



Deictic Markers in Standard English and Standard Arabic: A Contrastive Study

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1. Introduction:

The concept of *deixis* or *deictic markers* which means "*pointing to*" is a linguistic phenomenon manifested in most human languages. It includes some expressions which refer to persons, places and times that need to be appointed. And this is done by referring to the place and time of happening and persons involved in it. Deixis is a term used in linguistic theory to subsume those features of language which refer directly to the personal, locational, and temporal characteristics of the situation within which an utterance takes place and whose meaning is relative to that situation, e.g., *I/you, here/there, this/that, now/then* are deictic expressions (Crystal, 1991:96).

The present paper tries to answer the following questions:

1. How deictic markers are linguistically realized in English and Arabic.
2. Are deictic markers syntactically and semantically similar or different in English and Arabic?

The present paper is restricted to the analysis and description of the main types of deictic markers or expressions, namely, person, place, and time markers, in Standard English (henceforth, SE) and Standard Arabic (henceforth, SA) from syntactic and semantic view points. To achieve the aims of this paper, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Presenting an adequate description of deictic expressions in SE and SA.
2. Conducting a contrastive analysis of the deictic expressions of SE and SA in an attempt to uncover the points of similarity and difference.
3. Drawing some conclusions.

The findings of this paper is hoped to be of theoretical and practical values. Theoretically, it will be of some benefit to linguists and researchers. It serves to bring out the peculiarities of the two languages,



and it gives a better tool for establishing translation rules between English and Arabic. Moreover, it contributes something to the study of Arabic linguistics in the light of modern perspectives. Practically, it is an attempt to help Arabic-speaking learners of English to overcome some problems related to this linguistic area. The terms *SE* and *SA* are used as a cover term for all dialectal varieties within these two languages. Though there are relative differences at some linguistic levels such as *spelling*, *grammar*, *vocabulary*, *etc.*, there is a common core of the two languages understood by the majority of educated native people of the both languages under investigation.

2. Deictic Markers: A Theoretical Background:

The term "*deixis*" is borrowed from Greek word meaning "*pointing to*", or "*indicating*", (Lyons, 1977:636), and it is used now in linguistics to refer to the function of personal and demonstrative pronouns, of tense and a variety of other grammatical and lexical features which relate utterances to the spatio-temporal coordinates of the act of utterance (ibid.).

Deixis is the most obvious way in which the relationship between language and context is reflected in the structure of languages themselves. The main examples of deictic markers are: personal pronoun, demonstratives, specific adverbs of place and time, some motion verbs, tense, the definite article and other grammatical and lexical features which direct attention of the hearers to spatial or temporal aspects of the situation of utterances which are critical for its appropriate interpretation (Levinson, 1983:54).

Being a linguistic phenomenon, deixis has been of considerable interest to philosophers, linguists and psychologists, and raised a number of puzzles regarding the proper way to think about the semantics of natural languages, and the relation of semantics and pragmatics. It also indicates that languages have evolved for primary use in face to face interaction (ibid.).

As far as the categories of deixis are concerned, there are three basic types of deictic markers, and these are person, place, and time. Some scholars include, beside these basic types, some other two types viz., discourse and social (cf. Levinson, 1983). The present paper is limited to



the three basic types of person, place, and time. Each basic type will be explained in some detail below.

Person deixis includes expressions which refer to the speaker or addressee of the utterance in which they occur. The grammatical category of person as realized in pronouns and verb agreements involves the most basic deictic notion. First person, for example, encodes the participation of the speaker, temporal and spatial deixis which are organized around the location of the speaker at the time of speaking. The paradigm of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person pronouns is captured by two semantic features: the first is speaker inclusion (S), the second is addressee inclusion (A): 1st (+S), 2nd (+A), 3rd (-S, -A). Personal deictic markers may encode information of different kinds concerning the identification of the speaker and addressee (i.e., referents), the social and personal relations between the referents, the sex of the referent, etc (Hurford and Heasley, 1983:66).

