

Pragmatics : Practical Applications

Exercise 1

Below are some conversations between two people, A and B. After each conversation, an **implicature** from B's utterance is given. In each conversation, say whether the assumption that lead the hearer to this implicature is a result of relevance, **informativeness**, or **clarity**.

- 1- **A:** (standing by an obviously immobilized car) 'My car has broken down'
B: 'There is a garage round the corner'
Implicature: *The garage is open and has a mechanic who might repair the car.*
 R / I / C
- 2- **A:** 'What subjects is Jack taking?'
B: 'He's not taking Linguistics'
Implicature: *B does not know exactly which subjects Jack is taking.*
 R / I / C
- 3- **A:** 'Who was that man you were talking to?'
B: 'That was my mother's husband'
Implicature: *Speaker B's mother's husband is not B's father.*
 R / I / C
- 4- **A:** 'Is Betsy in?'
B: 'Her light is on'
Implicature: *Betsy's light being on is usually a sign of whether she is in or not.*
 R / I / C

Exercise 1: Answers

1. relevance 2. informativeness 4. clarity 5. relevance

Exercise 2

Say whether the utterance of the second speaker in each of the following situations is violating the maxim of relation (**irrelevant**), violating the maxim of quantity (**uninformative**), violating the maxim of manner (**unclear**), or violating the maxim of quality (**untruthful**).

- 1- Policeman at the front door: 'Is your father at home?'
 Small boy (who knows that his father is at home):
 'Either my mother's gone out shopping or she hasn't.'
 (I, UT, UC, UI)

- 2- Traffic policeman talking to a man parked in a no-parking zone: 'Is this your car, sir?'
Man (who owns the car): 'No, this car is not mine.'
- 3- Customer in a stationery shop: 'Are pens in the first floor or the second floor of the store?'
Shop girl (who knows pens are on the first floor):
'You can find them on the floor that has notebooks.'
(I, UT, UC, UI)
- 4- Mother: 'Now tell me the truth. Who put the cat in the bathtub?'
Son (who knows who did it): 'Someone put it there.'

Exercise 2: Answers

1. irrelevant 2. untruthful 3. Unclear 4. uninformative

Sample Questions

Questions on Definitions

- 1- **"A sense relation where the meaning of a word is the opposite of another word."**

- a- synonymy c- antonymy
b- polysemy d- hyponymy

- 2- **"Hyponymy" is a sense relation where:**

- a- the meaning of a word is the opposite of another word.
b- the meaning of a word is the same as another word
c- the meaning of a word is included in another word
d- the meaning of a word is not related to another word

Questions on Discussion

Which of the following is true about hyponymy?

- a- The upper term is called the hyponym.
b- The lower term is called the superordinate.
c- A hyponym can never be a superordinate of another term.
d- There is not always a superordinate term for hyponyms in a language.

والصلاة والسلام على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

انتهت المادة ، لا تسوني من دعائكم فدعوة الأخ لأخيه المسلم في ظهر الغيب مجابه

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Semantics and Pragmatics



Introduces basic areas of Semantics and Pragmatics, with emphasis on lexical Semantics and Speech Acts theory. The course covers the topics of structural semantics under collocation and semantic field, and main sense relations: hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy and polysemy. It briefly introduces componential analysis and language universals. It also provides a preliminary coverage of Speech acts theory Implicature .and Grice Maxi

اسم 4

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