

Anaphoric Expressions in Some Selected Iraqi Social-Political Discourse: A Critical Discourse Analysis

Lect. Taqwa Rashid Juma'a

General Directorate of Education/ Najaf/ Iraq

taqwaa.1988@gmail.com

Abstract

Reference is a widely accepted global semantic notion that argues the relationship between a statement and its referent is necessary to recognize things in written or spoken conversation. The current study is concerned with personal references employed in the discourse in order to be able to refer to them anaphorically. It attempts to study the nature of Reference in Arabic as a semantic concept. Moreover, it displays the references mostly used by Iraqi people in everyday communication and the anaphoric personal references used by them. Analyzing the daily Iraqi social speech on YouTube shows different points that are shown as follows: (a) personal preferences are the most predominant cohesive category employed, and they yielded the highest percentage within all instances of analysis. (b) third and second-person pronouns rank as the lowest in most occurrences within the samples. (c) Other types of anaphoric references, such as demonstrative, are used less or should be utilized more.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, Social-Political Discourse, Reference, Anaphoric Expressions.

التعابير المبهمة في بعض الخطابات الاجتماعية-السياسية العراقية: تحليلًا خطابيًا نقديًا

م. تقوى رشيد جمعة

المديرية العامة لتربية النجف الاشرف

taqwaa.1988@gmail.com

الملخص

لمرجع (اسم الإشارة) هو مفهوم دلالي عالمي مقبول على نطاق واسع يبين بأن العلاقة بين البيان ومراجعته ضروري للتعرف على الأشياء في المحادثات المكتوبة أو المنطوقة. تهتم الدراسة الحالية بالمراجع الشخصية المستخدمة في الخطاب من أجل التمكن من الرجوع إليها في حالة عدم الوضوح، علاوة على ذلك، الدراسة الحالية تعرض المراجع التي يستخدمها في الغالب الشعب العراقي في المحادثات اليومية. يظهر تحليل الخطاب الاجتماعي العراقي اليومي على موقع يوتيوب نقاط مختلفة موضحة على النحو التالي: (أ) التفضيلات الشخصية هي الفئة الأكثر تماسكًا في الاستخدام، وقد أسفرت على أنها أعلى نسبة في جميع حالات التحليل، (ب) ضمائر الشخص الثالث وضمائر الشخص الثاني هي الأقل مرتبة، (ج) يتم استخدام أنواع أخرى من التعابير المبهمة، مثل التوضيح. **الكلمات المفتاحية:** التحليل الخطابي. الخطابات السياسية-الاجتماعية. الإشارة. التعابير المبهمة

1. Introduction

Language is a necessary instrument that assists people, as members of society, to communicate with each other, especially in

their social life. It is familiar, to a large extent, that language represents an essential means in our life since by utilizing language, people can convey their messages and express their willingness to others as well. People can have either verbal communication (i.e., speaking and writing) or nonverbal communication (i.e., non-verbal communication). Concerning verbal communication, they should use different ties and signals to connect one sentence to another in order to prevent miscommunication.

This paper sheds light on anaphoric personal references. It concerns personal references used in the discourse in order to be able to refer to them anaphorically. People, through their speaking or writing, point out to other people, things, places, and actions to which they referred previously by using certain words. The context in which such references are used is named '*anaphora*', and the words used to "refer" are named '*anaphors*' including personal pronouns such as (he, she, it), demonstrative pronouns such as (this, that, these, those) and comparative references such as (more, less, better). The anaphoric references make our interactions more coherent and intelligible.

2. Discourse

A discourse is not only a sequence of words or sentences for introducing random topics. Instead, each word or sentence in a text should be combined logically due to its meaning. Thus, cohesion represents a significant principle within the creation of a text which connects its elements in order to manifest the interpretation of a textual element in a text (Khofidoh, 2017, p.2). Cohesion is defined as linguistic signals, i.e., the connections that link up the sentences in the discourse and help the hearers in coming up with an adequate mental representation of the hearer as the reaction of the speaker's utterances (Dooley & Levinson, 2001, p.15).

