

# The system of the demonstrative pronouns provided in the grammar of Modern Lithuanian: analysis of traditions

## *Norādāmo vietniekvārdu sistēma mūsdienu lietuviešu gramatikā: tradīciju analīze*

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**Abstract.** The aim of this paper is to discuss the system of the demonstrative pronouns provided in the “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (*A grammar of Modern Lithuanian*) (Ambrasas 2006): to comment on it from the perspective of pragmatics and to compare it to the system of demonstrative pronouns used in spoken Lithuanian. The object of the current research is the demonstrative pronouns *tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’, *šis* (M), *ši* (F) ‘this’, *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) ‘this’, *anas* (M), *ana* (F) ‘that’ (semantics and pragmatics). The paper focuses on dealing with several issues: 1) examples with the demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” from the perspective of pragmatic uses; 2) understanding of the term ‘three-way contrast’ in general and the one that is represented in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”; 3) the meaning of the demonstrative pronoun *tas* ‘that’ in the exophoric use. The paper consists of several parts. First, a brief overview of the system of the demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” is given. Next, the theoretical background is presented and some issues of the system in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” are revealed. Finally, the system in spoken Lithuanian is discussed and conclusions are drawn.

**Keywords:** demonstrative pronouns; Lithuanian; semantics; spatial deixis; pragmatic uses; principles of description.

## Introduction

The aim of this paper is to discuss the system of the demonstrative pronouns provided in the work “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (*A grammar of Modern Lithuanian*) (Ambrasas 2006), to comment on it from the perspective of pragmatics and to compare it to the system of demonstrative pronouns used in spoken Lithuanian. “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” is the grammar aimed to describe consistently the internal structure of the **present** Lithuanian language and, at the same time, to define the most important norms for the formulation and use of words, their forms and sentences. This is not a textbook, but rather a grammar guide covering phonology, morphology (along with word building), and

syntax. This grammar was chosen for the research as it represents the so-called present modern Lithuanian. The latest edition was used for the research.

The following objectives have been identified to achieve the aim:

- 1) to present the system of the demonstrative pronouns according to Ambrazas 2006;
- 2) to discuss the given system from the perspective of pragmatics;
- 3) to compare the system to the one used in spoken Lithuanian.

The object of the current research is the demonstrative pronouns *tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’, *šis* (M), *ši* (F) ‘this’, *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) ‘this’, and *anas* (M), *ana* (F) ‘that’. In the paper, the demonstrative pronouns *šis* (M), *ši* (F) ‘this’, *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) ‘this’ are treated as absolute synonyms (used in different regions of Lithuania). The analysis excludes the demonstrative pronouns *tas pats* ‘the same’ (M), *ta pati* ‘the same’ (F), since they refer to already known subjects/objects/places (Rosinas 1996, 94), as well as the demonstratives *toks* (M), *-ia* (F) ‘of this kind’, *šioks* (M), *-ia* (F) ‘of this kind’, *šitoks* (M), *-ia* (F) ‘of this kind’, *anoks* (M), *-ia* (F) ‘of that kind’, *pats tas* ‘just the kind’ (M), *pati ta* ‘just the kind’ (F), which refer to a property (Ambrazas 2006, 262).

The paper consists of several parts. First, a brief overview of the system of the demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” is given. Later on, the theoretical background is presented and some issues of “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” system are revealed. Next, the system in spoken Lithuanian is discussed. The data for the discussion is taken from the paper “Spatial deixis in Lithuanian: demonstrative pronouns” (Judžentytė 2017), which was aimed by means of experiment to determine the meaning of the pronoun *tas* (M) in current spoken Lithuanian and to verify whether the Lithuanian system of demonstratives is ternary as stated earlier (Ulvydas 1965, 678–679; Rosinas 1988, 50–51; Rosinas 1996, 57–59). Finally, conclusions are drawn and references are given.

