# ANALYSIS OF DEIXIS IN THE SPEECHES OF PAKISTANI POLITICIANS AT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Abstract**
*Deixis plays a crucial role in political discourse, particularly in speeches delivered at international forums like the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This study investigates the types of deixis employed in the speeches of Pakistani politicians— Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi—at UNGA and examines their contextual functions. By adopting a qualitative research approach, the study categorizes deixis into person, spatial, temporal, discourse, and social deixis, as outlined in Levinson's (1983) framework. The analysis explores how these deictic expressions serve rhetorical, persuasive, and ideological functions in the selected speeches, shaping the audience's perception of Pakistan's political stance and global positioning. Additionally, the study investigates how deixis contributes to the construction of national identity, diplomatic relations, and power dynamics within international discourse.*
*The findings reveal that deixis is strategically employed to establish solidarity, emphasize political commitments, and frame key global issues in alignment with Pakistan's interests. The study also highlights how shifts in deictic expressions reflect changes in political narratives, leadership styles, and diplomatic priorities over time. By examining the pragmatic implications of deixis, this research provides a nuanced understanding of how language influences international diplomacy and political persuasion. The study's findings contribute to the broader field of pragmatics and discourse analysis, offering valuable insights for scholars of political communication and linguistic pragmatics. This research underscores the significance of deictic expressions in shaping global perceptions and advancing diplomatic agendas through language.*

**Keywords:** Deixis, Political Discourse, Pakistani Politicians, United Nations General Assembly, Pragmatics, Diplomatic Communication.

Introduction

Language is one of the essential components of human social life because it keeps them connected. It allows us to interact with each other in different social scenarios. It means that through language, we interact each other. It is one of the key elements that set humans apart from animals. Language is important in accommodating communication from speaker to speaker so that communication can be understood smoothly (Parina & Caropeboka, 2022; Maulidya et al., 2021; Özcan & Doğan, 2018; Prosser & Sze, 2014). According to Zimman (2019), language is an arbitrary sound symbol humans use for collaboration, communication and self-identification. Currently, there are over 7,000 languages spoken worldwide (Klappenbach, 2023), each holding significance for its speakers. It is a normal occurrence for humans to use language for interacting with one another. This natural phenomenon can be used in written form as well as in spoken.

Language has important role for human beings to communicate with language, but they accidentally put themselves in a misunderstanding situation because of context issue (Ricca & Johan, 2021; Habib et al., 2024; Gul et al., 2023). Besides of using correct grammar form,

context interpreting is also the key to a good communication both in utterance and written forms. For that reason, language analysis is interesting and essential to be learned.

Linguistics, broadly defined, can be seen as a scientific discipline dedicated to examining language as its main focus of study (Oroujlou & Vahedi, 2011; De Koninck et al., 1989; Mariani & Ariaf, 2019 and Ishtiaq et al., 2022). Linguistics is a broad field divided into several branches, each focusing on different aspects of language. Phonetics studies the physical sounds of speech, while phonology examines their abstract, cognitive aspects. Morphology focuses on word structure and formation, and syntax explores sentence structure and word arrangement. Semantics delves into meaning. Sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society, and psycholinguistics investigates the psychological and neurobiological factors in language use. Historical linguistics studies language

evolution, and applied linguistics applies linguistic research to practical issues like language teaching and translation. Each branch offers a unique perspective on understanding human language.

Pragmatics is also a branch of linguistics. Yule (2014) opinioned that Pragmatics is a study of implied meaning in writing or speaking. In addition, Pragmatics is also relating the knowledge about a language such as vocabulary and patterns with the context used (Griffiths, 2006). Pragmatics is a field research inquiry, that studies the "meanings" conveyed by the speakers and writers and then interpreted by the listeners and readers as reported by (Mutiadi & Respati, 2019 and Sajjad, 2023). The study of pragmatics focuses on the context-dependent aspects of meaning(s) that is/are systematically disregarded when creating content or logical forms. The study and examination of language meaning in a specific context that is, the social context of language user is known as pragmatics (Rowe and Diane, 2016).

