

LSA.311: Lecture 3

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Cornered

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The speech was almost interesting.
People began to sit up and fake interest.

What We Did Last Week

- Two Reasons to Study Pragmatics (as a Semanticist)
 - Context in Semantics
 - Pragmatic Inferences and the Data of Semantics
- Grice's System for Deriving Implicature
- The Symmetry Problem
- Horn Scales

What We'll Do Today

- The Alternative to the Implicature Account
 - Ambiguity
 - What kind of ambiguity?
- Embedded Implicatures
 - The Data
 - The Accounts

Review of the Symmetry Problem

- Speaker says *some*
- Gricean reasoning I:
 - Why not *all*?
 - Because S is not convinced that *all*
 - OPINIONATED: S is convinced that not *all*
- Gricean reasoning II:
 - Why not *some but not all*?
 - Because S is not convinced that *some but not all*
 - OPINIONATED: S is convinced that not *some but not all*
- \Rightarrow S cannot be opinionated about the stronger statements
- We get an implicature of ignorance (is that the same as the weak primary implicatures we have talked about?)

Horn Scales

- When we reason about why the speaker said *some*, we do not consider *some but not all* as a relevant alternative.
- Why?
- Hardwired

Reflect on the System

- The Initial Vision
 - Grice's Idea: Implicatures follow from principles of rational communication
 - Norm to choose the strongest relevant statement
 - Kind of like: choose the best tool for the job
- What We Now Have
 - Only sentences that are Horn-alternatives are considered
 - This means that the system involves crucial reference to linguistic matters

Is There an Alternative to Grice?

- Ambiguity
- *some* has two meanings:
 - weak: $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$
 - strong: “some but not all”
- But why do we routinely make the “not all” inference?
 - Because we routinely disambiguate towards the strong meaning
 - But why?

Grice or Ambiguity?

- Grice: Occam's Razor
- Anti-Grice: Reliance on Horn scales
- What we would hope for: empirical arguments

Properties of Putative Implicatures

- Quantity Implicatures do not arise
 - if the stronger sentence would not be “relevant”
 - if it cannot be assumed that the speaker is opinionated
- SUSPENSION
 - David had dinner with some, if not all, of his students.
- CANCELLATION
 - David had dinner with some of his students. In fact, he had dinner with all of his students.
- REINFORCEMENT
 - David had dinner with some but not all of his students.

Embedded Implicature?

- *If he had dinner with some of his students, he knows about what happened.*
- Gricean prediction: no “not all” reading
- Why? [class]

Cohen's Example

- If the old King has died of a heart attack and a Republic has been declared, then Tom will be quite content.
- Every father feels happy if his daughter gets married and gives birth to a child; much less if she gives birth to a child and gets married.
- order of events might be part of semantics (cf. King & Stanley)

Context-Dependency

- It was a two-course meal. But everyone who skipped the first or the second course enjoyed it more, for he wasn't too full to appreciate it. (Chierchia)
- Eating some of the cake is better than eating all of it

Crucial Examples

- Bill and Jane have three or four children. (apparently discovered by Ducrot, cf. Recanati)
- Bill believes that there were four boys at the party. (Landman via Recanati)
- The man who ate some of his cookies was wiser than the man who ate all of his cookies.

Approaches

- Pragmatic enrichment (Recanati)
- Local implicatures (Levinson, Chierchia)
- Exhaustivity operators (G& S, van Rooij, Fox)
- PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Talk by Spector on 7/15

What Now?

- Do we need the Gricean system anymore?
- Can we get rid of it?

Sauerland's Hybrid Architecture

- ms, “On Embedded Implicatures”
- S asserts ϕ
- Step 1: Gricean \Rightarrow S not convinced of stronger alternative
- Step 2a: OPINIONATED \Rightarrow S convinced that stronger alternative is false
- Step 2b: covert exhaustivity operator

A difference in obligatoriness

- Primary (Gricean) Implicatures can't be cancelled
 - # John saw Fischer or Elvis. He definitely saw Fischer.
- Embedded implicatures are optional
 - Anyone who saw Elvis or Fischer must be blind. But those who saw both of them must have good eyes.
 - Anyone who saw Elvis or Fischer can get in for free.

Do We Still Need Horn Scales?

- Do we need them in the Gricean component?
- Do we need them in the exhaustivity component?
- \Rightarrow class discussion

What We Did Today

- Alternatives to the Implicature Account
- Embedded Implicature
- Exhaustivity

What We'll Do on Friday

- Presuppositions
- First Reading: Stalnaker “Pragmatic Presuppositions”