

Pragmatics

Thomas Wagner

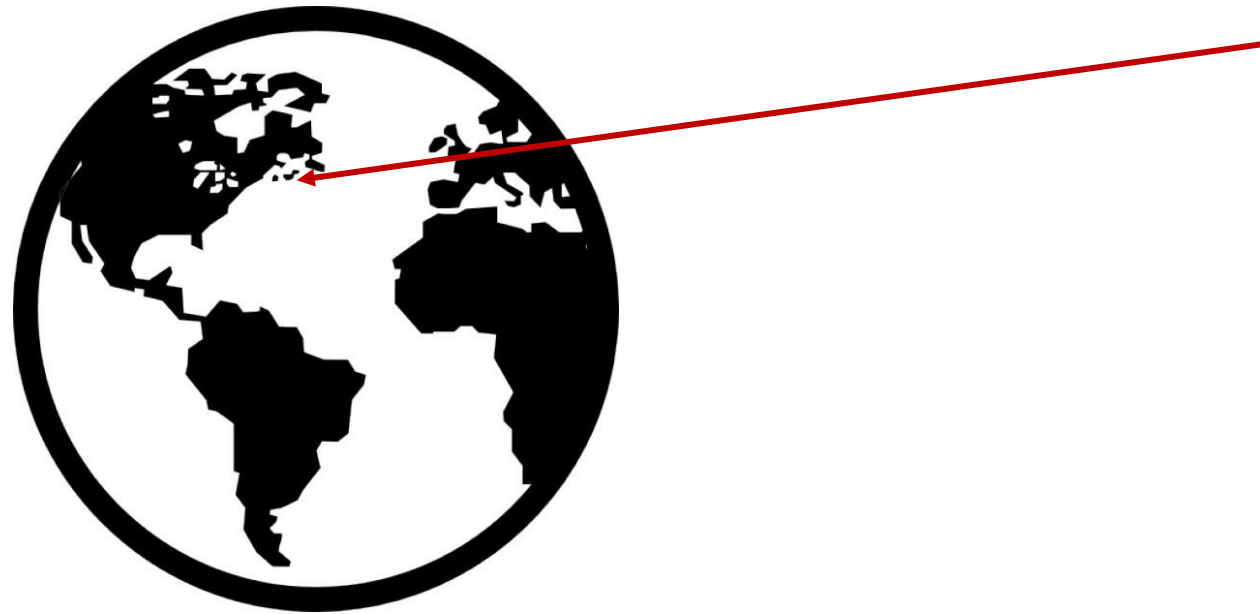
Deixis and distance

- language **points**



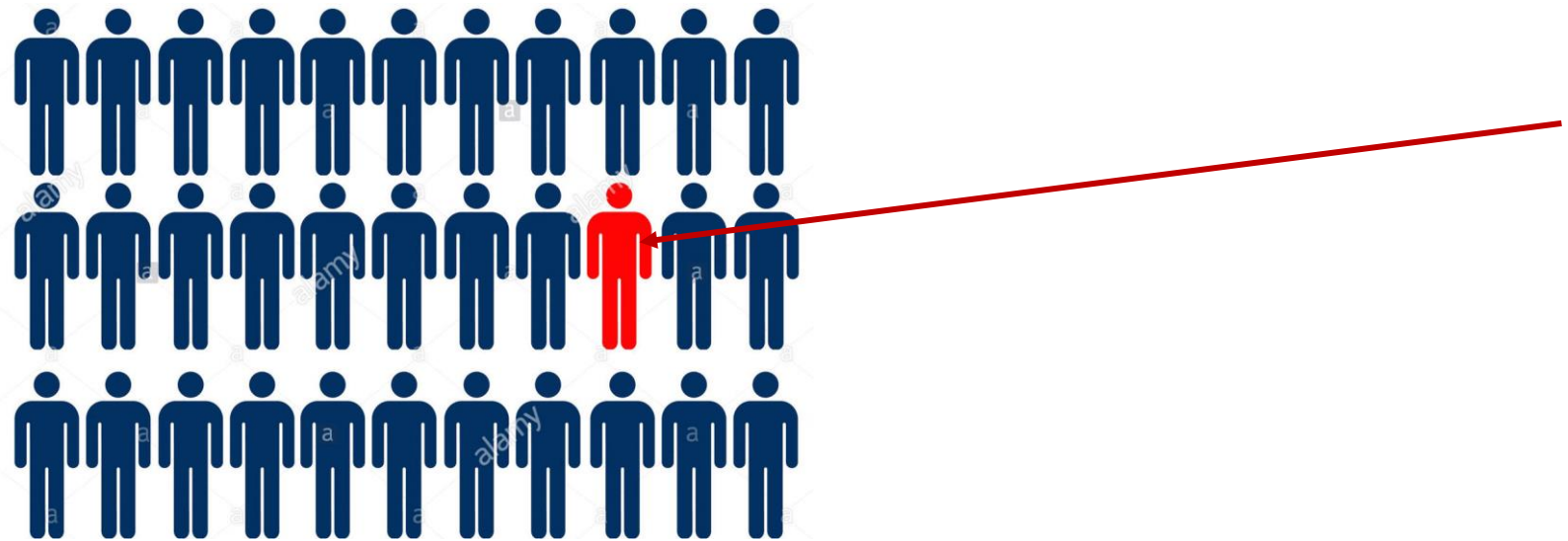
Deixis and distance

- language **points**



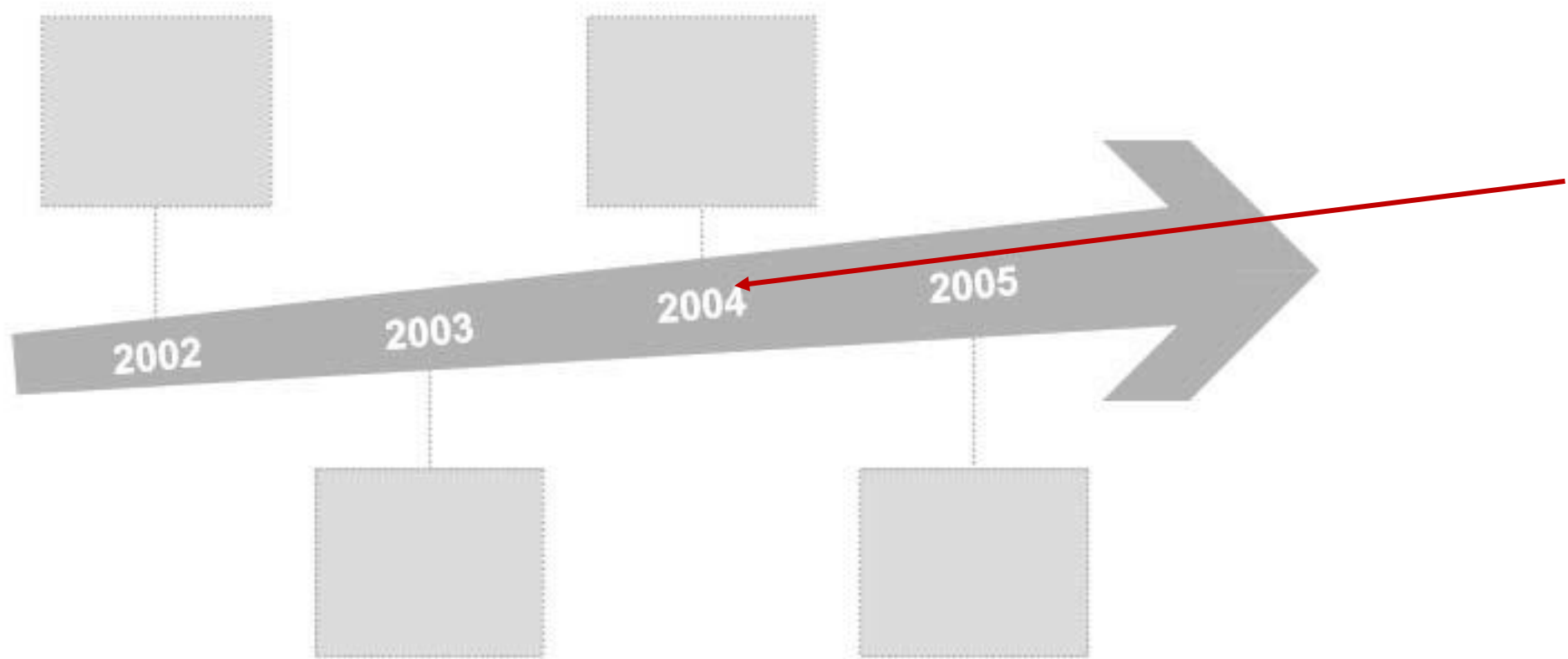
Deixis and distance

- language **points**



Deixis and distance

- language **points**



Deixis and distance

- epídeixi (επίδειξη) = *point, show, prove*
- deíxis (δείξη) = *pointing*
- *deixis* ['deɪksɪs]
['di:ɪksɪs]
['daɪksɪs]
['daɪksɪs]
- *deictic* ['daɪktɪk]

Deixis and distance

What does **pointing** need?

Deixis
and
distance



Deixis and distance

- deictic expressions are always interpreted **relative** to the context, location, time, people in the discourse etc. .

