Discourse Analysis of Deixises in Selected Narrative Discourse

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Abstract

Deixis is one of the most important notions in discourse analysis and it is a vital link between the real life environment around us (time, physical location, people involved etc.) and what we actually say (the utterance, linguistic terms). For these reasons the study focuses on analyzing all types of deixis. Moreover, the data of the analysis are taken randomly to achieve the representativeness. The data of the analysis includes two short stories namely, *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wild and *The Black Cat* by Edgar Allen Poe.

Like any other types of discourse, short stories are loaded with deictic expressions that form an essential complementary part of any text. The aim of the present study is to investigate the deixis in the narrative discourse, short stories, to find out the way this linguistic phenomenon used in these short stories. And to see whether there is a special type of deixis associated with these short stories.

Key words: deixis, discourse analysis, deictic expressions and narrative discourse.

1 – Deixis

Deixis is one of the most important linguistic phenomenon that consideration of language could not ignore. It is, in a way, the anchoring of language in the real world. This anchoring is achieved by pointing of variables along its dimension (May,2001 : 54). This topic will elaborate in details in the next section.

2 - The Notion of Deixis

Deixis is considered as one of the most prominent feature of languages . The term is taken from the Greek word for pointing or indicating . According to Levinson (1980: 54) " deixis concerns with the ways in which language encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech events… " according to this explanation the context in which the utterance takes place and the event of delivering the speech are the most important factors. Thus, deixis is regarded as one of the prominent linguistic phenomenon that consideration of language could not ignore.

Hatch (1992:210) reveals that the word deixis is derived from the Greek word "deicticos" means to show or to indicate. Deictic (noun of deixis) is used to show those elements in language that referred directly to the situation. Moreover, Hatch (ibid) says that deictic is used to locate actions in a time frame relative to the present. For him, deictic terms show social relationship, the social location of individuals in relation to the others and to locate parts of text in relation to other parts. Harford and Brendan (1994 : 64) see that deictic takes some element of its meaning from the situation (i.e. the speaker, the addressee, the time and place).

Furthermore, this phenomenon claims that the understanding of certain expressions in an utterance requires context of information (Smidt,2011: 72). So, if the semantic meaning of a word is fixed but its denotational meaning varies depending on time / place it occurs in.

What is more, Crystal (2008 : 133) looks at deixis as a " linguistic theory to subsume these features of language which refers directly to the personal, temporal or location of characteristics of the situation within which an utterance takes place " . Regarding this definition, deixis refers to the context in which the discourse occurs . Even the books of narrative discourse pay close attention to the notion of deixis for example, Abrams (1999: 172) says that " the analysis of special grammatical usage that are characteristics of fictional narrative … " so here the writer refers to those linguistic usage as distinctive characteristics of fictional narrative . Therefore, he suggests that " one focus on such analysis is special play of deictic …".

The most common categories of deixis are these of person, place and time (Levinson, 2000 :68) . Other linguists like Cummings (2015 : 201) says that " there are five types of deixis : person, special, social, temporal and discourse " . The philosophical notion indexical expression, which refers to the backwards or forwards use of words in the discourse, is identical to the term deixis (Crystal, 2008 : 133).

In fact, the term deictic is used as synonym to the term deixis and both of them depend basically on the situational given reference (Radden and Driven . 2007 : 97). It is important in deixis reference that the speaker should reveal the deixis center of the speech situation . Actually, (Radden and Driven : ibid) reveal that all types of deixis show strong parallelism in that they distinguish between central and distant regions of reference . The following section will discuss the types of deixis.

2- Types of the Deixises

2 -1 Personal Deixis

Personal deixis is revealed by using personal pronouns : I, you and he vs. first person, second person and third person (Brinton, 2000 : 111). Person of deixis is a deictic reference to the speaker (I), or the addressee/audience (you), and reference which are neither the speaker nor the addressee (e.g. he/she/it/they). Thus, personal pronouns play the main role in personal deixis (Kalajdzisalihovic, 2016 : 125).

When people are busy in communicative interaction the first and second personal pronouns are important in providing the necessary terminals to speaker (Brockting, 1995 : 30). Therefore, personal deixis is a word that has function as personal pronoun. Person deixis related with personal pronoun, if its reference which is used appropriate with the context is being used (ibid).

