

**DEIXIS USED IN DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECH TO THE UNITED  
NATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(A Pragmatic Study)**



**A THESIS**

*Submitted To the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University  
in Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Bachelor Degree  
in English Department*

**By**

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THESIS

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Monday, 06  
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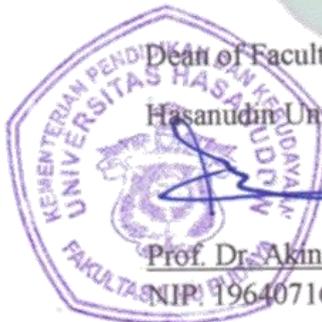
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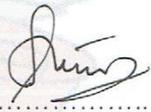
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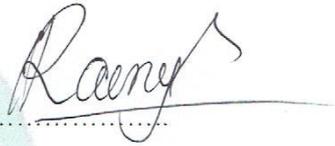


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## DECLARATION

The thesis by KRISTINA (No. F21116006) entitled, DEIXIS USED IN DONALD TRUMP'S SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A Pragmatic Study) has been revised as advised during examination on 06 July 2020 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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Yang menyatakan,



Kristina

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Thus, the writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. Therefore, the constructive and educative criticism will highly be appreciated. May Jesus always bless us. Amen.

## ABSTRACT

**KRISTINA.** *Deixis Used in Donald Trump's Speech to the United Nation General Assembly: A Pragmatic Study* (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu** and **Ainun Fatimah**).

The aims of this study are to find out the types of deixis used in “Donald Trump’s speech to United Nation General Assembly” transcript and to explain the references of deixis used in “Donald Trump’s speech to United Nation General Assembly”.

The method of this study was qualitative descriptive. The writer collected the data from the video transcript, marking any sentences containing deictic words, classified the deictic words that are found into five types of deixis based on Levinson’s theory. Then explain the reference of the deixis on the study. The writer limited herself to analyze fifty data.

The result of the study shows that there are five types of deixis found in the “Donald Trump’s speech to United Nation General Assembly”. They are person, time, place, discourse and social deixis. From the sample of data, the writer analyzed 188 deictic words which are divided into 112 (59,7 %) person deixis, 24 (12,77 %) time deixis, 18 (9,57 %) place deixis, 19 (10,11 %) discourse deixis, and 13 (6,91 %) social deixis. The used of person deixis indicates the role of speaker or addressee (personal pronoun), time deixis used to indicate the time event that related to the moment of speaking, Place deixis indicates the location of the speaker and addressee, Discourse deixis indicates the part or half utterance, and social deixis indicates the position of speaker and addressee. Furthermore, the writer found that the added contextual information could assist in interpreting the deixis.

Key terms: deixis, reference, utterance

## ABSTRAK

**KRISTINA.** *Penggunaan Deixis oleh Donald Trump dalam Pidatonya pada sidang umum PBB.* Studi Pragmatik (Dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **Ainun Fatimah**).

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis-jenis deiksis yang digunakan dalam transkrip pidato Donald Trump pada pertemuan sidang umum “Perserikatan Bangsa-bangsa (PBB)” dan untuk menjelaskan referensi dari deixis yang digunakan Donald Trump dalam pidatonya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis mengumpulkan data dari transkrip video, menandai setiap kata yang mengandung deiksis, mengklasifikasikan deiksis tersebut kedalam lima jenis deiksis menurut teori Levinson. Kemudian menjelaskan referensi deiksis dalam penelitian ini. Penulis membatasi penelitiannya dengan menganalisis lima puluh data.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada lima jenis deiksis yang digunakan dalam pidato Donald Trump pada pertemuan sidang umum “Perserikatan Bangsa-bangsa (PBB)”, yaitu deiksis persona, waktu, tempat, discourse dan deiksis sosial. Berdasarkan analisa diatas, penulis menganalisa 188 kata deiktik yang terbagi menjadi 112 (59,7 %) deiksis persona, 24 (12,77 %) deiksis waktu, 19 (10,11 %) deiksis tempat, 18 (9,57 %) deiksis discourse, dan 13 (6,91 %) deiksis sosial. Penggunaan deiksis persona menunjukkan peran penutur atau lawan tutur, penggunaan deiksis waktu menunjukkan waktu penutur berbicara, deiksis tempat menunjukkan lokasi penutur dan lawan tutur, deiksis discourse menunjukkan sebagian wacana yang berkorelasi dengan wacana penutur atau lawan tutur sebelumnya dan deiksis sosial menunjukkan posisi atau status sosial penutur atau lawan tutur. Lebih lanjut, penulis menemukan bahwa konteks informasi tambahan sangat membantu dalam menginterpretasikan deiksis.

