



# ***Spatial Deixis and Demonstrative Pronouns in Hungarian***

---

Copyright © 2012  
Selected Papers from UK-CLA Meetings  
<http://uk-cla.org.uk/proceedings>  
Vol 1: 289 – 301

KRISZTINA LACZKÓ

Eötvös Loránd University

laczko.krisztina@illetve.hu

*The paper first provides a general interpretation of deixis from a functional pragmatic perspective. Deixis is described as a linguistic operation drawing on participants' contextual knowledge that comes from their mental processing of the spatial, temporal, and interpersonal relations of the speech situation. Relying on this knowledge, it makes the physical and social world of the discourse participants part of the world of the discourse. Basic to the phenomenon is the dual (discursive as well as embodied) grounding of linguistic cognition. A key implication of embodied grounding is the egocentric functioning of the deictic centre, which rests by default with the speaker serving as the referential centre for spatial, temporal and interpersonal orientation.*

*The second part of the paper is devoted to the study of spatial deixis and its manifestation in the Hungarian pronominal system. We suggest that, as realized in Hungarian, spatial deixis encompasses categories far beyond traditional cases of place deixis, since pronouns iconically partition the world into 'near' and 'far' regardless of whether they refer to things, modes, qualities or quantities, etc. However, peripheral cases do differ from place deixis (the prototype for spatial deixis) by giving no firm linguistic basis for identifying context-dependent reference points.*

*Finally, the third part of the paper applies the theoretical points made above to a detailed study of a pair of Hungarian demonstrative pronouns referring to things, namely *ez* 'this' and *az* 'that'.*

**Keywords:** deixis, deictic centre, spatial deixis, demonstrative pronouns, proximity vs. distance

## ***1. Introduction***

In the first part of this paper, I will give a brief summary of the major properties of deixis that serve as a point of departure for approaching this linguistic operation in a functional cognitive framework and I will also discuss the specific properties of the system of demonstrative pronouns as prototypical deictic items in Hungarian. In the last part of the paper, I will use some of these items to attempt an account of the way spatial deixis works in the organization of perspective.

## 2. A Functional Pragmatic Approach to Deixis

Deixis is a linguistic operation that makes the physical and social world of the discourse participants accessible for the interpretation of the current speech event by making it part of the world of the discourse (cf. Verschueren 1999: 75–114; Tátrai 2004, 2010, 2011; Levinson 2004). In particular, this operation relies on participants' contextual knowledge that comes from their mental processing of the spatial, temporal, and interpersonal relations of the speech situation. The phenomenon of deixis is interrelated with both physiological and discursive grounding of linguistic cognition (cf. Sinha 1999, 2005). Discourse participants encounter and mentally process the physical world around them using themselves, their own bodies, as a point of departure. The way this works is also socio-culturally grounded, since the operation of deixis presupposes social interaction (cf. Tomasello 1999). The speaker uses deictic expressions in order to direct the addressee's attention to the speech situation, or to an entity or event that is part of the speech situation, or to a constituent or property of that entity or event. The listener, on the other hand, processes the entity or event that the speaker has defined within the speech situation and interprets it as embedded in that situation (cf. grounding; Brisard 2002; Langacker 1993, 2001, 2002). Consider the following simple example.

- (1) Ezt most innen elviszed.  
(Now you remove this from here.)

Each and every constituent of this Hungarian sentence is a deictic expression. Their successful referential interpretation can only be carried out by way of processing the physical and social context in which the utterance is produced. *Most* 'now' refers to the time of the speech event, *ezt* 'this' and *innen* 'from here' are interpreted within the physical space in which the speech event takes place: *ezt* 'this' refers to an entity that is physically close to the speaker and *innen* 'from here' refers to the location of the speaker as a spatial point of departure; the verb form *elviszed* 'you take it away' signals the listener's movement away from that point of departure, and the second person singular inflexion deictically refers to the listener, thereby also involving knowledge pertaining to social relationships within the speech situation (the familiar form of address involving second person singular inflection shows an intimate social relationship between speaker and listener; note that Hungarian has an intricate system of less and less familiar forms of address corresponding to various distances between the social roles of the actual participants).

