

Deictic, discourse-deictic and anaphoric uses of demonstrative expressions in English

Starting from a scale of indexicality ranging from expression types encoding the signaling of pure deixis at one pole, to pure anaphora at the other, the paper will attempt, first, to characterize the specific way in which demonstratives (3rd person pronouns as well as NPs) realize the discourse procedures of **deixis** and **anaphora**. That done, my major goal will then be to provide a principled means of distinguishing between the **anaphoric** and **discourse-deictic** functions of demonstratives, both of which involve reference via the discourse context upstream.

Demonstrative expressions have at least the following properties: first, there is generally a contrastive element associated with their use, resulting in an exclusive and not inclusive reference. Next, where the demonstrative is a determiner, the predicate corresponding to the lexical head noun in the NP it is part of, together with its possible expansion(s), may not be presupposed but may have a characterizing function, (re)classifying the referent at issue. This property is not shared by definite lexical NPs, where the property denoted by their head noun is presupposed when the expressions are used anaphorically. As for demonstrative pronouns, these tend to have a generalizing referential effect, a property which is most evident in the case of the unmarked distal pair *that/those*.

Briefly, the differences between the anadeictic and discourse-deictic uses of demonstratives in English seem to include the following: unlike the purely deictic use, the referent is present — or potentially present — in the discourse model in both cases at the point of occurrence; but while it is a determinate entity in the case of an **anaphoric** retrieval, in the **discourse-deictic** use this is not initially the case. The interpretation of a demonstrative in its discourse-deictic use requires the understander to operate upon the immediate discourse context, constructing out of it an entity, proposition or illocution which can later be retrieved via an attenuated indexical expression.

Unlike the anaphoric use of demonstratives, in the discourse-deictic use, the demonstrative, where it is an NP, cannot normally be substituted by an equivalent definite NP (the denotation of whose lexical component, when the expression is used anaphorically, is presupposed by the speaker). And in neither case can the demonstrative, whether an NP or a pronoun, be substituted felicitously by an appropriate unaccented 3rd person personal pronoun bearing the same reference. Finally, the predicative content of the indexical clause takes on a much more significant role than in the purely anaphoric one, orienting the addressee or reader towards the likely intended interpretation.

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