According to Juez (2009 : 63) person deixis is concerned with the encoding of the role of participants in the speech event in which the utterance in question is delivered. This role is normally encoded in the first, second and third personal pronouns .

Moreover, Briner (2013 : 130) reveals that personal deixis is indicating a person whose   identity is available only through reference to context. In personal deixis a linguistic expression is used for the purpose of picking out a specific individual in the context who may not have already been linguistically evoke. Probably the most common examples of personal deixis involve the personal pronouns I and you(ibid).

Actually, personal pronouns are not the only tool used to mark personal deixis . For example, in the court etiquette may require you to use the noun phrase " Your Honor " in addressing a judge . Accordingly, personal deixis is not necessary associated with personal pronouns, but maybe also associated with noun phrase (ibid : 210). Since person deixis involves the speaker and addressee thus, it operates in three basic divisions as the following :

A – First person : either singular (I, my ,myself, mine) or, plural (we, us, ourselves, our, ours)

B – Second person (you). It is a deictic reference to a person or people identified as addressee such as (you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours).

C – Third person singular (he, she and it). It is a deictic reference to a referent not identified as the speaker or addressee and usually imply the gender the that the utterance refer to (he, she , they ,him, himself, her and herself).

2 - 2 Spatial Deixis

The concept of distance is closely related to spatial deixis, where the relative location of people and things is being indicated (Yule, 1996 : 12). According to Brown (1995 : 109) that spatial deixis is derived from an individual when pointing at some object or location in the immediate surrounding place.

In spatial deixis a distinction is drown between three planes. Firstly, cutting between the vertically center of the body, for example left / right. Secondly, cutting through the horizontal plane of the body at some point, for example up / down. Thirdly, cutting through vertical center of the body, for example before (in front of) / behind (ibid : 110).

Furthermore, Wilson (1990 : 198) looks at spatial deixis as " where the context provides a location or a direction, specially as a reference point for spatial orientation o which other deictic depend " . It is often happened that the speakers take the hearer's perspective in describing the spatial location of the objects.

Juez (2009 : 63) adds that the place of deixis is concerned with the encoding of spatial locations relative to the location of participants in the speech event. Demonstrative (e.g. this / that) and deictic adverbs of place (e.g. here / there) are prototypical linguistic realization of this type of deixis. This and here are examples of proximal (or close to the speaker) place deixis, whereas that and there constitute instances of distal (or none proximal to speaker) place deixis .

2- 3 Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis involves anchoring an utterance to a temporal reference point. Temporal deictic index time spans and make explicit their relation to one another. Devices for signaling temporal deixis are time adverbials and verbal tense, which can be classified as temporal deictic (Grenoble, 1998 : 52).

In fact, Levinson (2006 : 73) sees when a temporal reference is made that requires knowledge of the time of the utterance this is an example of temporal deixis. The pure expression of temporal deixis is through the tense system and certain temporal adverbs that anchor the utterance to a particular time (ibid). The details of temporal structure are treated at greater length under tense and time. The principal reference of temporal deixis is the present, the contextual time at which the utterance occurs. The reference point of remoteness underlie the denotations and languages capitalize on these to provide more specific temporal deictics (Frawley, 1992 : 332).

Time deixis concern with the encoding of temporal points and spans relatively to the time at which an utterance is spoken. This time is considered to be the encoding time which may be distinct from the receiving time (Juez, 2009 : 63).

2 - 4 Social Deixis

According to Huang (2 :208) social deixis refers to the "classification of the social status of the speaker, the addressee, or third person or entity referred to as well as the social relationships holding between them ". According to this definition social deixis can include social class, kin relationship, age, sex, profession and ethic group. Social deixis can be accomplished by many linguistic devices including forms of adverbs, affixes, particles and choices of vocabulary (ibid : 211).

The study of social deixis is primarily concerned with the grammaticalizion of social information and the analysis of pronoun, but also includes aspects of language usage (Hinze, 2006 : 3). Whereas, Fillmore (1975 : 76) looks at social deixis as that aspect of sentences which reflect or establish or are determined by certain realities of the social situation in which the speech act occurs.

There are two kinds of social deixis absolute and relational. In one hand, absolute deictic are often uniformly attached to social role (e.g. " Your Honor" or "Mr.President"). In a sense when we use these we address the "office" rather than the "person". On the other hand, relational deictic terms differ from absolute terms in that they locate persons in relation to the speaker rather than by their roles in the society as a whole (Hatch, 1992 : 221).

