

## Diexis in the Political Speech

Wasan Fadhil Hadi

Ministry of Education / Rusaffa 3

Fuqr4123@gmail.com

### Abstract

People use various means and expressions in their speech to communicate with each other and to express their perceptions concerning certain topic or a critical issue. Politicians in their political speech as a part of the human communication also uses various expressions which can reflect more than what that said or refers to in terms of ideas and meaning, it can go too far. The use of certain deixis in the speech can tell more than what was said or meant within exchanging the political speech. The use of certain deixis would identify a rhetorical space between the politician and the receiver(s). These deixis can convey whether the speaker construct himself near or far away from the receiver. the use of certain deixis the speaker can construct the rhetorical relation between politicians and the receiver(s) in terms of frankly speaking and being specific or the formal speaking and generalization .

Keywords: (Deixis , political)

### الملخص

يستعمل الناس في كلامهم مختلف الوسائل والادوات لكي يتفاهمو بينهم وليوضحو افكارهم فيما يخص موضوع معين او قضية جدلية. السياسيون وفي كلامهم ، كجزء من التواصل البشري يستخدمون

العديد من المفردات والتي تعطي ماهو اكثر من ان يقال او يشاراليه في الاطار المعنوي او الفكري.وانما يذهب ابعد من ذلك بكثير.اذ ان استخدام بعض مصطلحات الاشارة .يمكن ان يخبرالمتلقي بم هو اكثر مما يقال اوما يعنيه كلامه السياسي . استخدام بعض مصطلحات الاشارة والذي يحدد المسافة المكانية بين السياسي والمتلقين .وباستخدام هكذا مصطلحات يكون السياسي هو من يحدد موقعه بنفسه فيما اذاكان قريب من المتلقي او يعتبرنفسه بعيدا عنه.لذا فان استخدام بعض المصطلحات اللغوية يمكن ان تحدد العلاقة بين السياسي والمتلقي في اطار القرب والصراحة مع المتلقي او البعد والتحدث بشكل رسمي واعطاء معلومات واشياء عامة.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الاشارة ، السياسة

## Chapter One

### 1. Introduction

Deixis are group of words that give the situation in which they occur in its specifications in terms of person (the speaker), the place and the time of that situation Deictic systems in natural languages are essential and not arbitrary organized around the features of many different kinds of medium and context in which the language is used. As a central notion deixis which take role in constructing the rhetorical place concerning any speaker in the political discourse. The relying in this matter is on the linguist Buhler's (1934) who firstly introduced the notion of diexis and explains how to use them in specifying certain situations in terms of who, where and when. Deictic expressions used as indicators that play a fundamental role in constructing any speech in general and the political speech in specific. The focuses were mainly on the study of personal references, place or the spatial deixis. Both personal and spatial deixis take a the fundamental role in indicating the speaker's position towards the

public .This study investigates the combination of political discourse with the central place of the speaker from one side and the spatial deixis on the others to specify the politician position according to the public or the addressee thus, constructing the rhetorical space.

## **2. The problem of the research**

The issue in this research is to identify the space relation in the political discourse; the rhetorical space that happens between the politician(s) and addressee (s) by using certain type of lexical items in discourse which can specify this relation and these lexical items are the personal references, the spatial deixis which can achieve this goal.

## **3. The Hypotheses**

1. Personal deixis and spatial deixis are signifiers used to identify the relation or the rhetorical space between the politicians and the addressee(s).
2. Rhetorical space works as restrictions that shape the relation to identify authority.

## **4. The Procedures of the Research**

1. Identifying the term deixis in language and in political discourse for specific
2. Expand in investigating the spatial deixis as referring expressions to infer the space in political discourse.
3. Analysing the political discourse in terms of the deictic reference model to quantify the rhetorical space.

