DISCOURSE POINTING DEVICES IN NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS

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ABSTRACT: *Deixis (the use of this, that and other pointing devices) in English has its discursive and referential values which are determined by the context of situation. In this study, I examined the use of the (English) deixis, as a discourse pointing device, to argue that the language situation in operation, could determine deictic usage. Using corpus linguistics methodologies, the study purposively sampled three consecutive months' editions (January 1– March 31, 2017) of four online newspaper editorials from: Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria and the UK, where different language situations exist. In analysing the data, the newspaper editorials corpus was subjected to AntConc Concordance Tool, to identify and classify the deictic markers into types and through simple statistics determined the frequency of use on paper and country bases to show variation (if any). The major significance of the study is to help in understanding the working of language in its environment of operation and in presupposing the usage of language in the different contexts of situations.*

KEYWORDS: Corpus Linguistics, Deixis, Discourse Pointing, Editorial, Context Situation

INTRODUCTION

Deixis – *this*, *that* and other language pointing devices – are language elements used to situate referents through directing attention (Clark, 2003, p. 243). The deictic point of reference, "origo", is taken from the speaker; the place of utterance; and the time of an utterance (Bühler, 1934 cited in Levinson, 1983, p. 61) and it is of note that the deictic centre is both temporal and spatial as the roles shift between the interlocutors (Lyons, 1977, p. 638). The deictic referencing is realised in the "use of demonstratives, first and second person pronouns, tense, specific time and place adverbs like *now* and *here*, and a variety of other grammatical features tied directly to the circumstances of utterance (Levinson, 1983, p. 54).

A: I'll have *that* one over *there* (pointing to a dessert on a tray)

    B: *This*? (touching pastry with tongs)

    A: Yeah, *that* looks great

    B: Here ya' go (handing pastry to customer) (Hanks, 2017)

Deixis are categorised into five types: person, place, time, discourse and social deixis (Levinson, 1983, p. 62).

This paper examines the use of person, place, time, discourse and social deixis, in English language as a discourse element, in four different language situations, to examine variation in usage, if any, and the universality of the phenomenon in the English language. The study focuses on a three-month newspaper editorials corpus from Canada (a country with two first languages – English and French operating side-by-side), Jamaica (a nation with English as a second language and a creole operating side-by-side), Nigeria (a country with English as a

second language operating in a multicultural and multilingual environment) and the UK (English is the first language, solely). The study is guided by the following objectives: (1) to identify the (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials; (2) classify the (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials corpus into typology; and (3) explain the functions of the identified (English) deixis in the newspaper editorials. The study also seeks to proffer answers to the following research questions:

(1) Are there (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials?

(2) What are the types of the (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials?

(3) Can the functions of the (English) deixis be determined in the newspaper editorials?

Types of Deixis

Deixis and indexing have been argued to work together, as exemplified in the following statements:

i. *This* house is ours.

ii. She left *that* for you.

iii. *Those* clothes were lovely.

This in i, *that* in ii, and *those* in iii are made with gestures by the speakers to their addressees (Stirling & Huddleston, p. 1451-2). Deixis is also part of the linguistic elements used in text cohesion to track the constantly changing roles, time and place of discourse participants (Grenoble, 1998, p. 4).

Table 1: Categories of Deixis

Deixis	Examples
Person deixis	I, we, you, he, she, it, they, our, my etc.
Place deixis	here, there, nearby, …away, east, west, north, south, front, back, in front of, behind, left, right, above, below, up, down, over there, yonder, further, this…, that…, those…, these…
Time deixis	now, then, today, yesterday, … ago, tomorrow, next …, week, month, afternoon, morning, evening, before, after, ,at, by, soon, recently, the day before, previous,
Discourse deixis	this, that, there, last, previous, proceeding, hereby, the latter, the aforementioned, herein, here, there, former, as shown above,
Social deixis	brother, wife, father, , mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunty, uncle, dear, husband, your highness, his excellency, Mr President, the speaker, the commissioner, Governor, Ambassador, Your Grace, Your Majesty, Your Honour, Your Eminence

