

Lecture 6

LCD 306: Semantics & Pragmatics

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Thursday 19 February 2015

Outline

- 1 Administrativa
 - Exam
- 2 Experiment Replication
 - Homework
 - Group Work
- 3 Sense and Reference
 - Recap
 - Choices in Senses
 - Homework
 - No Reference
 - Homework
 - Other Sense-Reference Relations
- 4 Signs and Sets

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Important Dates

- Exam on Tuesday! (24 Feb)
- Homework Packet No. 1 due

Exam

- Open book
- Open note
- Homework (must bring stapled paper copy)
- Can listen to music

Exam

The exam will cover:

- Gregory chs. 1 & 2
- Frege's "On Sense and Reference"
- Homework
- Lecture

Format:

- Multiple Choice
- Short answer

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Homework No. 4

Article

- Groups of 4
- Discuss Experimental Semantics or Pragmatics article you found
 - 1 Who are the authors?
 - 2 How do the authors define the language they are working on?
 - 3 What is their research question?
 - 4 What did they do for their experiment? Outline the experimental design.
 - 5 If you were to replicate this study, how would you go about it? Would you have to modify it in any way to be able to run the experiment this semester?

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Group Assignment

- Random assignment of groups of five (5)
- Exchange contact information and set up time to work and practice
- You are being graded as a group

Group Work

- (Conceptual) Replication of an experiment
- Come to a consensus as a group on what experiment you will replicate
- Replicate with 20 participants

Group Work

- Feasibility is paramount
- Need to be able to design, run, and present experiment in 4 weeks

Group Work

- In the coming weeks we will discuss:
 - Methodology
 - Instrumentation
 - Analysis
 - Ethics

Group Work

- Work will be presented in the form of a speech
- Parts of the presentation (one per group member; 60-90 seconds each)
 - Introduction & Background
 - Summary of previous work
 - Explanation of methodology
 - Results
 - Discussion & Conclusion
- Visual will be handout of poster

Poster

- We will discuss details of the poster in future classes
- The poster is exactly like what you did in elementary school for science fair, just in handout form

Important Dates

- No official class on Thursday (26 Feb)
- Use it to work with your group
- Group project presentations will begin 4 weeks from today (19 Mar)
- You will have to submit a research proposal (including a timeline and discussion of methodology) as a group

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Key Concepts

Homework No. 2

- Explain *sense* and *reference* to a non-linguist
 - Two (2) examples
 - Avoiding technical vocabulary
 - Why is the distinction important?

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Reference

- A word or utterance's (a collection of words) **reference** is the thing/object that the word/utterance refers to.
- This is to be understood as the real object that is denoted by, or referred to by, a word/utterance.

Reference

- For example:
 - The **reference** of a proper noun like *Virgil* is a small chihuahua that lives in Corona, California (a real thing/animal).
 - The **reference** of an utterance like *Betty is mexican* is a real living person in Corona, California.
- These are real objects in the real world. **References** can be *referred* to by a number of word/utterances, but the *reference* is still the same.

Sense

- A word or utterance's **sense** is how the **reference** is presented.
- A **sense** only sheds light on a single aspect of a specific **reference**.
- With each new **sense** we learn more about a **reference**.

Recap

Sense

- For example:
 - If there is an entity such as **Dani**,
 - and we have two utterances:
 - *Dani is getting a Ph.D. in Animal Vocalizations* and
 - *Dani is from Arkansas*
 - we are referring to the same entity **Dani**,
 - but the **senses** are different.
- One tells us about what **Dani** does for work and the other tells us a little about him.
- It is in the different presentation of the same **referent** that we get more information about the **referent**.

Recap

Sense

- A **reference** and a **sense** are related to one another in that a word/utterance has a specific **sense** and a **sense** has a specific **reference**.
- Each **reference** has multiple **senses**.

Sense

- For example:
 - The **reference**: **Karen** has multiple senses expressed by the following utterances:
 - *Karen is a brilliant linguist*
 - *Karen is from São Paulo*
 - and *Karen is a beautiful woman.*
 - These utterances all have the same **reference** that have multiple **senses**.

Recap

Homework No. 2

Sense and Reference

- Three (3) examples for each
 - Different sense, same reference

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Choices in Signs

- To restate another way, we have multiple choices to expressing something
- Multiple *signs* to pick from for each **referent** (i.e. object)
- Each *sign* has a different **sense**
- Our choice of one **sense** over another is informed by what we want to communicate

Senses

- Not all senses are the same
- Each conveys some meaning or information about the reference

Meaning

- Three (3) Types: Social, Affective, Linguistic
- Linguistic Meaning: Sense and Reference

Homework No. 2

Social Meaning

- A language user picks one of a number of related senses that have the same referent. In picking one sense over another, the user is signaling group membership
 - 5 Groups
 - 2 examples per group

Homework No. 2

Affective Meaning

- A language user picks one of a number of related senses that have the same referent. In picking one sense over another, the user is signaling something about their emotions or attitudes. The speaker's choice of sense conveys more than just identifying a reference, but also connotes something about the referent.
 - 5 Groups
 - 2 examples per group

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No Reference

However...

- Some **senses** do not necessarily have a **reference**

No Reference

No Reference

- For example:
 - A phrase from a collection of stories like 1001 nights where the **sense** of the phrases *Sindbad is a sailor* and *Sindbad defeated the Roq* has clear **senses**
- These **senses** tell us something about this fictional character **Sindbad**
- but there does not exist an actual **reference** for **Sindbad**

No Reference

- Another example of a **sense** without a **reference** is in psych verb constructions
 - *Sarah thinks she is pretty*
 - it doesn't matter if the **reference** is true or not
 - whether the girl in discussion is actually pretty or not.
- So in that case we only have the idea/**sense** and not the actual **reference**.

No Reference

Homework No. 2

Sense and Reference

- Three (3) examples for each
 - A sense without a reference
 - Multiple senses but still no reference

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Other Sense-Reference Relations

- Sense with variable reference
- Sense with an unknowable reference

Sense with Variable Reference

- You can have a sense that has a different reference depending on a number of variables:
 - Who utters the sense (speaker)
 - Who the sense utterance is directed at
 - Where the sense is uttered (location)
 - When the sense is uttered (time)

Sense with Unknowable Reference

- Some senses have a reference (there is a real world entity), but the entity isn't known

Homework No. 2

Sense and Reference

- Three (3) examples for each
 - Same sense, different reference
 - A sense with only sort of a reference

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Homework no. 4

For the following, come up with two (2) examples each:

- mutually exclusive antonyms
- not mutually exclusive antonyms
- perfect synonyms
- close enough synonyms
- meronyms
- holonyms
- hypernyms
- hyponyms