For example:

1. I will meet *you* here tomorrow.
2. *We* do not live here any more.

Place deixis is used to point to location, like *here*, *there*, and concerns the specification of locations relative to points in the speech event. The most direct examples of spatial deixis are adverbs like *here* which denotes approximation, and refers to region including the speaker, and *there* which indicates distant region and more remoteness from the speaker. Further spatial distinctions are found in demonstratives, for example, the contrast between *this* and *that* indicates one being proximal and distant respectively from the speaker. Spatial deixis is also encoded in verbal roots with distinction between motion towards the speaker and motion away from the speaker (Levinson, 1994:856). For example:

1. It is raining *here* now.
2. I am living *there*.

Finally, time deictics are expressions which identify or point to the time of event or state related to the time at which the utterance occurs (Anderson and Keenan, 1985: 259). Temporal deictics, like other aspects of deixis, make reference to participants' role, and their essential characteristic is that their semantic values depend on the real world context in which they are uttered. Temporal reference appears in three distinct ways: (a) demonstrative system which is similar to that found in most languages for spatial deixis, like English *this* and *these* as opposed to *that* and *those* respectively, (b) most languages have different numbers



of lexical items which are deictic to some extent in their temporal character, such as the English adverbs *now, then, today, yesterday, etc.*, and (c) languages make deictic distinctions of time in the verbal category of tense (ibid.,297-300). For example:

1. *This week*, I am not studying English.
2. I did not go swimming *that evening*.
3. I need your help *right now*.

3. Deictic Markers in Standard English:

This section is intended to spot lights on the syntax and semantics of deictic markers in SE. More precisely, the syntactic and semantic aspects of each type of deixis will be presented in a separate sub-section below.

3.1 Person Deixis:

Generally speaking, person deictics are expressions make essential reference to the speaker, or to the addressee of the utterance (Anderson and Keenan, 1985:529).

As far as English is concerned, the personal deictic markers are realized through the English pronoun system. Specifically, the traditional grammatical categories of the person system including first person, second person, and third person with the number categories of singular and plural that are associated with English pronouns are the main devices employed for performing this deictic function. The pronouns are defined by their roles in the communication process on the one hand, and all other entities on the other hand. The former is called speech roles, which are the roles of the speaker and the addressee. The latter is called other roles, and it includes all other relevant entities, other than the speaker and addressee.

Speech roles are realized by first person pronouns (singular and plural) and second person pronouns such as *I, me, mine, we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours*. These pronouns undergo different grammatical cases in the sense that they can take the nominative, accusative, and genitive case.

Consider the following examples:



1. *I* am Joe.
2. The cat pleased *me*.
3. *My* plate is empty.
4. Take *mine*.
5. *We* are working now.
6. They helped *us*.
7. This is *our* house.
8. It is *ours*.
8. *You* and *you* come here.
9. It is *your* role now.
10. It is *yours*.

The traditional terminology is relatively misleading in the way in which it represents the combination of the categories of person and number, for example, the relationship between the pronouns *we* (the first person plural) and *I* (the first person singular) is not like the relationship between *boys* and *boy*. That is, *we* is not the plural of *I*, but it includes reference to *I*, and is plural in ordinary conditions (Lyons, 1968:277). In English, there is no distinction between singular and plural forms for the second person *you*, although in some pronominal forms there is a distinction, as in *yourself* and *yourselves*.

The other roles (or the absentee pronouns) which refer to persons or objects other than the speaker or the addressee, are the third person pronouns as singular and plural in different grammatical cases such as *he*, *him*, *she*, *her*, *it*, *its*, *they*, *them*, *their*, *theirs*. Consider the following illustrative examples:

1. *He* came.
2. I saw *him*.
3. *His* book is new.

