



Pragmatic Study on Deixis Analysis in Ruskin Bond's Short Story 'The Eyes Have It'

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Abstract: This in-depth investigation of Ruskin Bond's "The Eyes Have It" delves into the darkest recesses of deixis. The discerning eye uncovers compelling patterns by unraveling the enigmatic tapestry of person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis. Individual deixis rules at 36.07%, a throbbing heartbeat reverberating with character drenching. Spatial deixis (18.03%) lays out scenes of energetic tones, while talk deixis (20.08%) arranges the story's balletic developments. Character interaction gains vitality thanks to social deixis (16.80%). The elusive conductor orchestrating chronological harmony is temporal deixis (9.02 percent). A linguistic symphony dissected to illuminate the elusive pragmatics in short story literature, the narrative is imbued with coherence and depth by the dance of deixis types, which is intricately interwoven.

Keywords: Deixis, literary pragmatics, analytical study, linguistic decisions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Pragmatics emerges as the discerning explorer of language within the intricate web of context and social communication dynamics, delving into the vast field of linguistics. Yule's (1996) pragmatics delves into the nuanced dance of context, speaker intentions, and shared knowledge among conversational partners, going beyond the literal echoes of words. The enigmatic force of deixis, in which words are entwined with the temporal and spatial dimensions of discourse and derive meaning from the context, is at its core (Levinson, 1983). Language users use this intricate interaction as their compass to navigate the maze of shared knowledge and context-specific references in communication. Broadening pragmatics into the artistic area, especially inside text-based examination, unwinds the stealthy strings of language nuances inside stories. According to Sperber & Wilson (1995), Deixis emerges as the virtuoso, orchestrating the reader's interpretation symphony, influencing character and

dynamics, and shaping the narrative's very bones. In the blessed pages of Ruskin Bond's "The Eyes Have It," this study sets out on a practical odyssey, looking to plumb the profundities of deixis' part in scholarly stories. A reference point in the shadowy scene of exploration, this work remains an original commitment to the nexus of pragmatics and scholarly examinations, enlightening deixis' unknown domains inside the embroidery of phonetic articulation, particularly in the rich setting of artistic stories.

1.2 Overview of Pragmatics

The subfield of pragmatics emerges as an enigmatic researcher as it delves into the tangled landscape of linguistics and looks beyond the structural framework of language. According to Verschueren (1999), this linguistic soothsayer deciphers the intricacies of language use, not only as a syntactical and semantical construct but also as a dynamic interaction within contextual constraints. The static structures of syntax and semantics fade into the background as the dance of language features

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transforms into a dance of social maneuvering and communication goals. The acknowledgment that expressions rise above the exacting cover of words is the essential key to opening the obscure domain of pragmatics. The cooperative ballet of communication, in which implicit expectations intertwine with discourse to create a symphony of shared understanding, is outlined by Grice's Cooperative Principle and conversational maxims, which are woven into the pragmatic tapestry (Grice, 1975).

Nonverbal communication, implicature, deixis, and the avant-garde speech act theory are all included in pragmatics, which extends beyond the linguistic domain. The speech act principle, developed by linguists Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), examines how utterances transcend the mere transmission of words to become actions. Decoding the veiled meanings are woven into communication and seamlessly maneuvering through the tapestry of intricate social contexts become the compass for navigating the labyrinth of politeness tactics and the intricate fabric of pragmatics. Pragmatics emerges as the watchdog, unraveling the intricate symphony of language functioning as the essential tool for social interaction by examining language within its situational and contextual cocoon.

