The Use of Person Deixis in *Mata Najwa* Talk Show

Kartini Rahayu and J. Herudjati P.

Linguistic Section, English Department, Faculty of Humanities,

Diponegoro University

Jl. Prof Soedarto, SH. Tembalang, Semarang 50275

**Abstract:** Dalam suatu percakapan seorang pembicara tidak dapat terlepas dari penggunaan deiksis, dimana bahasa digunakan untuk menunjuk suatu entitas. Deiksis persona, yang merupakan salah satu jenis deiksis memiliki peranan amat besar dalam komunikasi karena tak hanya dapat menunjuk orang yang dimaksud, namun deiksis ini juga dapat mencerminkan strategi pembicara. Hal ini juga terjadi dalam percakapan di sebuah program talk show, *Mata Najwa*, yang menyajikan situasi non-casual dimana percakapan terjadi secara apa adanya. Adapun tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana penutur menggunakan deiksis ini dalam talk show tersebut serta faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaannya. Penelitian ini dibatasi dengan menggunakan hanya empat episode *Mata Najwa* dan penelitian dilakukan pada penggunaan deiksis persona yang terdapat hanya dalam tuturan langsung para partisipan yang tengah berdialog di atas panggung talk show tersebut. Dalam penelitian ini, digunakan Metode Referensial, Metode Refleksif-Introspektif, dan Teknik Ganti guna dilakukannya analisis data. Dari hasil penelitian ini disimpulkan bahwa dalam talk show tersebut masih ditemukan penggunaan ekspresi deiksis yang bersifat informal. Selain itu, terdapat faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaan ekspresi-ekspresi deiksis persona, yakni topik, situasi, power, closeness dan formality, kebiasaan berbahasa penutur dan komunitas berbahasa, serta tujuan penutur.

**Keywords:** deiksis, deiksis persona, *Mata Najwa*, talk show

**Introduction**

Nowadays, language is used in every aspect of humans’ life. It is not only used in daily conversation but also used in particular conversation. Talk show is one of the examples. Talk show is a program in which at least one host and one guest who act as the interviewee are having conversation concerning a certain topic. One of interesting and popular talk shows is *Mata Najwa*, a talk show aired on *Metro TV*, which is well-known for its semiformal situation that causes
speakers to pay more attention to the way they use language. Since it is aired nationally, most speakers tend to speak carefully.

The way language is used by speakers can be observed from many aspects. One of those aspects is the use of deixis, especially person deixis in the conversations. As some episode of the talk show being observed, some phenomena are found regarding the person deixis usage, for example, a speaker sometime uses ‘Saya’ and then suddenly switches to ‘Kita’ when pointing to himself. Sometime, a speaker also uses different expression when pointing to the addressee. From those kinds of phenomena, it can be seen that person deixis does not merely show an act of pointing to someone, but it may also reflect the speakers’ strategy as well as their intention or purpose.

This research has two purposes. Firstly, it aims to elaborate the way the host and the guests use person deixis in *Mata Najwa*. Secondly, it aims to describe the factors which influence the use of person deictic expressions in *Mata Najwa*.

**Review of Literature**

**a. Deixis**

According to Yule (1996) deixis is a way of pointing by using language. Deixis is manifested by deictic expressions, that is, the words which perform the pointing (p. 9). Purwo (1984) stated that deictic words do not have an exact referent because it depends on who the speaker is, when the utterance is produced, and where the utterance is taken place (p. 1). Some examples of deictic expressions are words such as *you, here*, and *now* in English.

According to Yule (1996), there are three kinds of deixis (p. 9).

**Person Deixis**

Person deixis is the use of deixis to point to people (Yule, 1996, p. 9). Ingram in Levinson (1983) explained that the three basic grammatical distinctions, that are the first person, second person, and third person, may function to conduct the pointing (p. 69). However, it is important to be noted that deixis is egocentric in which the speaker becomes the centre point and relates everything from his
point of view (Lyon, 1977, p. 638). In other words, a speaker operates the three basic grammatical distinctions used as person deictic expressions based on his own view.

Person deixis in Bahasa Indonesia may reflect the relation between the participants as well as the way the speaker views the addressee. Therefore, the person deictic expression in Bahasa Indonesia is distinguished between the familiar form and the non familiar or polite form. Some most well-known examples are the use of ‘Aku’ and ‘Saya’ as well as ‘Kamu’ and ‘Anda’. Purwo (1984) stated that in Bahasa Indonesia, leksem kekerabatan (kinship lexemes) such as ‘Bapak’, ‘Ibu’, etc. may also conduct the pointing (p. 23).

Spatial Deixis

According to Levinson (1983), spatial deixis concerns with the location of people or things which is indicated in the speech event. In English, it is manifested by the adverbs “here” and “there” as well as the demonstrative pronouns “this” and “that” (p. 79). Yule (1996), however, added that the location from the speaker’s perspective may also be shown by some verb of motion, such as “come” and “go” in which “come” indicates approaching the center, while “go” indicates moving away from center (p. 12).

