

# Deixis Analysis of Gabriel Iglesias's Utterances in Stand-Up Comedy *We Have So Much in Common* (2023)

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## Abstract

*Deixis is discussed in this study. The Greek word for "pointing by language" is this one. Deixis existed in written or spoken language. For learners or English speakers to grasp, these items are crucial. The purpose of this study was to identify the many forms of deixis and their references in Gabriel's stand-up comedy We Have So Much in Common. In examining the information, the author applies George Yule's idea. The descriptive design of this study was implemented through the use of qualitative techniques and numerical data conversion. The movie was downloaded from Gabriel's YouTube channel in order to collect the statistics. Subsequently, the data is examined by watching the comedy show, writing down the subtitles, and categorizing the statements that contain deixis. The study's conclusions demonstrated that Gabriel used three different forms of deixis in his speech: person deixis, which appeared 674 times, spatial deixis, which occurred 254 times, and temporal deixis, which appeared 62 times. The kind of deixis most frequently encountered in person deixis. The use of personal deixis indicated the participant in this comedy show. While the spatial deixis indicated the location and place of the event from the participant. Moreover, the temporal deixis specifies the time of speech events which is used in this comedy act.*

**Keywords:** pragmatic, deixis, Stand-up Comedy

## Introduction

Demonstrative pronouns and deictic adverbs that point to a specific location or point of reference are known as deixis. In addition to being a significant area of language study in and of itself, deixis is somewhat related to pragmatics and conversation analysis. It addresses how languages encode or grammaticalize the components of the speech event or utterance context and how the analysis of that utterance context influences the interpretation of utterances (Levinson, 1983). For instance, although this and that imply that something is far away, they also imply that something is close to the speaker's mouth.

The categories can be used to analyze language when the listener or addressee is unclear about the speaker's meaning. Thus, Deixis can aid in language comprehension. Five categories of deixis are included in Levinson's (1983) theory: person, time, location, social, and discourse deixis. Even as the speech is being delivered, person deixis is interested in how the roles of the participants are expressed. Spatial deixis is the process of designating locations for the anchorage points of a speech event. The moment of utterance is used as a reference point by temporal deixis, often referred to as time deixis, to identify points or intervals on the time axis.

Conversely, discourse deixis examines the ways in which words are employed to allude to particular topics of discussion. Sentence components that depict specific participant realities or the social setting in which the speech is occurring are the focus of social deixis. The use of deixis in spoken communication is intimately associated with thought delivery. Because it encodes elements of the utterance's context, Deixis interprets every word or phrase that is said. But every individual has a unique way of understanding a phrase or a sentence. As a result, when the researcher describes the many forms of deixis, it will be easy for the audiences to comprehend how to use it.

A type of oral communication known as stand-up comedy uses the language's ability to amuse and entertain others. Stand-up comedy, as described by Mintz (1985), is essentially any situation in which a lone performer interacts with an audience, acting dramatically and telling jokes without the aid of props, scenery, or costumes. The main objective of stand-up comedy, a type of performance art, is to get audiences to laugh aloud. In stand-up comedy, the comedian's performance greatly depends on the quick feedback from the audience. Stand-up comedians are always under pressure to make people laugh, and most of the time they succeed in doing so.

Drawing from the aforementioned, the author seeks to pinpoint deixis in Gabriel Iglesias' stand-up comedy, *We Have So Much In Common* (2023). American stand-up comedian Gabriel Iglesias. He was among the top 10 highest paid comedians worldwide in 2018. And because to his signature Hawaiian outfits, he is still hugely popular today. In addition, Iglesias performs on stage. He

has made appearances in a number of animated and live-action TV movies and series.

## **Literary Review**

### **Pragmatic**

One branch of linguistics called pragmatics studies the interaction between language and speech situation. Context refers to the things outside of language that pragmatics studies. This study illustrates how meaning can be expressed through the speaker's implicit meaning, the listener's implicit meaning, the speech's context, and the knowledge of all participants in the conversation.

