

## ANALYZING THE USE OF PERSONAL DEIXIS IN FIVE SHORT STORY BY OSCAR WILDE

Averedinta Delia Trisnanda  
Tidar University  
Indonesia  
averedintadelia888@gmail.com

### Abstract

A short story is one of the few publications that many enjoy. From children to adults, many choose to read short stories because they are simple and can be saved time, and short stories are entertaining and able to fill leisure time. There is one of the most frequent occurrences in a short story called deixis. Deixis is a word whose reference changes according to the context of the word, which can be based on the situation and the context when it is used (Parker, 1986:38). Person deixis one of the most frequently found kinds of a deixis can be found in a short story used to replace people or objects were used in a work either written or spoken. Oscar Wilde was a writer who also published his work in a short story. The short stories he made were mostly light stories that a child could read. The author has conducted this study to find out the number of the person deixis in Oscar Wilde's five short stories is *The Happy Prince*, *The Devoted Friend*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, *The Selfish Giant*, and *The Sphinx Without a Secret* using a qualitative descriptive method. It is hoped that this research will provide more insight into the personal deixis both of its kind, numbers, and the meaning, especially in Oscar Wilde's short story for all the readers especially the students who are studying the deixis.

**Keywords:** Personal Deixis, Short Story, Oscar Wilde

### Introduction

Deixis is one of the branches of linguistics that are pragmatics. Pragmatic itself means the study of the relationship between a word or language with the context and situation of the language or a word use in an utterance (Levinson, 1983). So how can the use of a language or a word be adjusted according to the existing the context of who, when, how, and where the word is used. While deixis is a phrase which being contained not constant, and relates to the meaning of a word. Deixis may also be interpreted as a word having a sense based on its usage. Yule (1996) states that deixis one of the most basic things we do with the speech. Almost as pragmatic, the deixis closely related to the context of the speaker and the word has meant is not constant that it can change based on the context.

Deixis can be found in different texts both spoken and written. Since it is basically important and also helpful for writers or speakers to replace words based on context. Deixis will surely be used to make the text or a speech more complex, diverse, unique also not boring. Deixis alone has many categories or kinds, a total of five kinds deixis are personal deixis, place deixis, social deixis, time deixis, and the last discourse deixis (Levinson, 1983). One of the many uses of a deixis is personal deixis. Personal deixis meant to be a word used to replace a person in a story as well as a person or an object. Levinson (1983) provides the understanding that personal/ person deixis concerning the encoding of a character in an event that included the greeting. Thus, the meaning of the word deixis based on its context.

Personal deixis is still divided into three categories: first person, second person and third person. First person means the main character or perpetrator who does the work or as the core



of the story. First person is usually described by the words *I, me, myself, my, mine, we, us, ourselves, our, and ours*. Then there is a second person that identifying the person or persons identified as addresses, second deixis are shown by the words *you, yourself, your, yours, and yourselves*. The last one is the third person is a reference to deixis that neither as a speaker nor a recipient, the third person usually represents the gender of a person. Third person is described using *he, him, his, she, her, it, they, them, and their*.

The use of the deixis can be found in the works, one of them is the short story. Head (1992, p. 17) states that short story focuses on a single character and the focus of the story is limited. Furthermore Patea (2012, p. 3) explains that a short story is compressed, which means it focuses on things that are few, short, uncomplicated, and certainly do not spend much time to read. Because the story is packed to a minimum, it is not so heavy that the discussion of the story is so small that the person has only a few ways to solve the problem. Short stories focus only on conflict and also on the central figure in the story.

One of the authors of the short story whose work was very demanding was Oscar Wilde. Oscar has a complete name Oscar Fingal O' Flahertie Wills Wilde, who was one of the most successful authors of the late Victorian era in London. Much of what Oscar Wilde did, from poetry, short stories, novels to plays. One of his most likable and well-read works is a short story. Based on [wilde-online.info](http://wilde-online.info) there are eleven short stories made by him that are mostly made for children. Likely because of this, many who read his work are easily understood and comforting.

