



## Person Deixis Used by James Corden in The Late Late Show

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### Abstract

This study focuses on the person deixis used by James Corden in his utterances on the talk show *The Late Late Show*. The theory used in classifying the types of deixis and the category of person deixis found in this study is based on Levinson's (1983) deixis theory. Based on observations, person deixis is the most dominant type of deixis found in James Corden's speech on this talk show. The use of the type of person deixis used by James Corden is absolutely influenced by certain factors. Therefore, this study aims to describe how James Corden uses each category of person deixis and the factors that influence its use in talk shows. This research is limited to using only one episode of *The Late Late Show* and only examines the person deixis used by James Corden. This qualitative study used observation methods for data analysis. There are 152 person deixis data used by James Corden in this talk show, which belong to the following categories of person deixis: singular first person deixis, plural first person deixis, singular second person deixis, plural second person deixis, singular third person deixis, and plural third person deixis. In addition, there are factors that influence the use of person deixis expressions, namely topics, situations, power, closeness and formality, and the speaker's goals.

**Keywords:** *deixis, person deixis, talk show*

### Abstrak

Kajian ini berfokus pada deiksis persona yang digunakan oleh James Corden dalam tuturannya di acara talk show *The Late Late Show*. Teori yang digunakan dalam mengklasifikasikan jenis-jenis deiksis persona yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini berdasarkan pada teori deiksis oleh Levinson (1983). Berdasarkan penelitian, deiksis persona merupakan jenis deiksis yang paling dominan ditemukan dalam tuturan James Corden di acara talk show ini. Penggunaan tipe deiksis persona yang digunakan oleh James Corden nampak dipengaruhi oleh faktor-faktor tertentu. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana James Corden menggunakan setiap kategori deiksis persona dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaannya dalam talk show. Penelitian ini dibatasi hanya menggunakan satu episode *The Late Late Show* dan hanya mengkaji deiksis persona yang digunakan oleh James Corden. Penelitian kualitatif ini menggunakan metode observasi untuk menganalisis data. Ditemukan 152 data deiksis persona yang digunakan oleh James Corden dalam talk show ini, yang termasuk dalam kategori deiksis persona berikut: deiksis orang pertama tunggal, deiksis orang pertama jamak, deiksis orang kedua tunggal, deiksis orang kedua jamak, deiksis orang ketiga tunggal, dan deiksis orang ketiga jamak. Selain itu, ada faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penggunaan ungkapan deiksis persona, yaitu topik, situasi, kekuatan, kedekatan, formalitas, dan serta tujuan penutur.

**Kata kunci:** *deiksis, deiksis persona, talk show*

## **Introduction**

Nowadays, language is used in every aspect of human life. It is not only used in daily conversations but also in particular conversations. The Talk Show is one of the examples of places that use language in communication. According to Shattuc (2014), the talk show is a style predicated on active audience reaction, not silent and anonymous voyeurism. In this case, talk shows encourage people to engage in active conversation. A talk show is a program in which at least one host and one guest who acts as the interviewee have a conversation concerning a certain topic. A talk show can address anything; in general, talk shows will discuss careers, music, sports, lifestyle, and other issues. Therefore, the way language is used in a talk show can be observed from many aspects. One of those aspects is the use of deixis.

According to Levinson (1983:54), deixis is primarily concerned with the mechanisms used by languages to encode grammatical characteristics of the context of an utterance or speech event, and thus with how the interpretation of an utterance is dependent on the analysis of that context. A deictic statement is a verbal form required to indicate the "point" of a dialogue. Furthermore, deixis indicates something in the speaker and listener's current time, location, and context via utterance. As a result, everyone uses the deixis expression to point to anything in their head. Levinson distinguished five sorts of deixis: person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Among the five types of deixis, the use of person deixis is the most dominant and appears in every conversation.

In general, person deixis is used to encode or designate a person, a group of people, or a thing. However, if person deixis is studied more specifically, it is really complex and has many parts. In particular, person deixis is concerned with encoding the participant's role in the speech event in which the utterance is conveyed. Person deixis occurs as a singular or plural pronoun and serves as a subject, object, or possessive pronoun. It is separated into three parts: the first person refers to the speaker's grammaticalization of references to himself/herself; the second person refers to the encoding of references to one or more recipients; and the third person refers to the encoding of references to persons and entities other than speakers or the address of the utterance under consideration.

