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PRAGMATIC FACTORS OF INDEXICALITY IN AGRICULTURAL TEXTS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

In this article the theory of indexicality and its pragmatic factors will be analyzed. For the research materials were taken from agricultural texts form English and Uzbek languages. First the theory has been explained and its usage and pragmatic factors in linguists, then the materials have been analyzed and discussed. The examples taken from textbooks and conference articles dedicated to agriculture. Then they have been compared and then given the results. The similarities and differences in implication of indexicals in Uzbek and English were provide with the author's conclusion at the end of the article.

KEYWORDS

Indexicality, pragmatics, agricultural text, indexicals, discourse.

INTRODUCTION

Humans need communication while they are alive. In order to communicate successfully, we ought to be able to convey information about people and things around us. That is because information gained through communication can motivate actions that bear upon particulars. But in order to convey information about a

particular thing, one first needs to refer to it. When the thing is there, at hand, when it belongs to the situation of utterance and is perceptually available to the speaker and her audience, it is usually possible to refer to it directly. (Stojanovic I. 2020: 5) Referring in a narratives and scientific texts relatively differs than



one another. In this article we are going to investigate the usage of indexicals in agricultural texts in English and in Uzbek. The analysis of the usage of indexicals in agricultural texts will be discussed. In order to analyze the materials first the theory of indexicality and its pragmatic features will be presented through the works of other linguists and scientists. Then the collected materials will be discussed in the discussion section, explaining the frequently formed that have been applied in agricultural texts. Analysis will be done by comparing two different languages from the points of pragmatics. All the findings will be reported in the results and in the conclusion section.

METHODS

For explanation of the research materials were taken from agricultural scientific texts in English and in Uzbek. All the materials from Uzbek language were taken from textbook named “Qishloq xo‘jalik melioratsiyasi” and the texts in English were taken from “Climate Smart agriculture”, Journal of Agriculture and Food Research, “Essentials of plant breeding”, other examples were taken from the conference articles dedicated to agricultural issues. To analyze the collected materials comparative-typological method was used. Besides this discourse method was used to discuss agricultural texts.

Meanings of natural language are very context-dependent: one syntactic unit (morpheme, word,

phrase, sentence) often takes on different values depending on the context in which it is used. This variability has long been recognized as "the general state of lexical meaning, each with its own meaning and context.(Silverstein:2009 758)

Analytic philosophers worked too much on linguistics and they contributed many findings on this with their scientific studies. Many philosophers that say we usually refer something while we are speaking and this reference is the thing that we are going to point out. This idea was taken by linguists and were formed as an idea of indexicality. Indexicality comes from Latin meaning “pointing”.

Levinson points out that the topic of deixis, or as philosophers usually prefer, indexical expressions (or just indexicals), may be usefully approached by considering how truth-conditional semantics deals with certain natural language expressions. (Levinson, S. C 1983:55)

Indexicality was first introduced by philosophers and their ideas then were developed by Charles Peirce as semiotic theory and he distinguished among iconic sign relationships (signs by resemblance or likeness to their semiotic targets), indexical sign relationships (signs of spatiotemporal or other contiguity, including causal connection to another object, to which they point), and symbolic signs (implicit sign regularities, depending on general classificatory conventions that



any instance of the sign invokes in use). Pierce The idea of indexicality was then developed by Michael Silverstein and Francois Recanati and other linguists. I.Stojanovic 2020:6)

In the theory of indexicality is usually considered as semantic feature as Ch.Piere said It is not the language alone, with its mere associations of similarity, but the language taken in connection with the auditor's own experiential associations of contiguity which determines for him what house is meant. It is requisite then, in order to show what we are talking or writing about, to put the hearer's or reader's mind into real, active connection with the concatenation of experience or of fiction with which we are dealing, and, further to draw his attention to, and identify, a certain number of particular points in such concatenation. (Ch.Pierce 3.419)

However, while working with the text another problem will arise as the meaning of the description is not the same with the meaning of the reality. Recanati explains this like indexicals use-conditional meaning is not incompatible with descriptive content, in the sense that one and the same expression can be endowed with both. There are expressions which have a purely use-conditional meaning and do not contribute to truth-conditional content (Francois Recanati 2007: 95)

“In general [...] the social effects mediated by speech are highly context-bound or indexical in character: they

are evaluated in relation to the context or situation at hand, including those aspects of the situation created by what has already been said or done. Either an utterance is felt to be appropriate to the situation as already understood, or it alters the context in some recognizable way, transforming it into a situation of an entirely different kind.” (Agha 2007: 14)

There are another names for indexicals. Jakobson studies the indexical factor in verbal language in ‘Shifters, verbal categories and the Russian verb’ (1971 [1957]). The indexical function in verbal signs is carried out by a special class of grammatical units he calls ‘shifters.’ As characterized by Jakobson, shifters are ‘symbol-indexes’ because their dominant aspect is given in the combination of indexicality with conventionality (Fludernik, M. 1991: 5).