1.3 Importance of Deixis in Language

Deixis emerges as a cornerstone, an essential cipher, reliant on shared contextual intricacies to amplify the symphony of linguistic expression within the intricate tapestry of linguistics. The key lies in speakers' ability to use deictic expressions to avoid the need for explicit elaboration when referring to entities or events based on contextual cues. This etymological speculative chemistry, as expressed by Lyons (1977), smoothes out correspondence as well as passes on it with a curtness that is both efficient and solid. Deixis transcends brevity to become the weaver of reference in discourse, a masterful stroke that gives the linguistic landscape coherence (Hanks, 2005). The convoluted conversation would become a laborious ordeal without deixis, necessitating the constant clarification and repetition of referents, which would disrupt the fluidity of the conversation. However, deixis is more than just a useful tool; it is the chameleon of semantic elements, adjusting articulations to the subtleties of situational settings (Diessel, 2006). This flexibility, a demonstration of the smoothness of language, permits speakers to imbue similar articulations with different implications across fluctuated settings. Here, deixis rises above the domain of simple phonetic exactness; It transforms into a provocateur, entices readers into a dance of meaning-deduction, and introduces layers of complexity and ambiguity that call for active engagement with the text.

The researcher embarks on a journey through deixis in the short story "The Eyes Have It" by Ruskin Bond to fully comprehend the text. Numerous deixis instances beckon within its narrative folds, weaving a rich tapestry that transcends linguistic complexities. This investigation sheds light on the significant influence that Deixis possesses, not only within the confines of literary discourse but also as a mute architect who is responsible for shaping the very essence of everyday communication.

1.4 Research Question

This article discusses deixis in the short story "The Eyes Have It" by Ruskin Bond. The various kinds of deixis, dominant types of deixis, and reasons for the most common kind of deixis employed in the present brief narrative will be the main topics of analysis.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 The Role of Deixis in Literary Analysis

Deixis arises as a key part of the scholarly examination, producing a powerful dance among language and setting that unpredictably forms the interpretative focal point applied to texts. Deictic elements, such as demonstrative pronouns and temporal expressions, transform into linguistic tools within the narrative expanse, thereby tying readers into the story's world (Givón, 2001). These semantic signs, pivotal for character improvement, permit essayists to permeate characters with a language range, painting feelings, perspectives, and character qualities (Lyons, 1982).

Deixis becomes more than just a character's storyteller; she guides the reader through shifts in time and place, ensuring narrative coherence and an immersive reading experience (Edmunds, 2008). However, in this phonetic expressive dance, deixis turns out to be more than a navigational guide; infusing the narrative with an immediacy and subjectivity that captivates, it introduces layers of subtlety and ambiguity (Kaplan, 1989). Within the intricate folds of literary discourse, the subtly revealed underlying themes, perspectives, and emotions are revealed through the strategic interplay of deictic expressions, which acts as an artistic veil. Deixis transcends its utilitarian function in this linguistic symphony to become the brushstroke that paints the narrative canvas with shades of interpretation and layers of nuanced meaning.

2.2 Deixis in Short Stories

Deixis emerges as a pivotal force in the intricate dance of short story composition, orchestrating reader engagement and narrative ephemerality by crafting a maze of contextual references. According to Fleischman (1990), writers

skillfully employ deixis, which is similar to a literary compass and gives readers' meandering steps in the fictional world immediateness and precision. This phonetic movement turns into a brief range, scratching data and depicting spatial and fleeting limits critical in the curtness of brief tales (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002). Characters are given distinct voices by deictic elements, similar to artistic brushstrokes, which reveal motivations and relationships within the narrative tapestry (Short, 1996). Deictic expressions alter readers' perceptions and draw them deeper into the narrative's heartbeat as they warp the fabric of time and space and transform into architects of suspense and tension (Herman, 2017). Short stories' dynamic deixis goes beyond the traditional role of the reader to invite readers to actively participate in the co-creation of meaning and immerse them in an engaging literary dialogue (Genette, 1980). Deixis is the medium through which moods and emotions are conveyed in short stories. It is a nuanced brush that deepens character interactions and shapes the narrative's overall tone (Cohn, 2013). By strategically placing deictic references, writers can concisely convey complex nuances, enhancing the craft of short story writing with layers of meaning and evocative resonance, and this intricate interplay positions deixis as an essential artisan.