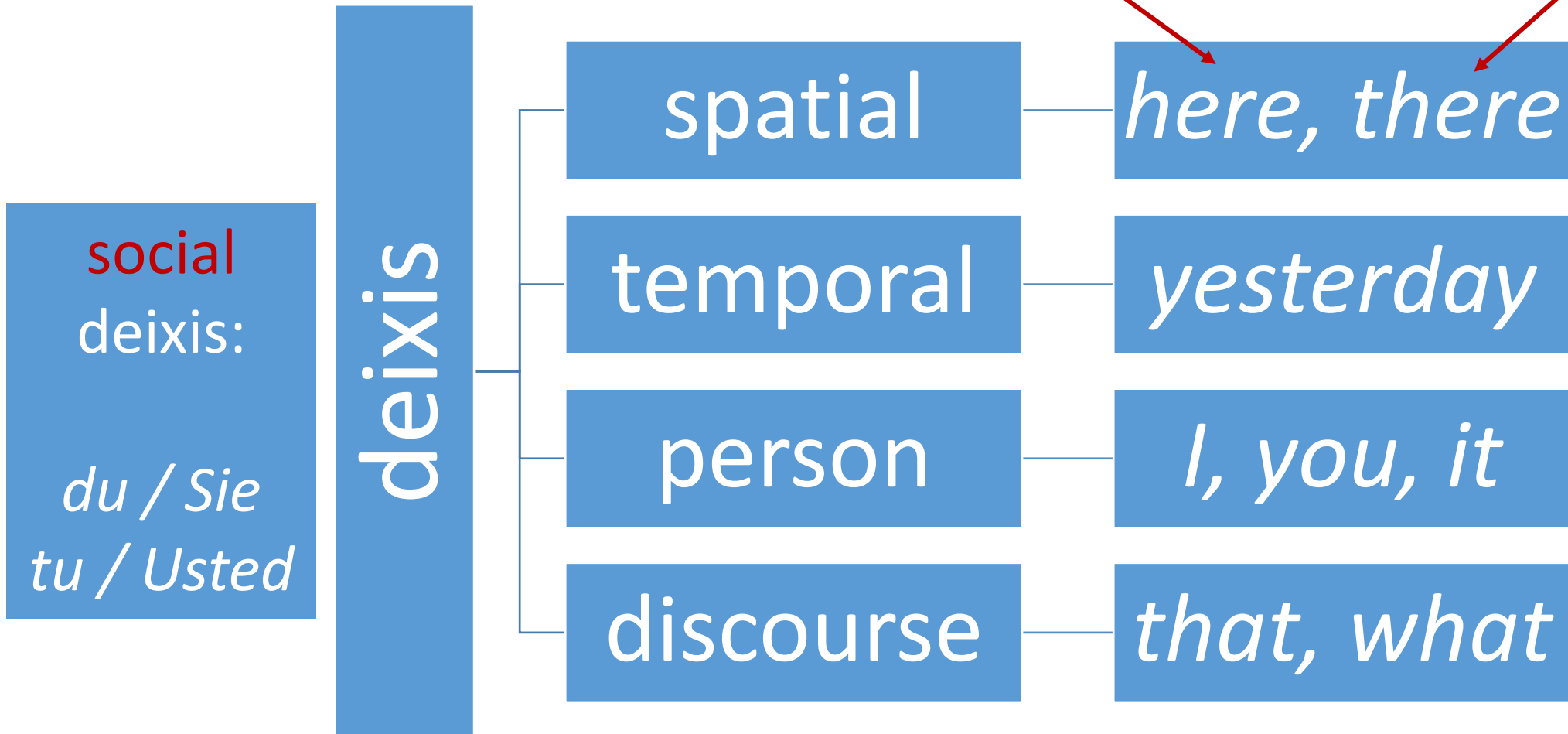


*Please rescue **me**! I've been **here** since **last month**,
and **my** food will run out **tomorrow**.*

Deixis and distance

proximal

distal



Deixis and distance

personal **deixis** – deixis and grammar

- a) Are **you** planning to be **here this** evening?
- b) I asked **her** if **she** was planning to be **there that** evening.

Deixis and distance

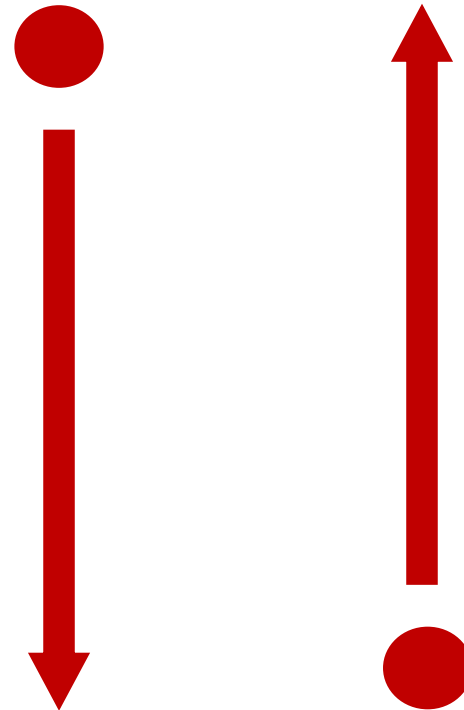
personal **deixis** – inclusive and exclusive

- a) **We** could go to the Irish Pub for a drink or two. **incl.**
- b) How are **we** doing – are you finished with your work? **excl.**

Deixis and distance

spatial **deixis** in Austrian German – the deictic centre

- ob*i* – ob*a*
- auf*i* – auf*a*
- ein*i* – ein*a*



Deixis and distance

temporal **deixis**

- I **have** a yacht
- I **had** a yacht
- If I **had** a yacht, ...

The past tense
of William
Shakespeare
is Wouldiwas
Shookspeared

The past,
present, and
future walked
into a bar. It
was tense.

Deixis and distance

temporal **deixis**



Deixis and distance

social **deixis** in English?

- Would **his highness** like some coffee?

Deixis and distance

- social **deixis** in German



Beate, du brauchst
etwas zu essen.



Beate und Christian,
ihr braucht etwas zu
essen.

		
du	-	you
dich	-	you
dir	-	you
Sie	-	you
ihr	-	you
Ihnen	-	you
man	-	you
euch	-	you



Herr Meier, Sie brauchen
etwas zu essen.



Herr Meier und Herr Müller,
Sie brauchen etwas zu essen.

Deixis and distance

discourse **deixis**

- a discourse deictic expression refers to a whole **utterance**, a **proposition**, or an entire (stretch of) **discourse**.
- *I bet you haven't heard **this** story.*
- *Is **that** good news?*
- *[...] Neither of **these** are correct.*

Deixis and distance

- deictic centre



Deixis and distance

- deictic **projection**

I was looking at this little puppy in a cage with such a sad look on its face. It was like, “Oh, I’m so unhappy **here**, will you set me free?”.

Deixis and distance

- deictic **projection**

Looking at his dying houseplant, David said to his girlfriend: “I swear it was staring at me this morning as if to say, ‘Either water **me** now or explain to the police what happened **here**.’”

Deixis and distance