Kata kunci : deixis, referensi, ujaran

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

In this Millennial Era, people cannot be separated from speech. Speech is a platform for those who either want to share their expression or give their opinion. Speech can be classified to formal or informal speech, the major differences between formal and informal speech come from social and cultural context in which the speaker uses them. Speakers tend to use informal speech among friends and relative while the formal speech used by the speaker in more professional settings, usually among colleagues, new acquaintances or presidential speech.

A speech will be more interesting if the addressee of the speech could know the intended meaning of the speaker and understand the whole content of the speech. One of the elements that can reveal the relationship between language structure and context is deixis. Deixis is a study of pointing or indicating to things that belong to pragmatics. Deixis cannot be understood without the added contextual information. Related to deixis, Yule (1996) and Levinson (1983) are believed as the proponent of this deixis. Yule proposes the three kinds of deixis, they are person deixis, spatial deixis, and temporal deixis. While, Levinson proposes five kinds of deixis, they are person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

Deixis is used to analyze the conversation, sentence or utterance and speech because every utterance is related to situational context of the speaker. The meaning will be understood if addressee knows about who, where, and when the utterance are uttered. All the deictic expressions have to be interpreted based on the situational context. Deixis can be found in a formal speech particularly presidential speech. In order to understand an intended meaning of the speaker, the addressee should know the use of deixis to solve the problem.

In this research, the speech of Donald Trump at the United Nation General Assembly is chosen as the source of data. This speech which deliver by Donald Trump on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 about “America’s sovereignty –we reject the ideology of globalism and accept the doctrine of patriotism” in world leaders gathering in New York for 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA. This speech is attended by world leaders, ambassador and delegates. Donald Trump’s speech is also something declarative and attractive to be analyzed because this speech become one of speech that represented his administration’s accomplishments and Donald Trump is able to convince all world leaders that he is able to make America safe from terrorist attacks and stronger.

In this speech, the idea of the speech aim to create a unity of the speaker and the addressee to deliver the message. There are some reasons of choosing this particular topic. First, the used of deixis is realize in this speech, the utterances that are delivered by Donald Trump in his speech has intention and purposes. It contains any types of deixis that possibly appear misunderstand to the addressees. Because of deixis is part of language that can refer from dialogue or written. In

that speech, he would like to urge other nations to reject globalism and embrace patriotism, railed against multilateralism in its spiritual home and also highlighted his presidency's achievements. Therefore, the used of deixis in a formal speech particularly the presidential Donald Trump's speech are very important. Moreover, the analysis of deixis clearly shows the close relationship between context (the most crucial thing in pragmatics) and the deictic expressions which are used based on the speaker's context. Second, Donald Trump is a president of America that known as one of the great country in this world. Therefore, his speech seems to be informative and attractive as an interesting current issue.

Third, the use of deixis will broaden and deepen the knowledge, not only in daily conversation but in more formal speech, particularly the presidential speech. In general, in written language especially in speech, it often difficult to make people understand what is said could be ambiguous. Based on the reasons above, the researcher would like addresses the thesis entitle "Deixis Used in Donald Trump's Speech to the United Nation General Assembly".

## **1.2 Identification of Problem**

Referring to the statement of background above there are some problems that can be identified as follows:

1. The type of deixis is rarely to be explored. However, deixis is an important field to be known in order to get well understanding.
2. This speech has intention and purposes. It contains any types of deixis that possibly can cause misunderstanding to the addressees.

3. People should get the clearest interpretation between the types and reference through the added contextual information.