2.3 Definition and Types of Deixis

Deixis is a linguistic mystery that occurs when specific words or expressions intricately dance with the contextual cues of the speaker or discourse. These deictic elements become navigational beacons in the communication labyrinth, pointing the reader or listener to specific entities, times, or locations. Deixis is dynamic and context-dependent, making it the hard-to-cross path for meaning. To accurately interpret it, the speaker and the listener must share a contextual background (Macrae, 2019).

Inside this etymological chiaroscuro, deixis appears in different sorts, each creating its semantic shaded areas and features. Grammatical encoding reflects the interaction between speakers, listeners, and other participants in discourse in person deixis. According to Levinson (2004), pronouns like "I," "you," "he," and "they" become linguistic reflections that replicate the identities of communicative participants and yield meaning through the contextual rave. Using the spatial tapestry of communication, spatial deixis emerges as a linguistic cartographer. Articulations like "here" and "there" gain significance from the actual district of the speaker, audience, or substances inside the story scene, changing language into a spatial compass (Levinson, 2004). A linguistic chronometer known as temporal deixis is used to weave expressions connected to time. According to Comrie (1985),

"now," "then," "today," and "tomorrow" become linguistic relics whose meanings are shaped by the temporal context in which they are spoken. Discourse deixis, a phonetic classicist, uncovers articulations that allude to the continuous discourse. A linguistic palimpsest is created when words like "this" and "that" become linguistic signposts that mark specific points in spoken or written discourse (Macrae, 2019). A linguistic sociologist by the name of Social Deixis uses expressions to show relationships and social roles. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), honorifics or titles like "Mr.," "Mrs.," and "Doctor" become linguistic insignias that reveal specifics about the social standing of communicative participants.

In this phonetic kaleidoscope, deixis becomes a device as well as a mind-boggling dance, where words and articulations rise above their lexical limits, uncovering a nuanced story interlaced into the actual texture of semantic articulation.

2.4 Previous Studies on Pragmatics and Deixis in Short Stories

Prior studies of pragmatics in literature have focused primarily on how to navigate the intricate relationship between language and literary expression. This confounded landscape, as examined by scholastics, especially Bloodsucker (1983), has unwound the significant effect of deixis, discourse acts, and implicature on the many-sided woven artwork of character advancement, account construction, and peruser commitment. Literary discourse is a realm that is dissected by the discerning eye of Jefferson (1987), where the pragmatic movement of dialogue adds another layer of complexity. The echoes of social interactions reverberate through literary discourse. The application of the concept of relevance, developed by Sperber and Wilson (1995) as a cognitive compass, has been a beacon that has shed light on the cognitive effects of pragmatic inferences and deciphered the mystery of how readers navigate textual landscapes. Brown and Levinson's (1987) analysis reveals the nuanced tool used by characters to achieve various communicative objectives—the purposeful employing of language respectful markers—in the range of politeness strategies. Diving further into the landscape, the investigation of the discourse act hypothesis in writing, as expressed by Banfield (1982), projects a focus on the execution of illocutionary acts by characters. The pragmatic force that is embedded in fictional speech is reflected through this framework like a prism. By revealing the fluidity of language within the tapestry of fictional realms, this mosaic of diverse studies improves our comprehension of the intricate interaction between pragmatics and literature.

Lestyanada's (2021) research focuses on the deixis analysis of Joseph Martin Kronheim's short story "The Little Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe". It divides deixis into five categories—personal, social, geographical, temporal, and discursive—based on Levinson's theory. Personal deixis is the deictic word that is most commonly used.

Mohammed and Jesuda carried out research in 2023. Based on a theoretical framework provided by Levinson, this analysis investigates the use of deixis in two of Kate Chopin's compositions, "A Couple of Silk Stockings" and "The Narrative of 60 Minutes." This research examines how the roles and relationships between the characters in Kate Chopin's collection of short tales is shaped by deixis. It also examines how deixis changes the context of time, geography, and social conditions.

Dewi's (2015) study focuses on looking at the many deixis found in Hans Christian Andersen's story "The Child in the Grave." because it looks at the many types of deixis that are present in this narrative. The type of deixis most commonly utilized in this narrative is the pronoun deixis, as evidenced by the fact that around 257 (84.8%) pronouns deixis were detected. In this narrative, many types of deixis are used, including time, location, conversation, and social deixis.

