

Gestures and Their Meanings of Main Character in Daniel's Movie Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)

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ABSTRACT

Gesture is a unique nonverbal communication signal, whereby a person conveys a message or expresses himself through conscious or unconscious movements, body movements, and facial expressions" (Vijay, 2013). This study aims to analyze gestures and meaning based on the context of gestures supported by utterances. According to Sugiyono (2013: 13), this research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology. This study uses the theory of McNeil (2005) that classifies gestures into four types, namely Iconic, Deictic, Metaphor, and Beat. The data used in this research is in the form of screenshots taken from the movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once (20"2)" by Daniel. Four types of gestures are found in the movie, as the researcher has done in the analysis. There are 122 data found. There are 11 (9%) data as iconic gestures, 22 (18%) data as deictic gestures, 15 (12%) data as metaphor gestures, and 75 (61%) data as beat gestures. From the data analyzed, the meaning of the gesture is supported by the utterances in dialog (Semantic Meaning). Some gestures meaning is unclear if they are not accompanied or supported by semantic meaning or utterances. Meanwhile, some data do not have a cultural meaning and no relation to the semantic meaning, such as beat type. A beat gesture is a rhythm of speech as a compliment.

KEYWORDS

Gesture; cultural meaning; semantic meaning; movie.

INTRODUCTION

Communication has an essential role in human life to communicate with each other. The method of communication can be separated into two categories: verbal communication, which involves talking and using spoken words, and nonverbal communication, which involves utilizing body language and gestures to convey the message. Humans can express themselves verbally and visually through gestures and bodily motions. In communication, body language is used to convey spoken words. Therefore, you need to comprehend context in order to understand body language.

The term "Gesture" has been defined by McNeill (2005); gestures are movements of everyday events that can be spontaneous, unconscious, and accompanied by speech that can be seen in moving fingers, hands, and arms. Gestures are nonverbal communication that involves gestures of the face, hands, and other body parts for which gestures are usually mentioned, are culturally specific, and can convey different meanings. "Body language (Gesture) is a unique nonverbal communication signal, whereby a person conveys a message or expresses himself through conscious or unconscious movements, body movements, and facial expressions", (Vijay, 2013). There is one of the gestures found from the source of data in "Everything Everyone Were All At Once", as follows :

Preliminary Data (00:04:33)



Joy : Becky's a "she".

Evelyn : You know me. I always mix up "he", "she". And the way you too are dressed, i'm sure, i'm not the only one calling him "he".

In this scene, Evelyn and her child (Joy) are arguing. Then, Evelyn used a deictic gesture because she pointed at someone with her index finger. Based on the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer when she points toward Joy's friend, who is eating, and confirms that she will not consider her friend a man. Therefore, utterance supports gesture.

Previous studies conducted to improve, develop, foster, and preserve conceptual gesture such as (1) Rizkiya, et., al. 2014. *Facial Expression and Gestures of Body Language Analysis of the Male Main Character Jack Mccall in Thousand Words Film 2012* (2) Bell. 2015. *Gestures Used by Margaret Thatcher in the Iron Lady Movie* (3) Jill Rettberg. 2017. *Hand Signs for Lip-syncing: The Emergence of a Gestural Language on Musical.ly as a Video-Based Equivalent to Emoji* (4) Lalu. 2019. *Body Language and Its Universal Meaning: the Interpretation of Body Language in the Little Black Book Film* (5) Rahma, et., al. 2020. *An Analysis of Gesture Found in "A Quiet Place" Film* (6) Merry. 2022. *Verbal and Non-Verbal Profanity Used in Leitch's Deadpool 2 Movie*.

Research on this topic has been carried out before. The difference from some previous studies is the object of the study. The object of research is to analyze gestures and meaning based on the context of gestures supported by utterances. Not only that, the source of data used is also different from the others. This results in different data and results. Researcher is interested in analyzing this film because it has won many awards at the Academy Award.

