

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains introduction. It consists of research background, research questions, research objectives, and significance of the research.

A. Research Background

In communication, language serves as the primary medium through which individuals express ideas, convey information, and establish social relationships. As a fundamental tool for human interaction, language enables the sharing of thoughts, feelings, and intentions in a structured and meaningful way. According to Yu, Xu, and Liu (2020), traditional linguistic theories have largely regarded language as a formal system composed of rigid rules; however, recent perspectives suggest that language may be more accurately described as a probabilistic system, reflecting its dynamic and context-dependent nature. This view emphasizes that language is not merely a collection of static signs but a complex, adaptive system that facilitates effective communication.

In recent years, scholars have continued to explore the intricate relationship between language and social identity. Norton (2019) emphasizes that language learning is deeply intertwined with learners' identities, investments, and imagined communities, suggesting that the process of acquiring and using language involves negotiating one's sense of self in relation to different social groups. This perspective highlights that language is not merely a communicative tool but also a means of constructing and expressing individual and collective identities, thereby influencing social interactions and group dynamics.

Moreover, the capacity of language to evolve and adapt allows it to meet the changing needs of its speakers. Halliday (1978) describes how language functions on a social level, adapting to new circumstances and integrating new meanings as societies evolve. This adaptability is crucial in allowing communication to remain effective across diverse contexts and among various speaker groups. The dynamic nature of language ensures that it

continues to fulfill its role as an essential tool for communication, capable of bridging diverse experiences and backgrounds in a complex and interconnected world.

Language does not only serve as a medium for expressing ideas but also as a means for achieving meaningful interaction within specific contexts. While traditional linguistic studies often focus on structural aspects such as syntax, morphology, and phonology, the study of pragmatics offers a broader perspective. Pragmatics concerns the relationship between language, meaning, and context, emphasizing how speakers use language to convey intended meanings and how listeners interpret these meanings in real-life situations. As Yule (1996) explains, “pragmatics delves into the ‘invisible meaning,’ or the aspects of meaning that are inferred from context rather than explicitly stated” (p. 3). This field is essential for understanding how communication functions effectively in diverse social settings.

Pragmatics encompasses various elements that contribute to the dynamic construction of meaning. These include deixis, implicature, presupposition, and speech acts, each playing a unique role in shaping conversational interactions. For instance, implicature involves understanding meanings that are implied rather than directly expressed, while presupposition refers to assumptions embedded in statements. Pragmatics thus requires not only linguistic knowledge but also an awareness of cultural, social, and situational factors that influence communication. According to Levinson (1983), “pragmatics provides insights into how meaning is negotiated between speakers and listeners through shared contextual understanding, making it a cornerstone of linguistic and cross-cultural analysis” (p. 1).

The role of deixis extends beyond merely indicating objects or times; it also shapes the relationships between participants in a conversation. According to Yule (1996), deixis allows speakers to position themselves in relation to the world they are describing, and it plays an integral role in the dynamic nature of communication. Hanks (1992) further adds that deixis not only indicates spatial and temporal relationships but also highlights the speaker’s perspective and social positioning within communication, reinforcing the interaction between language and context.

Despite extensive studies on deixis in major world languages, research on deixis in indigenous or minority languages remains relatively scarce. While

a wide range of studies has examined deictic expressions in languages such as English, Japanese, and Spanish (e.g., Huang, 2021; Cutfield, 2020), there is still a significant gap in understanding how deixis functions in less-documented linguistic systems. One such under-researched language is Wana, spoken by the indigenous Wana people of Northern Morowali. According to Atkinson (1992), Wana belongs to the Pamona language family and is primarily used in remote and mountainous areas of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The limited accessibility of Wana-speaking communities and the dominance of national and regional languages have contributed to the lack of detailed linguistic documentation. As a result, the deictic structures and pragmatic functions within Wana communication remain insufficiently explored, leaving an important space for further empirical investigation.

Understanding deixis in Wana is particularly important because it offers insight into how linguistic structures encode social meaning and cultural values. Specifically, person deixis serves as a linguistic lens through which speakers represent relationships, identity, and interactional roles within their community. Studying how person deixis operates in Wana can reveal how Wana speakers linguistically construct interpersonal relations and social dynamics, aspects that may differ significantly from those observed in more global languages such as English.

