

AN ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE NOVEL EINSTEIN'S DREAMS BY ALAN LIGHTMAN

¹Muhammad Asy'ari, ²Ferry Rita and Sriati Usman

langkuati.azhar@gmail.com

(¹The Student of English Education Study Program, Postgraduate Program Tadulako University)

(²The Lecturers of English Education Study Program, Postgraduate Program Tadulako University)

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui berbagai jenis deiksis dan menggambarkan interpretasi deiksis dalam setiap ujaran yang digunakan pada novel "Einstein's Dreams" karya Alan Lightman. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dimana peneliti menerapkan dua tahap; pertama, membaca novel "Einstein's Dreams" karya Alan Lightman, kedua, memilih kalimat disetiap halaman yang mencakup lima jenis teori deiksis. Hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian ini adalah, deiksis personal banyak digunakan pada novel Einstein's Dreams karya Alan Lightman. Deiksis personal dapat dibagi kedalam tiga bagian, yaitu orang pertama, orang kedua, dan orang ketiga karena penulis ingin mengungkapkan tentang peserta pertuturan dalam situasi pertuturan dimana tuturan tersebut dibuat. Deiksis waktu juga sering muncul karena penulis ingin mengungkapkan waktu pada saat penuturan sedang berlangsung. Deiksis ruang juga muncul karena penulis ingin menjelaskan lokasi ruang pada penunjukkan dari ucapan. Deiksis wacana juga muncul karena digunakan untuk merujuk kepada beberapa bagian dari wacana yang mengandung ucapan sebagai tanda dan hubungannya pada teks yang melingkupi. Deiksis sosial juga muncul karena digunakan untuk menunjukkan status sosial antara pembicara dan pendengar.

Kata kunci: Kualitatif, Deiksis, Novel "Einstein's Dreams" Karya Alan Lightman

Language is very important in human life in this world. Between human and language can not be separated each other. People can communicate his or her thought by using the language. To make the interaction more fruitful, a medium of communication is obviously necessary. It is needed since it is the one of the many ways to express one's feelings and experiences either in spoken or written modes in order to get something across meaningful.

Getting meaning is an important thing in order to understand the speaker's intention. Without meanings, all the utterances in a language used seen meaningless. Therefore, when a speaker talks about an object, there is a meaning which is important to know. So, it is essential to form a meaning (aspect) between sentences, contents, and situations in a sentence so as to give clear meaning to the audience.

All languages contain small sets of words whose meanings vary systematically according to whom, where, and when, they are being used. The phenomenon of their occurrences is called deixis. Deixis is one which takes some elements of its meaning from the situation, such as the speaker, the addressed pronoun, time, and place in which it is being used. There are five types of deixis namely person, time, place, discourse, and social. Person deixis is related directly to the grammatical categories of a person. For example, *he has come to the office at dawn, after another up heavel. He* in the sentence is person deixis. Time deixis is concerned with the encoding of temporal points and spans "relative" to the time at which an utterance was spoken. For example, *he will mail his theory of time today to the German journal of physics.* Today in the sentence is temporal deixis. Place deixis is concerned with the

specifications of location in the speech event. For example, *There, a calendar on a wall.* *There* in the sentence is spatial deixis. Discourse deixis is concerned with the usage of deictic expressions which refers to some portions of the discourse that contains the utterance (including the utterance itself). For example, *She is certain that this was the last kiss.* *That* in the sentence is discourse deixis. Social deixis is concerned with the encoding of social distinction that are relative to participant roles, particularly aspect of the social relationship holding between speaker and addressee or speaker and some referent.

Deixis is a technical term (from Greek) for one of the most basic things we do with utterances (Yule, 1995). It means “pointing via” language. Any linguistic form used to accomplish this “pointing” is called a deictic expression. Deictic expressions are also sometimes called indexical. They are among the first forms to be spoken by very young children and can be used to indicate people via person deixis (*me, you*), or location via spatial deixis (*here, there*), or time via temporal deixis (*now, then*) or discourse analysis or demonstrative article or discourse deixis (*this, that, these, those*).