In conducting this research, some related literature helps to obtain supporting information for this research. There are several studies related to person deixis analysis used to support this research, namely from Fajri (2018) entitled "An Analysis of Person Deixis Used by Emha Ainun Nadjib in Kenduri Cinta Event Entitled "Religious Atheism", Hidayah (2019) entitled "A Deixis Analysis Of Song Lyrics In Back To You By Selena Gomes", Sari (2020) entitled "An Analysis Of Deixis In Avenger Infinity War Movie", Yunus (2020) entitled "A Deixis Analysis Of Lydia Machova's Talks Entitled The Secrets Of Learning A New Language On TED", and the last one is from Minkhatunnakhriyah, Hidayat, and Alek (2021) entitled "An Analysis of Deixis on Comment Speech by Indonesian Diplomats at the United Nations (UN) 75th General Assembly Meeting 2020". Based on several related studies, most of them mention deixis references without describing how speakers use person deixis and the factors that influence its use, especially in talk shows. Therefore, this study will describe the use of person-deixis and the factors that influence it.

This study uses the talk show The Late Late Show with James Corden and takes data from the episode entitled "Social Media is Tearing Society Apart, but Getting Us Free Clothes". This episode is chosen since there are several phenomena shown in the way the host of the Late Late Show uses person deixis in this episode. Some of these phenomena shown by James Corden need to be investigated the influencing its factors. This episode was published on May 11, 2021, with a video duration of 17 minutes and 35 seconds. from the beginning to the end the video in this episode shows some conversations between James Corden and some crew on the talk show. Therefore, the conversation between James Corden and his interlocutor is very active in this episode. This talk show aired on the CBS TV channel and also on the personal YouTube channel of The Late Late Show with James Corden, with 26.9 million subscribers. This talk show is well-known for its relaxing and entertaining situations, which cause the show to feel natural. Furthermore, this talk show is presented in a friendly, interesting, and humorous environment while still providing useful information to the audience. James Corden hosted The Late Late Show from 2014 to the present. In this talk show, James Corden as the host always speaks bluntly which causes the audience to be confused about the pronouns he uses. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the use of person deixis and the factors that influence the utterances spoken by James Corden in a relaxed manner in this episode of the talk show The Late Late Show.

## **Method**

This research is classified as descriptive qualitative research. The observation method is used in this research in collecting the data. The data was collected from the utterances of the host of the talk show, James Corden. There are several steps to collecting data, including watching the episode "Social Media is Tearing Society Apart, but Getting us Free Clothes", then reading the subtitles available on the video from the beginning until the end of the video on the YouTube Channel of "The Late Late Show with James Cordon." Last, a note-taking technique to describe how speakers use person deixis and the factors that influence its use by James Cordon in that episode. This study applied the theory by Levinson (1983) from his book entitled Pragmatics. Levinson (1993:54) stated that deixis is concerned almost the ways inside which dialects encode or grammaticalize highlights of utterance or discourse occasion in addition in this way too concerns ways in which the translation of utterance depends on the examination of that setting of utterance. The findings are presented in two ways. The first is the formal method, which presents the data in the form of a table, and the second is the informal method, which is applied to explain the data descriptively using sentences in a paragraph.

## **Result and Discussion**

There were 152 data person deixis obtained from James Corden's utterances on the Late Late Show. Here, person deixis is divided into some categories: singular first-

person deixis, plural first-person deixis, singular second-person deixis, plural second-person deixis, singular third-person deixis, and plural third person deixis. The tables below show is the use of person deixis by James Corden.

Table 1. Person Deixis used by James Corden

Person Deixis Category	Person Deictic Expressions	Frequency	Percentage
Singular First Person Deixis	I	26	17,2%
	Me	3	2,0%
	My	2	1,3%
Plural First Person Deixis	We	22	14,4%
	Our	3	2,0%
	Us	9	6,0%
Singular Second Person Deixis	You	48	31,5%
	Your	3	2,0%
	Yourself	1	0,6%
Plural Second Person Deixis	You	2	1,3%
Singular Third Person Deixis	He	14	9,2%
	His	3	2,0%
	Him	2	1,3%
	Himself	1	0,6%
	She	3	2,0%
Plural Third Person Deixis	They	7	4,7%
	Them	1	0,6%
	Their	2	1,3%
Total		152	100%

As shown from the table above, the data found in James Corden utterances are 152 data. From 152 data, there are 26 data or 17.2% for singular first person deixis the word "I", 3 data or 2.0% for singular first person deixis the word "Me", 2 data or 1.3% for singular first person deixis word "My", 22 data or 14, 4% for plural first person deixis word "We", 3 data or 2.0% for plural first person deixis word "Our", 9 data or 6.0% for plural first person deixis kata "Us", 48 data or 31.5% for singular second person deixis kata "You", 3 data or 2.0% for singular second person deixis kata "Your", 1 data or 0.6% for singular second person deixis kata "Yourself", 2 data or 1.3% for plural second person deixis kata "You", 14 data or 9.2% for singular third person deixis kata "He", 3 data or 2.0% for singular third person deixis said "His", 2 data or 1.3% for singular third person deixis said "Him", 1 data or 0.6% for singular third person deixis said "Himself", 3 data or 2.0% for singular third person deixis word "She", 7 data or 4.7% for plural third person deixis word "They", 1 data or 0.6% for plural third person deixis the word "Them", and 2 data or 1.3% for plural third person deixis the word "Their". Nevertheless, this study only analyzed how James Corden uses each

category of person deixis and the factors that influence its use in James Corden's utterances in talk shows.

