



#### THE TERM OF PRAGMATICS IN LINGUISTICS

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**Annotation:** The article discusses the theory of how pragmatic competence occurs and includes the classification patterns of speech acts.

**Key words:** pragmatics, communicative competence, locutionary act, illocutionary act, perlocutionary act

Pragmatics has long been a part of both the study of the English language and the teaching of the English language. It shows how morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology are used to produce meaning in human language as part of descriptive linguistics. Although correct usage of pragmatics requires mastery of skills frequently taught in English language courses, such as lexicon, syntax, and organization, which are frequently taught in English language courses, pragmatics itself is often omitted from curricula. However, as our students use English more frequently for travel or job in contexts filled by fluent English speakers, an understanding of the pragmatic features of language is becoming increasingly crucial to avoid miscommunication. Pragmatics is a subject of linguistics and semiotics (signs and meaning-making) that explains how language users avoid ambiguity and communicate their intent. Canale and Swain (1980) used linguistic theory to ensure that linguist evaluation included both grammar of rules (linguistic competence) and grammar of usage. They based their seminal study on Hymes' (1972) definition of communicative competence (linguistic performance). The study of the use of natural language in communication in linguistics and philosophy; more broadly, the study of the relationships between languages and their users. It is sometimes distinguished from linguistic semantics, which is defined as the study of the rule systems that determine the literal meanings of language utterances. Pragmatics is the study of how rules referring to the physical or social context (broadly defined) in which language is employed determine both literal and nonliteral components of communicated linguistic meaning. Among these are conversational and traditional "implicatures" (e.g., "John has three sons" implies that John has no more than three sons; "He was poor but honest" implies an unexplained contrast between poverty and honesty).

Pragmatics is key to understanding language use in context and is a useful basis for understanding language interactions. Imagine a world where you had to explain everything you meant in full; there could be no slang, jokes probably wouldn't be funny, and conversations would be twice as long!

Let's take a look at what life would be like without pragmatics.



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' What time do you call this ?!'

Literal meaning = What time is it?

Real meaning = Why are you so late?!

Because of the insights of pragmatics, we know that the speaker does not actually want to know what time it is, but is making the point that the other person is late. In this case, it would be best to apologies rather than give the speaker the time!

Now, consider the following sentences. How many different meanings can they have? How important is context when inferring the meaning of each sentence?

Paul Grice's 'conversational implicature,' often known as "implicature" is another theory. It examines the use of indirect speech acts. We want to know what the speaker means even if they haven't said it clearly while evaluating implicatures. It's a deceptive method of communication.

The co-operative philosophy is inextricably tied to conversational implicature. It is based on the assumption that the speaker and the listener are working together. When a speaker makes an implication, they can be sure that the listener will get it. A couple is watching television, but they are both engrossed in their phones and are not paying attention to the broadcast. "Are you watching this?" the boy asks. The girl takes the remote and selects a different channel.

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics—the study of language—that focuses on implied and inferred meanings. This branch of linguistics involves many concepts, including these major areas, Conversational implicates: This concept is founded on the premise that individuals in a conversation are working together to achieve a similar objective; as a result, implications can be deduced from a speaker's responses to questions. If a parent inquires about a child's homework and the child says that they have completed their math homework, the parent may conclude that the child still has homework in other subjects to complete.

Cognitive pragmatics: This field is concerned with cognition, or the mental (sometimes known as cognitive) processes involved in human communication. Language difficulties in people with developmental impairments or those who have had head trauma that impairs their speech may be the topic of cognitive pragmatics research.

Intercultural pragmatics: Communication between people from different cultures who speak different first languages is studied in this area of the field. Interlanguage pragmatics, on the other hand, deals with language learners who are learning a second language.

Managing the flow of reference: Listeners track syntactic (syntactic) information to comprehend what happened or who did an action in a discussion, which is known as controlling the flow of reference. "John is inside," for example,



if someone approached you and said. You'll probably figure out who told the speaker to greet you because he said, "He told me to greet you."

Speech acts: The term "speech acts" in linguistics has a philosophical connotation and has nothing to do with phonology (the branch of linguistic study concerned with the specific phonetic sounds or dialects of a language). People utilize language and linguistic norms to accomplish activities and goals, according to the speech act hypothesis. A spoken act would include things like asking for a glass of water or commanding someone to drink a glass of water, whereas a physical act would be drinking a glass of water and a mental act would be thinking about drinking a glass of water.

Speech acts: These are utterances that have a performative function; that is, they perform the action they describe. Types of speech acts are promising, requesting, ordering, greeting, warning, inviting, and congratulating (Searle, 1969). These are classified into: • locutionary act: what was literally said (e.g., "Phew, it's hot in here") • illocutionary act: the implied meaning (e.g., "Please open the window") • perlocutionary act: the effect of the utterance (e.g., the listener asks if the window should be opened / opens the window) Pragmatic competence: This is related to communicative competence (Hymes, 1972)

## **Examples of Pragmatics**

The definition of pragmatics and the use of pragmatics can be tricky to grasp without studying examples. Here are three examples that can help illustrate pragmatics in use in everyday conversation:

- 1. How are you? His daily greetings are rarely received with a response that entails going into every medical and personal aspect that could influence how the individual feels on any given day (which would make up a literal response to the question). Instead, you may say something like, "Fine, how are you?" This is a pragmatic response because you're assuming that the speaker's aim was for the question to be an inferred greeting rather than a direct inquiry about how you're doing right now.
- 2. "Luggage must be carried on the escalator." This sentence on an airport's referential sign is linguistically ambiguous, but not usually pragmatically ambiguous. Someone who has never been to an airport before may misread the semantic, literal meaning as an order to all passengers to rush to the escalator while carrying their luggage. However, you know that the warning only applies to persons who are actively putting luggage up the escalator, not to everyone, because to pragmatics (the inclusion of context with the sign). The meaning of the sentence is determined by the situation.
- 3. "I have two sons" This sentence implies that the speaker has no more than two sons, which is not necessarily ambiguous; yet, the speaker could have more





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than two sons and the statement would still be true. The context of an utterance is taken into account by pragmatics when determining meaning. As a result, if the question "Do you have any children?" was asked first, the response would imply that the speaker only has two sons. Furthermore, if the speaker had previously been asked, "Do you have any sons?" the response would imply that the speaker may have one or more daughters in addition to two sons.

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