

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), according to the Report of The United Nations Secretary-General (2020:3), refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilisation, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. In conflict areas, CRSV is used as a terrible tactic of war, where perpetrators intentionally terrorise and destroy communities in order to depopulate them. Although this crime targeted every gender and age, women and children were most affected. In 1,186 cases of sexual violence reported by the UN (2023), the victims were children, with girls accounting for 1,157 (98%) of the victims. CRSV has been documented in numerous conflicts worldwide, and addressing CRSV requires not only legal and humanitarian efforts but also global awareness and advocacy.

Such a recent event like the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine was an effort to raise global attention and awareness about the conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). In that event, the Duchess of Edinburgh gave her remarks aimed at calling for international cooperation to prioritise survivors' rights. She stressed that conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) is an intentional act intended to terrorise and destabilise women and children. As part of the Royal Family, the Duchess mentions some of the UK's contributions to support and establish national accountability frameworks, such as

the ACT for Survivors program, financial aid, and investigative procedures in Ukraine.

The Duchess of Edinburgh's speech at the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine is a form of meaningful interaction that cannot exist without the use of language, as it serves as the primary tool for communication. There are two forms of language used in communication, written and spoken. However, spoken language is more commonly used in everyday interactions due to its immediacy and directness in conveying meaning to the addressee. The interpretation of spoken language is often dependent on the context in which it occurs. In this case, context is important for the speaker and the addressee to create effective communication. As stated by Halliday (1978:3), the context plays a part in determining what we say, and what we say plays a part in determining the context.

One of the fields of linguistics that focuses on how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication is pragmatics. Pragmatics explores the context-dependent aspects of meaning that are systematically abstracted away from in the construction of content or logical form (Horn & Ward, 2004). Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or a reader). According to Yule (1996:3), pragmatics is the type of study that necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. The pragmatic subfield of deixis aims to contextually interpret utterances by determining context-dependent referents, including the identity of the speaker and addressee, their locations, and the time of the utterance as defined by Yang (2011:128).

Furthermore, Levinson (1983:54) defines deixis as a term borrowed from the Greek word for pointing or indicating person pronouns, tense, specific time and place adverbs, and a kind of other grammatical features tied directly to the circumstances of utterance. Pointing via language is defined as a deictic expression and is sometimes called indexical (Yule, 1996:9). Additionally, Levinson (1983:62) states that there are five deictic expressions that can be recognised in utterances, including person deixis (first-, second-, and third-person deixis), time or temporal deixis, place or spatial deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Any expression that implies a person, such as I, you, we, etc., is referred to as a person deixis. As for the adverbs like “now”, “today”, etc., refer to time or temporal deixis that function to denote a time in utterances. Any expression that refers to a place or location, such as “here”, “there”, etc., is known as spatial or place deixis. The term discourse deixis refers to the use of an expression in utterances that suggests the meaning of a specific part of the discourse, such as “this” or “that”. The last type of deixis is social deixis, which highlights social relationships on the part of the participants in communication. Both the speaker and the addressee are supposed to share the same context in order to decipher the different meanings of the deictic categories. Thus, deixis reflects the relationship between language and the context in which it is used to achieve the communicative function of language.

The application of deixis can be found across various forms of discourse, especially prominent in political discourse, such as the Duchess’ speech, where it functions to link language with its surrounding context, thus conducting effective communication. As a form of political discourse, a political speech, as defined by Charteris-Black (2018), serves as a coherent stream of spoken language that is

usually prepared for delivery by a speaker to an audience for a specific purpose on a political occasion. Pragmatic choices within political speech are important in determining the meaning, intent, and context. In particular, deixis functions as a pragmatic device that connects utterances to specific participants, places, or time references within the speech situation. However, the interpretation of deixis is not solely determined by the context. Its meaning also depends on the surrounding co-text, the linguistic pattern in which the deictic expression occurs. This co-text frequently shows in the form of collocational patterns, where deictic expressions tend to occur with lexical or grammatical elements that reinforce their rhetorical function