### **The Use of Each Category Person Deixis**

In referring to himself, James Corden uses the word "I." "Me" is used for pronouns as objects, and as a sign of possessiveness, he uses the word "My." "I, me, and my" is a category of singular first-person deixis in which the function refers to just himself. From the singular first-person deixis category, the use of the word "I" is the most dominant, because James Corden does not talk much about himself as an object or as a possessive adjective.

In appointing himself and someone other than himself, which is the Late Late Show Crew, he uses plural first person deixis. The words he uses are "we, us, and our," which the function refers to a group of people covering the speaker. The word "we" is used as the subject of the plural first person. "Us" is used when he wants to express himself and the crew of the late-late show as an object in the sentence he says. In showing ownership of the crew and himself, he uses the word "our." From the plural category of first-person deixis, the use of the word "we" is the most dominant since, in that episode, James Corden does not talk too much about himself and his crew as objects or as possessive adjectives.

In pointing to the second person or the other person, he uses the words "you, your, and yourself." "You" is a pronoun that is generally used as a subject or object in a sentence. "Your" is a pronoun that expresses ownership. "Yourself" is a reflexive pronoun that puts emphasis on the other person. In second person deixis, the word "you" can be classified as singular or plural, depending on the context of the sentence. The function of singular second-person deixis is used to point or encode the addressee just for a person, while plural second-person deixis is used for pointing or encoding addressees or a group of addressees. Based on the two categories of second person deixis, the use of the word "you" in the singular form is the most dominant because of the active conversation between James Corden and one of the addressees or crew members in this talk show.

In indicating the third person, James Corden uses the words "he, his, him, himself, and she," which is classified as singular third-person deixis. The use of the words "he, his, him, and himself" refers to the male addressee, which in this episode refers to Nick, Pate, and Reggie, who are the crew of the talk show "The Late Late Show." While the use of the word "she" refers to the female addressee, which refers to Reggie's girlfriend who was in the studio at the time. The use of the word "he" is the most dominant because on the talk show he communicates mostly with a man who is one of the crews from the Late Late Show. In plural third-person deixis, James Corden uses the words "They, Them, and Their". The use of the words "they, them, and their" can apply to either the male or female gender. However, according to the context of the episode being studied, the word "they, them, their" here mostly refers to the crew of the late-late show, which is all male. the word "they" is the most dominant because James Corden is more dominant in speaking to a third person as a subject in a conversation.

## **Factors Influencing the Person Deixis**

### **1. Topic of Conversation**

The use of deictic person expressions by James Corden is strongly influenced by the topic of conversation on the talk show. When James Corden talks about a specific topic with one person he is talking to, he tends to use singular first-person deixis which refers to him, and singular second-person deixis to the other person. This can be seen from the following words of James Corden:

James Corden: *I'm going to burn **yourself** silly if **you** try to drink this.*

**(00.02.13)**

*I* in the sentence above refers to James Corden, *yourself* and *you* refers to Pate, who was one of the crews of the Late Late Show.

In addition, to refer to the third person the addressee is talking about, he also uses singular third-person deixis to clarify the gender of the interlocutor. Shown in the following example of James Corden's utterance:

James Corden: *Ian ran over to **him** and **he** was all over the place.*

**(00.01.32)**

*Him* in the sentence refers to Nick, and *He* refers to Ian, both of them are the crew of the Late Late Show. Moreover, when he talks about a general topic that includes himself and all the crew, he also uses plural first person deixis which refers to himself and the crew. It can be seen in the following example:

James Corden: ***We** absolutely love this*

**(00.02.23)**

*We* in the sentence above refers to James Corden and the crew of the Late Late Show. Thus, the deixis used by James Corden can be said to be influenced by the topic of every conversation he has with different people in the episodes on the talk show.

