

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language plays a crucial role in human life, serving as a reflection of how individuals behave themselves. What a person says is not just a simple exchange of information or thoughts; it shows who they are and how they see the world. Language also affects relationships, shaping how others view and react to us. In this way, it serves as a guide for social and moral behaviour, helping place people within larger social and ethical contexts. Through their words, people show and create their roles in society, highlighting the deep connection between language, thought, and actions.

As language is used to express human behavior, language distinguishes between the 'good' and 'bad' characters in a film. The dialogue is important in revealing the character's role in the film. The 'good' character is what we used to call the protagonist and the 'bad' character is what we used to call the antagonist. The protagonist is the character that implies kindness from their actions and words and faces many struggles, whether it is from themselves or those around them. The language employed by the protagonist conveys a genuine sense of 'goodness' that feels authentic and comforting. On the other hand, the antagonist is a character that 'struggles' in the protagonist's life because they have done some immoral act or bad talking to the protagonist, directly or indirectly. The language antagonists choose often reflects their inner negativity, even if their words are not directly aggressive. These word choices can subtly create feelings of distress or discomfort in others.

The choice of words in language usage is how people show themselves. However, not only the words but also how others interpret them and the context of those words shape the individuals themselves. As Yule (1996, p. 3-4) describes, pragmatics is the study of a speaker's utterance and how the hearer interprets it, based on the context of the utterance. It points out that the meaning of the speaker's utterance is not only determined by the words but is also influenced by the context of the utterance.

Deixis is crucial in this context, due to as a linguistic tool that connects speech to its particular setting and highlights relationships, positions, and attitudes. Deixis is borrowed from a Greek word that means 'pointing' or 'indicating' (Yule, 1996 p.9). Deictic expressions, a language form that is used in Deixis, rely on context and assist speakers in situating. For example, using inclusive pronouns like "we" promotes unity and collaboration, whereas exclusive pronouns like "they" signify division or opposition.

This study aims to see deictic expressions used by characters in a film titled *Cinderella* to express verbal abuse using the Deixis concept. *Cinderella* is a well-known literary work written by Charles Perrault and adapted into live-action by Disney in 2015. However, this work is rarely discussed through the pragmatics lens, especially with the Deixis concept.

The *Cinderella* film contains dialogue that generally shows verbal abuse implications because it is about the main character's relationship, Cinderella, with her stepmother and stepsisters, who show their role in the film through their words

and actions. In this film, there is a noticeable gap in the treatment of biological children and stepchildren by the stepmother. Therefore, this study will identify the type of Deixis through the deictic expression used to express verbal abuse. Also, this study applies the qualitative approach to examine the dialogue in detail, focusing on the deictic expressions used in the film. Furthermore, this research will use the qualitative-descriptive method to analyse the data.

1.2 Research Questions

The aims of this study are to identify the characteristics of verbal abuse and the types of deixis found in Cinderella. Therefore, the research questions are:

1. What are the characteristics of verbal abuse found in Cinderella?
2. What types of deixis are used in verbal abuse found in Cinderella?

1.3 Objectives Of The Research

The aims of this study are to examine deictic expression usage in Cinderella's film adapted by Disney in 2015. The objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the characteristics of verbal abuse found in Cinderella.
2. To identify the types of deixis in verbal abuse found in Cinderella.

1.4 Focus of the Research

In conducting this research, the writer describes the characteristics of verbal abuse and identifies the types of deixis in verbal abuse found in Cinderella. Patricia Evans explains the 10 characteristics of verbal abuse in her book *The Verbally Abusive Relationship Third Edition* which was published in 2012 with 700.000 copies. After that, Sophia Marmaridou identifies 4 types of deixis in her book

Pragmatic Meaning and Cognition in 2000. The source of the data in this research is taken from 2015's Disney Live-Action Remake of Cinderella. The data is taken from the dialogues among Cinderella and her stepfamily.