Pronouns referring to other roles are typically anaphoric in the sense that they provide a link with a preceding portion of the text, or refer to persons or things previously referred to. This includes *him*, *her*, *it*, and *them*. They may be exophoric (deictic) wherever the context of situation is such as to permit identification of the referent in question, or persons or things identified in the context of situation (Halliday and Hassan, 1976:51). Table 1 below summarizes the whole speech roles and other roles of English pronouns.



**Table 1: Speech Roles & Other Roles in English
(After Halliday and Hassan, 1976:44)**

| | Speech Roles | | Other Roles | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Speaker | Addressee | Specific | |
| | | | Human | Non-human |
| One | I me mine my | You you | He him His his | It it Its its |
| | | | She her Hers her | |
| More than one | We us Our ours | Yours you | They them Theirs their | |

3.2 Place Deixis:

Place deictics are items which specify the spatial location of an object relative to the location of the speaker or the addressee (Anderson and Keenan, 1985:259). Generally, the main linguistic devices used as place deixis are the demonstratives like *this* and *these* as opposed to *that* and *those*, place adverbs like *here* and *there*, and some motion verbs like *come*, *go*, *bring*, *take*, etc.

The proximate and distant positions can be realized via demonstratives and adverbs of place in English. That is, *this* and *here* refer to objects or locations proximal to the speaker while *that* and *there* are referring to objects and locations distant from the speaker (Wales, 1979:242). This can be shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Proximate and Distant Forms of Demonstratives in English

| Number | Proximate Positions | Distant Positions |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Singular | This(masculine/ feminine) | That (masculine/feminine) |
| Plural | These(masculine/feminine) | Those(masculine/feminine) |



Examples are:

1. *This* house is big.
2. *That* flower is red.
3. *These* houses are big.
4. *Those* flowers are red.
5. She lives *here*.
6. He lives *there*.

Lyons (1977: 646) states that the distinction between *this* and *that*, *here* and *there* depends on the proximity to the zero-point of the deictic context which is determined by the place of the speaker at the time of speaking, for example, *this book* means *the book which is near the speaker*, or *the book here*, and *that book* means *the book which is there*, or *not near the speaker*.

Some motion verbs can be used as place deictic markers in English as well. According to Palmer (1981: 51), place deictic may be found in some motion verbs like *come* and *go*. *Come* means *motion towards the location of the speaker* and *go* means *motion away from the location of the speaker at coding time*. There is a deictic usage of *come* which is based on participant's normative location or home-base at coding time and it can be indicated via the following example:

1. *Come* to me. I will *come* to you.

The above example indicates the simple direction towards the speaker or the hearer. *Go* is used if there is no indication at all of the position of either the speaker or hearer (Levinson, 1983:83). *Bring* and *take* can be used as place deictic markers. For example:

1. *Take* the plate into the house.
2. *Bring* the plate into the house.

3.3 Time Deixis:

Time deixis concerns reference to time relative to the time of speaking. Generally speaking, time deixis can be realized by demonstrative pronouns like *this*, *these*, and *that*, *those*; adverbs of time like *now*, *then*, *soon*, *recently*, *today*, *tomorrow*, *next week*, *etc.*; and by the category of tense. Spatial expressions like *this*, *that*, *etc.* are imported



directly into the temporal domain by means of metaphorical representation of time, this is in the case when we say:

1. *This week* I am not working.
2. I did not go home *that evening*.
3. We prepare for the party in *these days*.
4. The harvest was late *those days*.

In other words, *this*, *these* refer to the present time, and *that*, *those* refer to the past or future time.

