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## PRAGMATIZATION OF SPATIAL DEIXIS IN MULTIMODAL SPOKEN DISCOURSE

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**Abstract.** Adopting the framework of multimodal discourse analysis, the study explores the pragmatization of spatial deixis in first-person perspective utterances in monologues. It aims to reveal the possible discourse construal patterns, which contribute to enhancing the pragmatic potential of spatial deixis. Following the postulates of cognitive, linguistic, and gestural approaches to spatial deixis, the study develops a multi-dimensional framework encompassing ontological, functional, and multimodal dimensions of spatial deixis pragmatization. It further identifies their pragmatic effects in the collected corpus (111 minutes long comprising 725 clauses in the first-person perspective and 1959 cases of co-speech gesture) featuring 147 clauses with spatial deixis and 259 cases of co-speech gesture use. In ontological dimension, the deictic markers expressing the coordinate ‘here’ display high potential for pragmatization since they more frequently construe farther space. In functional dimension, pragmatization is less common with a quarter of deictic markers being pragmatized. Meanwhile, in multimodal dimension, pragmatic gestures are used far more frequently than deictic or representational gestures with spatial deixis markers, which evidences of high pragmatic potential of multimodal spatial construal. The results show that pragmatization is both multi-dimensional and scaled; additionally, each of the three dimensions contributes differently to enhancing spatial deixis pragmaticity in multimodal discourse. The study paves the way for an integrated cognitive, linguistic, and multimodal view of pragmaticity in discourse, which helps scale the pragmaticity effects in different discourse types.

**Keywords:** spatial deixis, pragmatization, deictic coordinate, multimodal discourse, spoken monologue, gesture.

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## ПРАГМАТИКАЛИЗАЦИЯ ПРОСТРАНСТВЕННОГО ДЕЙКСИСА В ПОЛИМОДАЛЬНОМ УСТНОМ ДИСКУРСЕ

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**Аннотация.** С применением методологии полимодального анализа дискурса исследуются возможности прагматикализации пространственного дейксиса в монологических высказываниях от первого лица. Цель работы заключается в установлении особенностей конструирования пространственной информации в полимодальном дискурсе, свидетельствующих о прагматикализации дейктических слов. С опорой на положения когнитивных, лингвистических и жестовых концепций пространственного дейксиса разрабатывается комплексный методологический подход, в рамках которого факт прагматикализации дейктических слов определяется в онтологическом, функциональном и полимодальном измерениях. Материалом анализа является записанный полимодальный корпус (общей продолжительностью 111 минут, включающий 725 клауз с маркерами первого лица и 1959 случаев использования жестов с ними), содержащий 147 высказываний с дейктическими маркерами пространственного дейксиса и 259 случаев использования жестов с ними. В онтологическом измерении дейктические маркеры, реализующие координату «здесь», демонстрируют большой прагматический потенциал, проявляющийся в конструировании отдаленного пространства или пространства вне коммуникации более, чем в половине случаев. В функциональном измерении прагматикализация, проявляющаяся в функционировании дейктиков как прагматических слов, обнаружена в четверти случаев. В то же время в полимодальном измерении степень прагматикализации пространственного дейксиса наиболее высокая, что проявляется в значительном преобладании прагматических жестов над дейктическими и репрезентирующими. Результаты показывают, что прагматикализация происходит в разных измерениях конструирования информации и подвергается шкалированию; при этом каждое из трех измерений имеет разные возможности в ее стимулировании. Исследование вносит вклад в разработку методов комплексной — когнитивной, лингвистической и полимодальной — оценки прагматического потенциала дискурса с применением процедур шкалирования этого потенциала в разных типах дискурса.

**Ключевые слова:** пространственный дейксис, прагматикализация, дейктическая координата, полимодальный дискурс, устный монолог, жест.

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## Introduction

This study addresses the problem of identifying the pragmatic potential of spatial deixis in multimodal spoken discourse. While multiple studies explore its pragmaticity expressed in language [1–4], in spatial construal as a cognitive operation [5, 6], in co-speech gesturing<sup>1</sup> [7, 8], these dimensions have not been integrated within a multimodal discourse research to contrast their pragmatic potential. Consequently, this study aims to establish a multimodal discourse framework for exploring the pragmaticity in spatial deixis and to establish the extent of its performance in first-person perspective spoken discourse. We hypothesize that the dimensions of spatial deixis pragmaticity contribute to its overall pragmatic potential to a different extent. To validate this hypothesis, we appeal to a collected corpus of multimodal (speech and co-speech gestures) behavior, in which the speakers report on their creative experience and shape their opinion on creativity; therefore, their discourse is highly personalized and highly pragmatized.

The work is structured as follows. In Theoretical Framework section, we relate the major postulates of different approaches to spatial deixis pragmaticity, which serve to develop their integral view in the research framework. In Methods and Procedure section, we present the multimodal experiment design and describe the research procedure. In Results and Discussion section, the deictic markers and co-speech gestures distribution and alignment patterns are shown, which allows to contrast the effects of three dimensions, ontological, functional, and multimodal in enhancing spatial deixis pragmaticity in discourse.

