

1 Conversational Implicatures

1.1 Cooperativity principle

1.1.1 Introduction

- (1) [A man passes by a fisherman with a dog on his side.]
 — Does your dog bite?
 — No it doesn't.
 [Then the dog bites the passer-by.]
 — But you just told me... !?
 — This is not my dog.
- (2) — Will you come with us at toca de creola?
 — I have to finish a semantic assignment
- (3) — Did you do the dishes?
 — I've cleaned the plates.

1.1.2 General mechanism

- (4) *The Cooperative Principle*: Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged. (Grice, 1975)
- (5) **Remarks**
 —It is not a grammar rule, but an interpretative hypothesis;
 —We are not talking about language, but about language users;
 —Psychologie, theory of action, theory of mind

1.1.3 Grice's Cooperation Maxims

QUALITY

1. Do not say what you believe to be false.
2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

QUANTITY

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required.
2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

RELATION

Be relevant.

MANNER

1. Avoid obscurity of expression.
2. Avoid ambiguity.
3. Be brief.
4. Be orderly.

1.1.4 Exploitation of the maxims

- (6) a. As far as I know, they are married.
 b. I may be wrong, but I've seen a wedding ring on his finger.
 c. I guess they are in love.

- (7) a. As you probably know, I'm afraid of spiders.
b. I don't want to bother you with details, our journey was a nightmare.
- (8) a. I don't know whether it's important, but some files are missing
b. It may sound strange to ask, but who's handwriting is it?
- (9) a. I'm afraid it's not clear, but I both like and dislike him.
- (10) [John walks on her partner's foot while dancing]
— What I like most in you is your natural elegance.

1.2 Conversational implicatures

1.2.1 Classical examples

- (11) a. — Did you invite cariocas?
— I invited José.
b. \rightsquigarrow The speaker hasn't invited any other people from Rio.
- (12) a. — In which city does John live now?
— Somewhere in the north.
b. \rightsquigarrow The speaker doesn't know precisely where John is living now.
- (13) a. — I've run out of gas.
— There a garage around the corner.
b. \rightsquigarrow (The speaker believes that) the garage is open.
- (14) a. — Paul doesn't have a girl friend these days.
— He goes to London every other day...
b. \rightsquigarrow ...
- (15) a. I came home, had some soup and went to bed.
b. \rightsquigarrow It was at home that the speaker had soup and went to bed, in that order.
- (16) a. During the concert, the singer made a series of musical sounds with her voice.
b. \rightsquigarrow the singer wasn't that good.

1.2.2 Properties

1.2.2.1 Calculability

- (17) *The presence of a conversational implicature must be capable of being worked out*

To work out an implicature is to infer it in a specific way from the Cooperative Principle using particular facts about the meaning of the sentence uttered and the context of utterance. (Davis, 2014)

1.2.2.2 Non detachability

- (18) conversational implicatures are typically connected to what is said rather than the way it is said, so that "it is not possible to find another way of saying the same thing, which simply lacks the implicature in question" (Grice, 1975, 39)
- (19) a. There is a garage at the next corner.
b. After this bent can a service station be found.

1.2.2.3 Cancelability

- (20) a. It is possible that Jean comes, it's even sure.
 b. I saw Márcia in town with a guy, it was her husband.
- (21) a. Some athletes smoke...
 b. ... Indeed all do
 c. ... and possibly all do
 d. ... if not all (Davis, 2014)

1.2.2.4 Reinforceability

- (22) a. Some athletes smoke...
 b. ... but not all do (Davis, 2014)
- (23) a. I have 3 children and not one more.
 b. Some of my friends are linguists, but not all are
 c. It is possible that Pedro comes, but that's not certain at all.

1.2.2.5 Suspendability

- (24) a. Today I will have a bauru or a hamburger
 \leadsto I won't have both
 b. Those who had a bauru or a hamburger can't have fries
 \neq Those who had a bauru or a hamburger **and not both** can't have fries

1.2.3 Classification

Generalised conversational implicatures *vs.* Particularized conversational implicatures

- (25) a. Some of my friends are linguists
 b. \leadsto Not all my friends are linguists.
- (26) a. Jones has a good hand-writing and his English is quite correct
(in a recommendation letter for a position of philosophy professor)
 b. \leadsto Jones is not a very good philosopher
- (27) a. Paul wrote his letter of resignation
 b. \leadsto Paul hasn't posted it

Types of generalised conversational implicatures:

- indefinites (28), (29)
- clausal (30), (31)
- scalar (32) – (36)
- ...
- exhaustivity inferences
- antipresuppositions?
- ...

