

## **THE ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE NOVEL TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE BY SALOMON NORTHUP**

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### **Abstract**

This study is entitled The Analysis of Deixis in The Novel, Twelve Years A Slave by Salomon Northup. This research activity was carried out from September 2019 to September 2020. Deixis in this research was to describe the relationship between language and contexts in the structure of language itself. The goals of this study are to find out, identify types of deixis, and to analyze the function of each type of deixis found in the novel of Twelve Years a Slave by Salomon Northup. The writer used the theory of Levinson and Jaszczolt. The data collection techniques, are reading and understanding the contents of the novel, searching for data, marking, and putting a check mark, taking data and processing it into a data framework. Qualitative method was used in this study to analyze the data and the method were done by descriptive technique. Obviously, the result of the research can be shown that there are three types of deixis found in the novel, Twelve Years A Slave by Salomon Northup, namely person deixis, spatial deixis and temporal deixis. Person deixis consists of first person, second person and third person. The first person deixis is used to identify the speaker. The second person deixis is used to show the addressee. The third person deixis is used to show the referent notidentified neither speaker nor the addressee. The spatial deixis is used to describe a location participant in speech event. Temporal deixis is used to point a certain period of time.

Keywords: deixis, referent, novel

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Interaction to each other is needed as social creatures. In order to interact to people usually starts with communication. In everyday life, it is used to express our reaction to certain situations, to reveal our thoughts, share an idea, express our feeling, respond the phenomena, ask a question, criticize of someone, etc (Oxford Dictionary, 1995:662). These acts may take many forms, including gestures (nonverbal communication, sign language and body language), writing and speech.

Consider just one example. The same sentence may be used by many different speakers of language, each with different speakers of a language each with different sense, but still be understood by the respective listeners, to bear just the meaning that was intended. This is not even unusual. To understand properly an utterance of the English sentence "I told you that yesterday, while she was here", one needs among other things, to be able to identify who the speaker and the intended hearer were, what the time and place of utterance were, who else was being talked about in it, and part of what was already said. Information of these kinds is, in fact, typically is not stated in an utterance itself, but provided only in a form which can be

used in co-ordination with knowledge of the linguistics and non-linguistics surround.

The central issue is thus not whether meaning is left to context, but how it is, and how it is re-integrated from what is said and what is only signaled. By what linguistics means, can a speaker refer to information his addressee should know, how does he use these means, how does his message's intended recipient use them? The example of sentence which we have given above helps to provide some ideas of types of linguistics expression that can be and conventionally are used to support the communication process in general way. Among these are a number which serve to relate what is said in an utterance to its social, spatial, and temporal context of occurrence. The most basic linguistics devices having this character, and probably, the most widespread are those of deixis. This will be the central interest in this research.

The importance in language of deixis was stated by Hurford and Heasley (1984), all languages do contain small sets of words whose meanings vary systematically according to who uses them, where, and when they are used. The function of deixis in language can be better understood by

asking the question, “Could there be a language without deixis?”. A language without such term could not serve the communicative needs of its users anything like as well as a real human language (p. 62). Deictic expressions bring home very clearly that when we consider individual sentences from the point of view of their truth, in many cases we can’t consider them simply as strings of words made available by the language system. The truth of sentence containing a deictic expression can only be considered in relation to some hypothetical situation of utterance.

Deixis appears not only in spoken but in written, too. Here, the writer wants to explain the use of deixis in written. In written, the person deixis may be confusing while in spoken is not. In spoken, we may recognize the person, place, and time deixis easily for the person who is talked about by a speaker utters some utterances. In written, it’s more difficult. Why? because we may not know who the speaker and listener are, and the time is also unpredictable, unless there is a clue showing the exact time. The writer claims that there are no languages without deixis as a language is full of such deictic term. As an example: John said: “*I* have lost the contract”. Here, the first singular pronoun “*I*” is deictic.

Palmer (1981) pointed out that deictic can’t be ignored in the study of meaning, for ordinary language is full of their use (p. 62). Deictic is always subjective in the sense that they can be interpreted only with reference to the speaker. Learning more about deixis, the writer uses novel entitled *Twelve Years A Slave* by Salomon Northup. The writer is passionate about reading this novel, and this novel is one of the great works, besides, deixis can be found in this book that other books.

