

# Indexicality

## Recall



### Indexicality

A semasiological tendency defined by relationship of necessity (esp. cause and effect).

### Four dimensions of Indexicality

- egocentricity (linkage to the speaker)
- deictics (pointing)
- inherent orientation
- anthropocentrism

Skunk: coffeee-in/iStock/Thinkstock

## Deictics

### Etymology:

Greek from *deiktos* → "to show"

Deictics → pointing words



Chair: wenchiaawang/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Deictics

### Etymology:

Greek from *deiktos* → "to show"

Deictics → pointing words

- pronouns
- proximals
  - location (here, there)
  - time (now, then)
  - object location (this, that)

Boy

He

She

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## Indexical Orientation-Deictic Centre

### Egocentricity

The speaker as the (default) reference point for all else.



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'Mount Pinotubo was on my left.'



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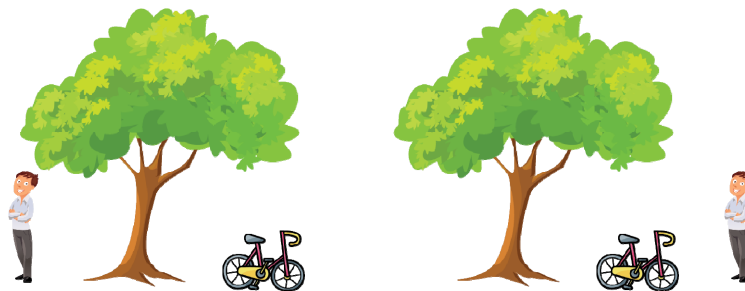
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## Indexical Orientation-Deictic Centre

### Pronouns

- first person (I, me, we, us, ...)
- second person (you, your)
- third person (he, she, it, they, ...)

Location (here and there)

Time (now and then)

Object/Location (this and that)

natural order



Man: Kharlamova/iStock/Thinkstock; Woman 1: wenchiaawang/iStock/Thinkstock; Woman 2: denis\_pc/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Inherent Orientation

### Anthropocentricity

- Greek: *anthropos* → "man", "human"
- man-centred
- human-first syntax
  - 'She knows math.'
  - '\*Math is known by her.'
- other objects oriented like humans
  - front, back
  - top, bottom
  - left, right



Man: Kharlamova/iStock/Thinkstock; Car/Bicycle: wenchiaawang/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

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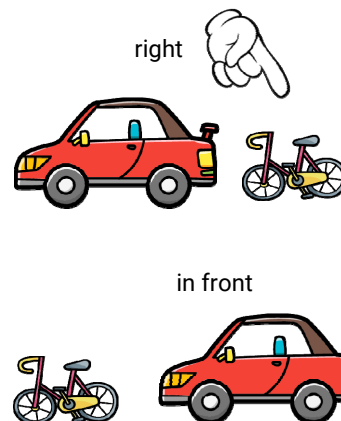


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## Inherent Orientation

Anthropocentricity

personification

- metaphor sub-type
- X is a person



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## Inherent Orientation

Anthropocentricity

personification

- metaphor sub-type
- X is a person
- 'My car just doesn't want to go.'
- 'Unemployment has moved into Canada.'



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