As to adverbs of time, there is a number of aspects of pure time deixis in which there is no direct interaction with non-deictic methods of time reckoning and these include deictic time adverbs like English *now*, *then*, *soon*, *recently*, and so on. For instance, *now* can be explained as the time at which the speaker is producing the utterance containing *now*, for example:

1. Pull the trigger *now*.

Now contrasts with *then*, and *then* can be explained as *not now* to include both past and future time references. For examples:

1. I had different views *then*.
2. I will see you *then*.

Other deictic adverbs of time can include *today*, *tomorrow*, *yesterday*, *next Friday*, etc. Also, time deixis can be marked off by tense in English. Tense is a grammatical device for indicating past, present and future times, and it is regarded as deictic, because past, present and future times are defined by reference to the time of utterance, to a point in time preceding, within the, or after the time of utterance (Hurford and Heasley, 1983:66). For examples:

1. He *played* football yesterday.
2. He *is playing* football now.
3. He *will play* football tomorrow.

English has two tenses; past and present. The present tense has its point of reference to the present moment of speaking, i.e., it is an absolute tense, but it refers to present time in general. The past tense refers to the moment before the time of speaking, and the time is the definite past, expressed or implied. Levinson (1994: 855) asserts that tense is the most



pervasive aspect of temporal deixis, and it encodes a mixture of deictic time distinctions and aspectual distinctions, which is hard to be distinguished. For example, the English present tense is specifying that the relevant span or the event which is occurring during a temporal span including utterance time, the future indicates that the relevant span follows utterance time, and past indicates a point in time preceding utterance time.

4. Deictic Markers in Standard Arabic:

This section is intended to spot lights on the syntax and semantics of deictic markers in SA. More precisely, the syntactic and semantic aspects of each type of deixis will be presented in a separate sub-section below.

4.1 Person Deixis:

Person deixis is a deictic system which grammaticalizes the roles of participants; the current speaker, addressee, and others. In Arabic, person deixis can be indicated and realized by personal pronouns. Ali (1993:88) asserts that person deixis does exist in Arabic, and closely related to what personal pronouns are used for, or it is closely related to the function of personal pronouns such as speaker pronouns, addressee pronouns, and absentee pronouns. All personal pronouns of whatever type have some ambiguity and need something to remove this ambiguity and make it clear. The speaker and addressee pronouns can be clear, because the speaker and the listener are present at the time of speaking and can identify themselves. On the other hand, with the absentee pronouns, the person which is referred to is not present and cannot identify him/herself, and it is difficult to eliminate its ambiguity.

Arabic personal pronouns are of different types according to their appearance in speech. They can be explicit or implicit, the former are either separable which can be realized as free morphemes, or inseparable which are realized as bound morphemes attached to nouns, verbs and prepositions.

As to the category of speaker pronouns, it includes free singular and plural first person pronouns, and bound singular and plural first person pronouns in the nominative case. These can be explained in the following table:



Table 3: Nominative Speaker Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Singular | (masculine/feminine) أنا | ت (masculine/feminine) ي (masculine/feminine) |
| Plural | (masculine/ feminine) نحن | (masculine/ feminine) نا |

Some examples are:

- 1- أنا اعمل في الحديقة (masculine/ feminine. singular)
1. I worked in the garden.
- 2- نحن طلاب في الجامعة (masculine/feminine. plural)
2. We are university students.
- 3- فهمتِ الدرس (masculine/ feminine. singular)
3. I understood my lecture.

The category also includes free and bound first person singular and plural pronouns in the accusative and genitive cases. This can be shown in the following table:

Table 4: Accusative and Genitive Speaker Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Singular | (masculine/feminine) إياي | ت (masculine/feminine) ي (masculine/feminine) |
| Plural | (masculine/ feminine) إيانا | (masculine/ feminine) نا |



Some examples are:

1- إِيَّايْ أَعْطَاهُ (masculine/feminine/ singular)

2- لَقَدْ سَلَّمَ عَلَيْنَا (masculine/feminine. plural)

2. He greeted *us*.

As for addressee pronouns, this category includes the person (singular, dual, plural) pronouns free and bound in the nominative case, and this can be shown in the following table:

Table 5: Nominative Addressee Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Singular | أَنْتَ (masculine) أَنْتِ (feminine) | تَ (masculine) تِ (feminine) |
| Dual | أَنْتُمَا (masculine/feminine) | تُمَا (masculine/ feminine) |
| Plural | أَنْتُمْ (masculine) أَنْتُنَّ (feminine) | تُمْ (masculine) تُنَّ (feminine) |

Some examples are:

1- أَنْتَ رَجُلٌ كَرِيمٌ (masculine/singular)

1. *You* are a generous man.

