



## An Analysis Deixis in “Salt” Movie Script Directed by Phillip Noyce

**Julyanta Br. Sitepu<sup>1</sup>**

[bekasi201@gmail.com](mailto:bekasi201@gmail.com)

*English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta*

**Winarni**

[winarnial09@gmail.com](mailto:winarnial09@gmail.com)

*English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta*

**Diah Resmisari**

[resmisaridiah@gmail.com](mailto:resmisaridiah@gmail.com)

*English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta*

**Mukhlasul Fasikh**

[mukhlasul@stibaiecjakarta.ac.id](mailto:mukhlasul@stibaiecjakarta.ac.id)

*English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta*

**Abdul Muhid Murtadho**

[muhid@stibaiecjakarta.ac.id](mailto:muhid@stibaiecjakarta.ac.id)

*English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta*

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**Abstract:** The objective of this research is to identify the types of deixis and the most dominant deixis in the SALT movie script directed by Philip Noyce. The study was conducted using a qualitative research method, focusing on the dominant deixis and its types in the script. The data collection process involved the following steps: first, the researcher watched the movie with English subtitles online; second, the movie script was obtained from the internet; then, the researcher categorized the various deixis in the script; and finally, the types of deixis were analyzed. The findings revealed several types of deixis in the script, including temporal, social, discourse, and spatial deixis, which encompass person and place deixis. Specifically, person deixis was the most prevalent, with 649 instances, accounting for 76 percent of the total. Within person deixis, first person deixis had 48 instances (7 percent), second person deixis had 279 instances (42 percent), and spatial deixis or place deixis had 66 instances (7 percent). Temporal deixis or time deixis had 29 instances (3 percent), social deixis had 24 instances (2 percent), and discourse deixis had 85 instances (10 percent). In total, 835 instances of deixis were identified in the script.

**Keywords:** *Deixis, Movie, Movie Script*

### INTRODUCTION

Communication is foundational to human interaction, requiring both verbal and nonverbal forms to ensure mutual understanding. Effective communication is particularly dependent on the correct use of grammar, both in speaking and writing, to prevent misunderstandings. As

Halliday (2007) points out, language is not just a medium for conveying information but is also crucial for building relationships and expressing identity. From early childhood, language plays a central role in intellectual, social, and emotional development, making it a key tool for learning and self-development. This underscores the

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author

importance of language learning, not only for effective communication but also for fostering global competitiveness among learners (Vygotsky, 1986).

The English language, being widely used internationally, holds significant importance for communication skills. However, many students do not find learning English in school enjoyable. To make the learning process more engaging, various techniques can be employed, such as incorporating music, movies, or magazines into lessons. Alolaywi (2023) said that one effective way is to encourage language learners to develop their language competencies by watching English-language movies. As Mishan (2005) suggests, authentic materials like English movies serve as valuable audio-visual tools that help students improve their listening, speaking, pronunciation, and vocabulary skills. Barman (2024) said films are effective ways to motivate oral skills as they present contemporary language with fashionable expressions. Through Films it is possible to teach vocabulary of certain social situations. Sufficient repetition and practice can help learners receive a great number of vocabularies despite their previous linguistic experience. King (2002) wrote watching movies with English subtitles, in particular, can enhance language acquisition by maintaining students' interest and making the learning process more enjoyable.

Pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, focuses on how meaning is communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. (Levinson, 2023) highlights that pragmatics delves into the intended meaning behind utterances, rather than just the literal meanings of words. It explores the relationship between linguistic forms and their users, emphasizing the context in which language is used. This perspective aligns with the importance of understanding language beyond its surface level, as discussed by Yule (1996), who emphasizes that the meaning of a statement often depends on the context in which it is spoken.

In this research, the author selected the topic of deixis due to challenges related to limited vocabulary when translating or selecting words in both written and spoken forms. This limitation in vocabulary can lead to difficulties in understanding, reading, and translating meanings, as students may lack the motivation to learn new English words. This often results in struggles with word choice during communication, as highlighted by Cruse (2004), who discusses how

limited vocabulary hampers effective communication and comprehension.

