

People: A Linguistic Perspective

Introduction

People are fascinating creatures, and language is one of the things that makes us unique. We use language to communicate with each other, to share our thoughts and feelings, and to make sense of the world around us. One of the most important aspects of language is person, which allows us to distinguish between the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things.

Person is a grammatical category that is found in all languages, although it can vary significantly from language to language. In some languages, person is marked by pronouns, while in others it is marked by verb endings or other grammatical features. Person can also be used to convey social deixis, which is the way that we use language to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to.

In this book, we will explore the many different aspects of person. We will look at how person is used in different languages, how it has evolved over time, and how it is used in different types of discourse. We will also explore the relationship between person and identity, cognition, communication, and society.

By the end of this book, you will have a deeper understanding of person and its role in human language and communication. You will also have a greater appreciation for the diversity of languages and cultures around the world.

Person is a complex and fascinating topic, and there is still much that we do not know about it. However, by studying person, we can learn more about ourselves, our relationships with others, and the world around us.

Book Description

People: A Linguistic Perspective explores the fascinating world of person, a grammatical category that allows us to distinguish between the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things. Found in all languages, person can vary significantly from language to language, marked by pronouns, verb endings, or other grammatical features.

This book takes a comprehensive look at person, examining its use in different languages, its evolution over time, and its role in different types of discourse. It also explores the relationship between person and identity, cognition, communication, and society.

With engaging prose and insightful analysis, **People: A Linguistic Perspective** offers a deeper understanding of person and its role in human language and communication. Readers will gain a greater appreciation for the diversity of languages and cultures

around the world and a new perspective on the way we use language to interact with each other.

Key Features:

- Explores the many different aspects of person, including its use in different languages, its evolution over time, and its role in different types of discourse.
- Examines the relationship between person and identity, cognition, communication, and society.
- Offers a deeper understanding of person and its role in human language and communication.
- Provides a greater appreciation for the diversity of languages and cultures around the world.

People: A Linguistic Perspective is an essential resource for students and scholars of linguistics, anthropology, and communication studies. It is also a fascinating read for anyone interested in the nature of language and human interaction.

Chapter 1: The Essence of Person

What is person

Person is a grammatical category that is found in all languages, although it can vary significantly from language to language. In some languages, person is marked by pronouns, while in others it is marked by verb endings or other grammatical features. Person can also be used to convey social deixis, which is the way that we use language to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to.

In English, person is marked by pronouns. The first person pronoun is "I", the second person pronoun is "you", and the third person pronoun is "he", "she", or "it". Person can also be marked by verb endings. For example, in the sentence "I walk", the verb "walk" is in the first person singular form. In the sentence "You walk", the verb "walk" is in the second person singular

form. And in the sentence "He walks", the verb "walks" is in the third person singular form.

Person is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. It is used to distinguish between the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things. It is also used to convey social deixis and to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to.

In this chapter, we will explore the many different aspects of person. We will look at how person is used in different languages, how it has evolved over time, and how it is used in different types of discourse. We will also explore the relationship between person and identity, cognition, communication, and society.

By the end of this chapter, you will have a deeper understanding of person and its role in human language and communication. You will also have a greater appreciation for the diversity of languages and cultures around the world.

Chapter 1: The Essence of Person

The grammatical category of person

Person is a grammatical category that is found in all human languages. It is used to distinguish between the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things. Person can be marked in a variety of ways, including through the use of pronouns, verb endings, and other grammatical features.

The grammatical category of person is closely related to the concept of deixis, which is the use of language to indicate the speaker's or hearer's location in time and space. For example, in English, the pronouns "I" and "you" are used to refer to the speaker and hearer, respectively, while the pronoun "he" or "she" is used to refer to a third person who is not present.

Person can also be used to convey social deixis, which is the way that we use language to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to. For

example, in some languages, there are different pronouns that are used to address people of different social status.

The grammatical category of person is a complex and fascinating topic that has been studied by linguists for centuries. By understanding person, we can learn more about how language works and how it is used to communicate meaning.