2- كَتَبْتُمَا الدَّرْسَ (masculine/feminine. dual)

2. *You* both wrote the lesson.

This category also includes free and bound addressee pronouns (singular, dual, plural) in the accusative and genitive cases as displayed in the following table:



Table 6: Accusative and Genitive Addressee Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Singular | (masculine) إِيَّاكَ (feminine) إِيَّاكِ | (masculine) كَ (feminine) كِ |
| Dual | (masculine/feminine) إِيَّاكُمَا | (masculine/ feminine) كُمَا |
| Plural | (masculine) إِيَّاكُم (feminine) إِيَّاكُنَّ | (masculine) كُمْ (feminine) كُنَّ |

Some illustrative examples are the following:

- 1- إِيَّاكِ رَأَيْتِ الْبَارِحَةَ (feminine. singular)
1. I saw *you* yesterday.
- 2- أَعْطَيْتِ الْكِتَابَ/إِيَّاكُمَا (masculine/feminine. dual)
2. I gave the book to *both of you*.

As far as the category of absentee pronouns is concerned, this category refers to entities other than speakers and addressees, and it involves the third person (singular, dual, plural) in the nominative case. This can be displayed in the following table:

Table 7: Nominative Absentee Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Singular | (masculine) هُوَ (feminine) هِيَ | (masculine) هِ (feminine) هَا |
| Dual | (masculine/feminine) هُمَا | (masculine/ feminine) هُمَا |
| Plural | (masculine) هُمْ (feminine) هُنَّ | (masculine) وَ (feminine) نَ |



Some illustrative examples are:

- 1- هو طالب مجتهد (masculine. singular)
1. *He* is a clever student.
- 2- هن يعملن في الحقل (feminine. plural)
2. *They* are working in the farm.

This category also includes free and bound (singular, dual, plural) pronouns in the accusative and genitive cases. This can be shown in the following table:

Table 8: Accusative and Genitive Absentee Pronouns in Arabic

| Number | Free Pronouns | Bound Pronouns |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Singular | إياه (masculine) إياها (feminine) | ه (masculine) ها (feminine) |
| Dual | إياهما (masculine/feminine) | هما (masculine/ feminine) |
| Plural | إياهم (masculine) إياهن (feminine) | هم (masculine) هن (feminine) |

Some illustrative examples are:

- 1- إياه اعطيت القلم (masculine. singular)
1. I gave the pencil to *him*.
- 2- سلمت عليهن (feminine. plural)
2. I greeted *them*.

4.2 Place Deixis:

Place deixis in Arabic can be realized by demonstratives, some adverbs of place, and some motion verbs. As for demonstratives, Arab grammarians, like Al-Samara'i (1987:97) for example, mention three categories of place deixis or demonstratives which indicate location, and



these are: proximal, medial, and distant. They assert that when more letters are added to a word, this means that it indicates distance. The idea of place deixis, or how to determine the near, middle or remote positions is related to the canonical situation or common sense of the speaker and addressee or their psychological state (ibid).

The proximal forms of demonstratives indicate the spatial deictic expressions of being near. Such demonstratives are inflected for the grammatical categories of gender, number and case in Arabic. The whole proximal demonstratives system can be summarized in the following table:

Table 9: Proximal Forms of Demonstratives in Arabic
(after Nasr, 1967:63)

| Number | Gender | Nominative | Accusative & Genitive |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Singular | Masculine Feminine | ذا – هذا ذي – هذه | ذا – هذا ذي – هذه |
| Dual | Masculine Feminine | ذان – هذان تان – هاتان | ذين – هذين تين – هاتين |
| Plural | Masculine Feminine | أولاء – هؤلاء | أولاء – هؤلاء |

Some illustrative examples are:

1- ذا / هذا / طيار ماهر (masculine, singular, nominative/ accusative/ genitive)

1. *This* is a clever pilot.