The writers have collected related studies done by previous researchers dealing with deixis.

The first is a research conducted by students of IKIP Siliwangi, Fadlilah & Septyani (2018) titled "An Analysis of Deixis Using "Beauty And The Beast Movie Script", deixis is used to search for actions in a time frame relative to the present. Therefore, deixis is one of a branch in linguistics that is part of pragmatics to refer to a meaning depending on the context, referenced by speakers and influenced by the conversation. In their research, the writers aim at classifying the forms of deixis used on Beauty and The Beast movie to describe the types of deixis and the reference of person, spatial and temporal deixis used in that movie.

The second research written by Rebong & Nurma (2023) from Putera Batam University entitled "Deixis Analysis Found in Bird Box Movie" showed in the findings that deixis were used in the communication of the movie. There were totally 34 deixis data in spatial deixis, temporal deixis, and person deixis. 16 were in spatial deixis, 12 data in person deixis, and 6 data in the temporal deixis.

The third research entitled "An Analysis of Deixis in Little Women Movie Script" by students also from IKIP Siliwangi, Rusmana and Syahrizal (2024) examined the analysis of personal deixis, place deixis, time deixis, and deixis discourse in the Little Women Movie Script. In the movie, Jo March and his sisters worked hard to stay together under any circumstances in their daily lives, only accompanied by his mother, with fathers who were far away on the battlefield volunteering.

Based on the explanation above, the authors aim to carry out research into "Salt" movie to raise awareness and offer more insights about deixis, and to motivate students to deepen their learning English through movies. The authors analyzed five types of deixis: place deixis, person deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis to allow the study to make more detailed exploration of these areas, as supported by Fillmore (1997), who explains the significance of these categories in understanding how language functions in context.

## **Review of Literature**

Pragmatics is a field within linguistics that focuses on the meaning of utterances. Unlike sentences, which are abstract and often linked to



specific contexts, utterances are identified by the context in which they occur. Pragmatics involves two types of inferences: implicature and explicature. Implicature refers to conveying one meaning by stating something else, while explicature deals with what is explicitly stated, often enhanced by contextual details. Additionally, pragmatics addresses speech acts, where an individual expresses something that not only conveys information but also performs an action.

Pragmatics studies how context influences meaning, particularly how sentences are interpreted within specific contexts. Linguistic context refers to the discourse that comes before a sentence, helping to interpret its meaning, while situational context involves knowledge about the world. For instance, in the sentences "The kids have already eaten" and "Surprisingly, they are hungry," the first sentence provides linguistic context that aids in interpreting the second.

Yule (1996) in Cambridge Press; Oxford Introductions to Language Study writes the study of pragmatics focuses on how both linguistic and situational contexts shape the interpretation of meaning, emphasizing the role of context in understanding what speakers intend to convey. Further, he states that pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or) writer and interpreted by listener (or reader). According to Griffiths (2006), pragmatics is concerned with the interaction of semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the words, taking into account context of use. From the theory of Griffiths above, we know that pragmatics is a part of semantic knowledge.

Unlike pragmatics, which studies utterance meaning, semantics deals with the meaning of linguistic forms and their relationships to entities. It examines how words, phrases, and sentences convey meaning, based on their literal content rather than context. Semantic meaning involves recognizing the meaning of words. More broadly, semantics encompasses the study of the meanings of words, phrases, and sentences (Yule 1996).

Lexical semantics studies the meanings of words," with a particular emphasis on content words like "tiger," "of," and "than." This branch

of semantics delves into how individual words convey meaning independently of their grammatical structure (Cruse 2010). He also explains that "grammatical semantics studies aspects of meaning which have direct relevance to syntax," highlighting how certain meanings are inherently tied to the structure and rules of grammar. In essence, lexical semantics focuses on understanding the meanings of words in isolation, while grammatical semantics explores how meanings interact with and influence the syntactic structure of sentences. From Cruse's perspective, these two branches of semantics work together to provide a comprehensive understanding of how language conveys meaning, both through individual words and through the grammatical frameworks that connect them.