Levinson (1983) identified five major categories of deixis: person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. However, this study specifically focuses on person deixis, as it provides critical insight into how participants in communication which consists of the speaker, listener, and others are represented linguistically across different cultural contexts. Fillmore (1997) explains that person deixis refers to linguistic expressions that indicate participant roles in an utterance (e.g., pronouns like “I”, “you”, and “they”), reflecting both grammatical and social dimensions of communication.

Preliminary observations suggest that English and Wana exhibit both similarities and contrasts in their use of person deixis, particularly in distinguishing first-, second-, and third-person references. At a basic level, both languages employ person deixis to identify the speaker, the addressee, and other participants in interaction. However, initial observation indicates that they differ notably in social nuance. English person deixis appears to function in a largely grammatically, whereas Wana person deixis seems to be

closely intertwined with social relationships and cultural norms. In Wana, pronoun selection is influenced by respect, kinship, and familiarity, suggesting that person deixis encodes social meanings that extend beyond grammatical reference.

This research is expected to not only bridge the descriptive gap in documenting person deixis in the Wana language but also to highlight the connection between personal reference, social meaning, and cultural identity. By examining how speakers of English and Wana use person deixis to encode relationships, hierarchy, and self-representation, this study demonstrates that language serves as a vital means of preserving and expressing the unique social and cultural experiences of its speakers through its deictic system.

B. Research Questions

1. What are the types of person deixis utilized in English and Wana language?
2. How are the similarities and differences of person deixis in English and Wana language?

C. Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To examine the types of person deixis that are utilized in English and Wana language.
2. To compare the use of person deixis in English and Wana language

D. Significance of the Research

This research holds both theoretical and practical significance as follows:

1. Theoretically, it contributes to the field of pragmatics by providing a deeper understanding of person deixis within the framework of Levinson's (1983) theory. It is expected to enrich linguistic research by documenting and analyzing deictic expressions in Wana language, a lesser-studied

language, and comparing them with English. Furthermore, the study is expected to offer valuable insights into the interplay between language and culture.

2. Practically, the study can be a reference for linguists, educators, and researchers interested in contrastive linguistics and the study of deixis in diverse languages. Hopefully this research could provide critical information for language preservation efforts, emphasizing the unique linguistic features of Wana language that might otherwise be overlooked. The findings are also beneficial for translators and interpreters, aiding in the accurate conveyance of deictic meanings and minimizing potential misunderstandings in cross-linguistic communication.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of previous studies, theoretical background, conceptual framework, and operational definition.

A. Previous Studies

Before initiating the study, it was essential for the researcher to review existing literature relevant to the topic in gathering information and ideas to formulate the foundational concepts of the research. Furthermore, the researcher had identified five previous studies serving as references for developing and analyzing the current research.

The first research was conducted by Rahmawati (2023), of Hasanuddin University entitled *A Contrastive Analysis on Deixis Used in English and Siompu Language*. This research explores the types, referential distinctions, and usage of place deixis in English and Siompu language. Using a descriptive qualitative method, English data were drawn from the movie series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, while Siompu data were collected through observations, interviews, and recordings in Siompu District, South Buton Regency. The study found that English uses a two-way system for referential distinctions, while Siompu employs a four-way system, including unique distinctions like verticality and horizontality. English and Siompu differ in gestural and symbolic deixis but share similarities in anaphoric usage.

The second research was done by Majdy N. K. (2023), of Islamic University in Najaf entitled *Deixis in English and Arabic a Contrastive Study*. This article explores how deictic expressions are used in English and Arabic to convey social relations and diplomatic meanings, an area of great relevance for translators, educators, and diplomats. By examining the five types of deixis and their implications, the study identifies the similarities and differences between the two languages and their respective uses. Misinterpreting these distinctions can result in diplomatic misunderstandings or mistranslations of the speaker's intent, potentially causing communication breakdowns. The paper analyzes the semantic and pragmatic functions of personal, spatial, and temporal deixis in both languages, emphasizing their pedagogical significance and broader importance in fostering effective international communication.

