

Depicting Hierarchy and Solidarity Through Social Deixis in The Queen 2006 Movie: A Study of Royal Linguistic Practices

Anggi Dewi Ayu Kartika

English Literature, Faculty of Language and Art, Universitas Negeri Surabaya,
e-mail: anggi21080.mhs.unesa.ac.id

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti penggunaan deiksis sosial dan faktor-faktor sosial yang mendasarinya dalam film *The Queen 2006*. Penelitian ini berfokus pada penggunaan istilah-istilah kehormatan sebagai penanda stratifikasi sosial kerajaan Inggris. Masalah utama dari penelitian ini terletak pada bagaimana deiksis sosial digunakan untuk menandai hubungan sosial dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pilihan bahasa antar karakter. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan jenis deiksis sosial, dan mengungkap faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi deiksis sosial dan hubungan sosial serta hirarki yang tercermin dalam sistem monarki. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori Levinson (1983) untuk mengetahui jenis deiksis sosial, dan teori Janet Holmes (2013) untuk mengetahui dinamika sosial pada film. Data penelitian merupakan percakapan yang mengandung deiksis sosial dalam film *The Queen 2006* yang membentuk dimensi sosial antar karakter. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan dua jenis deiksis sosial, yaitu deiksis sosial relational dan absolute. Deiksis relational ditemukan pada penggunaan nama diri dan istilah kekerabatan. Deiksis sosial absolut ditemukan pada penggunaan gelar kehormatan, seperti “Yang Mulia”. Status sosial, formalitas, dan konteks percakapan merupakan faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaan deiksis sosial. Temuan penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa deiksis sosial tidak hanya sebagai alat komunikasi, tetapi sebagai penanda dan penguat hirarki sosial dalam sistem monarki.

Keywords: *deiksis sosial, hirarki sosial, faktor sosial*

Abstract

This study aims to examine the use of social deixis and the underlying social factors in *The Queen 2006 Movie*. This research focuses on the use of honorific terms as a reflection of the social stratification of the British monarchy. The primary issue of this study lies in how social deixis is used to mark social relationships and the factors that influence language choice among characters. This study aims to demonstrate the type of social deixis, as well as reveal the factors that influence social deixis and the social and power relations reflected in the monarchy system. The research design of this study uses qualitative descriptive using Levinson's theory (1983) to find out the type of social deixis and Janet Holmes' theory (2013) to find out the social dynamics in the movie. The data of this research is a conversation containing social deixis in *The Queen 2006 movie* that forms a social dimension between characters. The results show two types of social deixis, namely relational and absolute social deixis. Relational deixis is found in the use of first names, pet name, and endearment term. Absolute social deixis is found in the use of honorific titles, such as, “Your Majesty”. Social status, formality, and conversational context are factors that influence the use of social deixis. The findings of this study confirm that social deixis is not only a communication tool but as a marker and reinforcement of social hierarchy in the monarchical system.

Keywords: *social deixis, social hierarchy, social factor*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important feature to be used to communicate to people such as through writing, speaking, and signaling. Therefore, language is an important part of human life and cannot be separated. In the social life of society, language can be a marker of

social relationships such as the use of social deixis as a marker of an individual's social position and his relationship to the interlocutor. Generally, social position is related to the different social levels that apply in society, which then regulates how a person speaks. The way a person addresses another person can be an indication of how the relationship between them is,

whether it is familiar or not, formal or not, and the purpose of the conversation. So the relationship can be seen from how someone uses social deixis as a marker of social relations.

As is the case in a royal environment, where social relations have been strictly regulated by the social norms and hierarchies that apply in the kingdom it is forbidden to be incompatible. One of the real manifestations of differences in social status is reflected in how members of the kingdom and the surrounding community address each other, especially different greetings based on position, kinship, and others. Thus, social deixis becomes an indicator of language choice to mark and maintain social hierarchy. It is important to use social deixis appropriately because deviations in the way of address can lead to misunderstanding between speakers. According to (Acemoglu & Wolitzky, 2023) Misunderstanding in the choice of address terms can lead to conflict. Therefore, it is necessary to know about social deixis which is related to social values and order.

According to Levinson (1983: p.54) Deixis is a language structure that can show the relationship between language and context clearly. The phenomenon of deixis can be found not only in everyday conversations but can be found in movie character conversations (Purba et al., 2024). The existence of differences in social status affects the use of social deixis, such as in the British royal environment. Social deixis is found in the British monarchy, using social deixis to convey respect and emphasize social hierarchy. The use of social deixis in the royal environment is depicted in The Queen 2006 Movie.

