

Exploring Deixis in John Steinbeck's "The pearl" according to Verschueren's model of Deixis: A pragmatic- stylistic Study of Part I*

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Abstract

In all languages, the reference of many words and expressions depends entirely upon the situational context of the utterance, and can only be understood in the light of these circumstances. This linguistic phenomenon is called deixis. The present study is an application of Verschueren's model of deixis to Steinbeck's "The pearl". This model is based on five types of deixis: Personal Deixis, Spatial Deixis, Temporal Deixis, Discourse Deixis and Social Deixis. The literary work that is used for analysis is the first part of John Steinbeck's "The Pearl".

The study consists of two sections; theoretical section and practical section. The theoretical part of the study contains several sections concerning deixis and the adopted model. As far as the practical part is concerned, the researcher will analyse the first part of the novella, "The pearl" which is composed of two chapters.

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1- Theoretical Part

This section begins by discussing the concept of deixis. Then, different definitions of deixis are given by various scholars. Lastly, the section discusses deixis according to Verschueren's model.

1-1-The Concept of Deixis

The term deixis is invented by the Austrian psychologist, Karl Buhler in 1934. This term then was studied and elaborated by various scholars. Scholars seem to be in agreement that the term deixis is a Greek word which means "pointing" or "indicating". Also they state that deixis is a linguistic phenomenon that is totally dependent on the relationship between language and context.

Jiyane (1997 : 6) clarifies that the Austrian psychologist, Karl Buhler is regarded as the first person who initiates the research of deixis in 1934 in his classical work, *Sprachtheorie: Die Darstellungsfunktion der Sprache*. Buhler presents a new form of reference for the analysis of the so called 'demonstrative pronouns' and the 'demonstrative adverbs'. He invents the terms 'deixis' and 'deictic' to show the grammatical linguistic characteristics of demonstrative pronouns and demonstrative adverbs. His studies are regarded fundamental to the field of deixis. They have been expanded and refined by various scholars such as Fillmore (1971), Lyons (1977), Livenson (1983), Verschueren (1999) and

others.

Grenoble, (1998: 4) states that deixis is a universal feature of human language that its interpretation relies on context. But Lyons (1981: 170) sees that deixis is broader and narrower than reference. He shows that Reference can be either deictic or non-deictic; and deixis does not necessarily involve reference. For example, the referent in the following example (1) cannot be identified except when the person is in the context

1-That man over there.

Lyons (1977: 636) shows that the term deixis

"...is now used in linguistics to refer to the function of personal and demonstrative pronouns, of tense and of a variety of other grammatical and lexical features which relate utterances to the spatiotemporal co-ordinates of the act of utterance."

He adds that deixis comes from a Greek word which means "pointing" or "indicating" (Lyons, 1977: 636).

Levinson (1983: 54) agrees with Lyons (1977: 636) that deixis is a Greek word for pointing or indicating and is considered as the most obvious and direct linguistic reflection of the relationship between language and context. He (1983: 54) then explains that:

"... deixis concerns the ways in which languages encode or grammaticalize features of the context of utterance or speech event, and thus also concerns ways in which the interpretation of utterances depends on the analysis of that context of utterance. Thus the pronoun 'this' does not name or refer to any particular entity on all occasions of use; rather it is a variable or place-holder for some particular entity given by the context (e.g. by a gesture)."

Verschueren (1999: 18) shows that the concept of deixis refers to one of the most important phenomena that cannot be disregarded by the scientific consideration of language use, that is "anchoring" of language in real world, which is achieved by "pointing". The pointers that are used to establish this phenomenon are called "indexical". These are essentially involved in four dimensions: time, space, society and discourse. Mey (2001: 54) defines indexicals as expressions that are pragmatically determined because they depend for their reference on the person who uses them. He comments on the meaning of these expressions as follows:

"Indexicals expressions are pragmatically determined, that is, they depend for their reference on the person who uses them. The chief linguistic means of expressing an indexical relationship are called deictic elements; we can think of such expressions as 'pointers', telling us where to look for the particular item that is referred to. But if we do not know who is pointing, using an indexical expression, our system of coordinates will be hanging in mid-air. Since all 'indexing' or 'pointing' is done by human beings, and therefore all pointing expressions have to be related to the uttering person, pointing in a particular place and at a particular time..."

