

Deixis in English and Arabic A contrastive study

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Abstract:-

In this article, the author will investigate the way of utilizing deictic expressions for social relations as well as diplomacy, which are of great importance to translators, teachers and diplomats. Recognizing the five types of deixis and their implications and different connotations, the author will show the similarities and differences between the two languages and how they are used. The consequences of misunderstanding these differences might lead to diplomatic conflict and complete failure of translating the speaker's intention from the source language to the target language which may lead to world conflict. Thus the author will point out the semantic features and pragmatic functions of personal, spatial and temporal deixis of English, and Arabic pointing out similarities and differences. Thus the writer points out their importance to language teaching which is of great importance. However, the translation is not only for academic purposes but for the international community at large.

Keywords: Deixis in English, Classifications of Deixis, Personal deixis, Spatial/ Place/ Space Deixis.

1.The problem

It is somewhat problematic when dealing with deixes in both Arabic and English. The problems that emerge are caused by the concept of interference between native and foreign languages. It is not clear whether they are entirely or partially similar. The word 'deixis' derived from Greek 'deiktikos' is used in modern Western linguistics to refer to certain personal, spatial and temporal elements which events on the basis of spatio-temporal dimensions. There are three main types of deixis: person, place and time, and two minor ones in English and other languages including Arabic, discourse deixis and social deixis. The present paper discusses mainly the first three types; it only touches lightly on the other two minor

types; it points out the basic similarities and differences in deixis between the two languages. In philosophy deictic elements are usually called indexical expressions or just indexicals, a term also used by Peirce in the sense of deixis.

1.1.Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that similarities between Arabic and English cover much wider area than differences as far as deixis is concerned.

As expected, the Arab linguists and grammarians have not discussed the notion of deixis in one comprehensive topic; it occurs in scattered places like pronouns, demonstratives, verbs, adverbs and particles. In discussing these grammatical elements, the Arab grammarian makes casual reference to the notion of deixis. Both deixis and anaphora share the deictic or pointing feature, but in deixis the pointing feature points to the context of utterance or context of situation; whereas in anaphora it points to the antecedent or to its referent. The example below illustrates the difference: The pronouns 'I' and 'you' refer to the speaker and the addressee, who can be recognized from the context of situation; they are deictic elements. Want to speak to Peter Black. Do you know where he is? The pronouns 'I, you' refer to the speaker and the addressee, who can be recognized from the context of situation; they are deictic elements. The pronoun 'he' refers to the referent of the expression 'Peter Black'; it is therefore anaphoric. Some linguists distinguish between an anaphoric function of a pronoun as that of 'he' where it points to the referent of a preceding antecedent, and the cataphoric function of a pronoun, where it points to the referent of a forward antecedent.

1.2.Aims

This research is an attempt to find out the similarities and differences Between English and Arabic in the light of the discussion and analysis of similarity and difference between the deictic systems of the two languages. It aims at pointing out the semantic features and pragmatic uses of deictic in English and Arabic

Because he was angry, Peter resigned. Assuming that 'he' refers to the referent of 'Peter', we say that 'he' is used cataphorically. Traditionally, anaphora covers both the more usual backward and the less usual forward anaphora. This is the use adopted in this research. There is another point which needs to be clarified before this section is concluded, namely: What

does an anaphoric pronoun refer to? So far it has been stated that it refers to the referent of the antecedent i.e. it is co-referent with its antecedent. Thus in (1) above 'he' refers to the referent of the expression 'Peter Black'. There is, however, an older and traditional view which says that a pronoun refers to the antecedent expression rather than the referent. In this use adopted by Bloomfield and others a pronoun is a substitute of a noun or a nominal expression (a noun phrase); often no distinction was drawn between the two units, which sometimes results in considerable confusion. In the present article the more recent view is adopted, where an anaphoric pronoun refers to the referent of the antecedent. This is also the use found in various philosophical schools How do traditional Arab grammarians envisage the antecedent and the referent of a pronoun? The following standard definition of the pronoun in Arabic may shed some light at this point.

