ABOUT ME

- Teacher Trainer
- Master´s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language
- Director of Studies
- Speaker at Conferences (APAC at UPF, Barcelona; University of Nebrija, Madrid; Innovate ELT, Barcelona;FOELT 2022)
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What is Pragmatics?

Crystal (1997) defines it as "language from the point of view of users, especially of the choices they make...using language in social interaction"

What is Pragmatics?

Pragmatics is "the study of linguistic acts and the contexts in which they are performed"

(Stalnaker, 1972)

Difference between semantics and pragmatics

Semantics corresponds to linguistically encoded meaning, while pragmatics to any context-dependent meaning.

Why shall we teach pragmatics?

Social norms

Cultural conventions

Context-specific language use

Blum-Kulka (1986)

Three approaches to study pragmatic failure

- Miscommunication research

- Contrastive pragmatics

- Interlanguage pragmatics

Kasper, 1981; Blum-Kulka, 1982; Schmidt, 1983; Olshtain & Cohen, 1989

Grice's theory of Implicature

(2) **Arthur**: Can you tell me where the post office is?
Bill: I'm a stranger here myself.

(3) **Arthur**: I've just moved to this town, and so far I'm finding it pretty tedious; I haven't met a single person who is willing to talk about anything except next week's local elections.
Bill: I'm a stranger here myself.

Types of Inference

- particularized conversational

Statement: "I saw John at the party, but he left early."
Implicature: "John didn't enjoy the party."

- generalized conversational

Statement: "She is a doctor."
Implicature: "She is knowledgeable and skilled in the field of medicine."

- presupposition

Statement: "John is going to his favorite restaurant again."
Presupposition: "John has been to the restaurant before."

- entailment

Statement: "All cats have tails."
Entailment: "If an animal is a cat, it has a tail."

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Activities

- For each pair of sentences, identify the likely implicature carried by reply

- For each of the sentences in determine what inference is most likely to be triggered by the statement

- For each of the examples, determine whether the inference triggered by the statement

Kearns, 2000

Speech Act Theory (Searle, 1975)

"I love your left hand." (The friend had a cup of tea in his hand). The friend, in reaction to my utterance, transferred the cup to his right hand. That prompted me to say: "I love your right hand". My friend smiled, recognized my desire for tea and told his sister, "My friend wants tea"... My friend's utterance addressed to his sister in reaction to mine was a representative, i.e. a simple statement: "my friend wants a tea". The girl rightly interpreted the context of the representative to mean a directive. In other words, her brother (my friend) was ordering her to prepare some tea. (Bariki 2008)

a. Do you have any tea?

b. Could you possibly give me some tea?

c. I would like you to give me some tea.

d. I would really appreciate a cup of tea.

e. Will you give me some tea?

f. Are you going to give me some tea?

All of these sentences could be understood as requests for tea, if spoken in the right context, but they are clearly not all equivalent: (7b) is a more polite way of asking than (7a); (7d) is a polite request, whereas (7c) sounds more demanding; (7e) is a polite request, whereas (7f) sounds impatient and even rude.

Felicity Conditions Theory (Austin, 1962)

Activities

- For each of the following indirect speech acts, identify both the literal and primary act.

    [young woman to man who has just proposed to her]
    I hope that we can always remain friends.
    The speech act = refusal

- Based on conditions for requests, and using your own examples, try to form one indirect request for each of the following strategies.

Direct Request: "Can you proofread my essay for me?"

Indirect Request (Convention + Shared Interest): "I know you have a strong eye for detail and a passion for literature. I would appreciate any feedback you could provide on my writing."
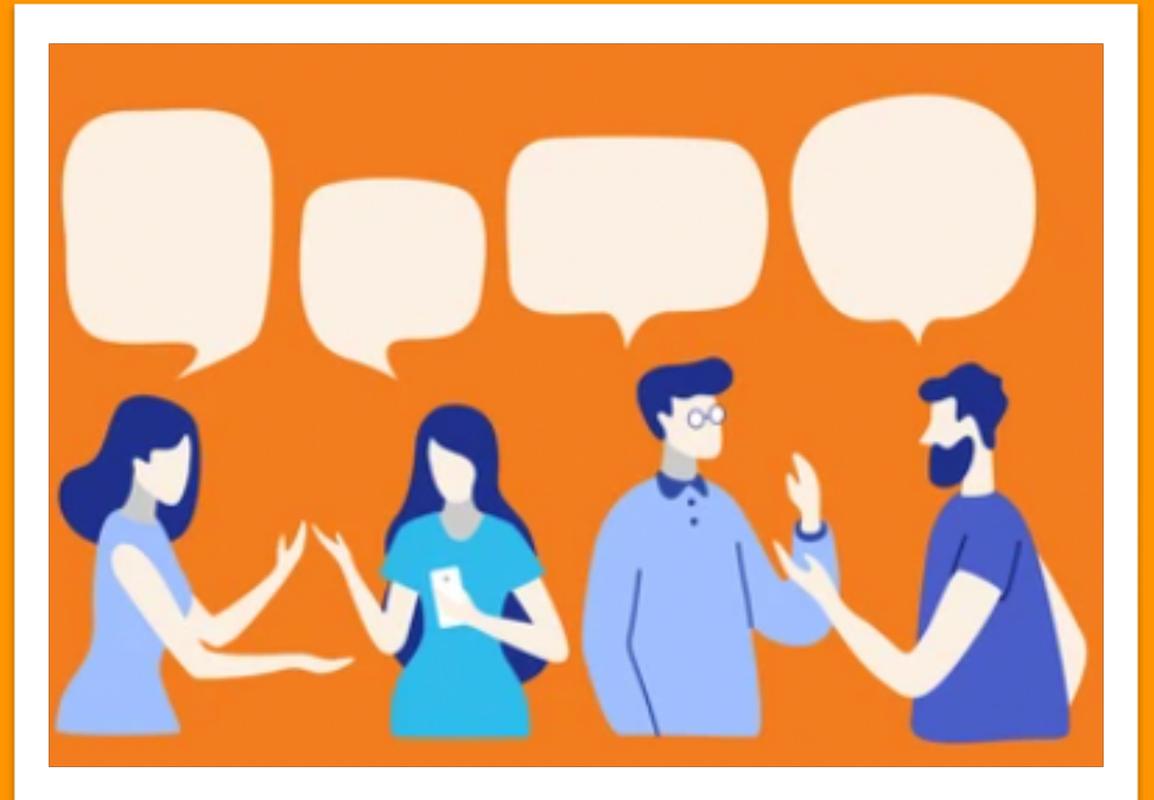
Resources and materials

- amazy.uk

- nearpod.com

- eddpuzzle.com

- chat.openai.com

- twee.com

- [htttps://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teaching-pragmatics](https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/teaching-pragmatics)

Thank you!

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