## 1. The system of the demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”

### 1.1. Semantic specification

According to “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”, demonstrative pronouns usually refer to:

1. A definite thing (person, phenomenon): *tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’, *šis* (M), *ši* (F) ‘this’, *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) ‘this’, *anas* (M), *ana* (F) ‘that’ (Ambrazas 2006, 262).
2. A situation: *tai* ‘it’ (N), *šita(i)* ‘it’ (N).

Demonstrative pronouns express reference from the perspective of the speaker (Ambrazas 2006, 262). They exhibit/express contrast between the ‘near’ (*šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šita/šita* (F)) and ‘distant’ (*anas* (M), *ana* (F)) reference:

1. *šis* (M), *ši* (F) ‘this’ (Samogitian dialect) = *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) ‘this’ (Aukštaitian dialect); a proximal demonstrative; near to the speaker (Ambrazas 2006, 263).

2. *anas* (M), *ana* (F) ‘that’, a distal demonstrative; in a distance from a speaker (Ambrazas 2006, 263).

They are also used when no contrast between the near and distant reference is implied (Ambrazas 2006, 263), e.g.

- (1) *Geriau*      *pirkim*              *šitą*              *paveikslą,*              *anas*  
 better          buy.IMP.1PL          this.ACC.M          picture.ACC.M          that.ACC.M  
*man*              *nepatinka*  
 I.DAT          not\_like.PRS.3  
 ‘Let’s better buy this picture, I don’t like that one.’

*Šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) correlate with *anas* (M), *ana* (F), *tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’ in three-way contrast (Ambrazas 2006, 263).

*Tas* (M), *ta* (F) are the neutral members of the near-distant opposition: they can be contrasted both to *šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šitą/šita* (F) and *anas* (M), *ana* (F). In other words, *tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’ have a neutral meaning; they can be used to indicate both – ‘proximal’ (‘near to the speaker’) and ‘distal’ (‘not near to/far from the speaker’) in different contexts (Ambrazas 2006, 264).

According to the same grammar, the demonstrative pronouns can be used both in the nominal and adjectival positions:

1. NP: usually they express anaphoric reference to the antecedent noun:

- (2) *Iš tėvo*      *jis*              *gavo*              *šiek*              *tiuk*  
 from          father.GEN.M      he.NOM.M      get.PST.3      some  
*pinigų,*              *tie*              *jam*              *labai*      *pravertė*  
 money.GEN.PL.M      that.NOM.PL.M      he.DAT.M      very      come in useful.PST3  
 ‘He got some **money** from his father, **it** came in very handy to him.’

2. AP (before a noun): they attribute the definite status to the noun. *Tas* (M), *ta* (F) sometimes lose their demonstrative meaning:

- (3) *Tie*              *daržai*              *vis*              *nebaigti*              *ravėti*  
 that.NOM.PL.M      garden.NOM.PL.M      still      not\_finish.INF      weed.INF  
 ‘The weeding of **those gardens** is never finished.’

When *tas* (M), *ta* (F), *šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šita* (F), *anas* (M), *ana* (F) are used in nominal positions, they usually have anaphoric reference to the antecedent noun, although the latter function is more characteristic of the personal pronouns *jis* (M), *ji* (F) ‘he, she’. By the frequency of their use as nominal demonstratives with anaphoric reference, demonstratives could be arranged in the following sequence: *tas* (M), *ta* (F) (most frequent), *šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) (less frequent), *anas* (M), *ana* (F) (rare) (Ambrazas 2006, 264).

## 1.2. Source of the ternary tradition

The ternary system of the demonstrative pronouns for the first time was presented in “Lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (*A Grammar of Lithuanian*) (Ulvydas 1965). According to it, the demonstrative pronouns *šis* ‘this’ (M), *tas* ‘that’ and *anas* ‘that’ (M) refer to known things in the speaker’s respect. The demonstrative pronoun *tas* ‘that’ (M) distinguishes a more or less distant known object (Ulvydas 1965, 678–679), the demonstrative pronouns *šis*, *šitas* ‘this’ (M) distinguish a very close object to the speaker in perspective of space and time (Ulvydas 1965, 679), and the demonstrative pronoun *anas* ‘that’ (M) distinguishes the most distant thing (from the speaker) in perspective of space and time (Ulvydas 1965, 679).