2 - 5 Discourse Deixis

Discourse deixis according to Hung (: 216) it is related to the use of a linguistic expression within some utterances to point to the current, preceding, or following utterances in the speaker or written discourse.

Discourse deixis includes proximal demonstrative (e.g. this), adverbial space (e.g. here) and distal demonstrative (e.g. that, already, this and next).

Moreover, Marmaridou (2000 :95) sees that discourse deixis may be anaphoric or cataphoric since the deictic relationship it establishes makes reference to prior discourse, and hence it is anaphoric, or to the following discourse, in which it is cataphoric. Descourse deixis and text cohesion are assembled to be interrelated because anaphora and cataphora are text cohesive devices.

Instead of that, Juez (2009 : 64) comes up with new idea about discourse deixis that it refers to the use of expressions in an utterance which are used to refer to some portion of discourse that contains the utterance. It is important to draw a distinction between discourse deixis and anaphora. In one hand, anaphora usually has to do with the use of pronouns to refer to the same referent at some prior term. On the other hand, discourse deixis usually involves a pronoun or expression which refer to a linguistic expression (ibid).

3 - Methods

The aim of this study is to find out how the deixis in all its types are used in some selected narrative discourse. Furthermore, it is important to determine which type of deixis is used more than the other in narrative discourse. In order to determine which type will have the main role in conveying the ideas to the readers. In addition to, knowing the important type of deixis used in the discourse will help those who work in the field of discourse analysis in determining which type of deixis have importance than the other in narrative discourse.

4 - Materials

The study is mainly pragmatically oriented. More specifically, it deals with the study of all types of deixis in mainly two short stories. Actually, these two stories are chosen randomly to a achieve the representativeness are the are the most popular short stories at that time. The stories are *The Black Cat* by Edgar Allen Poe and *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wild.

5 – The Analysis

The following section will tackle the process of analysis for these two short stories. Actually, the writer depends basically on the traditional way of analysis which is the manual way.

5 – 1 The Analysis of Personal Deixis

As we mentioned in the types of deixis, personal deixis contains three types namely ; first person deixis, second person deixis and third person deixis. The following table will show the percentage of personal deixis in these two short stories.

Table (1) shows the title, number and parentage of personal deixis of *The Happy Prince and The Black Cat*.

Title of the Short Story	Number of Personal Deixis	Percentage
1 – *The Happy Prince*	353 occurrences	70.60%
2 – *The Black Cat*	370 occurrences	69.41%
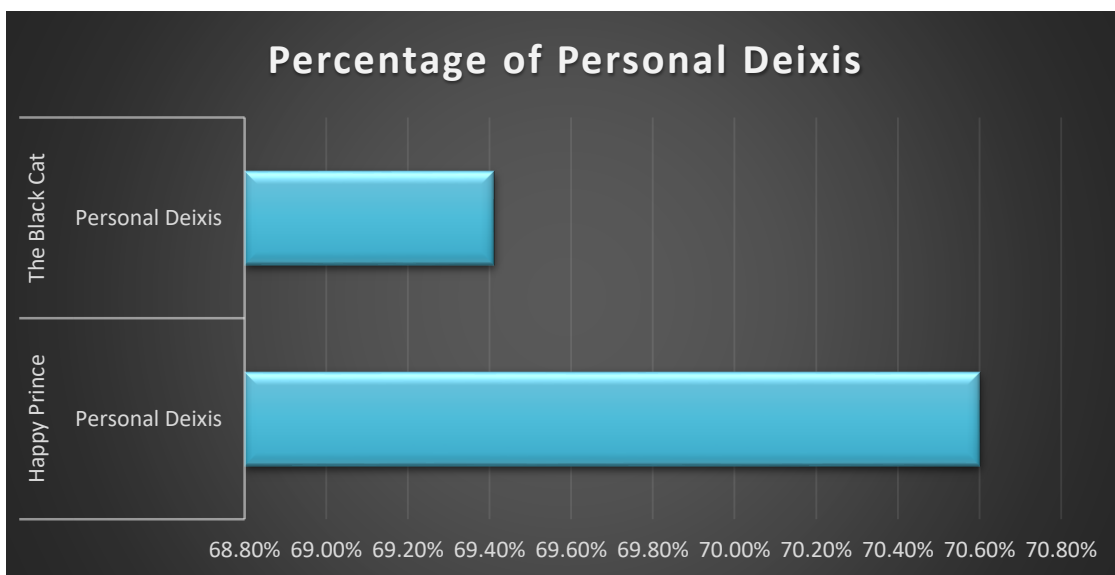
Figure(1) Percentage of the Personal Deixis

