

Introduction to Pragmatics

Napoleon Katsos, Chris Cummins

This course provides a short introduction to pragmatics, with particular emphasis on experimental and developmental perspectives. We'll present a brief overview of some of the main theoretical ideas about how we convey and understand meanings in context. We'll then look at some of the specific issues that have been tackled in this field, and see how experimental research has informed our collective understanding of them.

The five sessions are themed as follows:

1. Introduction. Gricean maxims and their alternatives.
2. Implicature: mechanisms and acquisition.
3. Referring and perspective-taking.
4. Metaphor and non-literal language.
5. Speech acts and intention recognition.

You are not required to do any specific reading in advance of the course, but the following texts will be particularly relevant to the material covered.

Readings

Introduction

Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and conversation. In P. Cole and J. Morgan (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics* vol. 3, pp. 41-45. New York: Academic Press.
(<http://courses.media.mit.edu/2004spring/mas966/Grice%20Logic%20and%20Conversation.pdf>)

Wilson, D., and Sperber, D. (2004). Relevance Theory. In L. R. Horn and G. Ward (eds.), *The Handbook of Pragmatics*, pp. 607-632. Oxford: Blackwell.
(<http://www.dan.sperber.fr/?p=93>, earlier PDF version http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/publications/WPL/02papers/wilson_sperber.pdf)

Implicature: mechanisms and acquisition

Papafragou, A., and Musolino, J. (2003). Scalar implicatures: experiments at the semantics-pragmatics interface. *Cognition*, 86: 253-282.
(http://papafragou.psych.udel.edu/papers/cog_scales.pdf)

Katsos, N., and Bishop, D. V. M. (2011). Pragmatic tolerance: implications for the acquisition of informativeness and implicature. *Cognition*, 120: 67-81.
(<https://sites.google.com/site/napoleonkatsos/home/publications/pragtol>)

Bach, K. (2006). The top 10 misconceptions about implicature. In B. J. Birner and G. Ward (eds.), *Drawing the Boundaries of Meaning: Neo-Gricean studies in pragmatics and semantics in honor of Laurence R. Horn*, pp. 21-30. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
(<http://online.sfsu.edu/kbach/TopTen.pdf>)

Referring and perspective-taking

Brennan, S. E., and Clark, H. H. (1996). Conceptual pacts and lexical choice in conversation. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition*, 22: 1482-1493. (<http://www.speech.kth.se/~edlund/bielefeld/references/brennan-and-clark-1996.pdf>)

Davies, C., and Katsos, N. (2010). Over-informative children: production/comprehension asymmetry or tolerance to pragmatic violations? *Lingua*, 120: 1956-1972. (<https://sites.google.com/site/napoleonkatsos/home/publications/overinfo>)

Rubio-Fernández, P., and Geurts, B. (in press). Don't mention the marble! The role of attentional processes in false-belief tasks. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. (<https://sites.google.com/site/brtgrts/marble.pdf?attredirects=0>)

Metaphor and non-literal language

Barker, C. (2006). Vagueness. In *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd edn, article 1083. (<http://semarch.linguistics.fas.nyu.edu/barker/Research/barker-vague.pdf>)

Carston, R. (2002). Metaphor, ad hoc concepts and word meaning: more questions than answers? *UCL Working Papers in Linguistics*, 14: 83-105. (<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/publications/WPL/02papers/carston.pdf>)

Krifka, M. (2007). Approximate interpretations of number words: a case for strategic communication. In G. Bouma, I. Krämer and J. Zwarts (eds.), *Cognitive Foundations of Interpretation* (pp. 111-26). Amsterdam: KNAW. (<http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/oa/bookchapters/reTiXQaSYryIs/PDF/22IE37nuLs8Tg.pdf>)

Speech acts and intention recognition

Gisladottir, R., Chwilla, D. J., Schriefers, H., and Levinson, S. C. (2012). Speech act recognition in conversation: experimental evidence. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles and R. P. Cooper (eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, pp. 1596-1601. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. (<http://pubman.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:1340580:14/component/escidoc:1508795/paper0282.pdf>)

Jurafsky, D. (2005). Pragmatics and computational linguistics. In L. R. Horn and G. Ward (eds.), *Handbook of Pragmatics*, pp. 578-604. Oxford: Blackwell. (<http://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/prag.pdf>)