## Theoretical Framework

Spatial deixis has been explored as a semiotic, cognitive, linguistic, and multimodal phenomenon. In semiotics, it is addressed within the framework of deictic categories of the deictic centre (zero-point, origo) being the speaker ('I'), place ('here'), time ('now'). In attribution to language, deixis is related via "Ego-oriented" markers [9, p. 382]; the Ego-center serves to construe the coordinates 'I', 'here', 'now' in space and time, which display variance appearing in three dimensions, which are 'I – here – now' // 'you – next to you – at present' // 'he – there – then'. Further linguistic studies of these coordinates appeal to their functional view [10–12]. For instance, Baranov et al. [13] and Shiffrin [14] address the deictic markers in terms of their functions in discourse, while Apresyan [11] distinguishes their functions as related to the construal of time and discourse space. It is notable that the key interest of contemporary discourse studies of deixis in language lies within their functioning as pragmatic markers [1–3, 10, 12, 15, 16]. Bogdanova-Beglarian et al. [1] distinguish several groups of discourse markers, which can develop non-spatial meanings in discourse. These are A – marker-approximators, G – boundary markers including starting, final, and navigational markers, D – deictic markers, Z – replacement markers referring to some whole set or its part, R – rhythm-forming markers, H – hesitation markers. For instance, four possible functions are attributed to the deictic marker *этом* ("vot"); it can serve as a boundary marker, a deictic marker within expressions given in transliteration like "vot etot vot" (this very one), "vot takoj vot" (sort of), a rhythm-forming marker and a hesitation marker [1, p. 435]. It is notable that in [16], pragmaticity (alongside with grammaticalization and idiomatization) is explored as a scale, where higher degree of pragmaticity (e.g., of a pronoun *самый*, "samyj" (the most)) was identified if it lost its semantic meaning but conserved its grammatical forms, and the highest in case it lost both its semantic meaning and grammatical variance in form. Sokolova, Feschenko [3] address the deictic markers in their pragmatic meanings alongside with other pragmatic units, implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts, performatives, propositions. In [4], pragmatization of discourse markers is found as displayed in pragmatic regularity ("pragmatically

<sup>1</sup> Bressem J., Müller C., A repertoire of German recurrent gestures with pragmatic functions, *Body – Language – Communication: An international Handbook on Multimodality in Human Interaction*, Vol. 2., ed. by C. Müller, A. Cienki, E. Fricke, S.H. Ladewig, D. McNeill, J. Bressem, De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin, München, Boston, 2014, pp. 1575–1592. DOI: 10.1515/9783110302028.1575; Ladewig S.H., *Recurrent Gestures: Cultural, Individual, and Linguistic Dimensions of Meaning-Making*, *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, ed. by A. Cienki, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2024, pp. 32–55. DOI: 10.1017/9781108638869.003



obligatory meanings”) and loss of semantic meaning (“semantic bleaching”), which supports the views expressed in [16] on pragmaticity scales.

Further pragmatic explorations of deictic categories ‘here’ and ‘there’ in cognitive linguistics (and cognitive poetics) allowed to reveal the cognitive operations underlying spatial deixis and the types of construed space; additionally, they led to the extension of deictic markers typology since deixis has ceased to be restricted to a specific language unit but is viewed within a cognitive framework of indexicality. Stockwell [5] proposes the idea of cognitive deixis (encompassing perceptual, spatial, temporal, relational, textual, compositional types), which helps frame knowledge in discourse. He introduces the notion of a deictic projection as a capacity “to shift our viewpoint to see things as others do or as characters in literature would” [5, p. 43]. Spatial deixis, in his view, is projecting the deictic center so as to construe the location of the speaker. Stockwell extends the list of spatial deictic expressions, which includes spatial adverbs *here/there*, *nearby/far away*, and locatives *in the valley*, *out of Africa*, demonstratives *this/that*, verbs of motion *come/go*, *bring/take*. The focus on spatial construal typology is found the works of Levinson [6, 17]. For instance, Levinson [17] differentiates between egocentric and allocentric space, where the first is centered around Ego, the speaker, and the second (further differentiated into object-centered and absolute) assumes that a speaker positions himself in relation to objects. In his later study [6], two types of space, restricted and not to the communicative situation with its present and absent situation participants, object, acts. Pragmaticity in spatial construal therefore appears in viewpoint shifts in the construal of the communicative situation. Grishina [18], Iriskhanova et al. [8], Kiose [19] extended this framework of spatial construal to multimodal studies and experimentally proved that pragmaticity in spatial construal mediated the use of deictic markers in speech and co-speech gestures.

In gesture studies, both formal and functional gesture classifications identify a specific gesture type with pointing form and movement characteristics (index finger pointing, pointing with the whole hand or a thumb; directed pointing)<sup>2</sup> [8, 18, 20]. Indexical or deictic gestures are one of major gesture groups alongside with iconic or representational gestures, pragmatic gestures and adaptors (e.g.,<sup>3</sup> [21, 22]). Their classifications identify deictic (pointing) gestures as prototypically pointing at an object in communication (cf. the earlier studies of deictic gestures [18, 21, 23, 24]. In<sup>4</sup>, deictic gestures are described as being used to point at both concrete and abstract object location. Meanwhile, Leonteva [25] showed that in dialogical communication, pointing gestures (a subtype of deictic gestures) can serve for contact-establishing, intensification, and evaluation, apart from mere pointing at an object. Taking this view further, we can presume that deictic gestures can also be pragmatized similarly to deictic markers. Therefore, pragmatization in multimodal discourse can appear in two directions: this can be the pragmatization of deictic markers and deictic gestures. In this paper, we adhere to the first approach and explore the discourse pragmaticity of speech deixis, which can occur both in one mode (speech) and multimodally (e.g., in speech and gesture).

Overall, discourse pragmaticity of speech spatial deixis is seen as a cognitive phenomenon of attributing pragmatic meaning to speech units, which is expressed in the ontological spatial construal, the functional construal in speech, and the multimodal construal in speech and gesture. Therefore, we adhere to the scaled view of discourse pragmaticity [4, 16]; meanwhile, we presume that it can appear in several dimensions to a different extent. Fig. 1 shows the methodological decision developed to explore discourse pragmaticity of speech deixis in multimodal discourse.