Temporal Deixis

Yule (1996) explained that temporal deixis is concerned with the use of deictic expressions to indicate time (p. 9). According to Levinson, this deixis can be manifested by adverbial time such as “now”, “then”, “soon”, “recently”, etc. (p. 74).

b. Context

Levinson (1983) explained that the term context refers to the identity of participants, time, and place in which the conversation happens, as well as other aspects that the participants possess in the speech event such as belief, knowledge, and intention (p. 5).
Research Methods

Type of Research

This research is classified into descriptive qualitative research. As is explained by Arikunto (2010), the descriptive research aims only to describe a phenomenon without causing it to change (p. 3). This research is a qualitative research because as Azwar (2009) stated, the analysis of the qualitative research is focused on logic used to make a conclusion (p. 5). However, for supporting the analysis, the numerical data is also used in this research. In addition, this research, based on the place it is conducted, is categorized as library research in which any interaction with the speakers from the talk show is unnecessary.

Data and Population

In this research, the most apparent units of analysis are lexemes. Hence, the data of this research are the deictic lexemes along with their contexts, both linguistic context and non-linguistic context. Since the analysis of this research is focused on the use of person deixis in the talk show, the population of this research is all uses of person deixis in Mata Najwa.

Methods and Techniques of Collecting Data

In collecting the data, observation method is used in this research. The observation method which is used are Teknik Simak Bebas Libat Cakap (Non Participate Observation Technique) and Teknik Catat (Note Taking Technique). According Sudaryanto (1993), Teknik Simak Bebas Libat Cakap is an act of observing without getting involved in the observed conversation while Teknik Catat is an act of taking down some notes of the conversation (p. 134-136).

Methods and Techniques of Analyzing Data

There are three methods used for analyzing data in this research, namely Metode Padan (Identity Method), Metode Agih (Distributional Method), and Metode Refleksif-Introspektif (Reflective-Introspective Method). Identity Method
is used for the analysis because as is explained by Sudaryanto (1993), it is concerned with relation between language and a particular entity outside the language which is being referred (p. 13-17). On the other hand, Metode Agih (Distributional Method) is used because the substitution technique is necessary for the analyses. In addition, this research also uses Reflective-Introspective Method in the analyses because the role as well as the ability as a native speaker of the analyzed language is necessary for describing the analyses.

Findings and Discussion

The results of this research will be shown below.

The Use of Person Deixis

The tables below show the way the speakers in the four episode of Mata Najwa use person deixis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Deictic Expressions</th>
<th>First Singular</th>
<th>First Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Saya’</td>
<td>54.64 %</td>
<td>18.91 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Aku’</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.87 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Gua’/ ‘Gue’</td>
<td>0.77 %</td>
<td>24.81 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Person Deixis Pointing to First Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Deictic Expressions</th>
<th>‘Anda’</th>
<th>‘Kamu’</th>
<th>Kinship Lexemes</th>
<th>‘Situ’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage (%)</td>
<td>32.08 %</td>
<td>5.66 %</td>
<td>61.99 %</td>
<td>0.27 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Person Deixis Pointing to Second Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Deictic Expressions</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Dia’</td>
<td>50.89 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Beliau’</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.18 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Mereka’</td>
<td></td>
<td>33.93 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Person Deixis Pointing to Third Person
As is shown by the Table 1, in pointing to the first person or to the speakers themselves, most speakers tend to use ‘Saya’ frequently and they also often use ‘Kita’ instead of ‘Kami’. Conversely, the expression ‘Aku’ and ‘Gua’ or ‘Gue’ are rarely used in the talk show. Most speakers in the talk show use ‘Saya’ instead of ‘Aku’ and ‘Gua’ or ‘Gue’ because that expression is the formal expression and is used to show formality. Hence, while ‘Saya’ tend to be used in semiformal situation with serious topic, the expression ‘Aku’, ‘Gua’, and ‘Gue’ are used only in a particular occasion, that is, in informal and casual situation.

In addition, when pointing to themselves and other person, most speakers use ‘Kita’ more frequently than ‘Kami’. In fact, ‘Kami’ is rarely used by the speakers in the talk show. However, most speakers in the talk show tend to use the expression ‘Kita’ in inappropriate way, that is, by using it even though they exclude the addressee. In other words, most speakers often mix up the use of ‘Kita’ and ‘Kami’ and causing the expression ‘Kita’ appears more often.

The Table 2 shows that the speakers from the talk show frequently use kinship lexemes to point to the second person or the addressee. On the contrary, most speakers scarcely use the expression ‘Kamu’ and ‘Situ’ to point to the second person. In addition, even though ‘Anda’ is a formal expression, it is used more rarely than kinship lexemes. Most speakers tend to use kinship lexemes more frequently than the expression ‘Anda’ because kinship lexemes are non-formal expression in which they give more feeling of solidarity, but, at the same time, they are more polite than ‘Anda’. Moreover, by using kinship lexemes, the utterances may become softer.