It is stated before that deixis is reference that depends entirely upon the situational context of the utterance (Fromkin et. al. 2003: 218). So reference is

defined by Yule (2010) as an act by which a speaker (or writer) uses language to enable a listener (or reader) to identify something" (P. 130).

1-2-Deixis in terms of Verschueren's Model

This section is devoted to explain deixis according to **Verschueren's Model**. Verschueren proposes five categories of deixis. These categories are Person Deixis, Spatial Deixis, Temporal Deixis, Discourse Deixis and Social Deixis (Verschueren, 1999: 18-21).

1-2-1- Person Deixis

Person deixis is a type of deixis which can be operated by the English pronoun system. This system includes the person system pronoun which includes the first person pronouns, second person pronouns and third person pronouns with the number categories of singular and plural that are associated with them (Saleh, et.al. 2014).

First person pronouns such as (**I, we, us, me, mine, our, ours and my**) are used as deictic expressions. The following example contains one of these pronouns:

2-we went down to come. Up by bus, and back by hydrofoil.

The first person pronouns **we** in the above example is used as deictic expression which reflects person deixis because we need context to know to whom and to what it is used to refer to (Verschueren, 1999: 17-20; Saleh, et.al. 2014).

Second person pronouns such as (**you, your and yours**) work as deictic expressions to operate person deixis. The following examples contain second person pronouns such as (**you, your and your**) that are considered as deictic expressions:

3-It is your role now.

(Verschueren, 1999: 17-20).

The other groups of person pronouns which are used as deictic expressions are the third person pronouns such as (**he, she, It, him, her, his, they, them and their**), See (**he and them**) in the example below:

4-" He lighted a candle and came to them where they crouched in a corner..."
(TP, P. 61) (Verschueren, 1999: 17-20)

1-2-2- Spatial Deixis

This type of deixis concerns space and movement with respect to the position of the speaker. This is achieved by demonstratives such as (**this, that, these and those**), adverbs of place like (**here, there and anywhere**) and some motion verbs like (go and come) (Verschueren, 1999: 19; Al-Thamery, 2007: 28; Locastro, 2012: 25).

Demonstratives pronouns and adverbs of place in the following examples operate as place deictic expressions:

5-"This land was waterless..." (TP, P. 73)

6-"Kino lifted the flesh, and there it lay, the great pearl, perfect as the moon."
(TP, P. 19)

7-"They will be here by evening," said Kino. (TP, P. 77)

The demonstrative pronoun (**this**) in the example (5) and the place adverb (**there** and **here**) in (6-7) are used as place deictic expressions. They are regarded as

deictic since their meanings are context dependent and also we don't know to which place they refer (Verschueren, 1999: 17-20; Hasan 2010; Saleh, et.al. 2014).

Finally some motion verbs like (**go** and **come**) can be used as deictic expression. These are illustrated in the following examples:

8-"Go to get the doctor." (TP, P. 7)

9-"Then, if I can escape them, I will come to you." (TP, P. 74)

The verbs (**go** and **come**) in the previous sentences (8-9) are used as place deictic markers. The verb (**go**) means motion away from the location of the speaker, whereas the verb (**come**) means toward the location of the speaker (Verschueren, 1999: 19).

1-2-3- Temporal Deixis

Temporal deixis is deixis relative to the time of utterance. This type of deixis can be realized by adverbs such as (**now, soon, recently, today, tomorrow, yesterday, then**, etc...), complex time adverbials like (last Monday, next month, next year, this afternoon, these days, etc...) and the category of tense (Verschueren, 1999: 18; Birner, 2013: 118).

