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IN THE NAME OF GOD
THE SOUL & TONGUE
CREATING

۲۹۲۰۱

**A DESCRIPTION
OF
PERSIAN DEIXIS**

BY

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UNIVERSITY OF ALLAMEH TABATABAYI

THESIS

**SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS**

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The gift is small,

The will is all.

"Posy", W.Shakespeare

To:

My Nearests & Dearests

in whose existence

I see my being;

my Parents,

Husband,

Sisters

& Brothers

&

the most beautiful

flowers

of my life

"Shaghayegh & Shiva"

I'm proud of all of the

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAMEH TABATBAYI

THE PERSIAN LITERATURE

AND

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WE HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS BY

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Language - the greatest gift of God to man - is assumed to be the best means for communication. Nevertheless, in my opinion, for expressing emotions and affection still it cannot function properly.

Unable to state my sense of gratitude to God for his ever, endless help all during my life.

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If I hadn't have such generous, great and invaluable companions, I would never have felt the sweet flavor of success.

For ever, I'm indebted to all of them.

Table of PHONETIC SYSTEM

Phonetic symbol	Example	Glossary	Phonetic symbol	Example	Glossary
/a/	/zan	"woman"	/q/	/qermez/	"red"
/e/	/češm/	"eye"	/k/	/ketâb/	"book"
/o/	/gol/	"flower"	/g/	/guš/	"ear"
/â/	/pâ/	"foot"	/l/	/lâle/	"tulip"
/i/	/sib/	"apple"	/m/	/mâdar/	"mother"
/u/	/ʔu/	"s/he"	/n/	/na/	"no"
/b/	/bâbâ/	"dad"	/v/	/vaqt/	"time"
/p/	/pedar/	"father"	/h/	/hâlâ/	"now"
/t/	/to/	"you"	/y/	/yek/	"one"
/ʃ/	/ʃang/	"war"	/ow/	/mowz/	"banana"
/č/	/čub/	"wood"			
/x/	/xâne/	"home"			
/d/	/dast/	"hand"			
/r/	/ruz/	"day"			
/z/	/zard/	"yellow"			
/ž/	/žarf/	"deep"			
/s/	/sar/	"head"			
/š/	/šab/	"night"			
/f/	/fardâ/	"tomorrow"			

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CHAPTER (I)

INTRODUCTION

Just as birds have wings, man has language.

The wings give the bird its peculiar aptitude

For aerial locomotion. Language enables

man's intelligence and passions to

acquire their peculiar characters of

intellect and sentiment.

G. H. Lewes, «The study of psychology»

1.0 INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Language is the most effective device for communication, and words as linguistic elements play fundamental functions in establishing this communicative channel.

The most basic arbitrary character of words in any language is that most words have relative constant meaning accepted by all the members of a speech community; and that as a primary principle enables them to have linguistic communication effectively. Not to go far, in order to have a meaningful clear conversation about *language* itself, we should have a relative constant interpretation of *language* in our mind.

Nevertheless, one of the most fascinating facts about language is that we can benefit different forms to refer to the same thing, and the same form can be used to refer to many different things. A particular issue of linguistics, for instance, can be referred to as *an issue of linguistics, the issue, that, this, or it*; and any one of these forms could be used to refer to other objects on different occasions. One of the strategies that makes this degree of flexibility possible is manifested through the phenomenon of **DEIXIS**, which is indeed related to the *context of situation* in which the language is used.

Raising a question may specify the significance of deictic expressions, and that is to ask:

Is it possible to delete deictic terms in even one day of our daily conversations?

As a matter of fact, all languages do contain small sets of words whose meanings vary systematically according to who uses them, and where and when they are used. These words are called deictic words: the general phenomenon of their occurrence is called deixis (*Hurford & - Heasley, 1983: 62-3*).

Deixis has a fundamental importance for theories of meaning, because it relativizes the content of utterances to the situation of the utterance (*Levison, 1992: 343*).