However, political discourse is not merely defined by the topic or style, but rather by the identity of the speaker, the intended addressee, the speaker's role, the specific occasion, and the objectives of the communication (van Dijk, 2008:176). Politicians strategically employ language to accomplish goals beyond merely sharing information, they choose words that reflect the cultural, social, and ideological values of their audience. Politicians employ systematic linguistic tools, from lexical choice and syntactic parallelism to deictic anchoring, to shape specific purposes, construct shared identity, and steer public opinion. As for a brief instance, when the Duchess declared, *"We must stand shoulder to shoulder with all survivors to secure justice and holistic redress..."* she used inclusive pronouns like "we" to share the responsibility of supporting survivors of sexual violence. In contrast, she declared *"...ensure perpetrators are held to account - whether they ordered it, committed it or facilitated it"*, which later she addressed *"Ukrainian courts have found that war crimes have been committed by Russian soldiers."* These instances

highlight that the Duchess of Edinburgh positioned herself to stand along with the victims and subtly influence the audience to shift the blame to the perpetrators through the use of deictic expressions.

Previous studies have been conducted related to the study of deictic expression in some political speeches. Wang (2020) conducts a study that examines the pragmatic empathy of personal deixis in Queen Elizabeth II's anti-epidemic speech. The speech is used as a corpus for the analysis in order to comprehend how deixis promotes empathy and national cohesion during the COVID-19 pandemic. He Ziran's concept of pragmatic empathy and Levinson's classification of deixis are used in the study to analyse the context and frequency of personal pronouns such as "I," "we," and "you." According to the study, the Queen's speech fosters pragmatic empathy through the strategic use of personal deixis, which in turn fosters resilience and national cohesion. However, this study focuses primarily on emotional appeals in the context of a public health emergency, not on advocacy for survivors of sexual violence in conflict settings.

Furthermore, Chefor and Zhiying (2020) analyse the use of deictic resources in a political speech by the President of the Republic of Cameroon, Paul Biya. According to the analysis, the most frequent category used is personal deixis, which indicates that Biya wants to include his audience in his decision-making process and that he has authority over them. Similarly, Alabdali (2019) in his study analyses the personal deixis implementation in King Fahad's speech to the international troops during the Second Gulf War (1990/1991). The result reveals that attached pronouns primarily refer to the state, such as "we," while unattached forms emphasise the speaker's personal experiences and perspectives, such as "I," which

separates the speaker's identity from their role as a state representative. These studies emphasised how such person deixis reinforces political authority and inclusivity. Yet, these studies are grounded in domestic or wartime political contexts and do not discuss humanitarian discourse, particularly in diplomatic settings advocating for victims of sexual violence.

According to the findings of those previous studies and several circumstances considered above, in various political figures and contexts, there is a limitation of focused research on how deictic expressions function in speeches aimed at advocating for survivors of sexual violence in conflict areas. This study addresses the gap by analysing deictic expressions and their collocational patterns in the Duchess of Edinburgh's speech to examine how her linguistic choices reflect and reinforce her diplomatic position in advocating for CRSV survivors.

1.2 Research Questions

In accordance with the background of the study above, the research questions are as follows:

1. What types of deictic expressions are used in The Duchess of Edinburgh's Speech at the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine?
2. What is the most frequent type of deictic expression used in The Duchess of Edinburgh's Speech at the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine?
3. How do deictic expressions and their collocational patterns in The Duchess of Edinburgh's speech at the 'Restoration of Conflict-Related Sexual

Violence Survivors' Rights' Conference in Ukraine function to shape her stance and strategic messaging for the audience?

1.3 Objective of the Study

According to the research questions above, the objective of this study is to identify the types and frequencies of deictic expressions and examine how these expressions and their collocational patterns function to shape the Duchess of Edinburgh's diplomatic stance and strategic messaging in her speech at the 'Restoration of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights' Conference in Ukraine.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the analysis of deictic expressions and their collocational patterns in The Duchess of Edinburgh's Speech at the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine. This study examines the types, functions, and collocational patterns of deictic expressions in The Duchess of Edinburgh's speech by using the framework proposed by Levinson (1983). This framework covers five categories, including person deixis, time or temporal deixis, place or spatial deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study contributes to the field of linguistic research, particularly focusing on the examination of deictic expressions and their collocational patterns within political discourse. Additionally, this study holds relevance specifically for English

Literature students as it serves as a reference for further research of deixis analysis. As for the practical aspect, by analysing deictic expression in The Duchess of Edinburgh's Speech at the "Restoration of the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Survivors' Rights" Conference in Ukraine, this study would be beneficial to the reader to increase understanding of how the Duchess of Edinburgh strategically utilises deictic expressions and their collocational patterns to positioning herself and frame CRSV advocacy messages in the crucial subject matter.

