

A-6

Theme: A Study on the Usage of Demonstratives in Sinhala Discourse (Including Cognitive and Statistical analysis)

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Abstract

Sinhala is the mother tongue of about 70 percent of people in Sri Lanka. A language with four-member series with multiple functions that express four separate deictic properties in demonstrative system is very rare in world languages. Sinhala is one example and it utilizes m, o, a, and e series in four demonstrative systems (Chandralal, 1992). When compared with other languages, demonstratives in the Sinhala, four series have special and rare properties; for example, it can be used gender and animal utilization in the deixis, and often e series is unable to use in spatial deixis like the other three in the series. Previous research encountered difficulties of detailed analyzing and current research tried to made an effort of clarifying in this research detailed usage in each of the four series (Gair, 1991).

1. Introduction

In this study, the author examines uniqueness of each m, o, a, and e series in order to consider the uniqueness of discourse in contemporary Sinhala. furthermore, the author described what the new usages, detailed usages often used in the discourse of modern Sinhala, and could be also presented cognitive meaning and statistical prove the data. Then, created example have consideration from the native speakers and could summarized clear appearance about each series.

1.1 Four series of Demonstratives, Functions and Gender forms (Table I)

M series=Proximal

O series=Proximal, Medial

A series=Distal

E series = Anaphoric

Series	Male	female
M	meeaka	meeki
O	ooka	ooki
A	araka	araki
E	eeka	eeki

2. Purpose of the research

In this study, the aim is to confirm the special usages of each series, major functions, detailed usages and new usages in modern Sinhala conversation, and what new usages, changes, and new meanings appear from contemporary Sinhala. Also, we will consider new usage and subordinate usage for indicators. Then, the cognitive meaning of some usages will be described and the differences between the four Sinhala demonstratives will be summarized. The author hopes that this research will help protect Sinhala discourse for future generations.

3. Sources

This study examines conversations collected from one of Sinhala modern movie and several TV dramas to determine the semantic representations, and analyzes the current usage of the Sinhalese deixis. Then, the author used the three movies from the 90s to confirm and prove the data significancy of the vocative usages of the M and E series. Next, the author methodologically examined the usage of demonstratives using modern discourse and performed cognitive analysis of some conversations, adding this analysis to examples that have been confirmed by native speakers.

4. Previous research

Past research on this subject includes Chandralal (1992), Chandralal (2007), Gair James (1991), Kano (2000), Gair (1991), and Tilakaratne (1988). Chandralal (1992) presented four demonstratives and gave examples using various themes. However, detailed classification was not included. The classification between Space deictic and Discourse deictic is not clear. The current research recognizes the following clashes in the past research:

- * Specific examples of usages are limited.
- * There is a lack of analysis based on modern standards. (Analyses are traditional.)
- * There is no analysis that emphasizes the details of each series.
- * The classification of demonstratives is too classic (Tilakaratne, 1988).
- * Unnatural example sentences are included.

In this study, the author tried to change the analysis methodology by using practical conversations to show data significance. Gair James (1991) said 'The First Proximal (m-) and second proximal (O-) forms may be used anaphorally as well as spatially'. However, the current research shows that the m and o series can also be used anaphorically. Thus, we can see that the modern deictic properties have changed by studying examples.

5. Result and Discussion

5.1 Conversations

① M series (discourse functions)

mewata apit wagakiyanna oone.

These we(too) responsible need

[We too should have responsibility of these.]

* Here, the M series work by referring to something someone said in an earlier context. [mewa] handles the meaning of these.

② Vocative Usage of the M series (Common Proximal)

Ex: Context: House holder wife is talking to her servernt in close by,

aa, me umba pol kadana minissunta panividaya ariyada?

hey, this you coconut punk people (to) message sent

[Did you send message a coconut punkers?]

* In this context, M series work by vocatively calling to someone close by. This usage is commonly proximal. When examined in terms of cognitive meaning, the speaker has a very close connection with the hearer and is familiar with them.

③ Vocative Usage of the E series (Common Proximal)

Ex: Context: Call a friend close by the speaker

yasit ee yasit

yashit that yashit (Friend's name)

[hey, yashit.]

* In this context, E series [ee] handles that [that] and is used to call and get the attention of someone close by. Current research describes this usage as a new usage that usually appears in modern discourse.

Vocative usages of M series and E Series / Statistical significance (Table II, III)

space	Discourse	vocative	Space	discourse	vocative
61(9)	9	6	0	92(1)	1

When the total frequency of the Space and Discourse was counted, it showed clear frequency in the vocative usages. We compared this significance with that in 90s Sinhala movies and confirmed this finding.

5.2 Statistical analysis (Chi-square test)

The purpose of obtaining this statistical data was to further confirm whether the frequency of occurrence of the demonstratives shown in the modern discourse used for this study is valid as data. Using the chi-square statistical means, we found significant differences in the data when the results obtained according to the formula shown below were less than 5%. Therefore, the result was 138.330, which is a value. Examining the frequency table below, discourse was found in all demonstratives. In previous studies, it was stated that discourse function could be used only in E and A series, but from this frequency of appearance, it was found that discourse function can be seen in all series. The chi-square test was used as a means of statistically analyzing the data.

Category	M	O	A	E	Total
Space	29.045 61	16.597 27	16.182 12	38.174 0	100
Discourse	40.954 9	23.402 13	22.817 27	53.825 92	141
					241

Table IV

The frequency of each context of demonstratives is also included in this chart. This chart explains how to calculate expected frequency using each series.

