

## ***ille ego* and Recognitional Use of Demonstratives**

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### **Abstract**

Demonstrative pronouns in all languages can be divided into proximal, medial and distal categories (with “medial” being optional sometimes) based on distance from speaker. On the other hand, three types of deixis can be distinguished: person (*I, you & (s)he*), place (*here & there*) and time deixis (*now & then*). And it is self-evident that the referent of distal demonstratives is distant from the speaker or deictic centre (“*I*” in a conversation). However, certain “mismatched” expressions do exist, e.g. Latin *ille ego* ‘I am that one/That I’ (cf. Thesaurus Linguae Latinae s.v. “2. EGO” p.275–276); Greek ὄδ’ ἐκεῖνος ἐγώ· ‘here that one am I’ (Sophocles Oedipus Coloneus line 138); Vedic Sanskrit *ahám só asmi* ‘I am he’ (Rigveda 1.105.7) and *só asmi* ‘that one am I’ (Atharvaveda 6.123.3), Classical Sanskrit *asāv aham* ‘that one am I’ (Bhāgavata-Purāṇa 10.85.17); German *Ich bin derjenige* ‘I am that one’ (Samuel Lutz in 1736). These examples point to the recognitional use of demonstratives, because all the other pragmatic functions, i.e. exophoric, anaphoric and discourse deictic, can be excluded (Diessel 1999:93–105). But according to Diessel (1999:93), “recognitional use is restricted to adnominal demonstratives”, which is clearly not the case in the examples above. Therefore, this paper first offers a philological and comparative study of the “*ille ego*”-type sentences in Latin, Greek and Sanskrit materials, and then tries to contextualise this rare but real usage of demonstratives.

### **References**

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