



UNIVERSITETET
I OSLO

Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

TAKE-HOME EXAM
2017/AUTUMN
2 pages

ENG4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

3 days

11th–14th December

Your paper must be submitted in Inpera 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](#).

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) What is deixis? Explain, giving examples. Your explanation should cover the following notions: *deictic centre*; *spatial deixis*; *person deixis*; *temporal deixis*; *discourse deixis*; *social deixis*.
b) What happens to deictic elements in reported speech? Why? Your answer should include discussion of how you would report the following utterances if you were reporting from a place and time that is distant from the place and time of the utterance, like this: *John said that...*
 - i. John: I don't live in this house any more.
 - ii. John: I need your help right now.
 - iii. John: Why wouldn't you come to London with me yesterday?
 - iv. John: I got this book from a local bookshop.

OR:

2. a) Define the following situation types, illustrating each with examples: *state*, *activity*, *accomplishment*, *semelfactive*, *achievement*
- b) Set out linguistic tests for i) stativity; and ii) telicity, illustrating with examples, and discussing any difficulties to be aware of in applying them.
- c) Classify the situations described by the following sentences, explaining how you reached your decision in each case:
- i. Hans Christian Andersen once stayed with Charles Dickens for five weeks.
 - ii. They first met in 1847 and immediately became friends.
 - iii. Both were already famous writers.
 - iv. Andersen returned to Denmark.
 - v. In 1857, he came to stay with Dickens.
 - vi. He spoke English and French rather poorly.
 - vii. Dickens' house was too cold for him.
 - viii. On one occasion, he lay down on the lawn and wept.
 - ix. Later, Dickens' daughter called Andersen a 'bony bore'.

OR:

3. a) Translate the following into Propositional Logic, analysing in as much detail as possible, and giving a key. Explain any problems that you have.
- i) Amelia and Olivia live in Oslo.
 - ii) It's not the case that Jack doesn't eat meat.
 - iii) Although Harry is on a diet, he eats cakes and biscuits.
 - iv) Emily doesn't use her mobile when she is on holiday.
- b) Define *validity* (of logical arguments).
- c) Set out the truth-table method for proving arguments valid, giving simple examples.
- d) Prove the following, using a truth-table:
- $$P \rightarrow Q$$
- $$\neg Q \wedge R$$
- Therefore $\neg P$

Part II

1. a) What is hyperbole? Explain, with examples.
b) Set out a Gricean account of hyperbole in terms of Grice's Cooperative Principle and Maxims (Grice, 1975), explaining which maxim or maxims would be central to the explanation.
c) Set out the essentials of the relevance-theoretic account of hyperbole provided by Wilson and Carston (2007).
d) Briefly provide a comparative evaluation of the accounts in (c) and (d), illustrating with example utterances.

OR:

2. a) Explain the terms *locutionary act*, *illocutionary act* and *perlocutionary act*.
b) What is an *indirect speech act* (Searle, 1975)? Explain the following examples in your answer:
 - i) I want you to do it.
 - ii) Can you pass the salt?
 - iii) How many times have I told you not to bite your nails?
- c) What is the relation between indirect speech acts (Searle, 1975) and Grice's theory of conversation (Grice, 1975)? You should include in your answer discussion of whether indirect speech acts are calculable and whether they are cancellable.

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.

Explanation: For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the teacher responsible for the course by e-mail within one week after the exam results have been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written or oral explanation.