DEIXIS IN ENGLISH AND KURDISHLANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

deixis is the use of general words and phrases to refer to a specific time, place, or person, e.g. the words (yesterday, there, and he) are deictic, as their denoted meaning varies and depends on time , place and person specified in the context. Deixis is a Universal feature of all languages.

This study deals with the deixis in English and Kurdish languages, in order to show the similarities and differences between them from the grammatical and semantic aspects of points.

The study is based on two hypotheses; the first is that the deixis as a Universal aspect, are similar in the two languages in terms of their types and the elements used to express them. The second hypothesis is that the two languages have similar and different grammatical and semantic aspects in terms of the type of personal pronouns, number, gender and case.

The research ends in some conclusions and the list of references.

Key Words: Diexis , Pragmatics, Semantics, Comparative

Deixis

Deixis is a linguistic term which is used to perform the task of pointing out to something. The expressions used to indicate something are called Indexical.

Deictic words belong to a closed set, that is, there is a limited number of these words in any language.

Deictic expressions require an addressee to be able to pick out a person, place or time relevant in understanding how the words refer. This is called Deictic Reference. The point of positioning of a speaker is called Deictic Centre or Deictic Point.

Deixis are 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 deictics. (Crystal, 2003, 127).

Deixis is the study of how to analyze a word or a phrase which directly relates an utterance to a person, time, place, social and discourse. It concerned with the encoding of many different aspects of the circumstances surrounding the utterance and the relationship between the structure of language and context in which they are being used, hence it is the study about how to encode or grammaticalize features of the context of the utterance or speech event, and also about the way into which the interpretation of utterances depends on analysis of the context utterance (Levinson, 1983, 54).

Universally all natural languages have deictic expressions and the task of linguistic analysis is to model these directly in order to capture the ways in which these are used in different languages.

Types of Deictic Expressions

Deictic expressions can be one of several types, referring to who, where, and when.

1 - Pronouns make up a system of personal deixis..

2 - Words like this and that and here and there belong to a system of spatial deixis. The here/ there distinction is also found in pairs of verbs such as *come/go* and *bring/take*.

3 -   There *is* temporal deixis found in words like *now, then,* yesterday*, and tomorrow, and in phrases such as *last month* and *next year*."

4 - Deixises realized by definite article, some adverbs of place and time, and tenses of the verb.

This aspect of language is manifested and realized in different languages among which are Englishand Kurdish as seen in the following examples: The analysis are illustrated, explained and compared by tables.

(Fillmore, 1997, 49)

Deixis in English and Kurdish
The Speaker, Addressee absentee Pronouns

Speech roles in English are realized by first person pronouns (singular and plural) and second person pronouns, as subject and other cases: I, me, mine, my, we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours.
Examples:

I am John. من جۆنم

The man saw me. پیاوەکە منی بینی

My book is useful. کتێبەکەم بە کەڵکە

Be mine. ببە بە هی من

We are reading now. ئێمه ئیستا دەخوێنینەوه

They helped us. ئەوان یارمەتیی ئێمەیان دا

This is our school. ئەمه قوتابخانەی ئێمەیه

It is ours. هی ئێمەیه

You come here. تۆ وەره ئێره

It is your turn now. ئیستا نۆرەی تۆیه

It is yours. هی تۆیه

He is a student. ئەو قوتابییه

They drink coffee. قاوه دەخۆنەوه

The 1st and 2nd person pronouns are always deictic because their reference is entirely dependent on context since they refer to outsiders

and indicates distance. While 3rd person differs from 1st and 2nd pronouns (I – من / you – تۆ) are direct participants in a basic interaction.

(Amin, 1979, 78)

Gendered pronouns

Gender is defined as the socially constructed roles and behaviors that a society typically associates with males and females. Grammatically it is defined as a classification of a noun or pronoun as feminine, masculine or neuter.

In many languages with gendered pronouns, the third-person masculine pronoun has been used but the gender of its antecedent is unknown or inapplicable.