When we discuss about pragmatics, we come across a key concept called deixis. Deixis is all about choosing the right words based on the context when we speak or write. Words like "this," "that," "here," and "there" are examples of deictic expressions—they only make sense when we know the situation they're used in. In English, understanding deixis helps us pick the correct words to match the circumstances, making sure our communication is clear and meaningful. It's like a little language tool that helps us connect our words to the world around us.

Deixis, derived from the Greek word for "pointing," is also known as a deictic or indexical expression as (Yule 1996) said in Oxford Introductions to Language Study. Deictic expression is the way for people to understand the reference of context of the utterance, Cummings (2005). Deixis is the study of deictic or indexical expressions in language, like you, now, and today. It can be regarded as a special kind of grammatical property instantiated in the familiar categories of person, tense, place and so on Levinson (2004). Deixis also refers to the use of specific words in grammar to indicate people, time, or place in both spoken and written language. Grundy said (2000) deixis is the relation of reference to the point of origin of the utterance.

In English, deixis is categorized into three main types: person deixis (e.g., I, you, they, we), time deixis (e.g., yesterday, now, tomorrow), and

place deixis (e.g., here, there, this, those). Understanding deixis helps in constructing grammatically correct sentences, as it directly relates to how we reference and point to different elements in communication.

Students of Nahdlatul Ulama Sunan Giri Bojonegoro University, Tauchid et al., (2022), had conducted the research on deixis with the title "Deixis Analysis on An Article on CNN International". The object of their research is deixis, and the subject is a CNN International article. In the research, they found the CNN article using types of deixis: the person, time, and location.

The concept of deixis as also explained by Renkema (1993), refers to linguistic elements that directly point to the context in which they are used, such as time, place, or person. This is rooted in the Greek word for "to show" or "to indicate." Renkema emphasizes the importance of understanding deixis because it helps bridge the gap between what the speaker and writer intends and how the listener or reader interprets the message

## **METHOD**

In this research, the authors adopt a qualitative method, which is distinct for its focus on gathering data through open-ended and conversational communication. This approach allows the researchers to delve deeply into participants' experiences and perspectives, producing rich, descriptive outcomes. Unlike quantitative methods, which often rely on numerical data, qualitative research seeks to explore the underlying meanings and interpretations of social phenomena. This method is particularly effective in contexts where the goal is to understand complex human behaviors and interactions in a detailed and nuanced manner.

Qualitative research is well-suited for studies that aim to construct a holistic understanding of social or human issues. As Creswell (1994) describes, qualitative research is "an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural

setting." This approach is further supported by Denzin and Lincoln (2005), who argue that qualitative research is inherently interpretative, requiring the researcher to be sensitive to the context in which data is collected. The natural setting of the research allows for a more authentic collection of data, leading to conclusions that are often straightforward and directly linked to the data gathered.

Sitepu et al., (2023) wrote the thesis entitled "I Can Only Imagine Movie Script By Erwin Brothers". In completing the analysis, the researchers used descriptive qualitative as the research method of the analysis. The result of this study showed that there are five types of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, social deixis, discourse deixis. And in this study, person deixis is found as the most dominant type.

Saputri (2016) also used descriptive qualitative method in her research titled "An Analysis of Deixis in Black Swan Movie Script." The types of deixis found in Black Swan movie script were personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis and discourse deixis. Personal deixis is a deixis that used in who spoke in the utterances. Also, there were temporal deixis used when the speakers or addressee spoke in the utterances. Then, in Black Swan Movie Script, there were spatial deixis used where speakers or addressees spoke in the utterances, and there were discourse deixis.

To conduct this study effectively, the authors utilized a range of methods to collect data and perform a comprehensive analysis. This involved treating the movie and its script as primary sources and drawing on additional resources like textbooks, articles, journals, reviews, and relevant websites as secondary sources.

The authors followed a systematic process to collect the data. Initially, the movie Salt was watched online, and the script was located and selected from internet sources. The script was then downloaded, and the words were organized based on the content of the script. Finally, the authors analyzed the data to identify deixis within the material.

After the authors collect the data, the authors analyze the data using some steps such as sorting the data from the internet, grouping the data based

on the kind of deixis, classifying the data based on the class of deixis and finally analyzing the data.