The third research was done by Kurniawati, et al. (2024), of National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta Indonesia entitled *Distribution and Relationship of Regional Language Vocabulary in Central Sulawesi Province*. This research examines the

distribution and relationships of regional language vocabulary in Poso, Tojo Una-Una, and North Morowali, including the presence of relic elements. Data were drawn from 200 Swadesh vocabularies and 200 basic cultural terms for each region, totaling 3,600 lexical items analyzed. The findings reveal that each gloss exhibits diverse realizations and retains relic features traceable to Proto-Austronesian (PAN). The study concludes that the observed vocabulary distribution effectively supports relic analysis and discusses its broader linguistic implications in relation to similar phenomena found in other parts of the world.

The fourth research was done by Khoirunni'am, et al. (2024), entitled *Analysis Pragmatics of Deixis in Conversations in Instant Messaging Applications: A Case Study on Whatsapp*. This study examines the pragmatic use of deixis in conversations within instant messaging platforms, specifically WhatsApp. The research aims to analyze how these deictic features shape communication patterns and reflect social interaction in digital settings, thereby enhancing the understanding of language use in online messaging. Using a qualitative approach, data were gathered from both individual and group chats on WhatsApp. The results show that discourse deixis predominates in organizing conversational flow, while social deixis plays a significant role in maintaining politeness and respect, particularly in academic discussions. Overall, the study underscores the crucial role of deixis in ensuring effective communication through digital media and offers insights into language behavior in technology-mediated communication.

The fifth research was done by McEntee-Atalianis and Vessey (2025), entitled *Putting Negotiation on A 'Principal-Ed' Footing: A Corpus-Informed Discourse Analysis of Person Deixis in Diplomatic Debates*. This article examines identity construction in United Nations diplomatic negotiations through a corpus-informed discourse analysis of person deixis. Drawing on theories of footing, positioning, and stance, the study explores how diplomats strategically animate multiple identities and roles in multilingualism debates from 1995 to 2022. The analysis focuses on the rhetorical use of first-person pronouns to express alignment, authority, and affiliation. Findings show that diplomats employ person deixis, particularly the pronoun "we" to navigate complex political relations, represent collective or institutional identities, and balance national and international perspectives. The study introduces the concept of "synthetic deixis," where "we" is used to speak either as part of the UN body or as a representative of specific alliances or nations. Through this dynamic "lamination" of identities, diplomats manage stance, solidarity, and legitimacy while mitigating political tension in global discourse.

The five previous researches above highlight valuable findings to guide the current research, as can be seen from the research held by Rahmawati (2023) which shares methodological similarities with the current research as both employ a contrastive and

descriptive qualitative approach to compare deixis in English and an indigenous Sulawesi language. Both aim to reveal cross-linguistic differences in deictic systems. However, Rahmawati's study concentrates on place deixis, whereas the present study focuses exclusively on person deixis. Moreover, Rahmawati's data were taken from a movie and field observation, while the current research draws data from YouTube conversations and interviews with native Wana speakers, extending the analysis to the cultural and social meanings behind person deixis usage.

Furthermore, the research by Majdy (2023) also bears conceptual similarities to the present study in that both analyze deixis contrastively and employ Levinson's (1983) theoretical framework. Both highlight the semantic and pragmatic roles of deixis in social communication. However, Majdy's research examines all five types of deixis which consists of person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social, whereas the current research limits its scope to person deixis alone. Furthermore, Majdy's work focuses on diplomatic and translational contexts, while the present study explores how person deixis reflects interpersonal relationships and cultural identity in Wana speech.

Moreover, Kurniawati et al. (2024) conducted a distinct methodology from the current research despite the share of interest in documenting and preserving local languages in Sulawesi which contributes to linguistic diversity studies. Kurniawati's research investigates lexical distribution and historical relationships among regional languages rather than deixis or pragmatics. It employs a quantitative lexicostatistical approach, while the present study adopts a qualitative pragmatic perspective centered on person deixis.