B.J.Birner describer reports that the class of indexicals includes deictics, anaphoric pronouns, and even tense – all of which are linguistic mechanisms for identifying the intended meaning of the current expression through its relationship to elements of the context of utterance. In the case of tense, an event described in the current utterance is “indexed” with respect to its temporal relationship to the time of utterance, with (for example) a simple past-tense form indicating that the event described in the current utterance occurred prior to that utterance. In the case of anaphoric pronouns, discussed below, the referent of the current pronoun is co-indexed with some previously evoked



entity. In the case of deixis, a phrase is interpreted relative to the time, location, or interlocutors of the linguistic exchange in which it occurs, or relative to other linguistic material in that same exchange. (B.J.Birner 2012:114)

“Through indexicality, every utterance tells something about the person who utters it – man, woman, young, old, educated, from a particular region, or belonging to a particular group, etc. – and about the kind of person we encounter – we make character judgements all the time, and labels such as ‘arrogant’, ‘serious’, ‘funny’, ‘self-conscious’, or ‘businesslike’ are based almost exclusively on how people communicate with us. Every utterance also tells us something about the utterance itself. Is it serious or banter? Is this an anecdote, a joke, an order, a request? Is the speaker sure/sincere/confident of what s/he says? What kind of relationship between the speaker and the hearer is articulated in this utterance – is this a friendly or a hostile utterance? And every utterance tells us something about the social context in which it is being produced: is this a formal or an informal occasion? Are things such as social class, gender, ethnicity, or professional status played out in the utterance? Are social roles reinforced or put up for negotiation? Are social rules being followed or broken? And so on. Indexical meaning is what anchors language usage firmly into social and cultural patterns.” (Blommaert 2005: 11–12)

The implication of indexicals have been found in English and in Uzbek agricultural texts respectively. Besides indicating the author of the action, indexicals involve the personnel or the group of people who worked on the research. In English it is not common to refer the author with possessives like *our* and *we* together, but it can be found in some articles. Pointing the speaker with *we- “biz”* is often replaced with its possessive form “*bizning*” in Uzbek language. However, implying *biz* should not be considered as less important. They can substitute each other in the text. Indicating second person is applied via imperatives in English language, while the scientific style does not permit implying the addressee in the agricultural text in Uzbek, we have rarely found imperatives, instead the authors use second person *you- “siz”*. We need to report that the form of “*siz*” in Uzbek include the honorifics in it and together shows the respect to the reader. Overall, in most cases the indexicals demonstrating and indexing the main points are the pronouns “*this*” “*these*” and other words such as “*consequently, therefore, due to*” in English, in Uzbek the alternatives are considered as “*shu*”, “*ushbu*”, “*quyidagi*”. They put emphasis on the given part, in other words, they show the attitude of the author to the given theory.

Silverstein worked on the pragmatic indexing and said that indexicality is just the principle of contextualization of linguistic and other signs-in-use,

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



seen as a component of the meaning of the occurring sign-forms. Indexicality is revealed in the way that, by degrees, linguistic and other signs point the users of these signs to the specific enveloping conditions in which they use them. Signs point to context in two ways: indexical signs link users to contextual conditions of which users have knowledge, independent of the occurrence of the particular indexical sign at issue; indexicals also link users to contextual conditions that, for those users, come into being only as a function of the occurrence of the indexical sign at issue. (Silverstein 2009: 756)

According to the author in the text if the writer uses the sign post which is known for both sides have idea what is going on. In this point the usage of personal pronouns comes to the stage. As in agricultural texts the self reference is so rare but can be found:

1) Relying on a statistical model allowing for nonlinear effects of temperature on yield, I find that maize yields would decrease by -4.2, -21.8 and -46.1% around the trend, under uniform warming scenarios of 1°C, 3°C and 5°C, respectively. I find that an increase of 6.6%/decade in maize yields is required to fully offset the detrimental effects of a severe but still plausible 3°C warming in the next three decades. (Climate smart agriculture p 161).

The descriptive meaning of the indexical I in the example provides the logical assumption of the

contexts to the reader and no more explanations are needed to understand about the author.