Later on, Rosinas gave his semantic explanation of it. According to Rosinas (1988, 50–51; 1996, 57–59), the Lithuanian system of demonstratives (deictic pronouns) is ternary. He states that the pronoun *šis* (M) is a proximal deictic, *anas* (M) – distal, however *tas* (M) can be used to indicate both – a proximal (‘near the speaker’) and distal (‘not near the speaker’) object in Lithuanian (Rosinas 1996, 58–59).

It is quite clear, that the system has changed during 31 years: the opposition of distance became binary, but the number of system-belonging members remained (*šis*, *tas*, *anas* (M)). The Rosinas’ system was presented in the first edition of “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (Ambrasas 1994), and some changes were made in next editions (Ambrasas 1996, 1997), as well as in the fourth edition of “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”, which is used as a source for this research. The current research is as highly relevant as Rosinas’ researches that were developed in different editions of the grammar within 30 years.

## 2. The systems of demonstrative pronouns from the perspective of pragmatics

### 2.1. Pragmatic uses of demonstratives

As is it commonly known, demonstrative pronouns represent space deixis, which is part of reference, whereas reference is a part of pragmatics.

Pragmatic uses can be twofold (Diessel 1999, 19) – exophoric and endophoric. The *exophoric* use means that the speaker refers directly to something that is physically evident in his/her surroundings, e.g.

- (4) *tas*                      *namas*                      *gražus*  
 that.NOM.M      house.NOM.M      beautiful.NOM.M  
 ‘That house is beautiful.’

The *endophoric* use is understood as a use when the demonstrative refers to a referent that exists in the ongoing discourse (in written text or spoken language) (Diessel 1999, 19). There are several subcategories of the endophoric use:

1. It can be *anaphoric*. Anaphoric demonstratives are co-referential with a noun phrase in the preceding discourse, e.g.

- (5) *O karalaitē padovanojo jam kalavijā,*  
 and princess.NOM.F give.PST.3 he.DAT.M sword.ACC.M  
*nusagstytā auksiniais pinigais, tie*  
 stud.PTCP.M golden.INSTR.PL.M coin.INSTR.PL.M that.NOM.PL.M  
*jam labai pravertē.*  
 he.DAT.M very help.PST.3  
 ‘And a princess gave him a sword, studded with gold **coins**, **that** were very helpful to him.’

2. It can be *discourse deictic*. Discourse deictic demonstratives refer to a chunk of the surrounding discourse, e.g.

- (6) *Žmogus susirgo staiga ir visiškai*  
 man.NOM.M become\_ill.PST.3 suddenly and absolutely  
*netikėtai. Jis buvo gydomas kelerius*  
 unexpectedly he.NOM.M be.PST.3 treat.PTCP several.ACC.PL.M  
*metus ir pagaliau įveikė ligą.*  
 year.ACC.PL.M and eventually overcome.PST.3 disease.ACC.F  
*Tai pakeitė jo gyvenimą*  
 that.N change.PST.3 he.GEN.M life.ACC.M  
 ‘The **man** became ill suddenly and unexpectedly. He was treated for several years and eventually overcame the disease. **That** changed his life.’

3. It can be *recognitional*. Recognitional demonstratives have a function to indicate that the speaker and the hearer are familiar with the referent due to shared experience:

- (7) *Ar dar tebēr ta troba, kur*  
 Does still exist.PRS.3 that.NOM.F house.NOM.F where  
*seniau gyvenom?*  
 earlier live.PST.3  
 ‘Does **that** house where we lived earlier still exist?’

When demonstrative pronouns are used exophorically, they focus the hearer’s attention on entities in the speech situation and very often are used in combination with a deictic/pointing gesture) (Diessel 1999, 2).

## 2.2. Deictic systems

From the perspective of relative distance, according to Huang (2014, 192–197), deictic systems can be *one-term systems*, *two-term systems*, *three-term systems* and *four-term systems*. Some languages have demonstratives with five-way distinctions on the proximal-distal dimension (Huang 2006, 154–156).