Here are a brief clarifications on the deictic characteristics:

i. **Person deixis:** realised through personal pronouns and person marker and falls under the taxonomy of person (Siewierska, 2004, p. 1). It is concerned with the identification of participants (conversational parties) and the roles they play– the speaker, the hearer (addressee) and the bystander – third party. Person also indicates the number, the gender and in some cultures provides insight into the relationship between the first and the second person through honorifics (Renkema, 2004, p. 122). The first and second person markers are variables in discourse as their identities shift like the spatio-temporal "this, that, now, then" while the third person are anaphoric expressions whose interpretation depends on the linguistic context of the discourse though they could be used deictically with a gestural orientation (Siewierska, p. 7). Person deixis also indicates the social status, interpersonal relationship and other factors of the conversational parties (Li, 2009).

3. This is why <u>we</u> are concerned about recent complaints by O'Neil Grant … (*The Gleaner*, Jamaica, January 2, 2017)

4. … Mr Tillerson's defenders with the assurance that <u>he</u> "talks all the time to Jared" (*The Guardian*, UK, 22 March, 2017).

5. Study authors Ben Eisen, Charles Lammam and David Watson expressed *their* conclusion in the title of their study (*Toronto Sun*, Canada, August 05, 2017).

6. A recent report from Canada's finance department on long-term financial projections was released just two days before Christmas, when hardly anyone would notice <u>it</u> (*Toronto Sun*, January 06, 2017).

The person(s) in 3 are human characters that include the speaker and the hearer (the all-embracing and inclusive speaker that associates with the audience or hearer). When used in an utterance it serves to indicates +S and +H. We also includes +first person and +plural. 4 identifies the referent to be the object of the discussion and the role of the referent he in the discourse – the third party. The number is singular and the performer of the action, we could also add that the referent is animate and masculine. 5 portrays the referents who are referred to anaphorically in the discourse as plural. 6 is used anaphorally to make reference to part the discourse.

ii. **place (spatial) deixis:** realised through demonstrative pronouns and demonstrative adverbs to indicate the intended referent may be close (*here*, proximal – identical or referring to a location close to the speaker) or further away from the speaker (*there*, distal – a distance away from the speaker) (Piwek, Beun, & Cremers, 2008). Proximal and distal do not in any way relate to the exact distance or location of the reference but differentiate the two different locations (nearer or further) relative to the deictic centre. In addition, their interpretation is not inherently tied to the speaker's body or location. The location can also be related to someone or something other than the speaker, as in the following:

a) A horse stood *in front* of the house.

b) Peter's seat is in the back, on the left side of the car.

c) The bottle fell down from the table. (90. Deixis and demonstratives).

There could however be a problem with the spatial *this* as chances are it is accompanied with gestural usage at some point but may not require such at other instances. The issue here is the gestural and symbolic usages.

7. Here was a man who encouraged love among people (*The Gleaner*, February 11, 2017)

8. There's no free lunch here (*Toronto Sun*, May 30, 2017).

9. Step away from that bouquet of red roses and consider how you can help (The Guardian, Nigeria, February 11, 2017).

10. Behind the scenes, the British government has tried to block tougher testing (The Guardian, UK, 27 April 2017).

In 7, the position is not apparent as the adverb is used to signify the discoursal presence, not necessarily in this particular place. 8 makes reference to the country, Canada, as a whole not a particular location in Canada but to the whole of Canada, as a political and a geographical entity. 9 is a direction of movement that the object in question is asked to move further from – distal movement while 10 talks about a place or location that is distal from the deictic centre.

iii. **Time (temporal) deixis:** Temporal deixis covers the reference made to time and refers to the time of the utterance which is taken from the "coding time" – according to Fillmore (1966) which Levinson calls "the moment at which the utterance is issued" (Levinson, 2006, p. 114). The speaker is still the centre of the reference as the time is taken from their time which is why Lyons says the speaker is the "zero point of the spatio-temporal co-ordinates of the deictic context" (p. 638). Both place and time deixis are used to refer to location (Green, p. 22). There are three time span associated with the time deixis: the coding time, the receiving time and the referring (content) time. According to Fillmore, the coding time is when the utterance was made, the receiving time when it was received while the referring (content) time is the one being referred to by the utterance. There are however instances, though not always, when the three time (coding, receiving and content time) have to be taken simultaneously so as to contrast a tense as in ("I have finished my Masters, and I'm now working on a PhD" (Green, 1992, p. 17).