Based on the phenomena above, it’s necessary to do analysis of deixis in the twelve years a slave novel. At last, the proposes a research entitled “The Analysis of Deixis in The Novel of *Twelve Years A Slave* by Salomon Northup”.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **1. The Setting of the Research**

The subject of the research is taken from “*Twelve years a slave Novel*” by Salomon Northup. It’s a rich and lively novel. This research was conducted at the College of STBA JIA 2019/2020, which is located at Jl.Cut Mutia no.16A, Bekasi Timur. This research lasted for 12 months, carried out in August 2019 to September 2020.

### **2. Method of the Research**

The point of arranging scientific research must be done through

systematical process and logical steps. It is supported the study by providing the reliable data to make the report scientifically and arrange the description in the correct sequence. The writer used a descriptive qualitative method that should develop the concepts and collect the facts without testing hypothesis.

### 3. The Instrument of the Research

As the study is focus on deixis, the writer is the first instrument in analyzing the data and observing the object. It means the writer actively searches for every supporting thing needed in this research. Concern to the tools, books or references, dictionary, and laptop.

### 4. The Procedure of the Research

The writer conducted this research procedurally, are reading and observing the conversation book, finding the data, putting signs, and making checklist on it, and the last is taking the data and presenting them in data display.

### 5. The Technique of the Research

The writer used some basic technique. The following are steps to analyze the data: First, the writer determined the context related to the theory of deixis. Second, analyzing the data according to Levinson (1997) and Jaszcolt (2002). Third, interpreting the data by putting them in tables as attached in the appendices.

## C. RESEARCH FINDINGS

After understanding the theory review, and determining the method and technique. The writer presented person, place, and time deixis; 21 data taken from paragraphs among all chapters in the novel of Twelve Years a Slave by Salomon Northup. The data will be analyzed descriptively based on theory of deixis proposed by Levinson (1997) and Jaszcolt (2002).

**Table 1.** Result of Analysis

Datum	Note
“While living at the United States Hotel, <u>I</u> frequently met with <u>them</u> , who had accompanied <u>their</u> masters from the south. <u>They</u> were always well dressed and provided for, apparently leading an easy life, with but few of its ordinary troubles to perplex <u>them</u> . Many times, <u>they</u> entered into conversation with <u>me</u> on the subject of Slavery”.	<i>Ch.1/Pg.6/Par.22</i> So, there are 7 deixis. The deictic word “I” and “me” refer to Salomon as the main character in this novel and as singular first person. Henceforth, the word “they”, “them”, and “their” point to plural third person. Specifically, the function of deixis “I” is the subject while “me” and “them” are object, and “their” indicates the owner’s possession (possessive adjective).
“Well, <u>my</u> <sup>1</sup> boy, how do <u>you</u> feel now?” said Burch, as <u>he</u> entered through the open door. <u>I</u> replied that I was sick and inquired the cause of <u>my</u> <sup>2</sup> imprisonment. <u>He</u> was <u>his</u> slave – that <u>he</u> had bought <u>me</u> <sup>1</sup> ,	<i>Ch.3/Pg.16/Par.07</i> So, there are 12 deixis. The deictic word “I”, “my”, and “me” represent to Salomon as the main character in this novel and singular first person. The word “you” points to Salomon as singular second person. The