Deixis refers to the phenomenon where in understanding the meaning of certain words or phrase in an utterance require context of situation. All meaning is situated in a context of situation. The notion of text cannot be understood unless linguistic text forming resources are interpreted against the background of contextual ones. Context of situation refer to the situation in which the utterance is produced. That is why context of situation is very important to be known in order to understand the text, especially text in the novel Einstein’s Dreams. Context of situation will guide the reader to get more information from text. To understand better about what conveyed in, it is important to study what deixis is because there are many experiences that reveal many incidents and actions shown through the existence of

deixis. Through these experiences, one can see the situation of one era in which it is written and probably experienced it more logically.

In reading literary works, sometimes we can get difficulties in understanding the works or fronting misunderstanding in interpreting the messages as like in novel. According to Cuddon (1999) the word novel is derived from Italian novella means “tale, piece of news”. Novel is an extended piece of prose fiction that contains sixty thousands to seventy thousands words. In other word, the term "novel" is an extended works of fiction written in prose. Moreover, novel is a narrative fictitious prose. It consists of some elements such as characters, theme, plot, setting, etc (Nurgiyantoro, 2010). Every novel has different uniqueness. It means that the idea for a novel might be special and different from anything else that everybody ever hears and reads.

The researcher chooses a fiction work entitled Einstein’s Dreams. Actually, the researcher assumes that there are kinds of deixis which can be analyzed. There are some words or sentences that difficult to understand the meaning or the interpretation. Besides that, most of the sentences in the novel contain deixis. Therefore, it is very interesting to be analyzed by using deixis theory in order to understand the interpretation of novel.

Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, this study is conducted to find out the answer of some problems in relation with the discussion above, as follows:

- 1) What kinds of deixis are used in Einstein’s Dreams novel?
- 2) What are the interpretations of deixis in Einstein’s Dreams novel?

Objectives of the Research

Based on the problem of the study above, the objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1) To describe what kinds of deixis are used in Einsteins' Dreams novel by Alan Lightman.
- 2) To describe the interpretation of deixis in Einsteins' Dreams novel.

METHOD

The researcher uses qualitative method in this research. According to Litosseliti (2010), qualitative research is concerned with structures and patterns, and how something is. Qualitative studies are inductive which derived from the result of our research.

In this research, the researcher analyzes the data by using deixis theory. This research is classified as a descriptive qualitative because the data are in the form of sentences in a novel Einsteins' Dreams by Alan Lightman which contain five types of deixis: person, place, time, discourse, and social deixis.

Research Instruments

Research instrument is very important to obtain the data of research. The instrument of this research is the writer himself because there are no other instruments which are more important to be used to obtain the needed data as he becomes a researcher and an instrument. Arikunto (2002) defined instrument as a tool or a means that the researcher used to collect the data.

Data Source

The data source of this research is a novel especially in the book one of Einsteins' Dreams novel that contains many kinds of deixis namely: person, place, time, discourse and social deixis.

Data

The data in this research is the sentences in the book one of Einstein's Dreams novel by Alan Lightman.

Technique of Data Collection

The data of this research are taken from the sentences in Einsteins' Dreams novel. The researcher uses two steps in collecting

the data. First, the researcher should read and understand the whole text of Einsteins' Dreams written by Alan Lightman. Second, the researcher selects the data by selecting the sentences in all pages from book one that includes of five types of deixis theory and gathered from the data sources to have the nature of the problems of the study.