Pragmatics is the study of language users' capacity to match phrases with appropriate contexts, according to Levinson (1983:24). Moreover, pragmatics is concerned with the application of knowledge and its patterns in meaningful communication, according to Griffiths (2006: 1). Put more simply, pragmatics examines how language is efficiently utilized to transmit meaning in everyday contexts. It's not just about the words; it's also about the intentions behind them and the context in which they are used.

### **Deixis**

One area of pragmatics called deixis studies the utterances or circumstances found in sentences or speech. Things that are immediately pertinent to the speaker's context are referred to as deixis. Another name for it is "pointing via language." Yule (1996) states that person, geographic, and temporal deixis can be utilized to denote people, locations, or periods through deictic utterances. These are some of the first words that kids say. The researcher draws the conclusion that the word "deixis" alludes to something that is constantly moving or changing based on the speaker's context from the previously provided information. The researcher's idea is based on Yule's (1996) division of deixis into three categories: temporal, spatial, and person.

### **Stand-up Comedy**

A one-man show, or direct performance by a single individual on a stage, is known as stand-up comedy. According to Yamazaki (2010), stand-up comedy is a

popular kind of humor in which the performer addresses the audience directly while cracking jokes or sharing amusing anecdotes. It permits response, involvement, and interaction from the audience that the artist is speaking to (Brodie, 2014). Comedians, comedians, or stand-up comedians are the terms most commonly used to describe those who do stand-up comedy events.

## **Research Method**

The method employed by the researcher was descriptive qualitative. It indicates that the description and interpretation of the research's findings were its main focus. According to Meriam (2009:5), the goal of qualitative research is to comprehend how individuals make sense of their experiences, interpret them, and generate language. A few methods were used to gather the data. They were looking through Gabriel Iglesias' stand-up comedy video. After downloading Gabriel Iglesias's chosen video, After watching the video and beginning to write Gabriel Iglesias's speech subtitles, choose the statements that might be deixis-containing. The results of the data are reported by the researcher in a few steps. The researcher conducted the following tasks: data reduction, data display, interpretation, conclusion and verification.

## **Finding and Discussion**

### **Person Deixis**

#### ***Datum 1***

Gabriel: “Martin and I just got back from India.”

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting his recent trip to India with his friend Martin.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel.

#### ***Datum 2***

Gabriel: “So let me tell you”

**Context:** Gabriel is addressing the audience, announcing his intention to share a story.

**Deixis:** "me" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "you" - second-person deixis referring to the audience.

#### ***Datum 3***

Gabriel: “Will they understand English, okay?”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing people's concerns about his trip to India.

**Deixis:** "they" - third-person deixis referring to Indians.

***Datum 4***

Gabriel: “Once we got there, I came to find out that more people speak English in India than in all of the US and Canada put together.”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing his experience upon arriving in India.

**Deixis:** "we" - first-person plural deixis referring to Gabriel and Martin; "I" - first-person singular deixis referring to Gabriel.

***Datum 5***

Gabriel: “They understand American culture so much more than we understand theirs.”

**Context:** Gabriel is talking about cultural understanding between Americans and Indians.

**Deixis:** "they" - third-person deixis referring to Indians; "we" - first-person plural deixis referring to Gabriel and Americans; "theirs" - third-person possessive deixis referring to Indian culture.

***Datum 6***

Gabriel: “The guy is checking us into the hotel, and he's cool.”

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting his interaction with a hotel employee in India.

**Deixis:** "us" - first-person plural deixis referring to Gabriel and Martin; "he" - third-person deixis referring to the hotel employee.

***Datum 7***

Gabriel: “I knew it, I thought it was you, I thought it was you.”

**Context:** Gabriel is mimicking someone's reaction to seeing him.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to the hotel guest; "it" - third-person deixis referring to the situation; "you" - second-person deixis referring to Gabriel.

***Datum 8***

Gabriel: “Everywhere you go, things are different, and that's just how they express themselves in India.”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing cultural differences.