1.3 The Procedures

In this research the second section is committed to Deixis in English. On the other side, Deixis in Arabic is dealt with in section three. Section four. The contrast, show differences between them. The last section is conclusions Presents the outcome of what has been stated in the previous sections

1.4. Limits

The present study is limited to the three kinds of deixis of person, time and place in English and Arabic , which are the scope of the present work

1.5. The Value

It is also hoped that this study will be beneficial to those who are interested in contrastive studies and syllabus designers as it increases the knowledge about how deixes are used.

2. Deixis in English

Deixis is a technical term (from Greek) for one of the foremost fundamental things we do with expressions . It implies "pointing" through dialect and the phonetic shape is called expression . (Yule 1996:9) . Deictic expressions such as < this , that, here ,there> are regularly utilized for data

and indeed for instruction in connection to the indexical ground of expression setting.

Or we can define it as :

-The term "deixis" is borrowed from Greek word meaning "pointing to", or "indicating", (Lyons, 1977:636), and it is utilized presently in linguistics to allude to the work of individual and demonstrative pronouns, of tense and a assortment of other linguistic and lexical features which relate utterances to the spatio-temporal facilitates of the act of utterance (ibid.).

2.1 Classifications of Deixis

According to Bühler (Buhler, 2011, p. 67) there's a deictic centre that consists of I, Here and Now. As a result there are three main categories of deixis :

-Person deixis, used to point to objects (it, these, those books) and people (her, him, them, those students)
-spatial deixis , used to point to a location (here, there, close to)

-Temporal deixis, used to point to a time (now, then, next week, last month)

In order to interpret all these deictic expressions we must know which person, time and place the speaker has in mind . There is a great difference on what is close to the speaker (this, here, now) and what is distant (that , there , then) We can also realize whether there is a movement away from the speaker (go) or there is a movement towards the speaker (come).
If somebody is moving towards you, you say : He is coming !
If somebody is moving away from you, you say : He is going!

2.1.1 Personal deixis

Person Deixis means the use of expressions to point to a person, with the personal pronouns "*I, you, he, she, it, we, and they*". e.g.

- *We* are not assumed.
- So *you* went to Arram.
- *We* got back.
- *They* were like this. (Cutting 2002: 7)

In other words, person deixis includes fundamentally the speaker, known as the first person, the recipient, known as the second person, and other significant members within the speech situation, neither speaker nor hearer these are known as third person. There could be a kind of dominance connection holding among the terms: first person dominates second and third, and second person dominates third (Cruse 2000: 319- 20).He feels so weak and ill.

Pronouns

- Grammatical category of a person: Personal pronouns.
- All languages have personal pronouns or at least words, that refer to the participants of the speech act.
- The pronouns of the first (I, my, mine) and second person (you, your, yours) are deictic:
 - Reference to the speaking person.
 - It is also possible to have deictic pronouns for the third person.
 - Definite and specific pronouns: *this, that, those, these*.
 - Indefinite and specific pronouns: *somebody, something, who, that, what*.
 - Indefinite and non- specific pronouns: *someone, something, nobody, nothing*.
 - Honorifics: *your majesty, sir*.

2.1.2 Spatial/ Place/ Space Deixis

Spatial deixis is words utilized to point to the location, the place where an entity is within the context, as within the shape of demonstrative adverbs, "There", "Here", and demonstrative determiners and adjectives such as "This, that, these, those".

- They were like *this*.
- *That* was great.

In other words *Place deixis* concerns the locations relative to points in the speech event (speaker= center). There are two basic ways referring to objects: by describing or naming them and by locating them.

can be specified relative to other objects :Location

- The station is *two hundred yards from the college*.

Locations can be specified relative to the location of participants :

- It's *two hundreds yards away*.

