Deixis: may we come in?

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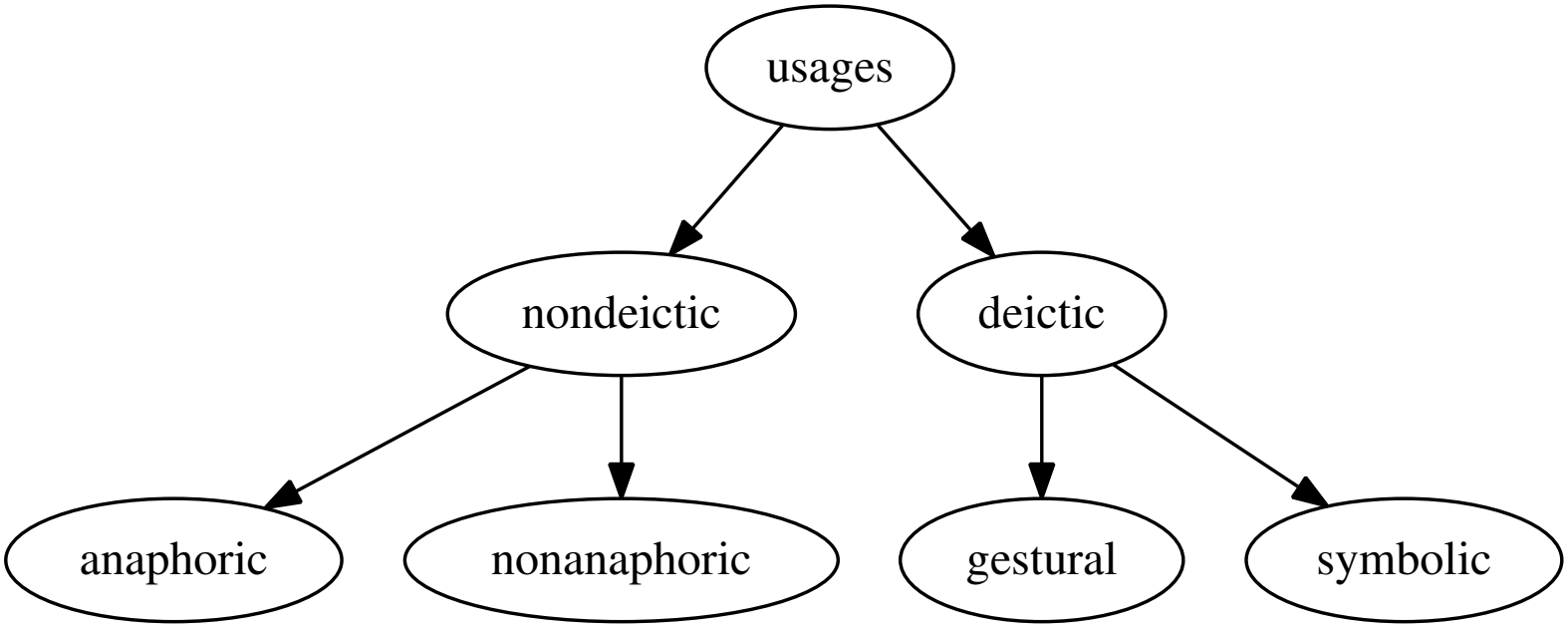
Usage typology for expressions that **may** be deictic



Types of deixis

Personal Deixis

A linguistic expression pecialized for picking out a particular person in the speech context, who may or may not have already been linguistically evoked.

1. One of several classic types
   1. Person (*I, you, . . .*): Birner , p. 7. (Ex. 103)

      (1) a. **I** ordered a Kindle 2 from Amazon. How could *I* not?

      b. I'm proud of me. (no Prin B violation)

      Second *I* anaphoric or deictic?
   2. Time (*now, then, . . .*)
   3. Place (*here, there . . .*)
2. New
   1. Discourse (*former*, *following*, *above*)
   2. Social (*tu/vous*)

Deixis and propositions

1. Truth conditional meaning
2. Sentences denote propositions, which are sets of possible worlds, the worlds the sentence is true in.
3. But what
   about sentences containing words like *I*? What proposition does

   I am the mother of Napoleon.

   express?
4. And we know the full story about **deictic anchoring** is **way** more complicated than that...

Katz and Fodor ignore deictic anchoring

Katz and Fodor 1963

(2) a. The bill is large.
b. I'll be back in an hour. (sign on door)
c. Meet me here a year from now with a stick about yea big.

Being clear about meaning

You have to act as if you found the sentence on a piece of paper with no indication of its author, the addressee, or the occasion of its being produced.

Is there a set of deictic expressions?

Find the deictic NPs in the following:

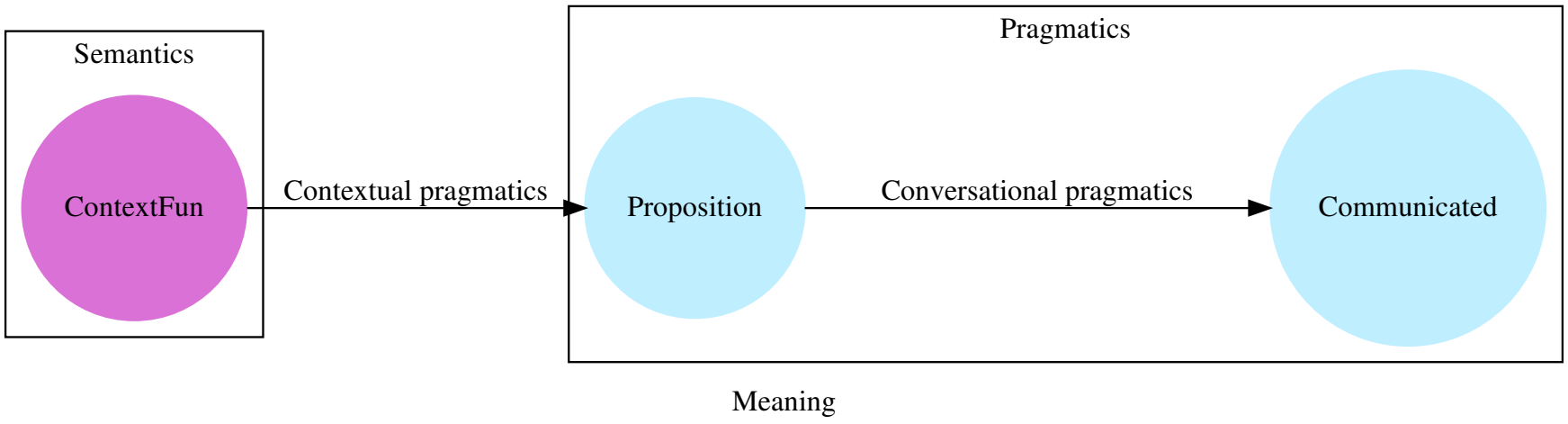
(3) a. The jeep was in bad shape. The door was bashed in.
b. I walked in slowly.
c. The Taurus, expected to appear in showrooms by the end of the week, looks nothing like its predecessors.
d. The old rule of thumb – that employers pick up 80% of the tab – no longer applies. That's reason enough for employees to be cautious.

Referential vs attributive

Referential uses are quasi-deictic

1. Smith's murderer is insane.
2. The man drinking champagne is Lord Godolphin.

Levinson's division



I saw some of the children

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