

Week 6: Perspective

Some open-class lexical items are sensitive to where the speaker is, or the hearer, or another 'deictic center'; the verbs *go*, *take*, *come* and *bring* are cases in point.

More generally, the speaker has a certain freedom to take the hearer's, or a third person's, **point of view**.

What is wrong with

- (1) ?Can you go over here, please?
- (2) ?Come over there a minute, will you?
- (3) ?Ah! Take me a candle, will you, Leah?
- (4) ?Don't bring your love away from me!



And where do (5) and (6) part ways?

- (5) I will take a thermos.
- (6) I will bring a thermos.
- (7) Won't you come and go with me / Down that Mississippi
- (8) Won't you come along with me / Down the Mississippi

Deictic and non-deictic interpretations



Charles Fillmore (1971) *Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis*,
Lecture 5 – and 6

But – [go over here please](#)

D.Y Oshima (2012)



Behind the shower curtain
(*Psycho*, 1960)

M.V. Cox (1985)

W. Klein (1983)



What kind of objects (can)
have 'fronts' and 'behinds'?

(9) ____ ____ behind the shower curtain.

Fronted objects: intrinsic orientation

Search strings: "behind a*all day" and "behind a*all night"

- Do "sitting in front of a computer screen" and "sitting behind a computer screen" describe the same type of state?

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