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Social Deixis in Harrison's *The Silent Wife*

Mahabad Izaddin M.Amin
Soran University
Faculty of Arts
mahabad.amin@yahoo.com

Dr.Ali Mahmood Jukil
Salahaddin University
College of Basic Education
galimjukil@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study aims at identifying the use of social deixis in Harrison's *The Silent Wife* to find out the frequency and the percentage of different linguistic expressions that function as social deixis and to present the most prominent linguistic expression used as social deixis in the novel. The direct utterances of characters were chosen to be the source of data and Yan Huang's theory was adapted for data analysis in a pragmatic prospective. The research method is a quantitative method.

The results show that using first names as a form of address has the greatest occurrence in this novel, because most characters have the same social status.

Key words: Social deixis, linguistic expressions, Yan Huang's theory, The Silent Wife.

1. Introduction

Language is a means of communication used by humans in social interaction. Its main function is to help people communicate with each other. It is also used by human beings all over the world to interact with each other, communicate ideas, express feeling, and negotiate with others.

In the field of linguistics, which is the study of human communication by means of language, both pragmatics and semantics focus on the meaning. There is an innate sense in which the two fields of semantics and pragmatics are inter related, and have differences as well.

Semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. (Kreidler, 1998, p. 15). There is a strong connection between semantics and pragmatics, since both deal with meaning. The exchange of information, message, attitude, feelings from one person to another contribute to the interpretation of meaning.

One of the differences drawn between semantics and pragmatics is that semantics deals with the literal meaning of sentences. While, pragmatics is about the interaction of semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the world, taking into account context of use. (Griffiths, 2006, p. 1).

In the above definition of Pragmatics, the key word is context which is an important word that is not found in semantic meaning. Likewise, Detmar Meurers defined pragmatics as “the study of how language is used and how language is integrated in context” (2004, p. 201).

This study focuses on social deixis based on a pragmatic perspective that can contribute to interdisciplinary efforts to

investigate how social deixis meaning and interpretations are transmitted in the selected novel.

As a support to a pragmatic study of social deixis rather than the semantic one, Levinson stated that “Deixis belongs to the domain of pragmatics, because it directly concerns with the relationship between the structure of languages and the contexts in which they are used. (1983, p. 55).

Moreover, Huang (2014) and Levinson (1983) regarded deixis as a subject of pragmatics. Huang defined pragmatics as “the systemic study of meaning by virtue of, or dependent on, the use of language. The central topics of inquiry of pragmatics include implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis”. (2014, p. 379). Furthermore, Levinson (1983, p. 27), introduced many topics in pragmatics in his definition “pragmatics is the study of deixis, implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and aspects of discourse structure”. In these definitions, Huang and Levinson have provided a list of subjects which are considered as the scope of pragmatics.

Yule (1996: 9) states that deixis is a technical term (from Greek) which means ‘pointing’ through language. Any linguistic form used to denote this pointing is called deictic expression in a particular context.

It is also stated that deixis is a pragmatic domain that has a connection with a certain meaning of word or phrase in the context. And the meaning of certain words and phrases caused by changing the situation including person, time and location.

A number of deictic categories have been distinguished. The traditional categories of deixis are person, place, and time (Levinson, 1983, p. 62), In addition to person, place and time deixis, Levinson (1983, pp. 62-63) and Huang (2014, p.208)

following Lyons (1968, 1977) and Fillmore (1971, 1997), added two other deictic categories, which are social and discourse deixis.

2. Social deixis

Social deixis is concerned with the codification of the social status of the speaker, the addressee, or a third person or entity referred to as well as the social relationship holding between them. (Fillmore, 1997, pp. 111-112). Thus, it rather refers to the level of relationship between people than to information like the time and place.

There are two basic kinds of social deixis: (i) absolute social deixis, and (ii) relational social deixis. (Levinson, 1979, p.207)

i) Absolute Social Deixis: includes forms which are reserved for two specific kinds of speech act participants, which are: authorized speakers and authorized addressee. The prototypical case involves speech by, or speech to a royal person. Such expressions are used mostly in countries that are [monarchies](#). For example, (your majesty, your highness, my lord,...etc).

ii) Relational Social deixis: is the most important, it can be expressed by honorifics. Honorifics involve the usage of particular lexemes in order to show the actual status of the participants. It includes relations between:

a) Speaker and referent (referent honorifics): referent honorific covers the forms that the speaker uses to show respect towards the referent.