**Deixis:** "you" - second-person deixis referring to the audience; "they" - third-person deixis referring to Indians; "themselves" - third-person reflexive deixis referring to Indians.

***Datum 9***

Gabriel: "Mexicans, our head movement is front to back."

**Context:** Gabriel is comparing head movements of Mexicans and Indians.

**Deixis:** "our" - first-person plural deixis referring to Gabriel and Mexicans.

***Datum 10***

Gabriel: "I made myself dizzy doing that."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing his reaction to mimicking Indian head movements.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "myself" - reflexive deixis referring to Gabriel.

***Datum 11***

Gabriel: "Overall, it's a well-balanced trip."

**Context:** Gabriel is summarizing his trip to India.

**Deixis:** "it" - third-person deixis referring to the trip.

***Datum 12***

Gabriel: "It's an actual language when people are driving."

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing the use of car horns in India.

**Deixis:** "it" - third-person deixis referring to the use of car horns.

***Datum 13***

Gabriel: "I asked the question, and I found out. It's believed that cows are people who have died, and they've been reincarnated, and their new life is now the cow, which is why they don't eat them and why they give them all the love and respect in the world over there."

**Context:** Gabriel is explaining the Indian belief about cows.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "it" - third-person deixis referring to the belief; "they" - third-person deixis referring to Indians; "their" - possessive deixis referring to Indians; "them" - third-person deixis referring to cows.

***Datum 14***

Gabriel: “And I hand on the money and he goes, "Very good. Let's go." And we take off.”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing his interaction with a taxi driver.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "he" - third-person deixis referring to the taxi driver; "we" - first-person plural deixis referring to Gabriel and the taxi driver.

#### ***Datum 15***

Gabriel: “And you know how you start to mentally and physically prepare yourself for the deceleration of the car and you start anticipating the pressure from the break?”

**Context:** Gabriel is talking to the audience about their common experiences as passengers.

**Deixis:** "you" - second-person deixis referring to the audience; "yourself" - reflexive deixis referring to the audience.

#### ***Datum 16***

Gabriel: “He didn’t even know what he did. He looks at me. He goes, "What is wrong?" "What do you mean, what is wrong? Dude, didn’t you see the red light?”.”

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting a conversation with a taxi driver.

**Deixis:** "he" - third-person deixis referring to the taxi driver; "me" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "you" - second-person deixis referring to the taxi driver.

#### ***Datum 17***

Gabriel: “he's cracking more jokes, the crowd keeps laughing.”

**Context:** Gabriel is talking about his friend Martin during a comedy show.

**Deixis:** "he" - third-person deixis referring to Martin.

#### ***Datum 18***

Gabriel: “Martin walks out on stage, and the crowd recognized him and they started chanting, “Martin!”.”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the audience's reaction to Martin.

**Deixis:** "him" - third-person deixis referring to Martin; "they" - third-person deixis referring to the crowd.

***Datum 19***

Gabriel: “And the guy in the middle looks at me and he goes, “We are from Germany!”.”

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting an interaction with a German audience member.

**Deixis:** "me" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "he" - third-person deixis referring to the German audience member; "we" - first-person plural deixis referring to the German audience member and his companions.

***Datum 20***

Gabriel: “And they're flying around and they're hanging out in the rafters and one of them decides to fly down”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the behavior of fruit bats during his show.

**Deixis:** "they" - third-person deixis referring to the fruit bats; "them" - third-person deixis referring to the fruit bats.

***Datum 21***

Gabriel: “Five minutes go by, five minutes go by, all of a sudden, the Germans got offended at the fact that I left them out of my drinking joke.”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing the audience's reaction to one of his jokes.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "them" - third-person deixis referring to the Germans; "my" - possessive deixis referring to Gabriel.

***Datum 22***

Gabriel: “She's like... like she's jaded, she doesn't laugh at my jokes anymore.”

**Context:** Gabriel is talking about his girlfriend's reaction to his jokes.

**Deixis:** "she" - third-person deixis referring to Gabriel's girlfriend; "my" - possessive deixis referring to Gabriel.