English contains a generally impoverished spatial deictic framework, with as it were two terms, ordinarily named proximal and distal. The proximal term here implies something like "locale generally near to the speaker", and there means "relatively far off the speaker". Here may represent an area less than the square meter on which the speaker is standing, or it might be something much vaster, such as:

- *Here* in our local galaxy cluster.....

(Cruse 2000: 320- 1 and Cutting 2002: 8).

*"now" and "then" may be paraphrased as "*at this time*" and "*at that time*:"

"*here*" and "*there*" may be paraphrased as *at this place* and *at that place*, respectively.

Hence, *this* and *that*, which are primarily construed as place deictic terms, in that they typically express *proximity to*, or *distance from*, the speaker, can also be used to indicate time deixis: a temporal span including or excluding coding time.

Place deixis is relational rather than absolute. Rather than specifying the location of objects or places in terms of latitude and longitude absolute measures, we locate them in terms of each other and the speaker, as in the sentences below:

- The post office is two kilometres from the school.
- The post office is 500 metres away.

The understanding of this sentences crucially involves the location of the speaker at coding time.

2.1.3 Temporal/ Time Deixis

Temporal deictics work to locate points or intervals on the time pivot, utilizing the moment of expression as a reference point. Time deixis makes reference to the ways participants of specific societies conceptualize and

measure time (Marmaridou 2000: 82). There are in this way three major divisions of time pivot:

- (1) before the moment of utterance,
- (2) at the time of utterance
- (3) after the time of utterance.

The most basic temporal deictics in English are *now* and *then*.

The most basic expressions in encoding time deixis in English are the adverbs "*now*" and "*then*", also "*soon*" and "*recently*" and verb tenses. When time deixis interacts with calendrical units of time, words like "*today*", "*tomorrow*" and "*yesterday*" are used to locate an utterance relative to time. However, the use of these terms is flexible in that it can indicate the entire time span specified or just a relevant part of it, as in the following examples:

- *Today* is a holiday.
- Johnny broke his plate *today*.

The understanding of either option appears to depend on a variety of contextual parameters including sociocultural information. The following examples illustrate this point: Turn around *now*.

- She is in the office *now*.
- She is a Deputy Director *now*.

In the first sentence, is interpreted as referring to coding time because it is part of an order with a particular content, so that to comply with the order involves immediate action. In second and third sentences, the adverbial is interpreted against wider concentric cycles because it is part of our cultural knowledge that if one is in an office, she is likely to be there for some time, whereas being a Deputy Director spans over a period of time and is not a momentary property of an individual.

The adverb "*then*" indicates distance from the deictic centre either towards the future or towards the past, and it has been claimed that it is really an anaphoric element to a span of time that has been previously established in discourse, as in the example below:

- I'll see her *tomorrow* and I'll ask her *then*.

Apparently, "*tomorrow*" is time deictic, and "*then*" refers back to the time span that *tomorrow* established as a referent.

- I was just a kid *then*.

It is claimed that it is part of the meaning of *then* that it is a relational term in that it takes its value from a previously established reference to a point, or period, in time, and as such, it is also used anaphorically. In the above example, *then* refers to the same period. Like *now*, *today* can make reference to more mediate or wider time spans away from the deictic centre, as in sentences below:

- *Today* is pay- day
- *Today* youngsters behave strangely sometimes.

In the first sentence , coding time is within the 24 hours span, whereas in second sentence, coding time is within a wider and indefinite time span.

. Similarly, with "tomorrow" and "yesterday": "tomorrow" may be glossed as "in the future with respect to coding time" and "yesterday" as "in the past with respect to coding time".

