Chapter 10 - Pragmatics
• **Phonetics and phonology** - unit of analysis?

• **Morphology** - unit of analysis?

• **Syntax** - unit of analysis?

• **Semantics** explores the meaning of linguistic units, typically at the level of words (lexical semantics) or at the level of sentences or more complex structures.
What is Pragmatics?

• Pragmatics is:
  • a systematic way of explaining language use in context.
  • How utterances are used.
  • Interpreting what the speaker means
  • The study of “invisible” meaning, or how we recognize what is meant when it isn’t actually written
To understand the meaning of the word and knowledge about the context.
History of pragmatics

It could be traced to two sources:

1- Paul Grice (logic of conversations) + Austin & Searl (Speech acts)

Who formed the basis of formal pragmatics.

2- The sociologist Harvey Sacks (social interactions).

Who formed the basis of conversation analysis.
Sentences vs. Utterances

Sentences:
A string of words put together by the grammatical rules of a language

Utterances:
the use of a sentence, in a particular context.

What you actually say

• What is actually expressed by words is different from the actual meaning of the utterance.
pragmatics = utterance meaning.

Utterance meaning consists of the meaning of the sentence plus considerations of the intentions of the Speaker (the speaker may intend to refuse the invitation to go to the film), interpretation of the Hearer (the Hearer may interpret the utterance as a refusal, or not), determined by Context and background knowledge.
Pragmatics is concerned with the meaning and the intention of the whole text

NOT the meaning of one word.

Context, intentions and shared knowledge are the keywords. Also cultural implications play an important role.
A.: I have a 14 years old son

B.: Well that’s right

A.: I also have a dog

B.: Oh, I’m sorry

It would be hard to catch it, unless you know that A. is trying to rent an apartment from B. and B. doesn’t accept pets.
What might be the functions of the following utterances?

1. It’s hot in here.
2. Can you pass me the salt?
3. I’ll talk to you tomorrow.
4. It’s a beautiful day today.
Mashael: there is a restaurant over there
Reem: no
Mashael: why not
Reem: I’m tired.
(From a TV serial “Everybody Loves Raymond”)

- Debra: Your parents seem nice.
- Raymond: Yeah, they *seem* nice.
Listener
understanding
the speaker’s intentions

Speaker
producing
utterances
Understanding Any message:

- knowledge of the meaning of the word
- knowledge about the context

Linguistics context “Co-text”

Physical context
Linguistics context

The set of other words used in the same phrase or context

Understanding the meaning of the word “fine” has many meanings.

How do you decide which meaning is intended in a particular sentence?

Hi. How are you?

I’m fine

There are several ways you can pay a fine to the
Physical context

- the location will influence interpretation

- Understanding what we read or hear is related to the aspects of the physical context.

- I want that book (accompanied by pointing).

- Be here at 9:00 tonight. (place / time reference).
you’ll have to bring them back by tomorrow, because they aren’t here now and they need them

- The sentence is vague
- It contains many expressions that rely on the knowledge of the physical context
Deictic/ Deixis

- There are many words in the language that cannot be interpreted alone, without being put in a context.

- *Here, there, that, now, I, you, them* and many other examples if used without a shared knowledge or a clear context can result very vague.
• Expressions that we can only understand in terms of the speaker’s intended meaning.

• Deictic comes from Greek and it means ‘pointing via language’
Deictic/ Deixis

1- Person Deixis:
To point to things (it, this, these boxes) people (him, them, her)

2- Spatial (place) Deixis:
To point to a location (here, there, near that)

3- Temporal (time) Deixis:
To point to a time (now, then, last week)
Reference

- Words do not refer to themselves.
- People refer.