***Datum 23***

Gabriel: “My son Frankie, on the other hand, is dying.”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing his son's reaction to his jokes.

**Deixis:** "my" - possessive deixis referring to Gabriel; "he" - third-person deixis referring to Frankie.

***Datum 24***

Gabriel: “I go, "What's so funny about the Germans?" "The way that they speak”.”



**Context:** Gabriel is recounting a conversation with his son.

**Deixis:** "I" - first-person deixis referring to Gabriel; "they" - third-person deixis referring to the Germans.

### **Spatial Deixis**

#### ***Datum 1***

Gabriel: "Martin and I just got back from India."

**Context:** Gabriel is informing the audience about his return from a trip.

**Deixis:** "India" - place deixis referring to the location of Gabriel's trip.

#### ***Datum 2***

Gabriel: "Once we got there, I came to find out that more people speak English in India than in all of the US and Canada put together."

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing his discovery about the prevalence of English in India.

**Deixis:** "there" - place deixis referring to India; "India" - place deixis specifying the location.

#### **Datum 3**

Gabriel: "Overall, it's a well-balanced trip."

**Context:** Gabriel is summarizing his trip.

**Deixis:** "trip" - place deixis referring to the journey.

#### ***Datum 4***

Gabriel: "Everywhere you go, things are different, and that's just how they express themselves in India."

**Context:** Gabriel is commenting on cultural differences.

**Deixis:** "everywhere" - place deixis referring to different locations; "India" - place deixis specifying the location.

#### ***Datum 5***

Gabriel: "I asked the question, and I found out. It's believed that cows are people who have died, and they've been reincarnated, and their new life is now the cow, which is why they don't eat them and why they give them all the love and respect in the world over there."

**Context:** Gabriel is explaining the Indian belief about cows.

**Deixis:** "there" - place deixis referring to India; "world" - general place deixis.

### *Datum 6*

Gabriel: “Martin walks out on stage, and the crowd recognized him and they started chanting, “Martin!”.”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing Martin's appearance at a show.

**Deixis:** "stage" - place deixis referring to the performance area.

### *Datum 7*

Gabriel: “And they're flying around and they're hanging out in the rafters and one of them decides to fly down”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the behavior of fruit bats.

**Deixis:** "rafters" - place deixis referring to the structure in the performance venue.

### *Datum 8*

Gabriel: “Five minutes go by, five minutes go by, all of a sudden, the Germans got offended at the fact that I left them out of my drinking joke.”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing the audience's reaction.

**Deixis:** "out" - place deixis referring to the exclusion of the Germans from the joke.

### *Datum 9*

Gabriel: “Our journey was crazy. We started in New Delhi and then went to Mumbai.”

**Context:** Gabriel is detailing his travel itinerary.

**Deixis:** "New Delhi" and "Mumbai" - place deixis specifying locations in India.

### Datum 10

Gabriel: “We visited the Taj Mahal.”

**Context:** Gabriel is describing his trip.

**Deixis:** "Taj Mahal" - place deixis specifying the location of their visit.

### **Temporal Deixis**

#### *Datum 1*

Gabriel: “Martin and I just got back from India.”

**Context:** Gabriel is informing the audience about the recentness of his return.

**Deixis:** "just" - temporal deixis indicating a recent past event.

#### *Datum 2*

Gabriel: “Will they understand English, okay?”

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing concerns about language during his trip.

**Deixis:** "will" - temporal deixis indicating a future event.

***Datum 3***

Gabriel: "Once we got there, I came to find out that more people speak English in India than in all of the US and Canada put together."

**Context:** Gabriel is talking about his discovery upon arrival in India.

**Deixis:** "once" - temporal deixis indicating the point in time after their arrival.

**Datum 4**

Gabriel: "I made myself dizzy doing that."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the immediate effect of mimicking Indian head movements.