It follows from the physiological grounding of linguistic cognition that spatial deixis, based on direct observation of the physical world, is one of its fundamental categories (cf. Marmaridou 2000: 86–116). This is best shown by the fact that individual deictic expressions referring to spatial relationships may serve as bases for the metaphorical expression of interpersonal or temporal or discourse-internal relations (with the help of conceptual metaphors like TIME IS SPACE or DISCOURSE IS SPACE). The notion of discourse deixis (cf. Levinson 1983/1992: 54, 85–94) includes linguistic operations that implement deictic reference to the current discourse or its components, that is, highlight the discourse or some of its specific aspects as an object of reflexion by making the current discourse accessible as an entity

having spatial or temporal dimensions. For instance:

- (2) A: Péter levizsgázott matematikából.  
(Peter has passed his maths exam.)  
B: *Ez igaz?*  
(Is *this* true?)

In the second turn of (2), that is, in the utterance of speaker B, the item *ez* ‘this’ refers to the previous turn of the dialogue, the statement made by speaker A. The proximal pronoun points out a portion of discourse that is the closest possible, within the time and space of the discourse, to the point where the speaker happens to be located. (Let me note here that, in this case, the pronominal item is also anaphoric, in addition to being deictic, given that its successful referential interpretation requires knowledge of the preceding portion of the discourse.)

Furthermore, the physiological grounding of deixis also explains the egocentricity of the deictic centre, a property that identifies the actual speaker as the referential centre of spatial, temporal, and interpersonal orientation in the default case (Bühler 1934; Levinson 1983/1992: 63–4; in a functional cognitive framework Sanders–Spooren 1997; Tátrai 2005). The various deictic expressions that establish a direct referential relationship between the world of discourse and the interpersonal, spatial and temporal aspects of the speech event are therefore far from being arbitrary. Egocentricity is shown by the fact that deictic expressions are made interpretable in their relationship to the deictic centre, the context-dependent point of departure of referential orientation, made explicit by linguistic items like *I*, *here*, and *now*, as follows.

The central participant is the speaker; the second-person listener (or listeners) and third-person other referents are defined with respect to the speaker. Social roles are also represented with the speaker as a point of reference. In the default case, the spatial centre is the point where the speaker is located during the speech event; spatial relationships, that is, the spatial arrangement and movement of things and persons are processed by the participants with respect to that central place. The temporal centre, also in the default case, is the time of the speech event, similarly a base of comparison in the temporal domain. Furthermore, in the case of discourse deixis, the discursive centre is also represented by the actual speaker; that is, within the discourse space, deictic items are interpretable from the point where the speaker is currently located within the progression of the discourse.

We have to add that although the deictic centres *I*, *here*, and *now* serve as points of departure in the default case, the latter may also be partially or fully transferred to another participant of the discourse or indeed to a third party mentioned in the discourse. This phenomenon is called deictic projection and may involve spatial, temporal, or interpersonal orientation alike (cf. Lyons 1977: 579; Tomasello 1999: 103–43). What makes deictic projection possible is the fact that discourse participants are able to assume somebody else’s point of view as a transposed vantage point. Consider an example.

- (3) Péter megérkezett Londonba, de *itt* is csak a lányára tudott gondolni.  
(Peter has arrived in London but he was only able to think of his daughter even *here*.)

In (3), the item *itt* ‘here’ does not refer to the actual place where the speaker stands; rather, it takes the protagonist of the event related, Peter, as a point of departure for spatial orientation.

### **3. Spatial Deixis and the Hungarian System of Demonstrative Pronouns**

In view of the foregoing, *spatial deixis*, the focus of the present talk, will be used as a cover term for linguistic operations that bring the knowledge coming from the observation, experience, and processing of the physical world of the speech event into the interpretation of the current discourse, by linking, primarily via visual representation, the physical space with the spatial relationships of the discourse. Spatial deixis is not simply a basic category; it is also complex and open. As opposed to the traditional Levinsonian concept of ‘place deixis’, I call it ‘spatial deixis’ because this terminological shift has important implications with respect to the way the deictic elements of Hungarian operate, in addition to the fact, seen previously, that social, temporal, and discourse-internal deictic expressions are metaphorically based on spatial relationships (cf. Laczkó 2008, 2010). The prototypical exponents of spatial deixis are demonstrative pronouns, constituting a specifically complex system in Hungarian.

