

PRAGMALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF THE DEIXIS PHENOMENON: THEORY AND TEXT ANALYSIS

Ernazarova Laylo Abdusaitovna

Lecturer at the Department of Primary and Preschool Education Theory,

Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute

Independent Researcher, Fergana State University

Abstract. This article is dedicated to the research of the pragmalinguistic features of the deixis phenomenon, which is one of the significant directions in modern linguistics. The functions of deictic units within the framework of speech acts, as well as their role in defining person, time, and space coordinates, are analyzed from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Through the analysis of literary texts, the study highlights the "shifter" (variable) nature of deictic means, their discursive significance in ensuring the semantic integrity of a text, and their role in revealing the author's pragmatic intention. The research results demonstrate that deixis should be evaluated not merely as a lexical-grammatical level, but as a complex pragmatic mechanism activated within a speech situation.

Keywords: deixis, pragmalinguistics, speech act, discourse, shifter, indexical, text analysis, discursive deixis, semantic integrity.

INTRODUCTION

XXI-century linguistics, developing within the framework of the anthropocentric paradigm, requires the investigation of language units not only at the formal level but also in their inseparable connection with the *context of situation*. The phenomenon of deixis emerges as a fundamental mechanism for language to refer to reality and to shape communicative situations. While the problem of deixis has been profoundly studied in world linguistics across philosophical, logical, psycholinguistic, and pragmalinguistic aspects, significant scientific research has also been conducted in Uzbek linguistics. Specifically, the linguopragmatic features of deictic units in the Uzbek language and their role in ensuring the structural integrity of a text have been thoroughly analyzed by local linguists in their respective studies¹¹. However, the systematic and comparative analysis of the specific pragmatic functions of deictic means in artistic discourse, particularly in relation to the author's intention (*intendensiya*), remains a matter of scientific importance.

The term deixis (from the Greek *deixis* — "pointing") refers to a set of linguistic units that define the participants of a speech act, as well as time and space coordinates.

¹¹ Safarov Sh. Pragmalingvistika. – Toshkent: O'zbekiston faylasuflari milliy jamiyati, 2008. – 200 b; Hakimov M., Gaziyeva M. Pragmalingvistika asoslari. – Toshkent: Poligraf Super Servis, 2020. – 120 b; Muhiddinova D. O'zbek tilida deyksis hodisasi va uning lingvopragmatik xususiyatlari. Filol. fan. bo'yicha falsafa doktori (PhD) diss. avtoreferati. – Toshkent, 2021. – 30 b.

Researchers such as C. Fillmore and S. Levinson interpret deixis not merely as a unit of the lexical level, but as a functional phenomenon activated in the process of speech interaction¹². As V. A. Vinogradov notes, deixis is intrinsic to the internal structure of a text and is realized within the contextual field of reference¹³. In Uzbek linguistics, this phenomenon is studied as a system of "indexicals" expressed through pronouns, adverbs, and grammatical markers (person and tense suffixes), and their pragmatic potentials in speech processes have been scientifically substantiated.

The primary objective of this study is to elucidate the pragmalinguistic features of deixis and to determine the semantic and pragmatic functions of these units within artistic texts. Specifically, the research aims to:

Theoretically classify the typology of deixis (person, space, time, discursive).
Reveal the mechanism by which linguistic units perform the function of a "shifter" in connection with the speech situation.

Conduct a practical analysis of the role of deictic means in generating the author's intention and pragmatic impact in artistic texts.

The scientific novelty of this research lies in substantiating the activity of deictic units not only at the lexical-grammatical level but also at the discursive-pragmatic level through text analysis. This, in turn, serves to achieve a deeper understanding of the role of deixis in ensuring the internal semantic integrity of a text and to enhance the methodology of pragmalinguistic analysis.

METHODS

In this study, a systemic and functional approach was employed to conduct a comprehensive pragmalinguistic analysis of the deixis phenomenon. The following research methods were utilized to elucidate the role of deictic units in speech situations and their function in ensuring the structural integrity of the text:

Descriptive Method: This method served to describe the linguistic nature of deictic units (pronouns, adverbs, grammatical markers) and their position within the language system. Through this approach, the traditional types of deixis (person, space, time) were theoretically systematized.

Pragmalinguistic Analysis Method: As the cornerstone of this research, this method was directed toward studying the functioning of deictic expressions in communicative situations based on speech act theory. This enabled the exploration of relationships within the "speaker–addressee–speech situation" triad and the mechanisms by which deictic elements manifest as "shifters."

Textual Analysis: To observe the discursive realization of deixis in literary texts, "macro" and "micro" level analyses were conducted on selected prose excerpts. This

¹² Fillmore C. J. Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis. – Bloomington: Indiana University Linguistics Club, 1975. – 128 p;
Levinson S. C. Pragmatics. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983. – 420 p.

¹³ Виноградов В.А. Лингвистический энциклопедический словарь. – Москва: Советская энциклопедия, 1990. – 685 с

process monitored the role of deictic units in ensuring the internal coherence (cohesion) of the text, as well as their connection to the author's pragmatic intention (*intendentsiya*).

Comparative-Analytical Method: This method was used to compare different forms of deixis (indicative, non-descriptive, anaphoric) and their degree of dependence on the speech situation, as well as to determine their functional role within the language system.

The materials for the research were selected from contemporary Uzbek prose samples and theoretical linguistic literature (M. Hakimov, Sh. Safarov, et al.). The chosen literary texts are considered representative for demonstrating the discursive functions of deixis.

