Discourse Deixis and its Peculiarities in the English Language

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Abstract: The discourse deixis is found to be used in the English language to express the interpersonal relationships involved between the speaker and listener in conversation. The article explores some peculiarities of discourse deixis in the English language. It is noted in the article that while the traditional categories of the deixis are the most obvious examples, there are other types of deixis that are widely available. These categories are for the first time discussed by Fillmore and Lyons. These categories are categories of social deixis and discourse deixis. Our article deals with the use of the discourse deixis in English. The article also covers discussion of linguistic views of scientists in this field. We think that urgency of the work just lies in the theoretical problems discussed in the article. The article is also of both theoretical and practical importance in the view of learning English and developing the science of linguistics as a whole.

Keywords: deixis, discourse deixis, text linguistics, deictic expressions, egocentric transmission.

Introduction. As it is known human speech is realized in a certain situation, condition and environment. In order to establish intercourse with one another human beings use language and the first and initial function of a language is to transfer a certain piece of information. This is called a transactional function in linguistics. Human beings give information to one another by order, request and instruction to one another by means of the language. The whole scope of actions carried out as a result of these processes in the language is called context. It becomes clear from the context, who is pointing to somebody or something by special words which are called deictic words: here, there, I, you, he, down, up etc. Deictic words just carry out deictic functions. The category of pronouns, as the system of deictic words, causes great interest. It is not occasional that grammatical degree attracted the attention of soviet investigators and the investigators including other countries as well. In the English language the authors of grammatical dialects and other works have not forgotten this difficult and interesting part of linguistics.

Discussion. Nevertheless, the origin of different degrees of pronouns, their formation and development have not been determined up to now. In modern linguistics deixis gives the meaning of “to indicate”, “to show”, “to point to”. This word traditionally is as to the semantics nearer to the “indexical expression” in linguistics. In the English language, particularly demonstrative pronouns carry out this deictic function. Deixis is a means, uniting semantics with pragmatics, because, language expressions are set up by means of pragmatic substitutions. Service to determine the roles of participants of the communication mainly falling on the pronouns, is the meaning or function of language unit, expressed as a lexical and grammatical means. Deixis serves to actualize the denotative contents of the expression, components and situation of the text. In modern investigations deixis is studied together with semantics and pragmatics.

The concept of the deixis is related to a class of language units that are used to point to the elements of the situational or discourse context. These include both the interview participants and the location and time of the current conversation. The category of deixis is one of the most important categories of language communication. The universality of the deixis is measured by the fact that the speech process is not imagined without the units: the utterance can not be without space or time. The anthropocentric paradigm of contemporary linguistics allows for such
a hypothesis that the deixis is a specific natural creation of egocentrism, so that any utterance or speech made by the speaker is a product of its communicative-cognitive experience. Deixis is a kind of reference. The nature of this reference, its communicative functions, the language development have long been in the focus of linguists. Deixis is often identified with the demonstrative pronouns /this/ and /that/ because of its etymological meaning of pointing. Deictic words and the gestures accompanying them are parts of the language system to create a reference. From the point of view of the basic philosophy, the pointing is required for reference, deictic expressions are defined by non-linguistic motion. The demonstrative pronoun /this/, in the expression of /this is a star/ is defined by non-linguistic motion. This viewpoint confirms the deictic expressions by a non-linguistic reference, and this reference is identified with the deictic expression, because it is accompanied by non-linguistic action or gesture. But this idea may not always be true. Because the deictic expression does not identify the reference with extro-linguistic means, it is more desirable to identify the reference in the form of a deictic, under the deictic description by saying something about it. This idea cannot be considered to be correct either that the deictic expressions are expressed by non-linguistic movements indicating the reference. Moreover, the idea of the gestures being non-linguistic identifies the language with the speech, but speech is just one of the language means. For example, we can prove the language used by the deaf. Traditionally, the function of the utterance is understood under the deixis coinciding with spatial-time coordinates of the speech act. The most important aspect of the deixis concept is that it provides the communication effectiveness with the general background knowledge of the speaker. When language is used, language and context are closely connected with the help of the deixis in the language system. The topic of our article text/discourse deixis is grammaticalized through the pronominal system. A set of personal pronouns (e.g., he, she, you, etc.) function as one of the basic ways of expressing text/discourse deixis in the English languages. In this article, I intend to make analysis of the peculiarities of the discourse in the English language. This paper explores the investigation of peculiarities of discourse deixis in the English language. Different from the traditional study of deixis in the English language, the study of the reasons why the use of deixis, its kinds are important in the language, different opinions of linguistics about the usage of discourse deixis, can be considered the foundation of the research. One of the aims and objectives of our approach to the research, finds its reflections in the aspect with which we investigate the theme. The main objectives of the investigation are to determine the text/discourse deixis, its referring to the phenomenon where in understanding the meaning of certain words and phrases in an utterance requires contextual information, which concerns the encoding of reference to portions of the unfolding discourse in which the utterance is located.