Adverbs of time (**now, soon, tomorrow, yesterday, then**) work as temporal deictic expressions, since we do not know the specific time in which they refer. See the following examples:

10-"And now a wave of shame went over the whole procession." (TP, P. 11)

11-"Tomorrow I will sell it and then I will pay you." (TP, P. 34)

Furthermore, Levinson (1983: 75) shows that there are other complex time adverbials which can be used as time deictics. These deictics are mentioned before and the following examples will illustrate more about them:

12-I did not go home *that evening*.

13-We prepare for the party in *these days*.

The italicized time adverbials in the previous examples (12-13) are regarded as time deictic as they are context dependent meaning (Saleh, et al. 2014).

In addition to adverbs, temporal deixis can be reflected by tenses. Tenses are grammatical devices which indicate past, present and future times. They are regarded as time deictic expressions since past, present and future times are defined by reference to the time of utterance (Hurford et. al, 2007: 68).

The following examples are cited in Saleh, et.al. (2014). They have time deictics reflected by present, past and future tenses:

14- He played football yesterday.

15- He is playing football now.

16- He will play football tomorrow.

Tenses in examples (14-16) reflect temporal deixis as they refer to moments of time. The past tense in example (14) refers to the moment of the playing before the time of speaking, whereas the present tense in (15) shows the time of the playing in the present time of speaking. The last example (16) is in the future time and its point of reference is in the future after the time of speaking.

2-2-4- Discourse Deixis

Discourse or text deixis is concerned with the use of certain expressions

within some utterances to refer to earlier, simultaneous or following discourse (Verschueren, 1999: 21). Locastro (2003: 72-73) as cited in Hussein (2013) shows that this type of deixis includes linguistic forms which are used by the writer to refer to the other parts of the discourse, such as (**in the last paragraph, in the next chapter, this chapter, first, then, next, finally**, etc...). Cohen as quoted in Locastro (2012:27) provides the following extract as having examples of discourse deictic expressions:

"This chapter will first define speech acts and provide a brief overview of how this field of discourse has been applied to second language acquisition (SLA). Next, research methodologies used in studying speech acts will be examined, and selected empirical studies that have appeared in recent years will be considered. Finally, the available studies on the teaching of speech act behavior to nonnative speakers will be reviewed, and the pedagogical implications of the findings to date will be described."

The underlined words (**this chapter, next** and **finally**) act as deictic discourse expressions, whereby the writer can show the reader the order of information presented in the textbook.

Furthermore, Levinson (1983:87) adds that discourse deixis includes certain words and phrases which are utterance initial usages such as (**but, therefore, in conclusion, to the contrary, still, however, anyway, well, besides, actually, all in all, so** and **after all**). These expressions seem to indicate to the utterances in which they aren't immediately preceding but to one or more steps back. The following examples are used to show discourse deixis:

17- "But Juana had the baby in her arms now." (TP, P. 5)

18- "Well, let us see your pearl." (TP, P. 45)

The expressions (**but** and **well**) in the utterances (17-18) are deictic discourse expressions because they depend on the recovery of a piece of previous discourse to be understood.

Verschueren(1999:21;Curse(2000:323) see that demonstratives like (this and that) which are spatial deictics can be used as discourse deictic expressions (DDE). They are illustrated in the following examples:

19-Listen to this, it will kill you!

20-That was not a very nice thing to say.

The demonstrative (**this**) is used as discourse deictic expression to point to the future discourse elements, while the demonstrative (**that**) points to past discourse elements.

2-2-5-Social Deixis

Levinson (2006: 119) states that:

"Social deixis involves the marking of social relationships in linguistic expressions, with direct or oblique reference to the social status or role of participants in the speech event."

The devices that are used to reflect this type of deixis are called social deictics. Social deictics are defined by Curse (2006: 166) as expressions whose function is to indicate the position of the referent on the scales of social status and intimacy relative to the speaker.