and that <u>he</u> was about to send <u>me</u> <sup>2</sup> to New-Orleans".	word "he" refers to Burch as a well-known slave dealer. Meanwhile, these words, "he" and "his" connect to singular third person. Specifically, the function of word "I", "you", and "he" are subject pronoun. On the other hand, "me" is object pronoun, and "my" <sup>1</sup> refers to possession of Burch while "my" <sup>2</sup> imprisonment denotes to possession of Salomon's state of being jailed, and "his" shows the possession of Burch, named possessive adjective.	Freeman. The captain was unable to inform <u>him</u> <sup>1</sup> , no one being, on board answering to that name. "Who shipped that nigger?" <u>he</u> <sup>1</sup> again inquired of <u>him</u> <sup>2</sup> . "Burch," <u>he</u> <sup>2</sup> replied. " <u>Your</u> name is Platt. <u>You</u> answer <u>my</u> description. Why don't <u>you</u> come forward?" <u>he</u> <sup>3</sup> demanded of <u>me</u> , in an angry tone.	word "he" and "him" refer to singular third person, the words "you" and "your" points to singular second person and the words "my" and "me" connect to singular first person. Specifically, the function of words "he" <sup>1</sup> and "he" <sup>3</sup> are subject and "him" <sup>1</sup> represent to Theophilus Freeman, but "he" <sup>2</sup> points to the captain. Likewise, "you" is subject, and points to Platt which is a nigger, Salomon itself. Then, the words "your" and "my" define to possessive adjective which "your" claims about the possession of Salomon while "my" claims about the possession of captain. At last, the words "me" and "him" are object. Need to be noted, the word "him" <sup>1</sup> refers to Theophilus Freeman and "him" <sup>2</sup> refers to Platt as a nigger, is Salomon itself.
"He looked at me a moment as if he was ready to devour me, then turning round went out. In few minutes he returned. "If ever I hear you say a word about New York, or about your freedom, I'll be the death of you. I'll kill you; you may rely on that," he ejaculated fiercely."	<i>Ch.4/Pg.28/Par.16</i> So, there are 13 deixis. The deictic word "I" and "me" represent to Salomon as the main character in this novel and singular first person. The word "you" and "your" points to Salomon as singular second person. The word "he" refers to singular third person is Burch as a well-known slave dealer. On other hands. The function of word "I", "he", and "you" are subject while "me" is object, and "your" is possessive adjective that denotes to possession of Salomon's will (liberty).		
"Captain, where's Platt?" demanded Theophilus	<i>Ch.5/Pg.37/Par.23</i> So, there are 10 deixis. The deictic	"Don't cry mama. I will be a good boy. Don't cry," <u>he</u> said, looking back, as <u>they</u> passed out of the door.	<i>Ch.6/Pg.41/Par.8</i> So, there are 3 deixis. The deictic word "I" refers to singular first person, "he" refers to singular third person, and "they" refers to plural third person. Specifically, the function of words "I", "he", and "they" are subject which "I" and "he" are referred to Randall while the

	word “they” is referred to the planter from Baton Rouge with Randall.		Lively, and “her” signals to the possession well reputation as the fastest gal.
“Where does William Ford live?” I demanded, in no gentle tone. “ <u>He</u> lives seven miles from <u>here</u> ,” was the reply. “Which is the way to <u>his</u> place?” I again demanded, trying to look more fiercely than ever.	<i>Ch.10/Pg.78/Par.16</i> So, there are 4 deixis. The deictic word “I” represents to Salomon as the main character in this novel and singular first person. The words “he” and “his” refer to singular third person is William Ford as the master of slaves. In other hands, the function of word “I” and “he” are subject while “his” is possessive adjective that denotes to possession of William Ford’s home.		Specifically, the function of words of “he” and “she” are subject pronoun, the word of “him” is object pronoun. Besides that, the words of “her” and “his” are possessive adjective, and the word “themselves” is reflexive pronoun.
“Pete’s affection, however, was greater than <u>his</u> <sup>1</sup> discretion. Such violent exercise took the breath out of <u>him</u> <sup>1</sup> directly, and <u>he</u> dropped like an empty bag. Then was the time for Harry Carey to try <u>his</u> <sup>2</sup> hand, but <u>she</u> also soon out, winded <u>him</u> <sup>2</sup> , amidst hurrahs and shouts, fully sustaining <u>her</u> well-earned reputation of being the “fastest gal” on the Bayou.	<i>Ch.15/Pg.123/Par.19</i> So, there are 7 deixis. The deictic words are “he”, “his <sup>1</sup> ”, “him <sup>1</sup> ”, “his <sup>2</sup> ”, “she”, “him <sup>2</sup> ” and “her”. These deixis in the paragraph above can be categorized as singular third person, which “he” represents to Pete, “his <sup>1</sup> ” denotes to possession of Pete’s tact, “him <sup>1</sup> ” signals as the object of a verb to refer to Pete. Meanwhile “him <sup>2</sup> ” signals as the object of a verb to refer to Harry Carey and “his <sup>2</sup> ” refers to the possession of the end part of Harry Carey’s arm (body). Regardless of it, “she” represents to	“Never, but one,” answered Waddill, laughing. “ <u>We</u> have one here in Marksville, and eccentric creature, who preaches abolitionism as vehemently as any fanatic at the North. <u>He</u> is a generous, inoffensive man, but always maintaining the wrong side of an argument. <u>It</u> affords <u>us</u> a deal of amusement. <u>He</u> is excellent mechanic, and almost indispensable in this community. <u>He</u> is a carpenter. <u>His</u> name is Bass.”	<i>Ch.21/Pg.174/Par.17</i> So, there are 7 deixis, are: “we”, “he”, “it”, “us”, “he”, “he”, and “his”. The deictic words “we” and “us” refers to plural first person which denotes to Mr. Northup and Waddill while the words “he” and “his” refers to singular third person which points to Bass as a good master. In other words, “it” refers to singular third person which denotes the speaker’s reference to other entities. Specifically, the function of words “we”, “he”, and “it” are subject and “us” is object, and “his” is possessive adjective.
I replied, “.... but did not tell him I belonged <u>there</u> , nor that I was a freeman.”	<i>Ch.4/Pg.28/Par.15</i> The utterance said by Salomon. Here, there is a spatial deixis, “there”. It referred to the location of Salomon’s dwelling place which at that time Salomon’s in the chief city of		



