

i Exam information

ENG4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

Take-home exam

Autumn 2018

Your paper must be submitted in Inspira by 11.00 a.m. on the submission day. Your paper must contain the following information:

- Candidate number (4 digits, which you find at StudentWeb), NOT your name
- Course code and course name
- Semester and year

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text.

All pages must be numbered.

Before submitting your paper, you must be sure that you are familiar with the University's [rules regarding proper citing of sources \(click here to see them\)](#).

You are asked to answer TWO questions:

ONE of the questions in Part I, and ONE of the questions in Part II.

Write 2,000–2,500 words for each answer. Pass marks are required on both answers.

1 Part I

EITHER

1. (answer both a. and b)

a. Identify the situation type, tense and aspect of the verb phrases underlined in the text excerpt below. Then establish the relative temporal references of the situations referred to by these predicates, and give semantic reasons for your judgments as far as possible. In your analysis, make use of E (event time), S (speech time) and R (reference time). For the different situations, use e1, e2, etc for dynamic events and s1, s2 etc for states. Then discuss to what extent the situation type, tense and aspect used are sufficient for your interpretation of the relative time of the situations in the narrative.

It was a wet Monday morning in mid-autumn when Bruno Boylan finally set foot in the land of his forefathers.

He was travelling on a four-hundred-dollar return fare that he'd purchased just days beforehand from the comfort of his own home. A couple of clicks of the mouse and a sixteen-digit credit card number. No ticket, just an e-mail printout and a magic code. No delays, no stopovers, no adverse weather conditions for the crossing. He'd stayed awake through the drinks cart and the meal, he'd read a book for a while. He was travelling light. All he had with him was a small backpack and a canvas bag in the hold. There was nothing whatsoever to suggest that this was anything in the nature of an epic journey. (from K. MacMahon: *This is How it Ends*, p. 1)

b. How is Bruno travelling? How is this information conveyed to the reader? As explicature, implicature, both or neither? Give evidence for your answers.

OR

2.

Explain the difference between semantics and pragmatics. Then discuss what parts of the meaning of the sentences below belong to semantics and what parts belong to pragmatics. You should explain how a listener is thought to know or work out the meaning according to the theories on the syllabus. In your answer, you will have to think about plausible contexts for an utterance of the sentences.

i) I'll be there tomorrow.

ii) We will win.

iii) Conrad took his hat and left.

iv) The Queen of Ireland has arrived.













v) Do you understand the trees?

vi) Next, I show that Austin's theory is ill-founded.

vii) A: You look nice. Are you going to a party?

B: I'm going to THE party!

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0

2 Part II

EITHER

3. a. What is a metaphor? Give a brief definition and provide some examples of your own.

Then set out an account of metaphor interpretation in terms of Grice's Cooperative Principle and Maxims, explaining which maxim or maxims would be central to the explanation. (Grice's chapter on Logic and Conversation is attached)

b. Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson have an alternative account (see their paper, attached)

In your own words, set out their relevance-theoretic account of metaphor, then summarize their argument that there is a continuum of literal, loose and metaphorical speaker meaning.

c. Finally, give a critical evaluation of the two accounts.

You find M. Textor and N. Allott's paper on Lexical Adjustment attached, which you may want to refer to.

OR

4.

"Words do not have meaning of their own. They get their meaning from context." Write an essay to support or reject this statement of extreme contextualism. Would the statement apply equally well to all sorts of words and texts? Provide examples to support your own view.

Fill in your answer here

Format
-
B
I
U
 x_2
 x^2
 I_x

 Ω

 Σ
ABC

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0

i References

Here are links to the papers you may want to refer to

[Allott-Textor_Lexical Pragmatic adjustment and the Nature of ad hoc Concepts](#)

[Sperber, D. & Wilson, D. A deflationary account of metaphor 2008](#)

[Grice-Logic and Conversation](#)