In languages with the three-term systems a three-way contrast between ‘proximal’, ‘medial’ and ‘distal’ (extremely far from the speaker and/or the addressee) members exists (Huang 2006, 152–154; Huang 2014, 195). In this

system, a medial member specifies the location related to the deictic centre (the speaker). For instance, Scottish English has a three-way contrast: *this* ‘proximal’, *that* ‘medial’, *yon* ‘distal’ (Huang 2014, 196). Malotki (1982, 234), alternatively terms this system as ‘proximal’, ‘mid-distance’ and ‘extreme-distal’.

### 2.3. More than a distance

There are many cases, when the ‘proximal’ demonstrative can refer not just to closer things, but event to further things commonly referred to by the ‘distal’ demonstrative in different contexts.

Yule (1996) discussed the term *psychological distance*. According to him, a speaker will generally treat psychically close objects as psychologically close; something that is psychically distant will commonly be treated as psychologically distant. However, a speaker may also wish to mark something that is psychically close as psychologically distant (Yule 1996, 13). For instance, the utterance *that girl* instead of *this girl* could express the speaker’s opinion upon the object of discussions.

Einfield (2003, 115) explains in his paper that several factors are important in the use of demonstratives: “such as distance of referent from speaker, location of addressee with respect to referent, and visibility of referent to speaker and/or addressee”. Each of them can play an important role. After researching choices of Lao speakers between the two available demonstratives (‘proximal’ and ‘distal’), he highlighted that these choices are “influenced by conceived extensions of *here-space*” (Einfield 2003, 116): “These conceptions are determined, in turn, on the basis of pragmatic factors emergent in the dynamic interactional situation, including physical barriers, perimeters of engagement area created by interlocutors’ manual and attentional focus, and conceived ‘gravitational pull’ between interlocutors and objects, among other things.” In addition, given the omnipresence of an interactional maxim of RECIPIENT DESIGN, speakers also take into account their addressees’ presumed access to information relevant for inferring the extension of the speaker’s conceived here-space. In this way, ALL demonstratives are BOTH speaker-anchored and addressee-anchored.

### 2.4. Issues to be discussed

Summing up the earlier in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” provided system of demonstratives and basics of deictic usage, several issues may be listed:

- 1) deixis is a link between semantics and pragmatics;
- 2) the given examples do not illustrate all pragmatic uses (see section 2);
- 3) the given examples are outdated (all taken from XX century fiction);
- 4) the term *three-way contrast* is confusing;
- 5) there are not enough arguments to state that the pronoun *tas* (M) has a neutral meaning;
- 6) there is no proof in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” to confirm the ternary system of demonstrative pronouns in standard Lithuanian.

### 3. Comments on “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” from the perspective of pragmatics

#### 3.1. Pragmatic uses of the Lithuanian demonstrative pronouns

Firstly, it is quite confusing that the Lithuanian demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (Ambrazas 2006) are discussed mostly from the perspective of semantics, but not pragmatics. In other words, a merely semantic opposition ‘proximal’/‘non-proximal, distal’ is discussed<sup>1</sup>. That means, the given analysis is not complete and there are enough arguments to state that demonstrative pronouns “are also used when no contrast between near and distant reference is implied” (see section 2). The (8) example (Ambrazas 2006, 263), e.g.

- (8) *Geriau pirkim šitą paveikslą, anas man nepatinka*  
 better buy.IMP.1PL this.ACC.M picture.ACC.M, that.NOM.M me.DAT  
 not\_like.PRS.3  
 ‘Let’s better buy **this** picture, I don’t like **that** one.’

would not be proper to illustrate the statement, since in actual contexts (e.g. the exophoric use) in combination with deictic gestures it could express a ‘proximal’ and ‘distal’ object, e.g. ‘the picture near/closer to me’ / ‘the picture in a distance/further’. As space deixis (deixis in general) is a link between semantics and pragmatics, to provide common meanings of the Lithuanian demonstrative pronouns a two-fold approach is needed and frames of analysis should be given as well.