**Deixis:** "doing that" - temporal deixis referring to the action of mimicking head movements.

**Datum 5**

Gabriel: "Everywhere you go, things are different, and that's just how they express themselves in India."

**Context:** Gabriel is commenting on cultural differences.

**Deixis:** "go" - temporal deixis indicating a general present action.

**Datum 6**

Gabriel: "Overall, it's a well-balanced trip."

**Context:** Gabriel is summarizing his trip.

**Deixis:** "trip" - temporal deixis referring to the duration of the journey.

***Datum 7***

Gabriel: "And I hand on the money and he goes, "Very good. Let's go." And we take off."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing a specific moment during his trip.

**Deixis:** "hand on" - temporal deixis indicating the immediate action; "take off" - temporal deixis indicating the moment of departure.

***Datum 8***

Gabriel: "And you know how you start to mentally and physically prepare yourself for the deceleration of the car and you start anticipating the pressure from the break?"

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing common experiences during travel.

**Deixis:** "start" - temporal deixis indicating the initiation of an action.

***Datum 9***

Gabriel: "And he didn't even know what he did."

**Context:** Gabriel is talking about a taxi driver's lack of awareness of his actions.

**Deixis:** "did" - temporal deixis referring to a past action.

***Datum 10***

Gabriel: "Five minutes go by, five minutes go by, all of a sudden, the Germans got offended at the fact that I left them out of my drinking joke."

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing the passage of time during his show.

**Deixis:** "go by" - temporal deixis indicating the passage of time; "all of a sudden" - temporal deixis indicating a sudden event.

***Datum 11***

Gabriel: "Martin walks out on stage, and the crowd recognized him and they started chanting, "Martin!"."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing a moment during the show.

**Deixis:** "walks out" - temporal deixis indicating a present action; "started" - temporal deixis indicating the initiation of chanting.

***Datum 12***

Gabriel: "She's like... like she's jaded, she doesn't laugh at my jokes anymore."

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing a change in his girlfriend's reactions.

**Deixis:** "anymore" - temporal deixis indicating a shift from the past.

***Datum 13***

Gabriel: "My son Frankie, on the other hand, is dying."

**Context:** Gabriel is discussing his son's current reaction.

**Deixis:** "is" - temporal deixis indicating a present action.

***Datum 14***

Gabriel: "I go, "What's so funny about the Germans?" "The way that they speak"."

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting a conversation.

**Deixis:** "go" - temporal deixis indicating a present action.

***Datum 15***

Gabriel: “I asked the question, and I found out. It's believed that cows are people who have died, and they've been reincarnated, and their new life is now the cow, which is why they don't eat them and why they give them all the love and respect in the world over there.”

**Context:** Gabriel is explaining his findings.

**Deixis:** "asked" - temporal deixis indicating a past action; "now" - temporal deixis indicating the present state.

### **Discourse Deixis**

#### ***Datum 1***

Gabriel: “Martin and I just got back from India.”

**Context:** Gabriel is providing background information for his story.

**Deixis:** "just" - discourse deixis referring to the timing of the background information.

#### ***Datum 2***

Gabriel: “So let me tell you”

**Context:** Gabriel is transitioning to the main part of his story.

**Deixis:** "let me tell you" - discourse deixis indicating the shift in focus.

#### ***Datum 3***

Gabriel: “Will they understand English, okay?”

**Context:** Gabriel is posing a hypothetical question based on past experiences.

**Deixis:** "will" - discourse deixis indicating the projection of a past concern into the present narrative.

#### ***Datum 4***

Gabriel: “Once we got there, I came to find out that more people speak English in India than in all of the US and Canada put together.”

**Context:** Gabriel is setting up the revelation of new information.

**Deixis:** "once" - discourse deixis indicating a sequence in the narrative.

#### ***Datum 5***

Gabriel: “They understand American culture so much more than we understand theirs.”

**Context:** Gabriel is making a comparative statement based on his observations.

**Deixis:** "so much more" - discourse deixis emphasizing the extent of the comparison.

***Datum 6***

Gabriel: "Everywhere you go, things are different, and that's just how they express themselves in India."