The number of demonstrative pronouns in the Hungarian lexicon is relatively large. This is partly due to the fact that, along with nominal demonstratives, adjectival and adverbial forms of a similar procedural meaning have historically also arisen by the lexicalisation of ancient pronominal stems with adjectival/adverbial suffixes. Thus, such forms express various grammatical relations on their own, without the use of any further grammatical device. In other words, such pronouns exhibit, in addition to their typical conceptual meanings, the largely schematic meaning components of Hungarian case markers as well (thus complementing the system of case-marked pronouns, as in *ebben/abban* ‘in this/that’, *erről/arról* ‘about this/that’, *ezen/azon* ‘on this/that’, etc.) (cf. Table 1).

The fundamental function of these pronominal items is to express spatial relationships, prototypically in the following system: within what is usually called ‘localisation’, they may express either positional or directional deictic spatial reference, consistently involving either proximal or distal relations (cf. Vater 1991: 46). In the word class of demonstrative pronouns, the latter distinction is represented in a fully iconic manner, as can be seen in Table 1: front-vowel forms invariably refer to proximal relations (*ez* ‘this’, *itt* ‘here’, *ilyen* ‘like this’, *így* ‘in this way’), whereas back-vowel forms indicate the corresponding distal relations (*az* ‘that’, *ott* ‘there’, *olyan* ‘like that’, *úgy* ‘in that way’). That bifurcation is totally exceptionless, consistent, and systematic across the whole class of Hungarian demonstrative pronouns.

	<b>Proximal (front-vowelled)</b>	<b>Distal (back-vowelled)</b>
nominal	<i>ez</i> (this)	<i>az</i> (that)
adjectival	<i>ilyen</i> (of this kind/sort, this kind of) <i>ekkora</i> (this size) <i>ennyi</i> (so much/many)	<i>olyan</i> (of that kind/sort, that kind of) <i>akkora</i> (that size) <i>annyi</i> (so much/many)
adverbial	<i>itt</i> (here) <i>ide</i> (to this place) <i>innen</i> (from this place) <i>ekkor</i> (at this time) <i>ezután</i> (from this time on) <i>eddig</i> (up to the present) <i>így</i> (in this way) etc.	<i>ott</i> (there) <i>oda</i> (to that place) <i>onnan</i> (from that place) <i>akkor</i> (at that time) <i>azután</i> (after that) <i>addig</i> (up to that time) <i>úgy</i> (in that way) etc.

Table 1. The system of Hungarian demonstrative pronouns

The prototypical linguistic means of spatial deixis refer to the relative arrangement of animate and inanimate objects observed in the actual space of the speech event (or imagined as being there), or the starting point, target, or direction of their movement within that space. This can be called ‘place deixis’ as a more restricted concept, with the most typical cases of this operation involving the pronominal items *itt/ott* ‘here/there’, *ide/oda* ‘to this/that place’, *innen/onnan* ‘from this/that place’. These items simultaneously and inextricably carry the conceptual meaning of demonstrative pronouns and the wholly schematic local meaning of Hungarian case markers; their interpretation starts from the deictic centre. For instance:

(4a) *Itt* megállhatunk pihenni.  
(We can stop *here* to take a rest.)

(4b) Leülhetek *ide*?  
(May I sit down *here*?)

(4c) *Innen* csak felfelé tudunk menni.  
(*From here*, we can only go uphill.)

In the utterances under (4), the demonstrative pronouns refer to the concrete physical space, the actual arrangement of the speaker and/or the addressee(s), the direction and starting point, respectively, of actual physical movement. In the following examples, however, they express more abstract relationships, not concrete place:

- (5a) Nem *ilyenek* képzeltem, nem gondoltam, hogy *ekkora* feje van.  
(I did not imagine him *like this*, I did not think he had *such* a large head.)
- (5b) A macska ma egész nap *így* fekszik.  
(The cat lies *like this* all day long today.)
- (5c) Miért *úgy* fogod azt a ceruzát?  
(Why are you holding that pencil *like that*?)
- (5d) Csak *ennyi* kenyér van itthon.  
(We have only *this much* bread here at home.)