Cohesive devices are some linguistic features that link the pieces of text together in a specific way. A good text requires certain various devices to refer to a single instance of cohesion to create a cohesive text. According to Harmer (2004), the aim of using cohesive devices is to assist the reader in understanding the items pointed to, those which are replaced, and even the items that are omitted (Azzouz, 2009, p.25). In daily communication, using anaphoric references makes the interaction clear and coherent in discourse. If interlocutors attend to describe everything explicitly, the discourse will become very complex, long, and time-consuming. Furthermore, it will need to be clarified for the participants and lead to potential misunderstandings (Khofidoh, 2017, p.2).

3. Reference in English

Reference is a universal semantic concept that asserts that the relation between an expression and its referent is significant for identifying entities in a written or spoken discourse (Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. XVII). The speaker or writer deals with reference as an action in discourse analysis. That is to say when people describe or introduce something, they are doing something since reference presents the connection between the real situation and the entity. Interlocutors cannot refer to something that does not exist in the real world. However, reference expressions do not have to match the grammatical class. They must have semantic properties yet. Accordingly, it represents one of the grammatical cohesive device types, resulting in an appropriate interpretation that joins between words or sentences which point out to any entity and is capable of forcing the interlocutors to perform an action as the speaker will (Yule, 1983, pp. 27-28).

Moreover, reference is viewed in terms of cohesion provided by the specific retrieved information, which signals the referential meaning. Cohesion occurs through the continuity of reference, where the same thing occurs in the discourse for the second time (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p.31). thus, a referring expression is a piece of language that combines and links something outside language to a certain living or dead entity or group of entities or

concepts. (Gorjain, B. et al., 2015, p.17). Consequently, a reference should imply the use of language to refer to an entity (person, time, place, etc.) and join between sentences that point to anything by forcing the interlocutors to do something as the speaker desire.

3.1.Anaphoric References

All kinds of activities which involve looking back in texts to find the referent are called anaphoric relations. Anaphoric reference is usually explained in terms of head (antecedent) relation. In other words, interpreting items in written or spoken text depend on something previously mentioned (Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. LII). Furthermore, it refers to relations of any cohesive devices of references that occur on the left; the antecedent has been mentioned before (Azzouz, 2009, p.28).

a. Anaphoric Personal Reference

Personal reference, on the one hand, represents a reference that functions through the category of person. The personal reference category is classified into three classes: *personal pronouns*, *possessive determiners*, and *possessive pronouns* (Halliday & Hasan, 1976, p.43)

Table 1: Personal Reference (Halliday & Hasan 1976: 38)

Semantic Categories	Existential	Possessive	
Class	Pronouns	Determiner	
Person:			
Speaker (only)	I me	mine	My
Addressee(s)	you	yours	your
Speaker and 3rd	we us	ours	our
person (s)	he him	his	his
3rd person, male	she her	her	her
3rd person, female	they them	theirs	their
3rd person/ other	it one	its	its
person, Object			one's
Generalized person			

On the other hand, the anaphoric personal reference refers to the reference of any pronoun mentioned in an earlier text or

spoken discourse. As a result, each anaphoric pronoun's reference is sometimes determined independently of other pronouns in a text. Some anaphoric personal references are shown below:

- I saw a man in the garden and when I came back, he had disappeared.

-Look at the moon. It disappears quickly.

-Jane remembered her dead father. She was in tears.

(Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. LV)

b. Anaphoric Comparative Reference

Halliday & Hasan (1976, p.37, 39) state that the indirect reference using identity or similarity is referred to as a comparative reference. They classify the comparative references as it is shown in (Table 2).

Table 2: Comparative Reference

Grammatical function	Modifier: Deitic/Epithet	Submodifier/Adjunct
Class	Adjective	Adverb
General Comparison: Identity General similarity Difference	same, identical, equal similar, additional other, different, else	identically similarity, likewise, so, such differently, otherwise
Particular Comparison	better, more, etc. (comparative adjectives and quantifiers)	so, more, less, equally

Comparative items which have anaphoric references are necessary for creating a cohesive discourse. They show similar possibilities to other forms of reference. The third-person personals that imply a backward reference are typically anaphoric.

