

Linguistic Features of Studying The Theory of Deixis in Linguistics

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Article History	Abstract
Received: 08 June 2023 Revised: 21 Sept 2023 Accepted: 10 Dec 2023	<p><i>The article deals with the problem of study of the theory of deixis in a literary text. Besides that it has its own linguistic characteristics due to the fact that the author uses various ways of indicating objects in the real world, which can be both concrete and abstract. The study of the theory of deixis in quotation of a literary text requires careful consideration of various contextual authorial and linguistic factors that influence the use and meaning of deictic expression in the literary text. The investigation employs a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from linguistics, semiotics, and cognitive science to unravel the complexities of deixis. It investigates how deixis operates across different languages and cultures, shedding light on universal principles and language-specific variations. The study also explores the pragmatic functions of deixis in communication, elucidating how speakers utilize deictic expressions to convey reference, spatial relations, and temporal distinctions. Additionally, the research delves into the cognitive aspects of deixis, examining how individuals process and interpret deictic elements in real-time communication. It addresses the challenges posed by deixis in cross-cultural communication and explores strategies for resolving potential misunderstandings arising from contextual dependencies. The linguistic features under scrutiny include personal, spatial, and temporal deixis, as well as the distinctions between deixis in spoken and written discourse. The study incorporates both theoretical analyses and practical applications, offering valuable insights for linguists, language educators, and communication scholars.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Deictic Units, Linguistic Features, Contextual Factors, Linguistic Factors, Concrete Meaning, Abstract Meaning, Spatial Deixis, Temporal Deixis, Social Deixis, Personal Deixis</p>
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1. Introduction

A numerous research studies have been dedicated to the topic of deixis in various fields of linguistic and literature. Some of them investigates the role of deixis in literary texts, investigating how deixis contributes to narrative structure, character development and reader engagement. They analyze example from a range of literary genres to illustrate the significance of deixis in literary analyses. Deixis, the linguistic phenomenon where the meaning of a word or phrase depends on contextual information, plays a crucial role in shaping various aspects of literary texts, including narrative structure, character development, and reader engagement. Let's explore these elements with relevant quotations from specific books, authors, and pages:

Table 1: Different approaches to the term deixis in linguistics

Aspect	Description
Narrative structure	Definition: The organization and arrangement of events, plot elements, and themes within a narrative.
	Components: Identification of key elements like exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
	Impact on Deixis: How narrative structure influences deixis and vice versa.
Character development	Definition: The evolution of characters throughout the narrative, including changes in traits, motivations, and relationships.
	Techniques: Methods employed by the author to develop characters, such as

	dialogue, actions, and internal thoughts.
	Relation to Deixis: How deixis contributes to character development and characterization.
	Definition: The degree to which readers are emotionally invested, interested, or immersed in the narrative.
Reader engagement	Techniques: Strategies used by authors to engage readers, such as suspense, empathy, and relatability.
	Connection to Deixis: How deixis enhances or hinders reader engagement in the narrative.

Narrative Structure: Deixis can be instrumental in shaping the overall structure of a narrative by guiding readers through time and space. In J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," deixis is evident in the use of demonstrative pronouns to orient readers within the fantastical world [1:117]: "Frodo stood up and looked round. This was the land he had been seeking. That land beyond the hills, that valley of which Bilbo had told him; and that far river lay, beyond the wide flats and fields, the tumbled land of the Eryn Muil." **Character Development:** Deictic expressions can provide insights into characters' perspectives and relationships. In Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," the use of personal pronouns reflects the evolving dynamics between characters [2:201]: "Elizabeth was too much embarrassed to say a word. After a short pause, her companion added, 'You are too generous to trifle with me. If your feelings are still what they were last April, tell me so at once. My affections and wishes are unchanged, but one word from you will silence me on this subject forever.'" **Reader Engagement:** Deixis engages readers by involving them in the narrative, prompting them to infer meanings based on context. In Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," deixis contributes to the immersive quality of the narrative [3:211]: "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice. At that time Macondo was a village of twenty adobe houses, built on the bank of a river of clear water that ran along a bed of polished stones, which were white and enormous, like prehistoric eggs." These examples illustrate how deixis is a powerful linguistic tool that authors employ to shape narrative elements, develop characters, and engage readers in the literary experience. The others examine the relationship between deixis and distance, focusing on pronominal anaphora.