But the usage of “we” is found more than “I” in the agricultural texts:

2) We examined the polyphenolic constituents in twelve Chinese raspberries (B1–B12), out of which B1 raspberry showed high content of phenolics, flavonoids and anthocyanins in total, compared to other raspberry samples we collected. (Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100603 1)

In Uzbek language indexical “I” – men was not found as the style does not allow as a speaker in scientific texts, in order to reveal the author in the text the writer involve “biz” which stands as “we” in agricultural texts :

3) Biz Samarqand viloyatining sug'orish eroziyasiga uchragan tipik bo'z tuproqlari sharoitida yetishtirilgan kuzgi bug'doy doni tarkibidagi oqsil va kleykovina miqdoriga tuproqqa ishlov berish usullari va fosforli og'itlar meyorlarining tas'irini aniqladik. (5-6-oktabr respublika konferensiyasi to'plami TDAU_SF 564)

Indexical “we” forms as an inclusive and exclusive forms. On the one hand “we” represents the only speaker or the author itself. In this case the author informs the reader that he accomplished the work himself:



4) Here we have considered the food products' shelf life as the convenience component's attribute. Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100588 8)

In some examples the authors may include more than one person, for this reason the authors refer themselves as we, in some cases they simply identify as an adjective our:

5) In our case study, although there was a higher knowledge and preference for protein-rich and micro-nutrient rich foods, the favorable cost, promotion by the vendors, and accessibility drove consumers towards the carbohydrate-rich and discretionary food group. Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100588 8)

6) Based on our findings we recommend the following policy perspectives for improving the food environment in LMICs. Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100588 9)

In the example (5) the speaker involves himself as representative besides that the author provides an attention to his achievement. In the example (6) the indexical “we” with the pronoun our indexes the action, represent the findings emphasizing the results of the action.

Indicatives assert nothing. They only serve to draw attention to something, and if compared to verbs, they

would be considered as imperatives, such as be careful, look there. Words like this or that “have a direct, forceful action upon the nervous system, and compel the hearer to look about him,” says Peirce, “and so they, more than ordinary words, contribute towards indicating what the speech is about.” (Ch. Pierce 3.485)

7) Now suppose that the B locus shows no dominance and the genotypic values are 50 for BB, 40 for Bb and 30 bb. (Essentials of plant breeding 80)

8) Siz daraxtni shakl berish bilan kesishni bir biridan farqlay olishingiz zarur. (5-6-oktabr respublika konferensiyasi to'plami TDAU_SF 284)

In English the indexical you can rarely be found in scientific texts related to agriculture, in the (7) given extract the indexical “you” inferred implicitly, while in Uzbek (8) the imperative sentence comes along with indexical you -“siz”.

Concerning the term ‘pronouns’ used for such words as this or that, Peirce observes that nouns would be more appropriately designated as “pro-demonstratives” (3.419), as substitutes of indicators, that is deictics. Terms like this or that are indexes with the function of drawing attention to what one means no differently from the expression attention or similar cries. Terms like this or that refer to other words in written discourse; in this case, their function is no different from the relative pronouns who or which, etc., nor from use of the letters of the alphabet to

indicate the issue in question in a text (naturally on the understanding that similar letters stand for the same thing). These terms continue to function as indexes that “de-algebrize” language (Silverstein 2009: 287).

9) This book focuses on modern ways to improve modern plants. (Essentials of plant breeding 5).

10) Agromeliorativ tadbirlarga quyidagilar kiradi: Yerni tekislash, ihota daraxtlar o'tkazish, almashlab ekishni joriy qilish, to'g'ri agrotexnik tadbirlar qo'llash va sho'r yuvish. (Qishloq xo'jalik melioratsiyasi 27)

11) Vachellia trees also improve soil water availability by reducing evapotranspiration [9]. Regarding all these properties, this species has been considered a major tool for the restoration of degraded ecosystems and water conservation of bioclimates [10]. (Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100566 1)

12) Plantago lanceolata. l. plantago major. l. dorivor bo'lib ko'p ishlatiladi. Ushbu ikki tur juda ko'p uchrashi bilan ahamiyatlidir. ("Perspektivnye zadachi razrabotki i vnedreniya innovatsionnykh texnologiy v veterinarii i jivotnovodstve" mejdunarodnaya nauchno-prakticheskaya konferensiya 14-15 oktyabrya konferensiya 726)

In the agricultural text in English this(9) focuses either only the part that the author wants to emphasize through the text, or can refer the idea (11) that was

addressed by him above. With the strict rule of scientific style in Uzbek language pointing the part of the text is represented with the aid of words as quyidagi, shuningdek(10), in the example (12) the pronoun “ushbu” – this standing as a reference in the previously given word combination and be the antecedent of the term assisting the reader to clarify and get easily of the term that the author applied in the former sentence.

