

# A pragmatic analyses of the use of types of deixis in poetry and novels of the author Ismail Kadare

The importance and complexity to the pragmatic process concerning the different realities evoked in social interaction, communication and language

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## **Abstract**

Context is both social and interpersonal. It is social in the sense that context encompasses the internal organization of a society including communication and consists of the study of linguistic material produced within the structure of the society.

The interpersonal context usually takes priority over the social context in such sub-disciplines as pragmatic, discourse analysis, conversational analysis, etc.

The focus is rather on the individuals involved in interaction relative the speaker and the hearer or the reader and the writer to understand of exchanged utterances or texts.

However the role of context in linguistic use has been most forcefully asserted in the studies associated with names such as in Yule, Grundy, Bühler, Levinson, Rankema, Keith etc. by introducing the wide notion of deixis referring to the 'environment text'.

The same logic stands in communication of the utterance of 'Broken April' by Ismail Kadare referring to the phrase analyzing process, in order of getting intrinsically the meaning out and comparing it with discourse and utterance itself.

**Keywords:** Pragmatics; person deixis; place deixis; time deixis; contextual elements; discourse; extra-linguistic context; linguistic sign

## **Introduction**

Meaning transfer and meaning creation has always been subject of the symbolic convergence. This becomes more sensitive when we consider how much, when these processes are accomplished through communications developed by written communication, diminishes the chances to be assisted by non-verbal semiotic power of face to face communication. The furious changes that the electronic communication have implied in our lives in the last 3 decades, even in the foundations of our routines, are developing new "languages" by creating new forms of expression, only partly tested for their semantic validity. The more communication between human

beings go through a wider usage of the communication technologies, the more the risk of distortion in meaning transfer and meaning creation becomes evident. More acronyms, more abbreviations in writing messages. It becomes sensitive as it was an influencing factor on communication developed by verbal written communication. As it has always been a crucial point in literature and it has have always stressed the importance of the careful and continuous analysis of linguistic set up, word usage in order to explain better and describe better.

Deixis is making clearance on communication, by describing better and explaining better, by pointing out particularly referring to the background and the environment.

A demonstration of this awareness is the choice and in some cases invention of the words and phrases used by Ismail Kadare, a careful communicator who makes a clever use of deixis in his novels and creations in general, by being one of the best Communicators in term of bringing together past, present and future and overcoming cultural differences and their distortion in meaning transfer and creation. The novel "The broken April" represents a unique text to analyze in these terms.

### **Deixis, the phenomena of requiring contextual information to create the meaning of a phrase**

The role of context in helping to determine reference, essentially language, concerns with the ways in which the interpretation of utterance depends on the analyses of the context of utterance. That's why deixis deals with the connection between discourse and the situation in which discourse is used. The term of "deixis" is used from the Greek word which means "to show" or 'to indicate', used to denote the elements in a language which refer directly to the situation.

According to Yule, in English Language (1996, p.93), there are three different ways to point out in. they are gesture, symbolic and anaphoric<sup>1</sup>.

- "*Gesture*" is used by which it can be properly interpreted only by somebody who is monitoring some physical aspects of communication situation. Gestural deixis refers, broadly, to deictic expressions whose understanding requires some sort of audio-visual information. A simple example is when an object is pointed at and referred to as 'this' or 'that'. However, the category can include other types of information than pointing, such as direction of gaze, tone of voice, and so on. eg. I want you to copy this document.
- "*Symbolic*" use of deictic expression means that the interpretation involves merely knowing certain aspects of speech communication situation, whether this knowledge comes by common perception or not.

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<sup>1</sup> George Yule *Discourse Analysis* (with Gillian Brown, 1983) and *Pragmatics* (1996).

eg. I want you to copy this document there.

- “*Anaphoric*” is the use of expression that can be correctly interpreted by knowing what other portions of the same discourse that expression is co-referential with an anaphoric use of an expression, which can be seen in the sentence.

eg. I have copy the document and I put it there.

If we refer the theory of Stephan Levinson is included:

a) Person Deixis

It stipulates what is a deictic reference to the participant role of a referent such as:

- *The Speaker* (The utter of a message. Deictic center of his/her own deictic references), Levinson 1983.<sup>2</sup>
- The addressee.
- The Referents which are neither speaker nor addressee.

The Deictic center is a reference point in relation to which a deictic expression is to be interpreted. The deictic center is also most typically the present time, location, participant role and so forth of speaker.

So, the speaker, the actual location and actual time of the utterance are respectively, the deictic center for the interpretation of “I”, here”, “now”.

eg. – ‘ I am here now’.

What is a participant role? This highlights the relation that people have to each other with regards to their involvement in a speech event, eg. What is an addressee/What is an audience/What is a speaker/What is a target? etc.