- (28) a. Pierre has an appointment with a woman tonight
 b. \leadsto It is not Pierre's wife (or daughter, or mother...)
 c. Anne came into a house yesterday and found a turtle.
 d. \leadsto It is not Anne's house

- (29) a. #A father of the victim was at the scene (Heim, 1991)
- (30) a. If Janis has fever, we must give him champagne
b. \leadsto The speaker doesn't know whether Janis has fever
- (31) a. This summer we go to Patagonia or to Paraguay
b. \leadsto The speaker is not certain to go neither to Patagonia nor to Paraguay
- (32) a. Paul has 3 kids
b. \leadsto Paul doesn't have more than 3 kids
- (33) a. Max got in trouble with many of his colleagues
b. \leadsto Max didn't get in trouble with all his colleagues
- (34) a. Some elephants have a trunk
b. \leadsto There are trunkless elephants
- (35) a. This composer has talent
b. \leadsto This composer has no genius
- (36) a. This student wrote a good paper
b. \leadsto This student hasn't written an excellent paper
- (37) a. \langle one, two, three, four, ... \rangle
b. \langle some, most, many, all \rangle
c. \langle possible, likely, certain \rangle
d. \langle talent, genius \rangle
e. \langle correct, good, excellent, awesome \rangle

1.2.4 Scalar Implicatures

1.2.4.1 Semantics of scalar words

- (38) a. This company has three partners
b. *three = exactly three*
- (39) a. To get a loan it is necessary to have three partners
b. *three = at least three*
- (40) a. Léa knows at least three linguists.
b. Paul has accompanied three guests, and even four.
c. Paul has accompanied three guests, and no more.
- (41) a. Yesterday I spoke with three students.
b. If you go at Marie's, offer her 3 roses.
c. Nothing suggests that Paul doesn't have 3 children.
- (42) a. Only those who have 3 children are entitled to a discount.
b. I will not invite people who have three children.
c. Any person coming with three children has got priority.
d. I would like to talk with someone who has three children.
- (43) a. If you've read one book of Chomsky, you're lost for linguistics.
b. All those who travelled in several Baltic States must undergo a medical examination.
c. I don't talk to people who get good results at school.

1.2.4.2 General mechanism

- Alternative set
- Horn-scale
- Epistemic step

1.2.4.3 Excursus: Downward Entailing environments

- (44) a. Joe is French
b. Joe is Parisian
- (45) a. Joe is x
b. Joe is X
- (46) a. Joe is not x
b. Exactly one person is x
- (47) a. It's raining hard (p) \rightarrow it's raining (P)
b. It's raining \nrightarrow it's raining hard
- (48) a. If it's raining hard, the rivers will get high
b. If it's raining \quad , the rivers will get high

1.3 Suspension of scalar implicatures

- (49) a. If Jean is back home, he took some of the cookies.
b. \leadsto If Jean is back home, he didn't take all of the cookies.
- (50) a. If Jean took some of the cookies, he's going to be sick.
b. \nrightarrow If Jean didn't take all the cookies, he's going to be sick.

1.3.1 Descriptive Generalisation

- (51) *Scalar implicatures are "suspended" in non upward entailing contexts*

1.3.2 Explanation**1.3.3 Inversion of the scales**

- (52) Joe didn't eat all the cookies \leadsto he ate some.

2 Presupposition**2.1 First contact**

- (53) a. The king of France is bald.
b. The one who discovered the elliptic orbit of the planets died in misery.
- (54) a. The king of France is not bald ...
b. ... he has a long hair.
c. ... for France is not a monarchy.
- (55) a. The king of France is bald. Thus the royal hairdresser has to be fired.
b. #The king of France is bald. France is thus a monarchic country.
- (56) a. Max hasn't realized that everybody had finished.