

Introduction to Linguistics (CL1.102)

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Deixis (contd.)

There are two kinds of deictic usage: gestural and symbolic.

Gestural usage can only be interpreted with reference to something audio-visual-tactile, generally a physical monitoring of the speech event, for example, *This one is gold and this one is silver*. Symbolic usage needs a knowledge of only the broad spatio-temporal parameters of the event, as in *We didn't get summer vacation this year*.

The same word can be used in all ways; for instance,

- *You, you, but not you, will get vaccinated.* [gestural]
- *What did you say?* [symbolic]
- *You can always predict the rain.* [non-deictic]

this is another such word.

Social deixis lies beyond the scope of truth-conditional semantics. There are aspects of linguistic structure that encode the social identities of the participants. The most obvious grammaticalisation of social deixis are titles of address and pronouns.