## Chapter two

### 2.1 What is Deixis

Allot N.(2010:54) defines deixis as the “technical” term used in Semantics and Pragmatics for some linguistic elements and these elements imply sensitivity to context for some linguistic elements that comprise this kind of sensitivity. The word deixis is derived from the Greek word meaning “to show” or to “point out”. Deixis according to (Huang Y.2007:132) is considered as a phenomena and it is concerned with the relationship between the structure and the context in which the language is used. Deixis is also called deictic expressions or indexical expressions (ibid). Stateing that “context indicates the reference of certain types of word we call deictic (this, that, here, there, now, then) while other expressions defining meaning like I, you, he, it, the man” (Leech G.1981:67)

Deixis term used in linguistics to refer to features of language .They refer directly to “person, temporal or locational features of situation within an utterance takes place whose meaning is relative to that situation e.g. *now/then here/there , this/that* are deictic or exophoric words ” (Crystal D.2003:127).

In the same token, deixis give the situation its own specification by constructing the utterance with certain constraints symbolized from the utterance itself and by what deixis that uttered are representing.

The conventional situation of an utterance is the best way of understanding the reference use of deixis. This comprises one- one or one- many which is indicated by many human structures including the auditory channel to other participants in the same concrete situation on which the participants in the speech events could see one. Much in the structure could be seen and could only be explained by the assumptions that are developed through the communication in face - to- face interaction and this is what deixis deals with. It is true that deixis is systematized in an egocentric mode. Beside the deictic expressions are attached to specific opinions in the communicative events.

One can give some hints about studies in this concern naming “The persuasive power of person deixis in political Discourse: The pronoun ‘We’ in Obama’s Speech About the 2007-2009 Financial Crisis as an Example” at which the president Obama uses the pronoun *We* to indicate closeness relation to the speaker to persuade others by using what is called the “soft power”.

## **2.2 The reason of using Deixis**

Huang Y.(2007,132) states that by using deixis features ,in an utterance or in any speech events, are determined by lexical or grammatical features of the language. It is oriented out of the utterance in time, space and speaker’s stand point adding that deixis particularization comes from removing certain ambiguities or multiple meaning that comes with the message, secondly by the context which

designates the reference of specific kind of words which are called indexical or deictic expressions like (this/that, here/there, now/then).

Furthermore context supplies the information that the speaker or the writer moved over either by ellipsis or confusion. Adding that, deictics are used with extra textual situational reference. Furthermore “context supplies information which the speaker /writer has omitted through ellipsis”(Leech G.1981,67). Words “such as *here* and *there*, *this* and *that* normally deictic because they locate items in space relative to person who is speaking” adding that “this form of deixis is Exophoric in character in that it is situationally or contextually bound”(Finch G.2005,210-15). With deictic expressions the meaning is relative to the situation at “which refer directly to personal temporal or location characteristics of the situation within the utterance” it refer to many reference of many features whose meaning is thus relative to the situation (Crystal 2003, 127) .In the concern of this study by the use of deictic expressions one can identify the person in position and time with relation to other speech factors and speech participants.

Lyons J. (1977, 180) states that in any “successful reference that the speaker should select referring expressions that are naturally proper name, definite nouns-phrase or a pronoun which when it employs in accordance with the rules of the language system” used. This enables the hearer with the utterance context or the overall situation around the utterance while uttering to get the actual reference from the potential stage of the referents. He adds that in any situation the descriptive content which could be in detail or in specific according to the situations.

Deixis as language specific elements to the users determined a specific relation of specific speaker with specific addressee(s) at a specific time and place of utterances, see also (Matthews P. 2007,69). Then deixis as bonds in a language that goes beyond the semantic and the pragmatic boundaries and works as referents that determined the function of use, diexis are context dependent (Fromkin V. et. at. 2007, 170). Since then without deixis language cannot serve the communicative needs and its users will not be effectively and efficiently communicative in their language, (Huang 2007, 132)

### 2.3 Deixis Understanding

Levinson (1983,68f) explains that deixis could be understood in terms of person deixis, as the speakers switches the deictic centre on which the deictic system is moved from the participant to participant in speech events. Since the person deixis is reflected in grammatical categories of person as the categories of first, second, and third person. Deixis as” technical terms of grammatical theory to handle the orientational feature to relative time and place of the utterance”, see also (Lyons1968, 275).