*Person Deixis* concerns with encoding of the role of participants in the speech even in which the utterance in question is delivered. (Yule 1996, p. 9,10) describe that person deixis involves the speaker and the addressee and operates in basic three-part divisions such as:

- First person (I, my, myself, mine)singular; (we, us, ourselves, our, ours)plural.
- Second person(you). It is a deictic reference to a person or people identified as addressee, such as:you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours.
- The third person singular(He, She, It). It is a deictic reference to a referent not identified as the speaker or the addressee and usually imply the gender that the utterance refers to. eg. he, she, they, him, himself, her, herself.

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<sup>2</sup> Levinson, S.C. (1992 [1983]). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Levinson, S.C. (2004).

In other words, Person Deixis is described as expression in which it refers to a person who the speaker intends to refer.

The term “Deixis” becomes more and more metaphoric, ambiguous and vague since it is used for many semantically different situations. All languages seem to have developed a number of devices to integrated contextual information. Among these devices, “deixis” is most salient.

Deictic expressions have a shifting meaning depending on *when*, *where* and by *whom* they are used. Pragmatic meaning is determined by the context; in this case deictic reference, the crucial contextual element is the point of origin of the utterance. In an exchange like:

A.- When will you back?

B.- I should be back by eight but you know what buses are like.

You don't know who A's use of “you” and B's use of “I” refer to. Nor do you know the location referred to by A's use of “back”. Nor, until B speaks, do we have any idea of the possible time-frame that might be referred to by “will”? –And even, when B answers, although we know the time of day( about eight), we still don't know which day or date B “should be back”.

These uses of language pick out a person, a place and a time which can only be determined by the context in which it took place.

#### b) Place Deixis

*Place Deixis* is also described as Spatial Deixis, where the relative location of people and things is being indicated. It usually is expressed in: this, these, that, those, there and here. Absolute references to place locate, an object or a person in a specific longitude and latitude, while relational references locate people and place in terms of each other and the speaker. (Cummings 2005, p.26).

Levinson (1983,p. 79) stated that place or Space Deixis concerns for the specification of locations to anchorage points in the speech event and typically the speaker, and existence of two basic ways of referring objects by describing or naming them on the one hand and by locating on the other. Alternatively, they can be deictically specified to the location of participants at the time of speaking. There are a proximal spatial deixis (close to the speaker) such as: this, these, and a distal spatial deixis ( sometimes close to the addressee) such as: that, those. Each may be used either as a pronoun or a combination with a noun.

Grundy (2000, p. 28) add that there are three degrees of proximity by no means uncommon with some language distinguishing proximity to the speaker and to the addressee. They are “here” (proximity), “there”(distal), and where (the archaic hither,

hence, thither, thence, wither, whence) left, right, up, down, above, below, in front, behind, come go, bring, take.

Briefly, *Place Deixis* is an expression used to show the location relative to the location of a participant in the speech even.

### c) Time Deixis

*Time Deixis* is also called as *temporal deixis*. Rankema (1993, p. 79) stated that time deixis is a reference to time relative to a temporal reference point and it is typically the moment of utterance. These language resources are the adverbs of time: yesterday, tomorrow, now, then.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, Levinson (1993, p. 73) denotes that the basis for systems of reckoning and measuring time in most languages seem to be the natural and prominent cycles of day and night, lunar month, seasons and years.

And presumably Grundy (2000, p. 31-32), states another important that *Time Deixis* is tense system giving the fact that every sentence makes reference to the event time. Often this event time can be determined in relation to the time of utterance. Intrinsically Yule (1996, p.14.15) says that the basic time of temporal deixis in English language is in the choice of verb tense.

According to him, English has only two basic forms, the present and the past:

- a. I live here now.
- b. I live there then.

The present tense is the proximal form as in (a) and the past tense form as in (b).

Here, is a list referring some deictic items of *Time Deixis* whose reference can only be determined in relation to the time of the utterance in which they occur.

- This/last/next Monday/week/month/year.
- Now, then, ago, later, soon, before.
- Yesterday, today, tomorrow.

So, *Time Deixis* is an expression in relation to the certain point of time when the utterance is produced by the speaker.

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<sup>3</sup> Rankema Jan A, Discourse Studies. An Introductory Extbook. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1993.

## **Deictic reference. The properties of deixis and the way we understand deictic reference.**

*Deictic Reference. Indexical signs.*

*Pragmatic* allows us to investigate how this “meaning beyond the words” can be understood without ambiguity. The extra meaning is there, not because of the semantic aspects of the words themselves, but because we share certain contextual knowledge with the writer or speaker of the text. The term deixis and indexicality are frequently used almost interchangeably, and both deal with essentially the same idea: contextually dependent references.

