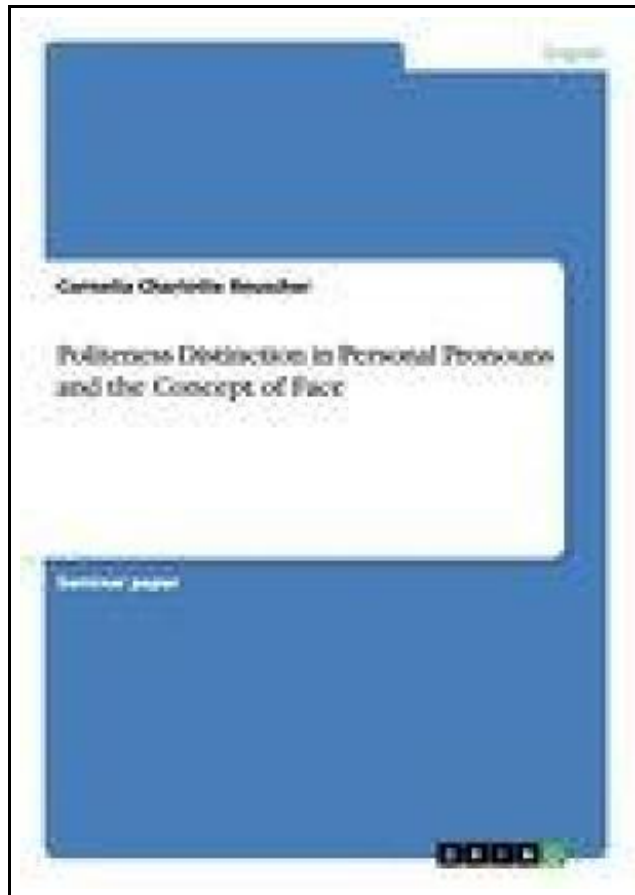


## Politeness Distinction in Personal Pronouns and the Concept of Face



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GRIN Verlag Mrz 2011, 2011. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 2,0, University of Hamburg, course: Human Perspective and Language: Deixis, 11 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: 1. Introduction This paper will deal with politeness distinctions in personal pronouns. Thus, the leading question will be: In how far can personal pronouns, being deictic expressions, serve as elements of politeness To clarify this a little more, I would like to begin with a short explanation of the term 'deictic expression': Deictics, also known as 'pointing words', are for example: I, you, here, there, before, after. One can distinguish between person, local and time deixis. Special to deictics is the fact that they are meaningless unless we know who speaks and thus forms the center of orientation - the origo. Personal pronouns, however, form a category of person deixis. They relate to either the addressee or to someone talked about in a conversation, they 'characterize the referent as well with respect to the speech act role and the size of the respective speaker and hearer groups.' In a discourse, personal pronouns lexicalize the relation between the origo, which is the cognitive ground for an act of pointing, and the intended referent, who is the figure of the pointing act. Unlike in local or time deixis, this intended referent is a human being (I will omit the situations when human beings speak to animals here), not an inanimate thing like a piece of furniture or an abstract unit like for example a time span - in short, it makes a difference if I say something like: 'Here is the green...

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