Technique of Data Analysis

After gathering the data from Einsteins' Dreams novel, the researcher analyzes the data as follows :

- 1) The researcher categorizes the data based on deixis types, namely person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis.
- 2) The researcher interprets the data obtained from each category based on deixis theory.
- 3) After that, the researcher discusses the whole data based on the theory of deixis to get the answer of research question.
- 4) Presenting the data in the percentage form by using a simple statistical analysis.
 Statistical analysis:

$$\sum \% = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$
 Note:
 \sum : Symbol of percentage
 F : Frequency of the occurrences of each deixis
 N : Total number of deixis
- 5) Finally, the researcher concludes the whole data analyzed to obtain the answer of research questions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data Presentation and Analysis

Person Deixis

Person deixis concerns the encoding of the role participant in the speech event in which utterance in question is uttered and it is reflected directly in the grammatical categories of person. It concerns with the speaker, known as the first person, the

addressee, known as the second person, and other important participants in the speech condition, neither the spekaer nor the hearer; there are known as third person. Person deixis is not only referring someone or somebody but also it can refer something. In English, the distinctions are generally indicated by pronouns. It can be included into subject pronoun (I, you, we, they, he, she and it), object pronoun (me, him, her, it, us and them), possessive adjective (my, your, our, their) and possessive pronoun (mine, yours, theirs).

“In **his** hand he holds twenty crumpled pages, **his** new theory of time, which **he** will mail **today** to the German journal of physics”. (Lightman, 1992;11)

The deixis in the statement above is **his, his, he** and **today**. The pronoun **he** can be caregorized as third person. It refers to person who is neither speaker nor adreesee of the utterance in question. The pronoun **he** refers to Einstein. The possessive pronoun **his** is third person deixis. It refers to person who is neither speaker nor adreesee of the utterance. The possessive pronoun **his** is belonging to Einstein that based on the context in the sentenve above. The word **today** can be categorized as time deixis. It encodes the time at which an utterance was occured. It shows that the speaker deliver the utterance at this present day that based on the context in the sentence above.

Table 1. Kinds of person deixis in the novel Einstein’s Dreams by Alan Lightman

No	Person Deixis		Quantity	Percentage
1	Singular first person	I	20	1%
2	Singular first person	Me	2	0,1%
3	Singular first person	My	7	1%
4	Singular second person	Your	9	1%
5	Singular second person	You	30	2%
6	Singular third person	He	171	11%
7	Singular third person	Him	35	2%
8	Singular third person	His	281	19%
9	Singular third person	She	101	7%
10	Singular third person	Her	268	18%
11	Singular third person	It	115	8%
12	Plural first person	We	7	1%
13	Plural third person	They	208	14%
14	Plural third person	Them	18	1%
15	Plural third person	Their	182	12%
16	Singular third person	Himself	15	1%
17	Singular third person	Herself	4	0,2%
18	Singular third person	Itself	4	0,2%
19	Singular third person	Yourself	1	0,06%
20	Plural third person	Themselves	9	1%
	Total		1487	100%

Time Deixis

Time deixis concerns with the encoding of temporal points and times relative to the time at which an utterance is spoken. Time deixis is ordinarily grammaticalized in deictic adverb of time (such as English now, then, yesterday and this year) but on the top of all in the tense. Tense is any one of the inflected forms in the conjugation of a verb that indicates the time, such as past, present, or future as well as the continuance or completion of the action or state.

“A man stands **there** just **now**, absently emptying **his** pockets and weeping. Without reason, **his** friends have abandoned **him**.” (Lightman, 1992:49)

The deixis in the statement above is **there**, **now** and **his**. The word **there** can be categorized as place deixis. It encodes the spatial locations relative to the location of the participant in the speech events. The word **there** is adverb of place and used for far distance. The adverb of place **there** refers to the terrace of the Bundesterrasse. It is based on the context in this previous sentence “ On the terrace of the Bundesterrasse is a striking view: the river Aare below and the Bernese Alps above.” The word **now** can be categorized time deixis. It refers to the time when the situation occurring that based on the context in the sentence above. The possessive pronoun **his** is third person deixis. It refers to person who is neither speaker nor addressee of utterance. The possessive pronoun **his** is belonging to the man who stand on the terrace of the Bundesterrasse that based on the context in the sentence above.