The study of social deixis in the movie The Queen 2006 is very interesting because it reflects how language works to reflect and reinforce relationships, hierarchy, and roles in the British royal family. According to (Stephen C. Levinson, 1983) There are two types of social deixis, namely relational social deixis which shows calls based on the relationship of the level of respect by the speaker and referent, speaker and addressee, speaker and audience, and speaker and setting. Such as address forms “Mr.”, and “Sir”, and the use of first names. While absolute social deixis is related to social deixis in the form of honorific terms that only refer to an addressee. Such as honorific terms, “Your Majesty”, “Queen”, and “His Highness”. This movie depicts the language style between Queen Elizabeth II and her family and community. The use of social deixis emphasizes their status in the kingdom. The title and form of address in the British Royal family reflect the level of social hierarchy. In the movie, we can see the way Queen Elizabeth II communicates with nobles and other subordinates with formality and respect for each other using “Mr.”, and “Ma’am”. This formality emphasizes the authority and social distance between them. In contrast, conversations that take place between the queen and her relatives are more informal using the address “dear” or “mummy”.

Then, in the movie, there are different ways to address each other. For example, when Queen Elizabeth II speaks to the prime minister, she uses “Mr.”, while when

speaking to other subordinates, she uses first names only. In certain situations, Queen Elizabeth II calls her relatives by a title such as, “Mummy”, “Dear”, “Prince of Wales” and in other situations only uses first names such as calling her husband “Philip” only. Similarly, the way her relatives, nobles, and the public address the queen in certain situations uses different greetings. Therefore, there is a need for in-depth exploration related to the use of address terms and the reasons for knowing what kind of social relations are reflected in the movie.

With this movie research, people can know that social deixis can be a tool to realize knowledge related to social values and norms that apply in the British Empire. Social deixis becomes a marker of relationships between participants in the royal environment in speaking language and becomes a reference to differences in social status that affect the role of speakers and interlocutors. By knowing the role of social deixis used, the relationship between speakers can also be known. Social deixis can show the social dimension of communication.. According to (Holmes, 2013) The social dimension is divided into four, namely, the status scale is the relationship between participants; the status scale is related to the social status of the participants; the formality scale is related to the type of interaction and its setting; and the two functional scales are related to the topics in the conversation between the speakers.

Social deixis is an interesting research topic in the study of identifying the types of social deixis used and their functions in literary works. Social deixis research by (Chandra & Salsabila, 2022) “*The Analysis of Social Deixis Used in the Downton Abbey and Made in Dagenham Movies Set in the Twentieth Century*,”. The findings of this study are the use of relational deixis and absolute social deixis and the social factors that influence the use of the addressee form in the movie. Jirani, (2023) entitled *Social Deixis in the King's Man Movie* The results show that the type of relational social deixis “Sir” is dominant. Putra et al., (2020) entitled “*An Analysis of Social Deixis in the Madness of King George Movie*” found two types of social deixis, namely, relational and absolute social deixis, and three factors of social stratification and more often referred to men than women in the 19th century.

Unlike previous studies, this research analyzes the multidimensional interaction of language choice between Queen Elizabeth II as sovereign to the royal family, noble and subordinate, and vice versa. Thus, the research on The Queen Movie aims to examine and discover how those honorific terms reflect the social stratification under the formulated research problem:

- 1) What type of social deixis is used in The “Queen Movie”?
- 2) How do deixis reveal social hierarchy in The Queen 2006 movie?
- 3) What is the factor of social deixis used in “The Queen” movie?

METHOD

In analyzing the use of social deixis among Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Family, nobles, and others, this

research uses qualitative research methodology to collect data on the use of social deixis in The Queen 2006 Movie. The data source is dialog from a conversation in the movie The Queen Movie in 2006 that contains social deixis and has a duration of 1 hour 42 minutes 54 seconds. Several steps are taken to analyze the data, namely, watching the whole movie, listening and identifying each word of each character which contains social deixis, collecting the social deixis used from each conversation, identifying and calcifying the type of each word containing social deixis into two categories according to Levinson's theory, identifying the social dimension which is the factor of using social deixis. By using this method, it is expected to know how the use of social deixis in showing social dimension.