11. But at last week's sitting, Mr Samuels moved a motion to reverse that decision in favour… (*The Gleaner*, Jamaica, February 15, 2017)

12. But last spring they blew that number out of the water (Toronto Son, Canada, March 05, 2017)

13. Ten days ago, at a function to commission the Jamaica Defence Force's two new … (The Gleaner, Jamaica, March 14, 2017)

14. both contests were in seats that Labour has held since before the second world war .. (The Guardian, UK, 24 February 2017)

11 and 12 show that time in human activity can be measured from a calendrical reference timeframe – 11 is measure from the day of the week while 12 is measured from the season,

using the adverb, *last*. In all the sentences, the time is taken from the speakers who is the "deictic centre" of the time. Time in 13 is taken from the deictic centre, that is, from the time the discourse is produced thus, "Ten day ago. 14 takes it time from a major world even, before the commencement of the "Second World War".

iv. **discourse (text/ual or document) deixis**: refers to linguistic entities in the prior discourse – that is, self-reference (Stirling & Huddleston, p. 1461). They are used to signify temporal and spatial references or relations (general anaphora) and could also be used for other relations – "refer to earlier or forthcoming segments of the discourse". Discourse deixis is different from other type of deixis or anaphoric relations as it "refers to portions of the text itself" and not "outside the discourse to other entities by connecting to a prior referring expression (anaphora) or a later one (cataphora)" (Levinson, 2006, p. 119).

15. Polls currently indicate Ms Le Pen will lead in the first round, or come out neck-and-neck with the centrist former economy minister Emmanuel Macron. They then predict <u>she</u> will be comfortably beaten in the run-off (The Guardian, UK, March 21, 2017).

16. The causes of high housing prices in Toronto are complex. <u>They</u> include an excess of government bureaucracy… (Toronto Sun, Canada, March 18, 2017).

17. The Nigerian Air Force has conducted about 4000 sorties in the course of the fight against Boko Haram, thereby dislodging the insurgents from the notorious Sambisa Forest. Naturally, <u>this</u> feat deserves commendation, which cannot be denied, even with this error (The Guardian, Nigeria, January 22, 2017).

18. In the United Kingdom, for example, there is estimated to be one camera for every 32 citizens. <u>This</u> indicates the level of surveillance diffusion necessary to keep ... (*The Gleaner*, Jamaica, March 11, 2017)

In 15, *She* refers back to "Ms Le Pen" which has been mentioned earlier in the discourse. *They* in 16 also refers back to an earlier mentioned element in the discourse, the complex nature of the causes of high housing prices. *This* in 17 refers back to the "about 4000 sorties" the "Nigerian Air Force has conducted". In 18, *this* refers back to "estimated to be one camera for every 32 citizens". In all the instances, the deictic elements are used to refer to portion of the discourse that have been mentioned.

v. **social deixis:** include honorifics, titles of address, second person pronominal alternates and associated verbs agreements and so on through aspects of language structure that are anchored to the social identities of participants - speaker, hearer and bystanders, and their relations between the participants and other referents directly or indirectly (Levinson, 1979; 2006). While deixis in general is concerned with situational context in communication, social deixis is more concerned with the social rather than the situational context (Manning, 2001).

19. <u>Chief</u> Olu Falae, was once abducted while his security guards … (*The Guardian*, Nigeria, 05 January 2017)

20. … the acting executive director, to his substantive role of <u>chief</u> accountant (*The Gleaner*, March 10, 2017).