Allott N.(2010:57) states that the usual way of understanding deixis is in terms of deictic centre .The basic deictic centre is the speaker. In person deixis , there are two deictic centre ; the speaker and the addressee. The “*I*” represents the former while “*you*” indicates the latter.

Specifying a particular class number of individuals can be explained by the speaker’s assumptions by which the speaker, in some circumstances, cooperates with the noun phrase or an adjective and the

hearer can get that with specific information about certain referent (Lyons J. 1977,180).

### 2.3.1 Types of deictic expressions

Levinson (1983, 61) mentions that deixis as expressions pointing out different types naming person deixis, place deixis, time deixis , discourse deixis and social deixis. Stating that person deixis which indicate the speech participants role in speech events. The category of the first person is the speaker's reference to himself including ( *I , me, we, us*). Second person indicates or implies the speaker's reference to one or more addressee (*you, you*), while the third person contains the reference to persons or entities which are neither the speaker nor the addressee of the utterance but indicating pronouns and their suitable predicate (*he; him, she; her, it, they; them*).

The time deixis concerns the time on which the speech events are taking place (*now, then*) and place deixis dealing with the encoding of the spatial locations on which these speech events happened moreover the situation in which the speaker is uttering his speech exemplified by using (*this/that ,these /those ,here*). It can be expressed in English by using personal pronouns, demonstratives, adverbs and tense. Deixis can be one of several types referring to who, where, and when.(Levinson 1983,61),see also net source( <https://www.thoughtco.co>).

#### 2.3.1.1 Spatial Deixis and Relation

Wardhaugh, R. (2010,8) expresses the notion of position and place in terms of acting within communication by saying “at any time I am one of those since that how others will regard me”. He states some



factors to give attention to in the interaction that affect the personality and how to deal with the outside world including physical location, social class, and kinship. The linguistic behaviour will be stored in people who are in search of negotiation, realize, reject.

## **2.4 Political Discourse**

Language according to (Chilton 2004, 6) is something essential in politics. Without using language political activities do not exist. Triki (2010:1) explains that politicians use and give importance to certain linguistic devices which deixis are part of, especially in pragmatics and since the discourse analysis can tell what is beyond the literal meaning of the speech events and looking behind what is said to identify the real situation of the utterances, besides deixis give the context its specifications as who is speaking, where and when .So deixis as the relation between discourse and the receivers and interpreting discourse is mainly based on this relation which is deixis within the scope of pragmatics.

Discourse, as a form of language or way of speaking or public speech, embodies some functional aspects like chatting, sharing ideas or believes.(Van Dijk T.1998, 1f).

“to sum up pragmatists study of the way in which language is appropriate to the contexts and how it is used”. According to him “language is under-determined enough to allow us to infer the way in which the utterance to be understood in context in which it occurs” (Grundy P.2000, 19, 23).

(Chilton P.2004,21) states that deictic expressions are examples that signify self or self's group which is different from non –group

members. In the same respect (Herman 1995,14) adds that language is used cooperatively for multiple purposes. Politicians for that realize the role of language and how it is used to achieve their political purposes. This special type of language; the political discourse essentially assists to clarify the situations by pointing out the politicians' state or the way in which he deals with the receiver(s). The political space to the addressee(s) or the rhetorical space by using certain linguistic expressions such as the spatial deixis , which is our concern in this study.

(Van Dijk T.1998, 211) political discourse and political cognition in discourse production, assumes that speakers (or writers) will generally start from their personal mental model of an event or situation. This model organizes the subjective beliefs of the speaker about such a situation.

It is important to deal with deixis as a set of close set of items that can substitute nouns or noun phrase this kind of replacing is called pronominalisation . The items used are pronouns and could be further divided into further divided to demonstratives, indefinite, possessive, or personal pronouns. They add that the whole implications of the deictic expressions cannot be understood without the existence of the hearer at the actual situation of their use,( Mühlhäusler and Harré 1990,9f).