-Mary has just arrived. I was expecting someone else.

(Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. LIX)

c. Anaphoric Demonstrative Reference

Due to Halliday & Hasan (1976, p.37-38) demonstrative reference is THE reference that is interpreted according to a location on a scale of proximity. They classify the demonstrative reference as in (Table 3).

Table 3: Demonstrative Reference

Semantic Category	Selective		Non-Selective
Class	Determiner	Adverb	Determiner
Proximity:			
Near	this, these	here (now)	
Far	that, those	there, then	
Neutral			The

Anaphoric demonstrative reference introduces items in statements mentioned previously in the text.

-**The student** who was rewarded yesterday is my relative. **That** boy is extremely intelligent. (Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. LXII)

Additionally, demonstrative reference, like any other type, refers to persons and objects in semantic rather than grammatical terms. It requires an explicit repetition of the noun or some form of synonym to point out the identity of a specific reference in its anaphoric function. Sometimes, especially when there is no linguistic antecedent in the spoken or written text, which displays that anaphoric reference, the demonstrative, is assumed to be mentioned in a previous text. Such reference may appear in fragments of conversation.

- I can buy **that**, too.

-**That** must have cost a lot of money.

The examples above can be considered anaphoric demonstratives due to the interpretation of the demonstrative *that* (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p.65)

4. Reference in Arabic Traditional grammarians of Arabic need clarification about introducing a well-established list of the parts of speech in Arabic. Some grammarians resort to form while others to meaning. Modern linguists of Arabic, such as Anees (1958), Hasan (1975), Al-Saqee (1977) try to add extra parts to

the traditional list (Hasan, 1975. Pp.86-89). The disagreement between Arabic linguists concerning the number of sections of the speech has been expanded to include referential expressions; they have yet to make a fixed list of definite Arabic references. Including most Arab grammarians. "Five forms of definite reference expressions are adopted by Seebawayhi (1317 A.H.) and Al-Jurjane (1982); pronouns, proper nouns, demonstratives, nouns identified by the definite article /al/ "the" and the genitive construct /idaafa/. Depending on the view that they differ in the degree of identification and that some of them have more identification power than others, Kufa grammarians of Arabic render a different order of definite referring expressions. They argue that demonstratives are more identifiable than the proper names. The pronouns, the genitives, and the nouns identified by the definite article are next. However, the majority of modern Arabic grammarians seem to have been affected by the Basrah Traditional Grammar School by adopting the same types and order of definite reference expressions (Hasan, 1975, pp.211-217).

4.1. Anaphoric reference

The interpretation of an item, depending on its earlier mention in a text, is called an anaphoric reference. As with Crystal, anaphoric reference is defined as a term used to classify GRAMMATICAL description for the process of linguistic reference method or outcome. Return to a unit or sense previously conveyed. "Anaphoric reference" is a way to mark the identity of what is conveyed and what is already articulated (Crystal, 1983, p.17)

a. Anaphoric personal reference

Pronouns are used as replacements for nouns, and their usage is primarily defined by the hearers' ability to define the person to whom they refer. They differ in their identification capacity. The pronouns that denote the speaker are defining rather than the pronouns that denote the addressee. Pronouns of the absentee /ḍamaaʔiru lgaaʔib/ are less identifying than other personal pronouns since their referents are not present and quite unknown to the addressee unless further information is added by the speaker

(Hasan, 1975, p.268). Personal relation in Arabic depends on the distinction between the speaker's speech and other positions. In general, free, bound, and absent pronouns require certain explanations from the speaker and the addressee. Often it is difficult to perceive the pronoun of the absentee as the person or object for which the pronoun is not present (Hasan, 1975, p.255).