21. … the <u>Speaker</u> of the House of Commons and a former Tory MP … (*The Guardian*, UK, February 6, 2017)

22. According to <u>Mr</u> Grant, when the posts of accountants and auditors in the public (*Toronto Sun*, January 2, 2017)

In 19, chief (a proper noun) is used as honorific, to indicate clan membership title while in 20, it describes the job title of the referent. According to Levinson (1983, p. 91), in both sentences 19 and 20 the titles of address are reserved for authorized recipients. 21 indicates the position that the referent occupies in the legislator, an arm of government while 22 takes care of his gender.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The three-month corpus of the four online newspapers editorials were downloaded from the sites of the newspapers: *The Gleaner* Newspaper, Jamaica, downloaded from *jamaica-gleaner.com*, *The Guardian* Newspaper, Nigeria, from *https://m.guardian.ng, The Guardian* Newspaper, UK, from https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news, and *Toronto Sun* Newspaper, Canada,from   m.torontosun.com) and converted from the html format to the Plain Text format after editing had been done on the texts to remove extraneous materials. The four online newspapers corpus is made up of 2084861 words. The newspaper editorial of the journalistic genre was chosen for the study because of the diversity of the subjects the editorial covers; the uniformity of the editorial's form of presentation and above all availability of the editorials. The corpus was then subjected to AntConc– A freeware corpus analysis toolkit for concordancing and text analysis (Anthony, 2014) to determine the word count, identified the deictic elements and classify them into categories and find the percentage value of the use of the elements on paper (country)-by-paper (country) basis.

RESULTS/FINDINGS

The findings is presented as table 2

Table 2: Deixis in the Four Countries Editorials Corpus

Deixis	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
place	78	95	226	138	537	4.40
person	818	750	999	1236	3803	31.19
time	335	320	412	545	1612	13.22
discourse	674	994	1951	1364	4983	40.87
social	190	319	276	473	1258	10.32
TOT	**2095**	**2478**	**3864**	**3756**	**12193**	100.00
VAL	17.18	20.32	31.69	30.80	100.00	

Source: Present study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

All the deictic classifications were subjected to AntConc search and those with results less than 5 hits were ignored. At the end, seven items constituted the elements under person deixis (I, We, he, it, they, you, and she),. 11 items made the place deixis list (here, east, west, south, north, front, back, behind, at, this, away). Time deixis 16 items (now, then, today, yesterday, ago, next, week, month, last, morning, before, after, at, soon, recently, previous). The discourse deixis has eight items (this/these, that/those, there, previous, the latter, above), and the social deixis items (brother, father, president, excellency, Mrs, Mr, chief premier, minister, governor, speaker, commissioner). The 54 deictic items focused on in the study appeared 12193 instances, in the corpus.

Of these, discourse deixis was the highest used as it was used 4983 times which is 40.87%. It is followed by person deixis with 3803 (31.19%) while time deixis used them 1612 (13.22%). Social and place deixis were marginally used with 785 which amounts to 6.70% and 537 instances with 4.40% value. Nigeria used the items the most with 3864 instances with 31.69% followed by the UK with 3756 (30.80%) Jamaica comes next with 2478 instances which carries 20.32% value and Canada the least user with 2090 instances with 19.88% it of the usage of the linguistic elements. This is presented as table 2, below:

DISCUSSION

On category by category basis, the usage of the items on country and element basis is stated below:

Table 3: Person Deixis in the corpus

PER	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
I	8	10	23	13	54	1.42
We	138	157	38	99	432	11.36
He	105	109	175	191	580	15.25
it	351	314	530	578	1773	46.62
They	135	120	217	194	666	17.51
you	37	13	9	37	96	2.52
she	44	27	7	124	202	5.31
TOT	**818**	**750**	**999**	**1236**	**3803**	**100.00**
VAL	**21.51**	**19.72**	**26.27**	**32.50**	**100.00**	

Source: Present Study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

Of the **person deixis**, *it* was the most used with 1773 instances and 46.62% of the total 3803 instances the items where used. The UK used the item the most in 578 times with 32.60% of 1236 usage. Nigeria comes next with 999 (26.27%) instances followed by Canada with 818 (21.51%) and Jamaica with 750 (19.72%).

