

Means of Expression of Temporal Deixis by Demonstrative Pronouns in the English Language

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Abstract—The article has been written on the basis of synchronic descriptive method in the study of the English language. It explores some ways of expressing the temporal deixis by means of demonstrative pronouns in the English language. It is noted in the article that demonstrative pronouns in the English language do not have any temporal meaning. The temporal meaning appears in the English language only in combination with nouns which denote time. In the English language temporal deixis is realized in the system of demonstration with the help of word combinations: *this* + noun, *that* + noun. The above mentioned word combinations fulfil anaphoric and cataphoric functions and can take different positions in the sentence. 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.

Index Terms—deixis, demonstrative pronouns, temporal deixis, anaphoric, utterance

I. 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 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 deixis words: *here, there, I, you, he, down, up* etc. Deictic words just carry out deictic function.

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 dialectal and other works have not forgotten this difficult and interesting part of linguistics. Nevertheless the origin of different degrees of pronouns, their formation and development have not been determined up to now.

In the modern linguistics (it has derived from the Greek word *deixnumi*) it gives the meaning of “to indicate”, “to show”, “to point to”. This word traditionally is as to the semantics nearer to the “indexial 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.

II. SCOPE OF STUDY

Deixis serves to actualize the denotive contents of the expression, components and situation of the text. In the modern investigations deixis is studied paralelly with semantics and pragmatics. In the modern linguistics, by this term 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 sounds.

In modern linguistics we belong to the temporal deictic word as the words, characterizing the relative existence, time aspect of movement or test, an instant used in comparison with another exact instant characterizing a phenomenon perceived by by the senses of the participant of the communication. As Bondarenko mentioned personal and temporal belongings are different types of deixis (Bondorenco 1971, p.62). Temporal deixis in this orientation is established as to the main point of this calculation (first of all it can create possibility to measure how much the utterance of the speaker during which he/she spoke lacks behind the deictic centre (*two years ago, by the end of the summer... etc.*). As far as person deixis is concerned, it also assumes the person bearing categorial meanings (I, II, III persons, indefinite person, and generalized person) and personal oriented certain types. Here it is possible to measure time, but not the person. Localization in time is as it is in the space, that's why indication as to time and space are linked with each other.

III. THE TYPES OF DEIXIS

As we know, the general unity of the types of deixis is the determination of the starting point of calculation. For the time deixis possesses two characteristics: orientation (from past to future) and locality in the time distribution as to the beginning of the coordinates.

Time coordination can be fixed as in three styles in a language:

- 1) in the system of signs
- 2) in the lexic system of units possibly to be marked as to the time in its semantics
- 3) a sign to time differentiations of tenses in the category of verb.

As to the above-mentioned issues we can determine the temporal deixis as to the indication of the time fitting to the condition of the utterance. In the system of indicators, temporal deixis is expressed with the help of demonstrative pronouns. In different languages the terms of the concept of “pronoun” mostly belong to the ancient grammatical terms, - Greek *antonymia* or latin *phomenon* used them as the substituors of names. In modern Western languages classical terms (first of all latin terms), for example in French *pronom*, in English *pronoun*, or their culcezed terms have been secured. The numerated terms for indicating the features of pronouns being considered as the bases of these words are examplary words. A number of scientists see the essence of pronouns mainly in lexical meaning (namely, these words don't have lexical meanings they only denote indication) others see the essence of pronouns in functions (namely, these words substitute the basical words), the third ones see the essence of pronouns in the both features. Maytinskaya K.E. notes that alongside the numerated features, general meanings of some demonstrative pronouns are specially to be marked (Maytinskaya 1969, p.49). Pronouns don't name the features of objects, or events, they only point to already generalized notions.

Benvenist, considering the essence of pronouns notes, that pronouns exist in different languages and in these languages they are divided into the same categories. As to Benvenist pronouns are not of the same class, depending on the existence of the language, signs of which they are, they create different genders and types (Benvenist 1974, p.23). Brugmann saw the specificity of demonstrative pronouns, and also noted the fact that, differing from other pronouns they possessed special features of indicativity. The signs given as to the thought of the speaker showed themselves as sound gestures in addition to the finger – pointed indications as the speaker went on speaking. As to Maytinskaya the main specificity of demonstrative pronouns determined by Brugmann needs some changes. 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 functions of gestures and demonstrative pronouns are only the expression of initial deictic stage: for example the anaphoric use of pronouns cannot possibly belong only directly to gestures, it developed only in the language (Maytinskaya 1969, p.48).