LITERATURE REVIEW


Gestures as Nonverbal Communication

Gestures are nonverbal communication in the form of hand, shoulder, and finger motions. Gesture, according to Levine and Adelman (1982), "is like specific body movements that carry meaning." Then, according to Liddell (2003), gestures are a way of interacting with others and transmitting sentiments, which is especially beneficial when a person speaks to various people who speak different languages. Furthermore, gestures are frequently completed as evidence that the body is active in thinking and speaking about the thoughts represented in motion (Edward, 2009). Gestures are a part of the body's motion and posture, along with the usage of the feet, shoulders, hands, head, and limbs, according to Knapp and Hall (2006). Not only that, but a gesture, according to Toastmasters (2011), is a


chosen body movement that complements a spoken communication or expresses a certain thought or feeling. So, based on some prior knowledge, gestures as nonverbal communication include movement activities such as the speaker's feet, shoulders, hands, head, and limbs accompanied with the utterances being done. However, gestures can occasionally be performed without the need of words, but they must be altered in context.

McNeill (2005) created dimensions for the varieties of gestures that are influenced Peirce's semiotic classes (1960). Elena Levy suggested a categorization scheme with four categories: iconic, deictic, metaphoric, and beat.

1. Iconic

Iconic is a movement in which the shape of the gesture and/or the manner in which it is done includes the illustrative qualities of the semantic content and is also present in the utterance. Gestures operate as referential symbols because of their iconic likeness to this occurrence. However, words and gestures are not the same thing. For example, in one conversation, Sarah and John are discussing their plans for the weekend. Sarah and John use iconic gestures to convey to show John's interest in Sarah's invitation. John uses a thumbs  up to show his agreement and interest in joining Sarah at the Saturday night concert.

2. Deictic

Deictic is a hand action with an extended index finger, however practically any portion of the body or item grasped can be used to point. If the hand is not utilized, we can improvise pointing with the head, nose, elbow, foot, and so on; in fact, some cultures prescribe deixis with the lips (Enfield 2001). Many of the arguments made in adult discourse and narrative do not refer to real things or locations, but rather to the abstract (McNeill et al., 2005). For example, a soccer player points his index finger  to the sky to express satisfaction and prays to God to give thanks.

3. Metaphor

A metaphor is a movement that uses parables to explain meaning. (For example, cupping hands as though to "hold," the meaning reflects the metaphor). Other motions make use of space metaphorically. A speaker, for example, separates the movement steps in front of him based on the appearance-reality dimension of the moral being linked with the story's protagonists. Metaphor allows an extremely nice image to have several meanings that cannot be imagined by itself. If language cannot be divorced from the picture, then metaphor and metaphorical movement are critical in bringing abstract material into touch with the image, and therefore in language's ability to deliver this sort of information (McNeill, 2005). According to McNeill (1992), metaphors are frequently embodied in gestural representations that express abstract concepts in terms of visuals. This metaphor is frequently incorporated in motions describing the holding or transferring of goods. A speaker may, for example, someone holding his hand up to his forehead to indicate thinking or confusion.

4. Beat

When motions acquire shape in hand beating time, they are referred to as 'knocks' by McNeill (2005). Beats are among the simplest formal gestures. It is a rhythmic movement of the hands up and down or back and forth in time with the rhythm of speech. For example, someone gives a hand clap to his friends after his friend was invited to stand on the stage to get award as a winner in the swimming competition.

Meaning Gestures

Raah (2015) asserts that gestures can convey intentions, feelings, or thoughts. Certain movements, including:

- Waving with an open palm means goodbye
- Waving a fist in someone's face means threat or anger
- Thumbs pointing up means everything is fine
- Thumbs pointing down means rejection or something went wrong
- Clapping means appreciation and / or happiness
- Putting your hand behind your head means super confidence and self assurance.