Deixis is a concept used to describe a word or phrase that allows language users to "point," refer to, or connect their speech to a specific moment, location, or other (Richards & Schmidt, 2013). The only clear method that language structures themselves represent the link between language and context is through deixis (Levinson, 1983). A process known as deixis occurs when language lexicalizes or gramaticalizes context- specific elements (Capone, 2007). There are five categories of deixis: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, social deixis, and discourse deixis which give birth to the pragmatic analysis.

**Statement of the Problem**

The study aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of deixis in the speeches of Pakistani politicians, with a specific focus on understanding how linguistic elements such as demonstrative pronouns, and other deictic expressions which include pronouns like "I," "you," and "here," as well as time adverbs like "now" and "tomorrow" are employed for rhetorical and persuasive purposes. Deixis plays a crucial role in political communication, as it enables speakers to establish connections with their audience, convey ideologies, and manipulate discourse. Despite the significance of deixis in political speeches, there is a dearth of research specifically examining its use within the context of Pakistani political discourse. This research addresses this gap by investigating the patterns and functions of deixis in the speeches of Pakistani politicians, contributing valuable insights to both linguistic and political communication studies. The findings are expected to enhance our understanding of the strategic deployment of language in political discourse and its impact on audience perceptions and political influence.

**Research Questions**

What types of deixis are used in the speeches of Pakistani Politicians at UNGA?
In which context deixis are used by the Pakistani Politicians in selected speeches at UNGA?

**Research Objectives**
To identify the types of deixis used in the speeches of Pakistani Politicians atUNGA.
To explore the context of deixis used in the selected speeches of PakistaniPoliticians at UNGA.

**Significance of the Study**
In an effort to increase researchers and student understanding of pragmatics and deixis as this study provides an in-depth analysis of these concepts. Additionally, the current study hopes to help the readers of languages especially students in comprehending deictic expressions found in a variety of texts, including legal, political, and literary texts. This study would also direct other researchers who are going to analyze deixis in future. This study is essential for gaining insights into the persuasive techniques used by the politicians to influence public opinion, shape narratives, and navigate complex socio- political landscapes (Ullah and Javed 2023). Moreover, the findings can have practical applications in political communication, media analysis, and languageeducation, fostering a better understanding of the dynamic interplay between language, power and knowledge in the Pakistani political context.

**Literature Review**
The literature on deixis in political discourse, particularly within international assemblies like the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), is diverse yet lacks focused research on Pakistani politicians. Deictic expressions are crucial for understanding the context in political speeches, providing insights into the speaker's intentions, spatial references, and temporal settings. While substantial research exists on general deixis and its application in various contexts, studies specifically addressing the types and contexts of deixis used by Pakistani politicians at the UNGA are scarce. Reviewing the existing literature highlights the need for more focused research on these aspects, contributing to a deeper understanding of how Pakistani politicians utilize deictic expressions to convey meaning and influence their audience in an international setting.

**Language**
The connection between humans and language is inseparable (Iyiola et al., 2024). Language acts as a crucial medium for communication, allowing individuals to express emotions, perspectives, and more in their everyday interactions. Without it, interpersonal communication and engagement would seem unattainable. It is not only a means for sharing information but also a tool for expressing identity, culture, and creativity. Through language, people construct and share their realities, shaping and interpreting the world around them. The relationship between language and communication is deeply interconnected, with both influencing and reinforcing one another in a continuous feedback loop (Baldwin et al., 2023). Language serves as a fundamental mechanism for global communication. As social beings, humans depend on language to express their thoughts and emotions in daily interactions, fostering mutual understanding. Pasaribu and Hutahaean (2020) highlight that language is a complex system essential for human life, facilitating socialization within cultural and societal contexts (Herman, 2014). According to Pasaribu et al. (2020), language operates as an intricate system of communication used by people (Sinaga et al., 2020; Hutabarat et al., 2020). Beyond its basic communicative functions, language enables individuals to express emotions and feelings (Astia, 2020). It provides a means for discussing a wide range of topics, sharing knowledge, and articulating ideas, beliefs, desires, gratitude, and promises (Herman, 2016). Anwari (2020) defines language as a system of conventional vocal signs

used by humans for communication, emphasizing its role in spoken and written forms, as well as in cognitive processes. By facilitating the sharing of information and the expression of needs, language remains an essential element of human existence. In summary, language is pivotal to communication, supporting interaction, expression, and socialization in human life.

