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## DEIXIS AND DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS IN THE REALIZATION OF SPATIAL RELATIONS IN OLD ENGLISH

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### Abstract

The present study is devoted to the problem of the realization of the concept space in Old English. Spatial relations are an important subcategory, and what is striking here is the relatively small number of discrete spatial relation categories that each language makes available. One of the means used for the expression spatial relations in Old English are demonstrative pronouns. Notion deixis is regarded to be one of the most ancient forms of abstract thinking at that period.

**Keywords:** concept space, deixis, subjective markers, objective markers, proximity, distance.

### Introduction

Grammatical descriptions of demonstrative pronouns sometimes mention the concept of *deixis*. Deixis is a term used in linguistic theory to talk about how the meaning of certain words bears a direct relation to the spatial or temporal characteristics of the situation in which they are used. Deixis is one of the most important notions in general linguistics and is a vital link between the real life environment around us (time frame, physical location, people involved, etc) and what we actually say (the linguistic terms used). Deixis has always been at the heart of reference research as widely known literature in semantics and pragmatics demonstrates. One of the notions used for decoding deixis are pronouns, characterized by their signification of being variable and essentially contained in a reference to some circumstances which are found outside the linguistic expression itself and are determined by the whole of the situation.

All demonstratives are characterized by specific semantic features. All languages have at least two demonstratives that are deictically contrastive: a proximal demonstrative referring to an entity near the deictic center and a distant demonstrative denoting a speaker (or a referent) that is situated at some distance to the deictic center.

### Methodology

The main methodological principle of the given article is the principle of descriptive analysis with synchronic approach to the material of research. Also was used lexicographic method, taken into account data from etymological, word-building, explanatory dictionaries. Analyzing different means used for expression spatial relations in Old English was drawn also statistic method, helping to set up the role of all means and exactly demonstrative pronouns.

### Main Part

In every language we can point out special class of words which are used for denoting the location of the object with the regard to the speaker, they are called demonstrative (deictic) pronouns.

Terms, expressing in different language the notion 'pronoun' go back to ancient grammar terms- Greek. *antonymia* or Latin . *pronomen*, denoted the words, used as nouns.

There are three types of relative characterization of objects, speakers and events from the semantic point of view and their language function:

- 1) subjective indicator (description relatively the– strictly speaking deictic means;
- 2) objective indicator ( characterization of one object, phenomenon and their interrelation –word signs with deictic sema.
- 3) interstructure indicator (anaphoric, epiphoric, correlative), indication of the parts in relation with the whole.

Many scholars suppose that pronouns are deprived of the meaning and demonstrative function is the only their function. Similar to the demonstrative gestures, word-indicators are deprived of the meaning and their sole function is to attract or vice versa divert attention from the object [3].

It is noted sometimes that pronouns with a number of language units are empty, senseless words, which acquire sense only in a phrase. [10].

There exists another point of view according to which pronouns serve as special signs of particular concept and indication is understood as particular type of meaning. Special typological research proved the fact that deictic elements appeared only on the definite stage of abstract thinking, for it is easy to imagine the language without demonstrative words. During the process of formation deictic elements appeared on the basis of the so-called 'naming words'. K.E.Maitinskya, who described the gradual rethinking of naming words and transformation into pronouns, suppose that the first, universal for all languages was the division into the following categories: 1) naming, 2) deictic, and this division had preceded even very ancient division into nouns and verbs [7]. Pronoun words appeared on the basis of full naming.

Demonstrative pronouns were the subject under discussions in many linguistic works K.E.Maitinskya [3], K.Bühler [2], Lyons [6], publication Here

and there [2], Essays on deixis [4] , Speech, place and action [9]. The diachronic reanalysis of demonstratives has been the subject of numerous investigations, in both traditional historical linguistics and recent work grammaticalization. These studies are concerned with different approaches and reanalysis in Indo-European languages.

Demonstrative pronouns in modern English language are of mixed types as in their meanings are reflected ancient function of strong and weak demonstrative pronouns.

In Indo-European grammar are pointed out three subsystems of indicator or deixis 1)'I-deixis', 2)'You-deixis', 3) 'He or It - deixis [8].

Theoretical ground for such subdivision was proposed by Brugman. He pointed out three-member deictic system, connected with the sphere of the speaker (Ich deixis), the addressee (Du deixis) (Jener deixis) [1].

In comparison with this subdivision K. Bühler in his work 'Theory of the language' (1934), extended the field of indication, adding words of temporal and spatial deixis.. K.Bühler singled out three types of deixis; indication of visible, imagined and the connection with the previous or following parts of the phrase [1].

There are two types of demonstrative pronouns- with the strong and weak meanings of indication- *sē* 'this', *sēo* 'that' and *þæs*, *þære*.

Old English forms of demonstrative

		<i>sé</i> (that)			
		Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
N	<i>sé</i>	<i>séo</i>	<i>þæt</i>	<i>þá</i>	
G	<i>þæs</i>	<i>þæ're</i>	<i>þæs</i>	<i>þára</i>	
D	<i>þæ'm</i>	<i>þæ're</i>	<i>þæ'm</i>	<i>þám</i>	
A	<i>þone</i>	<i>þá</i>	<i>þæt</i>	<i>þá</i>	
I	<i>þý, þon</i>	-	<i>þý,</i> <i>þon</i>	-	
		<i>þes</i> (this)			
N	<i>þes</i>	<i>þéos, þíos</i>	<i>þis</i>	<i>þás</i>	
G	<i>þisses</i>	<i>þisse</i>	<i>þisses</i>	<i>þissa</i>	
D	<i>þissum,</i> <i>þeossum</i>	<i>þisse</i>	<i>þissum</i>	<i>þissum</i>	
A	<i>þisne, þysne</i>	<i>þás</i>	<i>þis</i>	<i>þás</i>	
I	<i>þis, þys</i>	-	<i>þýs,</i> <i>þis</i>	-	