In addition, the analysis by Khoirunni'am et al. (2024) aligns closely with the present study in its pragmatic perspective and use of natural conversational data. Both explore how deixis functions in reflecting social interaction and communication patterns. Yet, Khoirunni'am's research encompasses multiple types of deixis which consists of discourse, social, person, temporal, and spatial within a digital context, whereas the present study focuses solely on person deixis in face-to-face and spoken contexts. In addition, the current study introduces a cross-linguistic dimension absent in Khoirunni'am's work by contrasting English and Wana.

Lastly, the research by McEntee-Atalianis and Vessey (2025) shares the closest theoretical and analytical focus with the current research. Both examine person deixis and its role in expressing identity, stance, and social relations. However, McEntee-Atalianis and Vessey analyze diplomatic discourse at the United Nations using corpus-informed methods, while the present study investigates everyday communication in the Wana language through qualitative data. Whereas their study highlights political identity and rhetorical negotiation, the current research explores how person deixis reflects social hierarchy, respect, and inclusivity in Wana culture.

In general, all previous studies have contributed fruitful insights into deixis from different linguistic, pragmatic, and sociocultural perspectives. However, none have specifically examined person deixis in the Wana language, nor conducted a contrastive analysis with English. Thus, the current study fills this gap by providing a focused exploration of person deixis as a marker of grammatical structure and cultural meaning which is expected to bridge the understanding of how linguistic forms encode social relationships in both global and indigenous contexts.

B. Theoretical Background

1. Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive Analysis (CA) is a linguistic approach that examines the similarities and differences between two or more languages, aiming to understand their structural, functional, and cultural aspects. Initially developed within the field of applied linguistics, CA has been widely used to support second language acquisition, translation studies, and cross-linguistic research. The foundational principle of CA is that systematic comparisons between languages can reveal patterns of divergence and convergence, providing insights into language-specific features and universal linguistic principles. According to Lado (1957), the primary objective of contrastive analysis is to identify areas of potential difficulty for language learners by analyzing differences between their native language and the target language.

The theoretical framework of CA is rooted in structural linguistics and behaviorist theories of learning. Early contrastive studies, often referred to as the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH), posited that linguistic differences lead to errors in second language acquisition, while similarities facilitate learning (Fries, 1945; Lado, 1957). This hypothesis emphasized the predictive role of CA in language teaching, assuming that cross-linguistic interference primarily accounts for learner errors.

Modern CA adopts a more descriptive and explanatory approach, exploring not only phonological, grammatical, and lexical differences but also pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects of language use. Functional linguistic theories, such as those proposed by Halliday (1985), have expanded the scope of CA to include the contextual and communicative functions of language. This approach aligns with the view that linguistic differences reflect underlying cultural and cognitive distinctions, making CA an invaluable tool for understanding linguistic relativity.

CA is particularly relevant in the study of deictic systems, as deixis depends heavily on the cultural and contextual norms of language use. By analyzing how

different languages encode person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis, CA contributes to a deeper understanding of the interplay between language, cognition, and culture. For example, as concluded by Irgens (2018), English relies heavily on grammatical markers such as pronouns and verb agreement, while languages like Japanese may use lexical and contextual strategies, reflecting divergent cultural perceptions of relationships and social roles.

In this study, CA serves as a framework for comparing the deictic systems of English and the Wana language. By examining their structural and functional similarities and differences, this analysis aims to uncover how deixis operates within each linguistic system and how it reflects the cultural and cognitive frameworks of their speakers. The findings of this contrastive study are expected to contribute to both theoretical discussions on deixis and practical applications in language learning, translation, and cross-cultural communication.

2. Pragmatics

According to Levinson (1983) "Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on how meaning is constructed and interpreted in context." Unlike semantics, which deals with the literal meaning of words and sentences, pragmatics examines meaning as it is influenced by the speaker, listener, situation, and cultural norms. Levinson (1983: 5) states that pragmatics is concerned with the relationship between linguistic expressions and their usage in communicative contexts, emphasizing the interplay between language structure and social interaction

A key aspect of pragmatics is its focus on context-dependent meanings. Pragmatic theories explore how language users rely on shared knowledge, assumptions, and contextual cues to infer intended meanings. For instance, expressions like "Can you pass the salt?" are not only interpreted as questions about ability but also as polite requests within specific contexts. This interpretive process illustrates how pragmatics bridges the gap between linguistic forms and their communicative functions.