RESULT

This section presents the findings and discussion of the data. The research data is presented in the form of a classification of the use of social deixis in the conversation of The Queen Movie. The data is classified and then analyzed using the theory of social deixis by Stephen C. Levinson (1983) which is divided into two, namely, relational social deixis and absolute social deixis. After determining the use of social deixis, then analyze the factors that influence the use of social deixis.

Relational Social Deixis

In the movie entitled The Queen 2006 Movie, the researcher has found relational social deixis, namely Speaker and Addressee and Speaker and Referent.

In the form of Speaker and Referent, researchers have collected data categorized as first name, pet name, and endearment term. The first name category addresses someone who is familiar to the speaker, such as *Philip*, *Charles*, and *Robin*. The pet name and endearment term category is used for someone who has a close relationship or to show closeness and affection such as *Dear*, *Cabbage*, and *Mummy*.

In form speaker and addressee, the researcher found deictics that indicate title alongside first names, such as, "*Mr. Blair*". as well as honorific terms that refer to a person such as '*Sir*' and "*Maám*".

Meanwhile, the social deixis type speaker and bystander as well as speaker and setting were not found in The Queen 2006 Movie.

Datum 1

Queen Elizabeth II welcomed Mr. Blair to Balmoral Palace after the Prime Ministerial election.

Queen Elizabeth II: how nice to see you again,
Mr. Blair. and congratulations.
The children must be very
proud.
(The Queen 2006 Movie 00:06:37 – 00:06:43)

In datum 1, there is a dialogue between Queen Elizabeth II and Tony Blair, and there is a greeting "**Mr. Blair**" included in the category of social deixis speaker and addressee. Queen Elizabeth II addresses by adding the respectful title "**Mr.**" to someone who is considered

to have a certain social position and status, such as noble, important guests, and people who are considered honorable. This is done to maintain respect in an interaction. Although Queen Elizabeth II is a sovereign who has a higher social hierarchy than the prime minister. However, the queen still uses "**Mr.**" to address the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. This is done by the queen to maintain relationships and respect for each other.

The dialogue between Queen Elizabeth II and Tony Blair can be analyzed using a formality scale and two functional scales. The formality scale shows a formal situation because the conversation is in Balmoral Palace and the greeting used is "**Mr.**" for someone who is honored in the British monarchy. On two functional scales, The Queen's utterance conveys high affective content and low referential content. The Queen asked how Tony Blair was doing after the Prime Ministerial election at Balmoral Palace.

Datum 2

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles are having a serious conversation about how wonderful Diana was.

Charles: I was thinking last night what Diana might have done (...) she may .have encouraged all that but still that was always extraordinary thing about her, her weaknesses, and transgressions only made the public love her more. And ours only make them hate us.
Why is that? Why do they hate us so much?

Queen: not us, **dear**.

(The Queen 2006 Movie 00:40:09 – 00:40:57)

The dialogue between Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles has the use of social deixis, categorized as relational social deixis type. The call "**dear**" is spoken by the speaker, the queen, and refers to her son, Prince Charles. This shows a close personal relationship because there is no use of titles so the conversation shows a relationship between mother and son not as a queen and prince.

The dialogue between Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles has the use of social deixis, categorized as relational social deixis type. The call "**dear**" is spoken by the speaker, the queen, and refers to her son, Prince Charles. This shows a close personal relationship because there is no use of titles so the conversation shows a relationship between mother and son not as a queen and prince.

Table 1. Relational social deixis are used by the characters in The Queen Movie.

No.	Participant	Relational Social Deixis	
1.	Queen → Tony Blair	Mr. Blair	Title + surname/last name
2.	Queen → Prince Charles	Dear	Endearment

1. Absolute Social Deixis

The result of the analysis of this section found only one type of absolute social deixis, namely, authorized absolute social deixis type. The researcher found some data that shows the formal title. Addressee form found in this movie, including:

Datum 3

In this conversation Tony Blair as Prime Minister visits Balmoral Palace to meet Queen Elizabeth, then meets and greets Robin, Queen Elizabeth II's secretary.

Tony Blair : Robin... good to see you.
Robin : **Prime Minister**.
Tony Blair : Tony, please.

(The Queen 2006 Movie 01:31:06 – 01:31:09)

Prime Minister which falls into the category of authorized recipient of in absolute social deixis type. This is because formal or honorary titles can only be referred to people who have authority and have a high social position in the kingdom. Regarding the context, the person addressed by Robin is a Prime Minister who has a social status above him. This formal greeting is used to show Tony Blair's authority and position as Prime Minister.