However, some scientists prefer to use different references in their sentences “this”, “it” sometimes “such”. In Uzbek scientific texts “u”, “bu” or “ushbu” can be implied as reference for one antecedent

Furthermore, adverbs of place and time, etc., must also be taken into consideration in relation to indexicality, together with such expressions as the first, the last, the seventh, the first part, etc., and prepositions and prepositional phrases such as above, below, to the right of, to the left of, etc. (2.289–2.290). Peirce also observes that while terms that carry out an iconic function in discourse– similarity, quality, etc.– may be described, those, instead, with the function of index escape description.

13) Based on the previous studies, it is clear that diversification in agricultural products has received considerable attention as a way of enhancing employment prospects [16], boosting income [5], mitigating climate change [27], secure food supplies



[28], and reduce the price volatility risk [29]. (Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100592 2)

14) Ayniqsa, so'ngi yillarda yer resurslaridan foydalanishni boshqarishdagi kamchiliklar va ulardan samarali foydalanish va takror ishlab chiqarish uchun moliyaviy resurslarning yetishmaganligi oqibatida ma'lum darajada yerlardan tizimsiz foydalanish, qishloq xo'jaligi yerlarining esa jiddiy degradatsiyalashuviga olib keldi. (Iqlim o'zgarishi sharoitida yer resurslarini barqaror boshqarish respublika ilmiy-amaliy seminar 117)

Illocutionary markers like the imperative mood, or discourse particles such as 'well', 'still', 'after all', 'anyway', 'therefore', 'alas', 'oh', and so forth, fall into this category. Thus the following utterances have the same truth-conditional content, and are distinguished only by the pragmatic indications they respectively convey. But there are also expressions which have a two-layered meaning. Fransoi recanati

15) Consequently, the irregularities in extreme precipitation events showed an upward trend globally from 1901 to 2000 [5]. A similar increase in irregularities in precipitation has also been confirmed at the country level in the US, Europe, Australia, and Japan [4] and regional levels in the northeast US, and the southeast US [6]. (Journal of Agriculture and Food Research 12 (2023) 100626 1)

16) Biz bunday munosabatlar uchun, quyidagilarsiz xulosa chiqarishimiz mumkin emas 1) har xil tipdagi tuproq darajasi va tarqalish masshtabi bo'yicha ma'lumotlar bazasi 2) Tuproq degradatsiyasining yer mahsuldorligiga ta'sirini juda aniq uchastkalar bo'yicha aniqlash. (Iqlim o'zgarishi sharoitida yer resurslarini barqaror boshqarish respublika ilmiy-amaliy seminar 220)

The indication of pragmatic factors by indexing with the assistance of words like consequently(15), therefore and due to can be applied in agricultural texts. These words shows the attitude of the author to the given idea. In Uzbek some scientists argue that expressing attitude towards the theory is not possible. However, the implication of words ayniqsa, mumkin emas, xolbuki, haqiqatda (16) can actually demonstrate the purpose or the attitude of the speaker.

CONCLUSION

In the conclusion part we can say that indexicality can be found in every sphere of life and in science where the author are requested to explain everything in short term is not an exception. First the theory of indexicals was introduced by philosophers then it came to the stage of interest with the help of semantic investigations. Many scientists including Levinson state that indexicals are mostly semantic feature, however it has some pragmatic point too. The idea of indexicality first introduced in linguistics by Charles



Pierce then it has been developed by Silverstein and others. In this article we used the reports of linguists like Ch.Pierce, M.Silverstein, F.Recanati, Isidora Stojanovich and others. They indicate that only some words can be indexicals like I, here, now, actually, the usage of these indexicals differs in agricultural texts. Instead of I scientists in most cases apply “we” in both inclusively and exclusively. In Uzbek language the pronoun “biz” stands as an equivalent to “we”. In some examples we found that imperatives can give not only order but also some regulations in the text in English. On the contrary, in Uzbek we have not found imperatives they are represented with the help of the pronoun you “siz” and one more interesting thing is that it comes as honorifics too. Other points of referring mostly takes in the discourse and it helped the authors to enumerate and gather the ideas at the same time it helped the reader to be involved and prevented from misunderstanding. In the usage of terms it is not easy for the authors to put the problem clearly. In that case some indexicals like “this”, “these”, “consequently”, “therefore” in English, “ushbu”, “quyidagi”, “ayniqsa” in Uzbek assist the scientist to clarifying and pointing exact theory in the text. While analyzing of agricultural texts we have found that indexicals can show some pragmatic factors as informative, discussing, cognitive, argumentative and explanatory.

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