As defined by Levinson (1983), Pragmatics also includes a number of subfields, such as speech actions, implicature, deixis, and presupposition. Expressions that "point" to particular things, occasions, or locations in relation to the context of an utterance are known as deixis. Implicature examines meanings that are implied but not explicitly stated, as theorized by Grice (1975) in his Cooperative Principle. Presupposition refers to background assumptions embedded in statements, while speech act theory, introduced by Austin (1962) and further developed by Searle

(1969), analyzes how utterances perform actions such as requesting, promising, or apologizing.

Pragmatics is particularly relevant in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural studies, as it reveals how different languages encode and interpret contextual information. For example, English tends to rely on explicit linguistic markers for deixis, while other languages, such as Wana, may use culturally specific strategies to convey similar meanings. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective communication, translation, and language teaching, as pragmatic failures can lead to misunderstandings or even social conflict.

In this study, the pragmatic theory is applied to analyze deictic expressions in English and Wana. Deixis, as a core component of pragmatics, provides insight into how languages structure their reference systems and reflect the sociocultural contexts of their speakers. By examining the pragmatic functions of person, and social deixis in both languages, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity and its implications for communication and culture.

3. Deixis

Definition of Deixis. Deixis is a significant linguistic phenomenon referring to words and expressions whose meanings are inherently context-dependent. Understanding these expressions requires additional contextual information, such as the identity of the speaker, the listener, the time of the utterance, and the location where it occurs. Levinson (1983) highlights that deixis is an integral part of pragmatics, linking linguistic expressions to the extralinguistic world and emphasizing that their interpretation depends on the situation in which language is used. Yule (1996) further explains that deixis involves terms such as personal pronouns (e.g., "I," "you"), time expressions (e.g., "now," "then"), and spatial terms (e.g., "here," "there"), whose meanings shift according to the context.

This contextual reliance of deictic expressions makes them inherently dynamic. They represent an essential aspect of how language adapts to the shifting contexts of communication. For example, when a speaker uses a deictic expression like "I am going there," the meaning of "I" depends on who the speaker is, "there" depends on where the speaker is, and "going" depends on the timing of the utterance. In this sense, deixis anchors linguistic meaning to specific situational features, creating a shared understanding between the speaker and listener.

As a central concept in pragmatics, deixis plays a crucial role in understanding how humans use language to reference and navigate the world around them. It reveals how language is not just a static system of signs but a dynamic, context-dependent tool for communication. Therefore, the study of deixis involves not only understanding the linguistic forms used to express deixis but also understanding the ways in which social, temporal, and spatial contexts shape meaning and interpretation.

Types of Deixis. Levinson (1983) identifies several types of deixis, which are essential to understanding how language functions within context. These types include person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

a. Person Deixis

Person deixis refers to expressions that indicate the participants in a communicative act: the speaker, the listener(s), and others. In English, person deixis is encoded through personal pronouns:

- 1) First-person deixis: Refers to the speaker or speakers (*I, we*).
- 2) Second-person deixis: Refers to the addressee(s) (*you*).
- 3) Third-person deixis: Refers to others not directly involved in the communication (*he, she, they*).

Languages vary in their treatment of person deixis. For instance, English uses a single pronoun (*you*) for both singular and plural second-person reference, while other languages, such as Wana, may distinguish between these forms.

b. Spatial Deixis

Spatial deixis involves expressions that specify the location of entities relative to the speaker or listener. Common examples in English include demonstratives (*this, that*), adverbs (*here, there*), and directional terms (*up, down, near, far*). These terms are understood only when the spatial context is known. The interpretation of spatial deixis depends on the physical context of the utterance. For instance:

- 1) *This* often refers to an object closer to the speaker, while *that* refers to one farther away.
- 2) *Here* designates a location near the speaker, and *there* refers to a location farther away.