Verschueren (1999: 21) ; Carson (2001: 55) show that the most typical examples of these social deictics are the choices in many languages between formal and informal second person forms of address such as (tu and vous) in French, (du and Sie) in German, (jij and U) in Dutch, (tú and Usted) in Spanish. Other examples are the systems of 'honorifics' which are found in English and other languages. These systems include expressions such as (**Miss, Ms, Your Majesty, Mr, Sir, Mrs, Your Honor, Dr., Lady, Lord**, etc...) to show higher status. The following examples are from Al-Azzawi (2011) that reflect social deixis by certain social deictics which are used to refer to some social characteristics of the referents or the persons addressed:

21-Mr. President

22-Your Honor

Green (1992: 25) mentions that social deixis is not as clear in English as in other languages. He sees that it occurs, particularly in older English with the archaic second person pronoun form such as (**thee, thy, thou**, etc...). The following example contains old form of the second person pronoun such as (**thou**) which is used as social deictic expression to show high status:

23-"It has come to me that *thou* hast found a great fortune, a great pearl." (TP, P. 27)

In brief, Verschueren's Model of Deixis is shown in the following figure:

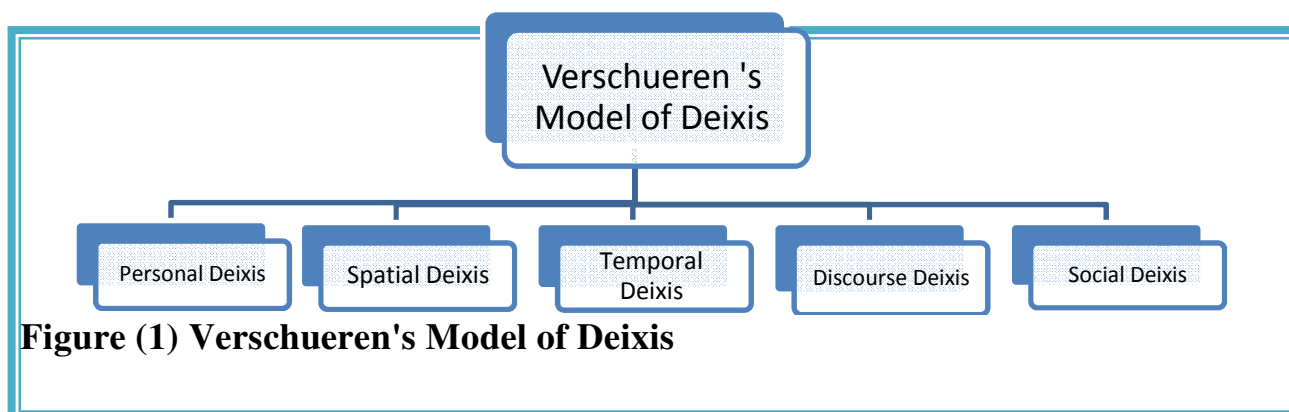


Figure (1) Verschueren's Model of Deixis

2- Practical Part

2-1- Introduction to John Steinbeck's "The pearl"

John Ernst Steinbeck is born in Salinas, California on February 27, 1902. Throughout his childhood, Steinbeck spends much of his summer in the family cottage at **Pacific Grove** or at his uncle **Tom Hamilton's** ranch near King City. Steinbeck is regarded as one of the greatest storytellers of the twentieth century. His wonderful novellas ***The Pearl, Cannery Row, The Red Pony, and Of Mice and Men***. Steinbeck's characters are not the rich men and women of California, but are the homeless, the migrant workers, the poor fishermen and the farmers. On October 25 he hears on television that he has won the **Nobel Prize** for Literature (Railsback and J. Meyer 2006: P. 50-58).

The Pearl is a novella that is written by John Ernst Steinbeck. This novella is about a poor Mexican fisherman, Kino and his wife, Juana and his child, Coyotito. When a scorpion stings Coyotito, his parents take him to the doctor that refuses to

treat him since they have not money. The doctor's refusing to treat Coyotito leads Kino to go to the sea to dive and found the pearls. Kino finds a pearl and Coyotito becomes more comfortably. The people begin to come to Kino's home to see the pearl.