An example of gender is the pronoun "he

In contrast, English used the neuter gender for gender ambiguous cases in the singular (with the use of the plural starting in around the fourteenth century), but many grammarians drew on Latin, to come to a preference for "he" in ambiguous cases in the singular. However it remains common to use the third-person plural even when the antecedent is singular:

(Asi 2005, 103)

no.	English	Kurdish	
		Free	Bound
Sg.	him (masc.) her (fem.) it (neuter)	ئەو	ێت — ی- X
Pl.	Them (masc./fem./ neuter)	ئەو	– یان-ن

The Speaker, Addressee absentee Pronouns

Speech roles in Kurdish are realized by first person pronouns (singular and plural) and second person pronouns, as subject and all other cases: من ، تۆ ، ئەو ، ئێمە ، ئێوە ، ئەوان

All speech roles in English and Kurdish are explained in the following table:

	Speech Roles		Other Roles	
			Specific	
	Speaker	Addressee	Human	Nonhuman
Sg.	I me mine my	you you your yours	he him his his she her hers her	it it its its
Pl.	we us ours our		they theirs	them their

Nominative Absentee Pronouns in Englishand Kurdish:

no.	English	Kurdish	
		Free	Bound
Sg.	he (masc.) she (fem.) it (neuter)	ئەو	ـیت – ی
Pl.	They	ئە وان	ن – یان–

Personal suffixes Deixis in Kurdish

In Kurdish language the verb agrees with the subject NP in numbe   (Sg.and Pl and person (1st , 2nd , and 3rd).

In Kurdish a formal distinction between transitive and intransitive verbs is made in the past tense. Each group requires a different set of personal suffixes to express the agreement of the verbs in number and person with the subject noun phrase of the sentence. The set of personal pronouns and personal suffixes is illustrated in the following diagram:

Personal Pronouns			Personal Suffixes	
			A	B
No	Person		Past transitive	Past intransitive Present Transitive and Intransitive
Sg.	1	Min من	م m	م m
	2	to تۆ	ت t	یت i:t
	3	Aw ئەو	i:	یت/ات et / a:t
Sg.	1	ema ئێمە	ma:n	ین i: n
	2	Ewa ئێوە	ta:n	ن n
	3	Awan ئەوان	ya:n	ن n

Nominative Speaker Pronouns in Englishand Kurdish:

No.	English	Kurdish	
Sg.	I	Free	bound
		من	م
Pl.	we	ئێمه	ماند ــ ین

Person deixis in Kurdish is realized by personal pronouns:

Personal Pronouns				Personal Suffixes	
				A	B
No	Person	E	K	Past tv.	Past iv, Pres tv & iv
Sg.	1	I	min	M	M
	2	You	To	T	It
	3	She/he	Aw	:i	et – a:t
Pl.	1	We	ema	ma:n	i:n
	2	You	ewa	ta:n	n
	3	They	awan	ya:n	n

(Amin. 2004,P 149)
Accusative and Genitive Speaker Pronouns in English and Kurdish

		English			Kurdish	
		Nom.	Acc.	Gen.	Nom. Acc.	Gen. with deictic Article
Sg.	1	I	me	Mine	من	من
	2	you	you	Uours	تۆ	تۆ
	3	he/she	Him/ her	His/hers	ئەو	ئەو
Pl.	1	we	us	Our	ئێمە	ئێمە
	2	you	you	your	ئێوە	ئێوە

(Note: the cell "هی" appears spanning the rightmost column for the Sg. 3 row area)

Accusative and Genitive Addressee Pronounsin English, and Kurdish
(Amin, 1979, 93)

no.	English	Kurdish	
		Free	Bound
Sg.	me	من	م –
Pl.	us	ئێمه	مان – ین –

no.	English	Kurdish	
		Free	Bound
Sg.	you	تۆ	یت – ی
Pl.	you	ئێوه	ن– تان–

Nominative Absentee Pronouns in Englishand Kurdish :

no.	English	Kurdish	
		Free	Bound
Sg.	he (masc.) she (fem.) it (neuter)	ئەو	یت– ی–
Pl.	They	ئەوان	ن– یان–

Accusative and Genitive Absentee Pronounsin English and Kurdish

		English			Nom.	Kurdish	
		Nom.	Acc.	Gen.	Nom. Acc.	Gen. with deictic Article	
Sg.	1	I	Me	Mine	من	من	
	2	you	You	Uours	تۆ	تۆ	
	3	he/she	Him/ her	His/he rs	ئەو	ئەو	هی
Pl.	1	we	Us	Our	ئێمە	ئێمە	
	2	you	You	Your	ئێوە	ئێوە	
	3	they	Them	Their	ئەوان	ئەوان	

Forms of Demonstratives in English and Kurdish:
Distant Forms of Demonstratives in English and Kurdish:

no.	English	Kurdish
Sg.	This	ئەمە
Pl.	These	ئەمانە

Proximate Forms of Demonstratives in English and Kurdish

no.	English	Kurdish
Sg.	That	ئەوە
Pl.	Those	ئەوانە

Adverbs for Proximity and Distance in English and Kurdish

Proximate	Here	ئێرە
Distant	There	ئەوێ

Place Deixis for Front, Back and Sides:

English	Kurdish
this side	ئەم لایە
Behind	لەدوای
in front of	لە پێش
On	لەسەر

Some Motion Verbs in Englishand Kurdish:

	English	Kurdish
proximate	Come	وەرە
Distant	Go	بڕۆ

Some Time Deictic Expressions in Englishand Kurdish

	English	Kurdish
Present	Now	ئیستا
past and future	Then	جاران دواینێ

The Definite Article in Englishand Kurdish

English	Kurdish
The	ەکە

Some Kinds of Comparatives in English and Kurdish

English	Kurdish
Same	هەمان
Similar	وەک
Different	جیاواز

Conclusions

The analysis has proved the validity of the two hypotheses set for the present study. The first hypothesis is that, deictic expressions are similar in their types in the both compared languages and are realized by the same grammatical elements. The second hypothesis which is that, there are some points of similarity and difference between the elements used as deictic expressions in the languages under comparison regarding person, number, gender and case distinctions.

1 - Both languages have three persons, first, second and third person pronouns.

2 - In English there is only free form pronouns , whereas in Kurdish there are free and bound pronouns.

3 - Kurdish has no gender distinction pronoun, while English distinguishes gender only in 3rd Sg.

4 English language demonstrates different forms for accusative and Genitive cases, while all grammatical cases in Kurdish have the same form.

5 - place deixis in the both languages is realized by some adverbs of place which indicate nearness or remoteness from thespeaker.
(era – here / awe – there).

6 –   Demonstratives in both languages have two numbers (Sg. and Pl.) without gender and case distinctions.
(ama – this / ewa:na – those)

7 - In English demonstrative adverbs are used for present time or the moment of utterance, and other used for past or future time.
(now – i:sta / then – ewsa).

8 - The definite article in the both languages is deictic expression which refers to objects already known by the speaker and the addressee. In English the definite article appears at the beginning of the noun phrase as a free form (**the** beautiful tree), while in Kurdish it comes at the end of the noun phrase as a suffix (draxta jwa:**naka**).

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پوختە

ئاماژە لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردیدا

ئاماژە Deixis لقێکی بواری (پراگماتیک) ە ، لەو وشەو دەربرینە زمانییانە دەکۆلێتەوە کە ئاماژە بە کات و شوێن و کەسی دەرەوەی دەق و قسەکردنەکە دەکەن ، وەک لە ڕستەی (دوێنێ من لەوێ ئەوم دیت). (دوێنێ) کاتی قسەکردنەکە نییە ، (ئەو) کەسێکە لە کاتی قسەکردنەکەدا ئامادە نییە و (ئەوێ) شوێنی قسەکردنەکە نییە. ئەم ڕستەیە لێلە ، تەنها قسەکەر و قسەبۆکراو دەزانن (دوێنێ) چ ڕۆژێک و (ئەوێ) چ شوێنێک و (ئەو) کێ بوو.

(ئاماژە) بوارێکی فرەوان و ئالۆز و فرەڕووە ، کەرەسەکانی گشتین Universal لە هەموو زمانێکدا هەن و بە هەمان شێوە ئەرکەکانیان ئەنجام دەدەن. واتا لە بنجدا یەکن و لە سیمادا جیاوازن.

ئەم باسە لێکۆلینەوەیێکی بەراوردییە. هەندێ لایەنی ئاماژە لە زمانی کوردی و ئینگلیزیدا دەخاتە ڕوو و بەراوردیان دەکات بە هۆی خشتەکانەوە. باسەکە بە ئەنجام و لیستی سەرچاوەکان کۆتایی دێ.

وشە سەرەکییەکان: ئاماژە ـ زەمینە ـ واتاسازی ـ بەراوردی

الملخص

التعيين في اللغتين الكوردية و الانكليزية

التعيين deixis مصطلح تستخدم في التحليل اللغوي ، يعني (الاشارة الى) ، يأتي من اليونانية القديمة بمعنى (التاشير او العرض) ، تشير الى الشخص او الزمن أو المكان أو الموقف الذي يتحدث عنه المتحدث. يتم التعبير عنه عن طريق الضمائر الشخصية ، وظروف الزمان و المكان والاشارات و التوضيحات وغيرها من العبارات. التعيين سمة شمولية Universal لجميع اللغات الانسانية ، تتطابق في الجوهر وتختلف في المظهر.هذا البحث يتناول ظاهرة التعيين في اللغتين الكوردية و الانكليزية. لتبيان اوجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما في هذا المجال بجداول توضيحية.يتوصل الباحث الى جملة من الاستنتاجات مع عرض للمصادر المعتمدة.

الكلمات الدالة : التعيين ـ التداولية ـ الدلالة ـ المقارن