1.1 THE DESIGN OF THE STUDY

This study consists of four chapters. Chapter one gives a general sketch of the whole work; introducing the issue under consideration, explaining briefly about the purpose and significance of the study, the motivation for it, general definitions of the major terms, determining the delimitations of the study and finally introducing the methodology used in data collection and the approach to the study. Chapter two presents a fairly comprehensive account of the related literature in two parts. The first part introduces the English literature on the topic. In the second part an attempt is made to introduce the Persian literature. Chapter three is devoted to a quite detailed description of **Persian Deixis** well supported by a large corpus. That chapter consists of five main parts each of which covers one particular type of deixis in Persian. Finally, the last chapter includes a general summary, provides suggestions for further research and proposes implications.

1.2 THE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

As Levinson (1983) remarks there has been surprisingly little work of a descriptive nature in the area (in English), with a consequent lack of adequate theories and frame works of analysis (p. 61); also it is becoming clear that theorists have underestimated both the complexity and the extent of deixis (Levinson, 1992: 343).

On the other hand as far as Persian deixis is concerned, no unified, serious study is conducted on that topic. Only traditional grammarians have mentioned some points about them under the categories such as pronouns, referring nouns (adjectives), or adverbials, etc; while they have considered these linguistic elements usually in the abstract, namely they rarely touched the *context of situation* which is highly relevant for the interpretation of deictic terms.

Therefore, the aim of the present study is to provide an overall comprehensive description of Persian deictic terms; while preparing a good detailed back ground Knowledge about this phenomenon in general.

For the significance of this study it seems sufficient to say that as Persian linguists and grammarians, too, have not dealt with deixis so far, this study should be considered as the first attempt.

The major issues to be addressed are:

1. *What types of deixis are there, and how they can be precisely defined?*
2. *What are the deictic terms in Persian?*
3. *How can they contribute to the interpretations of different settings and situations?*
4. *How deictics can be treated structurally and semantically?*

1.3 THE MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

My profound interest in linguistics, Particularly it's tangible subdomains such as **Pragmatics** and **Discourse analysis** has motivated the present study. On the other hand, becoming familiar with deixis and it's complexities from the outset gave enough rise to my curiosity and interest to contribute to research in this topic; which is a clear instance of *language in use*. Furthermore, it was a great pleasure for me to go into a fairly intact area.

1.4 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study will describe all types of deixis, except tense and definiteness.

As far as tense is concerned, it requires another intensive investigation in its own right.

The problem of definiteness in Persian has also been studied by S.T. Andy in his M.A. thesis.

Although this study does not concern acquisition of deixis, there is a growing body of literature on the acquisition of deictic terms by children, most of which is referenced in Wales, 1979 and Tanz, 1980.

Types of deixis which are going to be considered are time, place, person, discourse and finally social deixis.

1.5 Methodology

"You Know my method. It is founded upon the observance of trifles."

Sir Arthur Canon Doyle, "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"

In this section I will briefly review the methodological procedures of the study including the approach to the study and data collection. No need to mention that the research is framed pragmatically.

1.5.1 THE APPROACH TO THE STUDY

The descriptive approach is straight forward in Principle. It consists of fairly all types of deixis.

Since there are varieties of words which may function deictically, so in order to cover more deictic terms in each part many times I will introduce those deictics which are near synonyms or have similar functions with their corresponding compounds as a set. Therefore, at the outset of each part there will be an illustration of a set of deictics with it's related stereotype in English which shows the concept of those deictics. That is an inventive illustration which is more inclusive and economical too, and can be considered as another significant advantage of this work.

As I have already mentioned, my primary purpose of this study is to prepare a full account of Persian deictics and as such I have benefited from translation only as a device for serving this aim through the analysis of the corpus. In addition, classifying the data as sets is an important factor which many times may prevent us from having exact equivalences. So; although I will try to do my best, however as far as translation is concerned equivalences may be established on the basis of conveying information; though they may differ structurally, just as paraphrases may be structurally different and still be paraphrases.

1.5.2 DATA COLLECTION

Deixis makes it necessary to talk about the interpretation of utterances, not sentences in the abstract. Therefore, this analysis is largely concerned with data