	<p>Virginia. Specifically, the word “there” is adverb of place and included in the distal term because the region relatively distant, in other words, the place intended was far from Salomon.</p>		<p>(current location) which Edd was standing close to Bass.</p>
<p>“I am overseer <u>here</u>,” Chapin began. “I told Platt to take them and ...”</p>	<p><i>Ch.8/Pg.59/Par.23</i> The utterance said by Chapin. Here, there is a spatial deixis, “here”. It referred to the current location of Salomon works. Specifically, the function of word “here” is adverb of place and it means proximal terms because when Chapin said “here”, he is in the place or region relatively close to Salomon, is in the plantation on Bayou Boeuf.</p>	<p>“Oh, I know where Canada is,” said I, “I have been <u>there</u><sup>1</sup> myself.” “Yes, I expect you are well acquainted all through <u>that country</u>,” he remarked, laughing incredulously. “As sure as I live, Master Bass,” I replied, “I have been <u>there</u><sup>2</sup>.”</p>	<p><i>Ch.18/Pg.155/Par.16</i> The utterance above said by Salomon as Platt and Master Bass. Here, there are 3 spatial deixis, “there<sup>1</sup>”, “that country”, and “there<sup>2</sup>”. The situation is they were busily at work in the afternoon. The words of “there<sup>1</sup>”, “that country” and “there<sup>2</sup>” obviously give signal to the country of Canada which are as the homeland of Bass and the residence of Salomon with his family (before he became a slave, he lived there). Specifically, the function of words “there<sup>1</sup>”, “that country”, and “there<sup>2</sup>” are adverb of place and it means distal terms because when those words were said, they are in the region relatively distant or in other words, the place intended was far from them.</p>
<p>“Look <u>here</u>, Epps,” continued his companion. “you can’t laugh me down in that way. Some men witty, and some ain’t so witty as they think they are.”</p>	<p><i>Ch.18/Pg.153/Par.09</i> The utterance said by Epps’ friend, Bass. Here, there is a spatial deixis, “here”. Bass, Edd, and Platt were in the new house, discussing the subject of slavery, and becoming engaged in controversy. The word “here” refers to position where Bass is standing. Specifically, the function of word “here” is adverb of place and it means proximal terms because when Bass said “here”, they are in the region relatively close</p>	<p>“Yes, sir, I was <u>there</u> in August,” was the reply.” “Did you write a letter for a colored man as that place to some gentleman in Saratoga Springs?”</p>	<p><i>Ch.21/Pg.174/Par.23</i> The utterance above said by Master Bass. Here, there are a spatial deixis, “there”. The words of “there” obviously give signal to the existence or place where Bass last month is. In this case, he was on Bayou Boeuf last</p>