However, Juana fears that the pearl is evil and will bring grief for them. The priest and the doctor come to see the pearl. Kino begins to fear, hides the pearl, prepares his knife, and stabs a man that attempts to steal the pearl. the next morning Kino, his wife and Coyotito go with the villagers to sell the pearl. when Kino shows the pearl to the dealers, they tell him that it is not pearl but it is like fool's gold. Kino knows that they want to cheat him and take his pearl. He takes his pearl and returns to his village. Kino decides to travel to the capital to sell the pearl. Juana fears the evil of the pearl and tries to throw it away but Kino follows her and beats her. As Kino walks away from Juana, he kills a man who attempts to steal the pearl.

Kino after killing a man leaves his village. He, Juana and Coyotito travel to the capital at night. They are followed by the trackers that they want to take the pearl. The family escapes into the mountains to lose them but the trackers come near them. Coyotito cries and this make one of the trackers to shoot towards him and kills him. Kino and Juana return to their village and go to the sea and throw the pearl into the water.

2-2- The analysis

The reseacher will analyse the first part of John Steinbeck's "The pearl" (TP). This part is composed of two chapters. The central incident of this part is the scorpion's stinging Coyotito which results in the need to find a pearl with which to pay for a doctor's treatment. Also the discovery of the pearl takes place in this part.

2-3- Occurrence of Prescribed Categories of Deixis according to Verschueren's Model:

Following Verschueren's Model of Deixis, the researcher finds that there are (106) deictic expressions which are used in Part I of Steinbeck's The pearl. It is found that there are (42) Personal Deixis, (31) Temporal Deixis, (22) Spatial Deixis, (10) Discourse Deixis, and (1) Social Deixis (see Table (1) and Figure (2).

Types of Deixis in Part I of TP

No.	Types of Deixis	Occurrences	Percentages
1	Personal Deixis	42	39.62%
2	Temporal Dexis	31	29.24%
3	Spatial Deixis	22	20.75%
4	Discourse Deixis	10	9.43%
5	Social Deixis	1	0.95%
Total		106	100%

