Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of the way language is used. It is the study not of sentences, but of **utterances**: sentences (complete and incomplete) spoken by particular people in particular circumstances.

Observations about how language is used:

1. sentences can imply information that is not stated explicitly
2. we don't just say things, we do things by uttering sentences
3. who is participating can determine the effect of what is said
4. a correct answer to a question may not be appropriate
5. speakers don't always mean what they say

**Implicature**

"Conversational maxims": Paul Grice

Maxim of Quantity
Maxim of Quality
Maxim of Relation (Maxim of Relevance)
Maxim of Manner

**Speech Acts**

Locutionary Act
Illocutionary Act
Perlocutionary Effect

**Illocutionary Acts Classified**

Representatives
Directives
Questions
Commissives
Expressives
Declarations
Problems with this classification:

There are several problems with this classification
1. Nofsinger
2. The definitions of the speech act families are given in very mentalist terms. "Expressives" are the clearest example of this.

Felicity Conditions
Preparatory Conditions
Sincerity Conditions
Essential Condition
Propositional Content Condition

Explicit and Nonexplicit Speech Acts
performative verbs

Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ilocutionary Act</th>
<th>Syntactic Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
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<td>Commissive</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration??</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
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<td>Directive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes-No Question</td>
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<td>Wh-Question</td>
<td>Wh-Interrogative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expressive</td>
<td>Exclamatory</td>
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Expressed and Implied Speech Acts

Literal and Nonliteral Speech Acts

A speaker does not always mean what they say. More accurately, a speech act is not always what it seems to be on a literal interpretation of the words. For example, “You can say that again” taken literally would be the granting of permission to repeat one’s words. But of course it is an agreement, an alignment, with what has just been said.