2- أولاء / هؤلاء العمال متعبون (masculine/feminine, plural, nominative)
/ accusative/ genitive)

2. *These* workers are tired.



The distant or remote position from the speaker is indicated by those demonstratives that are presented in the following table below:

Table 10: Distant Forms of Demonstratives in Arabic
(after Nasr, 1967:63)

| Number | Gender | Nominative | Accusative & Genitive |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Singular | Masculine Feminine | ذلك تلك | ذلك تلك |
| Dual | Masculine Feminine | ذانك تانك | ذينك تينك |
| Plural | Masculine Feminine | أولئك | أولئك |

Some illustrative examples are:

1- ذلك الرجل صديقي (masculine, singular, nominative/ accusative/ genitive)

1. *That* man is my friend.

2- أولئك ذوو علم (masculine/feminine, plural, nominative/ accusative/ genitive)

2. *Those* are highly-educated.

In the case of medial position, there is a number of Arabic demonstratives that indicate that the referent is in a medial position from the speaker, or it is between the proximal and distant positions. Consider the following table below:



Table 11: Medial Forms of Demonstratives in Arabic
(after Nasr, 1967:63)

| Number | Gender | Nominative | Accusative & Genitive |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Singular | Masculine Feminine | ذاك تيك- هاتيك | ذاك تيك- هاتيك |
| Dual | Masculine Feminine | ذانك تانك | ذينك تينك |
| Plural | Masculine Feminine | أولئك | أولئك |

Some illustrative examples are:

1- تيك الدار واسعة (feminine, singular, nominative/ accusative/genitive)

1. *That* house is big.

2- أولئك أبطال (masculine/feminine, plural, nominative/ accusative/ genitive)

2. *Those* are heroes.

As far as adverbs of place are concerned, Arabic has some place adverbs which refer to the location of something on the scale of proximity. These adverbials are considered demonstratives and adverbs at the same time, because they indicate place with reference to or pointing to (Hassan, 1975: 328). These adverbs can be used to indicate the three points in the scale of remoteness from the speaker, i.e., proximal, medial, and distant. The following table summarizes these place adverbs:



Table 12: Adverbs of Place in Arabic
(after Hassan, 1975: 328)

| Gender | Proximal Adverbs | Medial Adverbs | Distant Adverbs |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Masculine Feminine | هنا- ها | هناك- ها هناك | هناك-ثم |

Some illustrative examples are:

- 1- هنا بيتي (masculine/feminine, proximal adverb)
1. *Here* is my house.
- 2- نحن ها هناك (masculine/feminine, medial adverb)
2. *There* we are.

Place deixis can be realized via motion verbs like the following Arabic verbs presented below:

(أعطى- خذ- أذهب- تعال- إسحب- إُدفع- الخ)

Some illustrative examples are:

- 1- تعال الى هنا
1. *Come* here.
- 2- خذ الكرة
2. *Take* the ball.

4.3 Time Deixis:

Generally speaking, time deixis specifies the time of utterance by delimiting it through its context. In Arabic, time deixis can be realized via adverbs of time, demonstratives, and tense.

As far as time adverbs are concerned, Arabic adverbs of time are nouns in the accusative case as they are not a given part of speech, but rather, they are realized via Arabic nouns. These time adverbs are the following:



(أمس- غدا- اليوم- حينذاك – مؤخرا – الخ)

Some adverbs indicate temporal proximity to the speaker, such as the following:

(الآن – في هذا الوقت- الخ)

1- الآن حان وقت الرحيل

1. *Now*, it is the time for leaving.