Table 2. Kinds of time deixis in the novel Einstein's Dreams by Alan Lightman

No	Time Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
1	Today	3	2%
2	Now	39	21%
3	Then	31	15%
4	Tonight	1	1%
5	Last week	1	1%
6	Next day	1	1%
7	Last night	1	1%
8	Yesterday	1	1%

9	Next week	1	1%
10	Saturday night	2	1%
11	Tuesday morning	2	1%
12	This afternoon	1	1%
13	Tomorrow	3	2%
14	At the end of the day	1	1%
15	Some evenings	1	1%
16	Night	38	20%
17	Day	46	24%
18	This evening	1	1%
19	In the night	1	1%
20	Midday	1	1%
21	Sunday afternoon	3	2%
	Total	179	100%

Place Deixis

Place deixis show itself principally in the form of locative adverbs like “here”, “there”. English has a relativity place deictic, with two terms, usually get down to proximal distal. The proximal term “here” means something like “region relatively close to the speaker”. Then “there” means “relatively distant from the speaker”, for instance. It is very important to realize, that, however, “relatively closeness” is contextually determined.

They meet **here** yearly, for the month of June, to socialize and take the waters. (Lightman, 1992:54)

The deixis in the statement above is **they** and **here**. The word **they** can be categorized as third person deixis. The plural pronoun **they** refer to Swiss and English. It based on the context in this previous sentence “ Two couples, Swiss and English, sit at their usual table in the dining room of the Hotel San Murezzan in St. Moritz.” The word **here** can be categorized as place deixis. The word here is adverb of place. The adverb of place here refers to the context of utterance exactly in the dining room that based on the context in the sentence above.

Table 3. Kinds of place deixis in the novel Einstein's Dreams by Alan Lightman

No	Place Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
1	Here	30	40%
2	There	43	57%

3	In the coffe houses	1	2%
4	In the shadows of the Arcade, at no. 19 Kramgasse	1	1%
	Total	75	100%

Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis concerns with the use of expression within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains the utterance. The deictic terms used here are the demonstratives “this” and “that”. “This” can be used to refer to a portion of the discourse and “that” to a preceding portion. Discourse, or text, deixis concerns the use of expressions within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance (including the utterance itself). Thus, “this” can be used to refer to a forthcoming portion of the discourse and “that” to a preceding portion. However, discourse deixis is not showing proximal and distal, like place deixis does, but it is more like showing the token reflexivity of a sentence bases on the context of the utterance, for instance.

“Do **these** happenings seem strange? (Lightman, 1992:78)
 The deixis in the statement above is **these**. The word these can be categorized as discourse deixis. It refers to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance(including the utterance itself). The use of **these** refer to the sequence of occurrence that occurred that based on the context in the sentence above.

Table 4. Kinds of discourse deixis in the novel Einstein’s Dreams by Alan Lightman

No	Place Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
1	Here	30	40%
2	There	43	57%
3	In the coffe houses	1	2%
4	In the shadows of the Arcade, at no. 19 Kramgasse	1	1%
	Total	75	100%

Social Deixis

Social deixis concerns the social information that is encoded within various expressions, such relative social status and familiarity. Levinson (1983: 63) states that social deixis concerns the encoding of social distinctions that are relative to participant-roles, particularly aspects of the social relationship holding between speaker and addressee (s) or speaker and some referent. Besides that, social deixis is reference to the social characteristics of, or distinctions between, the participants or referents in a speech event.

“Just **now**, for example, a woman with brown eyes is speaking to **her mother** about how little time **they** spent together in **her** childhood, when the **mother** worked as a **seamstress**.” (Lightman, 1992:66)

The deixis in the statement above is **now, her, mother, they, her, mother** and **seamstress**. The word **now** can be categorized time deixis. It refers to the time when the situation is occurring that based on the context in the sentence above. The word **mother, mother** and **seamstress** can be categorized as social deixis. It refers to some social characteristic between the speaker and addressee that based on the context in the sentence above. The word **mother** and **mother** can be categorized as relational social deixis that based on the sentence above. Relational social deixis is a deictic reference which refers to a social relationship between the speaker and addressee. In this case, **seamstress** also can be categorized as social deixis especially absolute social deixis. It refers in certain forms of address which will include no comparison of the ranking of the speaker and addressee. The word **her, they** and **her** can be categorized as third person deixis. The first and second possessive pronoun **her** refer to a woman with brown eyes. It is based on the context in this previous sentence “a woman with brown eyes is speaking to her mother about how little time they spent together in her

childhood.” The plural pronoun **they** refer to woman with brown eyes and her mother.

