

A discourse-based analysis of demonstratives in three Algonquian languages: Abenaki, Innu-aimun and Atikamekw nehiromowin

Demonstratives in Algonquian languages have been adequately analysed in the last decades (Junker & McKenzie, 2003; Drapeau 2014; Aubin, 1991; Ng, 2000; Proulx, 1988) and to this day we have a clear picture of their distribution and basic functions. In short, it has been put forward that demonstratives can be adnominal or pronominal, that they code three to four degrees of spatial distance and that they agree in number, gender, and obviation. Some scholars (Junker & McKenzie, 2003 or Oxford, 2008 for example) include locative demonstratives in this category. Demonstratives serve not only a deictic function but also a discursive one, and this second aspect will be the focus of our presentation.

Drawing from previous work we will present the set of demonstratives in Aln8ba8dwaw8gan (Abenaki), Innu-aimun and Nehiromowin (Atikamekw) followed by a discourse-based analysis of them in stories and legends. Their occurrences in narrative texts will be examined after the functions proposed by Diessel (1999) (and reiterated in subsequent work by Margetts et al., 2020, among others), namely the following three uses: *anaphoric/tracking*, *discourse deictic* and *recognitional use*. We will also address the variation observed in the use of demonstratives depending on the storyteller, showing that they can also function as a stylistic device.

References:

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