For example, the French second person plural pronoun “Vous”, can be used for a singular referent instead of “Tu” to show respect.

Thus, following Brown & Gilman (1960), the Tu/Vous pronouns can be called a referent honorific. (1960, p. 254)

b) Speaker and addressee (addressee honorifics): are forms used by speakers to show difference towards addressee(s). (Huang, 2014, p. 209)

c) Speaker and bystander (bystander honorifics): are forms used by the speaker to show respect to a bystander, audience, or over hearers. The examples of this type are words and expressions like; mother in law, father in law,...etc). (Huang, 2014, p. 209)

d) Speaker and setting (levels of formality): it deals with the relationship between the speaker, or (other participants) and the speech setting. (Levinson, 1983, p. 90).

Marmaridou argues that social deixis is closely associated with person deixis, and that person deixis cannot be studied independently. (2000, pp. 79-80).

Likewise, Huang points out that social deixis is closely associated with person deixis, because it usually encodes social class, kinship relations, age, sex, profession and ethnic group (2014, pp. 208-211). Based on this assertion, it can be noted that social deixis can be expressed by a variety of linguistic devices, such as; personal pronouns, forms of address, kinship terms and choice of vocabulary. (Ibid)

2.1. Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns are used to get a number of socially deictic effects, such as; marking of respect. In most European languages, there are two different second person singular forms, such as Tu/Vous in French, Du/Sie in Germany, and Tu/Vos in Spanish. However, English is an exception. As it is generally known that the contemporary English has lost the distinction of the form of (thy/thee) though the Early Modern English did. This phenomenon is called T/V distinction, (Foley, 1997, p. 314).

The abbreviation of T/V distinction is that: T form, named after Latin “tu”,(you) a second person singular pronoun, and a V form, from Latin “vos, or vous”- (you) a second person plural. The first form is used for informal, relaxed usage, while the latter is for formal polite contexts (Grundy, 2000, p. 26)and (Mey, 2001, p. 274).

An important point to be noted here concerning English Language is that, Wardaugh stated that speakers of English can use address terms and other linguistic terms to show power and solidarity relationships through language. (2006, p. 266).Thus, in English, the first person plural pronoun (we) may be used instead of (I) by people in high social, political, and religious status. For example;

When President Obama spoke to the Americans for the first time after his election, on 20th of January 2009, He stated:

1-“..... “In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less”.

In this piece of speech, President Obama, who had a high political status, employed the first person plural pronoun “we” instead of the first person singular pronoun “I” as a strategy to gain trust from audience, also to show his authority and power.

Moreover, English uses four forms to show relationship among participants in the speech events, the forms are (Title,Title+Last name, First name, and Multiple name)

2.2. Forms of Address

Forms of address are another common type to realize social deixis. it can be seen in different types of names, such as, first name, (Jodi), last name, (Browns), a combination of first and last name, (Natasha Covacs), kinship terms, (cousin, uncle), other job and professional titles, such as: (doctor, professor, lawyer,...etc), a combination of titles and names, (Mrs.Gilbert),...etc. Among the forms of Address mentioned above, in English and in many other languages, the form which consists of TL (title+last name) is used widely, such as; Dr.Crystal, Mr.Kovacs,...etc. (Huang, 2014, p. 214) Which indicates the social distance between the speaker and the addressee.

