



**REFERENCES OF DISCOURSE AND ITS TYPES
IN AKSHATA MURTHY: UK'S FIRST LADY SPEECH**

Siti Tasya Jelita Manurung

English Applied Linguistics Study Program

Postgraduate Program-Universitas Negeri Medan

Submitted September; Accepted October; Published December

ABSTRACT

This study examined the references used in Akshata Murthy's speech "Best Friend," focusing on the types of references and their realization. References in communication are very important and have a great role to play in conveying the speaker's message. This study provides a theoretical framework on reference in speech and emphasizes the importance of reference in effective communication. The research methodology involves descriptive qualitative analysis, with data collection through browsing, watching, copying, selecting, and underlying relevant sentences. The research found that there are many anaphoric references in the speech, which play a role in creating cohesion and coherence. The results contribute to the field of linguistics by providing an understanding of the types of reference and their significance in communication. The analysis of Akshata Murthy's speech revealed the use of various types of references, including personal, comparative, and demonstrative references, to create cohesion and coherence. Anaphoric and cataphoric references were effectively used to connect ideas and maintain the flow of the speech. Recommendations for future research include comparing referencing in speeches by different speakers and exploring the impact of figures of speech on audience comprehension and engagement. This research also has practical implications in the understanding of reference in discourse. Overall, this research thoroughly examines the analysis of references in Akshata Murthy's speeches, shedding light on the types of references employed and their manifestations. The research underscores the importance of reference in effective communication and provides insights into the utilization of diverse reference types in establishing cohesion and coherence in speech.

Keywords: *References in Discourse; Types of References; Akshata Murthy; Speech*

How to Cite: Manurung, Siti Tasya Jelita. (2023). References of Discourse and Its Types in Akshata Murthy: Uk's First Lady Speech. *Jurnal Linguistik Terapan*, Pascasarjana Unimed. 20 (3): 304-316.

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the exchange of information and shared understanding between individuals, involving verbal, oral, non-verbal, and written forms. It relies heavily on language, including sentences, words, and smaller units that convey meaning. Effective communication requires both speakers and listeners to work together, using expressions, word choice, and word relationships. Speech is an activity of speaking in public, with the speaker's ability to deliver it playing a key role in effectively conveying the intended message. Pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, studies the meaning in communication between speakers and listeners, focusing on contextual meaning and how context affects what is said. Understanding pragmatics helps us understand the purpose, intentions, assumptions, and actions of speakers when speaking.

Reference is a concept in language that shows the relationship between several elements in a text, appearing in personal pronouns, indicative pronouns, and comparative pronouns. In the context of communication, the roles of sender and receiver are important in defining reference. Collaboration between sender and receiver is essential for successful referencing. Referring to people and things using words is a complex process that involves the speaker's purpose, beliefs, and the listener's ability to make inferences. Vague expressions and vague expressions can be used, and the use of references relies on the interaction between the speaker and the listener.

Previous studies have emphasized the importance of clear and comprehensible references in effective communication, with exophoric references being the most commonly used. This finding suggests the importance of considering the audience's knowledge and context when using references in persuasive speeches.

Semantics and pragmatics are two main branches of the linguistic study of meaning. Semantics focuses on the meaning of words and texts, categorizing languages and rules used in interaction. Yule (1998) stated that semantics is the study of the relationships between linguistic forms and entities in the world, examining how words literally connect to things. It also seeks to establish the relationships between verbal descriptions and states of affairs in the world. Pragmatics, on the other hand, is concerned with the interpretation of linguistic meaning in context. Yule (2010:127) argued that pragmatics focuses on the study of what speakers mean, or 'speaker meaning', which is interpreted by the listener or reader. This approach allows for the analysis of people's intended meanings, assumptions, purposes, and actions.

However, analyzing human concepts in a consistent and objective way is challenging. Communication can be successful when people understand each other's meaning of utterances, allowing the listener or reader to know the real meaning in accordance with the context uttered by the speaker or writer.