On the other hand, some other adverbs indicate temporal distance from the speaker, such as the following adverbs:

(حينذاك- في ذلك الوقت- أمس- الخ)

1- كان طفلا حينذاك

1. He was a child *then*.

As to demonstratives, proximal and distant forms of demonstratives can be used as temporal deictic expressions in Arabic. Proximal forms refer to present time, and distant forms refer to past and future times (Aziz, 1989:56). For examples:

1- هذا اليوم بارد

1. *This* day is cold.

2- ذلك اليوم كان صعبا جدا

2. *That* day was very difficult.

3- سيشتري علي بيتا هذه السنة

3. Ali will buy a house *this* year.

The category of tense can be used as time deixis, and that present time indicates a point of time within the time of speaking, past time refers to a point in time preceding the time of speaking, and future time indicates a point in time following the time of speaking. In Arabic, time deixis can be referred to by the absolute tense of the verb.

In Arabic, there are two verb forms that indicate time, and these are (مضارع) imperfect and (ماضي) perfect.



The imperfect form basically refers to the present time if the point of reference is the moment of speaking, and the perfect form refers to actions or situations before the present (ibid.). For example:

1- تشتغل ليلي في المطبخ

1. Layla *is working* in the kitchen now.

2- وصل القطار قبل قليل

2. The train *arrived* a short time ago.

3- سأسافر غدا الى لندن

3. I *will leave* for London tomorrow.

5. Contrasting and Comparing:

The present section is intended to summarize the main points of divergence and convergence between SE and SA with respect to deictic markers. These points are the following:

1. Deictic markers are realized in the both languages under investigation, i.e., they are existent in SE and SA.
2. Deictic markers are of three major types in SE and SA. These types are person, place, and time deictics.
3. Person deictics is realized basically by personal pronouns in SE and SA. The two languages have a three- preson system of first, second, third person pronouns.
4. The first person pronoun refers to the speaker at the time of speaking. The second person pronoun is used for the addressee, or the person spoken to during the utterance time. And the third person pronoun is used for a category which is neither the speaker nor the addressee.
5. It is noteworthy that the pronoun system in Arabic is much more complicated than this of SE in that Arabic pronouns can be explicit or implicit, the former are either separable which can be realized as free morphemes, or inseparable which are realized as bound morphemes attached to nouns, verbs and prepositions. Moreover, Arabic pronouns are



more complicated with regard to their morphological inflections of number, gender, and case.

6. Place deixis is realized basically by demonstratives, adverbs of place, and some motion verbs in SE and SA.

7. As far as demonstratives are concerned, SE has two categories of place deixis, *near* to the speaker and *remote* from the speaker. On the other hand, SA is a three-term system which indicates three spatial categories including *near*, *medial*, and *remote*. Unlike SE, SA demonstratives are inflected for three numbers (singular, dual, and plural), two genders (masculine feminine), and different cases.

8. Time deixis is basically realized by demonstratives, tense, and some adverbs of time in SE and SA.

9. In SE and SA, the proximate temporal forms of demonstratives indicate present time, while distant forms indicate past and future times.

10. Both SE and SA are similar with reference to the deictic use of tense and adverbs of time.

6. Findings and Conclusions:

So far, it has been found that deictic markers are similar in their types in the two compared languages, and are realized by the same linguistic resources, that is, personal pronouns, demonstratives, some adverbs of place and time, verb tenses, etc. Such results lend an additional support to language universals as opposed to language specifics. In other words, the two languages manifest a great similarity, and this result supports, to a great extent, the concept of universalism. Though SE and SA are genetically different as each one belongs to a different language family (SE is a Germanic language, and SA is a Semitic one), they show relatively similar tendencies with regards to deictic markers.

There are some points of similarity and difference between the linguistic elements that are used as deictic expressions in the languages under comparison concerning the grammatical categories of person, number, gender, and case distinctions.

The findings of this paper may be useful to learners, teachers, and textbook writers. The differences between the two languages would affect the process of teaching and learning English deixis to Arab learners, and the translation of deixis from English to Arabic and vice versa. Accordingly the textbook writer can devise some exercises and drills incorporating the points of difference in this linguistic area.



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