Then, gestures have many meanings, one of which is hand motions or hand gestures that differ greatly between cultures. Hands with palms facing down, for example, figuratively or literally grasp or hold another person. This might be a commanding 'Stop now' action or a calming 'Calm down' request. It is also seen in the dominating hands-on-the-hand shake. 'I'm in charge,' generally with palms down and leaning on the table. Palm pointing outwards, parrying or pushing people away in a more visible manner than the palm down 'Stop' gesture. 'Do not get close!'. Then, a pointing finger or complete hand instructs a person now!'. As a result, in order to interpret the message contained in a gesture, we must adjust it in context so that it is neither unclear or may be captured by the interlocutor.

Semantic Meaning

The term semantics arose as a consensus name for the discipline of linguistics that investigates language signals and the things they indicate.

Since semantics is one of the three levels of language analysis—the other two being phonology and grammar—it can be characterized as the study of meaning or significance. Additionally, according to Chaer (1994), semantic meaning is language study, and the goal of research is language meaning.

Chaer (1994) differentiates the meaning of three separate elements, which are as follows:

1. **Lexical Meaning**

Lexical meaning occurs when a word may contain itself, both in its basic form and as a derivative lexeme, and the meaning is more or less established, as in a dictionary. For example, the term "eyes" carries the lexical meaning of the brain's instruments or senses that work to see. A word's lexical meaning is contained in a term that stands alone. Because the meaning of a word might alter if it is already in a phrase, it is said to stand alone. Thus, there are words whose lexical meaning may be deduced if they are previously linked to other terms.

2. **Grammatical Meaning**

Grammatical meaning is the meaning that results from grammatical processes like as reduplication, word compounding, or affixation (affix addition). For example, the term "eyes" carries the lexical meaning of the brain's instruments or senses that work to see. However, when the term "eyes" is used in the line "Hi, where are your eyes?" it no longer relates to the meaning of the instrument to see or the senses to see, but to the style of working or doing something or the outcome is not good.

3. **Contextual Meaning**

The lexeme meaning of a word in context is determined by the relationship between the utterance and the circumstance. For example, a youngster may drop and break a glass. "How clever you are," his mother said. Because the mother is furious with her child in this setting, the praise is negative.

RESEARCH METHODS

The descriptive qualitative methodology is used in this study. Descriptive qualitative research is defined as study that emphasizes information and data acquired in the form of words or images rather than numbers, according to Sugiyono (2013). Screenshots of the

main character's motions as nonverbal communication and dialogue utterances as verbal communication were used as the data in this study. The source of data is taken from the movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)" by Daniel. In this study, researchers explore and understand 122 data, types and meaning of gestures. This study uses the theory of David McNeil (2005) who classifies types of gestures into 4 types, namely Iconic, Deictic, Metaphor, and Beat. The analysis is done in elaboration contextually and theoretically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Percentage Types of Gesture

No	Types of Gesture	Data	Percentage (%)
1	Iconic	11	9 %
2	Deictic	22	18 %
3	Metaphor	15	12 %
4	Beat	74	61 %
Total		122	100%

1. ICONIC

Data 1 (01:05:59)



Dialogue

Waymond : Alright, alright. Evelyn, calm down. I know you want everything to be perfect for your father's party, but he's going to see you've nurtured a happy family and successful business. He'll be proud of you. But, it's what you and I see, right

Evelyn : **He's awake. Go set the table. He must be hungry.**
(Hand gesture describe a table)

Iconic Gesture is found in this dialogue because this gesture is used to describe an object with a certain or definite meaning. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn gestures to describe something. Based on the gesture, Evelyn wants to convey a square object using hand gestures. Then after the utterance "He's awake. Go set the table. He must be hungry", the meaning of the gesture that Evelyn describes an object more clearly describes a square table. So overall, Evelyn told her husband (Waymond) to prepare food on the table.

The researcher analyzed that this scene shows an iconic gesture to depict an object. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is at home discussing with her husband. Then, she heard her father waking up. Therefore, she went to her father and told her husband (Waymond) to set or serve food on the table. Thus, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer..

Data 2 (01:05:59)



Dialogue

Joy : What are you talking about?