<sup>2</sup> Bressem J., Müller C., A repertoire of German recurrent gestures with pragmatic functions, *Body – Language – Communication: An international Handbook on Multimodality in Human Interaction*, Vol. 2., ed. by C. Müller, A. Cienki, E. Fricke, S.H. Ladewig, D. McNeill, J. Bressem, De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin, München, Boston, 2014, pp. 1575–1592. DOI: 10.1515/9783110302028.1575; Ladewig S.H., *Recurrent Gestures: Cultural, Individual, and Linguistic Dimensions of Meaning-Making*, *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, ed. by A. Cienki, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2024, pp. 32–55. DOI: 10.1017/9781108638869.003; Cienki A., *Ten Lectures on Spoken Language and Gesture from the Perspective of Cognitive Linguistics: Issues of Dynamicity and Multimodality*, Brill, Leiden, Boston, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Cienki A., *Ten Lectures on Spoken Language and Gesture from the Perspective of Cognitive Linguistics: Issues of Dynamicity and Multimodality*, Brill, Leiden, Boston, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

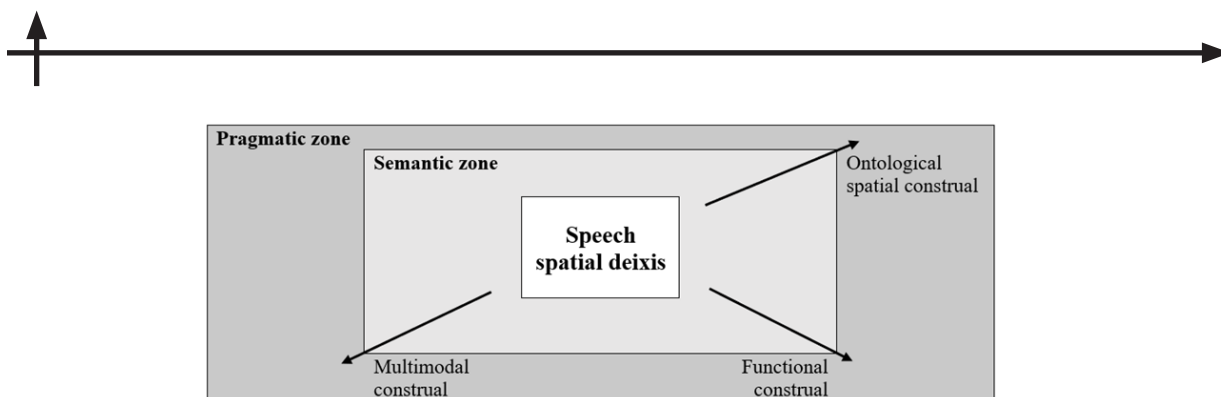


Fig. 1. Pragmatization dimensions of speech deixis in multimodal discourse

Following this multi-dimensional framework, we presume that pragmatization can appear in: 1) ontological spatial construal, which will be found in the use of deictic words marking close space (coordinate ‘here’) for the construal of farther space, and vice versa; 2) functional construal when deictic markers cease to fulfil their indexical function and start to act as nominals performing iconic function or as discourse markers performing symbolic function; 3) multimodal construal found in case other than deictic gesture types are used to co-occur with spatial deictic markers. Adopting this framework, this study aims to identify the extent of speech spatial deixis pragmaticity in each of the three dimensions in the first-person perspective monologue, which is highly reflexive or metapragmatic [26]. As shown in [27], the two spatial deictic coordinates ‘here’ and ‘there’ display pragmaticity in spontaneous dialogue, where ‘here’ is often used to construe farther space and ‘there’ (although far more seldom) – close space. Presumably, in first-person perspective monologue, the pragmatic effects exposed in these coordinates will be even higher.

### Methods and Procedure

To explore the effects of discourse pragmaticity as a multimodal phenomenon expressed in speech as in co-speech gesture, we use the data from a recorded corpus, where the participants, 20 young people (average age 20), answered a series of questions on their creative experience, their view on creativity as a capability, creative jobs. In the experiment, the interviewer posited the questions to the participants; their speech and manual gesture behavior were videorecorded; next, the speech was automatically transcribed using WhisperTool and the gestures were annotated by a group of 10 coders. The total duration of the collected corpus was 111 minutes long, each interview duration varied from 2:04 to 12:14 minutes. The speech was segmented into clauses, or elementary discourse units (EDUs); only the EDUs containing direct reference to the speakers’ viewpoint expressed in first-person singular personal pronoun *Я*, e.g., in *я бы хотела продолжить этим заниматься* (I would like to carry on doing this), verbs in first-person singular, e.g., *но уже чувствую какой-то творческий вайб в этой работе* (however, I already feel some creative vibe in this work), first-person singular possessive pronouns, e.g., in *и вот недавно у меня появилась просто внезапная идея связать лисичку* (and all of a sudden an idea came to me to knit a toy-fox). Overall, 725 cases of first-person perspective utterances were subjected to analysis, which contained 1959 cases of co-speech gesture use.

At Step 1, within this corpus, we selected the EDUs with the spatial deictic markers, which included the words: i) *этот / эта / эти* used both as pronouns and nominals, e.g., in *я уже настолько привыкла ко всей этой движухе* (I have already got used to all this move) and *я сделаю под это что-то стоящее* (I will do for this something worthy); ii) *тот / та / те*, e.g., *и в тот момент я подумал* (and at that moment I had an idea); iii) *тут / там / вот / вон / здесь*, e.g., in *вот этот порыв у меня как раз и был* (I had this very flash of emotion); iv) *это* as either a deictic word or as a linking word within a copular clause, which in spoken language cannot be unmistakably identified, e.g., in *ну для меня наверное креативность это* (эта? этот?) *вот конкретно* (конкретный? конкретная?)