In (5a), both pronouns express quality; in (5b), the highlighted pronoun expresses posture, in (5c), manner, and in (5d), quantity, such that the duality of ‘near’ vs. ‘far’ is arranged in real space, as seen from the deictic centre. In (5a), for instance, the joint experience or attention of speaker and listener is directed at a third person, appearing either with simultaneous presence in concrete space (both participants are looking at the person) or else not far away in time but without visual contact (e.g., after a party); their shared knowledge based on shared experience makes the use of a proximal pronoun possible. In addition to those exemplified above, other demonstrative pronouns referring to other circumstances can also be interpreted in the framework of spatial deixis (adverbial and case-marked forms cannot be strictly separated in terms of mental processing), cf. *ezzel/azzal* ‘with this/that’, *emiatt/amiatt* ‘due to this/that’, *ennyire/annyira* ‘to this/that extent’. The common property of the deictic use of the expressions listed is that their successful referential interpretation requires the observation and mental processing of the physical space of the speech event. In that sense, the deictic use of these linguistic items has to be seen as part of spatial deixis. Thus, all deictic linguistic operations that are primarily based on the processing of concrete physical space, or on its metaphoric extension, belong to the concept of spatial deixis – in Hungarian, this involves not only deixis referring to place or position but also that referring to manner, quality, quantity, etc. In this view, spatial deixis includes place deixis, manner deixis, etc. Furthermore, it is obvious that temporal deixis is also closely related to spatial deixis as its most abstract metaphoric extension.

In what follows, the operation of spatial deixis will be demonstrated using the example of nominal demonstrative pronouns (*ez* ‘this’, *az* ‘that’) as the most basic case.

#### **4. The Deictic Functioning of the Demonstrative Pronouns *ez* ‘this’ and *az* ‘that’**

The Hungarian pronouns *ez* and *az* have two typical uses. They can be used on their own; in such cases, the pronoun behaves identically with nouns both syntactically and morphologically: *ez/az* ‘this/that’, *ezt/azt* ‘this-acc/that-acc’, *ezzel/azzal* ‘with this / with that’, etc. The other use is as a pronominal determiner agreeing in case and number with the noun it precedes. The noun

is grounded in the world of discourse by a definite article, and the role of the pronoun is further specification: *ez a könyv* ‘this book’ (lit. this the book), *azt a könyvet* ‘that book-acc’, *azzal a könyvvel* ‘with that book’. Deixis goes with both versions (as opposed to coreference that is typically implemented by the “independent use” of the pronoun) but the two types of use are clearly different. In the case of independent deictic use, it is only the schematic conceptualisation of the pronominal meaning that comes through and that can be defined as follows: in a two- or three-dimensional space, localisation is one of the base domains where *ez* ‘this’ prototypically denotes proximity to the speaker (the referential centre) while *az* ‘that’ denotes distance, and both refer to some inanimate object of indeterminable shape, function, colour, etc. Thus, deixis by an independent demonstrative pronoun prototypically involves an inanimate object; it refers to a thing located in the space of the speech event. With respect to the “independent use” of pronouns, we have to emphasise two important points. The first of these is the historically justifiable connection, referred to above, between case-marked nominal pronouns and adverbial forms. For instance:

- (6) *Ezért jöttem.*  
(I’ve come *for this*.)

In (6), the referential interpretation of *ezért* ‘for this’ is dual. First, it can be a thing (like a book) located in real physical space (*ez* ‘this’) that the speaker wants to obtain (the schematic ‘target’ component is carried by the suffix *-ért* ‘for’). Second, it can be a pointer to a former or subsequent part of the discourse, in which case the spatial representation and the expression of causal relation shows up in *ezért* ‘this is why’ in a unitary manner: *Péter nagy bajban van. Ezért jöttem.* ‘Peter is in serious trouble. That is why I’ve come’. The second important point is the essential relationship between demonstrative pronouns and third-person personal pronouns. The latter, too, function as a deictic item in real physical space or contribute to the coreferential coherence of the text (cf. Fillmore 1975: 40–2; Lyons 1977: 660–1; Tolcsvai Nagy 2001: 180–242), forming a system corresponding to that of demonstrative pronouns. An example of their deictic use is the following:

- (7) *Ma ő tartja az előadást.*  
(Today, it is *he* who delivers the lecture.)