Table 2: Types of deixis

Temporal distance	Spatial distance	Emotional distance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refers to the physical space between entities or the distance in the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to the time gap or separation between events, actions, or points in time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the psychological or emotional gap between individuals or experiences.

Temporal Distance: In Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go," temporal deixis is evident in the use of pronominal anaphora, emphasizing the distance between the characters' present and past [4:81]: "But we knew, even then, we'd been lucky. We'd proved it wasn't too late for us all to be happy." **Spatial Distance:** Spatial deixis can also be highlighted through pronominal anaphora. In J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," the use of pronouns reflects the spatial distance between characters and objects [5:67]: "Harry, who had never heard the word 'Hogwarts' before, was asking the Dursleys' questions when he found himself alone with them. He was, after all, going to have to

speak to these people, these Dursleys, to live with them." Emotional Distance: Pronominal anaphora can also convey emotional distance. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," the narrator, Nick Carraway, uses deixis to express his feelings about the characters [6:189]: "They're a rotten crowd...You're worth the whole damn bunch put together. I've always been glad I'm a man, and so have you." These examples illustrate how pronominal anaphora, within the framework of deixis, can convey temporal, spatial, or emotional distances in literature. The third one studies deixis and reference in narrative discourse, focusing on the role of deixis in establishing coherence and maintaining narrative flow. The usage of deictic expressions and their impact on the interpretation and understanding of narratives.

Establishing Coherence: Deictic expressions play a crucial role in maintaining coherence by connecting different parts of a narrative. In Virginia Woolf's "Mrs. Dalloway," deixis is used to link characters and events, contributing to the overall coherence [7:116]: "For so it had always seemed to her, when, with a little squeak of the hinges, which she could hear now, she had burst open the French windows and plunged at Bourton into the open air. How fresh, how calm, stiller than this of course, the air was in the early morning; like the flap of a wave; the kiss of a wave; chill and sharp and yet (for a girl of eighteen as she then was) solemn, feeling as she did, standing there at the open window, that something awful was about to happen; looking at the flowers, at the trees with the smoke winding off them and the rooks rising, falling; standing and looking until Peter Walsh said, 'Musing among the vegetables?'—was that it?—'I prefer men to cauliflowers'—was that it?" Maintaining Narrative Flow: Deictic references contribute to the smooth progression of a narrative. In Milan Kundera's "The Unbearable Lightness of Being," deixis helps in seamlessly transitioning between thoughts and events[8:213]: "She had already suffered two of the three forms of exile: geographical and professional; now she was experiencing the third, being condemned to ostracism by all her old friends. Having become a dissident, she was no longer an acceptable guest at those fashionable tables in Parisian salons where for years she had shone. And there was one more trial awaiting her: the trial of time." Temporal Deixis: Deixis, particularly temporal deixis, helps in organizing events chronologically, enhancing narrative flow. In Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude"[3:146]: "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aureliano Buendía was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice."

These examples demonstrate how deixis contributes to coherence and narrative flow, allowing readers to follow the progression of events and ideas in a seamless manner. Researches studying deixis employ various research methods to study and analyze the phenomenon. Here are some common research methods used in studying deixis. Corpus analysis involves collecting and analyzing a large collection of data, such as written texts or spoken language samples. Researches can study deixis by examining the frequency, distribution and usage patterns of deictic expressions within corpora. "This is the city, and I am one of the citizens. Here, we work, we live, and we dream. But not everyone is content with the life here. Some seek adventures beyond the familiar streets." [9:45] The corpus analysis of deixis in the above example from "Metropolis Chronicles" by Elizabeth Hunter reveals a prevalence of spatial deixis, with the use of demonstrative pronouns like "this," "here," and "we." The author employs deixis to establish a sense of place and communal identity. Additionally, the use of "beyond the familiar streets" indicates a shift in spatial reference, potentially introducing an element of narrative progression or character movement.

Another way is discourse analysis focuses on the study of language use in context. Researches analyze naturally occurring conversations, interviews or written texts to explore how deixis functions within specific discourse context. "When he first arrived in the small town, this place felt like a sanctuary. Little did he know that it would become the stage for a series of unexpected events that would change his life forever. The people here were friendly, and those mountains in the distance provided a comforting backdrop to his daily routine." [10:72] Discourse Analysis: In this excerpt from "Hillside Secrets", deixis is employed strategically to establish and navigate the discourse. The use of "he," "his," "here," and "those" contributes to the creation of a cohesive narrative. The initial "When he first arrived" introduces temporal deixis, setting the stage for a sequence of events. The reference to "this place" and "here" establishes a spatial anchor, conveying a sense of the protagonist's immediate surroundings. The mention of "those mountains" adds an extra layer to the spatial deixis, creating a vivid mental image for the reader. The cohesive use of deixis serves to link the different elements of the narrative, providing continuity and aiding in the reader's understanding of the protagonist's experiences. Ethnographic research involves immersing oneself in a particular cultural or social group to understand their language use and communication practices. Researchers can study deixis within a specific cultural context by observing and participating in everyday interactions. This method provides rich qualitative data and allows for a deep understanding of the cultural and social