Languages exhibit significant variation in spatial deixis. Some, like English, employ a binary distinction between *this* and *that*. Others, such as Japanese and Wana, may use more nuanced systems with additional distinctions based on proximity to

the speaker, the listener, or a third party. These differences underscore how spatial deixis reflects cultural perceptions of space and interaction.

c. Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis refers to expressions that locate events in time relative to the moment of speaking. Common examples in English include:

- 1) Adverbs like now, then, today, yesterday, tomorrow.
- 2) Verb tense forms, such as the present (I am speaking), past (I spoke), and future (I will speak).

Temporal deixis requires contextual information to determine the exact time reference. For example: "I'll do it tomorrow" requires knowledge of when the utterance was made to identify the specific day referred to as "tomorrow."

Languages vary in how they encode temporal deixis. English relies heavily on tense systems, while some languages may use aspect or mood markers. In certain indigenous languages, temporal deixis may even reflect cyclical or event-based conceptions of time rather than linear ones.

d. Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis refers to expressions that anchor references to specific parts of an ongoing discourse, helping speakers and listeners navigate the structure of conversation. According to Schiffrin (1994), these expressions are used to refer to earlier or upcoming parts of the discourse. Examples in English include:

- 1) This (e.g., This point is crucial).
- 2) That (e.g., That was a good argument).

Discourse deixis relies on the listener's ability to track the flow of communication. It is used to refer to something previously mentioned (anaphoric reference) or something upcoming (cataphoric reference).

Discourse deixis is crucial for coherence and cohesion in language, guiding listeners or readers through the structure of a conversation or text. Differences in how languages encode discourse deixis often reflect cultural norms for structuring and presenting information.

e. Social Deixis

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), social deixis is used to reflect and negotiate social roles, including aspects such as age, gender, social status, and intimacy. Social deixis encodes social relationships and distinctions between the speaker, listener, and others involved in communication. It reflects cultural norms related to status, politeness, and hierarchy. Examples in English include titles (Mr., Mrs., Sir, Madam).

Social deixis often interacts with person deixis, as in languages where pronouns encode politeness or formality. For example: In Wana languages, kinship terms may function as social deixis to address or refer to others based on family relationships.

4. Wana Language

According to Nufta M. (2019), the Wana language is spoken by the Wana community, who primarily inhabit the hills and valleys along the Salato River in the northeastern region of the Morowali Nature Reserve in Central Sulawesi. They are also found in the southern part of the eastern peninsula of Sulawesi Island. The geographical distribution of the Wana people has contributed to their linguistic and cultural distinctiveness, as their isolation in mountainous and forested areas has allowed them to maintain their language and traditions. Donohue (2004) highlights that linguistic diversity in Sulawesi is shaped by both geographical and historical factors, which influence the way languages develop and interact with neighboring communities. The Wana people's settlement patterns have thus played a significant role in the preservation of their linguistic identity, despite external influences.

Atkinson (1992), classifies the Wana language as a dialect of the Pamona language, suggesting that the Wana people are a sub-ethnic group of the larger Pamona ethnolinguistic community. Sneddon (2003) classified aligns with broader studies on Austronesian languages, which often exhibit dialectal variations due to historical migrations and geographical separations. According to *Ethnologue* (2024), Pamona is considered an endangered language, with a declining number of speakers. As part of the Austronesian language family, it is spoken primarily in Central Sulawesi, where it faces challenges from language shift due to the dominance of Indonesian. *Ethnologue's* classification of Pamona as an endangered language underscores the vulnerability of smaller language groups like Wana, whose linguistic survival depends on community efforts and language preservation initiatives.