The anaphoric relation is typically obtained if an element in the previous text is used to interpret the pronoun. The pronoun of separation /*ḍamiiru lfaṣli*/presents excellent instances of anaphoric pronominal Reference in Arabic since it can be utilized to explain a specific entity that belongs. Omitting such a pronoun may convert the sentence into a simple statement, thus losing its emphatic power. Look at the following examples:

-/*kaana zaydun huwa annaṣiiFu*/. "Zayd was an active person."

-/*zaydun huwa annaṣiiFu*/ "Zayd, he, was the active person".

The pronoun in the examples above corresponds to its antecedent in number and gender. One of the conditions of the anaphoric pronoun of separation is that it can denote a definite noun.

- /*alJunuudu humu labṬaalu fi lHarbi*/. "The soldiers, they, are the heroes in the war."

-/*alummu hiya lmuṣīdatu li abnaaʔihaa*/. "The mother, she, is the counselor of her children ".

-/*tu9addu ššamsu maṣḍaran li nnuuri wa lHaraarati, wahiya aqrabu lkawaakibi ilaynaa*/. "The sun is considered the source of heat and light, and it is the nearest planet to us".

In the mentioned examples, the underlined pronouns point out to the antecedents mentioned previously. (Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. XCIV)

b. Anaphoric comparative reference

Comparative references in Arabic can be used to denote items found within a text and thus can work anaphorically by interpreting items already described or cataphorically by interpreting the elements below. The relation can be categorized in two forms following Halliday and Hasan (1976:76): general comparison and precise comparison. The general comparison

usually indicates references in terms of similarity or inconsistency without any specific quality being listed. A particular comparison, on the other hand, suggests a specific consistency in terms of non-defectively used comparative types. In Arabic, comparatives fall into three main forms according to the shape: the first type is used in the comparative form of the pattern /af9al/. Comparison is made between two nouns that share one special characteristic. The first noun in the comparative structure exceeds the second in that property. The pattern is /af9alu/ followed by the preposition /min/, which corresponds to the word "than" in the English comparison. The comparative word does not show any number or gender distinctions:

- /alwaladu aqwaa min albinti/. "The boy is stronger than the girl".
- /alwaladaani aqwaa mina lbintayni/ "The two boys are stronger than the two girls".
- /arriJaalu aqwaa min annisaa?i/. "Men are stronger than women".

Like the other types of anaphoric expressions, anaphoric comparatives, as other types of anaphoric expressions, indicate that the items referred to earlier in discourse. Expressions like /alaaxaru/ "the other one"; /aaxaru/ "else" provide good examples of anaphoric reference.

-/Jaa?a zaydun ilaa lmadrasati muta?axiran/. "Zayd has arrived at school late".

-/kuntu atawaqqa9u šaxṣan aaxara/. "I was expecting someone else".

-/naJaHat faaṭimatu fi limtiHaani/. "Fatima has passed the exam".

-/laakinnanii Hasibtuhaa alfataata luxraa/. "But I thought her the other girl". (p.CV)

c. Anaphoric demonstrative reference

Demonstrations are used as referential expressions for real-world entities. They are followed by movements that demonstrate where the referents are located. Some traditional and most contemporary Arabic grammarians offer two main categories of demonstrations: the closer and the more remote. It is based on the difficulty of finding a reference in a media distance from the

speaker. Furthermore, the option of one display or another to indicate the deixis may be related to the psychological condition of the person speaking, which cannot be defined too precisely.)

Demonstratives in Arabic can be used to satisfy the following functions:

1- To indicate a referent by a particular expression accompanied by a gesture.

- /uriidu haaḏaa/. (Pointing to a book). "I want this".

-/haaḏaa zaydun/. "This is Zayd".

2- To identify referents in terms of nearness or remoteness.

- /haaḏa rraJluu šuJaa9un/. "This is a brave man". miratun/.θb. /tilka ššaJaratu mu "That tree is fruitful".

3- To glorify referents by using a nearer or remoter demonstrative.

-/haaḏa llaḏi hazama la9daa?a/. "This (masc.) is the one who defeated the enemies".

-/tilka llati naalat lJaa?izata/. "That (fem.) is the one who got the prize".

