



ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN TEXTS FROM DIFFERENT REALMS

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Abstract: *This study analyzes how deictic categories (person, spatial, temporal, discourse, social) function across fictional narratives, technical manuals, and encyclopedic entries. Findings reveal that deictic anchoring varies by genre: fiction utilizes shifts for narrative immersion, manuals restrict deixis for practical guidance, and encyclopedias minimize it for objective neutrality.*

Keywords: *deixis, person deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis, discourse deixis, social deixis, fiction texts, instruction manuals, encyclopedic entries, discourse analysis.*

Аннотация: *В данном исследовании анализируется функционирование дейктических категорий (персональной, пространственной, временной, дискурсивной, социальной) в художественных повествованиях, технических руководствах и энциклопедических статьях. Результаты показывают, что дейктическая привязка зависит от жанра: художка использует сдвиги для погружения, руководства ограничивают дейксис для практических указаний, а энциклопедии минимизируют его ради объективной нейтральности.*

Ключевые слова: *дейксис, персональный дейксис, пространственный дейксис, временной дейксис, дискурсивный дейксис, социальный дейксис, художественные тексты, инструкции по эксплуатации, энциклопедические статьи, анализ дискурса.*

Deixis and Its Functions Across Genres

Deixis refers to linguistic expressions whose interpretation depends on the context of utterance, such as the identity of the speaker, the time, place, and social relationship between participants. The main types of deixis are person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis. This analysis examines how these types function across different text genres.

Deixis in Fiction Texts

Fictional texts are highly context-dependent and therefore contain all major types of deixis, especially person, spatial, and temporal deixis.

Example (fiction): "I will meet you here tomorrow," she said.

Analysis:

Person deixis: I, you → refer to characters in the narrative

Spatial deixis: here → location relative to the speaker

Temporal deixis: tomorrow → time relative to the moment of speaking

Observation:



Fiction heavily relies on deixis to create immediacy, perspective, and narrative viewpoint.

Deixis in Instruction Manuals

Manuals are reader-oriented and practical. They commonly use person and spatial deixis, while minimizing ambiguity.

Example (manual): “You should insert the cable here before turning on the device.”

Analysis:

Person deixis: you → the user/reader

Spatial deixis: here → a specific physical location on the device

Temporal deixis: before → sequence in time

Observation:

Manuals use deixis to guide actions clearly, assuming a shared physical context between writer and reader.

Deixis in Encyclopedic Entries

Encyclopedic texts aim for objectivity and timelessness, so deixis is limited and carefully controlled.

Example (encyclopedic entry): “This process occurs when plants convert sunlight into energy.”

Analysis:

Discourse deixis: this process → refers to the concept explained in the text

Temporal deixis: minimal; present tense is used for general truth

Person deixis: absent (no I or you)

Observation:

Encyclopedic writing avoids personal and spatial deixis to maintain neutrality and universality.

Social Deixis Across Text Types

Social deixis reflects social roles, status, or formality.

Examples: Fiction: “Yes, Sir, I understand.”

Academic/encyclopedic: “The researcher concludes that...”

Analysis: Titles and role nouns encode social relationships and hierarchy

More common in fiction and formal writing than in manuals

Comparative Summary

Text Type	Dominant Deixis Types	Purpose
Fiction	Person, spatial, temporal, social	Narrative immersion
Manuals	Person, spatial, temporal	Instruction and clarity
Encyclopedic	Discourse (minimal temporal)	Objectivity and precision

The use of deixis varies significantly across text realms.

While fiction exploits deixis to build narrative perspective, manuals employ it for practical guidance, and encyclopedic texts restrict it to maintain objectivity.

Understanding these differences is essential for discourse analysis and applied linguistics.



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