, and location that the speaker has in mind is necessary in order to interpret all these deictic statements. *Now, soon, recently, today, tomorrow, ago, yesterday* are the expression of temporal in deixis. The expression between what is closer to speaker such as *this, here, now* are different than what is away from the speaker like *that, there and then*.

Discourse deixis is any expressions and phrases that direct the listener or reader through spoken or written text. According to Levinson (1991), deixis in a discourse or text refers to the use of terms within an utterance to refer to a specific section of the discourse that comprises that utterance. An utterance conveys its relationship to the surrounding text in speech, for instance, an utterance of *anyway* because it seems to suggest that it does not relate to the speech that came before it in the utterance. Temporal deixis can also be found in discourse deixis such as the use of *next* and *last*. Place deixis in discourse deixis like *this* and *that*, for the example is the

use of *this* and *that*. "I love *this* place" *this* indicates to specific place that the speaker is experiencing like the mall. There are many deictic expressions that include in discourse deixis such as *but, therefore, in conclusion, to the contrary, still, however, anyway, well, besides, actually, all in all, so, after all, actually, that's, so, if*.

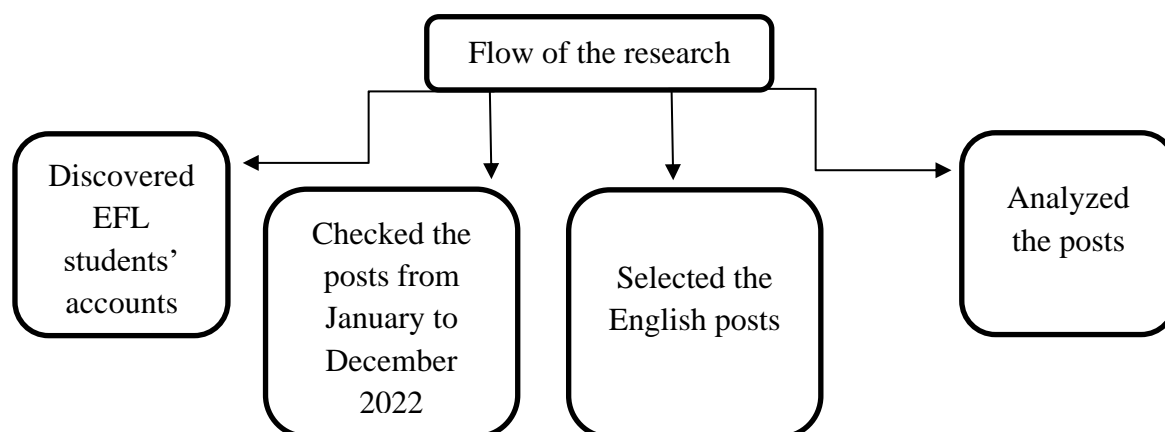
Social deixis deal with social distanctions that associate with the status and relationship between participants include their social interactions. Levinson (1991), stated that social deixis as one of the elements from deixis to refer a situation in social context such as the relationships between discussion participants. For the example is the use of honorifics to adressess someone politely like 'Thank you, *Ma'am*.' According to Kusumaningtyas and Halimah (2020), communication between people frequently involves social deixis, a language phenomena. Due to the fact that sharing similar sentiments with classmates, friends, coworkers, and others in the same age, communicating with them is generally free of difficulties. In normal conditions, social deixis can reflect social position, status and relative social relationships, as well as be used to determine a person's degree of education, nationality, manners, and other characteristics. It can help to observe its many roles, including euphemism and reducing the psychological gap between the two parties.

Facebook is an online social networking service that allows users to communicate with and share information with family and friends. Not only as the online services to share but also in EFL setting Facebook has been utilized for academic settings. According to Santoso (2021), The pupils did not have any difficulty using the Facebook features to do task in closed group. It shows that students are familiar with the use of Facebook. Facebook allows students to engage in written conversation in English. It also encourages students to publish updates, comments, and engage in discussions with people and natural native speakers of English. This can help students develop their writing skills and introduce pupils to other English styles. Deixis is used in daily basis of EFL students, when they update a post in their Facebook, they include the used of deixis. Mukhlif and Challob (2021), stated EFL students in Facebook can be presented with several learning chances to acquire new vocabularies, deixis and regular practice with other students or other people. When EFL students post something in their Facebook, they practice the used of person deixis in using pronouns such as "she," "he," "it," "we," "you," and "they."

Instagram is visually engaging when posting picture and stories. EFL students can utilized it to post the pictures, videos, stories using English. According to Lestari and German (2021), English has become the language most widely used by Indonesian Instagrammers in Instagram features include EFL learners. Deixis usage is critical for properly communicating information. Deixis is used in Instagram interactions between EFL students to provide context, maintain discourse cohesiveness and clarify the meaning. It is critical for effective communication, particularly in a digital setting where the EFL students cannot rely on nonverbal clues as easily as they would in face-to-face conversations. The used of deixis will engage the way EFL students write and posts their photos, stories, videos in their caption in order to give context of their posts. Writing an Instagram post in English can be so inspiring that EFL students are frequently observed willingly spending time and exerting extra effort to truly prepare for a catchy and grammatically-correct post.