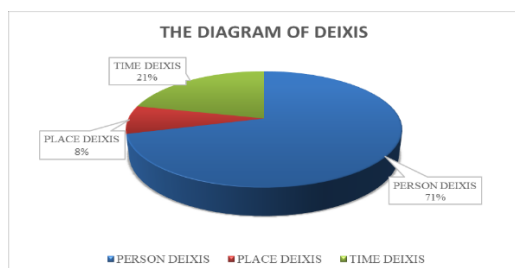
	<p>august. Specifically, the function of words “there is adverb of place and it means distal terms because when those words were said, they are in the region relatively distant or in other words, the place intended was far from.</p>	<p>putting on weather boards <u>this morning</u>,” he remarked.</p>	<p>Salomon’s master, Tibeats. Here, there is a time deixis, “this morning”. It refers to the time when Tibeats come out to where Salomon was hard at work or the day begun. Specifically, the word “this morning” is adverb of time.</p>
<p>“My friends, several times during <u>the afternoon</u>, entered drinking saloons, and called for liquor. They were by no means in the habit, however, ..... . Towards <u>evening</u>, and <u>soon</u> after partaking of one of these potations, I began to experience most unpleasant sensations. About dark the same servant conducted me to the room i had occupied <u>the previous night</u>. Brown and Hamilton advised me to retire, commiserating me kindly, and expressing hopes that i’d be better <u>in the morning</u>.”</p>	<p><i>Ch.02/Pg.12/Par.13</i> The utterance told by Salomon. Here, there are five temporal or time deixis, “the afternoon”, “evening”, “soon”, “the previous night” and “in the morning”. The word “the afternoon” simply denotes to moment or event when his friends usually come to bar for drinking. The word “evening” obviously, describes to te dusk or nightfall, “soon” clear signals to a certain period when this utterance was said by him. The word “the previous night” points to the night before that day. In this case, the word “in the morning” it has clear referent and easy to understand that it can be the day after that day. Specifically, these words “the afternoon”, “evening”, “soon”, “the previous night” and “in the morning” are adverb of time.</p>	<p>“Platt,” said he, “you will sleep on the floor in the great house <u>tonight</u>. Bring your blanket with you.”</p>	<p><i>Ch.9/Pg.66/Par.6</i> The utterance said by Chapin. Here, there is a time deixis, “tonight”. The word “tonight” is used to indicate the future. It also shows a short time after utterance. In this case, it draws to the time to save Salomon from Tibeats’ coming for killing Salomon which surely before morning dawning. So, for clarity, the duration from word “tonight” is from the sun set until the sun rise at the evening after the utterance. Specifically, the word “tonight” is adverb of time.</p>
		<p>“<u>The third morning</u> after my return, Chapin left the plantation for Cheneyville, to be absent until <u>night</u>. Tibeats, on <u>that morning</u>, was attacked with one of those periodical fits of spleen and ill-humor to which he was frequently subject, rendering him still more disagreeable and venomous than usual”.</p>	<p><i>Ch.10/Pg.71/Par.2</i> The utterance said by Salomon. Here, there are three temporal or time deixis, “the 3<sup>rd</sup> morning”, “night”, and “that morning”. The word “third morning” indicates to the moment/ time is being counted forward when Salomon return. While the word “night” denotes to the activity of Chapin will be done in that time, and he</p>
<p>“I thought I told you to commence</p>	<p><i>Ch.8/Pg.57/Par.9</i> The utterance said by</p>		



