CHAPTER ONE

SOME THEORETICAL ISSUES

1.1. The aim of this chapter is to provide a brief theoretical classification of demonstratives and their uses. The examples used are taken from Latin, so as to prepare the ground for a comparison between Sabellian and Latin demonstratives.

Pragmatics

1.2.1. Demonstratives are deictic grammemes, which are primarily used to point to a referent, focusing the hearer’s attention on an object, a person, a situation, a location or any other kind of referent. Typologically, the pragmatics of demonstratives can be subdivided into two main categories:

- **exophoric** use: the referent of the demonstrative is an entity which is present in the speech situation.
- **endophoric** use: the demonstrative points to a linguistic expression, its antecedent; either the referent of the demonstrative is the referent of its antecedent itself, or it is inferred from the referent of its antecedent.

1.2.2. The endophoric use can be further subdivided into three classes:

- the antecedent itself can be a Noun Phrase (NP) uttered in the surrounding linguistic context, i.e., the demonstrative points to an NP in the surrounding discourse. In this case, the demonstrative is **anaphoric**.

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1 For this pragmatic classification see the typological syntheses of Himmelmann (1997) 43–90 and Diessel (1999). On the distinction between grammemes or grammatical items and lexemes see Fradin (2003) 89–93. Grammemes are a limited list of items which are mainly used to identify and locate an event within the speech situation or within the discursive context. Lexemes, on the contrary, do not constitute a limited list, since new lexemes can freely be built and added to the existing stock; they are used to introduce and describe referents, entities and events.
• the antecedent can be the content of a whole proposition or speech act in the surrounding context: the demonstrative points to a whole clause, or sentence, or group of sentences. In this case, the demonstrative is **discourse deictic**.
• the antecedent can also be the content of a linguistic expression which is not uttered in the same context as the demonstrative, but is considered by the speaker to be shared knowledge. In this case, the speaker uses the demonstrative to point to a referent which he assumes to be familiar to the hearer as part of the latter’s knowledge store. Such a demonstrative is called **recognitional**. Recognitional demonstratives point to a referent which is discourse new, in that it is not mentioned in the surrounding context, but hearer old, in that a linguistic expression concerning the referent is contained in the hearer’s knowledge store.

These four pragmatic classes, exophoric, anaphoric, discourse deictic and recognitional uses, are universal: every language in the world, present or past, seems to have specific demonstrative grammemes, and these grammemes are used to fulfill the four pragmatic functions; or rather, most demonstrative grammemes, in most languages, can be used in several of these four uses.²

1.2.3. In (1), the referent of the demonstrative is an entity which is present in the speech situation:

(1) **Atticvs:** – *Sed uisne, quoniam et satis iam ambulatum est, et tibi aliud dicendi initium sumendum est, locum mutemus et in insula quae est in Fibreno (nam opinor id **illi** alteri flumini nomen est) sermoni reliquo demus operam sedentes?*  
(Cicero, *De Legibus*,³ II, 1, 1)

Atticus: – As we have now had a sufficiently long walk, and you are about to begin a new part of the discussion, shall we not leave this place and go to the island in the Fibrenus (for I believe that it is the name of **that** other river), and sit there while we finish the conversation?

Both the speaker and the hearer are in a place where there are two rivers. The speaker points to the one that is farther away. The demonstrative *illi* is exophoric.

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² For further remarks on this topic, see § 1.5.2.
³ All translations from the *De Legibus* are taken from Keyes (1928). Occasionally they have been slightly modified.