Table 5. Kinds of social deixis in the novel Einstein’s Dreams by Alan Lightman

No.	Social Deixis	Quantity	Percentages
1	Mother	24	23%
2	Seamstress	1	1%
3	Father	21	20%
4	Silent man	1	1%
5	Traveler	13	12%
6	Son	17	16%
7	Parents	22	21%
8	Grandparents	4	4%
9	Greatgrandparents	1	1%
10	Grandson	1	1%
	Total	105	100%

Discussion

After gathering the data from *Einstein’s Dreams* novel, and analyzes it based on five types of deixis theory, namely person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis. Then, the next part is the discussion of the whole data to answer the problem proposed in the previous chapter. In accordance with theory, the information obtained from the data shows that deixis used in *Einsteins’ Dreams* novel by Alan Lightman consist of five types, namely person, place, time, social and discourse deixis. Furthermore, the theory of deixis which is proposed by Levinson is used to analyze words and sentences produced by the researcher on the literary work. Deixis is the relationship between language and context is reflected in the structures of languages themselves. Based on the analysis, the deixis used in *Einsteins’ Dreams* novel has found five types of deixis theory. Person deixis is mostly used in the novel *Einsteins’ Dreams*. In almost every page in the novel, person deixis is existed. Person deixis consists of three types, namely first person deixis, second person deixis, and third person deixis. The third pronoun deixis **His and Her** occur in every paragraph in each pages. Levinson claimed that third person deixis is referred to third parties other than the speaker

or the person being addressed. The pronoun **he, she, the driver, it, his, him, her, herself, they, their,** and **them** are often occurred in the data. The pronouns **she** and **he** are deictic reference refer to third person deixis or Levinson categorized those deictic element as singular third person deixis that based on the context of utterance. The pronoun **she** can be interpreted for considering the gender of addressee especially for female human or animal and the pronoun **he** for male human or animal. The pronoun **they** is deictic element as plural third person deixis that based on the context of utterance. The plural pronoun **they** can be interpreted as a group of people who are being addressed and can be used for plural of **she, he,** and **it**. According to Allso (1990: 90) claimed that the third pronoun **it** is used for all other inanimate objects and for animals where the sex is not known or unimportant. The other third person deixis also has function as the objective case in a sentence. It is **him, her,** and **them**. Then, as the function of the possessive pronouns are **his,** and **their** that based on the context of utterance. The pronoun **herself** has function as reflexive pronoun that refers to the subject that based on the context of utterance. Azar (1993: 229) said that a reflexive pronoun usually refers to the subject of a sentence. The example is as follows:

“Is **he** perplexed? What took seconds in Berne might take hours in Fribourg, or days in Lucerne.” (Lightman, 1992:74)

The third person deixis he refer to a traveler who will venture from one city to another.

Time deixis also occurs in the data. Time deixis concerns the encoding of temporal point and spans relative to the time at which an utterance was spoken. Time deixis that occurs in the data is **today, this morning, some evenings, now, this evening, in the night, sometimes, for two days, every day, yesterday,** etc. The deictic adverb of time **today** can be interpreted as this day when the speaker delivers the utterance. The

word **now** can be interpreted as existing at the present time or at this time. The example is as follow:

“**Now** they stand quietly as the line creeps forward through immaculate streets.” (Lightman, 1992:168)

In other hand, place deixis also occurs in the data. Place deixis concerns the encoding of spatial location relative to the location of the participants in the speech event. It is the descriptions of direction and location. Place deixis can be interpreted as some areas where the event and conversation happening in a location that based on the context of utterance. Place deixis that occurs in the data are **in the shadows of the arcade, at no. 19 Kramgasse, here ,there, in the coffee houses,in the government buildings,** etc. The example is as follows:

“**Here**, a family photograph, a box of paper clips, an inkwell, a pen.” (Lightman, 1992:13)

The word **here** in the sentence can be interpreted as place deictic marker in the form of adverb of place that based on the context of utterance. It may represent such area or place where the speaker is present.