Social factors that caused Robin to Tony Blair as prime minister is the relationship between participants. Based on the way Robin addresses the Prime Minister with the respectful "**Prime Minister**" shows the distant relationship between them. In addition to the social distance scale, the social status scale is also a factor in the choice of words used by Robin. Because the way Robin addressed Tony Blair represented that he had a higher status. In addition, the setting affects the formality of their conversation. It can be concluded that the factors that influence the choice of words used in the conversation are the social status scale and the formality scale.

Datum 4

A conversation between Queen Elizabeth II and Tony Blair via telephone. Tony Blair negotiated regarding Princess Diana's funeral ceremony. However, Queen Elizabeth insisted that it was a private matter since Princess Diana was no longer part of the royal family.

Tony Blair : Good morning, **Your Majesty**.
Queen Elizabeth II: **Prime Minister**.
Tony Blair : May I say right away, (...) and that the thoughts and prayers of my family with you at this terrible time. And with the Princess in particular. (...)
Queen Elizabeth II: No member of the royal family will speak publicly about this. This is private matter. and given Diana was no longer a member of the royal family.

(The Queen 2006 Movie 00:21:56 – 00:22:51)

In the conversation between Queen Elizabeth II and Tony Blair, there are terms that show social deixis, namely, **Your Majesty** and **Prime Minister**. Both of them show the authorized recipient absolute social deixis type. Your Majesty is an honorary title that refers to someone who has authority and a high social hierarchy position. In the conversation, the honorific term refers to Queen Elizabeth II as the sovereign of the British Monarch. This formal greeting shows the recognition of the queen's authority and social position by Tony Blair.

This formal title falls under the category of authorized recipient absolute social deixis type because Tony Blair is an authorized recipient of the title due to his position in the kingdom as prime minister.

With these two honorific terms, there is a difference in social stratification between the two. Queen Elizabeth II was sovereign and Tony Blair was Prime Minister. Although the queen is sovereign, she still addresses Tony Blair as "**Prime Minister**", showing her respect and recognition of his position.

The speakers in this conversation are Queen Elizabeth II and the Prime Minister. Based on the way Queen Elizabeth II greets with the term **Prime Minister** and Tony Blair greets using **Your Majesty**, shows the scale of social distance reflects the distant relationship between the two. The use of titles for both **Your Majesty** and **Prime Minister** represent different social statuses, where the Queen has a higher social status than the Prime Minister. Not only that, the formality scale is also a factor in the choice of words used in the conversation. The conversation took place via telephone, but what made this conversation formal was the topic discussed, about the problems that occurred in the kingdom. The conversation also indicates low affective content, because there is information and negotiations related to Princess Diana's funeral that occur between the two.

Table 2. Absolute social deixis used by the characters in The Queen Movie.

No.	Participant	Absolute social deixis	
1.	Robin → Prime Minister	Prime Minister	Title only
2.	Queen Elizabeth II → Prime Minister	Your Majesty	Title only
3.	Prime Minister → Queen Elizabeth II	Prime Minister	Title only

DISCUSSION

This research shows how social deixis, which is a choice of words that indicate social relationships, is used in the movie "The Queen" to illustrate hierarchy and solidarity in the British monarchy. This study found two types of social deixis used by characters in The Queen movie, namely, relational and absolute social deixis. Relational deixis is found in the use of first names and affective calls, such as *dear*, *cabbage*, and *mummy* which aims to show emotional closeness. Then, the use of titles before first names such as "*Mr. Blair*", and the use of calls that refer to someone without a name such as '*Sir*'

and “Ma’am” are also included in the relational social deixis category. This study also found the use of absolute social deixis such as *Your Majesty*, *Prime Minister*, and *Her/His Highness*. In a monarchical environment, social deixis not only functions as a communication tool but also as a way to reflect and maintain the prevailing social structure and values.

Social deixis is a tool to emphasize the closeness of the relationship, emphasize the existence of social hierarchy, and convey respect and recognition toward social position according to the social stratification that is held and has been regulated in social norms. According to (Holmes, 2013) power indicates differences in authority and status between speakers, this occurs in how one uses honorific titles or formal address. Low solidarity, “Your Majesty” or “His/Her Highness”. High solidarity, “Mummy”. The use of social deixis in *The Queen Movie* to defines the relationship between speakers. The use of honorific terms and forms of greeting as an anticipation of misunderstanding or conflict causes disharmony in social relations. In the context of the British royal environment, power and solidarity are used depending on the relationship and context of the conversation between interlocutors. This is in line with Goffman's (1959) “Performance” theory about how a person performs different roles depending on the interlocutor and the context. For example, the queen adapts a firm language style to the public and her subordinates show the role of sovereign. However, when with family, Queen Elizabeth II plays the role of a good daughter, wife and mother.