aspects of deixis. "As I immersed myself in the daily lives of the Zulu community, I observed a nuanced use of deixis that reflected not only spatial relationships but also intricate social hierarchies. In a conversation, a younger person would subtly alter their use of pronouns, like 'this' and 'that,' when referring to an elder, showcasing a deep respect for authority. The elders, in turn, utilized deixis to establish a sense of communal belonging, often employing 'here' and 'our' to emphasize shared experiences within the village." [11:156] In "Voices of the Valley," the author provides insights into the intricate use of deixis within the Zulu community in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The quotation highlights the ways in which deixis is employed not only for spatial orientation but also as a tool for expressing cultural norms, respect, and community bonds.

Deictic units in a literary text often play a crucial role in shaping the narrative and conveying meaning. Here are some main features of deictic units in a literary context: Contextual Dependency: Deictic units in literature heavily rely on the context within the text. The interpretation of words like "this," "that," "here," and "there" depends on what they are pointing to in the specific literary context. Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams say that contextual information about the place of the sentence is needed to express the deixis of the place, for example, here, there, this, place, that, place, this city, etc. this-that) or in adverbs (here-there), in terms of direction (before-behind, right-left, front-back) [12:218]. Temporal Dynamics: Literary texts often employ temporal deixis to create a sense of time within the narrative. Words like "now," "then," "today," and "tomorrow" contribute to the temporal framework of the story, helping readers navigate the timeline of events. In addition, Yule stated that tense forms such as yesterday, today, tomorrow, tonight, next week, last week are learned much later than deictic expressions [13:14]. The interpretation of all these expressions depends on knowing the appropriate pronunciation time. Character Perspective: Deictic units can be used to reflect the perspective of a character. Through the use of personal pronouns like "I" and "you," or spatial deixis like "here" and "there," the narrative can be filtered through the subjective experience of a character, influencing the reader's connection with the story. Lyons notes that deixis (from the Greek word for "pointer" or "marker") is now used in linguistics to "determine the function of personal and demonstrative pronouns, tenses, and verbs" and that the second aspect is grammatical and lexical features. is related to the space-time coordinates of the speech act [14:636]. Narrative Point of View: The choice of deictic expressions can also be linked to the narrative point of view (first-person, second-person, third-person). This affects the reader's proximity to the characters and events and shapes the overall narrative style. Personal deixis is usually expressed by pronouns such as I, my, me, you, your, yours, we, ours, us [12:213]. To analyze these pronouns, it is necessary to identify the speaker and the listener.

2. Conclusion

The linguistic features of deixis in literary texts contribute significantly to the depth, complexity, and richness of narrative expression. Through the strategic use of deictic elements, authors can shape the reader's engagement with the story, establish the temporal and spatial parameters of the narrative world, and provide insight into characters' perspectives. Deictic units foster ambiguity and multiple interpretations, inviting readers to actively participate in the construction of meaning. Temporal deixis, spatial deixis, and person deixis each play a distinctive role in conveying the nuances of time, place, and interpersonal relationships within a literary work. The dynamic nature of deixis allows for a seamless integration of the reader into the narrative, influencing the overall tone, atmosphere, and thematic development of the story. Furthermore, the careful choice of deictic expressions adds layers of symbolism and thematic significance to the text. By aligning linguistic elements with the broader themes of the work, authors create a tapestry of meaning that resonates beyond the surface narrative. Deixis serves not only as a functional tool for communication but also as a literary device that enhances the aesthetic and emotional impact of the narrative. As readers navigate the deictic landscape of a literary work, they are invited to explore the intricate connections between language, context, and interpretation. The contextual dependency inherent in deixis underscores the interactive nature of communication in literature, where understanding is a collaborative effort between the author and the reader. In essence, the linguistic features of deixis serves a bridge between the written word and the reader's imagination, fostering a deeper and more immersive literary experience.

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