In General, Four forms are used to show relationships between the speaker and the other participants in speech event: (Huang, 2014, pp. 214-215)

1-Title only (T): this form shows least familiarity between the speaker and the addressee, such as; (Mr.,Mrs.,Dr, professor, Sir...etc). These titles include, job titles, professional titles, religious titles,...etc. For example;

	Utterance <i>The Silent wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 1	-“Well, <u>sir</u> , I guess I’m just going as fast as I can,”	129	Sir	In a conversation between Todd and Mr. Brett, while talking about the trade, Todd used the word (Sir) which is a formal title used for strangers, to show respect.
Data 2	“Doctor, I love my life and I’m happy..”.	249	Doctor	In this utterance Jodi was talking about her life with Gerard. She used “doctor” because Gerard was older than her, and he was her therapist.
Data 3	“Your mother must have been a <u>saint</u> .”	57	Saint	The speaker is “Jodi”, talking about Todd’s mother, she used the religious title “saint” because of Todd’s mother’s endurance.

2-Title + last name (TLN): this form marks equality in the social status, but unfamiliarity; such as: (Mr. Brown, Mrs. Covacs,...etc). For example;

	Utterance <i>The Silent Wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 4	-“Please don’t hang up, <u>Mrs. Gilbert</u> .”	134	Mrs. Gilbert	When Natasha called Jodi for the first time to tell her about her pregnancy. Natasha said “Mrs. Gilbert” instead of “Jodi”, because of unfamiliarity.

3-First name (FN): this form indicates equality as well as familiarity; such as: (Jodi, Todd, Natasha, etc). For example:

	Utterance <i>The Silent Wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 5	- "... <u>Jodi</u> . I don't understand why you didn't wake me up."	104	Jodi	Todd calls Jodi by her first name, because she is his wife. (i.e.) they are familiar.

4-Multiple name (MN): this form indicates equality, familiarity, and quite friendly. (Levinson, 1983, pp. 91-92) For example:

	Utterance <i>The Silent Wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 6	"My nickname at school was <u>Tubbo</u> ."	54	Tubbo	"Tubbo" is a multiple name used for Todd among school friends.

In this novel, *The Silent Wife*, despite of the above four forms, other forms can be seen, such as; (Title + First name + Last name (TFLN)) and (First name + Last name (FLN)). For example:

	Utterance <i>The Silent Wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 7	"Can you verify that the deceased. <u>Mr. Todd Jeremy Gilbert</u> . Your <u>ex</u> . At the time of his death had initiated eviction proceedings against you?"	304	Mr. Todd Jeremy Gilbert. -ex	-The underlined form is title+ full name, it is used by a detective who came to ask Jodi about Todd. -"ex" is a title stands as an ex-husband, referring to Todd.
Data 8	" <u>Todd Jeremy Gilbert</u> , 46, entrepreneur, is survived by his loving wife-to-be and their unborn son."	290	Todd Jeremy Gilbert	The Underlined full name is another form of address used by Natasha at Todd's funeral, who has positioned herself and her fetus as the chief mourners.

Finally, **Kinship terms** or kin relationships are also used as forms of address, they are used to demonstrate the addresser's relationship with other family members. (Huang, 2014, p. 208) Words and expressions like, (father, mother, brother, cousin,...etc) are kinship terms. For example:

In a conversation between Jodi and Todd, before marriage, when Jodi was talking about her family, she said:

	Utterance <i>The Silent Wife</i>	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 9	"We had a drugstore at the corner of Park and Main. I used to work there after school. The whole family did". Well, me and <u>my brothers</u> . Not <u>my mother</u>	58	Brothers Mother	"Brothers", and "mother" are kinship terms used as social deixis.

2.3. Choice of Vocabulary

The identification of the choice of vocabulary also assists to find out social deictic information. (Huang, 2014, p. 215)

There are some linguistic performances in English which can count as social acts, such as; insults, greetings, expressions of gratitude, expressions for apology...etc. (Fillmore, 1975, p. 76), Such as: (Good morning, good night, thank you, I love you,... etc.) For example:

	Utterances The Silent Wife	Page No.	Social Deixis	Analysis
Data 10	-“I’m fine, thank you,”	221	Thank you	“Thank you” is an expression of gratitude used as social deixis. The utterance is in a response to a Hungarian cleaner, Clara, when she asks about Jodi’s health.
Data 11	-“Hey, buddy,” says Dean, throwing back the last of his draft beer. “I got started without you.” “You old bastard.”	42	Buddy Bastard	The conversation is between Todd and Dean, Dean use the two expressions of insults, to address Todd, who was his old friend, and they are used to drink together.
Data 12	“ <u>I’m sorry</u> . I really am. <u>I’m very sorry</u> . I shouldn’t have done it.”	20	I’m sorry I’m very sorry	This is a conversation between Jodi and one of her clients. (judge). The client uses the expressions of “I’m sorry”, and “I’m very sorry” to apologize from Jodi, when he noticed that Jodi is angry.