возможность что-то такое прям новое делать (well probably for me creativity is a definite chance to do something really new).

Next, we identified the type of spatial construal in these EDUs and the function – indexical, iconic, or symbolic (discourse) – which the deictic words preformed in these EDUs. It is notable that deictic markers can occasionally act as multifunctional and to decide in favor of either function is difficult. For instance, in EDU *вот наверно вот по поводу изюминки тоже добавлю* (probably about the gist I must also add) the first *вот* is more likely functioning as a discourse marker since it is followed by *вероятно* (probably), which is accentuated. The second *вот* in all probability acts as a deictic word since the word *изюминки* (the gist) is articulated. We additionally presume that the use of co-speech gesture can serve to distinguish their functions.

At Step 2, within the corpus of EDUs including deictic markers, we identified the co-speech gestures synchronized with these words. Meanwhile, it is notable that gestures more commonly occur not with single words but with meaningful speech segments commonly accentuated; therefore, we considered the accent distribution in EDU and developed the following regulations for identifying the multimodal unit of analysis. Co-speech gestures were explored as aligned with the nominal or verbal groups including deictic words if the post-position nominal or verbal component immediately following it was accentuated, e.g., *вот его тяга* (this very inclination of his) in *и меня как-то вдохновила вот его тяга к искусству* (and I was impressed with this very inclination of his towards art) and *я пошла* (went) in *и вот после этого я пошла к родителям* (and after this I went to see my parents). In case the first accentuated component appeared not in immediate post-position, we addressed the EDU fragment including this accentuated component, e.g., in *и вот у меня бывают периоды* (and I meet with different periods) the nominal component *периоды* (periods) is the first accentuated word after *вот*; therefore, the fragment *вот у меня бывают периоды* is explored as aligned with gesture use. However, if the deictic word was accentuated, which often occurred when it acted as a nominal, the unit of analysis was restricted to this very word, e.g., in *этим* (something, conditionally) in *я прям этим так наполняюсь* (this is something I am full with).

To annotate the co-speech manual gestures within these units of analysis, we used the functional classification of gestures developed in [7, 8, 20]. To proceed, we identified four gesture groups with their differentiation: 1) deictic gestures further classified as pointing, touching, directing; 2) representational gestures as holding, molding, enacting, embodying, enlining; 3) pragmatic gestures as discourse structuring, discourse representational, emphatic, contact-establishing, evaluative, negation, word search; 4) adaptors as self-adaptors, object-adaptors. Fig. 1 shows an example of annotation carried in ELAN software (Fig. 2).

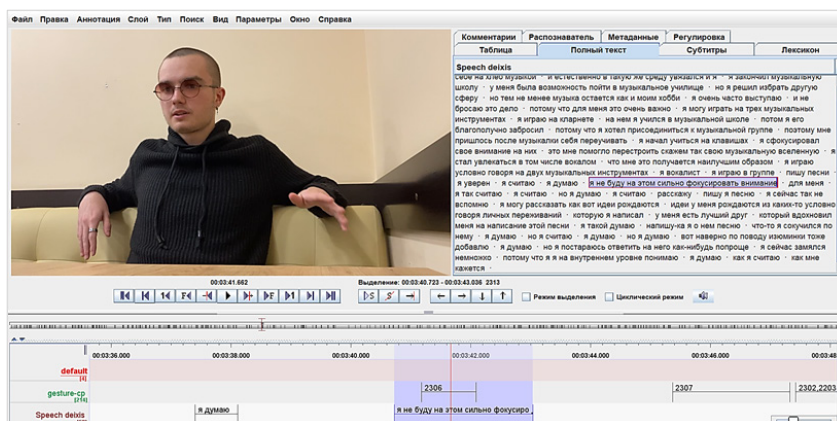


Fig. 2. ELAN annotation of co-speech gesture used with *этом* (this) in *я не буду на этом сильно фокусироваться* (I will not focus on this)



The speaker uses a pragmatic gesture of negation (coded 2306) while pronouncing *этом* (this), which is accentuated. Therefore, the pragmatic gesture both focalizes the object of reference (his thought or idea which is inferred from the prior clause *я думаю* (I think)) and the speaker's attitude towards this object. *Это* (this) can relate to some idea; in this case, we can treat it as occurring at the moment of speech, like in *я этого очень сильно боюсь* (I am much afraid of this), whereas in multiple cases, *это* is clearly embodied in some object or action, which cannot appear at the moment of speech at the place of speech, e.g., in *А для меня, наверное, креативность – это вот когда как раз-таки человек делает действительно что-то новое* (Creativity for me probably is when a man does something really new), or in *это приносит мне удовольствие* (this brings me pleasure).

At Step 3, we obtained the data on speech and co-speech gesture distribution within the units of analysis and identified their alignment in enhancing pragmaticity appearing in: 1) ontological spatial construal; 2) functional construal in speech; 3) multimodal construal.

## Results and Discussion

In this Section, we first present the results describing spatial deixis pragmaticity exposed in ontological and functional dimensions via the distribution of deictic markers in speech, next we address its multimodal dimension via the distribution of gestures and their alignment patterns with deictic markers.