RESULTS

The pragmlinguistic analysis of the deixis phenomenon conducted during the study demonstrates that deictic units are not merely syntactic elements within a text; rather, they are fundamental tools that regulate the speech situation and shape pragmatic content. The analysis shows that personal pronouns such as "men" (I), "sen" (you), and "ular" (they) function as "shifters" within the text. For instance, in the literary text "Sevgi" (Love), the pronoun "ular" (they) initially refers to two lovers, but as the text progresses, it is re-semanticized to represent characters facing human destiny and a tragic conclusion. This confirms the dynamic nature of deixis in defining the participants of a speech act. Furthermore, the demonstrative pronoun "shunda" (then/thereupon) and its associated temporal meanings realize temporal deixis, ensuring the sequential flow (cohesion) of events. The results indicate that if these deictic units were removed, the semantic integrity of the text would be compromised, and the logical connection between events would be broken.

One of the most significant results of the study is that deixis serves not only to point to an object but also to express the author's evaluative attitude. In the text "Maymuniyat" (Monkey-ness), the pronoun "ular" (they), which refers to scientists, is used to form an ironic stance toward moral degradation in society. Consequently, deictic units act as carriers of "hidden pragmatic meaning" within artistic discourse.

Moreover, deixis is not limited to lexical units (pronouns, adverbs); grammatical categories (person and number suffixes) also perform deictic functions that coordinate the speech situation. Depending on the context, these units may transition from deictic meaning to anaphoric properties (internal text connectivity).

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study not only corroborate existing scientific views on the pragmlinguistic nature of deixis but also reveal specific characteristics inherent in Uzbek literary texts. The results confirm that the deixis theories proposed by C. Fillmore and S. Levinson are fully applicable to the materials of the Uzbek language. Specifically, the thesis that deixis is not merely a lexical but a functional phenomenon was substantiated through the analysis of the texts "Sevgi" (Love) and "Maymuniyat" (Monkey-ness). The observation that deictic units alter their function based on context

(the "shifter" property) in the analyzed texts attests to their dynamic nature in speech communication.

In literary texts, deictic means evolve from mere "pointers" into "evaluative" tools. The ironic context in the text "Maymuniyat" demonstrated the significant pragmatic power that deixis possesses at the discursive level. This suggests that a discursive-pragmatic approach is more effective for studying deixis than a traditional linguistic approach. While this research encompassed person, time, and space deixis, the manifestation of social deixis (forms expressing respect or disdain) and discursive deixis in larger prose works remains a prospective direction for future research. Furthermore, the issue of whether deictic units are preserved or transformed during the translation process (from Uzbek to other languages) warrants separate pragmalinguistic investigation.

The phenomenon of deixis acts as a "bridge" within the communicative system of language. By connecting speech acts to reality, it ensures the semantic and pragmatic integrity of the text. The results indicate that a profound understanding and application of deixis play a crucial role in increasing the impact of a text and conveying the author's idea to the reader's consciousness. By elucidating the pragmalinguistic nature of deixis, this scientific study contributes to enriching the methodology of text analysis in Uzbek linguistics.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this pragmalinguistic study allow us to draw the following conclusions regarding the role of the deixis phenomenon in modern linguistics and its interconnection with the structure of artistic texts:

Deixis is not merely a lexical group of language units, but a dynamic mechanism that connects reality with the speech situation during communicative interaction. Through "shifter" units within the language system, it defines the positions of speech act participants in time and space.

Deictic means play a decisive role in ensuring the internal semantic integrity (cohesion) of a text. Without them, it is difficult to maintain the coherence and thematic completeness of a speech act. Deictic units serve as powerful pragmatic tools for expressing the author's evaluative attitude in a text. The analysis of the prose texts confirmed that the use of deixis to emphasize irony, protest, or socio-ethical issues proves its function as a carrier of implicit pragmatic meaning.

The pragmalinguistic analysis of deixis enriches not only linguistic theory but also the methodology of textology and discourse analysis. The research results indicate that shifting from a traditional lexical-grammatical approach to a discursive-functional approach in the study of deixis serves to deepen our understanding of the nature of language. Although this research has elucidated the potential of the deixis phenomenon in artistic texts, the comparative-typological study of the usage characteristics of deictic units in various genres (poetry, drama, scientific texts) and the investigation of the

transformation of deixis during the translation process remain priority directions for future research.

REFERENCES:

1. **Safarov Sh.** Pragmalingvistika. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston faylasuflari milliy jamiyati, 2008. – 200 b.
2. **Hakimov M., Gazyeva M.** Pragmalingvistika asoslari. – Toshkent: Poligraf Super Servis, 2020. – 120 b.
3. **Muhiddinova D.** O‘zbek tilida deyksis hodisasi va uning lingvopragmatik xususiyatlari. Filol. fan. bo‘yicha falsafa doktori (PhD) diss. avtoreferati. – Toshkent, 2021. – 50 b.
4. **Fillmore C. J.** Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis. – Bloomington: Indiana University Linguistics Club, 1975. – 128 p.
5. **Levinson S. C.** Pragmatics. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983. – 420 p.
6. **Виноградов В.А.** Лингвистический энциклопедический словарь. – Москва: Советская энциклопедия, 1990. – 685 с.
7. **Hoshimov O‘.** Daftar hoshiyasidagi bitiklar. – Toshkent: "Sharq", 2012. – 320 b.