Under normal circumstances, the pronoun *ő* ‘he’ can be interpreted in the physical space of the speech event; for instance, it may refer to a teacher actually entering the hall. However, obviously, the personal pronoun does not represent the space as seen from the deictic centre (‘he’ is metaphorically far from speaker and listener alike, but that distance is not directly based on the given processing and understanding of concrete physical space). Furthermore, participants of the speech event and additional persons are not interpreted simply as entities observable in space; rather, they are primarily seen as characters in a wide network of social and discursive relationships. In Hungarian, third-person personal pronouns prototypically refer to human beings. The reason is that in this language there are no gender differences, not even with respect to natural gender, and not even in the system of personal pronouns. That is, personal pronouns are not classified as masculine,

feminine, and neutral. Consequently, their prototypical deictic value is simply 'human being', whereas inanimate objects tend to be referred to by demonstrative pronouns. That is, in spatial reference to any inanimate entity, the duality of 'near' vs. 'far' with respect to the deictic centre invariably becomes operative. This is proved, obliquely, by the fact that in simple spatial deixis, if *ő* is used referring to an inanimate object, it becomes metaphorical and conveys positive attitude (as in *Őt kérem* 'This one, please', referring e.g. to a book in a bookshop) (cf. social or attitude deixis, Verschueren 1999: 20–1; Yule 1996: 10–1; Marmaridou 2000: 74–81). Conversely, a demonstrative pronoun used on its own to refer to a person will typically carry negative speaker's attitude (*Ez vajon honnan érkezett?* 'Where can this one be coming from?', used with reference to a man or woman, just entering the room). However, in a determiner position, the pronoun's prototypical semantic component 'inanimate' does not apply, whereby its reference is extended to further domains, and the referent cannot be prototypicalised (it may be an object, a person, an event, or even time, manner, state, etc., with the latter correlated with adverbial components). Consequently, the negative attitude mentioned above does not appear even in referring to a person, due to the noun's conceptual meaning and the pronoun's mere directional function. (Let me note in passing that in coreferential uses of the demonstrative pronoun within a textual space, this kind of attitude marking also disappears.)

In what follows, I will present a few typical examples to illustrate how, in the physical space of the speech event, proximal and distal reference may be influenced by various factors. These factors typically include the mapping and processing of real physical space, the direction of attention (foreground vs. background), and the possibility of attitude marking. Also, I will emphasise pronominal reference to events in physical space, a point that makes it possible to reflect on further aspects of discourse deixis and coreference, too.

### **5. The Categories of Proximity versus Distance**

The choice between 'near' and 'far' is basically determined by where (under what spatial conditions) the entity referred to is located in relation to the speaker. On the other hand, for comprehension to be successful, the listener has to mentally take over the speaker's position and assume her point of departure. The categories of proximity versus distance depend on the speaker's knowledge of the physical surroundings of the speech event, on the way she mentally represents a complex scene; that is, primarily on the actual spatial situation, on the direction of attention, on the distinction between figure and ground. Consider the following simple example.

- (8) *Ezt a dobozt vidd le a pincébe, azt viszont hagyd a helyén.*  
(Take *this* box down to the cellar, but leave *that* one where it is.)

Obviously, the position of the two boxes determines the use of pronouns: one of them is closer to the speaker, and the other one is farther away, in terms of their spatial arrangement. Due to the situational and/or thematic context, the speaker's attention is directed at the boxes; these two entities are foregrounded in the complex scene. The addressee has to place himself into

the speaker's position in order to be able to comply with her request. If they both happen to be in the same place and in the same position, the spatial arrangement of the surroundings will be roughly identical for both of them, so they will both perceive the same situation. If, however, the speaker and the listener perceive space from two distinct vantage points, e.g., if they are facing each other, the listener has to mentally share the speaker's point of origin in order to be able to identify the entity that the speaker is referring to. In other words, he has to identify the relative positions of the speaker and the entities she refers to, given that his point of origin can be completely antithetical to that of the speaker. It is obvious that, in processing a scene, visual representation is of prime importance, including the position and relative arrangement of the participants and the entities referred to, the speaker's attempts at directing the listener's attention (often accompanied by gestures, carriage of body or head) and their interpretation by the listener, and also the movements of the participants during the speech event, if any. Note that in situations where several entities are near the speaker or far from her, differentiation within the 'proximal' and 'distal' categories may also be required, primarily in terms of direction of attention. The Hungarian lexicon offers *emez* 'another instance of "this"', *amaz* 'another, even more distant instance of "that"' for this purpose; corpus studies reveal, however, that speakers hardly ever construct deictic utterances involving these elements; rather, they employ the focusing of attention and use *ez* or *az* for such entities, too.