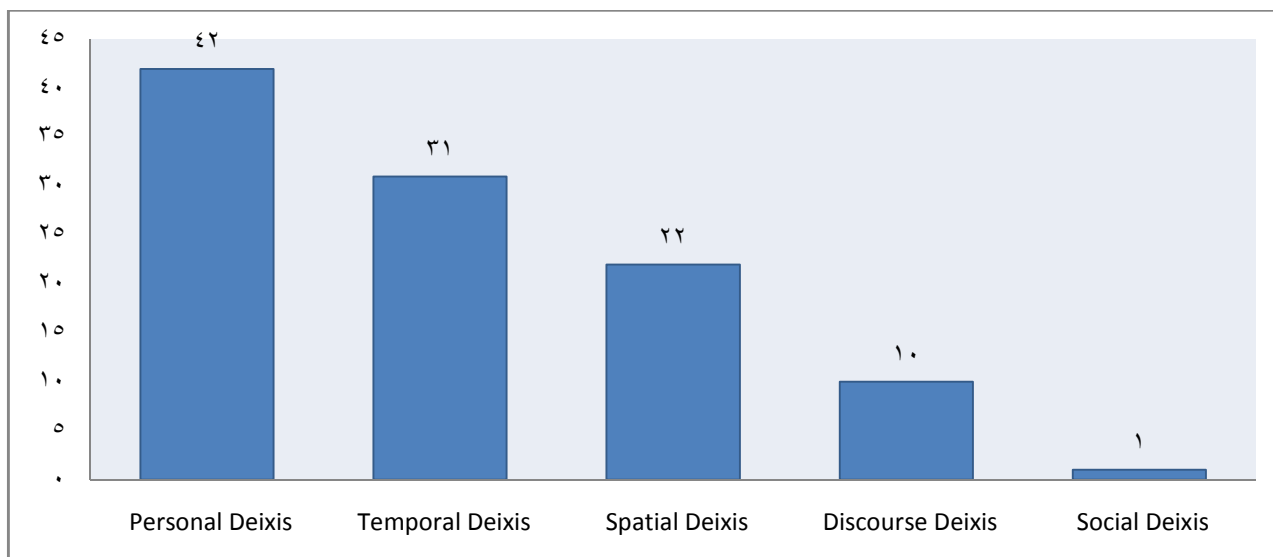


Figure (2) Types of Deixis in Part I of TP

2-3-1- Personal Deixis

According to Verschueren's Model of Deixis, there are (42) **Personal Deixis** which are used in "The Pearl". These are 36 occurrences of the third person pronouns (85.71%), 12 of (he) (28.57%), 11 of (it) (26.19%), 4 of (his) (9.52%), 3 of (her) (7.14%), 2 of (they) (4.76%), 2 of (him) (4.76%), 1 of (she) (2.38%) and 1 of (their) (2.38%). The other Personal Deixis are 6 occurrences of the first person pronouns (14.28%), 5 of (I) (11.90%) and 1 of (we) (2.38%).

For illustration, Consider certain instances taken from Part I of the novel under analysis.

24-"It is a little Indian with a baby. He says a scorpion stung it." (TP, P. 11)

The pronoun **he** refers to **Kino**

25-She put her hand on Coyotito's covered head. "Open it," she said softly." (TP, P. 19)

The pronoun **It** refers to **the oyster**

26-"Has he any money?" the doctor demanded. "No, they never have any money." (TP, P. 11)

The pronoun **they** refers to **Kino and Juana**

27-"But Juana's eyes were on him and she could not wait." (TP, P. 19)

The pronoun **him** refers to **Kino**

It can be noticed that all the pronouns and their referents are stated in Table (2) and the occurrence and percentage of each personal deixis are in Table (3)

Table (2) Pronouns and their Referents in part I of TP

No	Pronouns	Referents
1	He (11)	Kino
2	He (1)	The servant
3	It (10)	Scorpion
4	It	Oyster
5	I (5)	The doctor

6	His (4)	Kino
7	Her (3)	Juana
8	Him	The doctor
9	Him	Kino
10	They (2)	Kino and Juana
11	Their	Kino and Juana
12	We	Kino and Juana
13	She	Juana

2-3-2- Spatial Deixis

The analysis of the text shows that there are 22 Spatial Deixis. These spatial deixis are verbs and demonstrative pronouns. Spatial deixis can be expressed in the following instances taken from Part I of the novel under analysis.

28-"The doctor has gone out," he said. "He was called to a serious case." (TP, P. 11)

Gone is a verb of motion that indicates movement a way from the speaker.

29-"Juana came near to stare at it in his hand,..." (TP, P. 11)

Came is a verb of motion that indicates movement towards a place.

30-"And all of these people knew about the scorpion." (TP, P. 7)

These indicates the proximity of the referents.

31-"The people in the door pushed against those behind to let her through." (TP, P. 8)

Those indicates the distance of the referents.

2-3-3- Temporal Deixis

Certain deictic expressions of time are found in the text under investigation. They are adverbs of time such as (**now** and **then**) and categories of tense like (**present tense** and **past tense**). Consider the following instances taken from Part I of the novel under investigation:

32-"He requires the skill of the healer." (TP, P. 10)

The present tense is used to indicate present time reference.

33-"He was called to a serious case." (TP, P. 11)

the past tense is used to indicate past time reference.

34-"Now Kino got up and wrapped his blanket about his head and nose and shoulders." (TP, P. 2)

The adverb **now** is used to refer to the present time.

35-"Then we will go to him" (TP, P. 7)

Then indicates a succession of events.

