

## i Exam information

University of Oslo  
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages  
Home examination  
Autumn 2020

### ENG4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

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 Cambria or 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 \(click here to see them\)](#).

For more information on submitting assignments and home exams in Inspira, click [here](#).

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.

## i Papers to consult

The papers that you need to consult for Part II are here:

[Grice-Logic and Conversation](#)

[Searle, J. R. \(1975\). Indirect speech acts.](#)

[Wilson, D., & Carston, R. \(2007\). A unitary approach to lexical pragmatics.](#)

## i Questions

### Part I

1. a) Explain the following, giving examples:

- i. lexical ambiguity
- ii. vagueness
- iii. indeterminacy

b) Set out at least three tests for lexical ambiguity, illustrating how they work with examples.

c) State whether the underlined words illustrate ambiguity, vagueness, or indeterminacy, explaining the reasons for your answers.

- i. Mary is older than her brother; John is younger than his.
- ii. Mary is tall.
- iii. John is an ugly dancer.

c) Explain the difference between homonymy and polysemy, giving examples.

d) In each of the following zeugmatic examples, state which word or expression is ambiguous. Is it an instance of polysemy or homonymy? Explain your reasoning.

- i. John turned down his collar and Mary her job offer.
- ii. Your excuse and your library card are both valid.

OR:

2. a) Explain how situation types are classified, giving examples.

b) What are the situation types expressed by the following sentences? Justify your answers with linguistic tests.

- i) Tenzing Norgay was a mountaineer.
- ii) He climbed Everest with Edmund Hillary.
- iii) Time magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.
- iv) In an interview, he said that his parents came from Tibet, but that he was born in Nepal.
- v) His date of birth is unknown.
- vi) After his ascent of Everest on 29 May 1953, he decided to celebrate his birthday on that day from then on.
- vii) Minor planet 6481 Tenzing is named in his honour.

(Adapted from sentences at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenzing\\_Norgay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenzing_Norgay).)

OR:

3. a) Translate the following into propositional logic, analysing in as much detail as possible, and giving a key for each one.

- i) Robert bought *Moby Dick* and *Emma* and read them both.
- ii) If Jane doesn't come to the party, there won't be singing and it will be a failure.
- iii) When Harry is at home, he wears slippers.
- iv) Given that Harry is at home, he is wearing slippers.

b) Translate the following sentences into predicate logic, neglecting tense, analysing in as much detail as possible, and giving a key for each one.

Explain any problems there are with the translations.

- i) Lily and Frank visited Margaret.
- ii) Olivia is an English professor.
- iii) Arthur pulled Excalibur from a stone.
- iv) Every Norwegian has read *Hedda Gabler*.
- v) Everyone who met John liked him.

## Part II

1. a) Grice (1975) argued that the linguistic meaning of English *and* is the same as logical conjunction. Explain his claim and why it seems to conflict with the usual interpretation of sentences like 'John took off his shoes and got into bed'. Then then set out Grice's theory of conversation and discuss how it attempts to solve the problem.

b) Give Gricean analyses of the following examples:

i. John has a heart of stone.

ii. Angus: Do you know the way to the station?

Barbara: I've got Google maps on my phone.

iii. Barbara: Were you introduced to the queen at the palace?

Angus: I was introduced to Prince Philip.

OR:

2. a) What are completion and enrichment? Illustrate your explanation with examples.
- b) What do Wilson and Carston (2007) mean by broadening and narrowing? Illustrate your explanation with examples.
- c) Explain Wilson and Carston's (2007) arguments for the claim "that lexical pragmatic processes such as narrowing and broadening contribute to truth-conditional content".
- d) Using the concepts from (a) and (b), give an analysis of a typical utterance of each of the following sentences:
  - i) There are enough doses of the vaccine.
  - ii) The tram I came home on today was empty.
  - iii) That lecture was rather dry, don't you think?
  - iv) It will take time for a deal to be done.

OR:

3. a) What is illocutionary force? Illustrate your explanation with examples.
- b) Searle (1975) introduces the notion of an indirect speech act. Explain what they are, illustrating your explanation with examples.
- c) How can an addressee understand that the speaker intends an indirect speech act, according to Searle?
- d) Using speech act theory, give an analysis of an utterance of each of the following:
  - i) How many times have I told you not to eat with your fingers?
  - ii) Could you pass me the ketchup?
  - iii) Do you have the ability to pass me the ketchup?
  - iv) I beg your pardon. I'm afraid that I didn't catch that.

### References


- Grice, P. (1975). Logic and conversation. In P. Cole & J. Morgan (Eds.), *Syntax & Semantics 3: Speech Acts* (pp. 41-58). New York: Academic Press.
- Searle, J. R. (1975). Indirect speech acts. In P. Cole & J. L. Morgan (Eds.), *Speech Acts* (pp. 59-82). New York ; London: Academic Press.
- Wilson, D., & Carston, R. (2007). A unitary approach to lexical pragmatics: Relevance, inference and ad hoc concepts. In N. Burton-Roberts (Ed.), *Pragmatics* (pp. 230-259). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

# 1 Upload your answers here

Upload your answers here – in one file.



Følgende filtyper er tillatt: **.pdf**    Maksimal filstørrelse er **2 GB**.

 Velg fil for opplasting

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Maks poeng: 0