Another great problem is that the reader should distinguish by himself, when the usage is exophoric or endophoric, e.g.

- (9) *O ši tavo šeimininkė (jauna žmona) – juk nejos bestovinti!*  
 and this.NOM.F you.GEN housewife.NOM.F – after all  
 not\_ride.FUT.3 stand.PTCP  
 ‘And **this** your hostess (young wife) – after all, she won’t ride in the upright position.’

Implications it is exophoric use could be made from the fact a piece of dialog is given. However, it is difficult to understand if the referent is in the surroundings of interlocutors (exophoric use), or they talk about subject known from the previous context (recognitional demonstratives).

<sup>1</sup> Semantics deals with the study of meaning of word without the context, when pragmatics understands the language meaning but keeping the context in mind. In other words semantic opposition ‘proximal’/‘non-proximal, distal’ can be pragmatic as well, but here I have in mind that given contexts are not interpreted and commented, on the contrary - the given meanings are illustrated by examples (and these meanings are clear from the demonstrative pronouns themselves, not from the contexts).

Moreover, it seems that the main attention is paid to the endophoric use in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”:

1) *Anaphoric*, e.g.

- (10) *Ji kalbina Vilių, – šis tuo tarpu*  
 she.NOM.F talk.PRS.3 Vilius.ACC.M this.NOM.M meanwhile  
*nieko neatsako*  
 nothing.GEN not\_answer.PRS.3  
 ‘She tries to talk to **Vilius** – while **he** does not answer’ (Ambrasas 2006, 264).

2) *Discourse deictic*, e.g.

- (11) *Kad žmogus savo laimės atspėti*  
 as man.N.M he.GEN.M happiness.GEN.F guess.INF  
*nemoka ir todėl vargsta, irgi*  
 not\_can.PRS.3 and therefore suffer.PRS.3 as well  
*iš senų laikų žmonių esi*  
 from old.GEN.PL.M time GEN.PL.M man.GEN.PL.M is.PRS.2  
*girdėjęs? – Ne, kam meluosiu, šita*  
 hear.PTCP no why lie.FUT.1 this.N  
*gal girdėjau, gal ir ne.*  
 perhaps hear.PST.1 perhaps and no  
 ‘Have you heard people from ancient times saying, **that a man fails to guess his happiness, and therefore he get tired?** – No to whom I lie, I may have heard **this**, maybe not.’ (Ambrasas 2006, 264).

3) *Recognitional*, e.g.

- (12) *O šitos dainos ar nemoki,*  
 and this.GEN.F song.GEN.F whether not\_know.PRS.2  
*Katrytė?*  
 Katrytė.VOC.F  
 ‘Don’t you know **this** song, Katrytė’ (Ambrasas 2006, 263).

Although Rosinas (1996, 57) stated that demonstrative pronouns are the main tool to express anaphoric relations and deictic pointing, “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” does not provide a clear distinction between the deictic and anaphoric uses. Moreover, the term *deictic pointing* is excluded completely.

As all the examples to interpret are taken from the fiction of XX c. Lithuanian authors, not just that there is a great lack of the exophoric use, it is quite clear that they are outdated and do not represent the current Lithuanian language. Thus, the data does not reflect the current system of demonstrative pronouns in the Lithuanian language; it resembles the system, which existed in the XX c.

### 3.2. Three-way contrast

According to “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (Ambrasas 2006), the pronouns *šis* (M), *ši* (F), *šitas* (M), *šita* (F) correlate with *anas* (M), *ana* (F),



*tas* (M), *ta* (F) ‘this/that’ in a three-way contrast (see section 2). The classification of the Lithuanian demonstrative pronouns in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” is based on the research of Rosinas (1996), who uses the definition of the ternary system according to Kuryłowicz (1964). Kuryłowicz (1964, 148–148) claims that a ternary system consists of a ‘proximal’ pronoun, which is marked and positive, a ‘distal’ member that is negative, and a ‘neutral’ member, which is neutral. Based on that proximity / distance can be expressed by the opposition which is marked, neutral / negative, neutral, e.g. *šis*, *tas* (M) ‘proximal’ / *anas*, *tas* (M) ‘distal’. In “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” the demonstrative pronouns *tas* (M), *ta* (F) are the neutral members of the near-distant, therefore, in the given example it is used as a synonym of a ‘proximal’ or ‘distal’ member.