- An act by which a speaker uses language to enable the listener to identify something.
• proper nouns ('Shakespeare', 'Hawaii')
• definite noun phrases ('the author', 'the island')
• indefinite noun phrases ('a man', 'a woman', 'a beautiful place')
• pronouns ('he', 'she', 'them')
Not all referring expressions have identifiable physical referents

*indefinite noun phrases can refer to*
  *a physically present entity*: 'There's a man waiting for you'
  *an unknown entity* assumed to exist: 'He wants to marry a woman with lots of money'
  *an entity that does not exist*: 'We'd like to sign a nine-foot-tall basketball player'

*An attributive use*: 'who/whatever fits the description'

*Referential use*: has one specific entity in mind
The referring expression provides a **range of reference** a number of possible referents

- Can I borrow your Shakespeare?
  Yeah it's over there on the table
- Shakespeare takes up the whole bottom shelf
- We're going to see Shakespeare in London
- I hated Shakespeare at school
- The heart-attack mustn't be moved (hospital)
- Your ten-thirty just can
- celled (dentist)
- A couple of rooms have complain
- d about the heat (hotel)
Inference

- I saw Shakespeare in London.
- Leena is wearing Marc Jacobs.
- The listener's task is to infer correctly which entity the speaker intends to identify by using a particular referring.
- The listener's ability to recognize what the speaker meant
Anaphora

- In the film, a man and a woman were trying to wash a cat. The man was holding the cat while the woman poured water on it. He said something to her and they started laughing.

- The first mention of the noun ('a man', 'a woman', 'a cat') is called **Antecedent**.

- The second referring expression ('the man, 'the cat', 'the woman') or with pronouns ('it', 'he', 'she') is **Anaphora**.
Anaphora

• A subsequent (second) reference to an already introduced entity.

• The connection between **Antecedent and Anaphora** expression is created by the use of a pronoun, a phrase (the + antecedent noun), or another noun.

• Also, The connection between **Antecedent and Anaphora** between is based on inference.

• Example: we found a **house**, but the **kitchen** was very small.
A: Can I borrow your dictionary?
B: Yean, it’s on the table

- Here, word *it* refers back to the word *dictionary*.
- The previous word *dictionary* is called the *antecedent* and
- The second word *it* is called the *anaphor* or *anaphoric expression*. 
Presupposition

- People design their linguistic messages on the basis of large-scale assumptions.
- Some of these assumptions may be mistaken, but mostly they’re appropriate.
- Your brother is waiting outside.
- Presupposition: You have a brother
I am washing the vase.

Presupposition: there is a vase.

My wife will go to London tomorrow

Presupposition: the speaker has a wife
The following sentences make certain presuppositions. What are they?

- That her pet turtle ran away made Emily very sad. Presupposition:
  - Disa wants more popcorn. Presupposition:
  - Why don't pigs have wings? Presupposition:
  - Who discovered America in 1492? Presupposition:
• John has stopped smoking.

Presupposition:

• John too was jailed.
  Presupposition:

• She is clever!
  Presupposition:

• Dina is an American student

Presupposition:
http://www.teachit.co.uk/armoore/lang/pragmatics.htm

http://www.slideshare.net/amna-shahid/pragmatics-22978099?from_search=2

http://www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/~dm/04/spring/201/03-pragmatics.pdf

http://books.google.com.sa/books?id=rKoRzsOikZgC&pg=PA133&lpg=PA133&dq=pragmatics+for+dummies&source=bl&ots=hTP1dvyJu0&sig=NUEPzlQgNL4qZNT2pdrfjrSGFAk&hl=ar&sa=X&ei=2cj0UrT0FrLo7AbJ2YCoBg&ved=0CGUQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=pragmatics%20for%dummies&f=false

http://ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/institut/mitarbeiter/jilka/teaching/Pragmatics/p3_reference.pdf


- http://wwwwhomes.uni-bielefeld.de/coertel/files/Ex_pragmatics.pdf
http://ifla.uni-stuttgart.de/institut/mitarbeiter/jilka/teaching/Pragmatics/p3_reference.pdf

http://www.ling.gu.se/~biljana/st1-97/pragmalect3.html

http://www.google.com.sa/url?
sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&ved=0CFMQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fjpkc.hrbu.edu.cn%3A8080%2Fjpkcjs%2FLinguistics%2F6kczy%2Fkj%2F08c%2F5.ppt&ei=CtL0UsLaF8Ky7Aavn4HYAg&usg=AFQjCNEukAR6LujN9Sx9zKsE04uFKldP5g

http://www.google.com.sa/url?