

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the introduction part of this thesis. It introduces the background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is universal and unique. It is a means of expressing all things to other people. It is also used to refer to many tangible and intangible objects around us. To refer to objects, people use several forms of language. One of them is called deixis.

Deixis is part of pragmatics since it deals with the meanings of speakers' utterances. In pragmatics, it is labeled as the rules of speaker or writer to point something by using language. Yule (1996:9) states that deixis is a technical term for one of the most basic thing that deal with utterances.

In daily life, deixis plays vital roles in human life. It is used to point out a particular thing or person (such as that, this, etc), to show something or someone (here, there) or to avoid repeating similar words (by using pronoun; he to replace Andy). Since it is vital, people must understand it well. Without having this skill, it can lead to ambiguity in conversation and the conversation might not run well.

Ambiguities because of misinterpreting deixis are commonly found in literature. Since literature is so creative as the expression of human imagination, it

may contain deixis which have unusual forms. The word “he” may not refer to “any males” since it may refer to something else such as inanimate things. The word there also may not refer to any clear place since it may refer to unspecific and difficult to explain places.

Literature is also the result of very strong emotions that produce extraordinarily beautiful handwriting. Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle (2004:20) state that literary texts can generate powerful feelings of identification, not only between reader and character but also, perhaps more enigmatically, between reader and author. Literature is an expression of one's heart set forth in writing either in feeling sad or happy. From all kinds of literature, deixis in poetry is the most interesting thing to study.

Poetry is a literary imaginative works. This is due to compaction or concentrating all the power of language in poetry because it is filled with inspirations. Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle (2004:2) state that is the way that poems are conventionally thought is the initial inspiration since it produces a strange paradox of beginnings: the origin of the poem and the inspiration which comes after the beginning of the poem.

From many of popular poet in America, Philip Levine has been considered as a poet whose works include so many paradox inspirations. Most of his poems depict the life of men very heavy.

Philip Levine wrote some poems essay such as horror poems, love poems and history poem. There of his works are interesting to be study such as: “*You Can*

Have It, *The Red Shirt*, and *I Sing the Body Electric* since it contain many deixis. See the example of deixis occurrence in Levine's works

1. **My brother** comes home from work
2. and climbs the stairs to **our room**.
3. **I** can hear the bed groan and **his** shoes drop
4. one by one. **You** can have it **he** says.

From the four lines of Levine's poem above, we can see that there are seven deixis present: (1) "my brother" is categorized as personal deixis, (2) "Our" is categorized as personal spatial deixis, (3) "our" is categorized as personal deixis, (4) "I" refers to personal deixis; first person, (5) "his" refers to person deixis; second person, (6) "you" refers to personal deixis; second person, and the last, (7) "he" refers to personal deixis; first person.

Since there are so many deixis present in Lavine's works, the writer is interested to analyze them. In general, this study is intended to show how deixis can be utilized in poetry.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problems

Based on the background of the study, the research problems are:

1. What are the types of deixis found in Philip Levine poems?
2. What are the impacts of the dominant deixis appearance in Levine's poems towards the beauty of the poems?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To explain the types of deixis used in Philip Levine poems.
2. To explain of the impact of the dominant deixis appearance in Levine's poems towards the beauty of the poems.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is hoped to provide information to the readers of this thesis. Besides, it is also expected to enrich the pragmatics studies which have already been conducted. The results of the study can be used for the readers to improve their knowledge about the basic concepts of deixis proposed by Yule. Students can also learn the occurrence of deixis in literary works especially poetry. In addition, this study is expected to give beneficial contributions for the future researchers who are interested in investigating similar field of study. It can be as used a reference to learn more about the types of deixis proposed by Yule's theory.

Practically, it is hoped that this study can inspire young poets in terms of how to write deixis in their poems. By reading this thesis, it is hoped that they will see the various kinds of deixis and learn how to use the well in their works.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on types of deixis theory. The theory is taken from George Yule (1996). This study is limited on the types of deixis that are used in

the three of Philip Levine selected poems. The titles of the poems are: *You Can Have It*, *I Sing the Body Electric*, and *The Red Shirt*.

The data of this study are the lines or sentences in the poems that contain diexis.