**Theoretical Overview**

A discussion on the peculiarities of the discourse deixis demands at least a minimum of introduction to some basic concepts and terminologies found in the field of deixis. What follows then is a brief discussion of some basic concepts related to the subject matter of the paper.

The concept of deixis is often referred to in the grammar categories in linguistics. Although the grammatical categories related to the grammar are not entirely functional, it is clear that some analogies are true. One of them is the category of deixis. As you know, language is objective-subjective, i.e., in one hand, the language acts as a means of communication of specific language carriers as a product of objective, public and certain linguistic environment. On the other hand, the human language is subjective, because it only functions with the help of individuals and obeys the individual’s personal demands. The opposition of the socio-objective and individual-subjective characteristics of the language and their interaction are revealed and realized primarily in the language dictionary by the existence of a deictic micro system that serves to the speech act. Mutual communication between the speech act and its pragmatic aspects implies the existence of specific words in the language system. These linguistic elements, along with identifying the parts of the discourse during constant change of referents, connect the text with the speech situation and eventually play a role
as a means of communication between language and reality.

Also, the completeness of a complete set of imagery, not of an image taken, is a requirement for any scientific research. Thus, the text should be described in detail; in one hand, the information in the word material should find itself at one or another level of the image; on the other hand, the majority of these levels should be set in a single continuous sequence, as Benvenist states that the units of each level are directly related to the subsequent higher level units, i.e., the sequence of differential sign, phoneme and word coding in the language (Benvenist, 1974, p. 111). We want to briefly explain the concept of text and its types before commenting on the text. There are several types of text terminology available. On the one hand, in the opinion of the speaker, the concept of the text is used to designate a statement containing one or more sentences containing the finished thought. On the other hand, stories, novels, articles, and so forth are called with this term. According to the generally accepted view, the text is understood as a specific structure consisting of a number of units, which has connections, exertion, and internal organization.

Thus, the essential precondition for constructing text linguistics as a science is the identification of the levels for each of the objects it describes, so that the corresponding texts, starting with the text, and the text can be delivered into the extent that the text is directly related to social practice. As it is known, linguistics is the subject of the comprehensive study of sentence knowledge and linguists are taking steps to determine the place of the text or the complex syntactic whole in the syntactic system. Based on the concepts in this field, the essence of the text is based on the principle of the fullness of the sentence as well as the nature of the language as well as the analysis of its activities. Even the function of the language is separated by the text function, and this function implies the ability to transmit language information. On the other hand, linguists have come to the conclusion that while analyzing concrete events within the context of textual studies, these events are also considered in sentence syntax, and this is due to a number of reasons, including the ability to convey the textual function of separate sentences, namely, a textual event, as well as the possibility of relationships having the inter-text peculiarity (e.g., anaphoric link).

We will try to clarify both of the deixis because we have a text and a discourse in our study. There are deictic manifestations that appear to be a very lexical-grammatical link between the text components, which are in line with the contextual context in which the text exists. Of course, the text cannot be understood unless someone accepts these deictic elements correctly with the relevant (relevant) manifestations of their situation. The semiconductor research of verbal words should encourage a thorough investigation of the various aspects of their functioning as a means of forming a text-discourse of their language in their speech. From the research we see that in this direction the study of the role played by deictic pronouns in the structural integrity of the discourse is in the foreground.