Speech

Speech refers to the act of transmitting information or ideas through verbal communication in a broad sense. It occurs in both formal and informal settings, such as in the media, where it serves as a medium for expressing ideas, presenting arguments, or delivering persuasive messages. Prior to elections, numerous speeches are addressed to the public. Ueding (2005) defines a speech as a structured sequence of coherent speech acts, presented by an individual on a specific social occasion, with a distinct purpose and targeted at a particular audience. The characteristics of speeches, including their length and nature, vary depending on factors such as the occasion, subject, purpose, speaker, audience, presentation style, preparation level, and organizational structure. Speeches are often classified as "texts," which represent tangible manifestations of linguistic actions (Graefen, 1997). Although most speeches are initially prepared in written form, the verbal delivery may differ considerably from the written script. Spontaneous speeches are uncommon; even those delivered without notes generally rely on established speech patterns and pre-prepared elements stored in the speaker's memory. This scarcity of impromptu speeches is primarily attributed to the formal nature of most speech events, which are typically planned well in advance.

The speeches of prominent and influential figures serve as valuable sources of inspiration and information, capable of motivating and uplifting their audience. Strong and impactful speeches play a significant role in fostering positive mindsets. The general public gains insight into the speakers' influential ideas and philosophies through the language utilized in their speeches (Bunyarang & Prasongsook, 2022). Consequently, exceptional speeches illustrate the speakers' ability to harness language effectively to convey universal ideas, essential viewpoints, ideological beliefs, strategies, plans, agendas, and, most importantly, their aspirations and ambitions.

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context, particularly those aspects that are encoded in the structure of language. It encompasses both the context-dependent aspects of linguistic structure and the principles of usage and understanding that are not directly tied to linguistic form (Rüsch, 2020). Pragmatics enables individuals to derive meaning from the context of a speech situation, analyzing what speakers intend through their utterances and interpreting the meaning of words or phrases in those utterances. Subfields of pragmatics include deixis, speech acts, implicature, presupposition, politeness, and others (Huang, 2017). According to Dey (2023), pragmatics also examines the goals and intentions communicated by the speaker.

At its core, pragmatics focuses on understanding contextual meaning, emphasizing the effective use of language within communicative interactions. Levinson (1983) describes pragmatics as the study of language use, particularly the relationship between language and context, which is essential for interpreting meaning. Leech (1983) further explains that pragmatics involves deciphering how utterances gain meaning within specific contexts. In this field, meaning is defined relative to the speaker or language user (Pardede & Herman, 2020). Pragmatics covers various areas, including deixis and distance, references and inferences, presuppositions and diversions, cooperation and implicatures, speech acts, and politeness strategies. This study will concentrate specifically on the analysis of politeness strategies.

**Deixis**

To understand what others are communicating, it is essential to examine how humans use language in relation to their environment and social interactions. The phenomenon of deixis exemplifies the connection between language and situational context (Putri & Kurniawan, 2015). Deixis plays a vital role in communication by referring to the person or object being discussed (Afrilian, Rozelin, & Rahmi, 2019). It involves interpreting specific words or phrases within a context-dependent framework, requiring an understanding of the situation in which they occur. For example, the pronouns "I" and "you" are deictic expressions with no fixed reference, unlike words such as "window," "book," "home," and "hat," which retain consistent meanings regardless of the speaker, setting, or location.

Deixis refers to the use of language to locate individuals or objects in time, space, or discourse based on contextual information. The term originates from the Greek word "deixis," meaning "pointing." Halliday et al. (2014) identifies three key components of deixis: the speaker, the addressee, and the context. The speaker uses deixis to indicate the time and place of the speech act, as well as to refer to participants involved. Conversely, the addressee interprets the speaker's intended meaning by relying on the contextual clues provided. Deictic expressions include terms like "here," "there," "this," "that," "now," "then," "me," "you," and "therefore," all of which derive their meaning from the context in which they are used and lack an absolute definition.

Levinson (1983) explains that deixis examines how languages encode and interpret grammatical features of speech contexts or events. It also explores how understanding speech relies on analyzing the surrounding context. Yule (1996) further describes deixis as the mechanism through which the relationship between language and context is established. Deixis is one of the most fundamental aspects of language, often described as "pointing" within communication. Linguistic forms used to achieve this function are termed "deictic expressions."