Deixis is type of reference constituted by the meaning of linguistic sign being relative to the extra-linguistic context in which the sign is used. So deixis provides context in relation to the speaker. It is one of the fundamental feature of human language that the interpretation of linguistic utterances may strongly depend both on linguistic and non-linguistic context. This context depended on linguistic reference is known as indexicality (Silverstein 1976).

Deictic reference occurs whenever a linguistic sign receives part of its meaning from the extra-linguistic context, e.g. the pronoun ‘me’ refers to the speaker, it has a different meaning depending on who utters it. The demonstrative ‘this’ selects a referent, as opposed to ‘that’, the past tense of verbs, indicates that something is did at this location prior to the time of utterance, and the adverbs, e.g. yesterday, restricts this time interval to the day before the day of utterance. So, in order to know what exactly is meant by “ She brought this flower for me yesterday, and whether this statement is true, we need to know who uttered it, on what day, and where.

## **Deixis in the real world, also including several typical examples of “Broken April” context by Ismail Kadare.**

Let’s see now, how textual deixis occurs referring the context, fragmentizing from ‘Broken April’ written by Ismail Kadare and others from his very interesting poetries, approaching inside the meaning of the context itself.

“Night had not yet fallen when he reached the village”. (p,16)

As we said something above related to “person deixis”, - ‘he’ indicates a person in the story that is the main character at “Broken April”. ‘He’- refers the gender of the character too, he is a man, that in our story is called ‘Gjorg’. Outside the context we don’t know who is ‘he’, related to the context this indexical sign ‘he’, makes sense. If also we refer the word ‘village’, it can be an indexical sign too, referring the place, but we don’t know where is exactly. And referring the past tense verb ‘reached’, we understand the time before being night.

“They came up with him sooner than he had expected”. (p, 10)

‘sooner’-gives us the meaning before the time, but we don’t know how quick, or how long, or in what time ‘they came up’. Of course ‘they’ refers person deixis, third person plural and ‘had expected’-time deixis.

“We must tell the village about the death”- his father answered. (p, 12)

Does it mean ‘to tell the village’ is the proper way to express it or instead of ‘to tell the villagers’? But this kind of expressing is appropriate referring what the author needs to express, because the meaning is understood related to the contextual communication, when he says ‘village’, he is right because he refers to the meaning for ‘villagers’. But the instructions differ in each case. Why?!

‘village’- singular, place

‘villagers’-plural, people

The word ‘village’ itself, means a place, but related to the context it shows another thing related to the people there. And ‘we’ refers the speaker. That’s why we say: deixis provides context in relation to the speaker.

“It was still his fateful day”. (p, 11)

If we ask what day it was, we don’t know to say, it was Monday or Sunday. But for the author it doesn’t matter. The communication to the readers comes fluently since to the main character it means that it was a good day.

“He heard footsteps coming down the wooden stairs”. (p,12)

Have we got any idea where was ‘he’ and whose house wooden stairs were?

or

Can we learn what evening hour was when the author tells: “The streets and lanes were unusually lively for that evening hour”. ‘Streets’ and ‘lanes’ are used deictically to refer the place of the utterance where the act of utterance takes place. Using particular addressee ‘streets’ and ‘lanes’, suggesting the notion of demonstrative ‘that’ may be problematic in intercultural communication about what time was it to be ‘lively’, expressing the atmosphere of this environment being noisy by people there.

“There’s blood on you hands”- his father said. (p,11)

“There is”- refers deictically the present time/event when the act of the utterance happens. It is obvious but in fact analyzing it deeply, there are three different time types encoded, even though, in this utterance is presented in the present:

- the time of utterance.
- the time of the event referred to
- the time that the speaker refers to in the discourse.

But at least, it is crucial to express the relationship in order to emphasize the certain time (utterance time), when the utterance is produced by the speaker and also, it is so important relative to the place, used it to tell the strong relation of the location or place with the speaker in the discourse (discourse time), encoded relations between speaker and context.

“What have you brought me? – A wound or death?” (p. 12)

Studying this interrogative sentence, it refers something in the past that the result is now, in the present. If we analyze it by the meaning, we need to see it firstly from the semantic view. We may be confused by the metaphor “bring the death”, but the writer assumes to share the situation related to “death”, and pragmatic meaning gives us the influence of context with ways into any written text. Using ‘me’, the author shows us the center of the action, In pragmatics is called deictic center and allows us to investigate how this meaning beyond the words can be understood without ambiguity. This is the role of the context, as we said, and helps to determine reference, concerning ways in order to interpret the utterance depending on the analyzes of the context of utterances.

“ He thought, soon might will fall and it will be too dark to shoot.” (p. 8)

Related to person deixis - ‘he’ refers a deictic center, ‘soon’- refers time deixis, ‘might’ - refers the referent which is neither speaker nor addressee giving an unspecified moment, ‘will’ - refers time deixis through the future tense. But in a pragmatic aspect, we don’t know how ‘too dark’ have to be there. So, we need to guess.