The way the speaker conduct the pointing to the third person is shown by the Table 3 above. As is shown by the table, most speakers tend to use ‘Dia’ when pointing to third person singular and they use only the expression ‘Mereka’ when pointing to third person plural. On the contrary, they hardly use the expression ‘Beliau’ when pointing to someone. ‘Beliau’ is an expression which is used when pointing to a third person who has more power than the speaker or who is older than the speaker. However, some speakers still tend to use ‘Dia’ instead of this
expression even though they point to someone who is older or has more power than them. In other words, some speakers still use ‘Dia’ in inappropriate way.

**Factors Influencing the Person Deixis**

There are several factors influencing the person deixis use in the talk show. They are the topic, situation, closeness and formality, power, language habit, and the speaker’s purpose. Each of them will be described below.

1. **Topic of Conversation**

   The use of person deictic expression by the speakers in the talk show is greatly influenced by the topic of conversation at the speech event. When the speakers are talking about serious topic, they tend to use formal and polite expression when pointing to themselves or to the addressee. On the contrary, when the topic of conversation is not serious and they are talking about casual matters, the speakers may use expressions which is less formal in which they may even use expressions such as ‘Aku’, ‘Gua’, ‘Gue’, and even ‘Kamu’.

2. **Situation**

   Situation is another issue which can cause speakers to use a certain person deictic expression. It means that the speakers may purposely use a person deictic expression depends on the situation when they produce the utterances. The situation in the talk show may be semiformal, tense, relaxed, and even informal (casual). For example, when the situation in which they are having conversation is semiformal and bring tension, most speakers use expressions which are considered formal and polite. In addition, a speaker may use a polite expression which is only used to point to someone older than her and having more authority or power than her to point to someone who is younger than her.

3. **Closeness or Solidarity and Formality**

   Solidarity may appear from the similarity in terms of age and gender between the speaker and the addressee. On the contrary, formality may arise from the difference between the speaker and the addressee in terms of age and gender.
that the more distant the participants in terms of age and gender, the more formality they try to maintain. In addition, formality may also be resulted from the serious topic and tense situation which is added by lack of solidarity between the participants. Hence, when there is more solidarity between the speaker and the addressee, the formality between them tends to lessen.

This research shows that the solidarity and formality between the speaker and the addressee may also determine the use of person deixis in the talk show. It means that when there is less solidarity between the speaker and the addressee, or in other words, when there is high formality between the speaker and the addressee, the speakers tend to use non familiar expressions or polite expressions. Conversely, when there is high solidarity between the speaker and the addressee, the speakers tend to use familiar form.

4. Power of Participants

Power of a speaker and an addressee, may as well influence the person deictic expression used by the speaker. When a speaker has less power than the person he/she point to, he/she will use expression which is more polite and non familiar expression to point to that person. Conversely, if the speaker has equal power as the pointed person has or if he/she even has more power than the pointed person, the speaker will use familiar expression when pointing to that person.

5. Language Habit of Speakers and Linguistic Community

The way the speakers use the person deixis is also influenced by the language habit. The language habit here can be the language habit of the speakers themselves or it may even be the language habit of the speaker’s linguistic community. In a particular occasion, a speaker’s language habit may cause him/her to use a particular expression accidentally. For example, some speakers may use slang such as ‘Gua’ and ‘Gue’ accidentally when they do not feel comfortable with the conversation. Similarly, the linguistic community of the speakers may also influence the way the speakers use person deictic expression. For example, because the linguistic community of Indonesia is not accustomed to the expression ‘Kami’ and its people tend to utter ‘Kita’ even though they actually
exclude the addressee, most speakers in the talk show also tend to use the expression ‘Kita’ in the same way.

6. Speaker’s Purpose or Intention

The person deixis used by the host and the guests in the talk show cannot be separated from the host and the guests’ purpose or intention. In this research, it is found that the speakers from the talk show use a certain person deictic expression over the other because of their purpose, such as to strengthen the speaker’s utterance, to lessen the threat towards the addressee, and to make the utterance sounds softer. For example, in order to strengthen his utterances, a guest in the talk show avoids using ‘Saya’ and chooses to use another expression.

Conclusion

From this research, it can be concluded that most speakers, that is, the host and the guests in the talk show tend to use polite expressions such as ‘Saya’ and kinship lexemes and they rarely use slang words such as ‘Gua’ or ‘Gue’. However, they also tend to use some certain person deictic expressions in inappropriate way.

In addition, it can also be concluded that the use of person deixis by the host and the guests in Mata Najwa is influenced by several factors. Those factors are the topic of the conversation, the situation when the speakers are speaking, the power of the participants, the closeness or solidarity and formality between the speaker and the addressee, the language habit of the speaker and the linguistic community, and the speaker’s intention or purpose.

References
