

## i Exam information

University of Oslo

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

Autumn 2021

ENG4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

**Disclosure of exam assignment:** December 13 at 11:00

**Submission deadline:** December 16 at 11:00

### Practical information about the examination

You will be answering the examination in a word processor (Word), and then upload your answers to Inspira as a PDF before the examination time is up.

NB: you should calculate at least 2-3 minutes to convert your answers from a Word document to a PDF-document, and to upload the PDF-document to Inspira.

The uploaded document will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

Please follow the link for more information regarding converting to pdf: <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/submissions/submit-answer/submit-file-upload.html>

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

### Requirements

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

Pass marks are required on both answers.

You are required to write 6 standard pages minimum / 10 standard pages maximum i.e. between 14,000 and 23,000 characters (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). This does not include references and bibliography.

In the evaluation, both content and language are taken into account.

Your paper must contain the following information:

- candidate number, NOT your name, your candidate number is available in Studentweb;
- 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.

### Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: <https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html>

Using other people's material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more information: <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>

## **i Papers to consult**

The sources that you may want to consult are here:

[Kroeger \(2019\) Analyzing meaning: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics](#)

[Grice \(1975\) Logic and conversation](#)

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

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

## i Questions

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.

### Part I

1. a) Explain the following terms in the way they are used by Kroeger (2019), illustrating with examples: lexical ambiguity, vagueness, indeterminacy

b) Set out linguistic tests that distinguish ambiguity from vagueness and indeterminacy.

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

d) Is the underlined word in each of the following an instance of polysemy or homonymy?

Explain your reasoning. Why are examples (i) and (ii) infelicitous, while example (iii) is fine?

i. ?This table is hard and so is playing the piano.

ii. ?John filed the paperwork and his fingernails.

iii. John saw her sink and so did Olivia.

OR:

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

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

It was a hot day and Emily and Finn decided to get some ice cream. They walked to the corner shop but found that the door was locked. Emily knocked several times but no one answered, so they decided that the shop was shut.

They went to the supermarket instead. It stocked several types of ice cream. Finn chose a large tub. Unfortunately there was a long queue at the check-out and the ice cream melted before they could get it home.

OR:

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

Explain any problems or complications that arise in translating these sentences into propositional logic.

- i) Amy enjoys running and listening to music.
- ii) If Ben doesn't take cake to the party, there won't be enough food.
- iii) Although Ben took cake to the party there still wasn't enough food.

b) Prove that  $P \rightarrow \neg Q$  and  $\neg(P \wedge Q)$  are equivalent using a truth-table.

c) 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) Amy didn't visit Oslo.
- ii) Some things aren't valuable.
- iii) Not every English student has read *Hamlet*.
- iv) All of Nick's students are wonderful.
- v) Every child got a present.

## Part II

1. a) Grice (1975) argued that the linguistic meaning of English *some* is the same as the existential quantifier. How does his theory of conversation explain the interpretation of *some* as "some but not all"? Give evidence for his analysis.

b) Give Gricean analyses of the underlined parts of the following:

i. Barbara: Have you bought a present for your mum?

Angus: I looked for one.

ii. Captain of sports team: We didn't play very well, but a win is a win.

iii. Angus: How much do I owe you now?

Barbara: I'll get my calculator.

OR:

2. a) What are hyperbole, loose use and metaphor? Explain, giving examples.

b) What do Wilson and Carston (2007) mean by broadening and narrowing? Illustrate your explanation with examples.

c) Using the concepts from (a) and (b), give an analysis of a typical utterance of each of the following sentences:

- i) John's trying to get in shape.
- ii) I'm just going around in circles at work.
- iii) It was Saturday morning, and the library was empty.
- iv) What kind of food is hot right now? Plant-based burgers.

d) Explain why example (iv) above could be problematic for Grice's (1975) account of figurative speech.

OR:

3. a) What are performative speech acts? What is the distinction between primary and explicit performatives? Illustrate your explanation with examples.

b) Explain the distinction between direct and indirect speech acts (from Searle 1975) illustrating your explanation with examples.

c) Briefly set out the basics of Brown and Levinson's politeness theory.

d) Using speech act theory and politeness theory as appropriate, give an analysis of a typical utterance of each of the following:

- i) Would you like a cup of coffee?
- ii) Pass the sugar.
- iii) Security guard: I'm going to have to ask you to leave the building.

## 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.
- Kroeger, P. (2019). *Analyzing Meaning : an Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics* (Second corrected and slightly revised ed.). Berlin: Language Science 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