To maintain the focus of this research, the writer will examine the types of Deixis through deictic expression that is used to express verbal abuse of Cinderella's film characters. The primary subject of this research is Cinderella's film adaptation by Disney in 2015, specifically analyzing the character narrative of Cinderella with her stepfamily. The writer applies the Deixis theory by Sophia Marmaridou (2000, p. 74-95) to identify the types of deixis in Cinderella.

1.5 Methods of the Research

The method of this research is a qualitative-descriptive method. As Creswell states in his book (2023, ch.9), the qualitative method is used in the research that its data relies on text and image, which focuses on meaning, context, and deeper understanding of a phenomenon under the research. This method let the writer explore more about how meaning is formed through language, especially through the use of the deictic expressions in the Cinderella film. On the other hand, the descriptive methods are used because this research data analysis aims to provide a detailed description based on existing data without making excessive interpretations. The analysis is linked to the related framework so that it remains focused and close to the data. Therefore, the descriptive-qualitative method is an appropriate method to explain the use of the deictic expressions as a form of verbal abuse in the narrative context of the film.

1.5.1 Data Collection

The source of data in this research is taken from Charles Perrault's version of Cinderella adapted by Disney into live-action in 2015. In this film, the dialogue between Cinderella and her stepfamily is the focus of the data. In collecting data, some steps are conducted step by step. They are:

1. Watching the film multiple times and selecting relevant scenes.

The relevant scenes are chosen based on the dialogues among Cinderella and her stepfamily.

2. Transcribing the dialogue from selected scenes. The selected scenes will be written down in transcription while focusing on the deictic expression (e.g. *you* as person deixis, or *now* as time deixis) that is used in the dialogue to identify the deictic expressions.
3. Identifying the context of the utterances. This allows the writer to note the situational elements like the speaker, the hearer, the relationship, and the intention to interpret the meaning of the utterance and the usage of the deictic expressions.
4. Choosing the utterance in selected dialogues that show verbal abuse from the stepfamily to Cinderella.

1.5.2 Data Analysis

In analysing data, the chosen utterances in selected dialogue among Cinderella and her stepfamily are analysed in several steps. They can be seen in:

1. Describing the characteristics of verbal abuse in selected utterances based on Patricia Evans's theory on 10 characteristics of verbal abuse (2012, p.49).
2. Recognizing the deictic expressions in selected utterances of verbal abuse.
3. Identifying types of deixis in Cinderella by using Sophia Marmaridou's deixis theory (2000, p.74-95)

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- **Deixis**

The use of language form featuring context, in analyzing the utterance in speech event to convey meaning. These expressions, like pronouns (I, you), demonstratives (this, that), words related to time (now, then), and words related to space (here, there), need knowledge of the situation where they are used to be understood correctly.

- **Deictic Expression**

The language form used in Deixis cannot be fully understood without the context.

- **Verbal Abuse**

This type of abuse uses language to harm, humiliate, or dominate another person through insults, threats, or teasing. It is a type of emotional mistreatment that doesn't result in visible marks like the ones caused by physical abuse. Despite this, it can be just as harmful, and healing from it may take significantly longer. Those subjected to verbal abuse often experience increasing confusion in their lives.

- **Cinderella Charles Perrault Version**

A classic fairy tale was first published in 1697 in *Histoires ou contes du temps passé*. This version portrays Cinderella as a kind, patient girl who endures mistreatment by her stepmother and stepsisters. With the help of her Fairy Godmother, she attends the royal ball where she captivates the prince, but must leave at midnight, leaving behind a glass slipper. The prince uses the slipper to find her, and they marry. Perrault's version emphasizes virtue, kindness, and the importance of grace.

- **Disney**

The Walt Disney Company is an American entertainment company started in the late 1920s by Walt Disney and Roy O. Disney. It is famous for its movie studios, theme parks, and TV networks. Disney has had a big impact on popular culture with its animated films, such as Mickey Mouse, and movie adaptations of classic fairy tales like Cinderella, Snow White, and

Beauty and the Beast. The company also owns other companies like Pixar, Marvel, and Lucas Films.