In the compiled subcorpus of 725 EDUs with first-person perspective, we identified 147 EDUs with one or two (rarely three) deictic words, which expressed two deictic coordinates 'here' and 'there'. These were used within nominal or verbal groups to construe two types of space, close and farther space. Within these groups, the deictic markers acted as either deictic pronouns, nominal substitutes, or discourse markers, thus fulfilling indexical, iconic and symbolic (discursive) function. In Table 1, we show the distribution of two deictic coordinates, 'here' and 'there', expressing: 1) two types of spatial construal, close space (the objects are present in the communicative situation of the interview) and farther space (the construed objects are absent from the communicative situation of the interview); 2) three functions, indexical (where the deictic word acts as a deictic pronoun), iconic (where the deictic word acts as a nominal or names a place or direction by means of a deictic adverb), 'symbolic', or discursive (where the deictic word serves as a pragmatic discourse marker).

**Table 1. Distribution of deictic coordinates exposing ontological and functional dimensions**

Deictic coordinates	Frequency, Abs	Types of space		Types of functions		
		Close space	Farther space	Indexical	Iconic	Symbolic (discursive)
Here	132	54	78	29	86	33
There	15	1	14	4	3	8

As seen, the deictic coordinate 'here' predominates, while in a larger number of clauses, it construes the farther space. For instance, in *что я этим попробовала заняться* (that I tried taking it up), the deictic nominal *этим* (this) relates to a hobby the participant tried to do; while neither of its manifestation nor the act of its use is present in the construed communicative situation, where a speaker and an interviewer are at the studio. In *я не буду на этом сильно фокусировать внимание* (I will not focus my attention on this), *этом* (this) refers to some idea expressed in the communicative situation, additionally, the act expressed in *фокусировать* (focusing) also manifests the action, which is performed by the speaker and is oriented onto the interview or another potential listener; therefore, in this case, close space is construed. Overall, the data show that discourse pragmatization of the coordinate 'here' is very common; it occurs more often than its non-pragmatic use, which agrees



with the results obtained in [8, 27]. Meanwhile, its frequent pragmatization also serves to claim that its pragmatic functioning has become conventional. The deictic coordinate ‘there’ is used to construe farther space, which consequently means that it is not pragmatized in spoken discourse at least of the considered type. It is notable although that its occasional possible uses to construe close space will possess high pragmatic potential due to their unconventionality. The revealed differences evidence of the efficacy of the distinction of two types of spatial construal proposed by Levinson [6, 17] as a cognitive benchmark for assessing pragmatic effects.

Addressing the distribution of the ways of pointing at the referent, we observe that the coordinate ‘here’ most frequently acts as iconic, which both points at the referent and substitutes it, for instance, in *потому что мне это как-то помогает* (therefore this helps me somehow), or *и мне это так в голову билось* (and this gave strong pangs into my head). More than twice less frequent is its use as discourse marker, e.g., in *вот наверно вот по поводу изюминки тоже добавлю* (probably concerning the specific point I must also add), where the first *вот* serves as a boundary marker to start or more possible to navigate the discourse construal, or in *я тут не знаю* (I don’t know), where *тут* is used as a hesitation marker. A little less common is the use of this coordinate in indexical function, e.g., in *я как будто бы не выдержала этого испытания* (it seemed I failed this test), where *этого* (this) acting as a deictic pronoun, points at the referent, which is the test. Meanwhile, the coordinate ‘there’ in most cases serves as a discourse marker, e.g., in *я возвожу там китайскую стену* (I am building a Chinese wall), where *там* followed with a pause serves as a discourse marker of hesitation. Less frequent (however, this coordinate is used far less frequently) is its use as indexical, e.g., in *мне было в то время очень сложно* (that time was difficult for me), or iconic, e.g., in *я люблю пойти туда* (I like to go there). The results specify the frequency of pragmatic discourse markers in terms of their types [1, 2] in the considered discourse type. For instance, we observe that the spatial deictics in their discursive function more often act as boundary markers and markers of hesitation.

Overall, assessing the pragmatic potential of spatial deictic words in ontological and functional dimensions, we can claim that: 1) the deictic words expressing the coordinate ‘here’ are more frequently pragmatized in the spatial construal of referent as being absent from the situation of communication; additionally, they more commonly substitute for this referent and serve as discourse markers; 2) the deictic words expressing the coordinate ‘there’ are rarely if ever pragmatized in the spatial construal of referent as present in the situation of communication; additionally, they more commonly serve as discourse markers.

Next, we address the multimodal dimension of exploring deixis pragmaticity via the distribution of gestures. Out of 1959 cases of co-speech gesture use in the compiled corpus of first-perspective discourse, the units of analysis in 147 EDUs with deictic markers contained 259 cases. In Fig. 3, we present the overall distribution of all gestures with these 147 EDUs.

Fig. 3 shows that self-adaptors were highly frequent in the compiled subcorpus, meanwhile this is a feature of spontaneous communication<sup>5</sup> [8, 19]; therefore, the distribution of other three gesture groups will be addressed next. The frequency of deictic gestures can be overall found as low in contrast with pragmatic gestures, which means that even in case of using the deictic markers in speech, the participants were mostly engaged not in specifying the object of reference in space but identifying its location in discourse (using discourse representational gestures) or emphasizing its role in discourse (using emphatic gestures). Representational gestures were as infrequent as deictic ones; however, we noticed relatively higher frequency of holding and enacting gestures, which shows that the participants in their nonverbal behavior mostly appealed to palpable features of objects or their actions with them to construe them. Below, several examples of relatively frequent co-speech gestures are presented (Fig. 4).

<sup>5</sup> Cienki A., *Ten Lectures on Spoken Language and Gesture from the Perspective of Cognitive Linguistics: Issues of Dynamicity and Multimodality*, Brill, Leiden, Boston, 2017.