Previous study (Jirani, 2023), and (Hanifa et al., 2023) found 2 types of social deixis, absolute and relational deixis to maintain hierarchical status in British royal environment. In contrast to the research of Putra et al., (2020) with the findings of the dominance of the use of honorific titles such as “Sir”, “King”, ‘Majesty’ and “Sire” more often used than titles for women. Because in the 19th century, the owner of power was dominated by men. Interestingly, this recent study focuses on modern monarchies where the sovereign is female. This shows that the use of social deixis to mark hierarchy remains the same, regardless of the gender of the ruler. The only difference is in gendered address such as “Sir” vs. “Ma’am”. However, the social function and stratification meaning remain the same.

CONCLUSION

There are three main points that can be taken from this research based on the objectives of the study:

First, in addressing to RQ-1 There is a use of social deixis in *The Queen 2016 movie*, namely, absolute and relational deixis. Absolute social deixis is used to emphasize power hierarchy and social distance. Such as the use of formal titles such as, “Your Majesty” and “Her/His Highness” when interacting with the queen. This shows recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's position

Second, in addressing to RQ-2. It was concluded that language choice in the context of the British monarchy functions on two levels, namely, as a rigid and

hierarchical political institution, and how to create a family environment that shows emotional closeness.

Third, in addressing to RQ-3. In this study, it can be concluded that several factors influence the use of social deixis including social status, social distance, formality, and context in a conversation. The choice of words in the way of addressing greatly affects the relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor both in terms of emotional closeness, the ongoing topic of conversation, and also the situation. Thus, this study provides knowledge and understanding related to the fact that social interaction and norms inherent in society are certain factors that influence the choice of language used in social interaction, especially in the context of the British monarchy.

Suggestion

In terms of the primary objective, the research about the use of social deixis in *The Queen 2006 movie* was successful in identifying the type of social deixis and the factors that influence language choice in the movie. The researcher hopes that this study can contribute to adding insight into pragmatics learning, as well as adding understanding related to the role of social deixis in communication, especially in the context of the royal environment. Which is the use of social deixis to influence the way a person chooses language to avoid misunderstanding. Future research can compile studies related to comparisons in the use of multidimensional social deixis in other cultures to see the similarities and differences.

REFERENCES

- Acemoglu, D., & Wolitzky, A. (2023). Mistrust, Misperception, and Misunderstanding: Imperfect Information and Conflict Dynamics. *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 1–53. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4574626>
- Chandra, O. H., & Salsabila, G. (2022). The Analysis of Social Deixis Used in the *Downton Abbey* and *Made in Dagenham* Movies Set in the Twentieth Century. *Culturalistics: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies*, 6(3), 92–98. <https://doi.org/10.14710/culturalistics.v6i3.16077>
- Erving Goffman. (1959). Presentation of self in everyday life. *American Journal of Sociology*, 55, 17–25.
- Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic* (L. U. Geoffrey Leech & Mick Short (ed.); 4th Editio). Routledge.
- Jirani, A. N. A. (2023). *Social Deixis in the King's Man Movie*. <http://repository.unhas.ac.id:443/id/eprint/26353>
- Purba, F. R., Sidabutar, U., & Silitonga, H. (2024). An Analysis of Deixis Found in Student English Textbook When English Rings a Bell for the Eight Grade of Junior High School. *Journal Of Education And Teaching Learning (JETL)*, 6(2), 130–141. <https://doi.org/10.51178/jetl.v6i2.1842>

- Putra, Z. D., Sofyan, D., & Sembiring, B. (2020). Analysis of Social Deixis in the Madness of King George Movie. *Jadila: Journal of Development and Innovation in Language and Literature Education*, 1(1), 17–32. <https://doi.org/10.52690/jadila.v1i1.15>
- Stephen C. Levinson. (1983). PRAGMATICS. In N. Vjn. F. N. B.COMRI E, R. HUDDLESTON, R. LASS, D. LIGHTFOOT, J. LYONS, P. H. MATTHEWS, R. POSNER, S. ROMAINE, N. V. SMITH (Ed.), *Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011--4211, USA 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia.*