The two novels score relatively high occurrence of personal deixis as shown in table (1) above. Actually, there is a slight different regarding the occurrence of personal deixis in these two short stories. *The Black Cat* possesses the high occurrence of personal deixis with 370 occurrence, while *The Happy Prince* scores 353. The following examples, took from these two short stories, show the personal deixis.

(1) *The Happy Prince* :
- **He** was very much admired indeed.
- How do **you** know?
- Shall **I** love **you**?

(2) *The Black Cat*:
- But tomorrow **I** die, and today **I** would unburthen **my** soul.
- **My** immediate purpose is to place before the world.
- **I** wish **you** all health, and a little more courtesy.

5- 2 The Analysis of Spatial Deixis

This section will tackle the analysis of spatial deixis with its various types. Table (2) will show the percentage of spatial deixis in these two short stories.

Table (2) shows the title, number and parentage of spatial deixis for *The Happy Prince* and *The Black Cat*.

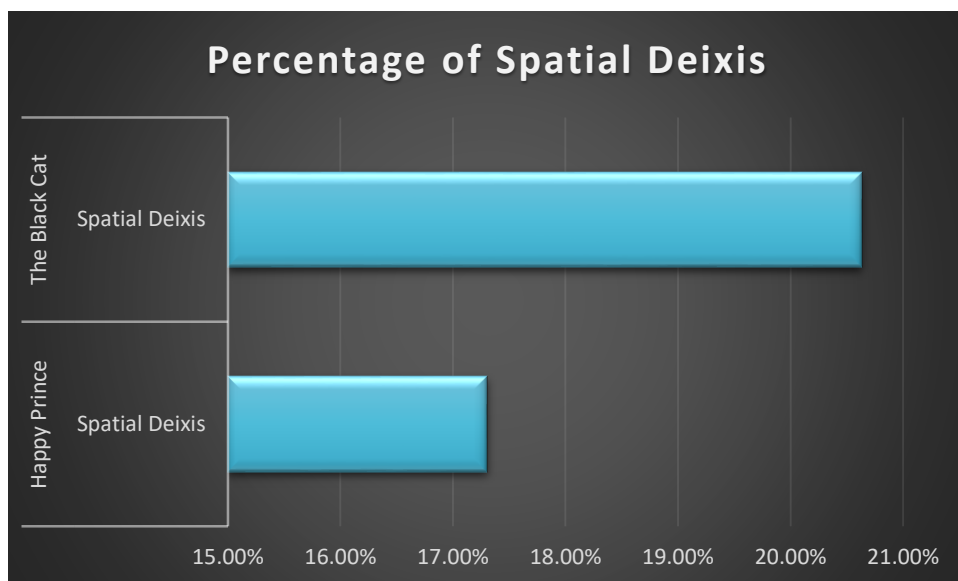| Title of the Short Story	Number of Spatial Deixis	Percentage
1 – *The Happy Prince*	87	17.30%
2 – *The Black Cat*	110	20.63%

Figure (2) Percentage of Spatial Deixis.

Table (2) above shows the number and percentage of the two short stories regarding their spatial deixis. As shown in the table the two stories contain a high number of spatial deixis. Moreover, there is a slight different in the number of spatial deixis in these two stories, for example *The Black Cat* scores relatively a high number of occurrence than *The Happy Prince*. The following are examples of spatial deixis from the two stories.

(1) *The Happy Prince* :

- **This** was his courtship, and it lasted all through the summer.
- The living always think **that** gold can make them happy.
- … but in all my garden **there** is no red rose.

(2) *The Black Cat*
- **There** was a rope about the animal's neck.
- They **left** no nook or corner unexplored.
- The plastering had **here**…

5-3 The Analysis of Temporal Deixis
This section will provide a sketch of the analysis of temporal deixis and shows the umber and the occurrence of the temporal deixis. Table (3) will show that in details.
Table (3) shows the title, number and parentage of Temporal deixis for *The Happy Prince* and *The Black Cat*.

