

## Class 9: introduction to pragmatics

1. Pragmatics
  - a. relations among or beyond propositions
  - b. Pragmatics can explain something that logic cannot;
  - c. Three pragmatic issues (they are called issues because they challenge simple, truth-based, or compositional views of meaning)
    - i. Presupposition (the truth of a sentence may depend on unspoken background assumptions)
    - ii. Indexicality (meaning is not fixed; instead it shifts based on who says it, when, and where)
    - iii. Implicature (Speaker often mean more than they say)
2. Presupposition
  - a. Definition: the pieces of information that the speaker assumes (or acts as if she assumes) in order for her utterance to be meaningful in the current context (in conversations, we need background information to understand each other)
    - i. E.g., “I met the boy from Osaka” presupposition: there was a boy from Osaka
3. Semantics
  - a. the meaning of a sentence (multiplicity of meaning)
    - i. At-issue meaning (the main point or the main message of a sentence) + presupposition = semantics
      1. e.g., “It was Aki who broke the vase.” at-issue meaning: That Aki broke it. Presupposition: The vase was broken.
      2. Pragmatics concerns how a presupposition and an at-issue meaning interact with a context.

## Class 10

1. Presupposition triggers
  - a. Definition: expressions introducing a specific presupposition (words that trigger or motivate you to make assumptions)
    - i. e.g., the (presupposes existence), regret (presupposes event occurred); again (presupposes prior occurrence)
2. Holes vs. Plugs
  - a. Holes: contexts that allow presuppositions (e.g., He knows that...)
  - b. Plugs: contexts that block presuppositions (e.g., He thinks that...)
    - i. Plugs make you rethink about your assumption (unsure and uncertain)
3. Negation operator vs. Question operator
  - a. Negation operator: a logical tool that reverses the truth value of a proposition (e.g., not). Negation affects at-issue meaning (main meaning), but it does not cancel a preposition.
    - i. She stopped smoking
    - ii. She did not stop smoking
    - iii. presupposition: she used to smoke
  - b. Question operator: turns a statement into a question, asking whether a proposition is true or false. it also does not affect a presupposition.

- i. You ate lunch.
- ii. Did you eat lunch?

### **Class 11**

1. Speech act theory
  - a. Utterances not only describe the world but create (update) it.
    - i. Locutionary act (literal meaning)
    - ii. Illocutionary act (intended function e.g., request, promise...)
    - iii. Perlocutionary act (effects on listener)
2. Constative vs. Performative sentences
  - a. Constative: truth depends on reality
  - b. Performative: saying it makes it true
3. Felicity conditions
  - a. definition: the pragmatic criteria that determine whether a speech act works as intended. (necessary for performatives to succeed)
4. Discourse model
  - a. world: a unit of possibility
  - b. context set: a set of worlds
  - c. common ground: a set of propositions
  - d. proposition: a set of worlds

### **Class 12**

proposition is a set of possible worlds, with which we update context set.

context set is updated, by being intersected with the set of worlds denoted by the proposition.

common ground is a set of propositions shared by discourse participants.

1. Presupposition accommodation
  - a. definition: when a speaker presupposes a thing that has not already been established in the common ground, s/he is implicitly asking the other discourse participants to accommodate that information by adding it to the common ground.
    - i. when presupposition isn't in the common ground, speaker implicitly asks hearer to accept it.
    - ii. Structured model
      1. Speaker's assumptions
      2. Addressee's assumptions
      3. Common ground
    - iii. Structured discourse context is the full model of what is going on in the conversation including common ground, person's assumptions...
2. Conversational implicature
  - a. Cooperative principle
    - i. Maxim of quantity (be informative)
    - ii. Maxim of quality (be truthful)
    - iii. Maxim of relation (be relevant)
    - iv. Maxim of manner (be clear)