

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Language is a foremost means of communication. Further, within some sort of social context, communication will always appear. It is significant for those who communicate, they have to comprehend and recognize clearly what they are talking about to get an effective communication. Despite the fact that language is used in each communication, it is possible that the utterance which is said by the speaker to the addressee is ambiguous. Sometimes, the addressee is hard to comprehend about what the speaker said, who, when, and where. In this case, context is important for the speaker and addressee to create an effective communication. Cochrane (2012) states that social context is a major factor that drives our language choices.

Pragmatics is a field of linguistics that investigates the context-dependent components of meaning that are often abstracted away in the creation of logical forms (Horn, et al., 2004). Mahmood (2016) discovered in his research on pragmatics in micro- and macrolinguistics that pragmatics is one of the levels of linguistic analysis and that the context serves as the primary focus of its investigation. In other words, context is a factor that aids in comprehension of the addressee's response. The pragmatic subdomain of deixis or indexicality aims to describe the

characteristics of token-reflexive expressions with continual meanings, such as I, here, there, and then (Levinson, 1983).

Furthermore, according to Levinson (1983), deixis is concerned with the ways in which language stores or grammaticalizes context elements from speaker utterances or speech events and which meaning of those utterances rely on context analysis. Deixis, according to Yule (1996), is a straightforward kind of referring that is dependent on the speaker's context, with the closest distinction between deictic expressions being near or far from the speaker. Deixis is the process of encoding contextual information using lexical words or grammatical differences that only offer this information when combined with the context, according to Yule (2010). It indicates that deixis instructs the receiver or addressee to look to the context in order to understand the true meaning of the speaker's speech.

Additionally, according to Levinson (1983), there are five different types of deixis that can be recognized in utterances. They are discourse deixis, social deixis, place or spatial deixis, time or temporal deixis, and person deixis (first, second, and third person deixis). Any expression that implies a person, such as I, you, him, her, or their, is referred to as a person deixis. Any expression that designates a place or location, such as "here," "on the stage," "there," etc., is known as a spatial or place deixis. In utterances like "now," "this evening," "last month," "then," etc., "time" or temporal deixis is employed to denote a time. The term "discourse deixis" refers to the use of expression in statements that suggest the meaning of a

specific part of the discourse, such as "this" or "that." The final type of deixis is social deixis, which highlights how many social relationships and communication participants are expressed within society through language. All of these different deixis types must be built with the speaker's identity, environment, and timing in mind.

To comprehend all those kinds of deixis in order to bear with what the speaker intended to deliver, humans could find it all in many kinds of media, such as television, advertisement, newspaper, letter, magazine, article, and speech text. Bringing the notion of communication media, Pyle (2006) has noted that letter writing has authorized people to communicate an individual's inner feelings and thoughts by the way of external expression. Furthermore, since letters can also give some meanings from the messages delivered to the recipient, it could also be elaborated and give an underlying message to the clearer meanings by using pragmatic approaches.

Cited from a journal article in Professional Journal of English Education (PROJECT) conducted by Asmarita & Haryudin (2019) they analysed a speech delivered by Ridwan Kamil at Asia Africa Conference using deixis framework which was proposed by Levinson (2011) is aimed to elaborate types of deixis and to discover the most dominant type of deixis in the speech using qualitative approach. Additionally, the study found that the most dominant kind of deixis used in Ridwan Kamil's Speech is person deixis, so that it can represent his position as the mayor of Bandung and as deixis center. Another study that fits with deixis analysis and qualitative