Within the use of language politics and certain representation and social organization could be integrated , furthermore only by the use of language one can attain commands ask questions and making offers and promises (Chilton P. and Schä ffner C. 2002:9-25). This elucidates how the use of language creates effect of authority,

legitimacy and other aspects which are politically natural. (Chilton P.2004:4 as cited in Miller 1991:390) Politics in the same respect identified within discourse and cannot be interpreted narrowly, but in a broad way representing social factors as persuasion, negotiation, making decisions and authority,(Jorgensen M. and Philips L. 2002:36).

## 2.5 Deixis and the rhetorical space

(Levinson S.1983:62) states that place deixis are concerned with the encoding of the spatial location relative to the place of the participants of the speech events. In English and most languages there is a difference between two terms in space deixis ; the proximal(or the closer to the speaker ) and distal ( or the non-proximal , sometimes closer to the addressee ), and this peculiarity is mostly encoded in demonstratives as in (*this* vs *that* ) and in deictic adverbs of place like ( *here* vs *there*).

( Cruce A. 2000:319) says that the criterion of the deictic expressions measured the sensitivity of their use in describing a given referent to certain speech –locational strictures saying in specific space and time relation to the speaker and the participating status.

Spatial deixis expresses itself principally in a form of a locative adverbs such as (here /there), demonstrative/ determiners such as (this /that) .As English language; which is nearly poor with the spatial deictic system; with only two expressions characterized proximal and distal. Different aspects of deictic expressions or indexicals whether they are distal or proximal are referents to the closeness or far away from the speaker. In this regard the first words in each pairs indicate the proximal entity since they designate the physical proximity to the

speaker, while the second pairs indicate the distal entities by signifying certain distance perspectives with the speaker relatively , to the location of the speaker.(Simpson1993,14)

Following Dixon's (2003), Levinson's (2004) hypothesizes as cited in (Huang 2007,152) that the general deictic adverbs of space make more distinctions than the demonstratives do.

Rhetoric as cited in ( Beasley 2006,5) is the "situatedness" and associated with the notion of rhetoric situation as natural context of person , events , object, relation and the necessity . The term rhetorical space also introduced by Code L.(1995:ix-x) stating that the utterance could be true or false or of the discussion vision depending on one's position and it is of un fixed location and inferred according to the necessity of the regional structure.

This is what we are going to deal with in this research to illustrate the representative of the American politician towards other addressee(s) while dealing with critical political issues in the Middle East.

In this regard, the first words in each pair indicate proximal perspective as they express physical proximity to the speaker, while the second words take a distal perspective as they denote a certain distance from the location of the speaker. The same is applied to the deictic adverbs of time now and then. Mainly, the deictic now reflects proximal perspective meaning "at the time at which the speaker is speaking", while its distal pair then "indicates that the events referred to took place at a time anterior to the time of speaking". (Simpson, 1993: 14).

Of course there is an overabundance difference in aspects of indexical, e.g. whether they are proximal or distal, whether they describe a referent to a near or far from the speaker. The distinction between inclusiveness vs. exclusiveness of the hearer towards the speaker is yet another important dimension of deixis (cf. Mühlhäusler and Harré 1990:9f). Both terms can be transferred to the pronoun *We* . According to Mühlhäusler an inclusive we contains the speaker, as shown in. How are we feeling today then? (Exclusive) (Mühlhäusler and Harré 1990,169 ).In this regard, exclusive (*we*) develops intimacy with the hearer because the doctor avoids superiority by using we instead of (*you*). He suggests occupying an equal statue with patient and tries to gain his trust. On the contrary, exclusive (*we*), also it serves the distance of the speaker from his utterance which is a popular way in political discourse as Wilson points out. If a government leader has to explain increasing interest rates he basically has the previous two options.