Apart from the adverbials, time deixis is often expressed with adjectives such as "next" and "last" and the demonstratives "this" and "that" when attached to specific time cycles and their names, as in "next week", "last Monday", "this month", "that December" (Marmaridou 2000:84) . (

According to the above time expressions, it is important to note that their collocation with calendrical or non- calendrical renderings of time yields culturally significant results. For example, "this year" might mean the space of time between 1st January and 31st of December, or the space time, starting from the day including coding time, which is the calendrical rendering of the expression, or the space of time, starting from the day including coding time and ending after 365 days, that is, the non-calendrical rendering of the expression. More importantly, "this year" might refer to the time between 1st September and 31st August including coding time in an academic context, or it might refer to the time between 1st April and 31st March including coding time in a British annual revenue context. Similarly, "this week" or "this month" refers to the week or month including coding time. Furthermore, "this December" refers to the December of the calendar year including coding time, but preferably when this December lies in the future of coding time rather than the past.

Interestingly, in day time spans "this morning/ afternoon/ evening" make future or past reference to a larger unit, that of the 24- hour day.

3. Deixis in Arabic:

In this section, an endeavour is carried out to portray the deictic framework in Arabic within the light of advanced phonetic terms. This chapter includes the Discussion of personal pronouns, Place Deixis, Time Deixis, Social Deixis, Discourse deixis.

The description of Arabic deixis is based on the works done on deixis by Fillmore (1971b, 1997), Bühler (1934), Levinson (1983), Rauh (1982). Fillmore (1997:26) confirms that all languages must include mechanisms, which allow for "deictically anchored sentences". Accordingly, Elements of language expressions that require this sort of contextualization are known as deictic forms. Therefore, this study is an attempt to investigate these elements to establish a deictic system in Arabic in terms of person, place, and time deixis.

3.1 Definition Deixis in Arabic:

Fillmore (1997:26) confirms that all languages must Include mechanisms, which allow for "deictically anchored sentences". Accordingly, every language has lexical items and grammatical forms, which can be interpreted only when sentences in which they occur, are understood as being anchored in some social context .

3.2 Pronouns Deixis

Pronouns do not have a meaning by themselves. They have a pragmatic function of which speakers make use in communicating with others. It has many types and personal deixis is one of those types which should depend on matching the reference with reality or what is called truth condition speech (sharT alSidiq) in order to decide that these pronouns are considered as deictic. Personal deixis consists of first, second, and third person pronouns(Al-Shahry: 2004, 286–287).

3.2.1. First Person Pronouns

The first-person pronoun (ana) review pride or when someone has the pride of doing something. The pronoun (naHnu) refers to masculine and

feminine so it removes any kind of discrimination between males and females (Al-tamiimy, 2004, 321–322).

3.2.2. Second Person Pronouns

Personal deixis includes second person pronouns which are used to direct the speech to the addressee. It also has the power of presence. Collaborative *anta* consists of (*anta*) second pronoun for singular and (*antum*) second pronoun for plural. The pronoun (*anta*) is used when people are socially close to each other. It is used when people occupy the same social rank like children, friends and so on. It is also used when someone is talking to a new or an unfamiliar person.

In addition, the pronoun (*antum*) is used in relations in which there is a kind of respect and social dimension. Pronouns, whether they are attached or detached, can be used with each other in the same sentence referring to the same reference in order to express emphasis (Al-Shahry, 2004, 300).

3.2.3. Third Person Pronouns

Third person pronouns are always considered as deictic expressions because they should be interpreted using the context, so they need a reference to interpret their meaning (Al-Hamad & Al-Zu9by, 1993, p. 87).

3.3 Place deixis

Place deixis identifies the referent on the basis of location; the point of reference being proximity from the speaker at The time of utterance .The corresponding spatial deictic elements in Arabic are the demonstratives, which etc.), the adverbs *هنا* and *هناك* ' *هناك* ' *هناك* And certain verbs showing direction towards the speaker *جاء* or away from the speaker *ذهب* .