### **1.3 Scope of Problem**

Based on the previous explanation, the writer limits the types of deixis namely person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis proposed by Levinson used in Donald Trump speech about “America’s sovereignty –we reject the ideology of globalism and accept the doctrine of patriotism”, to know the references of deixis that are found in Donald Trump’s speech.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

Based on the scope of problem, the writer formulates the main problems to be answered as stated as follows:

1. What are the types of deixis used in “Donald Trump’s speech to the United Nation General Assembly”?
2. What are the references of deixis found in Donald Trump’s speech to the United Nation General Assembly”?

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives writing of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the types of deixis used in Donald Trump's speech to the United Nation General Assembly".
2. To explain the references of deixis found in Donald Trump's speech to the United Nation General Assembly.

### **1.6 Significances of the Study**

By conducting this study, the writer hopes that this study will be useful in two significances namely theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this study expects to contribute a richer and more systematic conceptual understanding about deixis used in formal speech. Besides, this study can be used as reference to the next researchers who are going to discuss related object. Practically, this study can assist the reader to use deixis properly in their daily life conversation, particularly used properly by English Department student in Hasanuddin University.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Previous Studies**

This research was related to the previous research conducted by Wati, D R. (2014) with the title of her thesis “A Deixis Analysis of song Lyric in Taylor Swift’s “Red album, she used descriptive qualitative research method in her research. The objective of this research are to find out the kinds, meaning and also find out the effect of use deixis for the whole meaning in Taylor Swift’s. Moreover, the writer limited to the problem by analyzing the deixis produce by only analyzing the lyric song that has deictic expression in Taylor Swift’s “Red” album which in supported by the concept of John I. Saeed. The result showed that there are only three kinds of deixis namely, person deixis, spatial deixis and temporal deixis found in album.

Another researcher who did the similar research is Hapsari, N. (2015) with the title of his thesis “Deixis types found in Hillary Clinton’s speech Text at a Campaign Event at the National Building Museum in Washington”, she used the objectives of this researches is to find out the function of deixis in Hillary Clinton’s speech.

Moreover, Khalili, E. (2017) with the title of his research “Deixis analysis in A Tale of Two Cities written by Charles Dickens”, he used descriptive qualitative research method in his research. The objective of this research is to find out the types of deixis found in the novel “A Tale of Two cities” written by

Charles Dickens. Moreover, the writer also finds out the deixis types that mostly used in the novel.

Overall, all the previous research and this current research analyze deixis using pragmatic approach. However, the research that are conducted by Wati, D R. (2014), Hapsari, N. (2015) and Khalili, E. (2017) differently identified only focus in types and the function of deixis, while the present research has distinction, in this research the writer use Donald Trump Speech to the United Nation General Assembly as the object, besides this study focus not only in the types of deixis but also to analyze and explain the references of deixis that are found in Donald Trump's speech to the United Nation General Assembly.

## **2.2 Theoretical Discussion**

Theoretical discussion is the theory of structure that can lead and support this research. The theoretical discussion introduces and explains the theory that related to the research. It explains why the problem under the research is exists.

### **2.2.1 Pragmatic**

Pragmatic is part of linguistic that concern with the study of meaning as communicated by speaker and understand by addressee in appropriate context. Levinson (1983: 5) stated that "pragmatic is the study of language used". The use of language by speaker should be based on the situation in order to get the meaning. The utterances cannot be utterly understood without the added contextual information. Therefore, the addressee needed to know the intended meaning of utterance produced by

the speaker. Moreover, there are also various definitions of pragmatic which brings by another linguist. Every linguist has their own principal and concept in creates the definition of pragmatic.

Yule (1996) said that pragmatics is the study of meaning that tied with the context of speaker itself. People have to utterly recognize the meaning of words in utterance so that the clearest communication between the speaker and addressee can be established. (Mey 1993: 7) stated that “Pragmatics is needed if we want fuller, deeper, and generally more reasonable account of human language behavior”. In this case, pragmatics is really important for those who want to know and deeply comprehend about the way of context of human language. The speakers itself usually show their language style and gesture to help them in inform the context that related to their topic.

Griffiths (2006) also stated that Pragmatic is highly concerns on the language uses. It makes people understand and produce a meaningful communication act in concrete situation. It is dealing with the meaning consider the context of utterances.