**Literature review and methodology.** In the American-English linguistics, the main concept is the discourse that expresses various aspects of the text. The discourse is the text spoken by (Connected speech). In this sense, the discourse differs from the text taken and understood as the formal grammatical structure. Contemporary text linguistics examines the structure of the text with a certain hierarchical integrity and the semantic-functional and discursive relationships defined in those rules. Discourse coherent textual research is part of a science as a whole within the philology. When it comes to discourse, the coherent text that the speaker has directed to his interlocutor is intended, or in other sense understood as the result of an interactive process in a social context. Discourse in text linguistics is considered paradoxical. The text is an oral idea of the event of communication, and the discourse is the text in the event of the event, it is a lifelong conversation, that is, a language spoken in active communication. According to Benvenist, “the discourse is the language spoken by the speaker”. Discourse/text deixis category refers to the expressions used in the text/discourse, and also includes the statement itself (Benvenist, 1974, p. 104, 174). Discursion directs the referencing to the discursive part of the speaker in connection with the current environment. They refer to the discourse as a text hypothesis. That is, discursive lexical means the lexicon. Discursion refers to expressions that are played as part of a discourse.
These expressions also include the words themselves. This means they are not, they do not place any participants in the discourse, nor do they point to it. The discourse deixis facilitates the understanding of the dependence of the semantic integral part of the text, and this dependence is explicitly understood by the sender.

The classification of the discourse deixis is divided into two major categories: verbal and non-verbal discourse deixis. Non-verbal discourse deixis (facial expressions and gestures) is considered non-linguistic. Verbal discourse deixis can be classified in two subcategories, oral and written discourses. Oral and written discourse can be divided into two major categories: the monologue and dialogue discourse, depending on the nature and role of interlocutors’ mutual affiliations. Monologue discourse is based on less communicative activity without the intervention of a person. Dialogue discourse, on the other hand, consists of statements made between one or more interlocutors (Nida, 1946, p. 165). Dialogue discourse is often called active language. Now linguists prefer to call it a discourse rather than a language at a specific moment and condition. It can also be added that as the interaction with the semiotic plane is considered to be a motion involving the immediate involvement of linguosemiotic agents, it is also a factor that causes the discourse to become widespread. The deictic words in the discourse are called //who, where, when/. It is very difficult to interpret the simplest deictic sentence /I am here now//. Explaining the meaning of this sentence requires us to know who /I/ is, what frame of development of the /am/ and /now/ expressions, and the precise location of /here/ here. Without the content, this sentence has only a lexical meaning, but there is no semantic content. Content relates to place and time, opportunity, social roles, demographic diversity and so on, in other words, text parts covering particular sections of narratives at any particular moment in the text (Benvenist, 1974, p. 159).

**Conclusion and recommendation.** Having studied the peculiarities of discourse deixis in the English language, we may come to the conclusion that deixis serves to actualize the denotative contents of the expression, components and situation of the text. We have found out that in the modern linguistics by the term of “deixis” mainly are mentioned demonstrative and personal pronouns, some adverbs, grammatical tenses, including other lexical units and grammatical markers, being considered fitful to the place in which the utterance is sounded. We came to the conclusion that the personal pronouns are used in the English language to express both person deixis and discourse deixis conveying various kinds of socially determined information about the participants in a speech event. These pronouns express information regarding the relationship between participants, social status of the addressee, formality of the conversation, respect and politeness toward the addressee, and so on. Indication, as to the thought, expressed by the speaker, is not only characteristic for the indicators, but also for the personal pronouns. The conformity as to the function of gestures and demonstrative pronouns are only the expression of initial deictic stage. Discourse deixis category refers to the expressions used in the text/discourse, and also includes the statement itself. Discursion directs the referencing to the discursive part of the speaker in connection with the current environment. They refer to the discourse as a text hypothesis. That is, discursive lexical means the lexicon. Discursion refers to expressions that are played as part of a discourse. These expressions also include the words themselves. This means they are not, they do not place any participants in the discourse, nor do they point to it. The discourse deixis facilitates the understanding of the dependence of the semantic integral part of the text, and this dependence is explicitly understood by the sender. We have found out that as a whole, that discourse deixis is also called as text deixis. It involves the development of expressions within the context. When deixis is used for rhetorical purposes, it is called discourse deixis. The second person is used in the discourse deixis. Discourse = text + situation, text = non-situational discourse. Text is a feature occuring in the forms of writing or speaking, listening, and reading. When we analyze it, we analyze the product of this process, and the term text refers to the product itself.
References


