A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS 
OF DEIXIS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND ARABIC

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Abstract

This thesis aims at exploring the structure and function of deixis in both English and Arabic. It also attempts to investigate the similarities and differences between both languages. Hence, the semantic, pragmatic, and syntactic components have been studied to highlight their influences on the acquisition of deixis in both languages.

It was found that the Arabic pronominal system is marked for person, number, gender, and case, whereas the English pronominal system is only marked for person, number, and gender. However, the case system is not marked in the English pronominal system.

In addition, this study shows that deixic forms in Arabic are more pragmatically conditioned than in English. As for the empathetic shift, it was found that Arabic is abundant with the means through which the empathetic shift is carried out. This abundance is clearly evident in the standard level as exemplified in the Holy Quran.