As it was stated before, languages with a three-way contrast have a proximal member, a medial member, and a distal member (see section 3). In this system, the medial member locates the place, related to the deictic center (mostly the speaker) (Huang 2006, 152–154). From this point of view, if we call Lithuanian a language with a three-way contrast of demonstrative pronouns, the system should look like this: *šis* ‘proximal’ (M) / *tas* ‘medial’ (M) / *anas* ‘distal / extreme distal’ (M).

The fact is that the system of demonstrative pronouns in Standard Lithuanian has a two-way contrast ‘proximal’ / ‘distal’, but it consists of three members: *šis*, *tas* and *anas* (later on this question will be reviewed).

Moreover, when we analyze contexts with demonstrative pronouns, according to Yule (Yule 1996), or later – Einfield (Einfield 2003), the psychological aspect should be taken into consideration. From this perspective, it is quite common to use ‘proximal’ demonstratives instead of ‘distal’ and *vice versa*. This could be a new insight into re-evaluating the statement “*tas* (M), *ta* can be used to indicate both – proximal (‘near to a speaker’) and distal (‘not near to/far from a speaker’) in different contexts” (Ambrasas 2006, 264).

### 3.3. The demonstrative *tas* in current spoken Lithuanian

A couple more claims that are dubious are: 1) the demonstrative pronoun *tas* (M) has a neutral meaning; and 2) the system of demonstrative pronouns in standard Lithuanian reveals a three-way contrast.

In previous research (Judžentytė 2017) there are enough arguments to ground the statement that the Lithuanian demonstrative pronouns express physical distance (in combination with pointing gestures) (for more examples see Judžentytė 2017, 182–183), e.g.

- (13) S1: *O kaip tau tas bokštas?*  
 and how you.DAT that.NOM.M tower.NOM.M  
 ‘And how do you find **that** tower?’
- S2: *Tas bokštas tikrai atkreipia dėmesį.*  
 that.NOM.M tower.NOM.M certainly attract.PRS.3  
 attention.ACC.M  
 ‘**That** tower certainly attracts attention.’

In almost all cases (except one) physical distance was lexicalized by means of the Lithuanian pronoun *tas* (M) and specified by different gestures.

Usually the two-way contrast ‘proximal’/‘distal’ is expressed by the demonstrative Lithuanian pronouns *šis* (M) and *tas* (M) (for more examples see Judžentytė 2017, 185–186), where *šis* (M) acts like a ‘proximal’ demonstrative and *tas* (M) – as a ‘distal’ demonstrative. e.g.

- (14) S1: *O tas baltas?*  
and that.NOM.M white.NOM.M  
‘And what about **that** white one?’
- S2: *Tas man patinka. Bet dėmesį*  
that.NOM.M me.DAT like.PRS.3 however attention. ACC.M  
*vis tiek labiausiai atkreipčiau į šią*  
still mostly pay.CON.2 to this.ACC.F  
*varpinę. Ir į tą pastatą.*  
bell tower.ACC.F and to that.ACC.M building.ACC.F  
‘I like **that** one. However, I would pay attention mostly to **this** bell tower. And to **that** building.’

Just one dialog in previous research reveals lexicalization of a ‘distal’ object or subject by the demonstrative pronoun *anas* (M): it happens when the interviewer asks to repeat which hill is the object of discussion (see Judžentytė 217, 187), e.g.

- (15) S1: *O už katedros, yra kalnas.*  
‘And behind the cathedral, there is a hill.’
- S2: *Kuris kalnas?*  
‘Which hill?’
- S1: *Va, anas. Tai ten yra*  
over there that.NOM.M it there be.PRS.3  
*Gedimino pilis viršuje.*  
gediminas.GEN.M castle.NOM.F top.LOC.M  
‘Over there, **that one**. There is Gediminas Castle on the top of it.’