Near the speaker	away from
the speaker	

هناك	اولاء	هاتان	هناك	هنا	هذان	هذا
اولائك تاك تلك اولئك ذاك ذاك						

(Lyons 1977, p. 668)

3.4 Time Deixis

The elements realizing time deixis of Arabic also uses nouns, غدا 'البارحة', adverbs, اليوم, particles, الآن, حينئذ, يومئذ, and tenses. As in the case of Spatial deixis, time deixis may be arranged on the basis of proximity from the speaker as follows:

Near the speaker	away from
the speaker	
Today tomorrow now present tense	yesterday then
past tense	
	حينئذ
	الآن
Present	tense
past tense	

The demonstrative pronouns in English and Arabic are also used as time deixis, the proximal elements indicating the present; the distal elements pointing to the past, as in the following examples:

1. These are hard times (proximal –temporal).

1. صعبة اوقات هذه (temporal –proximal)

(Leech and Short, 1981, p. 225-226)

3.5 Social Deixis

Social deixis identifies the participants in an exchange on the two dimensions for rank and familiarity. An often quoted Example of social distinction is the contrast between 'tu' 'du' in French, the former Indicates that the addressee is inferior in rank or close to on the scale of familiarity;

. Arabic has two plural forms, one for males 'انتم' and the other for Females 'انتن'. However, the use of Arabic has two plural forms, one for males 'انتم' and the other for females 'انتن'. The male Form is sometimes used as an honorific term of address, and usually contrasts with 'انت' masculine singular 'you'. Arabic also uses titles, 'سيد' 'دكتور', etc. Kinship terms like (خ) brother, (أخت) sister, (عم) uncle; and (أب) father and (أم) mother are used to show respect and some familiarity (Al Aubali 2015 , p. 122)

3.6 Discourse deixis

Refers to certain expressions which point to a part of discourse in which the deictic element occurs (Levinson, 1983). In both English and Arabic, the proximal demonstratives 'this' and هذا ;and the distal demonstratives, 'that' and ذلك 'ذاك' are used as a discourse deixis, whereas the distal demonstrative always points to a preceding part of Discourse. The following examples illustrate these points in English and Arabic:

Have you heard this joke? (The joke follows).

This is the funniest joke I have heard (referring to the preceding joke).

. This is the funniest joke I have heard (as in 2)

النكتة هذه سمعت فهل

النكتة هذه من أحسن قط اسمع لم

النكتة تلك من احسن قط اسمع لم

(Jabra 1982, pp. 89-90)

4. Comparison

The present section is aimed to summarize the most focuses of divergence and convergence between English and Arabic with regard to deictic markers. These focuses are as follows:

1. Deictic markers are realized within the both languages beneath examination, i.e., they are existent in English and Arabic.

2. Deictic markers are of three major sorts in English and Arabic. These sorts are person, place ,and time deictics .

3. Person deictics is realized fundamentally by personal pronouns in English and Arabic. The two language have a three person system of first, second and third person pronouns.

4. The first person pronoun refers to the speaker at the time of talking. The second person pronoun is utilized for the recipient, or the person spoken to during the expression time. And the third person pronoun is utilized for a category which is neither the speaker nor the addressee.

5. It is noteworthy that the pronoun system in Arabic is much more complicated than this of English , that Arabic pronouns can be explicit or implicit , the previous are either separable which can be realized as free morphemes , or inseparable which are realized as bound morphemes attached to nouns, verbs and prepositions. In addition, Arabic pronouns are

more complicated with respect to their morphological inflections of number, gender, and case.

6. Place deixis is realized fundamentally by demonstratives, adverbs of place, and a few motion verbs in English and Arabic.

7. As far as demonstratives are concerned, English has two categories of place deixis, close to the speaker and farther from the speaker. On the other side, Arabic could be a three-term system which shows three spatial categories including close, medial and remote. Unlike English and Arabic, demonstratives are inflected for three numbers (singular, double, and plural), two genders (masculine female), and different cases.

8. Time deixis is fundamentally realized by demonstratives, tense, and a few adverbs of time in English and Arabic.

9. In English and Arabic, the proximate temporal shapes of demonstratives indicate present time, whereas distant shapes indicate past and future times.

10. Both English and Arabic are similar with reference to the deictic utilized of tense and adverbs of time.

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