To sum up, in social deixis, the way of organizing the utterances is influenced by speakers and addressee’s social rank and their relationship to the other participants of the speech event.

3. Techniques of collecting and analyzing data

The data of this study was in the form of direct utterances taken from the English novel *The Silent Wife* by A.S.A. Harrison. The quantitative method was employed to analyze the data, and the following stages in the analysis were applied:

- 1- Reading the novel for several times.
- 2- Identifying the utterances that contain deictic expressions,
- 3- Classifying social deixis.
- 4- Analyzing the expressions that function as social deixis quantitatively.

In this study, the researcher used a quantitative method of research to show and analyze the data in a numerical form, in order to be more accurate. A quantitative research method was defined as a type of research that explains phenomena according to numerical data which are analysed by means of mathematically based methods, especially statistics. (Yilmaz, 2013, p. 311). Thus, it deals with those studies in which the data can be analysed in terms of numbers.

In this study, the quantitative approach was used for calculating the frequency of utterance and percentage of (the linguistic forms of social deixis, forms of Address, and choice of vocabulary). For achieving the result, the following simple percentage formula was used:

$$X = \frac{f}{N} * 100 \quad (\text{Pangribuan et al, 2015, p.176})$$

Where: X= Percentage of total number of social deixis

f = frequency of part

N= frequency of whole

4. The Statistical Analysis

The data of the study were taken from the direct utterances of A.S.A. Harrison's *The Silent Wife*, and the data will be presented in the following tables and charts. Followed by the discussion and/or interpretation of data in order to look at the use of social deixis in the novel.

In this section, three tables and three charts are presented in order to indicate the frequency and the percentage of data in *The Silent Wife*.

Table (1) Different Linguistic forms used as social deixis in the novel.

Linguistic forms	Frequency
Forms of Address	254
Choice of Vocabulary	36
Total	290

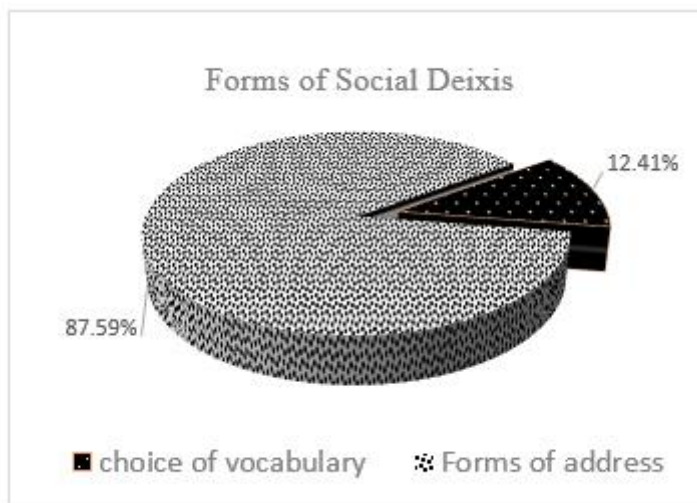


Chart (1) percentages of the forms of social deixis in *The Silent Wife*

In the above table and chart the frequency of occurrence of the total number of social deixis in the novel was shown as well as the frequency of different linguistic forms that function as social deixis.

Table (1) clarifies that social deixis occurs 290 times, and these 290 expressions are either in the form of: forms of addressee or different choice of vocabularies.(i.e), personal pronouns were not found in the novel that function as social deixis. The forms of address have the percentage of 87.59%, (254 times) of the total number of social deixis in the novel, while choice of vocabulary occupies only 12.41% (36 times) of the total number of social deixis in the novel.