4- To show some unfavoured characteristics of human referents, i.e., to dispraise them by identifying their weakness and mean behavior.

-/haaḏaa rraJulu laa ya\$luHu li šay?in/. "This man is good for nothing".

- /a haaḏa llaḏii taxšaahu/. "Is this the one you fear"?

5- To show how much some individuals are careless or lazy.

-/haaḏaa huwa lqalamu llaḏi Jalabtuhu laka. Haaḏa huwa, unḌur ilayhi, ilmashu biyadika/. "This is the pencil that I brought to you. This is it, look at it, and touch it with your hands".

Demonstratives may be used to indicate references mentioned in the text earlier. Anaphorical evidence can relate the text elements semen thoroughly and replace objects whose repeated appearance could damage the cohesive or stylistic value of a text. The second noun occurrence in substantive phrases with two identical heads refers to the same item in the text. The demonstrative may therefore be used to indicate a phrase of reference co, regardless of the deletion process, which does not allow a second reading for the deleted head.

-/qara?tu riwaayatan fi lisbuu9i lmaadii. wakaanat tilka rriwaayatu mumti9atan/. “I read a novel last week and that was interesting”.
 -S/qara?tu riwaayatan fi lisbuu9i lmaadii. wakaanat mumti9atan/.
 “I read a story last week and that was interesting” (Al-Dilaymy, 1998, p. CXIII)

5. Data Analysis and Discussion

In this section, random Iraqi videos are selected from YouTube that is about different issues concerning political issues. These issues are a lot; however, here are some of them: the issue of the 2020 demonstrations, the issue of the previous and current political systems, and the current social and political situation in COVID-19. The procedure we follow is watching and transcribing the speeches between the announcers and people. Then we analyze these speeches according to anaphoric references, which are personal, demonstrative, and comparative.

However, the following table shows the personal references with percentages and occurrences for each. The number of each depends on its occurrences in the videos watched and translated. More than ten are chosen randomly on YouTube in different Iraqi channels like AlIraqia, Nrt, Asia cell , Dijla or AL Summaria.

Table (4) Personal References with Percentages and Occurrences

Persona References	Frequency	Percentage
we	165	41%
I	125	31%
you	20	5%
They	18	4.5%
Your	14	3.5%
It	12	3.%
Their	5	1.25%
Them	5	1.25%
Total	400	100%

After watching and translating the videos, we analyze this interaction between different announcers and citizens (Iraqis), and from these interviews or interactions, we come up with certain analyses and interpretations that show how bad the situation is and how those people have suffered. All of what has been said carries native implications for the situation. The most prominent reference type is personal, as people refer to themselves with the first-person pronoun "I" or "we". The pronoun "we" tops the list; it is frequently used when people refer to a general problem that everyone suffers from or faces, such as poverty or unemployment. However, the "I" is placed the second, which is used when people refer to a specific problem that a specific person faces, such demonstrative issue. The pronoun "you" is placed third in the list which is used in most cases. The announcer uses it when he poses or raises a question to the speakers or when they direct their speech to the government. The pronoun "they" is also used to refer to the members of Iraqi government.

Furthermore, the reference "it" is sometimes used to refer to the government as a whole or a certain matter like the situation or ration card. The pronouns "them, your and they are" are also used but rarely. Each pronoun is shown in the following examples:

*ANNOUNCER: Speaking of 2020 demonstration, what do **you** think will these demonstrations make any solution:*

*SPEAKER: an Iraqi citizen comments, directing his speech to the government: Why do **you** kill innocents?; Why do **you** kill such beautiful young's?; there are thousands of solutions rather than. **They** never appoint us, but **they** appoint their relatives and those whom **they** are close to or know. Why do **we** always suffer?; when will **we** be like Qatar and Sudia Arabia. **I** want to live, but why do not **they** give attain me a house or land? **I** live in a rent house. How can **I** make living?*

*ANNOUNCER: okay, so what is **your** problem? Why are **you** demonstrate*

*SPEAKER: **I** have never drunk or eaten in five days; **I** swear by God. Why do **we** sleep in the street? **I am the one** who defended*