In her study from 2021, Niswa tries to determine the several forms of deixis and the primary type utilized in Hans Christian Andersen's story "What the Old Man Does Is Always Right" from 1930. Five different forms of deixis were discovered to be employed in short stories, with personal deixis being the most prevalent (77.95 percent) according to this study. Temporal deixis (4.41%), spatial deixis (4.04%), social deixis (3.68%) and discourse deixis (9.92%) are the other categories of deixis. For a better understanding of the short narrative "What the Old Man Does Is Always Right," deixis or deictic expression was necessary.

The study conducted by Jasim (2022) focuses on the deictic components of Edgar Allan Poe's "Tale-Tell Heart" and the pragmatics of the deixis notion. It aims to understand how these elements govern the contextual meaning of the utterances, a crucial aspect of pragmatics. Deictic elements help interpret the situational meaning of utterances encoded by conversational participants. The study hypothesizes that the deictic elements used by Poe facilitate the contextual meaning of the literary text.

3. METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed the descriptive qualitative method to carry out this study. Every

sentence in Ruskin Bond's story "The Eyes Have It" serves as the source material for the current study. The documentary method was used to gather the information. A documentary technique gathers data through reading, researching, and classifying information to identify and compile the necessary study-related data. The methods used to analyze the data for this article were: (1) locating deixis in the story; (2) categorizing deixis according to types; (3) tallying the occurrences of each type of deixis; and (4) determining which deixis type predominated in the short story.

3.1 Selection of "The Eyes Have It" Short Story

"The Eyes Have It," by Ruskin Bond, was chosen for its nuanced examination of human perception and captivating narrative structure. It tells a story about a character pretending to be blind while traveling by train. This story was chosen for consideration because of the author's skillful use of sarcasm and ability to reveal profound depths within seemingly straightforward situations. Unexpected turns occur as the story progresses, adding an element of unpredictability to its appeal as a compelling subject for analysis. Bond's story craftsmanship transforms this scholarly piece into a dazzling maze, welcoming a nearer assessment of the multifaceted layers hidden inside its direct exterior.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are 88 (36.07%) instances of person deixis, 44 (18.03%) instances of spatial deixis, 22 (9.02%), instances of temporal deixis 49 instances of discourse deixis (20., 08%), and 41 (16,8%) instances of social deixis in Table 1. This indicates the quantity and percentage of deixis usage in the short story.

From the perspective of examination investigation, "The Eyes Have It" becomes clear as a story that is gently woven with the strings of five separate deixis classes inside the spaces of scholarly creativity. The disclosure reveals an astonishingly diverse tapestry, with each deixis thread meticulously woven into the narrative itself. Person deixis has a staggering 36.07 percent dominance, earning it the title of narrative eminence, according to Table 1, which serves as a predictor of deixis prevalence. This solid presence attracts our concentration to the people and their communications and offers an exhaustive assessment of their intricacy. Individual deixis is a sharp scholarly gadget utilized by Bond, the story's maestro, to make a cozy connection between the peruser and the characters. Pronouns and individual ward articulations are utilized to beautify the material, making a close-to-home orchestra that contacts the peruser's heart. This purposeful imbue ensures an instinctive bond, empowering perusers to relate to the considerations and

sensations of the characters and changing the story from an assortment of words into a charming encounter.

With a significant 20.08 percent of the narrative space, discourse deixis enters the intricate dance of deixis and emerges as the next big thing. The story's ebb and flow are controlled by this subtle deixis variation, which acts as an invisible choreographer. Bond navigates the story's twists and turns by employing the powerful technique of discourse deixis, indicating changes in course and providing new information. The fundamental thread that binds coherence and structure to the story's core appears to be an intricate web of linguistic devices like transition words and deixis markers. The vast majority of 18.03 percent of deixis instances feature spatial deixis, which serves as a panoramic background and emphasizes the significance of the setting. Bond creates rich settings, evocative scenes, and a background that serves as a silent protagonist to the action as it unfolds, like a painter with a brush. This spatial anchoring gives readers a stronger sense

of presence as they move through the narrative landscape by way of a visual journey.