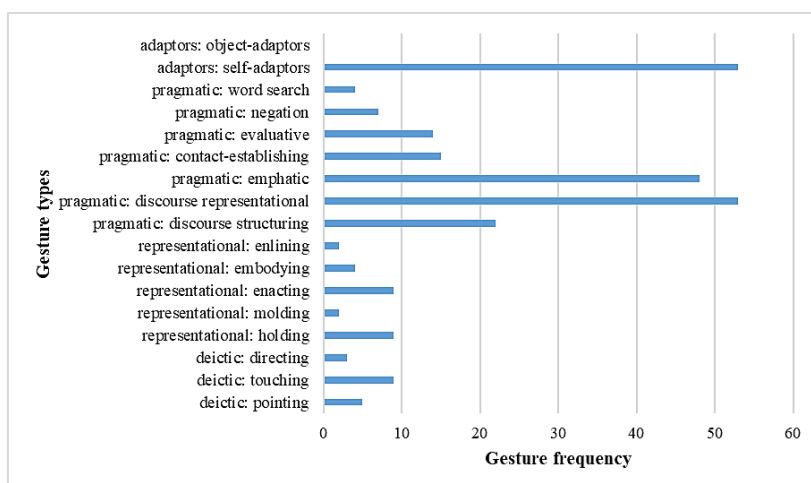


Fig. 3. Gestures distribution in the subcorpus of deictic markers in 147 EDUs



Fig. 4. *a* – Representational holding gesture with EDU *что я решил все эти формы отобразить в стихе*;  
*b* – Deictic touching and pragmatic emphatic gestures with EDU *я вдохновлен сделать именно это*;  
*c* – Multifunctional gesture with EDU *я буду это использовать потом в какой-нибудь игре*

In Fig. 4, *a*, while pronouncing *эти формы* (these forms) within the clause *что я решил все эти формы отобразить в стихе* (so that I decided to express all these forms as poems), the speaker uses the deictic word *эти* to point at *формы* (forms), therefore, *эти* is used as a deictic word in its indexical function. The unit of analysis *эти формы* (these forms) is aligned with a representational holding gesture. Fig. 4, *b* shows the speaker using EDU *я вдохновлен сделать именно это* with a deictic word *это* (it) in iconic function co-referent with the action expressing viewpoint and feelings expressed in prior context in the clause *Для меня творчество – это выражение собственной мысли, собственных чувств* (For me, creativity is expressing your viewpoint, your feelings). Two gestures co-occur with this word, which are a deictic touching gesture performed with the left hand and a pragmatic emphatic gesture performed with both hands. While presenting EDU *я буду это использовать потом в какой-нибудь игре* (I will use this later in some game), the speaker in Fig. 4, *c* employs the deictic word *это* (this) in its iconic function; it co-occurs with a multifunctional gesture which is deictic touching, representational holding and pragmatic discourse representational.

Next, we contrasted the gesture distribution within the first-person perspective corpus and the subcorpus of units of analysis with deictic markers (Fig. 5).

Student's *t*-test revealed the statistically significant difference in the distribution of gestures in the first-person perspective corpus and in the subcorpus of units of analysis with deictic markers, with

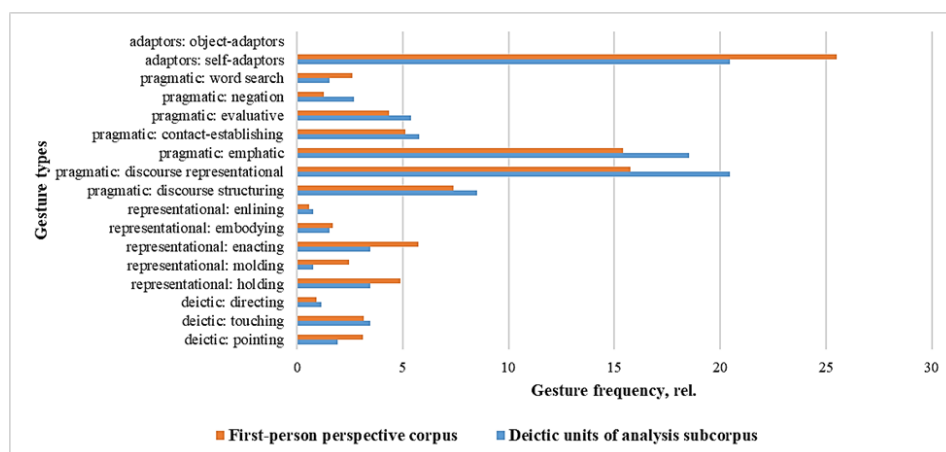


Fig. 5. Contrastive gestures distribution in the first-person perspective corpus in 725 EDUs and the subcorpus of units of analysis with deictic markers in 147 EDUs

$t(16) = -3.54$  at  $p = 0.003$ . Contrasting the distribution of adaptors, we noticed that their relative frequency is significantly higher in the first-person perspective corpus, which evidences that in using deixis in speech, the participants are less hesitant in forming their view even provided that a large number of deictic markers served as discourse markers not directly pointing at an object. Surprisingly although was that the number of deictic gestures was similar in the overall corpus and in the subcorpus of deictic units of analysis; pointing gestures were even more frequent in the corpus. A possible explanation is that deictic gestures were mostly used not for enhancing deixis in speech but for focalizing while not using deixis in speech, i.e., for deictically complementing non-deictic speech units. This observation seems important since it specifies the functioning of deictic gestures in discourse, since as shown in [25], they can perform other functions apart from pointing. The frequency of representational gestures in the subcorpus was also lower than in the overall corpus, which also evidences of their complementary function since the units of analysis within the subcorpus in all cases involved the nominals or the whole propositions and it was expected that we would have observed the higher use of representational gestures used with them, which did not occur. Meanwhile, we observed a marked increase in all pragmatic gestures, apart from word-search gestures, used with deictic units of analysis, which means that this was the pragmatization in nonverbal object construal, which complemented its pointing in speech. Below, we present several examples of nonverbal pragmatization of speech deixis (Fig. 6).