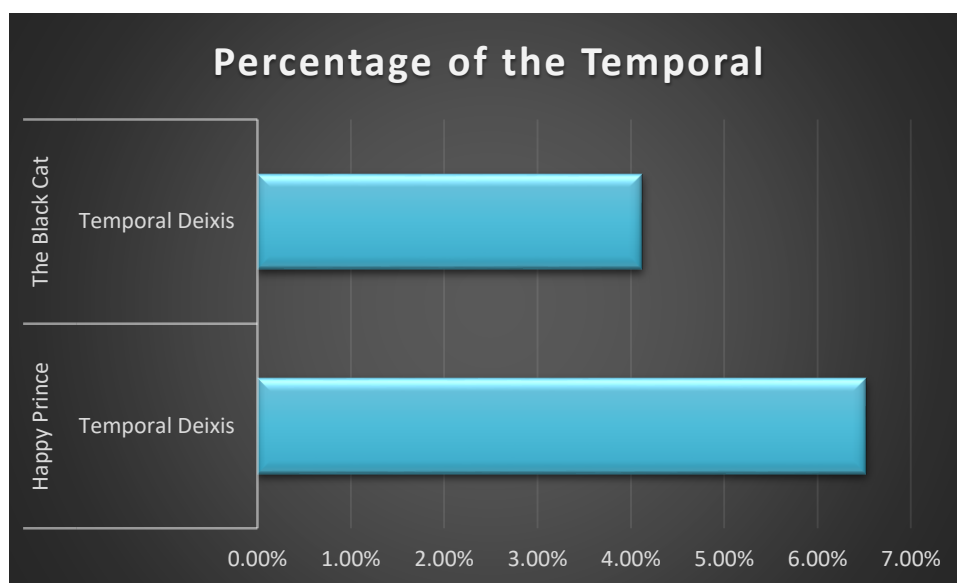| Title of the Short Story	Number of Temporal Deixis	Percentage
1 – *The Happy Prince*	33	**6.52%**
2 – *The Black Cat*	22	4.12%

Figure (3) Percentage of Temporal Deixis.

According to table (3) it is obvious that the two short stories score fewer frequency of temporal deixis than the personal and spatial deixis. The table also proved that the temporal deixis in *The Happy Prince* is higher than that in *The Black Cat*. The following are examples of the temporal deixis.

(1)*The Happy Prince* **:**

- And **now** that I am dead**…**
- **Then** he flew gently round the bed**…**
- **Last summer**, when I was staying on the river…

(3) *The Black Cat*

- For my own part, I **soon** found a dislike to it arising within me.
- My **next** step was to look for the beast …
- It was **now** the representation of an object ..

5–4 The Analysis of Discourse Deixis

   The table bellow provides information about the title, number and parentage of discourse deixis for *The Happy Prince* and *The Black Cat*.

Table (4) shows the title, number and parentage of discourse deixis for *The Happy Prince* and *The Black Cat*.

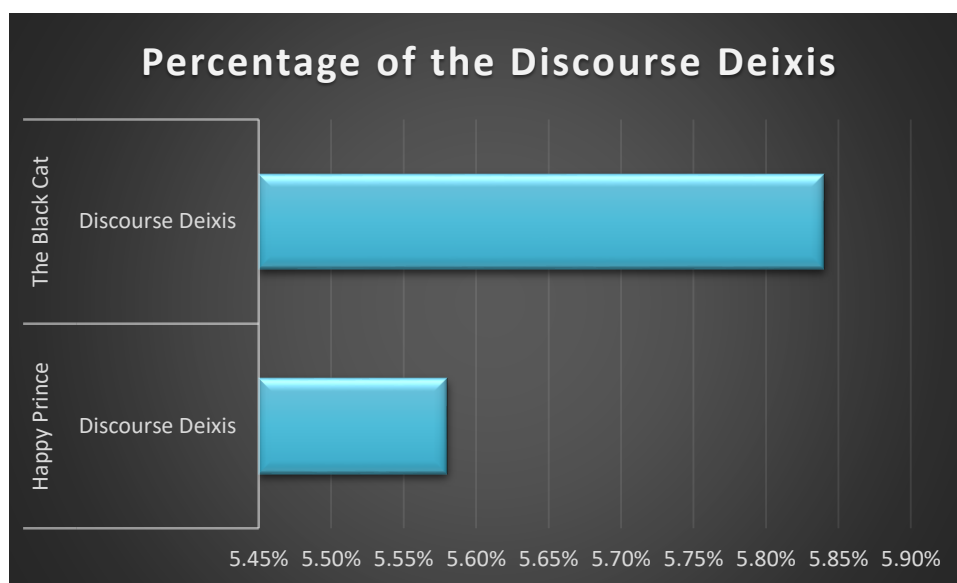| Title of the Short Story	Number of Discourse Deixis	Percentage
1 – *The Happy Prince*	28	**5.58%**
2 – *The Black Cat*	31	**5.84%**