**Stephen C. Levinson's Theory of Deixis (1983)**

Stephen C. Levinson's theory of deixis, presented in his influential 1983 book *Pragmatics*, provides a comprehensive and formal analysis of how language relates to context. Levinson situates deixis within the broader framework of indexicality, which refers to expressions whose meaning depends on the immediate context of an utterance. His theory builds on earlier work by linguists like John Lyons and Charles Fillmore but expands the scope of deixis to include its interaction with broader pragmatic principles, cross- linguistic diversity, and universality.

**Core Ideas of Levinson's Theory Definition of Deixis:**

Levinson defines deixis as the phenomenon where certain linguistic expressions (deictic expressions) derive their meaning from the context of utterance. These include words like "I," "you," "here," "there," "now," "then," and "this". Deixis links language to the physical, temporal, and social context, anchoring utterances in a specific communicative situation.

**Categories of Deixis:**

Deixis refers to the linguistic phenomenon where certain expressions derive their meaning relative to the context of the speaker. These expressions—known as deictic expressions—depend on factors such as who is speaking, where and when they are speaking, and the relationships between the participants in communication. Deixis is typically categorized into five primary types: person deixis, place deixis, time deixis, discourse deixis, and social deixis. Below is a detailed explanation of each category.

**Person Deixis**

**Definition**:
Person deixis refers to the grammatical encoding of participants in a speech event. It identifies the roles of the speaker, the addressee, and others not directly involved in the conversation.

**Examples:**
First person: "I," "we" (the speaker or speakers, including the speaker).
Second person: "You" (the addressee or addressees).
Third person: "He," "she," "they" (individuals not directly involved in the conversation).

**Place Deixis**
**Definition:**
Place deixis (or spatial deixis) refers to expressions that locate a point in space relative to the position of the speaker or listener.

**Examples:**
Proximal terms: "Here," "this" (close to the speaker).
Distal terms: "There," "that" (farther from the speaker).
Time Deixis

**Definition:**
Time deixis (or temporal deixis) refers to expressions that locate a point in time relative to the moment of speaking or writing.

**Examples:**
Present: "now," "today."
Past: "yesterday," "last year."
Future: "tomorrow," "next week."
Discourse Deixis

**Definition:**
Discourse deixis (or textual deixis) refers to expressions that point to parts of the discourse itself, such as earlier or forthcoming segments of text or speech.
**Examples:**
Backward reference: "As mentioned earlier," "the previous section."
Forward reference: "In the next chapter," "this point."
Social Deixis
**Definition:**
Social deixis refers to the expressions that encode social relationships or distinctions between the participants in communication.
**Examples:**

Honorifics: "Mr.," "Dr.," "Your Majesty."
Politeness levels: Formal vs. informal pronouns ("tu" vs. "vous" in French).
Strengths of Levinson's Theory
**Comprehensive Framework:**
Levinson integrates deixis into a formal and broad framework of indexicality, providing a detailed and structured understanding.

**Cross-Linguistic Insights:**

He highlights the diversity of deictic systems across languages, offering rich examples that demonstrate linguistic universals and cultural variation.

Integration with Pragmatics:

Levinson's connection of deixis to conversational implicature and other pragmatic principles makes his theory versatile and applicable to various linguistic phenomena.

Limitations of Levinson's Theory

**Theoretical Complexity:**

Levinson's framework is highly formal and may be less accessible to those new to the study of deixis or linguistics.

**Limited Cognitive Focus:**

While Levinson explores the pragmatic and linguistic aspects of deixis, he does not delve as deeply into the cognitive processes behind its interpretation as Fillmore does.