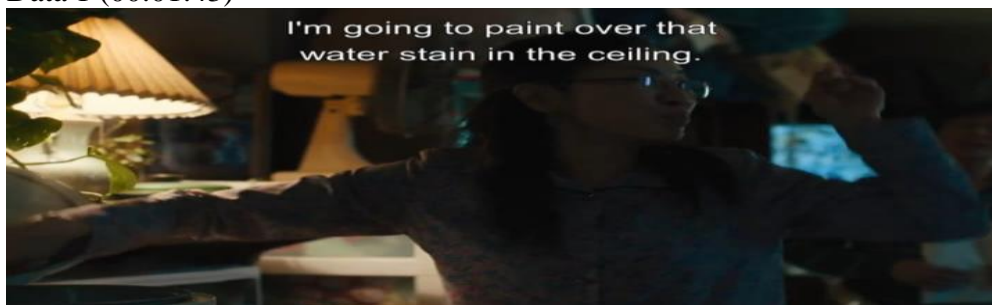
Evelyn : **Raccacconie. You know, the one with the chef, tututs tututs. And he makes bad food.**
(Chopping gesture)

The type of gesture is Iconic Gesture because this gesture is used to describe an object with a specific meaning. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn gestures to describe something. Based on that gesture, Evelyn wants to express a knife using hand gestures. Then, after the utterance “: “Raccacconie. You know, the one with the chef, tutors, tutors. Moreover, he makes bad food.”, The meaning of the gesture becomes clearer when Evelyn describes a knife used by a chef with lousy food..

This scene shows an iconic gesture to depict an object. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is in a room in one of the tax booths. She was explaining a situation to her son and husband. She saw a chef who needed to be more skilled at making good food. However, with the help of a pet (Raccacconie) that drives the movement of the chef in cooking, delicious dishes are created that are popular with customers. Therefore, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer..

2. DEICTIC

Data 1 (00:01:43)



Evelyn : **I have to finish all this before my father wakes up. You should go in to steam the tablecloths for tonight. I'm going to paint over that water stain in the ceiling.**
(Index finger to point up)

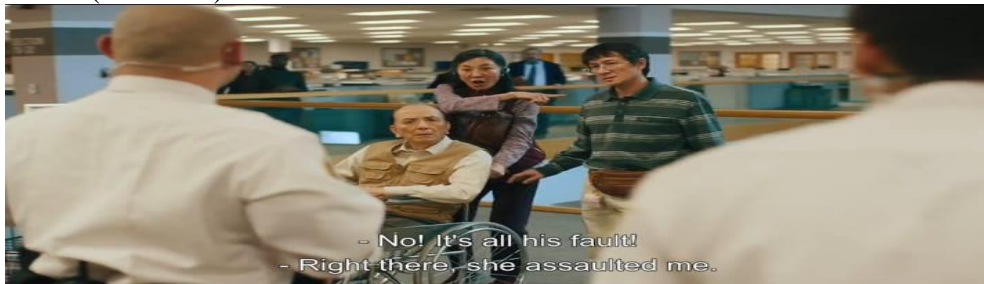
Waymond : Already did.

The type of gesture is the Deictic Gesture because this gesture is used to point to an object, person, or location. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn moves her index finger to point. Based on this gesture, the meaning is that Evelyn points to the top or ceiling using her index finger. Then, after the utterance, "I am going to paint over that

water stain in the ceiling", the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer when Evelyn wants to show her husband about the water stain on the ceiling, which she will chat in preparation for her father's birthday party.

The researcher analyzed that this scene shows a deictic gesture to point to an object, people, or location. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is home and busy with work and her father's birthday party soon. She also has yet to do much preparation and has yet to have time to listen to her husband. Then, she pointed at the ceiling she intended to paint because it faded due to water stains. Therefore, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clear.