In this novel, the use of forms of address is great because English has come to rely on forms of address to convey nuances of

relationship among participants and to maintain social relationship among them.

Table (2) Frequency of utterance of Different Forms of Address in the novel.

No.	Forms of Address	Frequency
1	FLN	1
2	FN	167
3	MN	1
4	TFLN	3
5	T	28
6	TLN	27
7	kinship term	27
Total		254

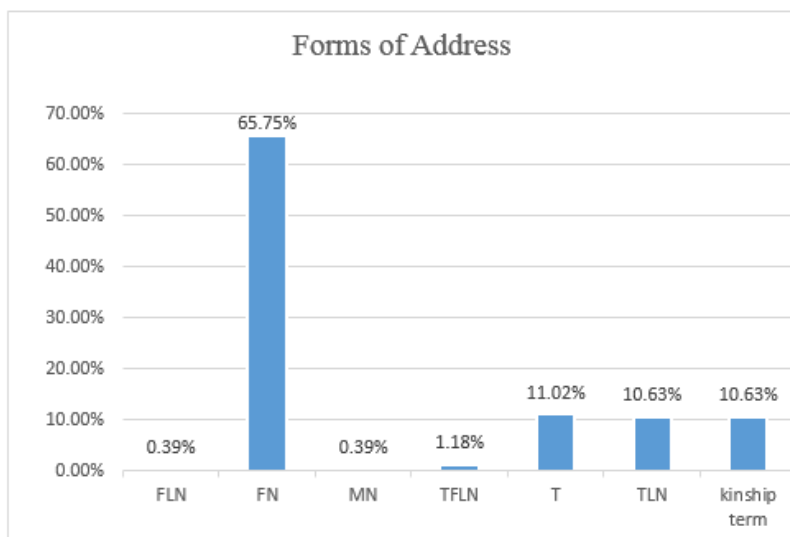


Chart (2) The Percentages of different forms of address

Table (2) and chart (2) indicate the frequency of occurrence and the percentage of different forms of address in the novel *The*

Silent Wife. The table shows that (254) forms of address have been found in the utterances. In which, using First Names only (FN) has the greatest occurrence which is (167) times, and the percentage of (65.75%), while using the forms of Multiple name (MN), and First name + Last name (FLN), have the least occurrences, they occur only (1) time each, which means the percentage of (0.39%) Also, the chart shows that (kinship terms, Titles only (T), and Title+ Last name (TLN)) have almost similar occurrences and percentages.

In this novel, most characters have addressed one another by their first names because they are in the same or similar social states and they have similar ages.

The use of multiple name MN had the least occurrence, it occurs only once in the novel by the school friends of Todd when he was young, because in this novel, no relationship is found which is characterized by true friendship among friends, and true love between husbands and wives.

Table (3) Different choices of Vocabularies used as social deixis in *The Silent Wife*

No.	Choice of Vocabulary	Frequency
1	apology	19
2	insult	4
3	Feeling of love	7
4	Feeling of gratitude	6
Total		36