C. Conceptual Framework

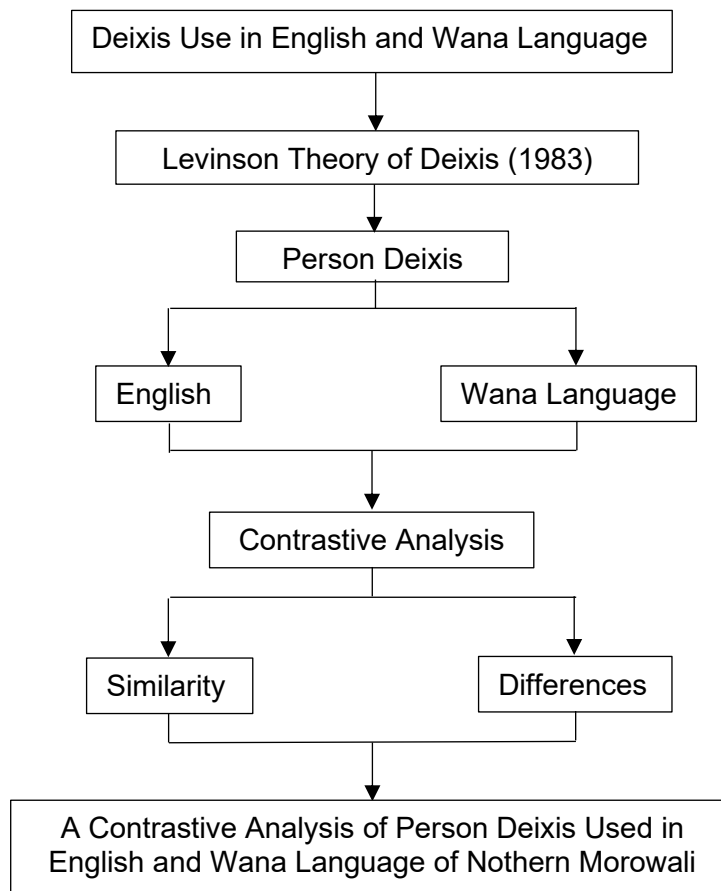


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

This study examines the use of deixis in English and Wana language, focusing on person deixis, which depends on the context and participants in a speech event. It is based on Levinson's Theory of Deixis (1983). Person deixis in both languages is analyzed separately, then compared through contrastive analysis to identify similarities and differences. This approach reveals how each language encodes participant roles and how social and cultural factors influence deictic use. The study ultimately aims to provide a contrastive analysis of person deixis in English and Wana of Northern Morowali, contributing to the understanding of cross-linguistic and pragmatic variation.

D. Operational Definition

1. Contrastive analysis

Contrastive analysis refers to a systematic linguistic approach that examines two languages side by side to identify their similarities and differences. In this study, contrastive analysis was applied to the deixis systems of English and Wana to highlight how each language encodes references to speakers, listeners, and social relationships in discourse. This comparative method helped in determining the extent to which deixis in both languages share common features or differs due to cultural and linguistic influences.

2. Person Deixis

Person deixis involves the use of pronouns and other referential expressions that indicate the participants in a speech event, such as “I”, “you”, “we”, “she”, “he”, and “they”, in English, as well as their equivalents in Wana.

3. English Language

English language in this study refers to the widely spoken and well-documented language that serves as a point of comparison due to its relatively fixed pronominal system and conventionalized. The English language clearly distinguishes between the first, second, and third persons, as well as between singular and plural forms. These pronouns function in a fixed and predictable way to identify the speaker, the addressee, and others being referred to. Within Levinson’s (1983) deixis framework, English person deixis centers around the deictic roles of *speaker* (I/we), *addressee* (you), and *referent* (he/she/they), forming a consistent participant structure across various contexts. This makes English a language with a well-defined person deixis system which provides a strong foundation for contrasting it with the more contextually variable and socially varied deixis system found in Wana.

4. Wana Language

Wana language of Northern Morowali refers to the indigenous language spoken by the Wana people, who primarily inhabit the remote areas of North Morowali, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Wana is classified as part of the Pamona language family and exhibits a unique pronominal system, including distinct forms of address

that reflect hierarchical relationships within the community. Despite its rich linguistic features, Wana remains an under-documented language, making it essential to explore and preserve its linguistic structures, particularly in relation to deixis.

However, this research aims to analyze and compare person deixis in English and Wana to understand how each language encodes participant roles and social relationships in communication. For the findings, the researcher hopes it could contribute not only to linguistic typology and contrastive analysis but also to efforts in documenting and preserving the Wana language