## METHOD

In this study, the researcher used descriptive research. According to Gay, et al., (2012) descriptive research did not need the experimental manipulation in order to see the phenomenon that occur. Therefore, the researcher collected the data based on their answers in the questionnaire.



**Figure 1.** The method to collect the data

The flow of research can be seen from **Figure 1**. Firstly, the researcher found their accounts in Facebook and Instagram. Secondly, the researcher checked their posts from January 2022 until December 2022. Thirdly, the researcher selected the posts in English. Fourthly, the researcher analyzed their posts based on the utterances and sentences into specific five categories of deixis from Levinson. The data has been organized in this phase in order to gain insights and usage of deixis from EFL students' posts. The researcher effectively chose, classified, analyzed and gathered the data to examine the deixis usage in EFL students posts by following these four procedures.

The unit of data analysis was the utterances and phrases from Facebook and Instagram posts by EFL students from English education study program from batch 2020 of Universitas Tanjungpura, after they answered questions from the questionnaire. There were three steps that the researcher has done in order to analyze the data. The first step was preparing and organizing the data for analysis, then read through the data. The researcher prepared the data from the answers of EFL students that they have answered on the questionnaire. Second step, the researcher read the answers carefully and wrote memos in order to check on EFL students' Facebook and Instagram accounts. Third step, the researcher classified the data of each post from EFL students in Facebook and Instagram accounts into tabular forms. In this part, the researcher has gathered the data from the questionnaire, then segmented each utterance and sentences from the posts on both Facebook and Instagram into deictic expression from the five categories of deixis from Levinson.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

After analyzing the data from EFL students' Facebook and Instagram posts, the researcher found out about the research participants were 69 EFL students, but only 65 EFL students in the English Language Study Program batch 2020 Universitas Tanjungpura allowed researcher to take their data from their Facebook and Instagram accounts, but the main data was taken from their Facebook and Instagram's accounts. Overall, the researcher has found 5 types of deixis in Facebook and Instagram posts, including person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Out of the five deixis, the dominant type of deixis are person deixis with 363 deictic expressions (63,57%), place deixis with 97 deictic expressions (16,98%), time deixis with 65 deictic expressions (11,38%), discourse deixis with 39 deictic

expressions (6,85%) and social deixis with 7 deictic expressions (1,22%). The interpretation of person deixis as dominant used as the EFL students used Instagram and Facebook to share their stories, from their point of view of how a person felt at the moment.

**Table 1.** The calculation of Deixis used on Facebook and Instagram's posts of EFL Students

Types of Deixis	Frequency	Percentage
Person Deixis	363	63,57%
Place Deixis	97	16,98%
Time Deixis	65	11,38%
Discoures Deixis	39	6,85%
Social Deixis	7	1,22%
Total	571	100%

Based on the table above, EFL students used 5 out of 5 types of deixis according to Levinson (1991) in their Facebook and Instagram posts.

Person Deixis is used to provide variants of people's personal pronouns. that the possessive adjectives *My*, *Your*, and *Her* come after the pronouns *I*, *You*, *Him*, *Mine*, *Yours*, *Her*, *My*, *Your*, and *Herself*. First, second, and third persons comprise Deixis. The speaker uses the first person to address himself. Whereas the speaker refers to one or more previous "*You*" in the second person, the third person refers to an individual or group of individuals and also "*It*". There were 363 utterances found for person deixis in this data.

The example of person deixis:

Such an honorable and big pleasure to get the opportunity by the lecturer and the school to share/teach the great teachers at SMP BRUDER Pontianak about How to Apply Technology in Learning by Using Kahoot. Hopefully what *I* have shared can be useful for *them*.

The data above classified as person deixis because the utterance in the Instagram post showed the used of *I* as the first person as a speaker and *Them* as third person object pronoun. It is the indication of the students of the speaker.

A place's deixis is a deictic reference to a location in connection to a speaker's or other event participant's location. The used of proximal (near to the speaker) and distal (sometimes close to the addressee). For the example like *here* and *there*. There were 97 utterances found for place deixis in this data.

The example of place deixis:

*Anjungan*, 28 December 2022, Thank you for the adventure of the end of the year, *Anjungan*! And also thanks to everyone that have share their moments together *here*! Can't wait to come *here* again soon. Until next time *Anjungan*!

The data showed the used of place deixis such as *Anjungan* and *here*.

Time deixis is used to convey the use of time for the example like the expression of terms *now*, *then*, *next week*, *tomorrow*, *soon*, *lately*, *yesterday*, *today*, *now*, *ago* and *last month*. Expressions that are closer to the speaker, *like this*, *here*, and *now*, differ from those that are farther away, such that, there, and then. For the example like *here* and *there*. There were 65 utterances found for time deixis in this data.

The example of time deixis:

*Yesterday's Chistmas* with @japemkri\_fkipuntan!

The data showed the used of time deixis in *yesterday's Christmas*. The speaker wanted to showed the photo of them together in a group from a Christmas celebration of yesterday.