IV. DETERMINATION OF REFERENCE

It is worth mentioning that any object carrying out the function of indication, depending on the choice of speech, which are applied to deictic pronouns (as to Pirs indexal signs) have been adapted to carry out concrete (identified) reference. The English term reference bases on the English verb to refer which means meaning relating, belonging to an object, to ground on something, to intend a certain object. Thus reference means to “grasp” the meaning of the utterance. Yartseva notes like this: reference is the actualized (entered the language) language and language expressions, or their adequacy to the objects of truthfulness (referent, denotat) of their equivalents (Yartseva 1990, p.38). The adequacy between the semantic type of the language and reference type of ordinary languages of the language expression are necessarily oriented to the investigation on the pronouns. In reality pronouns and generally the pronoun elements of the language are the main means of references. Out of the references directed to concrete references usually three classes are noted:

- 1) Deictic pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, this);
- 2) Personal names (Venesia, Napoleon, Popov);
- 3) Descriptions, namely, common nouns and determinatives – article or indicative pronoun, visible or intended (this table, French king).

While demonstratives are universal, they can differ widely in terms of their form, meaning, and use. The semantic features of demonstratives are divided into two basic types: (1) deictic features, which indicate the location of the referent relative to the deictic centre, and (2) non deictic features, which characterize the type of referent.

The deictic features of demonstratives are commonly characterized in spatial terms based on their relationship to the deictic centre. If the demonstrative pronouns *this* and *that* are used contrastively, *this* denotes a referent that is closer to the deictic centre than the referent of *that*, that is, *this* is proximal and *that* is distal.

This one (here) is larger than *that* one (over there).

However, in non-contrastive situations *this* and *that* are often interchangeable. They don't carry an inherent distance feature.

I like *this/that* one better.

According to Levinson the demonstrative pronoun *this* always expresses some sense of proximity, and *that* is only interpreted as a distal term if it is used in explicit contrast to *this*: that is, *that* is semantically unmarked for distance but is interpreted as a distal term by pragmatic contrast via Grice's maxim of quantity. Thus, Levinson concludes that the

traditional analysis of demonstratives in terms of spatial features (i.e., proximal vs. distal) is not always adequate to characterize their meaning and use.

One of the most striking features of demonstrative pronouns is that they are commonly accompanied by a pointing gesture. Deictic pointing is a communicative device that is used in all cultures to establish joint attention. It usually involves the index finger, but there are also cultures in which lip pointing is used to direct the other person's attention. The frequent co-occurrence of demonstratives and deictic pointing supports the hypothesis that demonstratives function to establish joint attention, which is crucially distinct from the communicative function of person deixis. First and second person pronouns refer to the speech participants, which are automatically activated as part of the speech event, whereas demonstratives create a new focus of attention or else indicate a contrast between two previously established referents.

The frequent combination of demonstratives and deictic pointing is especially striking in early child language. When children begin to produce their first words, at around the age of 15 months, they typically use content words referring to persons, objects, and other entities in their environment. But in addition to these words demonstrative pronouns are always among the first and most frequent expressions in early child language.

We consider that the function of demonstrative pronouns is monogram and important for the language. With the help of demonstrative pronouns the speaker marks each suitable object by which he/she attracts the attention of the speaker. Demonstrative pronouns state the space relatively of the speaker with the marked object or systematization of chronological "nearness" or "farness" of events as to the time in speech moment. Demonstrative pronouns in the frame of time can indicate to different directions, by which they carry out the functional features of the causes of subject and time in the sentence. We can meet such word combinations in the function of cause 6 times more than the function of subject.

In *this + n* (time meaning) word combinations, the demonstrative pronoun in the objective case has been limited by different time frames and gives the meaning of concrete noun, indicating certain moments of this time. For ex: *He is probably laughing at this moment* (Theodore 2005, p.123). *Yəqin, o, bu an güdür. I shall never forget her appearance this morning* (Theodore 2005, p.125). *Mən onu bu səhər necə gördüyünü heç vaxt unutmayacağam.*

Time aspect finding its reflection in this utterance specifies concrete features of movements, taking place in different time frames, or characterizes concrete indicated object directed to concrete time. As a whole word combinations belonging to an utterance or to different sentence members in the grammatical structure may take different places. Just we may note the following principles:

1. Usage of them at the beginning of the sentence: *This afternoon was received by Gennie with the greatest pleasure...* (Theodore 2005, p.10) – *Bu günortanı Cenni böyük sevinclə qarşıladi.*