*Iraq against ISIS in Alanbar and Mousal, and now no one pays me any attention; **I** am unemployed, so tell me, what shall **I** do?*

*ANNOUNCER: Speaking of COVID-19, as an Iraqi what is **your** complain about the situation:*

*S1: **we** know that it is contagious, but what shall **we** do? We have families to feed, **we** have to work daily. If **we** don't do so **we** will die starving. **We** don't have salaries; no one would give us a penny if we did not work, so **we** should go out and work. **We** will never stay home.*

*S2: COVID-19 really exhausts us; **we** are out of the mood to go outside or visit relatives at all. **We** are psychologically collapsed. **We** are just staying at home, and **we** are unemployed, so how can we get money?**We** are really so depressed.*

*S3: **we** are not used to staying at home or locked down; you know, **we** do nothing but sleep and eat. In addition, **we** know COVID-19, is a very dangerous disease. It considerably affects them financially and psychologically. **You** are obsessed with the fact that **you** are going to be infected.*

*S4: **I** am not used to staying at home; **I** have been fighting in the house and laughing simultaneously. However, **I** got depressed so much. **It** threatened our lives.*

*S5: there is no good procedure to be conducted; indeed, **they** are very classic. Pharmacies increase the prices of everything instead of decreasing them to help people.*

*ANNOUNCER: what is the reason that makes **you** say so?*

*SPEAKER: At that time, for example, the ration card contains ten items per month, but now **it** contains only three, which is bad for three months.*

*ANNOUNCER: what is **your** opinion about the current political situation in Iraq?*

SPEAKER: The current political situation is very, very bad.

As far as the comparative reference, sometimes, the speakers use such a type of reference when they want to compare or contrast, as in words like better or different, or dissimilar. The following example asserts the above claim:

ANOUNCER: what is your opinion about the current political situation in Iraq?

*SPEAKER: the people of government are thieves; there is peace and security. I think the situation under Sdam's reign is **better**. Let them say that I belong to Alba'ath party; Saddam is **better** than them.*

ANOUNCER: how do you see the Iraqi situation in COVID-19 compared to other states?

*SPEAKER: ACTUALLY, I swear by Allah, we are at God's mercy. We are **dissimilar** from Qatar or UAE. There are no good procedures or medical protections. We are in chaos¹.*

Regarding demonstrative references, indeed, the analysis shows that there are no demonstrative references at all. This is because people refer to themselves only or the government with personal references and avoid using demonstratives like that or those. They want to direct their message to the government and speak to it clearly in person and/or a person.

6.Conclusion

Analyzing the daily Iraqi social speech on YouTube shows the different points considerably expected as the situation tells. We know that language is not only a matter of structure but of use and function, so by resorting to language structure and linguistic mechanisms of cohesion and, more specifically, anaphoric references, certain conclusions are drawn:

- 1- Personal References are the most predominant cohesive category employed throughout the sample and share the highest percentage within all analysis instances. The analysis shows that the first personal pronouns "we and "you" top the list with a percentage of (72%/ 190) for both, where (41%/165) for 'we' and (31%/ 125) for 'I'.

¹ The Samples of Data Analysis are Retrieved from the Following Links on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/Yx-o0Q-gxD0>

<https://youtu.be/65-PFwfOJPI>

https://youtu.be/tV_7WA-nHzq

<https://youtu.be/zQRaqbQkBd8>

- 2- On the opposite, third and second-person pronouns such as they, it, and you rank as the lowest in most of the occurrences within the sample because speakers reveal their suffering to the unknown in most cases without directing their message in some cases.
- 3- Regarding issues or topics raised and debated or argued, it is concluded that the people talk about different issues, such as 2020 demonstration, the situation in COVID-19, or criticizing the political system.
- 4- Other anaphoric references, such as demonstrative, are used less or never. This is because people direct their message to the addresses which are a member of the government. Hence, they never use pronouns such as that, this, or those, etc.

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