Moreover, reference is an action used by speakers or writers to use language to identify something, as it shows the connection between the real situation and the entity. According to Brown and Yule (1983: 28), reference is an action in which the sender uses linguistic forms to enable a receiver to identify something or quote. It enables the receiver to trace participants, entities, events, etc. in a text. Reference is defined as using pronouns and other words to refer to something found in the text, with the reader having to understand them. Referential cohesion plays a special role in creating cohesive ties between elements that can be difficult or impossible to interpret if a single sentence is taken out of context. References are areas of research that deal with how languages relate to the world and can be defined as static relationships between expressions and things that are expressed. In discourse analysis, reference is used as the action of a writer, either in written or spoken form. According to Halliday Hasan, 31, references are usually used to describe a term that requires another reference to interpret what is spoken.

Halliday and Hasan (37) differentiate references into three types: personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. Personal reference refers to functions in speech or situation, while demonstrative reference refers to place or location on a scale of proximity. Comparative reference, on the other hand, is an indirect reference used to compare something with similarities, indicating identity or similarity.

Halliday and Hasan's theory of reference (32) categorized it into situational and textual references. Situational reference, often referred to as exophora, lead to immediate effects, while textual references or endophora lead to textbook effects or just mentioned effects. Exophoric refers to non-verbal items outside the text context, such as the "me" word in the sentence "Help me!".

Endophora refers to the context, participant identification with reference to the linguistic in the text. It occurs when the writer refers to something or someone identified in the text either following. Anaphora is a variation used by speakers or writers to maintain its reference, using pronouns or other elements to refer back to something that has gone earlier. Anaphora is a form of repetition used by speakers or writers to refer back to something that has been mentioned

before, and can be explained by the interpretation of the antecedent. Cataphora is the opposite direction of anaphora, using pronouns explained before the reference. It is rare and has special limits, with the word on the left of the sentence becoming the reference for the next phrase. Cataphoric reference refers to any reference that points forward to information that will be presented later in the text. Cataphora rarely appears in a sentence when compared with anaphora.

Brown (2001: 250) stated that monologue is the speaking where one person uses spoken language for a long time, such as in speeches, lectures, readings, and news broadcasts. The main form of monologue is a speech, which is a formal talk given to a large audience on a special occasion. Speeches are the most common form of monologue, given to a large number of people on a special occasion. The type of speech depends on the situation, place, purpose, and content. Informational speeches aim to share new ideas and build perceptions. In politics, speech is important, especially in linguistic research, as politicians often use the power of speech to influence voters and gain support.

The research aims to analyze the references used in a speech by Indian First Lady of UK, Akshata Murthy, focusing on the exophora and endophora strategies used in her speech, "Best Friend." Exophora and endophora are persuasion strategies used in speeches to elicit specific responses from the audience. The researcher aims to understand how these strategies are employed to create an artistic effect. Akshata Murthy, the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayan Murthy, unexpectedly appeared on the political platform to present her "Best Friend," Rishi Sunak, during his inaugural speech as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The conversation between the two reveals their shared lives and motivations for Rishi's service to his nation. The audience responded positively to the speech, and the use of references in the speech enhances its coherence and organization. The study aims to classify references as endophora or exophora and identify the most frequently used type to provide a comprehensive understanding of how references support powerful communication.

METHODOLOGY

This research used a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze exophora and endophora in Akshata Murthy's speech, which was recorded on October 03rd, 2023. The data was collected through a method that involved examining the speech's transcript, which included exophora and endophora. The data was collected through various methods, including browsing the video,

watching it, making the transcript, selecting the sentences that included exophora and endophora, and underlying the sentences.

The data was analyzed using the Miles and Huberman theory (in Sugiyono, 2010:20), which consists of data reduction, categorization, and conclusion. Data reduction involved selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data into a written transcript. The data was then categorized into referents and concluded by identifying the anaphora and cataphora from the data display. This qualitative research method allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussion of the research on references in Akshata Murthy's speech "Best Friend" provide valuable insights into the types and role of references in communication. The analysis revealed that various types of references, including personal, comparative, and demonstrative references, were utilized in the speech to create cohesion and coherence. Anaphoric and cataphoric references were effectively employed by the speaker to connect ideas and maintain the flow of the speech. The research indicated that anaphora references were the most frequently occurring type in the speech, accounting for 57% of the references, followed by exophora references at 31%, with cataphora references being the least occurring type at 12%.