### **2. Situation**

Situations are another problem that can cause James Corden to use person deixis expressions. This means that James Corden can intentionally use the deictic

expression depending on the situation in which he produces the utterance. Situations in talk shows can be semi-formal, tense, relaxed, or informal. The Late Late Show is a famous talk show with a relaxed and humorous atmosphere. It can be concluded that the tense situation in this talk show is impossible at all. However, in this episode there is one thing we can conclude from the following words of James Corden:

James Corden: *Sir Richard Branson*, saying this weekend  
(00.03.35)

According to his statement above, it appears that James Corden used a formal expression by using *Sir Richard Branson*. Although, he can use the deixis word *He*, here he is not used it due to the situation where Sir Richard Branson is a respected person. Thus, the situation influences the use of person deixis in James Corden's speech.

### 3. Closeness or Solidarity and Formality

Solidarity may be seen from how long James Corden has known the addressee and also the gender between himself and the other person. On the other hand, formality may arise from differences in the positions of James Corden and his addressee. In terms of position, the higher position of the person invited to communicate using formal language. In general, formal English rarely uses first-person pronouns. Therefore, in formal conversations, the use of person deixis is rarely used. In addition, formality can also result from serious topics and tense situations coupled with a lack of solidarity between participants. Therefore, when there is more solidarity between the speaker and the addressee, the formality between them tends to decrease. This study shows that solidarity and formality between the speaker and the addressee can also determine the use of persona deixis in James Corden's utterances. When there is less solidarity between James Corden and the addressee, when there is a high degree of formality between James Corden and the interlocutor, James Corden tends to use polite expressions or call the addressee's name. On the other hand, if there is high solidarity between James Corden and the interlocutor, James Corden tends to use a familiar form by using person deixis. The following is an example of a saying from James Corden that describes his intimacy with his addressee:

James Corden: *Come on! Pate this is a great fit on you man, this is a great fit on you Pate.* (00.06.08)

James Corden's utterance above are examples of the use of deixis where he feels familiar with the addressee which is Pate one of the Late Late Show crew. Here he uses the word *you* repeatedly to emphasize his statement.

#### **4. Power of James Corden**

The power of James Corden and the addressee may also affect the deictic expression of the person used by him. When James Corden had less power than the person he was referring to, he would use a more polite expression to refer to that person. On the other hand, if he has the same power as that of the referred person or if he has even more power than the person is being referred to, then he will use the deictic expression that he has generally used. This can be seen in the following example:

James Corden: *We'll see the whole world, guys!*  
(00.06.08)

From James Corden's words above, it appears that he and his addressee have the same power as the person referred to. Here he uses deictic expressions and adds the word *guys* as an expression of familiarity with each other.

#### **5. Speaker's Purpose or Intention**

The person deixis used by James Corden, certainly, cannot be separated from his own intention in becoming a host. In this research, it was found that James Corden used certain person deictic expression patterns according to their own goals. This can be seen from the following example of his utterance:

James Corden: *We'll be right back, everybody.*  
(00.17.29)

The purpose of the utterance above is to emphasize the point that will return after that, not only himself but all the crew and people on the talk show who will be entertaining again in the next episode. If he wants to reveal that only himself will return, he can replace the word *We* above with the word *I* which only includes himself. Because he already has a pattern such as every talk show opening and also at the closing of a talk show the deixis person he uses is always the same.

#### **Conclusion**

This study concludes that in the late late show on the episode entitled "Social media is tearing society apart, but getting us free clothes", James Corden as the host, has used the six categories of person deixis. The six categories are singular first-person deixis, plural first-person deixis, singular second-person deixis, plural second-person deixis, singular third-person deixis, and plural third-person deixis. In referring to himself, James Corden uses the word "I, me, and my" which is a category of singular first-person deixis. In appointing himself and someone other than himself, which is the Late Late Show Crew, he uses plural first person deixis. The words he uses are "we, us,



and our". In pointing to the second person or the other person, he uses the words "you, your, and yourself." In indicating the third person, James Corden uses the words "he, his, him, himself, and she," which is classified as singular third-person deixis. In plural third-person deixis, James Corden uses the words "They, Them, and Their". The use of the words "they, them, and their" can apply to either the male or female gender. In addition, it can also be concluded that the use of person deixis by James Corden is influenced by several factors. These factors are the topic of conversation, the situation of the talk show, the strength of the speaker, the closeness or solidarity and formality between the speaker and the speech partner, and the speaker's intent or purpose.

Since the writer has difficulty finding some references about person deixis used in talk shows, the writer hopes this research can be useful as an additional academic reference for further researchers researching deixis in talk shows. The writer suggests analyzing or investigating further research on person deixis in talk shows of different genres, such as formal talk shows. In addition, the writer suggests if the next researcher would like to analyze a talk show, watch the talk show repeatedly to understand the context. This research is still far from perfect because of the limited knowledge of the writer. Hopefully, it can provide a clear explanation. Moreover, it can be understood by readers and researchers who are interested in analyzing the person deixis in the talk show.

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