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of deixis in the movie script *Salt*, directed by Phillip Noyce, highlights several key types of deixis used throughout the movie. Person deixis, involving pronouns like "I," "you," and "they," clarifies the relationships and roles of characters within the dialogue. Temporal deixis, which refers to time-related expressions, helps establish the timeline and context for events. Spatial deixis indicates locations and spatial relationships, guiding the audience's understanding of where actions are taking place. Social deixis addresses social roles and status through titles and forms of address, reflecting the characters' social positions. Lastly, discourse

deixis refers to parts of the conversation or narrative, connecting different segments and enhancing the coherence of the story. These various types of deixis work together to shape the narrative, clarify interactions, and provide context, making the film's story and dynamics clearer to the audience.

### Finding

In this research, the authors identified various types of deixis based on the script of the movie *Salt* by Phillip Noyce. Through data analysis, the authors discovered several types of deixis in the script, including person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis. The results, including the total percentages, are presented in the following table:

**Table 1 : Person Deixis**

Division	Type of Pronoun	Total	Percentage
<b>First</b>	I	148	
	Me	58	
	My	31	
	We	47	
	Our	38	
<b>Total</b>		322	48%
<b>Second</b>	You	5	
	Your	31	
	Yourself	2	
<b>Total</b>		48	7%
<b>Third</b>	He	148	
	Him	12	
	She	38	
	Her	24	
	It	28	
	They	18	
	Them	5	
	Thier	6	
<b>Total</b>		279	42%
<b>All total</b>		649	76%

**Table 2: Spatial Deixis**

Type	Total	Percentage
<b>Here</b>	29	
<b>There</b>	33	
<b>Those</b>	1	
<b>These</b>	3	
<b>Total</b>	66	8%

**Table 3: Temporal Deixis**

Type	Total	Percentage
<b>An hour</b>	1	
<b>Ago</b>	3	
<b>Now</b>	21	
<b>Tomorrow</b>	1	
<b>In 19<sup>th</sup></b>	3	
<b>Morning</b>	1	
<b>Total</b>	29	4%

**Table 4: Social Deixis**

Type	Total	Percentage
<b>Sir</b>	24	
<b>Total</b>	24	2%

**Table 5: Discourse Deixis**

Type	Total	Percentage
<b>This</b>	33	
<b>That</b>	52	
<b>Total</b>	85	10%
<b>All total</b>	835	1005

**Table 6: Sample of Sentences**

NO.	Words of script	Type of Deixis
1	I don't remember inviting goddamn counterintelligence	I (first Person deixis)
2	I'm crashing the party	I (first Person deixis)
3	I'll tell you when to stop	You (second Person deixis) I (first Person deixis)
4	You really ready to stop being James Bond and start pushing paper all day?	You (second Person deixis)
5	Salt, no one can sort out a nut from the real thing faster than you	You (second Person deixis)
6	Or if we ever had a daughter, would she look like you?	We (person deixis) You (second Person deixis) She (person deixis)

7	I'd strongly recommend we go from Defcon 4 to Defcon 2	I (first Person deixis) We (person deixis)
8	We're here to talk about you	We (person deixis)
9	We have about the same capacity for human feeling	We (person deixis)
10	How long have you been here? Words of script	here (deixis place) You (second Person deixis)
11	The long-awaited mission is here	here (deixis place)
12	Here he is again.	here (deixis place) he (deixis person)
13	Is Mike there?	There (deixis place)
14	We'll cover it, but she wouldn't go there	We (person deixis) She (person deixis) there (deixis place)
15	There's more puppy in you than spider	There (deixis place) You (second Person deixis)
16	So, what is our mission now?	Our (person deixis) Now (deixis time)
17	Now onto our real work	Now (deixis time) Our (person deixis)
18	I'm going home tomorrow, Shnaider	Tomorrow (deixis time)
19	Stick it in the safe till tomorrow	Tomorrow (deixis time)
20	And now I have the honor of initiating his nuclear launch	Now (deixis time)
21	A tac team is coming to take you down in the next 30 seconds	You (second Person deixis) Next (deixis time)
22	Comrade Orlov's next generation will say your name, Chenkov	Next (deixis time) You (second Person deixis)
23	I think I proved myself at the church	I (first Person deixis)
24	He's been sitting in on my Wednesday briefings for two years	he (deixis person) My (first person deixis)
25	My own men couldn't get through once it's closed	My (first person deixis) It (first Person deixis)

In this part of the analysis, the authors take a close look at how deixis is used in the Salt movie script. Deixis is all about words that need context to make sense, and the author identifies five key types: person deixis, spatial deixis (which is all about place), temporal deixis (focused on time), social deixis, and discourse deixis.