descriptive methods was also published in Professional Journal of English Education (PROJECT) written by Jabar & Haryudin (2020). The previous study by Jabar & Haryudin aims to identify types of deixis on the speeches delivered by Anis Baswedan in the video uploaded on Jakarta government YouTube channel in order to give condolences for acts of terrorism in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand which finds out that in Anis Baswedan's speech all the types of deixis are used and can be elaborated that it clearly shows how he takes his position as the governor of Jakarta who represents people to offer their condolences towards the victims. In addition, a study conducted by Minkhatunnakhriyah, et al. (2021) which was published in Voices of English Language Education Society (VELES) Journal investigates deixis and the context used by diplomats and representatives from Indonesia, Silvany Pasaribu of human rights cases of Vanuatu and Papua in United Nation 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 2020. Furthermore, the data source was the comment of the speech. The theory used are three types of deixis theory proposed by Levinson and leads to the result which shows personal deixis is dominantly used in the speech using 'we' since it refers to Indonesia's society. According to Hidayati et al. (2022) in their writing which also using Levinson theory of deixis and was published in Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal), it has study a goal to identify different types of deixis and types of errors found in students' narrative text writing. To analyze, this study was using a descriptive qualitative method which was implied to students' narrative text. In conclusion, the study finds out that all the types

of deixis are used in the instrument and the errors were discovered as well, such as omission, addition, misinformation, and misordering. To add, in several forms to delivering messages from one individual to another, handwritten letters are considered a revolutionary communication tool. Emma Moreton (2018) a lecturer in TESOL and Applied Linguistics in the University of Liverpool has written an analysis using place and person deixis approach which is written as a chapter in a book entitled *Rethinking Language, Text and Context: Interdisciplinary Research in Stylistics in Honour of Michael Toolan* for Historical Migrants Letter who migrated from Ireland to the USA in the late of nineteenth century which concludes what person and place deixis can uncover about how the migrants positioned themselves in relation to the recipient of the letter and how they identified themselves as Irish migrants or American citizens. As a research gap, the writer finds out that there is a notion which had not been examined in the previous studies using deixis theory such as providing an underlying message as one of the results or the findings of the study. Additionally, as a novelty in this study, the use of letters as one of communication tools as an instrument of the study is proposed since this kind of instrument is still scant. According to the findings of those previous studies and several circumstances considered above, the writer in this study would like to propose a study to examine an English translation of a letter which had been written in January 1900 by an Indonesian national heroine, R.A.Kartini, delivered to her Dutch pen pal, Stella Zeehandelaar in discussing the condition of regulation in government,



education, poverty, discrimination, and women empowerment as well in Jepara regency at that time. As for the English version of the letters intended to Stella, was primarily published in 1911 in a book entitled *Letters of A Javanese Princess*. Afterwards, those correspondences were compiled in a book which is particularly discussed about Kartini's correspondence to Stella, *On Feminism and Nationalism: Kartini's Letter to Stella Zeehandelaar*. The later English version of the correspondences is likewise those which were re-translated by the same translator, Joost Coté in *Kartini The Complete Writings 1898-1904*. This study is going to be examined by using the deixis approach proposed by Levinson since it seems substantial to discover the meaning by finding references in Kartini's letter to one of her Dutch pen pals with the aim of clearer historical record for the most part of Stella Zeehandelaar.

## 1.2 Research Questions

In accordance to the background demonstrated above, by using Deixis theory by Stephen Levison which becomes substantial to reveal the interpretation of Kartini's letter to Stella Zeehandelaar in 1900, the writer carries out the research question as follows:

How do the deictic expressions found in Kartini's letter to Stella Zeehandelaar in 1900 reveal the interpretation of meaning in the letter by considering the context of each types of deixis?

### 1.3 Purposes of Study

According to the research question above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

To elaborate how the deictic expressions found in Kartini's letter to Stella Zeehandelaar in 1900 reveal the interpretation of meaning in the letter by considering the context.

### 1.4 Significance of Study

The findings are expected to give clearer understanding of the use of deixis in one kind of communication tool or media, in this case the writer decides to analyze English translation of Kartini's letter to Stella Zeehandelaar written in January 1900 in a biographical book under the title "*Kartini The Complete Writings 1898-1904*". Further, practically the writer hopes that this study would be beneficial to the reader, further understanding about the thought and messages delivered by R.A. Kartini in one of her letters to her Dutch pen pal. As for practical aspect, the findings of this study are expected to provide such clearer messages of Kartini's letter to Stella Zeehandelaar discussing the condition of regulation in government, education, poverty, discrimination, and women empowerment as well in Jepara as historical records and to reform a study in pragmatics using deixis theory and letter as an instrument of the study.

