



Scientific Uses of This/That in Linguistic Texts: Semantic Aspect

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KEYWORDS Anaphora. Demonstrative Pronouns. Indexical. Language. Meaning

ABSTRACT In the present paper, the authors scrutinize the behavior and semantics of English index words in scientific discourse. This paper concentrates on the semantic subtleties of the categorical meaning of proximity/distance expressed by the demonstratives THIS/THAT pronouns generally in scientific texts, and particularly in the text on gender and linguistics. The theoretical and methodological basis of the research is based on fundamental assumptions of modern linguistic knowledge in deixis and indexicality. The paper employs the methods of component, mental-logical analysis, and the descriptive method. The investigation revealed that the proximal and distal demonstratives THIS/THAT retain their basic semantic features while functioning in scientific texts, and their modified applications emerge from the more fundamental and categorical definition of the distance/proximity. Although these modifications implied by Spatio-temporal markers, they exceed them, converting to psychological, emotional, and speculative markers of acceptance: consent/alienation, explicit/implicit knowledge, certainty/uncertainty.