Table 4: Place Deixis in the corpus

PLACE	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
here	8	15	3	14	40	7.45
east	3	0	14	5	22	4.10
west	4	13	12	9	38	7.08
south	4	2	76	18	100	18.62
north	9	1	15	14	39	7.26
front	3	4	2	18	27	5.03
back	3	4	0	2	9	1.68
behind	6	0	1	3	10	1.86
at	26	45	47	37	155	28.86
this	8	7	40	10	65	12.10
away	4	4	16	8	32	5.96
TOT	**78**	**95**	**226**	**138**	**537**	**100.00**
VAL	**14.53**	**17.69**	**42.09**	**25.70**	**100.00**	

Source: Present Study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

For **place deixis**, *at* was the most used with 155 (28.86%) of the 537 usage. This is followed by 100 times usage (18.62%) by *south* and *this* with 65, 12.10% respectively. Nigeria used the place deixis the most with 226 instance (42.09%) of the 537 instance while Jamaica used it the least with 95 (17.69%).

Table 5: Time Deixis in the corpus

TIME	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
now	71	41	63	88	263	19.50
then	22	20	45	23	110	7.17
today	8	5	27	33	73	4.76
yesterday	0	2	1	6	9	0.59
ago	7	13	20	16	56	3.65
next	20	8	7	20	55	3.59
week	21	21	8	60	110	7.17
month	6	6	7	10	29	1.89
last	39	50	34	62	185	13.71
morning	2	1	0	9	12	0.78
before	17	14	38	24	93	6.06
after	33	20	59	59	171	11.15
at	11	17	24	23	75	4.89
soon	4	6	9	6	25	1.63
recently	5	18	10	3	36	2.35
previous	11	20	6	10	47	3.06
TOT	**316**	**312**	**392**	**514**	**1534**	**100.00**
VAL	**20.60%**	**20.34%**	**25.55%**	**33.51%**	**100.00%**	

Source: Present Study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

The UK was the highest user of **time deixis** with 514 (33.51%) of the total of 1534 and Jamaica used it the least with 312 (20.34%). Of the items, *now* (263, 19.50 %), *last* (185, 13.71%) and *after* (171, 11.15%) were the prominent items in the class.

Table 6: Discourse Deixis in the corpus

Discourse	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
this/these	205	255	523	325	1308	26.25
that/those	384	574	1099	864	2921	58.62
there	71	139	300	165	675	13.55
previous	10	13	5	6	34	0.68
the latter	1	10	3	1	15	0.30
above	3	3	21	3	30	0.60
TOT	**674**	**994**	**1951**	**1364**	**4983**	**100.00**
VAL	13.53	19.95	39.15	27.37	100	

Source: Present Study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

In the **discourse deixis** category, *that*/*those* (2921, 58.62%) and *this*/*these* (1308, 26.25%) were the most prominent used items out of the 4983instances that the items were used in the corpus with Nigeria topping the country of usage with (1951, 39.15%) and the UK with (1364, 27.37%) coming next.

Table 7: Discourse Deixis in the corpus

Social Deixis	CAN	JAM	NIG	UK	TOT	VAL
brother	0	2	1	6	9	0.72
father	0	1	1	6	8	0.64
president	20	9	116	57	202	16.06
excellency	67	69	36	60	232	18.44
Mrs	0	4	6	74	84	6.68
Mr	1	140	8	187	336	26.71
chief	4	4	31	14	53	4.21
premier	22	4	0	0	26	2.07
minister	67	69	36	60	232	18.44
governor	1	9	34	3	47	3.74
speaker	0	1	3	5	9	0.72
commissioner	8	7	4	1	20	1.59
Total	**190**	**319**	**276**	**473**	**1258**	100.00
	15.10	25.36	21.94	37.60	100.00	