Person deixis involves pronouns and words that refer to people, like "I," "you," and "they." Spatial deixis is about where things are, using words like "here" and "there." Temporal deixis deals with time-related terms such as "now" and "then." Social deixis, on the other hand, highlights social roles and relationships, using titles like "Mr.," "Mrs.," or other indicators of status.

Discourse deixis refers to parts of the conversation or text, like when we say "this" or "that" to point out something we've just mentioned.

The authors' research uncovered a collected 649 instances of deixis in the script, which makes up 76 percent of the total person deictic found. This includes lots of first-person deixis (like "I" and "we"), second-person deixis (like "you"), and third-person deixis (like "he," "she," "they"). These findings show just how important deixis is in helping viewers understand who's who, where things are happening, and when events are taking place in the story.

## **Discussion**

After the authors analyzed the deixis function in Salt movie script, the authors found five types of deixis; person deixis, spatial deixis (deixis place) temporal deixis (deixis time), social deixis, and discourse deixis.

### ***Person Deixis***

First person deixis can be seen in the samples conversation. Sample 1: *Well, I didn't do it* (00.03.07). The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence there is first person deixis, the word "I" is said by Salt. I is referred to Salt as a speaker, and word I is a singular pronoun. The function I finds as subject. Sample 2: *State department we didn't need the publicity so, I figured better than some reason* (00.03.22). The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence, there are two first person deixis; "we" and "I". We is said by Ted Winter. We is referred to department, and word we as plural pronoun. The function we is as subject and the word I said by Ted Winter referred to Ted Winter as the speaker, and word I is a singular pronoun. The function I is as subject. Sample 3 : *You like my cooking germany* (00.44.52). The conversation is between Salt and her husband. In this sentence, there is second person deixis, the word "you" is said by Salt. "My" is referred to Salt's husband and word my is a possessive pronoun. The function my is as possessive pronoun for the object. Sample 4: *I need to call my husband, let me call myself.* (00.15.56). The conversation is between Salt and her college. In this sentence there is first person deixis, the word "me" is said by Salt. Me is referred to Salt's and word me is an object pronoun.

### ***Second Person Deixis***

The second person deixis can be seen in the conversation. Sample 5: *Are you okay?* (00.03.50). The conversation is between Salt and her husband. In this sentence, there is second person deixis. The word you is said by Salt's husband. You is referred to Salt and word you is a subject pronoun.

### ***Third Person Deixis***

The third person deixis can be seen in the conversation of Salt movie. Sample 6: *He did, once he found out, he petitioned his son.* (00.03.17). The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence, there is third person deixis; "he". He is said by Ted Winter. He is referred to Salt's husband, and word he is a singular pronoun. Sample 7: *some reason to pay this goddamn rice paddy republic himself* (00.03.26). The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence, there is third person deixis: "himself". Himself said by Ted Winter. The word himself is referred to Salt's husband, and word himself is a reflexive pronoun for the third singular pronoun. Sample 8: *They were married and within a year a child* (00.10.42).

The conversation is between Salt and Orlov. In this sentence, there is third person deixis: "they". They is said by Orlov. The word they is referred to Salt's parents and word they a third plural pronoun. Sample 9: *I have to talk to her, she's scared* (00.17.19). The conversation is between Salt's colleague and Ted Winter. In this sentence, there are two kinds of third person deixis; "her" and 'she'. Her and she are said by Ted Winter's colleague. The word she and her referred to Salt and word her is a possessive pronoun and she is a subject pronoun. Sample 10: *if there was a way I would kill them* (00.38.18). The conversation is between Salt and Mike, her husband. In this sentence, there is another kind of third person deixis: "them". Them is said by Mike. The word them is referred to the government. This word them is known as an object pronoun for third person deixis.

