

Lecture 22

LCD 306: Semantics & Pragmatics

C.N. Serrano Madsen II
Queens College
CUNY

Tuesday 5 May 2015

Outline

1 Politeness

Table of Contents

1 Politeness

Repairs

- When speakers correct or clarify themselves or other speakers

Repairs

- Self-initiated, self-repaired
- Self-initiated, other-repaired
- Other-initiated, self-repaired,
- Other-initiated, other-repaired

Repairs

- Self-initiated, self-repaired
Most-preferred
- Self-initiated, other-repaired
- Other-initiated, self-repaired,
- Other-initiated, other-repaired

Repairs

- Self-initiated, self-repaired
Most-preferred
- Self-initiated, other-repaired
- Other-initiated, self-repaired,
- Other-initiated, other-repaired
Least-preferred

Politeness

- Conventions for language use include implicit rules for expressing concern for another person's status and self-image.

Politeness

- Speakers of a language learn which words are appropriate for different politeness contexts.
- Morphology can also be used to encode politeness.

Politeness

- Morphology can also be used to encode politeness.
- Can you think of an English example in which morphology or syntax encodes politeness?

American English Politeness

- English does not use different pronoun forms to encode politeness
- English speakers still learn to use different terms of address depending on social relationships.

American English Politeness

- English does not use different pronoun forms to encode politeness
- English speakers still learn to use different terms of address depending on social relationships.

Terms of Address

- Terms of address include deictic pronouns, first names, last names, titles, nicknames, and other honorifics.
- What is no-naming and how do speakers use it as a politeness strategy?

Politeness Conventions

Cross-Linguistic and Cross-Cultural Politeness Conventions

- We know that cultural values vary from family to family, society to society, classroom to classroom, etc

Politeness Conventions

Pronouns

- The American English pronoun system does not encode politeness distinctions.
 - I, you, he, she, we, y'all/youz/you'uns, they
 - These do not vary with the social status of the speaker,

Politeness Conventions

Pronouns

- Many languages encode politeness distinctions in the second person pronouns
 - Tu vs. Usted; Tu vs. Vous
 - Du vs. Sie
 - Omae vs. Anata