Moreover, discourse deixis also occurs in the data. It refers to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance (including the utterance itself). Discourse

deixis that occurs in the data are **this** way, **this** machine, etc. The example of discourse deixis is as follows:

“She is certain that **this** was the last kiss.” (Lightman, 1992:18)

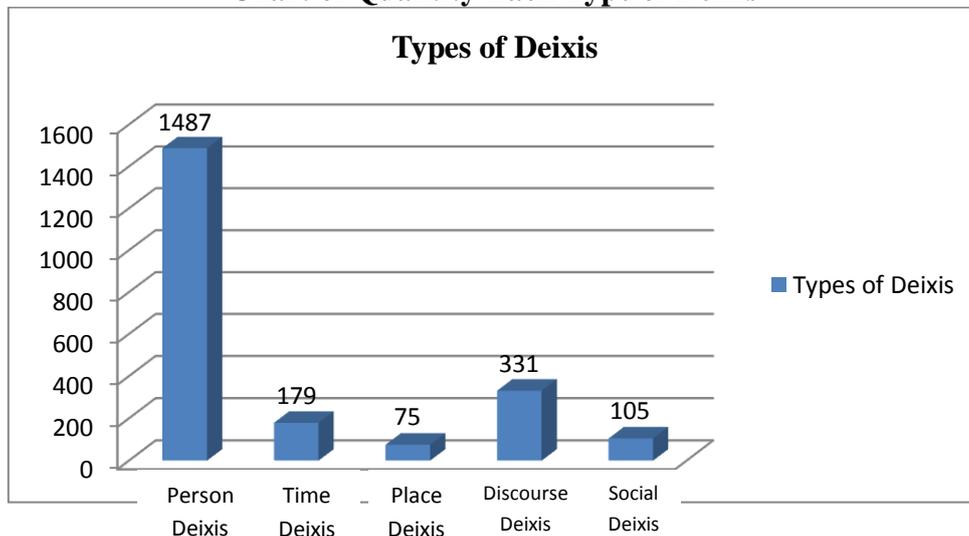
The use of this refers to the last kiss. It is based on the context of utterance. The use of **this** has a function for make clear what a speaker said.

