



## “Morgen war Weihnachten.” Deixis and perspective in narratives.

Deixis is a characteristic of human language and essential for communication. It allows a speaker to draw the attention of a hearer to an object of interest (BÜHLER, 1934; EHLICH, 1978). The hearer is oriented by the speaker to the pointed object (BÜHLER, 1934), as it can be seen in the example: “Hier ist das Teehaus.”/ Here is the teahouse. (soldier to the traveler in direct speech in Kafka's *In der Strafkolonie*) A certain perspective is taken when the object of interest is out of perception of the communication partners (*Deixis am Phantasma*). The deictical function to orientate is then extended to a certain point in time or space: “[...] Papa hat mir erst neulich wieder einen Mastbaum versprochen, hier dicht neben der Schaukel, [...]“/ Dad has promised me the other day again a mast, here close to the swing, (Effi to her friend in direct speech in Fontane's *Effi Briest*.)

The examples above are taken from narrative texts. Narration is peculiar in two ways: Firstly, the communication structure is complex. This is a reason why paradox phenomena can be found in free indirect discourse: Morgen war Weihnachten./Tomorrow was christmas (out of Berend's *Die Bräutigame der Babette Bomberling*; well known through HAMBURGER, 1968). The deictic adverb referring to the futures clashes with the past tense. Secondly, *literariness* has to be taken into account. I state that - besides focusing and orientating the reader - deictic expressions in narratives have a poetic function (following JAKOBSON, 1960). The poetic function of deictic expressions applies to more than one phenomena in narratives: In EHLICH, 1982 disorientation was discussed. I will show that deictic expressions enable a shift in perspective, or to be more precise: They enable a shift in focalization (GENETTE) and can be found when zero focalization as well as external and internal focalization is used.