Basically, pragmatics concerned on communicative action and its felicity condition in context. In conclusion, pragmatics can be defined as the study of the relationship between structure of language and context which is used to interpret and understand the meaning based on the situation.

### **2.2.2 Deixis**

Many linguists have different ideas to define and explain about deixis. Yule (1996: 3) stated that “deixis is word that derived from Greek means ‘pointing through language’. Likewise, Levinson (1983) stated that deixis is the study of meaning belong to pragmatics that showing or indicating to things. Indicating means reference interpretation of utterances. The context of utterances can be analyzed by showing or indicating depends on the interpretation of utterances.

Deixis is the study of indexical expressions (deictic) in language to identify the truth-conditional of utterances. It can be regarded as special types of the grammatical property in the familiar categories of person, time, place, discourse, and social deixis (Levinson 1983).

Every language has deictic word (deixis) which ‘point or show’ to ‘things’ in the situational context of the speaker and addressee and the referent can only be known by understanding the context of utterances that is used by speaker. Yule (1996) states that deictic can only be used to indicate people, time and location. Deictic words include people which called person deixis (I, you, she, it, they and we) which point to participant. Time which called temporal deixis (now, yesterday, today and so on) which point to time of utterance. Location which called spatial deixis (here, there) which point to place of the speech act’s context. Although, Levinson proposed the theory that belongs to that traditional categories, he expanded two deixis in his theory namely discourse deixis

and social deixis. Thus, deixis can be concluded as a term that point out to the things, its referent can be change depends on the context situation of utterances that express by the speaker.

### **2.2.3 Types of Deixis**

In this research, the writer focused on the discussion of five types of deixis. Levinson divides five types of deixis as follows:

#### **1. Person deixis**

Person deixis is refers to the ‘participant’ role in speech as speaker, addressee and others. Personal deixis is related in the grammatical categories of person. The first pronoun that used in English is merely *I*. It can be used by the speaker both in formal and informal situation. That pronoun used to indicate the speaker’s reference while they convey their speech. The second pronoun (*you*) is refers to the addressee in a speech event. Levinson (1983: 62) stated that “Second person is the encoding of the speaker's reference to one or more addressee”). This pronoun used depend on the context and also depend on who the addressee in the speech. The last is third person, Levinson (1983: 62) stated that the third pronoun “encoding of references to persons and entities which are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterances in question”. There are two kind of first plural pronouns namely “we –inclusive-of-addressee” and “we-exclusive-of-addressee”. Moreover, Cruse (2006) also stated that there are deictic expressions beside pronoun. They are possessive pronoun (*my, your, his, her, our, their, its*) and verb inflection (*I like, you like, he or she likes*).

Based on the statement above, person deixis can be seen on the table below:

**Table 2.1**

Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person	I/My/Myself	We/ Our/Us “We-inclusive addressee” and “We exclusive addressee”
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	You/Your	You/Your
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	She/Her/ He/His	They/Their/Themselves

The examples of the person deixis can be seen as follows:

- **I** stood before you for the first time in this grand hall
- **We** have started the construction of a major of border wall
- **They** played baseball on Sunday
- **He** listen to the music carefully

## 2. Time deixis

Time deixis is refers to the time that speaker express the utterances.

Time deixis makes ultimate reference to the participant-role. It deals with the encoding of time point of the spoken or written messages (Levinson 1983). Time deixis is marked by both time adverbials (e.g: *today, yesterday, tomorrow, next month, this afternoon and etc*) and tense markers (present and past) on verbs. According to Yule (1996: 15) present and past tense in time deixis differentiate in time deixis, in proximal and distal. Time adverbs in time deixis are relative to the time utterance. The

referents of those deictic expressions are dependent on when the utterance containing those words is produced.

The examples of time deixis are as follows:

- **This year**, we also took another significant decision.
- **Today**, I stand before the United Nations General Assembly to share the extraordinary progress

### 3. Place deixis

Place deixis is used to show location of the speaker or addressee. It is encoding the exact location to the speaker in a speech. The utterances uttered by the speaker will be understood by the addressee depends on the situation of context. The place deixis grammaticalized in adverbs of place such as “this” and, “here” for something which is near to the speaker, “that” and “there” for something far from the speaker (Levinson 1983).