In deixis involving the use of demonstrative pronouns, the perception and comprehension of real space can thus be seen as prototypical. However, the choice between proximal and distal pronouns may also be influenced by the social environment of the speech event, hence it may also signal attitudes. In the following example, the two participants are facing one another; the rat is the figure and speaker B is the ground: the rat is a proximal entity for B but a distal entity for A:

(9a) A: Mi *az* a kezében?  
(What's *that* in your hand?)

B: *Ez* egy patkány.  
(*This* is a rat.)

However, speaker A could use, in the same spatial arrangement, a proximal pronoun by deictic projection that can be prompted partly by direction of attention, focusing on the animal, but also by a certain positive attitude towards the animal, whereby the centre of reference may be transposed and the question may involve a front-vowel pronoun:

(9b) A: Mi *ez* a kezében?  
(What's *this* in your hand?)

B: *Ez* egy patkány.  
(*This* is a rat.)

Suprasegmental patterns of the utterance and bodily movements (like A stepping forward or backing away etc.) may obviously also modify or emphasise this attitude marking function.

Or, consider another pair of examples:

(10a) Ki *ez* a férfi?  
(Who's *this* man?)

(10b) Ki *az* a férfi?  
(Who's *that* man?)

If the person referred to in (10a) and that referred to in (10b) are equally distant from the discourse participants, for instance, the person is just entering the room in both cases, the opposition between *ez* and *az* gives rise to the deictic representation of social relationships, rather than real spatial arrangement. That is, demonstrative pronouns have metaphorical uses in which the proximal form may express positive attitudes (pleasure, affection, interest), whereas the distal form may express negative attitudes (antipathy, rejection, distrust).

A peculiar use of deixis by a demonstrative pronoun is the case we might refer to as 'event deixis'. An event is invariably dynamic, it has temporality, and it may even have a scenario attached to it; the demonstrative pronoun can point out such a complex representation. Event deixis may be expressed implicitly:

(11) *Ez* nagyon unalmas.  
(*This* is very boring.)

For instance, the participants are watching a football match in the actual scene of the event, that is, deixis takes place in the concrete physical space with processing the speech situation via visual representation. If, during the event, both speaker and addressee are in the physical space in which the event is taking place, deixis may be implemented by the bare pronoun in the framework of a complex observational (primarily visual) representation and, due to simultaneity, this pronoun will invariably be the front-vowel one. Of course, event deixis can also take an explicit form:

(12) *Ez a meccs* nagyon unalmas.  
(*This match* is very boring.)

The noun phrase represents the event as an "object-like" entity here; the event is embedded in the semantic structure of the expression as if it were a physical object; in this sense, event deixis can be seen as an instance of "object deixis" within spatial deixis; but in this case, temporality comes to the fore, the dynamic/temporal character of the event referred to by the noun, given that a football match consists of a series of complex dynamic events. Referring to an event by a noun, then, is a result of high-level abstraction; in the complex semantic structure of the noun, physical objects, their relationships, as well as dynamic actions are summarised.

A temporally proximate but past event can likewise be deictically referred to. In this case, the interpretation of the pronoun is made possible by knowledge previously stored in the mind, the mental world, that is, thematic context or thematic background knowledge, rather than actual knowledge of the current speech situation. A characteristic example of this situation is one in which speaker and addressee refer to an entity in connection with a recently processed event. For instance, the following utterances can be produced in front of the building of a museum, involving explicit deixis as in (13a), or even implicit deixis (the independent use of the demonstrative pronoun) as in (13b):

(13a) *Ez a kiállítás gyönyörű.*  
(*This exhibition is beautiful.*)

(13b) *Ez gyönyörű volt.*  
(*This was beautiful.*)

In such cases, deixis is based on shared background knowledge (cf. symbolic use of deixis, Fillmore 1975). Space is transposed by deictic projection and the activated recent event is represented by summary scanning (cf. Langacker 1987: 144). Although in the explicit version the noun *kiállítás* ‘exhibition’ occurs as a “thing”, the participants’ thematic background knowledge makes it possible for the dynamic character of their visit to the exhibition to be foregrounded as an event. Temporal proximity, again, calls for the use of the front-vowel pronoun.