Source: Present Study

Legend: CAN (Canada), JAM (Jamaica), NIG (Nigeria), UK (The United Kingdom) TOT (total), VAL (percentage values)

Of the **social deixis**, *Mr* is the most used of the items in this category with 336 (26.71%) instances of the 1258 total usage of the item. Both *Excellency* and *minister* had the same usage (232, 18.44 %) of the 1258 times. They are followed by *president* with (202, 16.06 %). The UK used the elements (473, 37.60 %) times which is the most used of the elements followed by Nigeria that used the element (276, 21.94 %) instances. Jamaica used the elements with (319, 25.36%) and Canada with (190, 15.10 %) instances.

The research questions to the study are discussed below:

(1) **Are there (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials?** Based on the data of the four countries online newspaper editorials studied, there are 12193 instances of English deixis in the four countries newspaper editorials corpus.

(2) **What are the types of the (English) deixis in the Canadian, Jamaican, Nigerian and the UK newspaper editorials?** The five major traditional types of deixis previously identified by Fillmore (1966), Levinson (1983) and other scholars who have studied deixis. These are: person, place, time, discourse and social deixis. These basic classifications are also identified in the four countries newspaper editorial corpus as used differently by the newspaper editorials.

(3) **Can the functions of the (English) deixis be determined in the newspaper editorials?** The use deictic elements are not used haphazardly in the editorials. They perform specific functions in the discourse. The functions they perform include:

a) used to show affinity and bridge the social gap between the speaker and the addressee. These function is exemplified in the following sentences:

23. To which <u>we</u> say, "yeah, whatever", as long as the city eventually gets to what …(Toronto Sun, January 12, 2017)

24. As <u>we</u> enter into a new year, our leaders must learn to stay with viable, credible economic policies that are guaranteed to yield beneficial results (The Guardian, Nigeria, 01 January 2017).

According to Zhang, Wu, & Feng (2013, p. 1869) "the deictic centre shifts from the addresser himself to the whole group of people, so as to achieve empathy and to show affinity and social relationship". In 23 and 24, that first and second language situations, respectively, the papers embrace the use of the first person plural, we, to associate themselves with the general citizenry of their respective countries. This is done to show empathy as well as create a social relationship between the speakers (news organisations –*Toronto Sun* and *The Guardian*, and the addressees – their readers, Canadians and Nigerians.

25. However, long before now many Nigerians did little else aside from sitting on their hands and waiting on oil. <u>We</u> neither grew enough food for ourselves nor did … (The Guardian, Nigeria, 01 January 2017).

The *we* in 25, is the "we-exclusive-of-addressee and is an anti-pre-emptive usage, to shorten psychological distance … to show closeness, love or care" (Zhang, 2013, p. 306). The paper associates with the ordinary Nigerian and portrays itself, the newspaper organisation as one that cares and shares the pains and joy of the average person in the country and the political and geographical entity, Nigeria even when it is obvious that the addressees are not part of the *we*.

The first person singular I on the other hand does not function in this manner. Zhang, Wu, & Feng enphasise that it "intends to emphasize the addresser's existence as an individual" (2013, p. 1869).

26. "I'm here for Syria. I'm going to kill everybody," the woman reportedly screamed. "I want to kill all you white people. I'm from ISIS. I'm from Syria," she allegedly told shocked onlookers (*Toronto Sun*, June 07, 2017).

Compared to 27 we see clearly that the first person, singular pronoun *I* and the plural *we* perform different functions in discourse as identity markers.

