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## **Pragmatics**

The study of what speakers mean, or 'speaker meaning', is called Pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study of invisible meaning or how we recognize what is meant even when it is not actually said. Speakers depend on a lot of shared assumptions and expectations. You use the meanings of the words, in combination, and the context in which they occur, and you try to arrive at what the writer of the sign intended his message to convey

### **Context**

- We have got two kinds of contexts.

1- one kind is best described as linguistic context, also known as cotext.

- The co-text of a word is the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence.
- e.g. I get to the bank to cash a cheque.
- Bank is homonym. By looking at other words in the sentence we know which type of bank is intended.

2- another type of context is described as physical context . Our • understanding of what we read and hear is tied to the physical context, particularly the time and place. • e.g. The word bank on the wall of a building in a city.

### **Deixis**

- There are some words in the language that cannot be interpreted at all, unless the physical context is known. “here, there, this, that, now, then, yesterday, come” , pronouns, such as “I, you, him, her, them”, e.g. You will have to bring that back tomorrow, because they are not here now. This sentence is vague.

You, that, tomorrow, they, here, now => these expressions are called deictic.

- **Person deixis:** expressions used to point to a person.

- **Place deixis:** words used to point to a location.
- **Time deixis:** expressions used to point to a time.

There is a distinction between what is marked as close to the speaker (this, that, now). What is marked as distant (that, there, then).

## Reference

Reference is an act by which a speaker uses language to enable a listener to identify something.

- e.g. Can I look at your Chomsky ?
- Chomsky refers to sth.

The key process here is called **inference**. An inference is any additional information used by the listener to connect what is said to what must be meant. The listener has to infer that the writer can use the name of the writer of a book to identify a book.

## Anaphora

- - Can I have your book?
- - Yeah, it is on the table.
- The second underlined referring expression is an example of anaphora and the first mention is called antecedent. 'Book' is antecedent; 'it' is the anaphoric expression.

## Presupposition

Speakers design their linguistic messages on the basis of assumptions about what their hearers already know. What a speaker assumes is true or known by the hearer can be described as presupposition.

- e.g. Your brother is waiting for you. – There is a presupposition that you have a brother.
- “Constancy under negation” test is applied for presupposition.
- My car is wreck. / my car is not wreck. => “ I have a car “ remains true in both.

## **Speech Acts**

The use of the term “speech act” covers actions such as requesting, commanding, questioning, informing. We use some linguistic forms with some functions.

- When a speaker does not know sth and asks the hearer to provide the information, she typically produce a direct speech act.
- e.g Can you ride a bike ?

Some questions are not about your ability to do sth.

- You would not treat it as a question at all. Such an expression is described as an indirect speech act.
- e.g. Can you pass the salt ?

## **Politeness**

Politeness is showing awareness of another person’s face. Your face is your public self-image. Face-threatening act represents a threat to another person’s self image. Whenever you say sth that lessens the possible threat to another’s face, it is called a face – saving act.

## **Negative and Positive Face**

You have both a negative and a positive face.

- Your negative face is the need to be independent and to have freedom from imposition. (You and I have the same problem)
- Your positive face is your need to be connected, to belong, to be a member of the group. (It is your problem) (You need to find a solution to the problem)