

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

Illocutionary Act	Syntactic Form
Representative	Declarative
Commissive	Declarative
Declaration??	Declarative
Directive	Imperative
<i>Yes-No</i> Question	<i>Yes-No</i> Interrogative
<i>Wh</i> -Question	<i>Wh</i> -Interrogative
Expressive	Exclamatory

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 ones words. But of course it is an agreement, an alignment, with what has just been said.