“But I am the ‘Gjaks’, Gjorg had protested. I’m the one who killed him. Why must I go?” (p. 15)

Coming to the very interesting fact “ the Gjaks”, it confirms obviously the center deictic expression using ‘I’ as person deixis gives directly the present situation and performs the deictic status of the main character giving the strong context. It tells how brave is Gjorg and addressed the relationship between the speaker and the reader, feeling well or not, sharing understanding of the speaker to the addressee, called social relation using o presentation by self reference.

Some others examples taken out from the poetries of the same author:

*Childhood*

My childhood –ink-stained fingers,  
Bells in the morning, ----(spatial deixis)  
The muezzin at dusk,  
Collection of cigar boxes and old stamps.

*And when my memory*

I will remember----('I' person deixis, 'will' refers future time, time deixis)  
That quiet evening, endless in your eyes,----( 'that' place deixis)  
The stifled sob upon my shoulder,----(' upon' place deixis)  
Like snow that cannot be brushed off  
The separation came,  
And I departed far from you----(person deixis, 'I' / 'You', and spatial deixis, 'far')

*Poetry*

There are many things I have loved and hated in life,----( 'there are' spatial deixis)  
For many a problem I have been an 'open city',  
But anyway...  
Like a young man returning home late at night,----('late' time deixis)  
Exhausted and broken by his nocturnal wanderings,----( 'his' person deixis)  
Here too am I, returning to you,----( 'here' place deixis)  
Worn out after another escapade.

*The old cinema*

Old cinema,  
Abandoned cinema  
Where no films, not even reruns, have been shown for a long time,----( 'where' place deixis)  
Where the audiences no longer make a clatter with their seats,----('where' place deixis)  
Where peanuts are no longer sold----('where' place deixis)

*At intermission.*

The stained screen,  
The broken speakers,  
The empty seats like lines unwritten,----('seats' place deixis)  
Pensive and full nostalgia,  
I stare from doorway,----( 'I' person deixis)  
At this poem of seats, long abandoned!----('long abandoned' spatial deixis)  
As long as I get----('I' person deixis)  
Whenever I go,----('whenever' time deixis, 'I' person deixis)  
Like a poster I'll carry them,----('I', 'them' person deixis, 'will' refers future time)  
With me, those seats.----('me' person deixis, 'those' distal deixis)

*Train timetables*

Filled with voices, noise, signals,  
And the heavy one of memory.----- (social deixis, connotative statement))

*Requiem for Mayakovski*

Obscure forces dressed in socialist garb,  
There stands in his bronze statueim Mayakovski square!----- ('there' place deixis )

*What are these mountains thinking about*

What are these lofty mountains thinking about----- ('these' discourse deixis)  
As the sun sets in the distance beyond the highway?----- ( 'beyond' spatial deixis)  
A mountaineer sets out at the fall of night----- ( 'fall of night' time deixis)  
His long rifle  
Casting a hundred-mile-long-s  
Shadow on the ground.----- ('on' place deixis)  
The shadow of the rifle hurries  
Over mountains, plains, villages.----- ('over' place deixis)  
The shadow of its barrels hastens through the dusk----- ('dusk' time deixis)  
I too set forth along the hillside----- ('I' person deixis)  
With the thought in my mind  
Somewhere ----- (place deixis)  
The shadow with the thought and shadow of the rifle  
Cross and collide in the twilight.

“these” - the most striking in this poem, refers to the discourse deixis in order to give fully, the notion as important as it is possible. Through this excellence metaphor, the author is expressing “ a mountain” of thoughts. The mountains are used referring a very interesting symbol, not only to tell about:

- our Albanian country as strong as mountains,
- the geography of our Albanian country,
- the stand of figure of Albanian people,

but also they refer the context of the big history evoked the past, so filled with dignity, wars, misery and poverty, strength and bravery, pride and respect and so on to perform shortly that is superb for Albanian people and Albania itself as a great country, full of history.

## Conclusions

The theoretical background and different text analysis in this research converge in an updated definition about role and importance of using deixis in today's communication. Literature and other forms of written communications need assessment with points of reference particularly in the way communications are developed in our global, multilayered and multicultural society

In this context, Deixis is one of the most important notion in general linguistics and is a vital link between the real life environment around us (time-frame, physical location, people involved etc.) and what we actually say (the utterance, linguistic terms).

Deixis as a engine researcher by many pragmatists focuses on phrase meaning and being the heart of reference research as widely known literature in semantics and pragmatics demonstrating a great dimension between two major fields: Semantics and Pragmatics.

Deixis concerns ways in each languages encode of descriptive context or grammatical features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance.

According to the deixis analyses focused on importance of the word meaning, what is intended to convey when using a range of word, the various kinds of communication made possible by language. Speaker's meaning is what a speaker means when he uses a piece of language.

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