For that reason the author is interested in analyzing the use of deixis on Oscar Wilde's short story. The short story to be analyzed was five stories which interested the author they are The Happy Prince, The Devoted Friend, The Nightingale and the Rose, The Selfish Giant, and The Sphinx Without a Secret. Because deixis is an important thing that people need to learn and know especially in order to discern and understand the use of personal deixis. It is hoped that this research will enable readers to see personal deixis deeply.

## Methodology

In search of the data and results from this study, the author uses descriptive qualitative methods. Data from research of descriptive qualitative methods contain words than numbers. Words are organized into sentences describing incidents or stories in chronological order and with productive explanations (Miles & Huberman, 1994:1). The data retrieved is from Oscar Wilde's five short stories entitled The Happy Prince, The Devoted Friend, The Nightingale and the Rose, The Selfish Giant, and The Sphinx Without a Secret. All short stories were published in 1988. And with the number of pages 5 to 9 pages, the short story Oscar Wilde wrote could quickly be solved. To be sure, the use of the type of words used in a story is not difficult to understand so that the reader will readily understand the content of a story.

The author chose Oscar Wilde's short story because the author discovered the personal deixis use of it could be used as a source for research. And because of the ease with which it is able to access a short story, it is easy enough to understand and of course because Oscar Wilde is a great writer and therefore his work is worthy of reading and understanding. And qualitative descriptive methods are selected because the authors want to find and retrieve data on many personal deixis in the story and distinguishes it in the category of personal deixis.



The study uses qualitative descriptive methods that will do in several stages, namely (1) read the short story, (2) find personal deixis, (3) classifies the personal deixis based on the category, (4) analyze the personal deixis, (5) concluding the result.

Eventually, the author will present the results of the study using qualitative data that contains the classification of personal pronoun both first person, second person, and a third person that have already been found and followed by a descriptive description of the results of the research. It is hoped that the results of this study will help many people, especially students to be able to understand and know about deixis especially personal deixis and three personal categories deixis to be widely used and should be known by people.

### Finding(s) and Discussion

After doing research on the short story *The Happy Prince*, *The Devoted Friend*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, *The Selfish Giant*, and *The Sphinx Without a Secret* by Oscar Wilde can be found any results as follows

Table 1. Personal Deixis (First Person) in *The Happy Prince*, *The Devoted Friend*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, *The Selfish Giant*, and *The Sphinx Without a Secret*.

No	Person Deixis (First Person)	The Happy Prince	The Devoted Friend	The Nightingale and the Rose	The Selfish Giant	The Sphinx Without a Secret
1	I	65	114	29	12	106
2	Me	18	25	15	3	24
3	Myself	2	3	-	1	2
4	My	21	44	25	5	17
5	Mine	-	-	3	-	-
6	We	21	2	1	5	13
7	Us	-	1	-	-	1
8	Ourselves	-	-	-	-	-
9	Our	1	3	-	-	4
10	Ours	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>167</b>

Table 1 shows the personal pronoun use of first person in Oscar Wilde's short story. Based on table 1 it can be seen that in every short story, the personal deixis first person that is used a lot is *I*, it is certainly because *I* was a substitute for the person who was talking, then followed by *my*, *me*, and *we*. Viewed from the rest of the time, *The Devoted Friend* short story is the one that uses the first person most, then followed by *The Sphinx Without a Secret*, *The Happy Prince*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, and the last is *The Selfish Giant* with a twenty-six times use.

Table 2. Personal Deixis (Second Person) in *The Happy Prince*, *The Devoted Friend*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, *The Selfish Giant*, and *The Sphinx Without a Secret*.

No	Person Deixis (Second Person)	The Happy Prince	The Devoted Friend	The Nightingale and the Rose	The Selfish Giant	The Sphinx Without a Secret
1	You	42	86	27	4	26
2	Yourself	-	-	-	-	1
3	Your	3	12	7	3	4
4	Yours	-	-	-	-	-
5	Yourselves	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>31</b>



Table 2 contains information regarding the use of second person in the five short stories. From the results of the search, it can be found that the use of second person has been just *you*, *your*, and *yourself* only once at The Sphinx Without a Secret short story. For personal deixis second person *yours* and *yourselves* is not used at all in the stories. The Devoted Friend uses the most second person that is 98 times with the most used is the word *you*.