27. "These are children that we are dealing with. I can't send officers to go in the gully along with these men. These men are quite dangerous," Detective Inspector Claudette Hepburn. "Also, we don't want it to be said that the police are using

In 27 we see how the individual entity (personality) of the Detective Inspector Claudette Hepburn *I* is emphasised while the inclusive *we* talks about the police force.

 b) Person deixis could also be used as a anaphoric reference to make reference back to an ongoing discuss

28. A recent report from Canada's finance department on long-term financial projections was released just two days before Christmas, when hardly anyone would notice it (. *Toronto Sun*, January 06, 2017)

it in this instance is an anaphora to the recent report of the long-term financial projections. Thus apart of the naming of participants roles in discourse, the person deixis is also used anaphorically to perform reference function in discourse.

 c) To shorten psychological distance

29. We need mature and responsible political leadership to deal with it effectively (Toronto Sun, January 04, 2017 04).

30. … followed by Green and White Papers on the proposed reforms, allowing for a full discussion, involving "stakeholders", on the future of the NIS. We are still waiting (The Gleaner, February 14, 2017).

We in the 29 includes the news organisation *Toronto Sun* and this embraces the whole citizenship of the country (Canadians generally) in dealing with the issue at hand. In the same vein too, we in 30 is all-inclusive of the speaker, the news organisation (*The Gleaner*) and every Jamaican.

In British royal tradition, <u>we</u> is used to indicate the class of the speakers as royals do not address themselves in the singular but plural. This means the person deixis could be used to show inclusiveness and shorten psychological distance or could be used to emphasis class.

d) As mentioned earlier, deixis also reference as well as refer to time, place and character of discourse

31. Instead, she launched into a rant against incoming U.S. President, Donald Trump, vilifying Trump over a campaign incident where he arguably mocked a disabled reporter from The New York Times … (Toronto Sun, January 09, 2017)

32. Neither over the next three months when she will act as the police chief, nor later on when … (The Gleaner, January 3, 2017)

33. … hardly claim to abide by these sociological stereotypes, when nearby residents complained to the police about the noise … (The Gleaner, May 16, 2017)

34. the Senate report came out the day after U.S. President Donald Trump walked back his past statements … (Toronto Sun, April 17, 2017)

In terms of variation, there are no variation of use of the deictic markers in all the four countries sampled through their newspaper editorials as they all use the same expression to portray the same thing. For example, the use of the expression, "… this newspaper/country/nation etc." is the same in the four countries. This shows that as far as the place deixis is concerned, there might not be any variation in the usage based on the language situation. This is also noted in the area of time and discourse deixis. The use of the person, in the person deixis as exemplified by the personal pronouns in the corpus could also be interpreted to mean that the different countries use the English language naturally as competent users, irrespective of the language situation as they all use the personal pronouns for general purpose functions as highlighted by Levinson (2006) that they are "general-purpose referring expressions – there is nothing intrinsically anaphoric about them, and they can be used deictically … or non-deictically but exophorically, when the situation or discourse context makes it clear…" (p. 119) In this area too, there are no variations.

The prominence of a particular lexical item in a country's editorial over others could be explained as the system in operation of the affected country. For example, in the corpus, the use of prime minister is common in the editorials from Canada, Jamaica, and the UK while it was absent in the Nigerian editorials. In the same vein, the use of the lexical unit, president, takes pride of place in Nigeria while it was used 9 times only in the three-month editorial corpus from Jamaica.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that all the countries use deixis for different purposes in discourse. As could be seen in the ample use of the lexical elements. In all, 54 deictic markers were used 12193 instances in the three-month editorials corpus. That is not saying that is all the deixis that exist in the corpus but the ones the study focused on. The study therefore concludes that the four countries sampled used the English deixis in the same way without any noticeable variation.

Based on the data from the study, deixis exists in the corpus of the country editorials as they are identified and classified – 54 instances of deictic markers from the five traditional types of deixis. At the same time, using simple statistics, we can conclude that all the countries irrespective of language situations used deixis, though it could be argued that they do not use them at the same frequency – of the 12193 instances Canada, 17.18%, Jamaica, 20.32%, Nigeria, 31.69%, and the UK, 30.80%.

The implication of this to this study is that the users of English in the second language situation, where English operates and competes with other language and cultures are not deficient in the use of the language as they use it in the way the first language users do. Also that deixis is a discourse marker in English that is used in both spoken and written media of communication. At the same time, it can be said to be no register specific as it is used in a formal use of language as the editorials.

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