

# DEIXIS

- *Deixis* belongs within the domain of pragmatics because it directly concerns the relationship between the structure of languages and the contexts in which they are used.
- The term '***deixis***', from the Greek word for pointing, refers to a particular way in which the interpretation of certain linguistic expression ('deictics and indexicals') is dependent on the context in which they are produced or interpreted.



## DEIXIS (Cont...)

- All '*pointing*' expressions have to be related to the person who has uttered them, '*pointing*' in a particular place at a particular item. When we identify an object by pointing to it ( as we have seen underlies the term deixis ), we do so by drawing the attention of the addressee to some spatiotemporal region in which the object is located. But the addressee must know that his attention is being drawn to some object rather than to the spatiotemporal region.
- The role of deixis is spelled out from the reality that in a discussion the speaker conveys his/her utterance to addressee or to himself/herself, or conveys the utterance about thing which is talked about by using personal pronoun, proper name, and demonstrative pronoun.



## DEIXIS (Cont...)

- A word can be called as *deictic* if its referent is inconsistent depending on who the speaker is, and when and where the word is uttered.  
(Purwo, 1984:1)
- In verbal communication, however, deixis in its narrow sense refers to the contextual meaning of pronouns, and in broad sense, it refers to what the speaker means by a particular utterance in a given speech context.



## DEIXIS (Cont...)

- According to Levinson, there are five categories of deixis, they are:
- Person deixis
- Time deixis
- Place deixis
- Discourse deixis
- Social deixis



# PERSON DEIXIS

- Person deixis concerns the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event, in which the utterance in question is delivered.

*First person* is the grammaticalization on the speaker's reference to himself. *Second person* is the encoding of reference to one or more addressees and *third person* is the encoding of reference to persons and entities which are neither speakers nor addressees of the utterance in question.



# PERSON DEIXIS (Cont.....)

- Kinds of person deixis can be seen on the table below:

Pronoun	Singular	Plural
First	I	We
Second	You	You
Third	She/He/It	They

Example:

John Smith says: *I am hungry.*

We might say to someone else  
**John Smith** is hungry.

# TIME DEIXIS

- ***Time deixis***

Time deixis concerns the encoding at temporal points and spans relative to the time at which an utterance was spoken or written message inscribed.

Time deixis is commonly grammaticalized in deictic adverbs of time. (like ***now*** and ***then***, ***today***, ***yesterday*** and ***this year*** etc.)

Example:

I live here ***now***.

I lived there ***then***.



# PLACE DEIXIS

- **Place deixis** concerns the encoding of spatial locations relative to the location of the participants in speech event.

The deictic adverbs of place in English are '***this & here***' vs '***that & there***'. 'This & here' shows something proximal (close to the speaker), and 'that & there' shows something distal (non-proximal) (close to the addressee).

Example:

***That** girl is not polite.*

*I am happy **here**.*

*My sister lives **there**.*





# DISCOURSE DEIXIS

- **Discourse or text deixis** concerns the use of expressions within some utterance to refer to some portion of the discourse that contains that utterance.

The deictic terms used here are the demonstratives '*this*' and '*that*'. 'This' can be used to refer to a forthcoming portion of the discourse and 'that' to a preceding portion.

Example:

Please listen to *this*!

What does *that* mean?



# SOCIAL DEIXIS

- Social deixis concerns the encoding of social distinctions that are relative to participant roles, particularly aspects of the social relationship holding between speaker and addressee (s) or speaker and some referent. It is expressed in different addressing terms such as: *mam*, ***mum***, ***sir***, ***madame***, etc.

Example:

*Good evening, **sir**.*

*Thank you so much, **mum**.*