Table 3 shows the use of personal deixis third person use in Oscar Wilde's five short stories. The most widely used is *he*, *it*, *his*, and so on. From here we can see that of the five short stories, most of the characters in them were men so much that they were spoken by third person *he*, *him*, and *his*, while *she* and *her* uses were sufficient but did not overpower the use of other words of men. The use of the word *it* also considerable because it can be used to predicate things or animals. Judging by the total usage, again The Devoted Friend short story is the majority of the use of a third person.

Tabel 3. Personal Deixis (Third Person) in The Happy Prince, The Devoted Friend, The Nightingale and the Rose, The Selfish Giant, and The Sphinx Without a Secret.

NO	Person Deixis (Third Person)	The Happy Prince	The Devoted Friend	The Nightingale and the Rose	The Selfish Giant	The Sphinx Without a Secret
1	He	110	85	24	56	24
2	Him	13	18	8	18	6
3	His	29	59	27	17	4
4	She	16	4	42	2	51
5	Her	22	5	39	1	33
6	It	31	65	41	28	29
7	They	24	8	3	19	-
8	Them	5	9	-	5	1
9	Their	7	4	4	4	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>167</b>

Table 4 shows the overall results of personal deixis use of both first person, second person, and third person in Oscar Wilde's five very unusual novels. The count's data were taken from adding all the data of every personal deixis of the five short stories which became the source of the research. Whereas the percentage is derived from adding all the words of the five short stories in which The Happy Prince 3467 words, The Devoted Friend number 3570 words, The Nightingale and the Rose 2327 words, The Selfish Giant has 1721 words, and The Sphinx Without a Secret that has a number of 2064 words. The total number of words in the five short stories is 13.149 words which will be the divider of every personal deixis found and then not forget times 100 to get the final results in percentage. It can be seen from the percentage of the data that personal deixis third person is the most used in all five stories with a total of 1000 words totaling 7.60% of the text. Then followed by first person 586 words with a 4.45% percentage, and the last second person 215 words with a 1.63% presentation.



Table 4. The Number of Uses First Person, Second Person and Third Person in The Short Story by Oscar Wilde

Personal	Deixis	Count	Percentage
<b>First Person</b>	I	326	2.47%
	Me	85	0.64%
	Myself	8	0.06%
	My	112	0.85%
	Mine	3	0.02%
	We	42	0.31%
	Us	2	0.01%
	Ourselves	-	-
	Our	8	0.06%
	Ours	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>4.45%</b>
<b>Second Person</b>	You	185	1.40%
	Yourself	1	0.007%
	Your	29	0.22%
	Yours	-	-
	Yourselves	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>215</b>	<b>1.63%</b>
<b>Third Person</b>	He	299	2.27%
	Him	63	0.47%
	His	136	1.03%
	She	115	0.87%
	Her	100	0.76%
	It	194	1.47%
	They	54	0.41%
	Them	20	0.15%
	Their	19	0.14%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>7.60%</b>

## Conclusions

From this study, the authors came up with three important things. The first may conclude that the personal deixis is one of the widely used and closely related types of deixis another name for both the characters in the stories and things and animals. The second is the knowledge that personal deixis made up of three categories of first person, second person, and third person, each of which still has its own kind: *I, me, myself, my, mine, we, us, ourselves, our, and ours* (first person), *you, yourself, your, yours, and yourselves* (second person), and the last *he, him, his, she, her, it, they, them, and their* (third person). Three, of all the data can be concluded that in *The Happy Prince, The Devoted Friend, The Nightingale and the Rose, The Selfish Giant, and The Sphinx Without a Secret* short story which was a masterpiece of an Oscar Wilde using a lot of personal deixis in his story as 1801 words or can be made to the full use of person deixis in it is 13.69% parts. Which of course the use of personal deixis has been adapted to the context of the story. Personal deixis used of course to represent or replace characters in stories as well as objects or animals that live inside them. As well as this, it can be seen that personal deixis use in a short story or other work is important and was, in a sense, compulsory to be of assistance to both writers and readers.

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