Paragraph 2 Person is a fundamental aspect of human language and communication. It allows us to distinguish between ourselves, our interlocutors, and other people or things in the world. Person is also used to convey social deixis, or the way that we use language to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to.

Paragraph 3 The grammatical category of person is typically marked by pronouns, but it can also be marked by verb endings or other grammatical features. In English, for example, the pronouns "I," "you," and

"he/she/it" are used to mark the first, second, and third person, respectively. Verb endings can also be used to mark person, as in the following example:

- I walk
- You walk
- He/she/it walks

Paragraph 4 The grammatical category of person is closely related to the concept of deixis, which is the use of language to indicate the speaker's or hearer's location in time and space. For example, the pronouns "I" and "you" are used to refer to the speaker and hearer, respectively, while the pronoun "he" or "she" is used to refer to a third person who is not present.

Paragraph 5 Person can also be used to convey social deixis, which is the way that we use language to indicate our social relationship to the person we are speaking to. For example, in some languages, there are different pronouns that are used to address people of different social status. In English, for example, we use

the pronoun "you" to address people of all social statuses, but in some other languages, there are different pronouns that are used to address people of different ages, genders, or social classes.

Paragraph 6 The grammatical category of person is a complex and fascinating topic that has been studied by linguists for centuries. By understanding person, we can learn more about how language works and how it is used to communicate meaning.

Chapter 1: The Essence of Person

Person and deixis

Deixis is the use of language to indicate the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things in relation to the speaker and hearer. Person is closely related to deixis, as it is also used to distinguish between the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things. However, there are some important differences between person and deixis.

First, person is a grammatical category, while deixis is a semantic category. This means that person is marked by grammatical features, such as pronouns and verb endings, while deixis is marked by semantic features, such as the meaning of words and phrases.

Second, person is obligatory, while deixis is optional. This means that every utterance must have a person, but it does not necessarily have to have a deictic element. For example, the sentence "I went to the store"

has a person (first person singular), but it does not have a deictic element.

Third, person is more general than deixis. This means that person can be used to refer to any person or thing, while deixis can only be used to refer to people or things that are in a particular relationship to the speaker and hearer. For example, the pronoun "I" can be used to refer to any person, while the deictic element "here" can only be used to refer to a place that is close to the speaker.

Despite these differences, person and deixis are closely related. In fact, some linguists argue that person is a type of deixis. This is because person can be used to indicate the speaker, the hearer, and other people or things in relation to the speaker and hearer, just like deixis.

In this chapter, we will explore the relationship between person and deixis in more detail. We will look at how person and deixis are used in different

languages, how they have evolved over time, and how they are used in different types of discourse. We will also explore the relationship between person and deixis and other linguistic phenomena, such as tense, aspect, and mood.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The Essence of Person * What is person? *

The grammatical category of person * Person and deixis * Person and social deixis * Person and evidentiality

Chapter 2: The Substance of Person * The size of

person systems * The nature of person distinctions * Person and number * Person and gender * Person and case

Chapter 3: The Use of Person * Person in sentences *

Person in discourse * Person and speech acts * Person and narrative * Person and argumentation

Chapter 4: Person Across Languages * Typological

variation in person systems * The evolution of person systems * Person in language contact * Person in signed languages * Person in endangered languages

Chapter 5: Person and Identity * Person and self *

Person and social identity * Person and cultural

identity * Person and gender identity * Person and linguistic identity

Chapter 6: Person and Cognition * Person and perception * Person and memory * Person and thought * Person and language * Person and consciousness

Chapter 7: Person and Communication * Person and interaction * Person and conversation * Person and politeness * Person and humor * Person and deception

Chapter 8: Person and Technology * Person and artificial intelligence * Person and social media * Person and virtual reality * Person and augmented reality * Person and the future of communication

Chapter 9: Person and Society * Person and power * Person and ideology * Person and inequality * Person and discrimination * Person and social change

Chapter 10: Person and the Future * The future of person * Person and the global village * Person and the

rise of AI * Person and the changing nature of work *
Person and the meaning of life

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