**Context:** Gabriel is generalizing his observation.

**Deixis:** "that's just" - discourse deixis indicating the summation of his observation.

***Datum 7***

Gabriel: "And I hand on the money and he goes, "Very good. Let's go." And we take off."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the progression of events.

**Deixis:** "and" - discourse deixis indicating the continuation of events.

***Datum 8***

Gabriel: "But the car never decelerated."

**Context:** Gabriel is contrasting his expectation with reality.

**Deixis:** "but" - discourse deixis indicating the contrast.

***Datum 9***

Gabriel: "And you know how you start to mentally and physically prepare yourself for the deceleration of the car and you start anticipating the pressure from the break?"

**Context:** Gabriel is involving the audience in a shared experience.

**Deixis:** "you know" - discourse deixis indicating the involvement of the audience.

***Datum 10***

Gabriel: "And he didn't even know what he did."

**Context:** Gabriel is providing a conclusion to the specific event.

**Deixis:** "even" - discourse deixis emphasizing the extent of the taxi driver's ignorance.

***Datum 11***

Gabriel: "Our journey was crazy. We started in New Delhi and then went to Mumbai."

**Context:** Gabriel is summarizing the travel itinerary.

**Deixis:** "was" - discourse deixis indicating the conclusion of the journey.

***Datum 12***

Gabriel: "And when we got there, we found out"

**Context:** Gabriel is introducing new information discovered during the trip.

**Deixis:** "when" - discourse deixis indicating the sequence of events.

***Datum 13***

Gabriel: "Five minutes go by, five minutes go by, all of a sudden, the Germans got offended at the fact that I left them out of my drinking joke."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing the audience's reaction.

**Deixis:** "all of a sudden" - discourse deixis indicating the unexpected nature of the reaction.

***Datum 14***

Gabriel: "Martin walks out on stage, and the crowd recognized him and they started chanting, "Martin!"."

**Context:** Gabriel is describing a specific moment during the show.

**Deixis:** "and" - discourse deixis indicating the continuation of events.

***Datum 15***

Gabriel: "My son Frankie, on the other hand, is dying."

**Context:** Gabriel is contrasting his son's reaction with his girlfriend's.

**Deixis:** "on the other hand" - discourse deixis indicating the contrast.

***Datum 16***

Gabriel: "I go, "What's so funny about the Germans?" "The way that they speak"."

**Context:** Gabriel is recounting a conversation.

**Deixis:** "I go" - discourse deixis indicating the shift in the narrative.

***Datum 17***

Gabriel: "I asked the question, and I found out. It's believed that cows are people who have died, and they've been reincarnated, and their new life is now the cow, which is why they don't eat them and why they give them all the love and respect in the world over there."

**Context:** Gabriel is explaining his findings.

**Deixis:** "asked" - discourse deixis indicating the past action leading to the explanation.

### ***Datum 18***

Gabriel: "So that's how they explain that to them, and that's how I explain it to you."

**Context:** Gabriel is concluding his explanation.

**Deixis:** "that's how" - discourse deixis indicating the summation of the explanation.

### **Conclusion**

Based on data analysis, the researcher can draw a conclusion after reviewing the preceding chapter. The sorts of deixis and deixis allusions detected in Gabriel Iglesias' stand-up comedy *We Have So Much in Common* were discovered by the researcher. In Gabriel Iglesias' stand-up comedy *We Have So Much in Common*, there are three different kinds of deixis: human, spatial, and temporal. In particular, there were 674 instances of person deixis, 254 instances of spatial deixis, and 62 instances of temporal deixis. Thus, there were 990 different types of deixis. Person deixis primarily refers to Gabriel in this stand-up comedy because he is the show's speaker. Next, since the comedy act took place in the US and the speaker primarily discussed his trip to India, spatial deixis primarily alludes to the US and India. Last but not least, as the speaker brought up the trip to India during the comedy show, temporal deixis mostly relates to that period of time.

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