

Implicature

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Grice pure and simple

Cooperative Principle

Bibliography

Identifying maxims I

What maxim(s) is/are being flouted?

A: What time is it?

B: The postman hasn't been by yet.

What is the implicature and how does flouting play a role in its derivation?

What maxim(s) is/are being flouted?

A: Will you please turn on the light?

B: The switch is by the door.

What maxim(s) is/are being flouted?

A: I know John borrowed 3 books from our library. What were they?

B: I saw him walk out with *War & Peace*.

How are the following implicatures generated? I

- (1)
 - a. The flag is white.
 - b. The flag is all white (has no other colors).
- (2)
 - a. Hand me the pliers.
 - b. Hand me the pliers now,
- (3)
 - a. Declare this on your income tax return.
 - b. Declare this on your income tax return at tax time.
- (4)
 - a. Please turn off your cell phones now.
 - b. If you don't have your cell phone with you, do nothing. It isn't necessary to go home, find your cell phone, and turn it off. (This command is restricted to those who have cell phones with them.)
- (5)
 - a. I slept on a boat yesterday.
 - b. The boat was not mine.

How are the following implicatures generated? II

- (6)
 - a. I broke someone's finger yesterday.
 - b. The finger was not mine.
- (7)
 - a. I broke someone's finger yesterday.
 - b. The finger was not mine.
- (8)
 - a. I broke a finger yesterday.
 - b. The finger was mine. (Uh Oh!)
 - c. (But suppose you know I'm an enforcer for the mob.)
- (9)
 - a. John jumped on his horse and rode away.
 - b. John jumped on his horse then rode away.
- (10)
 - a. He was able to solve the problem.
 - b. He solved the problem.
- (11)
 - a. I don't like opera.
 - b. I dislike opera.

How are the following implicatures generated? III

- (12)
- a. John has 19 children.
 - b. John has no more than 19 children.

(13)

- A: It's going to cost \$10 to get in and I haven't got a cent.
- B: Don't worry. I've got \$10.
- Why don't we get the predicted Q-implicature? I have no more than \$10.

(14)

- a. Look at the way Leslie is wriggling. A boy wouldn't do that.
- b. Leslie is a girl.

(15)

- a. Look at the way Leslie is wriggling. A boy shouldn't do that.
- b. Leslie is a boy.

How are the following implicatures generated? IV

- (16) a. The Orioles' shortstop bunted the ball right to the first baseman, who grabbed it and tagged the batter out.
- b. The Orioles' shortstop threw the ball right to the first baseman, who grabbed it and tagged the batter out.
- c. The Orioles' shortstop = the batter?
- d. If The Orioles' shortstop \neq the batter, then how does *the batter* come to refer? (Kay 1983)

Discuss the following.

How to make the maxims work

Grice introduces 4 maxims, Quantity, Quality, Relevance, and Manner. Although people don't always behave in accordance with the maxims, the only way to get Grice's theory to work is to adopt the *idealization* that they do.

Bibliography

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