

Lecture 21

LCD 306: Semantics & Pragmatics

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Outline

- 1 Conversational Structure
 - Conversational Components
- 2 Implicatures

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- 1 Conversational Structure
 - Conversational Components
- 2 Implicatures

Conversations

- Conversations have rules to them
- Conversations have structure
- Much of an exchange is scripted

Culturally specific

- Conventions of language convention
- Nothing inherent or intrinsic about rules
- Each language community has own rules
- Not innate but learned

Culturally specific

- Rules are not innate
- Rules are learned
- Not optional
- Doesn't mean that they are negotiable or idiosyncratic
- Societal-determined norms

Culturally transmitted

- How do you think you learned the rules of conversation?
- Explicit feedback for violations (explicit learning)
- Observationally (implicit learning)

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Some components of a conversation

- Turn-taking/pausing
- Adjacency pairs
- Opening sequences
- Routines

Turn-Taking

- The way in which each speaker takes a turn in conversation
- Getting the “floor”
 - Cut someone off
 - Wait for a pause
 - Use phrases such as “Actually, . . .” or “By the way, . . .”

Turn-Taking

- The way in which each speaker takes a turn in conversation
- Maintaining your “turn”
 - Avoid pauses and sentence endings
 - Use fillers (“like,” “um,” “uh”)
 - Use connectors (“and,” “then,” “and then”)

Adjacency Pairs

- Pairs of turns that are frequently found together in conversation
- Contiguous
- Ordered
- Matched

Adjacency Pairs

- Question → Answer
- Invitation → Acceptance
- Assessment → Disagreement
- Explanation → Concurrence

Adjacency Pairs

- Request → Granting
- Apology → Acceptance
- Summons → Acknowledgement

Routines

- Parts of the conversation that are relatively predictable due to common convention
 - Opening Sequences
 - Closing Sequences

Routines

Opening Sequences

- A. Hi
- B. Hey, how are you?
- A. Good, great. How are you?
- B. Great!

Routines

Closing Sequences

- A. Well it's getting late
- B. It was nice seeing you!
- A. You too! See you later!
- B. Bye!

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Hidden meaning

Meaning of a conversation is hidden in two places

- What is said:
 - The words themselves
- What is **not** said
 - The rules

Hidden Meaning

Meaning coming from what is said (the words)

- Conventional implicature
- Presuppositional triggers

Hidden Meaning

Meaning coming from what is **not** said (the rules)

- Conversational implicatures
- Violation of expectations

Hidden Meaning

Meaning coming from what is **not** said (the rules)

- Conversational implicatures
- Violation of Gricean maxims
- Violation of conversational rules
- Violation of Co-operative principle