**Methodology**

The researcher is going to use qualitative method. Qualitative research involves evaluation methods that offer descriptive information through written or spoken words about observed individuals and their conduct (Polkinghorne, 2005 and Rahman, 2020). It aims to focus in a qualitative analysis of the different types of deixis used in the select speeches of five famous Pakistani politicians namely Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqaan Abbasi especially concerning 71th, 72th, 76th, and 77th sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**Research Design**

In this study the researcher will apply Qualitative method to analyze Deixis in speeches of Pakistani politicians. According to Strauss and Corbin (1990), any research lacking quantification or mathematical and statistical procedures is not considered quantitative. On the other hand, qualitative research entails the analysis and interpretation of text, observations, and interviews to uncover meaningful patterns descriptive of a specific phenomenon. The current study is qualitative in nature because the researcher have focused on speeches transcripts as the data sources and apply Levinson's model of Deixis (1983) to get how and which types of Deixis were used.

**Data Collection**

The textual data for this study will be collected from the speeches delivered by Pakistani political leaders, specifically available on the official website of the Prime Minister's Office at https://www.pmo.gov.pk/pm_speeches.php. This process involves comparing the written transcripts with the live recordings to ensure that the textual data precisely matches the spoken content. By doing so, any discrepancies or inaccuracies in the transcripts can be identified and corrected, ensuring the reliability of the data used for the study. This rigorous verification method is essential for maintaining the integrity and credibility of the research findings.

**Data Sampling**

The researcher analyzed the speeches of Pakistani political leaders delivered at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), focusing on a single speech from each leader. Specifically, the speeches to be analyzed are those given on September 21, 2016, by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; September 21, 2017, by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi; September 24, 2021, by Prime Minister Imran Khan; and September 23, 2022, by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The researcher used a purposive sampling technique to select these speeches. Purposeful sampling is a method commonly employed in qualitative research to identify and choose cases that provide rich and relevant information, optimizing the use of limited resources (Patton, 2002). This technique involves selecting individuals or groups who

possess significant knowledge or experience related to the specific phenomenon under study (Cresswell & Plano Clark, 2011).

The chosen speeches are recent and represent key moments in Pakistan's international diplomacy. Additionally, the selected political leaders were all elected through a formal election process, ensuring that the speeches reflect the views of democratically elected representatives of Pakistan. This selection criterion is essential for the study as it focuses on analyzing the use of deixis in the political discourse of modern Pakistani leaders within an international context. By focusing on these specific speeches, the researcher aims to gain insights into the broader use of deixis conveyed by Pakistan at the UNGA during these years.

**Data Analysis**

Once the researcher collected the data from the official website mentioned in the data collection then the next step is the analysis of the data. The researcher analyzed it by using the Levinson's model of Deixis (1983) which focuses on deictic expressions and its types. After finding the deictic expressions, the researcher critically evaluated the functions they performed.

**Theoretical Framework**

There are various theoretical frameworks available in the field of deictic analysis. These frameworks offer diverse perspectives and methodologies for identifying, categorizing, and understanding deictic expressions in language. By applying these theories, educators and researchers can gain deeper insights into how language is used by individuals. Each framework provides unique tools and concepts that help in analyzing the context-dependent aspects of language, such as the roles of speakers and listeners, the spatial and temporal contexts, and the social relationships conveyed through deictic expressions. Through the application of these theories, one can achieve a comprehensive understanding of how deictics function to create meaning in communication.

However, in the current study the researcher has used the Stephen C. Levinson's Deixis Theory (1983) is a cornerstone of linguistic pragmatics, exploring how certain expressions are intrinsically linked to the context in which they are used. Deictic expressions, or indexicals, are words whose meanings depend on contextual factors like the identity of the speaker, the time and place of the utterance, and the relationship between participants.

**Levinson identifies five primary types of deixis:**

**Research Procedure**

The research procedure for the current studyconsists of several steps. First, the researcher collected speeches delivered by Pakistani political leaders, specifically from the official website of the Prime Minister's Office at https://www.pmo.gov.pk/pm_speeches.php. In the second step, these speeches were compared with the corresponding videos available on YouTube to improve accuracy. In the third step, the data was analyzed using Stephen C. Levinson's Deixis Theory (1983). In the fourth step, the results were presented in the results section. Finally, the research concluded with a summary and discussion of the findings.

**Analysis and Discussion**

Analysis of Deixis in Imran khan's speech at 76th session of UNGA.

Person Deixis

"I congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the 76th session of the General Assembly."