Old English forms of demonstrative pronouns don't fully correspond to the forms in other Germanic languages, most of them dated from i.-e. stem \*to, as in other languages these pronouns dated from the stem \*te. Both demonstrative pronouns come from the same two Proto-Indo-European stems: \*so- / \*sa- and \*to-. Originally, in Indo-European languages there was a three-grade system of demonstrative pronouns, namely "this, next to me", "this, next to you", and "that, far from both of us". But, as well as many branches of the family, Germanic languages left only two of them, simplifying the structure to just "this" and "that".

Pronouns of these group follow the noun, without expressing demonstrativeness, they are very close to a modern definite article the and some linguists think that they served as article. But *sēo*, *sē*, *þæt* could be used anaphorically in the sense close to the meaning of personal pronouns, besides the article could not substitute the noun or function without it. It proved beyond all questions the closeness of demonstrative pronouns to the article but untimely to regard them as articles. [5].

Old English demonstrative pronoun *zeon* 'that' from i.-e. pronominal stem \*ie/\*io, from is found only once in the sentence *āris and gong tō zeonre burz* 'Get up and go to that city' (Cura. past). From the form *zeonre* developed Middle English *yonder* which after prepositions served as demonstrative pronoun 'that' e.g.: *At zondere hille hafē I ben* 'At that hill I was' (Perceval 845), but it was primarily used in the function of an adverb there and attributively after definite article, e.g.: *That dwellyd upon the yonder hille* 'who lived on that hill' (Tryamour 1535), *Of hire that rometh in the yonder place* 'who roams around that place' (Chaucer, Canterbury Tales, Knight's Tale, A 1119). It was used also as demonstrative pronoun e.g.. *zond gentyl knyzt* 'that noble knight' (Degrevant 1131).

The first group of pronouns disintegrated during Middle English period and appeared new form *þe*, the. Old English form *þy* became one of the component of set phrase with comparative degree of comparison and function in such form up to the present moment (the more, the better).

The second group of pronouns were used only as demonstrative pronouns *þes*, *þis*, *þēs* 'this' preserved this meaning up to XI-XII centuries. During XIII-XIV centuries happened the generalization of the category of gender and previous neuter form *this* substituted all the rest. E.g.. *Eal middangeard and Þās windas, and Þās regnas* (Blickl. Homl. 51, 19) 'the whole earth, and these winds, and these rains'; *Þonne sculon hie Þās helle sēcan and Þās grimman grundas* (Gen. Gr. 407) 'They must go to the hell, these awful depths'; *Eádweard cyngre gret mine bisceopas and mine eorlas, and alle mine þengas on þam sciren Þær Sce Edmund hafaþ land inne freondlice* (A.S. Writs Nr. 11, 1044-1065) 'King Edward greeted bishops erls of that regions where was the earth of monasteries'; *He gesēceþ fægrec land Þonne Þeós folde*

(Cædmon, Bosworth, 299) 'He will be searching the earth which will be much more beautiful than this'.

In Old English literary texts demonstrative pronouns indicated the degree of distance from the centre of coordination and pointed out visible or invisible object for the speaker. In this case is actualized the semaB этом случае в большей степени актуализируется сема 'indicator of known or unknown object for the participants of communication'. E.g.. And ferde sē cyng him hām 'and went home that king' (Past. 17); Sē hlaford nām hit him to his frenden (Bd. I, 12) 'that master went to his friends'; þā stōwe mid helwarum (Mk. Skt. 4,5) 'that place with the citizens of hell'; Sē ðæl þær āweg cōm (Ors. I, I) 'that valley, which they met on their way'.

#### Conclusion

There existed numerous means for expressing spatial relations in Old English such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, their structures with proverbs but the role of demonstrative pronouns was not as prominent as they served only for giving concrete expression of the location of the speaker or object. As at that period existed only two forms of pronouns with deictic meaning – simple and compound, one indicated close distance, other remote distance.

Solitary instances of the usage in Old English *geon* 'that' and the functioning of this pronoun in the form of *yonder* in Middle English в ср.-англ. mainly as an adverb, probably proved the fact that in pre-literary period of the history of the English period existed more gradations of the degree of remoteness or visibility.

#### Summary

Traditionally recognized categories of deixis based on three axes, namely, spatial-socio-temporal axes. Spatial deixis, based on the observation of the physical space in which the speech event takes place, is a fundamental category of deixis on the one hand, a fact that is best shown by individual deictic expressions that originally serve for expressing spatial relationships and, on the other hand, spatial deixis is an open a category abiding by the prototype principle, whose center is occupied by deictic expressions representing the position and movement of objects or events observed in the actual space of the speech event, but that also includes expressions representing manner, state, quality, quantity, and other circumstances. Old English had two demonstrative pronouns. They distinguished three genders in the singular and had only one plural form for all the genders. The pronoun forms for the masculine and feminine were suppletive. Demonstrative pronouns were used as noun determiners and indicated the number, gender and case of the noun they modified. The pronouns *sē*, *þæt*, *sēo*, *þā* (modern 'that') had a very weak demonstrative meaning. The use of these pronouns was close to that of the modern definite article, but these pronouns can not be regarded as proper

articles because they could be used anaphorically. As a consequence they would develop into the definite article in Middle English.

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