Data 2 (00:27:43)



Dialogue

Deirdre : Oh, thank. Thank, God. It's that one right there. The Chinese lady!
Evelyn : **No, it's all his fault!**
(Using finger to point)

The type of gesture is Deictic Gesture because this gesture is used to point to an object, person, or location. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn uses her index finger to point. Based on the gesture, the meaning of the gesture in this scene, Evelyn points toward her husband (Waymond) using her index finger. Based on the utterance "No, it's all his fault!", the meaning of the gesture is Evelyn refers to her husband, who has made a mistake by influencing her through a strange letter that causes her to imagine that she dares to hit or fight with the officer.

The researcher analyzes that this scene shows a deictic gesture to point to an object, people, or location. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is at the tax office because she hasn't paid taxes, so she gets a summons. However, on the way to the desk in charge of the tax, she found a letter containing a spell. She thought that it was from her husband, but she misunderstood that it was not from him. As a result of the letter, she seemed to have an imagination that hit an office employee and blamed her husband for what happened to her. Therefore, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer.

3.METAPHOR

Data 1 (00:55:47)



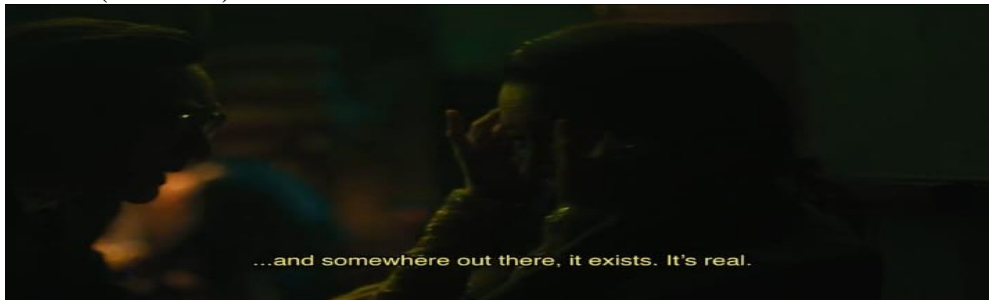
Dialogue

- Evelyn** : **Oh, my God. You're Jojo Toobootie. The "great evil" Waymond was talking about, is in my Joy? It's you.**
(Hand gesture depicts closing the mouth)
- Joy** : Oh, I am so sorry. You're still hung up on the fact that I like girls in this world? This universe is so much bigger than you realize.

The type of gesture is Metaphor Gesture because this gesture is used to describe an uncertain object. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn uses a hand gesture by holding her mouth shut. Based on the meaning of the gesture in this scene, Evelyn looks shocked and speechless, does not want to speak, or does not even want to eat with her mouth closed. Then, based on the utterance, "Oh, my God. You are Jojo Toobootie. The "great evil" Waymond was talking about, is it in my Joy? It is you", the meaning of the gesture that Evelyn was speechless to see her child become a monster that Waymond had said. She was surprised that her son could easily have the heart to kill so many people.

This scene uses a metaphor to describe an abstract or unconcrete object. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is in a dark room with only herself and her child. He was surprised by his son's sudden change into a monster that had killed many people. Moreover, he just realized that it was not his child but a demon who possessed his child, so he became a human being who was dangerous to other people. After the utterance by the main character supports, the meaning of the gesture is clearer.

Data 2 (01:27:29)



Dialogue

- Waymond** : Be careful, sit here.
- Evelyn** : **I can think of whatever nonsense I want, and somewhere out there, it exists. It's real.**
(Using hand gesture on the forehead)

4. BEAT

Data 1 (00:20:19)



Dialogue

Deirdre : Hello? Look, I'm sure you have a a lot on your mind, but I cannot imagine anything mattering more than the conversation. We are now having con-ning you tax liability. Uh, need I remind you that there is already a lien on your property? Repossession is well within our rights.

Evelyn : I know, I am paying attention.
(Hand gesture up to down)

Beat Gesture is used in this scene only as a complement when speaking or communicating. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn moves her hands up and down from right to left. The Meaning of Gesture in this context has nothing to do with it. However, based on the utterance "I know, I am paying attention", the meaning of the gesture with the utterance is that Evelyn said she was focused on what the tax official said.