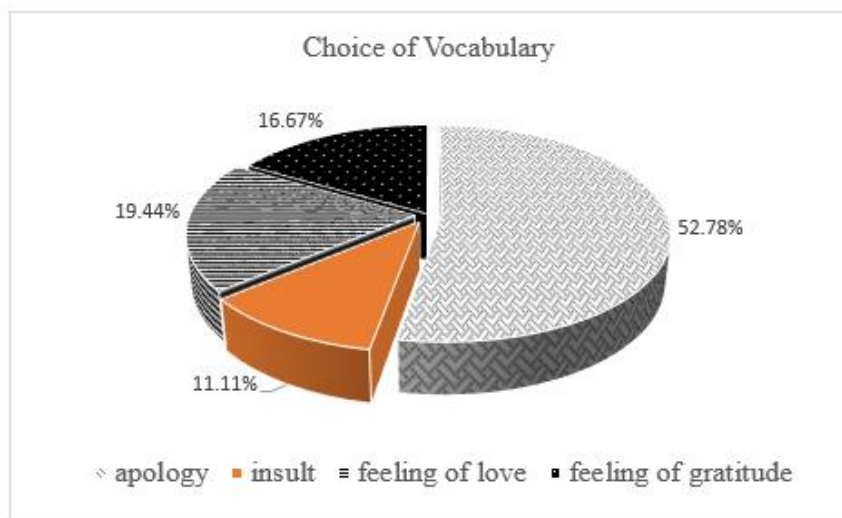


Chart (3) the percentages of different choices of Vocabularies

Table (3) and chart (3) show that different vocabularies are employed by the characters in the novel that function as social deixis. Table and chart (3) clarifies that among the four types of vocabularies (apology) has the highest number of occurrence, which is (19) times, and has the percentage of (52.78%), however, (insult) has the lowest usage or occurrence in the novel which is (4) times and the percentage of (11. 11%) only. Moreover, the other two types of vocabularies which are expressing feeling of love and feeling of gratitude occur (7 times) and (6times) that is the percentages of (19.44%) and (16.67%) respectively.

In this novel, the expressions or vocabularies of apology such as (sorry, I'm sorry, I'm very sorry,...etc) are more frequent than expressions of love, as an example, because the theme of the novel is a psychological thriller, in which, participants in general have a bad psychological status, and the main characters of the novel (Jodi and Todd) are not in a good place of their marriage, for these

reasons, participants tend to apologize from each other during the conversation more than expressing their love and gratitude.

Conclusions:

Based on the analysis of the data, the following conclusions have drawn:

1-In this novel, another form of addressee is found, which is Title + first name + last name (TFLN), such as (Mr. Todd Jeremy Gilbert)

2-English uses first person plural pronoun for first singular speaker, instead of using second person plural for second person singular “addressee”, for the purpose of “power and solidarity”.

3-Using first names as a form of address has the greatest occurrence in the novel, because most characters were in the same social status.

4- Expressions of apology has the greater occurrence in this novel, because this novel the psychological status of the participants or characters are not stable.

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پوختەى لىكۆلئىنەو

ئامانجى ئەم لىكۆلئىنەو ەيە برىتتېيە لە دەستنىشانكردنى نىشانكارە كۆمەلەيەتتېيەكان لە رۆمانى The Silent Wife ى ھارىسون. بە مەبەستى دۆزىنەو ەي رادەي دوبارە بوونەو ە و رېژەي سەدى ھەموو ئەو پېكھاتە زمانىانەي كە وەكو نىشانكارى كۆمەلەيەتى دەردەكەون.

داتاي لىكۆلئىنەو لە گفتوگو راسستەوخۆكانى نىوان كارەكتەرەكانى رۆمانەكە وەرگىراو لە روانگەي تيۆرى پراگماتىكىي (يان ھوانگ) ەو. لەو لىكۆلئىنەو ەيەدا سووس لە رېيازى چەندىيەتى وەرگىراو بۆ شىكردنەو ەي داتاكەن. پېشگرىمانەي ئەو كراو كە بەكارھىتەننى ناوى يەكەم بۆ ناوھىنان باوترىن جۆرى نىشانكارى كۆمەلەيەتتېيە.

وشە كىلىيەكان: نىشانكارە كۆمەلەيەتتېيەكان، پراگماتىك، The silent Wife، ھارىسون، يان ھوانگ.

ملخص البحث

يهدف هذا البحث الى تحديد الاشارات الاجتماعية في رواية (The silent Wife) ل (ھارىسون)، لغرض ايجاد نسبة التكرار و النسبة المئوية لجميع المصطلحات اللغوية المستخدمة كاشارة اجتماعية في الرواية.

وقد أخذنا البيانات من المحادثات المباشرة لشخصيات الرواية، مع تطبيق النظرية التداولية ل (يان ھوانگ) لتحليل البيانات، و المنهجية الكمية كمنهج البحث. وقد افترضنا من البداية بأن استعمال الاسم الاول لمخاطبة الاشخاص يعد من ابرز انواع الاشارات الاجتماعية في الرواية.

مفاتيح الكلمات: الاشارات الاجتماعية، التداولية، The silent Wife ، ھارىسون، يان ھوانگ.