

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