This scene shows a beat gesture as a rhythm of speech or a compliment when speaking. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is at the tax office dealing with late payments. However, she felt unfocused and returned to imagining things like fighting monsters. Therefore, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer.

Data 2 (01:05:46)



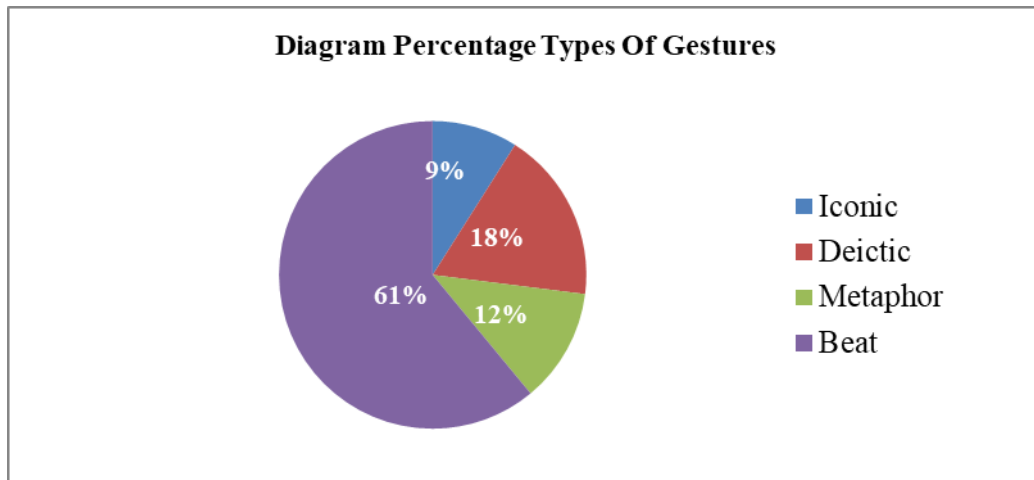
Joy : Are we all having a stroke?

Evelyn : You're like puppets. You know? Puppets? You can do things you normally cannot do. It's like that movie.
(Hand gesture up and down, left and right)

In this scene, the Beat Gesture is used only as a complement when speaking or communicating. This is shown by the main character when Evelyn moves her hands up and down from right to left. The Meaning of Gesture in this context has nothing to do with it. However, based on the utterance "You are like puppets. You know? Puppets? You can do things you normally cannot do. It is like that movie", the meaning of the gesture became clear when Evelyn remembered her husband and child in the chair and explained that they were controlled by another world which they usually could not do before like in a movie. After the utterance, the meaning is more precise and known..

This scene shows a beat gesture as a rhythm of speech or a compliment when speaking. In this scene, the main character, Evelyn, is in a room with her father, husband, and child. It can be seen that she tied her child and husband to a chair using duct tape. She started talking and explaining the strange incidents or actions her husband and daughter carried out without them knowing. She explains that another universe controls them so they can do things they usually can't do. Therefore, after the utterance, the meaning of the gesture becomes clearer.

CONCLUSION



There are four types of gestures in “Everything Everywhere All At Once (2022)” movie, as the researcher has done in the analysis. There are 122 data found. There are 11 (9%) data as iconic gestures, 22 (18%) data as deictic gestures, 15 (12%) data as metaphor gestures, and 75 (61%) data as beat gestures. Based on these data, the most common type is the beat gesture, and the least is an iconic gesture. The most dominant type is the beat gesture, where the main character often uses hand gestures such as going up and down as a compliment when speaking so they are not stiff.

Meanwhile, the type of gesture rarely found is the iconic gesture, which the main character only uses occasionally, such as when Evelyn describes a table. From the data analyzed, the meaning of the gesture is supported by the utterances in dialog (Semantic Meaning). Some gestures meaning is unclear if they are not accompanied or supported by semantic meaning or utterances. Meanwhile, some data do not have a cultural meaning and no relation to the semantic meaning, such as beat type. A beat gesture is a rhythm of speech as a compliment.

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