

# Kaplan on Demonstratives

## Indexical

A word whose referent is dependent on the context of use ... whose meaning provides a rule which determines the referent in terms of certain aspects of the context.

Examples: *I, my, you, he, his, she, it, that, this, here, now, tomorrow, yesterday, actual, present.*

## Demonstration

Typically, ... a (visual) presentation of a local object discriminated by a pointing.

## Demonstrative

An indexical expression that requires an associated demonstration.

## Pure indexical

Does not require an associated demonstration.

Examples: *I, now, here, today, tomorrow, yesterday.*

## Singular proposition

An ordered pair consisting of an **individual** and a property.

## Context

A possible occasion of use of an expression.

Every context has an *agent*, a *time*, and a *location*.

## Content

The proposition *expressed* by an utterance.

## Circumstance

A counterfactual situation, i.e., *possible world*. What we take into account to evaluate the truth-value of the content.

## Directly referential

An expression whose referent, once determined, is taken as fixed for all possible circumstances.

## Two Principles:

1. The referent of a pure indexical depends on the context, and the referent of a demonstrative depends on the associated demonstration.
2. Indexicals, pure and demonstrative alike, are directly referential.

## Two Kinds of Meaning

### Content

The content of a sentence is the **proposition** expressed.

- A content is a function from circumstances of evaluation to an appropriate extension.

### Character

- A character is a function from a context to a content.

### Examples

- On Monday, Bill says “I am hungry today.”
- On Tuesday, Marc says “Bill was hungry yesterday.”

Both utterances have the **same content**, the proposition that Bill is hungry on Monday,  $\langle \text{Bill}, H, \text{Monday} \rangle$ .

But the two utterances have **different characters**.

## Characters

It is the character of ‘Bill’ simply to refer to Bill, regardless of the context. (It is a function that yields Bill as its value for **every** context.)

It is the character of ‘I’ to refer to the agent of the context. (It is a function that yields Bill as its value in contexts in which Bill is the **agent**.)

### “I am hungry today.”

Its character is a function that, given a context with agent,  $a$ , and time,  $t$ , has as its value the content that  $a$  is hungry at  $t$ ,  $\langle a, H, t \rangle$ .

So, where  $a = \text{Bill}$  and  $t = \text{Monday}$ , its character has as its value the content  $\langle \text{Bill}, H, \text{Monday} \rangle$ .

### “Bill was hungry yesterday.”

Its character is a function that, given a context with time,  $t$ , has as its value the content that Bill is hungry on the day before  $t$ ,  $\langle \text{Bill}, H, \text{the day before } t \rangle$ .

So, where  $t = \text{Tuesday}$ , its character has as its value the content  $\langle \text{Bill}, H, \text{Monday} \rangle$ .