2. Occupation of the last position: *It's clear from this, that he will come back no more this winter said Gennie* (Theodore 2005, p.44) – *Bu onu göstərir ki, o, bu qış qayıtmayacaq Cenni dedi.*

3. Joining directly the indefinite form of the verb: *However your coming at this time is the greatest comforts and I am very glad to hear what you tell us about the new dress* (Theodore 2005, p.44). – *Lakin sizin bu vaxt gəlişiniz böyük təsəllidir və mən sizin bizə yeni paltarınızdan danışmağınızı eşitdiyimə görə şadam.*

This + noun, these + n word combinations very often are used by present and future tenses of the verbs. For ex: *The whole party have left Netherfield by this time and are on their way to town and without any intention of coming back again* (Theodore 2005, 39). – *Bu vaxt hamı şəhərə üz tutub bir daha geri qayıtmaq istəməyərək Nizerfildən gedib. It will mean want one of these days* (Theodore 2005, p.228). – *Bu günlərin bir günü (tez bir zamanda) bir əlac, bir istək olacaq.*

But Leech and Svartlik note that pointing to the events having taken place in the past makes no difference in the usage of *this or that*, though the demonstrative pronoun *this* is advantageous in formal speech and it only points to the events taking place in future. *This may point to the events recently having taken place* (Leech and Svartik 1975, p.132).

a) *This is what I thought* – *Mənim fikirləşdiyim budur.*

b) *That's the end of the news* – *Bu verilişin sonudur.*

A lot of examples are set to the usage of common case in the context of past tense in deictic function:

This time this smile was ambiguous again, ironic, courteous – *Bu dəfə onun gülüşü yenə ikimənalı, ironiyalı və mərifətli idi.*

V. ANAPHORIC AND CATAPHORIC FUNCTIONS OF PRONOUNS

Now, let's consider the usage of this pronoun in anaphoric and cataphoric functions. As it has been mentioned above anaphoric attitude is the attitude (namely, transference from one attitude to the other one) among the language expressions. Among these expressions direct syntactic coordination is established. In the anaphoric function the pronoun *this* is rarely used. Anaphoric function may be adjusted to emphatic constructions. For ex: *The ship sank suddenly – this was when she admitted that it might be something serious* – *Gəmi gözlənilmədən batdı, bu o vaxt baş verdi ki, o, etiraf etdi ki, ciddi nə isə bir şey baş vermişdir.* Anaphoric attitude becomes coordinated with cataphoric attitude in the line, in which the element having the meaning of transference comes before.

In the cataphoric function the demonstrative pronoun *this* joining the noun denoting the duration of time is used as an adverb. Besides it carries out the functions of subject and object. Very often subordinate adverbial modifier of the

postsedent time, but in less cases. It is used by subordinate – attribute combination and participle expression: *This is the first time I had been asked to elicitate the kidnapping – İlk dəfədir ki, məndən oğurluğa şərait yaradılmasını xahiş etmişdilər.*

The expressions used with *that* being affirmed by the verb forms points to the certain time of the past events. They may come in any part of the sentence (at the beginning or in the end). The core of these word combinations may be nouns expressing meanings of the parts of the day, names of the week days, months, seasons and other words denoting temporal meaning. We consider that the pronoun (demonstrative) expressing these notions, as to the time, in the nearest future or in the nearest past actualizes them: *I love that girl he thought to himself that night* (Theodore 2005, p.72). – *Mən bu qızı sevirəm, o, həmin gecə belə düşündü.*

From moment that I watched my friend carefully, and I saw that this attachment to Miss Gennie was beyond what I had ever seen in him before (Theodore 2005, p.64). – *Bu andan mən dostumu diqqətlə izləyirdim və gördüm ki, onun Miss Cennyə bağlılığı qabaq gördüyümdən daha da üstün idi.*

That + noun word combinations being adequate to utterance as a whole and to the other sentence members may take place in the grammatical structure of the sentence:

1. At the beginning of the sentence: *At the moment sir William Lucas appeared and stopped to offer him a mark of attention* (Theodore 2005, p.32). – *Bu an sir Vilyam Lukas peyda oldu və dayandı ki, ona diqqət yetirsin.*
2. Occupation of the last position: *She opened the door and Maria, who cried to her to come down that moment* (Theodore 2005, p.48) – *O, qapını açıb onu bu an aşağı düşməyə çağıran Mariyanı qarşıladı.*
3. Directly joining the verb: *They could only suppose his visit to arise from the difficulty of finding anything to do at that time of year* (Theodore 2005, p.57). – *Onlar yalnız belə güman edə bilərdilər ki, onun ilin bu vaxtında gəldiyi bekarlıqdan idi.*

