

THE FUNCTIONS OF DEICTIC WORDS IN SPECIALIZED TEXTS

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Abstract: *The topic of the given article is The Functions of Deictic Words in specialized Texts. As my translation practice was directly related with this topic, I decided to go deep into details of this complicated phenomena.. During the practice, I translated different mass-media texts from different fields: economics, business, tech, medicine, etc. I paid a special attention to the deictic units in my text. I find this topic very interesting because there is less information about this phenomenon. Deixis, as well as its typologies are controversial and contradictory phenomenon today. Many researchers analyze deixis only based on oral communicative situation. I think it is wrong to limit the field of use of deixis only to the framework of oral speech situation. I believe that writing is also situational, with the only difference that, in the case of writing, the "situation" is represented by context.*

Key Words: *deixis, linguistics, temporal deixis, spacial deixis, personal deixis, deictical units.*

Deixis began to be actively studied in the works of linguists of the second half of the XX century, and to the present time both in domestic and in foreign works devoted to deixis, there are a significant number of classifications of both the phenomenon and its individual species.

Linguistics is a science related on how the language functions. Each language is a set of knowledge and abilities. They allow us communicate each other; express our opinions, emotions, desire. The study of this knowledge is linguistics. Linguistics focuses on specific questions about the nature of language. It deals with the study of particular languages and the search of common characteristics of different languages. Linguistics also focuses on the search of the language variation (i.e., dialects), on how language changes over time how language is processed and stored in the brain, and how children acquire it.

Language plays an important role in our life. We need it in order to have the possibility to communicate, because it gives us information and it is a method of establishing relations with other people.

The relevance of my work is determined by the need for further study of the language system from the standpoint of functional grammar and pragmatics. This approach, which requires strict adherence to the principle of consistency, most visibly reveals the language in action, in its specific implementation, which allows to identify the rich functional and semantic capabilities of the deixis category in modern English.

The urgency of this problem lies in the fact that there are a number of unresolved complex problems in the functioning of deixis. The term "deixis" is borrowed from the Greek verb. It means 'pointing' or 'indicating'. The term "deixis" exists since ancient times, but its study has never gone beyond the limits of grammar. Since the second half of the XXth century, deixis acquired a new relevance because it receives the characteristics of the universal category that functions at all levels of the language.

Here are some example, where some types of deixis and the means of its expression are discussed. The analysis is performed on the basis of the a specially chosen text. We also try to explain the presence of this or that deictic element in the sentences.

- *This year, however, the government decided to change this situation and introduce a new recreation concept – city summer camps. [The Moscow News 2008: 7]- В этом году, тем не менее, правительство решило изменить эту ситуацию и представили новый развлекательный центр — городской летний лагерь.*

This example shows us the presence of temporal deixis in the first part of the sentence, we see an indication of a certain period of time, in this case it is a specific year when a certain action takes place, and in the second part we see the usage of anaphora — the demonstrative pronoun "this" indicates a phenomenon in the previous sentence, namely the problem of rest of parents and their children.

- *I was brutal, Harry – perfectly brutal. But it is all right now. I am not sorry for anything that has happened.. [Wild 2001: 131].- Я был жесток, Гарри — очень жесток. Но теперь все в порядке. Я ни о чем не жалею.)*

Deictic construction now expresses the circumstance of the investigation, i.e. the speaker felt being cruel to a certain point in time, but after some time he felt differently, not like earlier. The point of reference in time was directly the moment indicating the changes, the temporal characteristics, thus based on the previous moment - *I was brutal and after - But it is all right now*, which reveals temporal deixis in a situation of direct speech.

- *The man on the train platform who spoke only Hindi looked at my ticket and chuckled.* - Человек на платформе, говоривший только на хинди, посмотрел на мой билет и усмехнулся.

In this sentence we see the presence of personal deixis, which is expressed by the relative pronoun “who”. It refers to the previous information so we can acquire more information about this man. Definite article *the* shows that we have already had an amount of certain information about this man.

- *This had been one of those days when mistakes piled up faster than I could track them.* - Это был один из тех дней, когда ошибки накапливались быстрее, чем я могла их отследить.

Here we have personal deixis, that is expressed by the demonstrative pronouns “this” and “those”. We also have the word “mistake” at the first part of the sentence and deictic “them” at the second part, which refers us to the previous information.

- *I had tarried too long in Chandigarh, India, and the four-hour taxi ride back to New Delhi now promised to be a six-hour slog in traffic.* - Я слишком долго пробыла в Чандигархе, Индия, и четырехчасовая поездка на такси до Нью-Дели теперь обещала быть шестичасовым нудным ожиданием в пробке.)

There are temporal deictic expressions (*four-hour ride, six-hour slog*) in this example. The author uses temporal deixis in order to emphasize the duration and to show the enormous amount of time she wasted.

- *But there was the man on the platform — a waiter for the railway, whose job it is to pass out dinners — flashing a gesture that seemed to mean, “Don’t worry, I’ve got you.”* - Но на платформе стоял человек, это был официант, в чьи обязанности входит раздавать обеды, — и махал рукой, словно говоря: “не волнуйся, я тебя держу.)

There is an example of the special deixis in this phrase: “*there... on the platform*”. It shows us a concrete place. We also see the personal deixis “*the man*” and then concretization, who was that man (a waiter).

Deixis is a universal category. It is a functional aspect of the language rather than a morphological one. Deixis serves to indicate the participants of the process of communication, the time limit of the reported fact. Thus, the deictic mechanism is a universal tool that combines grammatical and non-grammatical indicators of time and extends throughout the semantic structure of the English language.

References

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