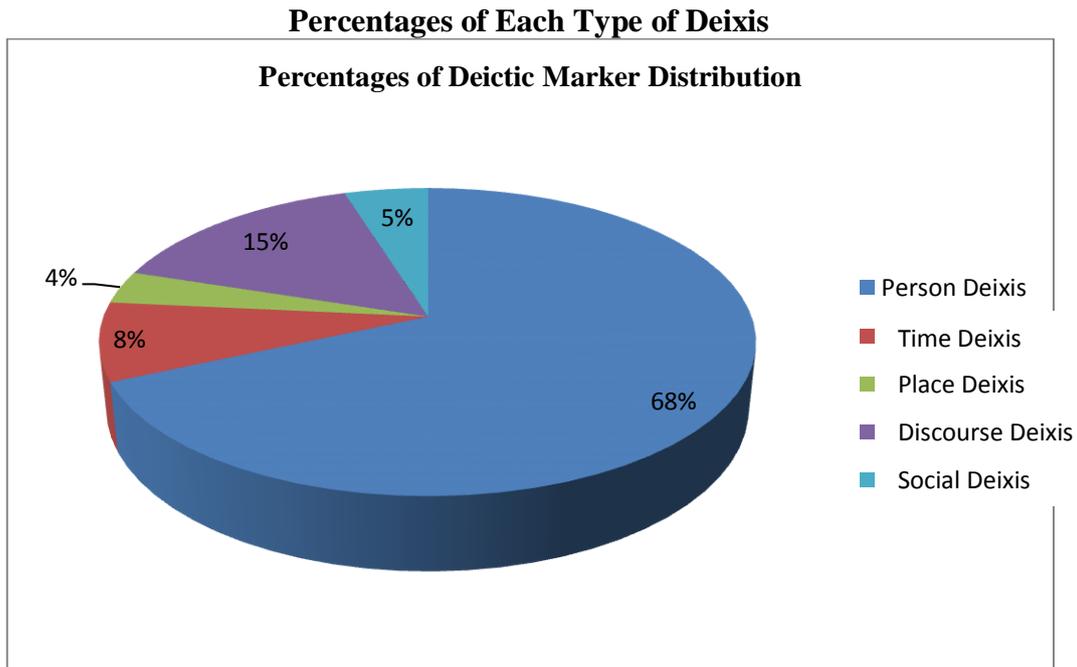
In addition, social deixis also occur in the data. Social deixis concerns the encoding of social distinctions that are relative to participant’s roles. Social deixis consist of two parts, relational social deixis and absolute social deixis. Relational social deixis refers to some social characteristic between the speaker and addressee that based on the context of utterance. Relational social deixis that occurs in the data are **father, mother, parents ,son, daughter and greatgrandparents.** The example is as follows:

“The **mother** and **daughter** are now planning a trip to Lucerne.” (Lightman, 1992:66)

Absolute social deixis refers in certain forms of address which will include no comparison of the ranking of the speaker and addressee that based on the context of utterance. Absolute social deixis that occurs in the data is **seamstress.**

Chart of Quantity Each Type of Deixis





CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion, there are two conclusion for each of the problems. First, the types of deixis in the novel that can be found are person deixis, time deixis, place deixis, discourse deixis and social deixis. The encoding of the role participants is generally indicated by pronoun such as I, we, they, and you. Time deixis in the novel used deictic element for encoding time such as last, next, today, now, then. Place deixis in the novel mostly used locative place adverbs such as here and there. The deictic elements of discourse deixis also were found in the novel Einstein's Dreams such as this, these, that, and those. For social deixis, this novel used some terms for encoding the relationship status such as mother, father, grandparents, and greatgrandparents. Based on the percentages, the dominance of deictic markers in the novel Einstein's Dreams is the deictic markers of person because person deixis strongly influenced by the dominance that first person exerted over the text in the novel.

Suggestion

Based on the research finding above, there are several points that can be recommended. It is recommended for the next researchers who are interested in doing further research in this area to use these finding as a starting point in conducting the research. Using the same theory (Levinson's theory of deixis) to the next researchers is suggested to analyze different data.

Moreover, it is also recommended for the students of English Education Study Program, Postgraduate Program, Tadulako University. They are suggested to dig knowledge in the library, website, or other science resources in order to get useful science in understanding deixis theory. In addition, it is also recommended for the readers to determine the kinds of deixis. They should have good comprehension on context and content of the novel by reading and understanding the whole text. It will be able to help them to avoid having wrong interpretation. Besides that, by reading this research, it is hoped to give inspiration to facilitate researching in the same area.

REFERENCES

- Arikunto, S. 2002. *Prosedur Penelitian; Suatu Pendekatan Praktek*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta
- Allso, J. 1990. *Cassel's Student English Grammar*. Jakarta: Bina Rupa Aksara.
- Azar, B. S. 1993. *Understanding and Using English Grammar (Second Edition)*. Jakarta: Binarupa Aksara.
- Cuddon, J. A. 1999. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. England: Penguin Group.
- Nurgiyantoro, B. 2010. *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Levinson, S, C. 1983. *Pragmatics*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- Lightman, A. 1992. *Einstein's Dreams*. New York: Vintage.
- Litosseliti, L. 2010. *Research Methods in Linguistics*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.
- Yule, G. 1995. *Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.