O	E	O - E	(O - E) ²	(O - E) ² / E
61	29.045	31.955	1021.122	35.157
27	16.597	10.403	108.222	6.521
12	16.182	-4.182	17.489	1.081
0	38.174	-38.174	1457.254	38.174
9	40.954	-31.954	1021.058	24.932
13	23.402	-10.402	108.202	4.624
27	22.817	4.183	17.497	0.767
92	53.825	38.175	1457.331	27.0753

Table V

We subtracted **E** from **O** and divided the resulting square by **E**. Next, χ^2 is obtained after adding all the values.

$$\chi^2 = 138.330$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2}{\text{expected}}, \quad (\text{Formula in the chi-square}). \quad (\text{Colin Robson, 1994: 166})$$

* (expected frequency=E)

df = (rows-1) x (columns-1) = 3

When the degree of freedom is 3, chi-square value exceeds 7.815, that the Significance level of 5% is satisfied.

5.3 An Anaphoric and Cognitive context (E series)

④ Context: Conversation between Lawyer and the Lady

A: mata eya-gen divorce wenna o-ne.

I him(from) divorce become need

[I want to divorce from him]

B: ai echchara darunu thiiranayak gatte.

why such cruel decision took

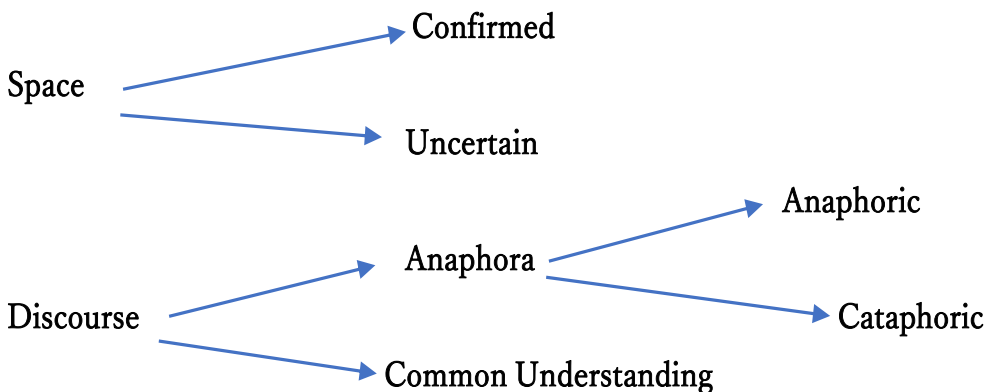
[Why did you get such a strict decision.]

In this conversation[eya-gen] refer the common understanding of the objective person. When we think about cognitive meaning here, hearer knows about objective person just in the conversation, but never haven't met. Just speaker knows truly that person who is. But, just in the conversation [eya] is already known.

5.4 Availability of the demonstratives (Table VI)

Series	Space	Discourse	Anaphoric	Cataphoric	Common Understanding
M series	+(Contexts19)	+(Contexts 3)	+(Contexts 2)	+(Contexts 0)	+(Contexts1)
O series	+(Contexts18)	+(Contexts 3)	+(Contexts 3)	-(Contexts 0)	-(Contexts 0)
A series	+(Contexts 3)	+(Contexts 8)	+(Contexts 4)	-(Contexts 0)	+(Contexts 4)
E series	-(Contexts 0)	+(Contexts29)	+(Contexts18)	-(Contexts 0)	+(Contexts19)

5.5 Classification of Demonstratives



①Ex: O series /Space/Confirmed

oya mala mata denna
that flower me give
[give me that flower]

②Ex: Oseries/Space/Uncertain

oya monawahari otala deepan.
that whatever wrapped give(ordering/close)
[Wrap something up]

③Ex: Anaphoric Usage of A series and E series

A: araya kiwwa eya ennaa kiyala
that person said himself comenot says
[that person said (he/she)will not come.]

B: kauda ee? araya
who that that person
who is that? that person

(This example③ says about common recognition of A series and non-participant functions of the E series those playing as anaphora. In the example [araya] says about person already known by the speaker and hearer. Speaker use [eya] for nan-participant person. when explain cognition, speaker is already trusting hearer knows the nan-participant person. really, hearer should know, but still questioning.)

6. Summary

Here, the author described what the new usages, detailed usages often used in the discourse of modern Sinhala, and could be also presented cognitive meaning and statistical prove the data. Then, created example have consideration from the native speakers and could summarized clear appearance about each series. Next point is the e series cannot be used in the field instruction as other demonstratives. In addition, it is special because it can be used only as anaphora (discourse) system. Demonstratives in Sinhala can be clearly distinguished as Space deictic and Discourse deictic. Space deixis can be further distinguished as confirmed and uncertain functions. The A series is mainly used as a site Space usage, but the A series is mainly used as discourse functions. There are many uses of demonstratives in modern discourse, but the E series cannot be used in Space deictic. However, it plays the most important role in discourse. Each of the four demonstratives, **M, O, A, and E series**, has a discourse function. When common recognition and non-participants appear, many **A series and E series** appear, with **E series** appearing more frequently. Independent usage and vocative usage, which are extended usages, were also confirmed in the E series. **Vocative usage of M series and E series** was also confirmed. Demonstratives in Sinhala are characterized by detailed distinctions. The author was able to confirm the cognition of the demonstratives.

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