Social Deixis weaves a social tapestry with a weight of 16.80 percent that highlights the numerous relationships and contextual variables in the short story. Bond, the delicate weaver, illustrates the intricate patterns of social dynamics, interpersonal relationships, and hierarchical systems with the aid of social deixis. The characters get more nuanced thanks to this skillful integration, and the reader gets a better sense of the social setting in which the story happens. Timing artist temporal deixis, whose presence in "The Eyes Have It" is 9.02 percent, is responsible for the rhythmic cadence of the dimension. Using temporal deixis, Bond cleverly travels through time in the story. To provide readers with a chronological framework for what is taking place, this might entail making allusions to particular times, lengths, or sequences. The deliberate use of temporal deixis, which makes it easier to comprehend the story's chronology, improves the story's temporal coherence.

Table 1: The total number and proportion of each category of deixis in each paragraph

Paragraph No.	Deixis Types					Number
	Person	Spatial	Temporal	Discourse	Social	
1	4	2	2	2	2	12
2	7	2	2	1	2	14
3	2	1	0	1	1	5
4	2	2	1	1	1	7
5	3	1	1	2	1	8
6	4	2	0	2	1	9
7	3	1	0	2	1	7
8	2	1	0	1	1	5
9	2	0	0	2	1	5
10	2	1	0	1	1	5
11	1	1	0	1	1	4
12	3	2	1	1	1	8
13	2	3	3	1	1	10
14	4	0	0	1	1	6
15	1	1	0	1	1	4
16	3	2	0	1	1	7
17	2	1	0	1	1	5
18	3	4	0	1	1	9
19	2	2	0	1	1	6
20	2	1	1	3	1	8
21	1	2	1	1	1	6
22	2	1	0	1	1	5
23	1	0	0	1	1	3
24	2	0	0	1	1	4
25	2	0	0	1	1	4
26	2	0	0	1	1	4
27	2	0	0	1	1	4
28	1	0	1	1	1	4
29	1	0	2	1	1	5
30	2	1	2	1	1	7
31	0	0	2	1	0	3

Paragraph No.	Deixis Types					Number
	Person	Spatial	Temporal	Discourse	Social	
32	2	0	0	1	1	4
33	0	1	1	1	1	4
34	0	0	0	1	1	2
35	2	2	0	1	1	6
36	1	3	1	1	1	7
37	2	2	0	1	0	5
38	0	1	0	1	0	2
39	1	1	0	1	1	4
40	3	0	1	1	1	6
41	3	0	0	1	1	5
42	4	0	0	1	1	6
Number	88	44	22	49	41	244
Percentage	36.07	18.03	9.02	20.08	16.80	100

5. CONCLUSION

To summarize, the current review reveals insight into the intricate cooperation between language and story structure. The study uncovered a complex distribution of deixis types, with person deixis emerging as the dominant force, affecting 36.07 percent of cases. In keeping with the short story genre's emphasis on character-driven narratives, this dominance emphasizes the significance of interpersonal relationships and interactions in Bond's narrative. When the spatial, temporal, discourse and social deixis are all balanced, the narrative becomes more complex and coherent. While spatial deixis immerses readers in vivid settings, temporal deixis aids comprehension of chronology. Talking deixis ensures consistency in advancements, whereas friendly deixis develops character elements. In addition to providing us with clarification regarding "The Eyes Have It," this study also draws attention to the broader uses of deixis in literary analysis. Readers and academics alike can gain a better understanding of how language shapes narrative experiences by delving into the finer points of deixis usage. This helps us understand the practical decisions writers make. By investigating the deixis scene of Bond's composition, this study opens up new roads for the examination of etymological peculiarities with regards to narrating and adds to the proceeding with discussion about pragmatics in writing.

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