

Exploring Indexicals: A Pragmatic Analysis with Implications for English Language Teaching

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Abstract

This study deals with the central topic of pragmatics, indexicals. The purposes of this study are to find out the types of deixis especially exploring person, spatial and temporal deictic expressions used in the Opinion pieces of the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers and to investigate the most and the least dominant types among the three types. During the outbreak of COVID-19 in Myanmar, newspapers performed a significant role by featuring the news of COVID-19 from its very onset. This study is conducted by using a descriptive qualitative method. A total of 8 Opinion pieces of the newspapers issued in March 2020 is purposively taken as the sample. The documentary technique is used in collecting the data. Types of deixis proposed by Yule (1996) are applied in the analysis of the data. The findings show that deictic expressions, namely Person deixis with 151 occurrences (77%), Spatial deixis with 43 occurrences (22%) and Temporal deixis with 2 occurrences (1%) are explored in the study. From the analysis of the data, it is found that the most dominant type is Person deixis and the least dominant one is Temporal deixis. It can be deduced that the opinion pieces of the Global New Light of Myanmar tend to use person indexicals as the dominant type compared to the other types. This is because the opinion pieces are to express the writer's informed and focused personal opinion on an issue of relevance to a targeted audience and usually reflect only his or her view.

Keywords: Indexicals, Pragmatic Analysis, Implications for English Language Teaching

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