Table 1. The Percentage of Types of References Used in Akshata Murthy's speech "Best Friend"

No	Types of Reference	Total	Percentages (%)
1.	Exophora References	18	31
2.	Anaphora References	33	57
3.	Cataphora References	7	12
		58	100

The study highlighted the importance of references in communication, emphasizing their role in creating effective discourse and conveying the speaker's message. By categorizing and analyzing the referents in the speech, the research provided a deeper understanding of how references contribute to the overall effectiveness of communication. The examples presented in the analysis illustrated how references are realized in speeches, shedding light on their significance in semantics and pragmatics.

Furthermore, the research contributes to the field of linguistics by offering a theoretical framework for understanding the types and realizations of references in speech. The findings suggest that a comprehensive analysis of references in speeches can enhance comprehension of pragmatics and language usage, providing a basis for further research in the field. The study's focus on exophora and endophora theory adds to the existing body of knowledge on references in communication, offering insights that can be applied in teaching and learning processes.

The Types of References in Akshata Murthy: UK's First Lady Speech

1. Exophora References

Exophoric reference is a type of grammatical cohesion whose meaning depends on the context outside the text because there is no mention of the referent in the previous text.

For data:

- a. *We're* almost at good afternoon.

“*We're*” which refers to the speaker and possibly other people in the immediate context outside of the text, is the exophoric reference in this sentence. The usage of “*We're*” implies a personal reference, implying the speaker's presence and participation in the impending change to “good afternoon”. By establishing a connection between the speaker and the audience as well as the current setting, the employment of exophoric and personal references enhances the speech's cohesiveness and coherence.

2. Endophora References

Endophoric reference is a type of grammatical cohesion that refers to something within the exact text. Both types of endophoric references, namely: anaphora and cataphora, appear in the news texts. However, the number of occurrences of anaphora is more than cataphora.

For data:

- a. Sometimes when the going gets tough, I remind *Rishi* that *he's* fighting for *his* values, that *he's* fighting for this party's values, knowing that it's a hard road ahead, but success is hard won.

“I remind *Rishi*,” an anaphoric reference that seeks clarification by going back in the text, is used. The use of “*Rishi*,” which designates the particular person being addressed in the discourse, implies the personal reference. By establishing a connection between the speaker,

the listener, and the particular person named, these references strengthen the speech's cohesiveness and coherence.

- b. He shares *your values*, and he knows how much *you* care about the future of the UK, but also about the struggles and the challenges that *people* are facing today and the potential we all see in a better tomorrow, not just for a few, but for *everyone in our country*.

“*Your values*”, “*you*”, “*people*” and “*everyone in our country*” .is a cataphoric reference which requires subsequent text to establish the relationship between the item and the referent. The personal reference is implicit in the use of "you," indicating the specific individual being referred to in the speech. these references contribute to the cohesion and coherence of the speech, connecting the speaker to the audience and the specific individual mentioned.

The Realizations of the Types of References in Akshata Murthy: UK’s First Lady Speech

The data that have been collected are 12 data in a video selected by the researcher via a script provided by English Speeches Website.

1. *I* just got away with good morning.

In this data, the speaker opens his speech by saying good morning greetings to the audience.

This data showed “*I*” as the exophora reference. The personal references “*I*” referred to the speaker aka Akshata Murthy. The role of exophora is as the reference which is external to the current discourse, pointing to something outside the conversation.

2. A bit of a surprise addition, *shall we say*.

In this data, the speaker explained a speaker who came on stage suddenly and surprised everyone.

This data showed “*shall we say*” to refer the sets up the idea that follows, hinting at the surprise addition. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is cataphora because pronoun is used before the reference is explained. The role of cataphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation.

3. And a surprise for *my husband* too, *who has no idea* what I’m going to say.

In this data, the speaker surprised her husband and he wondered what she would say.

There “*my husband*” referred to “*who has no idea*”. The personal references “*my husband*” refers back to the speaker’s spouse mentioned earlier. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is cataphora because pronoun is used before the reference is explained. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation.

4. When I told *our lovely girls, Krishna and Anushka*, about being here today, *they* were also quite surprised

In this data, the speaker also surprised his two daughters with her presence on the stage.

There are two personal references “*our lovely girls*” and “*they*”. Both of personal references refers to her daughters’ name “*Krishna and Anushka*”. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is anaphora because the reference is explained before pronoun. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation. It exists between *our lovely girls, Krishna and Anushka, they* which refer to the same thing.

5. But look, the reason why I’m *here* is really quite simple

In this data, the speaker was still saying about her surprise as he makes a speech in front of everyone.