The pronoun *that* in the cataphoric function in the meaning of time adverb, very often is used with verbs in the past tense forms. For ex: *That was the first time I had looked at him* (Theodore 2005, 67). – *Bu ilk dəfə idi ki, mən ona baxdım.*

When changes take place with pronoun *it* or with definite article, the information on the “nearness” or “farness” is omitted. *I would even venture to say that at the time she felt more comfortable – Mən bunu o, sakit olduğu an deməyə heç vaxt cürət etməzdim.* Demonstrative pronouns themselves are free from temporal meaning, the meaning of time becomes clear only as to the context, or in coordination of nouns having the meanings of space and time.

In the same meaning, and in the same text the words “this year” and “now” can be used. The basis of the mutual alternation is the governing function, peculiar to adverbial modifier of time. Thus, in the English language demonstrative pronouns occupy the main place among all the deictic words.

VI. SEMANTICS OF PRONOUNS

Semantics of pronouns are the main criteria of their discrimination. As to the lexical view point pronouns may be classified due to logical-semantic view points because of their specific semantic features. By this we may discriminate the following degrees of pronouns: deictic, anaphoric and cvantor. Investigators belong the demonstrative pronouns to the main categories of pronouns among the words of deictic/demonstrative words, as they occupy a central position as to their a number of peculiarities. We agree to their thoughts.

We think that here one of the main factors is that the numeral pronoun degrees possess their free substantivized forms which have already gained the status of pronouns. As to Maytinskaya demonstrative, personal and interrogative pronouns having taken the abstract meanings we can say that they are distinguished in all the languages of the world and only in systematization such words are in the stage of formation (Maytinskaya 1969, p.75).

Thus, one of the deictic style of expression is noun and adequacy of demonstrative pronouns. So, temporal meaning in this demonstrative pronoun belongs only to the nouns giving the meaning of time (temporal meaning). Thus, we can affirm that demonstrative pronouns in the demonstrative system are a universal means of the expression of temporal deixis and this style for them is advantageous. As to the above-mentioned principles, we can say that temporality is a semantic category reflecting the understanding and cognition of the elements of approach to the time of the marked state or to the act of speech, or to the other points of human beings. Nevertheless, temporal meaning based on such a category, is a functional-semantic field for the expression of different variations of semantic categories in this or other languages, involving grammatical (morphology and syntax), lexics, including lexic-grammatic, grammatic-contextual etc. grouping.

VII. CONCLUSION

Having studied means of expression of temporal deixis by demonstrative pronouns 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.

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.

Any object carrying out the function of indication, depending on the choice of speech, which are applied to deictic pronouns has been adapted to carry out concrete (identified) reference.

We can say that out of the references, directed to concrete references usually three classes are noted: 1) deictic pronouns; 2) personal names; 3) descriptions, namely common nouns and determinatives – article or indicative pronoun – visible or intended (*this table, French king*).

In *this + n* (time meaning) word combinations, the demonstrative pronoun in the objective case has been limited by different time frames and gives the meaning of concrete noun, indicating certain moments of this time.

We have found out that as a whole, word combinations belonging to an utterance or to different sentence members in the grammatical structure may take places 1) at the beginning of the sentence, 2) in the final position and 3) directly joining the indefinite form of the verb.

The temporal deictic means of expressions possesses anaphoric and cataphoric functions. In the anaphoric function the pronoun “*this*” is rarely used. Anaphoric attitude becomes coordinated with cataphoric attitude in the line, in which the element having the meaning of transference comes before. The expressions used with “*that*” being affirmed by the verb forms, point to the certain time of the past events.

That + n word combinations being adequate to utterance as a whole and to the other sentence members may take place as to the grammatical structure of the sentence: 1) at the beginning, 2) at the last position, 3) directly in the position in which it directly joins the verb.

Pronoun can be subjected to change of place in the structure of the sentence. When changes take place with pronoun *it* or with definite article, the information on the “nearness” or “farness” is omitted.

Semantics of pronouns are the main criteria of their discrimination. As to the lexical view point, pronouns may be classified due to logical-semantic views, because of their specific semantic features. As to the semantic peculiarities of the pronouns deictic pronouns may be distinguished as deictic, anaphoric and cataphoric.

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