Chapter 1 : CiteSeerX â€" Citation Query Studies in the acquisition of deictic terms

In these studies Dr Tanz investigates children's acquisition of the deictic distinctions involved in the (single) personal pronouns, the spatial terms in back of and in front of, the verbs come and go, the demonstratives and the locatives here and there.

Traditional categories[edit] Possibly the most common categories of contextual information referred to by deixis are those of person, place, and timeâ€"what Fillmore calls the "major grammaticalized types" of deixis. The following examples show how. The person deictic terms are in italics, a signaling notation that will continue through this article. I am going to the movies. Would you like to have dinner? They tried to hurt me, but she came to the rescue. In languages like English with gendered pronouns, the third-person masculine pronoun has traditionally been used as a default when using "it" is inappropriate but the gender of its antecedent is unknown or inapplicable. To each his own. In English, it is often now common to use the third-person plural , even when the antecedent is singular: To each their own. In languages that distinguish between masculine and feminine plural pronouns, such as French or Serbo-Croatian , [6] the masculine is again often used as default. In many such languages, the gender as a grammatical category of a noun is only tangentially related to the gender of the thing the noun represents. For example, in French, the generic personne, meaning a person of either sex is always a feminine noun, and so if the subject of discourse is "les personnes" the people , the use of "elles" is obligatory, even if the people being considered are all men. Place[edit] Place deixis, also known as space deixis, concerns itself with the spatial locations relevant to an utterance. Similarly to person deixis, the locations may be either those of the speaker and addressee or those of persons or objects being referred to. The most salient English examples are the adverbs "here" and "there" and the demonstratives "this" and "that"â€"although those are far from being the only deictic words. I enjoy living in this city. Here is where we will place the statue. She was sitting over there. Unless otherwise specified, place deictic terms are generally understood to be relative to the location of the speaker, as in The shop is across the street. So, although Here is a good spot; it is too sunny over there. In some contexts, spatial deixis is used metaphorically rather than physically, i. I am coming home now. Here is another common example: I am not here, please leave a message. Nevertheless, this is considered normal for most people as speakers have to project themselves as answering the phone when in fact they are not physically. Languages usually show at least a two-way referential distinction in their deictic system: English exemplifies this with such pairs as this and that, here and there, etc. In other languages, the distinction is three-way or higher: The archaic English forms yon and yonder still preserved in some regional dialects once represented a distal category that has now been subsumed by the formerly medial "there". The Malagasy language has seven degrees of distance combined with two degrees of visibility, while Inuit languages have even more complex systems [9]. Time[edit] Time, or temporal, deixis concerns itself with the various times involved in and referred to in an utterance. This includes time adverbs like "now", "then", "soon", and so forth, and also different tenses. A good example is the word tomorrow, which denotes the consecutive next day after every day. The "tomorrow" of a day last year was a different day from the "tomorrow" of a day next week. For example, if one were to write It is raining now, but I hope when you read this it will be sunny. Tenses are generally separated into absolute deictic and relative tenses. So, for example, simple English past tense is absolute, such as in He went. Other categories[edit] Though the traditional categories of deixis are perhaps the most obvious, there are other types of deixis that are similarly pervasive in language use. These categories of deixis were first discussed by Fillmore and Lyons. For example, in This is a great story. Distinction must be made between discourse deixis and anaphora, which is when an expression makes reference to the same referent as a prior term, as in Matthew is an incredible athlete; he came in first in the race. Lyons points out that it is possible for an expression to be both deictic and anaphoric at the same time. When that expression refers to the same item as a prior linguistic expression, it is anaphoric. In some languages, this is done through same subject markers and different subject markers. In the translated example "John punched Tom, and left-[same subject marker]," it is John who left, and in "John punched Tom, and left-[different subject marker]," it is Tom who left. Two

major forms of it are the so-called Tâ€"V distinctions and honorifics. Tâ€"V distinction Tâ€"V distinctions, named for the Latin "tu" and "vos" singular and plural versions of "you" is the name given to the phenomenon when a language has two different second-person pronouns. So, for example, the T form might be used when speaking to a friend or social equal, whereas the V form would be used speaking to a stranger or social superior. This phenomenon is common in European languages. Honorifics linguistics Honorifics are a much more complex form of social deixis than Tâ€"V distinctions, though they encode similar types of social information. They can involve words being marked with various morphemes as well as nearly entirely different lexicons being used based on the social status of the interactants. This type of social deixis is found in a variety of languages, but is especially common in South and East Asia. Anaphora linguistics Generally speaking, anaphora refers to the way in which a word or phrase relates to other text: An exophoric reference refers to language outside of the text in which the reference is found. A homophoric reference is a generic phrase that obtains a specific meaning through knowledge of its context. For example, the meaning of the phrase "the Queen" may be determined by the country in which it is spoken. Because there are many Queens throughout the world, the location of the speaker [note 2] provides the extra information that allows an individual Queen to be identified. An endophoric reference refers to something inside of the text in which the reference is found. An anaphoric reference , when opposed to cataphora, refers to something within a text that has been previously identified. For example, in "Susan dropped the plate. It shattered loudly" the word "it" refers to the phrase "the plate". A cataphoric reference refers to something within a text that has not yet been identified. For example, in "Since he was very cold, David promptly put on his coat" the identity of the "he" is unknown until the individual is also referred to as "David". As deictic expressions are frequently egocentric, the center often consists of the speaker at the time and place of the utterance, and additionally, the place in the discourse and relevant social factors. But say two people are talking on the phone long-distance, from London to New York. The Londoner can say We are going to New York next week. So then in the sentence He then ran twenty feet to the left. Usages[edit] It is helpful to distinguish between two usages of deixis, gestural and symbolic, as well as non-deictic usages of frequently deictic words. Gestural deixis refers, broadly, to deictic expressions whose understanding requires some sort of audio-visual information. A simple example is when an object is pointed at and referred to as "this" or "that". However, the category can include other types of information than pointing, such as direction of gaze, tone of voice, and so on. Symbolic usage, by contrast, requires generally only basic spatio-temporal knowledge of the utterance. In a similar vein, I went to this city one time Rather, it is used as an indefinite article , much the way "a" could be used in its place. Deixis and indexicality[edit] The terms deixis and indexicality are frequently used almost interchangeably, and both deal with essentially the same idea: However, the two terms have different histories and traditions. In the past, deixis was associated specifically with spatiotemporal reference whereas indexicality was used more broadly.

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For example, high vowels have been claimed to have a sound symbolic value of smallness, while low vowels have been claimed to be associated with the opposite value of greatness (Pinker,).

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