



An analysis of demonstrative pronouns in English

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the linguistic properties and functions of the English demonstrative pronouns: "this," "that," "these," and "those." Demonstrative pronouns play a crucial role in language by linking spoken or written words to spatial, temporal, or cognitive references, thereby facilitating clarity, focus, and organization in discourse. Using a syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic framework, this study explores how demonstrative pronouns allow speakers to specify proximity and relationships, ultimately influencing how listeners interpret the intended meaning.

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Ingliz tilidagi ko'rsatkich zamonlar tahlili

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

ko'rsatkich zamonlar,
sintaksis,
semantika,
pragmatika,
deixis,
ingliz tili,
diskurs tahlili.

Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi ko'rsatkich zamonlarining lingvistik xususiyatlari va funksiyalari, ya'ni «this», «that», «these» va «those» o'rganiladi. Ko'rsatkich zamonlari, og'zaki yoki yozma so'zlarni makoniy, vaqtinchalik yoki kognitiv referentsiyalar bilan bog'lash orqali tilning muhim jihatini tashkil etadi va shuning bilan diskursdagi aniqlik, diqqat va tashkilotga yordam beradi. Sintaktik, semantik va pragmatik asosda, ushbu tadqiqot ko'rsatkich zamonlari qanday qilib gapiruvchilarga yaqinlik va munosabatlarni aniqlashga imkon berishini va oxir-oqibat tinglovchilarning niyat qilingan ma'noni qanday talqin qilishiga ta'sir ko'rsatishini o'rganadi.

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Анализ указательных местоимений в английском языке

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

указательные
местоимения,
синтаксис,
семантика,
прагматика,
дейксис,
английский язык,
дискурсивный анализ.

В данной статье исследуются лингвистические свойства и функции английских указательных местоимений: «this», «that», «these» и «those». Указательные местоимения играют ключевую роль в языке, связывая устные или письменные слова с пространственными, временными или когнитивными референциями, тем самым способствуя ясности, фокусу и организации в дискурсе. Используя синтаксический, семантический и прагматический подход, данное исследование рассматривает, как указательные местоимения позволяют говорящим уточнять близость и взаимосвязи, в конечном итоге влияя на то, как слушатели интерпретируют предполагаемое значение.

INTRODUCTION

Demonstrative pronouns are integral to English, offering distinct functions in connecting language to the context in which it is used. These pronouns indicate specific objects or ideas to the speaker and reveal relational meanings, such as closeness, emphasis, and importance. Through this study, we aim to examine the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic properties of English demonstrative pronouns, focusing on how they influence discourse comprehension and listener interpretation.

The demonstrative pronouns *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* are used to represent an already mentioned or implied word or phrase, helping make communication faster and easier:

1-picture:

	Near	Far
Singular	<i>this</i>	<i>that</i>
Plural	<i>these</i>	<i>those</i>

2-picture:

	near	not near
Singular	<i>This is my bag.</i>	<i>That is her computer.</i>
Plural	<i>These are her pens.</i>	<i>Those are his books.</i>

Examples:

- This is her car, and that (further away) is mine.
- I don't like these (in front of me) but I do like those (further away)
- Our car has broken down, and it's snowing. This (the situation in which we find ourselves) is not a good situation.
- He wrote about many places, including some small Greek islands; these (direct antecedent in the sentence), he said, were his favorite places.
- That (= what you have just said) is not a very intelligent idea.

See the red jacket? I want that.

In the demonstrative (pronounced deh-mon-struh-tiv) pronoun example above, the word that represents the red jacket mentioned earlier. The speaker is really saying, ***"I want the red jacket."***

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Demonstrative pronouns and adjectives are the words "this, that, these, and those" refer to something, either replacing or modifying the noun in question. In English, demonstrative pronouns are divided into four forms: «this», «that», «these» and «those» each associated with specific spatial and referential properties:

- **This (proximal singular):** Refers to a single item or concept close to the speaker or recently introduced (e.g. «This idea seems promising»).
- **That (distal singular):** Refers to an item or idea farther away from the speaker or previously mentioned (e.g. «That solution worked well»).
- **These (proximal plural):** Indicates multiple items near the speaker (e.g., «These options look appealing»).
- **Those (distal plural):** Refers to multiple items farther from the speaker or known from earlier discourse (e.g. «Those were memorable experiences»).

The demonstrative pronoun is another main type or one kind of pronoun in which one uses the noun place, the demonstrative pronoun is used to indicate particular things or persons, or directions. Pronouns mainly work to stop the repetition of nouns, which makes sentences beautiful and meaningful. From this Pronoun, it is known at what distance a person or thing is stable. Let's try to understand how to use demonstrative pronouns in sentences.

Demonstrative pronouns function both as determiners and as stand-alone pronouns. As determiners, they modify a noun directly, e.g. «this book» while as pronouns, they take the place of a noun entirely, e.g. «This is mine» This syntactic flexibility enhances their utility in discourse, allowing speakers to adapt demonstrative usage based on the need for specificity, brevity, or emphasis.

When used as determiners, demonstratives clarify or specify the nouns they modify. For instance, "this movie" directs the listener to a particular movie in context, while "that answer" differentiates one answer from others.

Used independently, demonstratives stand in for previously mentioned concepts or items, simplifying sentence structure and reducing redundancy. For example, in the exchange, "Do you like the painting? – Yes, I like this," the demonstrative clarifies focus without repeating «the painting».

The meaning of demonstrative pronouns goes beyond simple referential functions, as they are often loaded with semantic nuances related to proximity, importance, and

familiarity. Pragmatically, demonstratives guide listener focus and often imply the speaker's stance.

Demonstratives carry inherent semantic value based on proximity and specificity. «This» and «these» typically indicate something nearby or of immediate relevance, whereas «that» and «those» signal either spatial distance or temporal or cognitive separation. For example, saying “this idea” implies immediacy or relevance, while “that idea” may suggest a shift in focus or distancing.

Pragmatically, demonstrative pronouns shape conversational flow, guiding listeners by marking focal points and segmenting information. They function as indicators of new or ongoing topics, helping listeners orient themselves in discourse. For instance, a speaker introducing “this problem” in a presentation might signal it as the topic of focus, whereas referring to “that issue” might imply a past or secondary concern.

For English learners, mastering the use of demonstrative pronouns is essential to achieving naturalness and accuracy in both spoken and written English. Instruction focusing on the spatial, temporal, and pragmatic distinctions of each pronoun form can enhance learners' ability to express specificity, stance, and emphasis in their communication.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of English demonstrative pronouns reveals their rich functional versatility and importance in clarifying discourse. By understanding the spatial and relational dynamics that demonstratives convey, speakers can achieve greater precision and effectiveness in communication. This research underscores the vital role demonstrative pronouns play in connecting language to context, ensuring coherence and enhancing the overall meaning in discourse.

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