The word of “*here*” in the sentence is a demonstrative reference which refers back to the speaker being present in the current situation. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is anaphora because pronoun is used to refer back to something that has been mentioned earlier. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation.

6. *The cheesier, the better* even.

In this data, talking about the speaker talks about the things that Rishi likes the most and that includes rom com films even though they look cheesy and are getting better.

There “*The cheesier, the better*” as the exophora reference. Because it relies on external context or knowledge. It’s comparing the level of cheesiness but doesn’t explicitly mention what it is being compared to.

7. *Aspiration* is what drove his family many years ago to move to the UK.

In this data, the speaker told why they moved to the UK.

There “*aspiration*” referred to “*what drove his family*” The word “*aspiration*” refers cataphorically to the upcoming explanation of “*what drove his family*”. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is cataphora because pronoun is used before the reference is explained. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation.

8. And *aspiration* is what drives Rishi, to build for a better country and a better life for all our young people *to look forward to*.

In this data, the speaker told why they moved to the UK.

There “*aspiration*” referred to “*to look forward to*” The word “*to look forward to*” refers cataphorically to the idea that follows describing the aspirations for a better country and life. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is cataphora because pronoun is used before the reference is explained. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation.

9. But two much *more important things*.

In this data, talking about the speaker’s personal experience. She said the things that were most important to her and the reason she was with her husband. This datum contains comparative reference in this sentence. The word that representing the comparative reference is “*more*” in “*more important things*”. The speaker told the two more important things that made her feel enamoured of her husband. The aspect of endophora that appears in this data is cataphora because she is using comparative references *more* at something which has not been mentioned. The role of cataphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation which lies in “*more*” and “*things*”. This cohesive relation is affected by the presence of both referring item and the item that it refers to.

10. *His deep love for his home*, the United Kingdom, and *his sincere desire* to ensure as many people as possible have a chance to have the opportunities *he* was lucky enough to have had, it completely energized *him*.

In this data, the speaker said two more important things mentioned in the previous sentence about her husband.

There are three personal references “*His deep love for his home and his sincere desire*”, “*he*” and “*him*”. Three of personal references refer to her husband’s name “*Rishi*”. The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is anaphora because the reference is explained before pronoun. The role of anaphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation. It exists between “*His deep love for his home and his sincere desire*”, “*he*” and “*him*” which refer to the same thing.

11. He shares *your values*, and he knows how much *you* care about the future of the UK, but also about the struggles and the challenges that *people* are facing today and the potential we all see in a better tomorrow, not just for a few, but for *everyone in our country*.

In this data, the speaker spoke about how valuable the people were in front of him and praised them. And that was the reason her husband took care of them

This data showed “*your*” in “*your values*” and “*people*” refer to “*everyone in our country*”.

The aspect of endophora that the speaker used is cataphora because pronoun is used before the reference is explained. The role of cataphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation

12. You know *that doing the right thing for the long term*, even when *it’s hard*, is the right thing to do.

In this data, the speaker said something that her husband had to do despite the challenges he would face later on.

The word of “*it’s hard*” in the sentence is a comparative reference which refers back to the previous mention of the challenges. The aspect of endophora that appears in this data is cataphora because she is using comparative references “*hard*” and “*that doing the right thing for the long term*” which has not been mentioned. The role of cataphora in this data gives the sentences a cohesive relation which lies in *more* and *things*. This cohesive relation is affected by the presence of both referring item and the item that it refers to.

The realizations of the types of references in Akshata Murthy: UK’s First Lady Speech are categorized into exophoric and endophoric references, which further divide into anaphoric and cataphoric references. Exophoric references pertain to elements external to the text, while endophoric references concern elements within the text. Anaphoric references involve looking

back within the text for clarification, while cataphoric references require subsequent text to establish the relationship between items and referents. These realizations of references play a crucial role in creating cohesion in the speech and contribute to the overall effectiveness of communication.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of Akshata Murthy's speech, it can be seen that various types of references, including personal, comparative, and demonstrative references, are used to create cohesion and coherence. The speaker effectively uses anaphoric and cataphoric references to connect ideas and maintain the flow of the speech. This research has provided valuable insights into the importance of references in communication, explaining their role in creating effective discourse.