### ***Spatial Deixis***

The spatial deixis can be seen in the conversation of the Salt movie. Sample 11: *you are here to sabotage.* (00.01.15) The dialogue is between Salt and a North Korean soldier. In this sentence, the spatial deixis is "here". Here is said by one of the North Korean soldier . The word here is referred to a spatial deixis. Sample 12: *There he is again* (00.19.27). The conversation is between the team. In this sentence, there is spatial deixis: "there". There is said by one of the team. The word



there is indicated as a place called a locative adverb as one of spatial deixis. Sample 13: *and those are secret service* (00.43.40). The conversation is between the team. In this sentence, there is spatial deixis: "those". Those is said by one of the team. The word those is indicated as spatial deixis.

### **Temporal Deixis**

The temporal deixis can be seen in the conversation of the Salt movie. Sample 14: *quit now* (00.32.30). The conversation is between Salt and the team. In this sentence, there is temporal deixis: "now". Now is said by one of the team member. The word now is indicated as time in temporal deixis. Sample 15: *attending the service tomorrow at St Bartholomew's Church* (00.37.53). In this sentence, there is temporal deixis: "tomorrow". Tomorrow is said by the speaker of the TV news. The word tomorrow is indicated as time in temporal deixis.

### **Social Deixis**

In this research, the authors find social social deixis can be seen in the conversation in Salt movie. Sample 16: *yes sir! right away sir!* (00.05.59). The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence, there is social person deixis: "sir". Sir is said by a colleague person in team. The word sir is referred to Schneider. The word sir is indicated as social deixis.

### **Discourse Deixis**

In this research, the author finds spatial deixis. The spatial deixis can be seen in the conversation of the Salt movie script. Sample 17: *but, that is not sexy* (00.05.46).

The conversation is between Salt and Ted Winter. In this sentence, the discourse deixis is "that". That is said by Salt. The word that is referred to previous sentence as discourse deixis. Sample 18: *you've seen this* (00.36.20). The conversation is between Ted Winter and the team. In this sentence, there is discourse deixis: "this". This is said by one of the team members. The word this is indicated as discourse deixis.

## **CONCLUSION**

The authors' analysis shows that person deixis is the most common type of deixis in the Salt movie script, with 649 instances making up 76 percent of all deictic expressions. Person deixis, which includes pronouns like "I," "you," and "they," is essential for establishing character relationships and guiding the audience's understanding of who is involved in the dialogue, making it a central element in the script's narrative structure.

Based on the findings above, it can be concluded for the total first person deixis are 649 data or 76 percent of person deixis. Second person deixis are 48 data or 7 percent of person deixis and the third person deixis are 279 data or 42 percent of person deixis and spatial deixis or deixis place are 66 data or 7 percent. Temporal deixis or deixis time are 29 data or 3 percent. Social deixis find 24 data or 2 percent and discourse deixis are 85 data or 10 percent. And all total deixis are 835 data.

Based on the result above, it can be seen that the dominant deixis used in the *Salt* movie script directed by Phillip Noyce is person deixis. It is related to Lyons (1981), deixis is the location and identification of people, object, events, process and activities which is being talked about or referred to, in relation to the time, when the speaker says the utterance, or when the hearer hears it.

In the conclusion above, the analysis of deixis in the *Salt* movie script directed by Phillip Noyce identifies various types of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, social deixis, temporal deixis, and discourse deixis. Person deixis includes the first person "I," the second person "you," and the third person "we." Spatial deixis indicates location, such as "here" and "there," while temporal deixis refers to time, such as "now" and "tomorrow."

Understanding deixis contextually helps to grasp the meaning within the language used. The analysis shows that person deixis appears most frequently at 76%, followed by spatial deixis at 18%, and temporal deixis at 4%. Overall, pragmatics is closely linked to context and deixis, as the use of deixis can convey implicit meanings to the listener.

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