The deictic expressions of place divided into two kinds, they are proximal (near from the speaker) and distal (away from the speaker). The word “here” and “there” put according to their proximity to the location of the speaker. If the speaker moves, the expression of the deictic expression will change. When the speaker and the addressee in example above moved, they can call shade *here* and their original place *there*.

The examples of place deixis are as follows:

- It's seven hundred yard from **here**
- How are things **there?**

- **That's** the most ridiculous joke I've ever heard

#### **4. Discourse deixis**

Levinson (1983: 89) stated that “discourse, or text, deixis concerns the use of expressions within some utterance to refer some portion of the discourse that contains that utterances (including the utterances itself)”. This deixis indicate the part or half utterance that still related to the previous utterance. It is grammaticalized in deictic phrases such “this” (future element discourse) refers to the upcoming part and “that” (past element discourse)” that refers to the previous part of utterances or written messages. This deixis used to discourses deixis concerns the use of deictic expression within a utterance as a form of orientation inside and unfolding discourse in which the utterance is located.

Following is the example of discourse deixis:

- **That** sentence is not true.
- **This** is great news for our citizens and for peace loving people everywhere. (Utterance from Donald Trump's speech).

#### **5. Social deixis**

Social deixis are expression which has function to show the position of the referent on the level of social status. Social deixis does not deal with the three main components (person, time and place) of the system of subjective orientation. However, the different social rankings

and participants of the communication utter relationships within society. As Levinson in Khalili (2017: 60) stated that “the social deixis deals with the encoding of social differences between speaker and addressee or speaker and some referents”. Likewise, the utterances which contain social deixis can point out the clearest status and social rank. Social deixis is divided in two basic kinds that are relational and absolute. The relational social deixis is manifested through this certain relationship:

- a. Speaker and referent (addressee honorifics by referring him)
- b. Speaker and addressee (addressee honorifics without referring him)
- c. Speaker and bystander (bystander or audience honorifics)
- d. Speaker and setting (formality levels or social activity)

While absolute social deixis are in the form of (Levinson, 1983: 91):

- a. Authorized speaker (forms reserved for certain speaker)
- b. Authorized hearer (restriction of most title, e.g *your honor*).

This deixis cannot be separated from the concept of honorifics. Furthermore, honorifics concerns about the relative rank or respect between speaker, referent, and also bystander (Levinson 1983: 90). Social deixis is also sometimes encoded in person deixis and it related to the different social status (higher and lower) between speaker and addressee.

Following the examples of social deixis:

- **Madam President, Mr. Secretary-General, world leaders, ambassadors, and distinguished delegates.** (Utterance from Donald Trump's speech transcript).
- A special thanks to **President Moon** of the South Korea, **Prime Minister Abe from Japan, and President Xi** of China. (Utterance from Donald Trump's speech transcript).

#### 2.2.4 Context

Context is the circumstances that settle for an event surround by the speaker. It can be defined as the situation which something exist or happens. As Mey (1993: 38) points out that:

We noticed that the context is a dynamic, not a static concept: it is to be understood as the surroundings, in the widest sense, that enable the participants in the communication process to interact, and that make the linguistic expression of their interaction intelligible.

The addressee will clearly understand the intension in an utterance if the context tied is clearly. There are two types of context namely physical context and linguistic context. Physical context refers to sign where it is located while linguistic refers to preceding sentences in a passage. Context itself is needed to help the addressee understand the intended meaning deliver by the speaker in the speech event. Moreover, it is also used to restrict the reference. According to Mey (1993) stated that the context is more than just a reference. Context is an action. It means that context is divided into three kinds; context of linguistic, context of situation and context of culture. The context of linguistic refers to the arrangement of a sentence. The context of situation shows the condition of the speaker and

listener while they are in conversation. They talk either when healthy, sick, happy, sad, and in other mood. The condition is influencing the existing context. The social context or culture influenced the person's social conditions, in what circumstances, location, environments and also the position of the speaker or addressees. Therefore, the writer conclude that the context is all of the condition or situation surround the speaker and addressee that correlate with each utterance either in written or spoken language.

