

DEIXIS
Spring, 2016
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2016-01-22

Overview

- 1 Person Deixis
- 2 Implicit arguments
- 3 Identifying deixis

Outline

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Vocatives

Usage constraint

Discuss the differences between the following sentences, say, as used by a clerk in approaching a customer who has just entered the store. (facts observed by Fillmore) Is there a generalization? (Careful!)

- a. Sir, may I help you?
- b. Madam, may I help you?
- c. Miss, may I help you?
- d. # Mr., may I help you?
- e. # Mrs., may I help you?

Exclusive/inclusive

The following languages have an exclusive/inclusive 'we' distinction:

	Inclusive	Exclusive
Gujarati	aapNe	ame
Malay	kita	kami
Zayse	nuy	nii

Ignoring any possible case distinctions, which forms would most likely be used in translating the following English sentences? Discuss.

- ❶ Let's hurry.
- ❷ May we come in?
- ❸ We feel that you owe us an apology.

Call vs. summons

Person deictics referring to the addressee may be used as calls or summonses (attention getters). Others are just deictics. Which of the following sentences include vocatives whose function is probably attention-getting and which are not? What is the generalization?

- (1)
 - a. Dave, can you come over here?
 - b. Look, Daddy! There's a spider.
 - c. Doctor Ngubu, do I have smallpox?
 - d. I'm afraid, sir, that you will have to leave.
 - e. Sir! I'm afraid that you will have to leave.
 - f. Would you like to come to the lecture with me, Alice?

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In the following sentences, which of the italicized words are used deictically? Explain. If you think a sentence is actually ambiguous between deictic and non deictic uses, provide disambiguating contexts.

- ① Every time I go to Amsterdam, we end up in a *local* bar.
- ② You should probably get hold of a *local* guide.
- ③ I'd like to take you to a *nearby* cafe.
- ④ Renaldo and Lisa visited the British Museum and then went to a *nearby* cafe.
- ⑤ Every time I visit a musician, we end up playing duets. [Discuss the fact that the referent of *we* is probably different for each visit. Does this affect your judgment of whether this is a deictic use?]

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Ignoring tense, identify deictic expressions in the following and classify them as to what type of deixis you see. If ambiguous, discuss.

- ① This is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper.
- ② And that's the news for today.
- ③ I want to say right here and now that you, Donald Trump, are a boob.
- ④ That remark was his final one, and here we shall have to rest.
- ⑤ The former was a fool, and the latter a martinet.
- ⑥ In our last exciting episode, Dudley was about to be devoured by wolves.
- ⑦ Hi, is Sandy there?
- ⑧ Is there a Santa Claus?
- ⑨ Every day, the Easter Bunny went riding on his bicycle.
- ⑩ That Donald Trump is a such a card!
- ⑪ I'm leaving for Yellowknife on Saturday.
- ⑫ Yesterday, I only missed it by that much!