

Some considerations on indexicality and deixis

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Abstract

The aim of this article is to outline some of the most intriguing theoretical and descriptive problems related to the phenomenon of indexicality. The article addresses the way in which deixis interacts with other aspects of pragmatics and illustrates the kind of advances that could be made with further empirical work.

The terms 'deixis' and 'indexicality' are used co-extensively. However, a distinction is made between indexicality, used to label the broader phenomena of contextual dependency, and deixis, used to label the narrower linguistically-relevant aspects of indexicality (Levinson 2004).