Werth (1999) argues, however, that our understanding of these kinds of distance, which have long been a central concern for logicians, we are still based on our notions of physical space. ‘*There*’ can be used when the denotation is closer to the speaker than to the listener, but can be distal from the both. It can exactly be used in the sense of Oppositions, the speaker is *here* while the listener is *there*. In any given situation a *here* denotes the any space round the *origo* either shifted or un shifted; the rest of deictic space in the situation are of either of possibilities *there* or *here*.

### Chapter Three

### 3.1 Model of analysis

Many writers are concerned with the deictic expressions and how they are identified relating to the contextual information taken. The spatial deixis are one of these deixis that give certain spatial perspectives that identify certain meaning which is the rhetoric space, and this settles down the authority between the users of these expressions.

The data analysis will be based on “the central conceptualization”(Yang Y.2011:129) in terms of distal vs. proximal ; the more close to the speaker, while the distal represents the distal one or closer to the addressee ,that is presented by the work of (Stawarska 2008, and Cornish 2011).

Nearness to the hearer

This	These	Here
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Far away from hearer

That	Those	There
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### *Appendix 1 :The English Text*

*Hard talk on the BBC Satellite Channel*

**Text no.1. <http://www.Hardtalk.youtube.com>**

**11/9/2013**

(1)None of these conditions exist in the context of Syria.

(2)For the process leading these decisions.

(3) This brings up other disconnecting in the W.H. messaging.

This looks like Iraq.

This is not going far enough.

(4) In this particular case.

The united States have had this trouble for a long time.

That is the dilemma

In this particular case.

This is a very difficult thing to achieve.

(6) They are not used in this war.

This is a sound policy proposal.

(7) This is not a military solution.

That is said obviously.

This does not address the larger question.

(8) Role in this issue and others.

This provides leveragity .

This Russian proposal as a merit.

(9) This is a challenge.

This is where Iraq has had they profound effect.

This is not a veil interest.

That what galvanized your being in a public opinion.

To see this conflict even though.

That is a testament to think to the complexity.

(10) cannot come out of that.

This could remind you pasty award.

(13) That actually undermined the argument.

This is a great conundrum.

That was what works in Kosovo.

(14) That is a very difficult calculation.

I think at the end of this.

(15) These documents contrary to Syrian common.

Those documents contrary to Syrian.

(16) There is a strike there.

## Chapter four

### 1. Data analysis



According to the model of analysis submitted at chapter three, which consists of three models measuring the distal vs. proximal; the nearer to the speaker or far away from the speaker

Nearest Faraway from	Item	Number	Item	Number	Item	Number
	This	22	These	3	Here	O
	That	7	Those	1	There	1

2.

## Discussing the results

Form the analysis of the data according to the model presented above the researcher deduced the following:

In terms of the distance and the nearest position the speaker in relating to the hearer the use of the positional deixis (*this*). *This* represents the first and the nearest position in relation to the hearer is mostly used rather than other deictic expression.

The use of Oppositions *here/ there* and according to the data analysis shown that they are of nearly equal value, with tends to *there* to be some distance according to the hearer

One can conclude that the use of *this* , *here* , *there* and since their mostly used in this speech (shown above) represents that the speaker consider his nearness from the receiver(s)

In terms of faraway distance from the receiver(s), the use of *those*, *there* represents their nearly used in this speech comparing with the use of *that* while *here* denotes the area around the origin of the

speech; the speaker in this respect. *That* which is in use of denoting the long distance according to the model submitted by (Yang 2011:129) (Stawarska, 2008) and ; (Cornish,:2011).

The speaker supplies the receiver with more information required relating to the closeness rhetorical space.

### **Conclusions**

1. The use of diexis can signify the relation between speech participants to identify authority.
2. Personal deixis and spatial deixis are signifiers used to identify the relation or the rhetorical space between the politicians and the addressee(s).
3. The rhetoric relation signifies the type of speaking in terms of formality and information providing.
4. Social relations could be signified by the use of diexis in that the deictic expressions could be significant that constructs any social interaction.
5. People in general turned to use any deictic expressions that suit their purpose of interaction to achieve their intention.

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