Figure (4) Percentage of the Discourse Deixis.

 Table (4) above proves that discourse deixis scores relatively low occurrence like temporal deixis. It is also proves that *The Black Cat* scores relatively high occurrence of discourse deixis than *The Happy Prince.* The following are example of discourse deixis from the two stories.
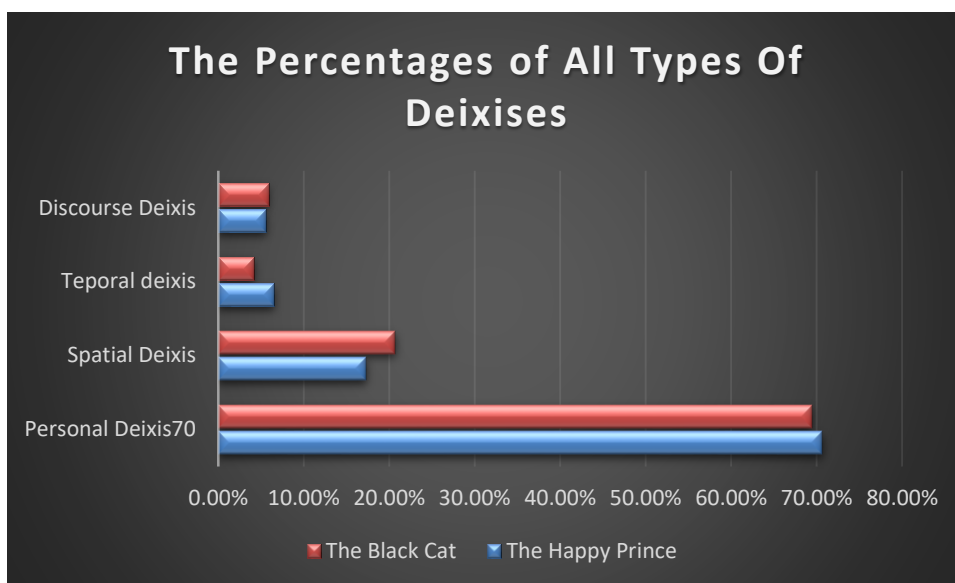
(1)*The Happy Prince*

- **But** the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was sorry.
- … **but** I feel quite warm now, **although** it is so cold.
- Cried the Swallow, **but** nobody minded…

(2)*The Black Cat*
- **But** this blow was arrested by the hand of my wife.
- **Moreover**, in one of the walls was a projection…
- **Although** I thus readily accounted to my reason…

6 – Conclusions

Figure(5) The Percentages of all Types of the Deixises.

The theoretical background of different text analysis in this paper coverage in an updated definition about the role and importance of using deixis in today's communication. Literature and other forms of written communications need assessment with points of reference particularly in the way communications are developed in our global.

In this regard, deixis is the most important notion in general linguistic and it is a vital link between the real life environment around us (time-frame, physical location, people involved, etc.) and what we actually say (the utterance, linguistic terms).

The analysis has proved that these two short stories are loaded with deixis more specifically personal and spatial ones as shown by figure (5) above. Actually, this is not accidently because there is a purpose behind this which can only be achieved through the use of these two types namely. On the one hand, the nature of narrative discourse or the aim behind narrative discourse that it is delivered to the nations and it is not written to be restricted within one area or place but to all human. This is because these works are directed toward the nature of human and to discuss human issues mainly. This is the reason why we find most if not all of narrative discourse are loaded with personal deixis.

On the other hand, the authors of these stories try to use locational words more carefully in order not to make the audience feeling lost when they read these stories. Moreover, the nature of narrative discourse forces the authors to use locative words extensively because the stories are mainly accumulation of events in different location (i.e. scenes).

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