The linguistic operation taking place in real physical space that I refer to as ‘event deixis’ is in an intimate connection with ‘discourse deixis’ in which the participants do not observe or process an event in real physical space but rather it is represented in the textual space, either anaphorically or cataphorically. The discourse-internal metaphorisation of event deixis, as well as its close connection with coreference, may be an important direction for further research based on the present considerations.

## **6. Conclusion**

In sum, 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 but may also be a metaphorical basis of the deictic expression of interpersonal, temporal, or discourse-internal relationships, and, on the other hand, spatial deixis is an open a category abiding by the prototype principle, whose centre 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 whose referential interpretability requires the processing of physical space.

## Notes

- <sup>i</sup> The research reported in this paper, including the author's participation at UK-CLC3, was supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (grant no. K 76878), which is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

## References

- Brisard, F. (2002). Introduction: The epistemic basis of deixis and reference. In F. Brisard, (ed.), *Grounding: The Epistemic Footing of Deixis and Reference*. Berlin: Mouton. pp. xi–xxxiv.
- Bühler, K. (1934). *Spachtheorie: Die Darstellungsfunktion der Sprache*. Fischer: Jena.
- Fillmore, C. (1975). *Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis*. Indiana University Linguistics Club.
- Laczkó, K. (2008). A mutató névmási deixisről. [Deixis and demonstrative pronouns.] *Általános Nyelvészeti Tanulmányok XXII*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. pp. 309–347.
- Laczkó K. (2010). Demonstrative pronouns in spatial deixis, discourse deixis, and anaphora. *Acta Linguistica* 57 (1): 99–118.
- Langacker, R.W. (1987). *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar. Volume I*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Langacker, R.W. (1993). Reference point construction. *Cognitive Linguistics* 4: 1–38.
- Langacker, R.W. (2001). Discourse in Cognitive Grammar. *Cognitive Linguistics* 12 (2): 143–188.
- Langacker, R.W. (2002). Deixis and subjectivity. In F. Brisard (ed.), *Grounding: The Epistemic Footing of Deixis and Reference*. Berlin: Mouton. pp. 1–28.
- Levinson, S.C. (1992 [1983]). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Levinson, S.C. (2004). Deixis. In L.R. Horn and G. Ward (eds.), *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 97–121.
- Lyons, J. (1977). *Semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Marmaridou, S.S. (2000). *Pragmatic Meaning and Cognition*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Sanders, J. and W. Spooren (1997). Perspective, subjectivity, and modality from a cognitive point of view. In W. Liebert, G. Redeker and L. Waugh (eds.), *Discourse and Perspective in Cognitive Linguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. pp. 85–112.
- Sinha, C. (1999). Grounding, mapping and acts of meaning. In T. Janssen and G. Redeker (eds.), *Cognitive Linguistics: Foundations, Scope and Methodology*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. pp. 223–255.
- Shina, C. (2005). Biology, culture and the emergence and elaboration of symbolization. In A.P. Saleemi, O.S. Bohn and A. Gjedde (eds.), *Search of a language for the mind-brain: Can the multiple perspective unified?* Aarhus: Aarhus University Press. pp. 311–335.
- Tátrai, Sz. (2004). A kontextus fogalmáról. [Survey of the context.] *Magyar Nyelvőr* 128: 479–494.

- Tátrai, Sz. (2005). A nézőpont szerepe a narratív megértésben. [Perspective in narrative understanding.] *Általános Nyelvészeti Tanulmányok XXI*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. pp. 207–229.
- Tátrai, Sz. (2010). Áttekintés a deixisről. [Survey of the deixis.] *Magyar Nyelvőr* 134: 118–135.
- Tátrai, Sz. (2011). *Bevezetés a pragmatikába. Funkcionális kognitív megközelítés.* [Introduction to Pragmatics. A functional cognitive approach.] Budapest: Tinta Könyvkiadó.
- Tolcsvai Nagy, G. (2001). *A Magyar nyelv szövegtana.* [Textlinguistics of Hungarian Language.] Budapest: Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó.
- Tomasello, M. (1999). *The Cultural Origins of Human Cognition.* Harvard: Harvard University Press.
- Vater, H. (1991). *Einführung in die Raum-Linguistik.* Gabel Verlag, Hürth-Efferen (Klage 24.).
- Verschueren, J. (1999). *Understanding Pragmatics.* London: Arnold.
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.