CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication in daily life. However, communication does not always work smoothly because sometimes the speaker’s message can not be conveyed well. So, misunderstanding may occur when a hearer interprets the utterance because of the different situation related to who, where, and when the utterances are uttered. Some sentences are impossible to understand when the hearer does not know who, when and where the sentences are conveyed. It needs to know the context of the utterances in order that misunderstanding and misinterpretation can be avoided.

Spoken and written language sometimes can be ambiguous to a hearer or addressee. Misunderstanding and misinterpretation do not only occur in oral expressions, but also in written expressions such as the interpretation of an authors’ expression expressed in short stories or novels. In reading English novels, sometimes readers get difficulties in understanding the sentences to interpret the message.
Therefore, understanding written expressions also needs the context, in this case, who, where and when the expressions are made. That is included in deixis theory.

The theory which deals with pointing to something is called deixis. It is derived from Greek language which means “to point a thing”. According to Yule (2010: 130), deixis which is used to point to things and people are called person deixis, words and phrases used to point to a location are called spatial deixis, and those used to point to a time are called temporal deixis. The theory of deixis is chosen because deixis is used to point to a thing in order to make clear what the speaker means. The writer chooses the novel to be analyzed because the writer has assumed that novel has many kinds of deixis that can be analyzed.

This study is focused on deixis in the novel entitled Helen Keller written by George Sullivan. Deixis studied here is focused on the types of deixis which includes the deixis which points to a person or thing, location, and time. Helen Keller novel was based on the true story of Helen Keller, a blind and deaf girl who succeeded becoming a writer, speaker, and traveler. This novel contains a very good one which may inspire the people who read it because it is full of good emotions which take the main character to be successful in her life although she lives with limitedness. The writer of this study supposed that this novel is necessary to be read by many people to encourage them to face life enthusiastically because the main character of this novel was described as an enthusiastic person to realize her dreams.

Considering that Helen Keller novel is good to read, the writer thinks that this novel also needs to be analyzed in terms of the deixis, namely person, spatial, and
temporal deixis because by knowing the deixis, the readers of the novel can know the context at least in terms of person, place, and time which are referred to in order to be clear in catching what the author meant. So, the readers of the novel will not misunderstand nor misinterpret the contents.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the problems can be formulated as follows:

“What are the deixises and their types of deixis used by Helen as the main character in George Sullivan’s novel?”

1.3 The purposes of the Study

Related to the statement of problems above, the purposes of the study can be explained as follows:

“To classify the deixises and their types used by Helen as the main character in George Sullivan’s novel.”

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to have both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study is expected to encourage the students that deixis theory is important to understand to avoid misunderstanding utterances. Practically, this study
gives more proofs of deixis usage, so, the readers of this study can understand the theory of deixis more easily.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on deixis in the George Sullivan’s novel Helen Keller. This deixis here is limited only the types of deixis used by Helen as the main character in the George Sullivan’s novel Helen Keller.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Deixis is using words such as this, that, now, here, there, as a way of pointing with language (Yule, 2010).

Main Character is the most important character in a story (Koesnosoebroto, 1988). The main character of this novel is a girl names Helen.