### **2.2.5 Reference**

Deixis is study of pointing to things, which means that using the deictic words that encoded to the Person, Time, place, discourse and social are very straightforward. Therefore, every word that contains the deictic word has a referent. According to Yule (1996) reference is an act in which a speaker, or writer uses a linguistic form to enable a listener, or reader, to identify something. The word linguistic forms can be called as referring expression which can be proper nouns, (*Shakespeare, Hawaii*), noun phrases or definite (the author, the writer) and pronouns (it, he, her, they). Therefore, the referent of each expression can be identified if the addressee knows where the word expressions refer. In conclusion, reference cannot be separated from deixis, they both have a relation in pointing the origin utterance. Reference is the act of the speaker in referring to things the utterance. Likewise, deixis is the expression that used to refer to things in utterance.

### **2.2.6 Speech**

Speech is the way how people communicate or express of thoughts. Speech is also the ability to speak or the act of speaking. Speech is divided into two namely, formal and informal speech, the major differences between formal and informal speech come from social and cultural context in which the speaker uses them. Speakers tend to use informal speech among friends and relative while the formal speech used by the speaker in more professional settings, usually among colleagues, new acquaintances or presidential speech. A speech delivered to the addressee used by the speaker to convince, persuade, inspire and inform something.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

In order to further analyze the data and solve the problems, the appropriate methodology was greatly required. The methodology in this research comprised of the design of research, library research, sources of data, method of collecting data and method of analyzing data.

#### **3.1 Design of Research**

In conducted this research the writer used descriptive qualitative research method with pragmatic study. Descriptive qualitative was a method that aims at describing systematically, factually, and accurately the data. This method revealed facts, conditions, phenomena and variable as they really exist. Besides, it was primarily exploratory to gain an understanding of underlying reason and opinions. In this research the writer used this method to analyzed five types of deixis (Levinson: 1983), the references of deixis found in Donald Trump's speech to the United Nation General Assembly. The writer used deixis theory which formulated by Levinson. In addition, the writer also used any quotation as the data in her analysis.

#### **3.2 Library Research**

Library research was the strategy to collect more information from books and other similar studies as references to get the theoretical fundamental of

problem to be analyzed. The writer used this method to collect the relevant information and theories which related to the topic of study.

The data collected came from the library references without having to do field research. In this study, the writer found the data and information needed through several electronics books, journals, articles, internet sites, and published written sources which relevant to support this research.

### **3.2.1 Source of Data**

In conducted this study, the writer chose the transcript of Donald Trump's speech to the UN General Assembly on September 25th, 2018 in New York, United States of America as the object. The writer took the data from the website <http://www.vox.com/2018/9/25/17901082/trump-un-speech-full-text>. The primary data of this research was all the utterances from the speech's transcript. The transcript was used to give valid data of the entire of utterances. Moreover, the secondary data in this research were the data from books, e-books, journals, articles, and thesis which related to the deixis. It used to support analyzing the data.

### **3.3 Technique of Collecting Data**

In conducted this research, the writer followed some steps to collect the data. Firstly, the writer opened You Tube channel and searched the full version video of Donald Trump's speech to the UN General Assembly. Secondly,

the writer downloaded the video and listened to the speech for several times in order to understand all utterances in detail. Besides, the writer also browsed <https://www.vox.com/2018/9/25/17901082/trump-un-speech-full-text> for the full transcript of the speech. Thirdly, the writer underlined all the utterance which contained any type of deixis to be analyzed.

### **3.4 Technique of Analyzing Data**

The writer used descriptive qualitative with pragmatic approach to analyze and interpret the data. The method was used to describe the occurrences of deixis used by Donald Trump's speech to the UN General Assembly.

After the data were collected, the writer followed some steps to analyze the utterances. Firstly, the writer classified the words expressions which contain of deixis based on their criteria. Secondly, the writer analyzed the utterance deeply and explained each of utterances based on the theory of deixis by Levinson (1983: 62) in a table. Lastly, the writer explained the references of deixis found in Donald Trump's speech to the United Nation General Assembly.