	back home, and the word “that morning” referred to the time before 9’clock. In this case, we don’t know what the exact time is, but all we can imagine is when Tibeats was struck with his spleens and bad rumor. Specifically, these words “the 3 <sup>rd</sup> morning”, “night”, and “that morning” are adverb of time.		
“We went to work <u>next morning</u> with our cabins. One for Myers and Eldret, the other for Sam, myself, and the laves that were to join us. We were <u>now</u> in midst of trees of enormous growth, whose wide spreading branches an impervious made of cane.”	<i>Ch.11/Pg.82/Par.19</i> The utterance said by Salomon. Here, there are two temporal or time deixis, “next morning” and “now”. The word “next morning” indicates to the moment or event that we do not know what time start to work. While the word “now” draws a recent time and indicates the meaning “sekarang” as by the time utterance is spoken, and in this case, “now” can be very ambiguous. Specifically, these words “next morning” and “now” are adverb of time.	men lodged in the great house. <u>An hour before day</u> we were aroused by the drivers coming among us, cracking their whips, and ordering us to arise. <u>Then</u> , the blankets were rolled up and being severally delivered to me and deposited in the wagon, the procession set forth again.”	Mr.McCrow, but we do not know what time the exact time is. The word “an hour before day” refers to the time when they were aroused by the drivers coming. On the other hand, the word “then” can be very ambiguous because it shows the time which refers to later time of Salomon and other slaves aroused. Specifically, these words “that night”, “an hour before day” and “then” are adverb of time.
		“The <u>Saturday night</u> subsequent to our interview at the water’s edge, Bass went home to Marksville. The <u>next day</u> , he employed himself in his own room writing letters. One he directed to the collector .....”	<i>Ch.19/Pg.158/Par.30</i> The utterance told by Salomon. Here, there are two temporal or time deixis, “Saturday night” and “next day”. The word “Saturday night” simply denotes to moment or event when Salomon as Platt and Bass chatted. Meanwhile, the word “next day” obviously, signals to the moment or event when Bass utilized himself to write letters. In this case, it has clear referent and easy to understand that it can be the day after Saturday, is Sunday. Specifically, these words “Saturday night” and “next day” are adverb of time.
“ <u>That night</u> we reached a Mr. McCrow’s plantation, a distance of ten or fifteen miles, when we were ordered to halt. Large were built, and each one spreading his blanket on the ground, laid down upon it. The white	<i>Ch.14/Pg.107/Par.4</i> The utterance said by Salomon. Here, there are three temporal or time deixis, “that night”, “an hour before day” and “then”. The words “that night” designate simply to the time when they arrived in the plantation of	“Faithful to his word, <u>the day before Christmas</u> ,	<i>Ch.20/Pg.161/Par.01</i> The utterance told by Salomon. Here, there

just at night-fall, Bass came riding into the yard.” are two temporal or time deixis, “the day before Christmas” and “at night”. The word “the day before Christmas” simply denotes to one day early for Christmas coming. Meanwhile, the word “at night” obviously, signals to the moment or event when Bass come riding, but we do not know the clear time. Specifically, these words “the day before Christmas” and “at night” are adverb of time.

After analyzed the novel, the writer found 89 deictic words, are: 63 person deixis, 7 place deixis, and 19 times deixis.



(1) Person deixis is mostly used in the novel, *Twelve Years A Slave*. In almost every page in novel, person deixis is existed. Person Deixis consist of three types, namely first person deixis, second person deixis, and third person deixis, (2) Place deixis also occurs in the data. Place deixis concerns the encoding of spatial location relative to the location of the

participants in the speech event, (3) Time deixis occurs in the data. Time deixis concerns the encoding of temporal point and spans relative to the time at which an utterance was spoken.

## D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### 1. Conclusion

The writer conclude that deixis is a crucial element of pragmatics. It is closely related to the context of an utterance and the structure of language. As seen from the previous chapters, deictic words are presented. in this research, there are 89 deictic words, are: 63 person deixis, 7 place deixis, and 19 time deixis. Meanwhile, Modern linguists recognize two extra types, are: social deixis and discourse deixis, but the writer did not focus on these matters.

The encoding of the role participants is generally indicated by pronoun, such as: I, you, we, they, he, she, it. Place deixis in this novel mostly used locative place adverbs such as here and there. Time deixis in this novel used deictic words for encoding time, such as: last, next, now, then. Based on the precentages, the dominance of deictic markers in the novel, *The Twelve Years a Slave* by Salomon Northup is the deictic markers of person because person deixis strongly influenced by the dominance that the first person

exerted over the text in the novel.

## 2. Suggestion

Readers should be more aware that deixis is an important phenomenon in language which they may not realize yet so far. As deixis is rather complicated case especially for written language. It's necessary to comprehend the knowledge background and reference, so it will not lead to misinterpretation. In other words, they should deepen some theories of deixis by reading many references and applying in a research.

Teacher should present to students that deixis plays an important role in studying meaning which involves semantics and pragmatics. Starting from some cases undergone by students that they are confused between deixis and anaphora, teachers should give detail explanations about them.

Since Deixis employs in spoken and written language, they could use different subjects such as magazine, newspaper, news website, recorded sounds, or films in making a research. Moreover, they should use other theories besides Levinson and Jaszczolt or other types of deixis such as social and discourse deixis.

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