Analysis: Imran Khan uses first-person deixis ("I") to personally congratulate the President of the 76th General Assembly session. The second-person deixis ("you") directly addresses the President. This establishes a formal tone in the speech and acknowledges the role of the President in leading the assembly, reflecting the respect the speaker has for their leadership in navigating the complexities of global affairs.

Spatial Deixis "Help is needed there."

Analysis: In this statement, "there" refers to Afghanistan, where the ongoing humanitarian crisis is unfolding. Imran Khan emphasizes the geographical location of Afghanistan to highlight that help is urgently needed in that specific region. The use of spatial deixis underscores the critical situation in Afghanistan and calls for a coordinated international effort to address it.

**Temporal Deixis**

"After 9/11, Pakistan joined the US War on Terror and suffered immensely as a result."

Analysis: The phrase "After 9/11" situates Pakistan's entry into the War on Terror in a specific historical context. Imran Khan links this temporal marker to the immense losses Pakistan suffered, both economically and socially. This deictic reference frames Pakistan's involvement as a historical decision with long-term consequences for its stability and development.

**Discourse Deixis**

"This organized theft and illegal transfer of assets has profound consequences for the developing nations."

Analysis: The phrase "this organized theft" refers to illicit financial flows from developing countries, a topic previously introduced in the speech. Imran Khan uses this discourse deixis to focus the audience's attention on the harm caused by economic injustices, emphasizing the need for international action to address these structural issues.

**Social Deixis**

"The General Assembly must take steps meaningfully to address this deeply disturbing, and morally repugnant, situation."

Analysis: The title "The General Assembly" emphasizes the authoritative body responsible for addressing global issues. Imran Khan uses this social deixis to urge the UN to take moral responsibility and implement meaningful measures against financial crimes that exploit developing countries.

Analysis of Deixis in Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's speech at 72$^{th}$ session of UNGA.

**Person Deixis**

"Let me first congratulate Mr. Miroslav Lajcak on his election as the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly."

Analysis: The first-person deixis ("me") highlights Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's personal role as Pakistan's representative in addressing the General Assembly. The use of second-person deixis ("you") indirectly addresses Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, showing acknowledgment and respect. This reflects a formal diplomatic gesture that sets the tone for the speech and establishes goodwill toward the newly elected President.

**Spatial Deixis**

"Pakistan has faced unremitting hostility from its eastern neighbor."

Analysis: The phrase "its eastern neighbor" geographically locates India in relation to Pakistan. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi uses this spatial deixis to emphasize the ongoing hostility Pakistan has faced since its creation. By situating the conflict geographically, the statement underscores the impact of regional dynamics on Pakistan's foreign policy and security.

**Temporal Deixis**

"This month marks the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's membership of the United Nations."

Analysis: The phrase "this month" refers to the current moment when Pakistan celebrates 70 years of UN membership. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi uses this temporal deixis to reflect on Pakistan's long-standing commitment to the principles and goals of the UN. This milestone emphasizes the nation's role in shaping and supporting global cooperation

**Discourse Deixis**

"This is the most intense foreign military occupation in recent history."

Analysis: The word "this" refers to India's military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, mentioned earlier in the speech. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi uses this discourse deixis to emphasize the severity of the situation. This draws attention to the plight of the Kashmiri people and reinforces Pakistan's call for international action.

**Social Deixis**

"Mr. President, let me first congratulate Mr. Miroslav Lajcak on his election as the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly."

Analysis: The title "Mr. President" reflects the formal hierarchical address within the UNGA. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi uses this social deixis to show respect and adherence to diplomatic protocol. By mentioning Mr. Miroslav Lajcak by name and title, the statement highlights the importance of leadership in fostering i nternational cooperation

Analysis of Deixis in  Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's speech at 71th session of UNGA.

**Person Deixis**

"We congratulate Mr. Peter Thomson on his election as President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly."

Analysis: The first-person plural deixis ("we") refers to the Pakistani delegation, representing the collective voice of Pakistan. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, as the representative of Pakistan, congratulates Mr. Peter Thomson on his election, emphasizing the importance of strong leadership in the General Assembly. The phrase reflects diplomatic courtesy and underscores Pakistan's alignment with global institutions. By congratulating the President, Sharif positions Pakistan as a proactive and respectful member of the international community.