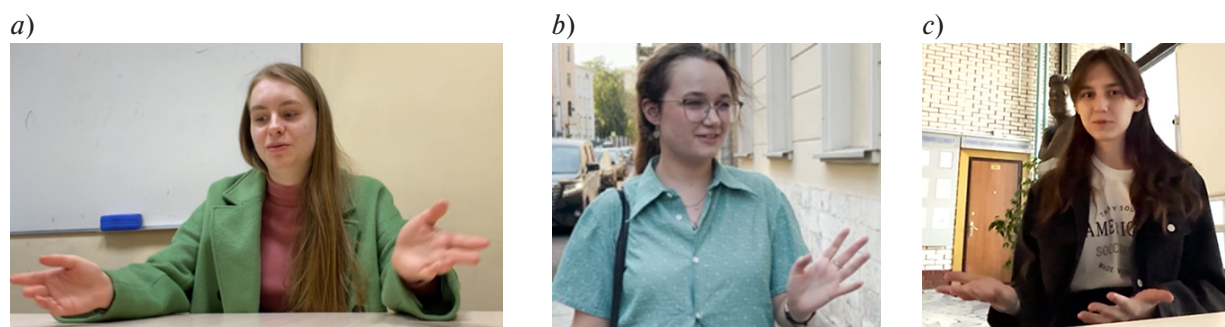


Fig. 6. *a* – Pragmatic emphatic gesture with EDU *я возвожу там китайскую стену*;

*b* – Pragmatic emphatic gesture with EDU *и теперь я об этом жалею*;

*c* – Pragmatic discourse structuring and contact-establishing gestures with EDU *я прям услышала вот одну группу*



In Fig. 6, *a*, while pronouncing *там китайскую стену* (there a Chinese wall) within the clause *Я возвожу там китайскую стену* (I am building a Chinese wall), the speaker uses a pragmatic emphatic gesture. *Там* (there) does not have a direct co-referent word in prior context *я считала, что это очень масштабное что-то* (I thought that this was something very big); therefore, the word *там* (there) does not indicate a location, it functions as displaying the meaning ‘something of the sort’ or as A – marker-approximator (sort of, like, etc.) [1]. Additional pragmatization of the deictic word with a clear pragmatic function is achieved with a pragmatic emphatic gesture. In Fig. 6, *b*, in pronouncing *и теперь я об этом жалею* (And now I regret this), the speaker uses a deictic word *этом* (this), its referent is expressed in the actionalized object of the music school’s leaving expressed in prior context in *я бросила музыкальную школу* (I left the music school). While using the deictic word, the speaker performs a co-occurring pragmatic emphatic gesture. Therefore, we observe the cross-modal pragmatization of speech deixis. In Fig. 6, *c*, in using *вот* as combining indexical and discursive functions, the speaker uses a co-occurrent pragmatic gesture, which is simultaneously discourse structuring (since it presents a discourse component, here in *одну группу* (one group)) and contact-establishing due to the interviewer directed movement of her right hand.

Next, we addressed the distribution of gestures with the discourse markers expressing two coordinates, ‘here’ and ‘there’. In the subcorpus, the units of analysis in 147 EDUs with deictic markers contained 259 cases of gesture use, which means that each unit of analysis was aligned on average with 1.76 cases of gesture use. Since the number of EDUs displaying the use of ‘there’ coordinate was 8.8 times smaller, the contrastive analysis of gesture distribution with markers of two deictic coordinates was not valid. Meanwhile, we can specify that the gesture use with ‘here’ coordinate was 11.95 times higher; bearing in mind the difference in the number of EDUs with two types of deictic markers, we can claim that gestures are more frequently used with deictic markers expressing ‘here’ coordinate, which conforms to the results received in [8, 18, 19] but specifies them in contrastive aspect.

Finally, we observed the distribution of gestures in the subcorpus with three functional types of deictic markers, expressing indexical, iconic, and symbolic (discursive) function; the obtained results (in ratio) are displayed in Fig. 7.

Non-parametric ANOVA test revealed significant difference in the gesture distribution, with  $F(2; 16) = 12.9$  at  $p = 0.02$ , which evidences that gesture use “differentiates” the functional types of deixis in speech. Considering each gesture type, we noticed that major differences were observed in the representational enacting gestures being more frequent with discourse markers, pragmatic discourse representational gestures more frequent with indexical markers, pragmatic evaluative and self-adaptor

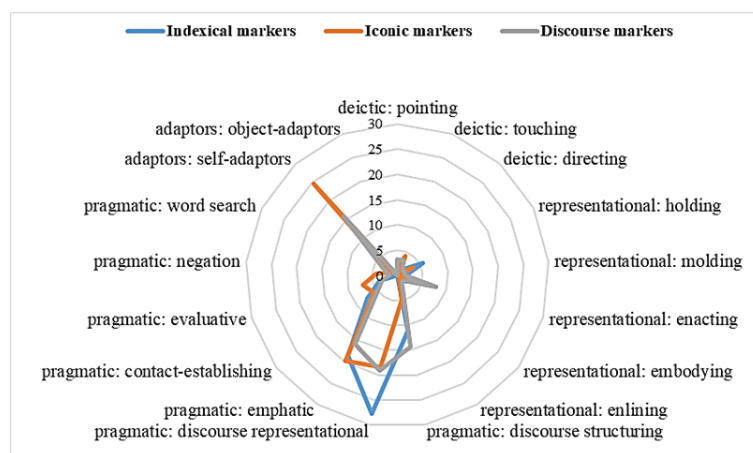


Fig. 7. Contrastive gestures distribution with deictic units of analysis in their indexical, iconic, and symbolic (discursive) functions



a)



b)

