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Placed, Non-Placed and Anaphorically Placed Expressions: On the Role of
Tense/Person Inflection in Human Language

The paper investigates the properties of the so-called Tense/Person Correlation, i.e. the co-occurrence of a Tense indication and a Person indication found in Finite Clauses in inflectional languages. The proposal is that the Tense/Person Correlation is a syntactic device employed to convey Displaced Reference, a fundamental property of human language. In particular, it is proposed that the Person feature is the one able to relate the sentence, with its Tense, to the speech event, signalling coincidence or non-coincidence with it. Support for this idea is mainly found in Imperative Clauses, which lack Tense/Person inflection and cannot be displaced, i.e. interpreted not in coincidence with the speech event in the relevant dimensions. A proposal concerning the internal organization of the 'Placement Layer' is presented.