3-3-4- Discourse Deixis

The analysis of the first part of the novel shows that there are discourse deictic expressions. These are (**but**, **that** and **first**), as in the following examples:

36- "But Kino beat and stamped the enemy until it was only a fragment and a moist place in the dirt." (TP, P. 5)

The expression **but** is used as discourse deictic expression since it needs to recover

some previous discourses.

37-"That was the only breakfast he had ever known outside of feast days and one incredible fiesta on cookies that had nearly killed him." (TP, P. 4)

The example above contains discourse deictic expression which is the demonstrative pronoun **that**. In this example **that** points or refers to past discourse.

38-"An adult might be very ill from the sting, but a baby could easily die from the poison. First, they knew, would come swelling and fever and tightened throat..." (TP, P. 7)

The example above contains deictic discourse expression. This is the word **first**. It is used by the narrator to refer to the other discourse. So the word **first** is used as discourse deictic expression that is used to introduce a discourse.

2-3-5- Social Deixis

The analysis of the text shows that there is an expression which is used to show the social status of some referent in the novel. An example from the data analysed will be mentioned next:

39-"Yes, Patron," said the servant." (TP, P. 11)

The above example contains social deictic expression. It is the word **patron**. Such a word is used to show the social status of the referent. So the word **patron** refers to a person who has a high social status in the society. Also this word is used by some ordinary people as we see how it is used by the servant to address his master.

Conclusions

1-It is found out that Personal Deixis, Temporal Deixis and Spatial Deixis are the principal categories as they are found in all parts with a high amount depending on the major aspects of the texts.

2- The tense that is used in the novel is mostly the present tense. One may assume that the novel's intention is to show a general point of time and not for the time when it is written.

3- Personal deictic expressions are used a lot in the novel. These expressions can be reflected by using third and first person pronouns. Most of the pronouns that are used in the novel are third person pronouns. This can be justified that the novel is narrated in a third person narrator in most of the events.

4- As far as the second person pronouns are concerned like (**you, your and yours**), they are not used deictically in the novel but anaphorically and for generic reference.

5- Plural pronouns like (they, we, us, etc...) are used more than singular in the novel since the author always talks in plural form when he describes the actions and peoples in the town.

6- Concerning the use of spatial deictic expressions, it seems to be lower than temporal and personal deictic expressions.

7- Discourse deixis is also a major category, but does not function greatly in the novel. The little use of this type of deixis can be justified by the fact that there are a lot of conversations and dialogues which are uttered by the characters not by the writer as discourse deixis is involved.

8-The least use of deictic expressions in the analysed novel is the use of social deictic expressions. This use clarifies that the theme of the novel is to discuss the life of ordinary people.

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الخلاصة

في كل اللغات تعتمد إشارة العديد من الكلمات و العبارات على السياق الموقعي للكلام ، ويمكن فقط أن يفهم على ضوء هذه الظروف . هذه الظاهرة تدعى (Deixis) . أن الدراسة الحالية هي تطبيق أنموذج فيسكيرن للإشارات (Verschueren's modal of Deixis) لدراسة الأعمال الأدبية ، وكما يعتمد هذا الأنموذج على خمسة أنواع من الإشارات : الإشارات الشخصية (Personal deixis)، الإشارات المكانية (Spatial deixis) ، الإشارات الزمنية (Temporal deixis)، الإشارات الخطابية (Discourse deixis)، الإشارات الاجتماعية (Social deixis) . إن هذا العمل الأدبي الذي اختير للتحليل هو الجزء الأول من رواية اللؤلؤة للكاتب جون ستاينبك (John Steinbeck's The Pearl) .

تتكون الدراسة من جزئين هما الجزء النظري و الجزء العملي . يحتوي الجزء النظري على عدد من الأجزاء حول الإشارات و الأنموذج الذي اختير للتحليل . أما فيما يتعلق في الجزء العملي من الدراسة فأن الباحث سوف يحلل الجزء الأول من الرواية و الذي يتألف من فصلين هما الفصل الأول و الثاني.