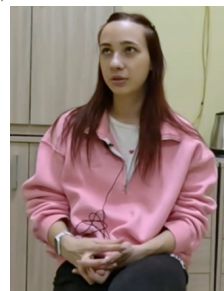


Fig. 8. *a* – Pragmatic discourse representational and emphatic gestures with EDU *и вот* *после этого я пошла к родителям*;  
*b* – Self-adaptor with EDU *и вот* *у меня бывают периоды*

gestures both more frequent with iconic markers. Additionally, some gestures appear less frequently with several deictic markers (not considering very infrequent gestures); these are pragmatic discourse structuring gestures infrequent with iconic markers, pragmatic emphatic and contact-establishing gestures infrequent with discourse markers. The results show that while using indexical markers, a speaker mostly represents the role of the object of reference in discourse; using iconic markers, he additionally forms a view of objects of reference and evaluates them in gesture; using discourse markers, a speaker focuses on enacting the situation with the object of reference. Importantly, the obtained results can help differentiate the functions of deictic words in spoken discourse, which is of a special interest in terms of differentiating between indexical and discursive functions [3, 4], of which Fig. 8 can serve an example.

In Fig. 8, *a*, the speaker produces a clause *и вот после этого я пошла к родителям* (*and after it I went to my parents*), where the word *вот* can potentially be a discursive marker (a hesitative [2]). While pronouncing *вот*, the speaker employs a pragmatic discourse representational and emphatic gestures, which can serve to pragmatize either the time (*после*, after), the event (*этого*, it), or the referred action (the participant's coming to see the parents). In the latter case, *вот* will act as discourse marker since it will be attributed to the conceptualized proposition. Meanwhile, in the present case, the accentuated word is *этого* (it), which represents the event of reference; in pronouncing it, the participant is still employing the same gestures; therefore, the word *вот* is used here in its deictic function. In Fig. 8, *b*, we observe a speaker using a self-adaptor as co-occurring with *вот* *у меня бывают периоды* (I have periods), where *периоды* (periods) is the first accentuated word in the clause; consequently, *вот* clearly serves as a boundary discourse marker.

Meanwhile, other meanings expressed in the units of analysis can be focalized in the gestures apart from the deictic meaning; for instance, the meaning of the noun in the post-position to the deictic word (Fig. 9).

In pronouncing *вот самовыражение* (self-expression), a component of EDU *то есть для меня это как такое вот самовыражение* (that is for me this is a sort of self-expression), the speaker employs *вот* as part of *такое вот* (sort of), which functions as a replacement marker [1]; therefore, it constitutes a component of a discourse marker. Importantly, it co-occurs with a representational embodiment gesture, which manifests iconically the process of the speaker's self-expressing, where the hands act as embodying the speaker's performance. It is notable that this gesture is attributed to the noun *самовыражение* (self-expression) while being started at the moment of the speaker's pronouncing *вот*; therefore, the stages of gesture performance could be additionally considered for exact identification of deictic words functions.





a)



b)



Fig. 9. Representational embodying gesture with EDU *то есть для меня это как такое вот самовыражение*

### Conclusion

The study aimed to explore the pragmatization of spatial deixis in multimodal discourse has shown that pragmatization is both multi-dimensional and scaled. Considered within three dimensions, ontological spatial construal, functional construal, and multimodal construal, the study showed that each of these dimensions as well as their integration contribute to enhancing the pragmaticity of spatial deixis in speech. Meanwhile, their role in the construal of first-person perspective discourse varies. Whereas in ontological construal, the deictic markers expressing the coordinate ‘here’ display higher potential for pragmatization and the construal of farther space (60% of deictic markers), the markers expressing the coordinate ‘there’ mostly serve the semantic needs of communication in the construal of farther space. In functional construal, only approximately 25% of all deictic markers are used as pragmatic markers, which shows that their indexical and iconic potential is rather high even in the observed discourse type. In multimodal dimension, we observed very infrequent use of deictic gestures aligned with spatial deictic markers in speech, while other gestures groups, mostly pragmatic are often found. These results evidence that co-speech gestures in this case perform a complementary function; notably, in 147 EDUs under analysis 163 pragmatic gestures aligned with deictic units were found, which means that multimodal pragmaticity is expressed to a relatively higher extent than ontological and functional.

Consequently, the study has several major contributions. First, it developed the methodological framework for exploring spatial deixis pragmaticity in discourse as a cognitive, functional, and multimodal phenomenon, appearing in three dimensions. This framework may serve to establish the extent of discourse pragmaticity in application to spatial deixis in different discourse types. Additionally, if extended to explore other speech categories, provided that their specific construal operations were considered, it can serve the same purpose. Second, the study allowed to identify the extent of pragmaticity in spatial deixis construal within these dimensions in first-person perspective discourse. Importantly, we found that the pragmatic potential of these dimensions varies considerably, which should be considered in planned discourse tasks. Third, the results evidence of a high pragmatic potential of gestures in attaining the discourse pragmaticity. This observation shows that this is the complementary function of gestures, which contributes to discourse pragmaticity and which can be explored further, and not the function of enhancing the meanings expressed in speech with the same gestural meanings. Additionally, the study paves the way for an alternative approach in exploring multimodal pragmaticity taking as an origo the speaker’s position expressed in gesture and searching for its “co-gestural” meanings expressed in speech semantics.





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