**Spatial Deixis**

"Over three and a half decades of conflict and chaos in Afghanistan has had grave security and economic consequences for Pakistan."

Analysis: The names "Afghanistan" and "Pakistan" are spatial deictic markers identifying the geographical regions impacted by the Afghan conflict. Nawaz Sharif highlights how instability in Afghanistan has directly affected Pakistan's security and economy, emphasizing the interconnectedness of their fates. This spatial reference situates Pakistan as a frontline state bearing the brunt of regional turbulence, urging global attention to the broader implications of Afghanistan's instability.

**Temporal Deixis**

"After 15 years of the current war in Afghanistan, the international community agrees that the only road to a lasting peace in that country is through dialogue."

Analysis: The phrase "After 15 years" marks the prolonged duration of the Afghan conflict, underscoring the need for a shift in strategy. Nawaz Sharif uses this temporal reference to highlight the failure of military solutions and advocate for dialogue as the most viable path to peace. This deixis situates the discussion within a historical context, emphasizing the urgency of resolving the conflict.

**Discourse Deixis**

"This rests on our conviction that people are the true wealth of our nation."

Analysis: The word "This" refers to Pakistan's economic and social strategy mentioned earlier in the speech. Nawaz Sharif uses this discourse deixis to connect the argument about human development with Pakistan's broader narrative of progress. It emphasizes the importance of investing in people as a cornerstone of national and international success.

**Social Deixis**

"Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen."

Analysis: The titles "Mr. President," "Excellencies," and "Distinguished delegates" indicate the hierarchical structure of the UNGA audience. Nawaz Sharif uses this social deixis to formally address and acknowledge the participants, setting a respectful tone for his speech. This opening reflects the diplomatic nature of the occasion.

Analysis of Deixis in Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's speech at 77th session of UNGA.

### Person Deixis

"As I stand here today to tell the story of my country, Pakistan, my heart and mind have not been able to leave home."

Analysis: The first-person deixis ("I," "my") reflects Shehbaz Sharif's personal role as a representative of Pakistan at the UNGA. He expresses his emotional connection to the ongoing devastation in Pakistan caused by the unprecedented floods. By stating that his "heart and mind" remain in Pakistan, he conveys the gravity of the disaster and his responsibility to advocate for his country. This sets an empathetic tone, drawing attention to the human cost of climate change and the urgency for international support.

### Spatial Deixis

"What happened in Pakistan will not stay in Pakistan."

Analysis: The place name "Pakistan" situates the geographical location of the disaster while emphasizing its global implications. Shehbaz Sharif warns that the climate catastrophe in Pakistan is not an isolated event but part of a larger pattern of global climate change. This statement highlights the interconnectedness of climate impacts and calls for international responsibility in addressing such crises.

### Temporal Deixis

"For 40 days and 40 nights, a biblical flood poured down on us, smashing centuries of weather records."

Analysis: The phrase "For 40 days and 40 nights" specifies the duration of the catastrophic floods that devastated Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif uses this temporal deixis to emphasize the prolonged and relentless nature of the disaster, likening it to biblical proportions. This reference conveys the unprecedented scale of destruction, connecting the audience to the suffering endured by the people of Pakistan. By framing the timeline of the event, the speaker underscores the dire need for immediate and long-term global assistance.

### Discourse Deixis

"This is going to be a long haul."

Analysis: The word "this" refers to the rebuilding process after the catastrophic floods in Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif uses this discourse deixis to emphasize the prolonged nature of the recovery and reconstruction efforts. This statement highlights the immense challenges that lie ahead for Pakistan, requiring sustained support from the international community. By signaling the arduous path forward, the speaker prepares the audience for the scale of the commitment needed to help Pakistan rebuild and adapt to future climate risks.

### Social Deixis

"Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates."

Analysis: The titles "Mr. President," "Excellencies," and "Distinguished Delegates" acknowledge the hierarchical roles and formal positions of the UNGA participants. Shehbaz Sharif uses this social deixis to address the assembly with respect and diplomacy, setting the tone for his speech. This opening emphasizes the importance of the audience's role in shaping international policies and underscores the speaker's recognition of their authority. It reflects the formal nature of the setting and establishes the framework for engaging in dialogue on pressing global issues.

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