Moreover, if we consider that the choice of demonstrative pronouns is influenced by conceived extensions of *here-space*, as Einfield (2003, 115) claimed, the fact, that the demonstrative pronoun *tas* (M) sometimes can gain the meaning of ‘close object/subject’, it logically argued. When the speaker extends *here-space*, he/she points to objects/subject by the demonstrative pronoun *šis* (M). However, sometimes he/she excludes close objects/subjects from his/her *here-space*, and no matter whether it is a close entity, the choice is the demonstrative pronoun *tas* (M). This would explain, why the pronoun *tas* (M) is sometimes used instead of the *šis* (M).

Finally, this analysis shows, that almost in all cases the demonstrative pronoun *tas* (M) is used as ‘distal’ and, namely, it opposes the ‘proximal’ demonstrative pronoun *šis* (M), not the demonstrative pronoun *anas* (M). The causes of this usage should be researched further.

## Conclusion

To sum up the given comments, the system of demonstrative pronouns provided in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (2006) is outdated and does not reflect the current situation of the spoken/current Lithuanian language, as well as it does not reveal the pragmatic side of demonstratives discussed which are crucial in the analysis of deictic words.

It seems that the question due to the neutral meaning of the demonstrative pronoun *tas* (M) is discussible itself, as well as the question of the term ‘ternary opposition’.

The three-way contrast is not relevant in the Lithuanian system:

- 1) the system of demonstrative pronouns in Lithuanian tend to be binary, not just from the perspective of distance, but also the number of members as well (*šis* ‘proximal’ (M) / *tas* ‘distal’ (M);
- 2) *tas* (M) should be the true member of the binary opposition ‘proximal’/‘distal’, not the demonstrative pronoun *anas* (M);
- 3) the question of the third member *anas* (M), and specifically causes of its loss, needs to be researched further.

“Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” provides functions of the demonstrative pronouns in Lithuanian rather than their meanings: 1) they can substitute nouns; 2) they can define nouns; 3) they refer to reality. Almost all examples reveal senses of demonstratives which are quite clear without any context (they carry their own semantic meaning, but not a pragmatic one).

As the main function of demonstratives is to refer/point to things, persons, etc., examples of exophoric usage are necessary, therefore, the analysis given in “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” (2006) should be revised.

## Abbreviations

1, 2, 3	person
ACC	accusative
AP	adjectival position
DAT	dative
F	feminine
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
IMP	imperative
INF	infinitive
INSTR	instrumental
M	masculine
N	neutrum
Neutr.	neutrum
NOM	nominative
NP	nominal position
PL	plural

PRS	present
PTCP	participle
PST	past
S	speaker
VOC	vocative

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## Kopsavilkums

Rakstā tiek analizēta *Mūsdienu lietuviešu gramatikā* (“Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika”) (Ambrazas 2006) aprakstītā norādāmo vietniekvārdu sistēma. Aplūkojot šo vietniekvārdu sistēmas cilmi, kā arī apskatot teorētisko literatūru, rakstā tiek izvirzītas šādas problēmas: deikss kopumā ir semantikas un pragmatikas saikne, tāpēc deiktiski vārdi būtu jāanalizē gan semantiski, gan pragmatiski. “Dabartinės lietuvių kalbos gramatika” esošie piemēri neilustrē visus pragmatiskā lietojuma gadījumus, turklāt piemēri ņemti no 20. gs. daiļliteratūras, tāpēc tie ir daļēji novecojušies un neatspoguļo reālo norādāmo vietniekvārdu sistēmu lietuviešu valodā. Termins *triju locekļu sistēma* neatspoguļo īsto lietuviešu valodas situāciju. Šobrīd runātā lietuviešu valoda apliecina, ka vietniekvārds *tas* reālā dialogā iegūst dažādas nozīmes, tādēļ nav pamata teikt, ka tam ir neitrāla nozīme. Jāatzīst, ka triju locekļu sistēma ir kļuvusi par divu locekļu sistēmu visos aspektos: gan attāluma, gan locekļu skaita ziņā.