Discourse deixis refers to any words and phrases used in written or spoken language to guide the reader or listener. In speech, an utterance expresses its relationship to the surrounding text.



For example, an utterance of *anyway* suggests that it has no connection to the words that preceded it. There are numerous deictic expression in discourse deixis such as *but, therefore, in conclusion, to the contrary, still, however, anyway, well, besides, actually, all in all, so, after all, actually, that, so, if, there*. There were 39 utterances found for discourse deixis in this data. The example of discourse deixis:

*This* pose is above normal, *but* thanks for the time guys

The data showed the used of discourse deixis in *this* and *but*. The speaker referred *this* as the weird pose that her or his friends have done on the beach and *but* referred to she or he being grateful for the fun moment they spent together.

Social deixis is concerned with social distinctions associated with the status and relationship of individuals, including their social interactions. Under normal circumstances, social deixis can represent a person's social position, status, and relative social relationships, as well as be used to determine a person's level of education, nationality, manners, and other traits. It can aid in observing its various responsibilities, such as euphemism and bridging the psychological gap between the two parties. For the example the used of "Thank you, *Ma'am*". There were 7 utterances found for discourse deixis in this data.

The example of social deixis:

Thank you, dear *Allah Swt* has been given a long live, up to this 20 years. I hope I can become a better person in the future. Aamiiin

The one hundred and twenty eighth data showed the used of social deixis in *Allah Swt*. The speaker referred Allah Swt as God Almighty that higher than anyone in this universe.

**Table 2.** The Most Dominant Deixis used on Facebook and Instagram's posts of EFL students

Types of Deixis	Frequency	Percentage
Person Deixis	363	63,57%
Place Deixis	97	16,98%
Time Deixis	65	11,38%

The researcher found out that person deixis is the most dominant type of deixis used by EFL students with 363 frequency and 63,57%, place deixis with 97 frequency and 16,98%, then time deixis with 65 frequency with 11,38%. These are the data from 165 posts on both Facebook and Instagram posts by EFL students with the total five types of deixis used in 571 total deixis. Thus the dominant deictic expression of person deixis used by EFL students on their Facebook and Instagram posts are first person "I, Me, My, We, Us, Our" and second person "You, Your".

The interpretation of using person deixis according to Levinson (1991), as it plays a fundamental role in pragmatics to investigate how people use language terms to refer themselves and others. It shows the dominant used of person deixis from the EFL students as their capability to identify critical information about social hierarchies, interpersonal relationships, and the perspectives from the participants. EFL students have the ability to share their point of view from their Facebook and Instagram as the personal posted dairy in order to keep others updated about their life. They shared the important news, perspectives and experiences from their side of the story as the EFL students. They engaged with their friends, family even strangers online to share information about themselves in Facebook and Instagram. As the place deixis to tell the exact places, where their posted videos, photos and status taken

and time deixis as the way of sharing stories to convey the time through photos and videos from EFL students point of view. They utilized Facebook and Instagram to share the lovely moments and still using deixis as a part of EFL students in their daily life.

## Discussion

In this research, the researcher focused on analyzing the used of deixis used from the utterances that the EFL students posted on their Instagram and Facebook accounts. The researcher has found 165 utterances with the total 571 deictic expressions used from Facebook and Instagram post by EFL students. EFL students expressed all of their emotions through Facebook and Instagram posts from telling their stories, giving the exact places and times so that, people that they shared their stories with can see it from their photos and videos or even their own words in status and posts. It helps EFL students to navigate the use of context, improving the ability to communicate affectively and understand the variations in both written and spoken English. It also can highlight difficulties that EFL students have expressing themselves and adjusting to the conventions of online communication. The strength of this research comes from the specificity of particular group of EFL students of batch 2020 in Universitas Tanjungpura, not only that but also how the relevancy of modern communication in using Facebook and Instagram whereas the young generations of EFL students of batch 2020 have been exposed to the used of social media everyday. The used of deixis is relevant to their study especially they have to learn pragmatics and specifically deixis in the sixth semester in English language education study program in Universitas Tanjungpura. The novelty of this research is the digital linguistic exploration where the researcher investigated and analyzed the language used in the deixis context in the online platforms such as Facebook and Instagram that happened among EFL students in Universitas Tanjungpura. It showed that the EFL students are actively engaged with the used of social media and how they interacted to show their knowledge in using deixis in Facebook and Instagram interactions.

## CONCLUSION

According to data results, the researcher have found the answer to three research questions. The researcher discovered 5 out of 5 types of deixis used by EFL students on their Facebook and Instagram posts. They are person deixis with 363 frequency, place deixis with 97 frequency, time deixis with 65 frequency, discourse deixis with 39 frequency and social deixis with 7 frequency which makes 571 data in total. The dominant deixis type used on Facebook and Instagram posts by EFL students is person deixis with 363 frequency or 63,57%. The interpretation of the used of person deixis by EFL students was also written down in this study. It shows the EFL students' dominant usage of person deixis as their capacity to discern essential information about social hierarchies, interpersonal interactions, and participant views. The EFL students posted photos and videos based on their own experiences from their own point of view to tell their followers about themselves and the things that happened to them.

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