The findings of the research indicate that the most frequently occurring references in Akshata Murthy's speech were anaphora references (57%), followed by exophora references (31%), and the least occurring type was cataphora references (12%).

The findings of this study show the frequency of occurrence of different types of references in speeches, highlighting the importance of references in conveying the speaker's message. The examples provided in the analysis illustrate how those references are realized in speeches, contributing to the overall effectiveness of communication.

In conclusion, the analysis of references in Akshata Murthy's speech not only enriches our understanding of semantics and pragmatics, but also emphasizes the practical application of references in language. This research makes a valuable contribution to the field of linguistics, providing a theoretical framework for understanding the types and realizations of reference in speech and their significance in communication.

REFERENCES

- Adetunji, A. (2006). Inclusion and Exclusion in Political Discourse: Deixis in Olusegun Obasanjo's Speeches. Nigeria, *Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 5 (2), 177-191.
- Al-Khalidy, H. O. (2018, December 31). Discourse Analysis of References in the Speech of Amir of Qatar Sheik Tamim Bin Hamad Al -Thani in the 72 Session of the United Nations

- General Assembly. *International Journal of Linguistics*, 10(6), 291. <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v10i6.14158>
- Bloor, T., & Bloor, M. (2013). *The functional analysis of English: A Hallidayan Approach (3rd ed.)*. London: Routledge.
- Bouk, E. (2016). Pragmatic Analysis Of Deixisi in the Speeches of Xanana Gusmao-Former Prime Minister of Timor Leste. *Jurnal Tutur. Universitas Timor*, 2(2), 41- 49
- Dewirsyah, A. R. (2018). Reference and Inference of Song Lyrics in the Album Monochrome Written by Tulus. Budapest International Research and Critics Institute (*BIRCI-Journal*) : *Humanities and Social Sciences*, 1 (2), 107–124. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v1i2.17>
- Fakhrudin, M. Z. (2019). *Reference and Inference in English Pragmatics. Bachelor Degree Student of English Department*. Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo: Sidoarjo. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329982523_Reference_and_Inference_in_English_Pragmatics
- Brown, G., & Yule, G. (1983). *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge University Press.
- Halliday, M.A.K and Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman Group, Ltd
- Horn, L., & Ward, G. (2006). *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Imran, M. A., & Evawanti, N. R. (2017). Analisis Bentuk dan Fungsi Referensi Personal dalam Novel Rembulan Tenggelam Diwajahmu Karya Tere Liye. *Konfiks: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 2 (1), 32. <https://doi.org/10.26618/jk.v2i1.403>
- Muhimatun Asroriyah, A. (2021). The Use of References in English News Published by Jakarta Post and New York Time Online Newspaper. *English Education and Literature Journal (E-Jou)*, 1(02), 85–92. <https://doi.org/10.53863/ejou.v1i02.146>
- Purnamawati, N. (2012). *Referential Cohesion in My Mother My Self by Nancy Friday*. Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Sastra Unud. (4), 1-9. University of Udayana Indonesia
- Sinaga, E. (2018). *The Analysis of Anaphora and Cataphora Found on Obama's Speech Indonesia's Example to the World*. University HKBP Nommensen: Medan
- Shofiana Jamilah, A., Larasati, A., & Nasiroh Khoirun Nisa, L. (2023). Anaphoric And Cataphoric References Used in the Chapel Short Story. *FRASA: English Education and Literature Journal*, 4 (2), 68–75. <https://doi.org/10.47701/frasa.v4i2.2910>
- Sukmiarni, A. and Hastuti, D.FF. (2020). Analysis of Reference in A Speech of Greta Thunberg. *Journal Sastra Studi Ilmiah Sastra*, 10(2). 77-24

- Sugiharto S. (2004). Reference, Anaphora, and Deixis: An Overview. *Jurnal Bahasa & Sastra*, 4 (2), 134-145
- Sultonov, & Numonova. (2021). *The Analyses of Reference in Discourse and Its Main Types*. *European Scholar Journal*, 2(4). 200-202
- Thompson, G. (2014). *Introducing Functional Grammar. The 3rd edition*. Routledge
- Parameitha A. A. (2018). *An Analysis of Textual Reference on Ted Talks the Best Way to Help Is Often Just to Listen by Sophie Andrews*. University Syarief Hidayatullah: Jakarta
- Yule, George. (1997). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, United Kingdom.