

LIGN 101 Section Activity - Semantics and Pragmatics

Today, we'll spend a bit more time thinking about entailment, implicature, presupposition, and Grice.

Entailments and Implicatures: Work in small groups, and for each of the below sentences, give...

1. Two additional sentence that are entailed by the given sentence.
2. Two additional sentences that are (or could be) implied by the given sentence.
3. For each implicature think of a situation in which it would be false (which proves that it is not an entailment).

Remember that entailment means "If the first sentence is true, then the second sentence is necessarily true". If there is entailment, there is no universe or situation in which the first sentence can be true, but the second sentence is not. Implicature is a much lower bar to pass: If the first sentence is true, the second sentence seems quite likely in most contexts (even if there are some possible situations and universes that it is not true).

Example Sentence: Will ate five quesadillas.

- *Entailed: Will ate more than two quesadillas.*
- *Entailed: Will can eat quesadillas.*
- *Implied: Will is no longer hungry.*
 - *False if: Will is a quesadilla-eating beast, and is nowhere near full.*
- *Implied: Will enjoys quesadillas.*
 - *False if: Will's mother-in-law made him the five quesadillas, thinking he loves quesadillas. He doesn't, but he didn't want to offend her, so he powered through and ate all five.*

1. The grumpy linguist watched a full bus speed by him.
2. Angeles broke the awful pencil over her knee as her professor walked away.
3. Kati, Andres, and Allison attended the Phonology party after class.
4. Ivano the Italian Semanticist ran the meeting.
5. Guantong slapped Colin playfully.
6. Darnell's lab discovered a possible cure for Lupus.
7. Jessica came home to find all her lamps missing. (I guess you could say she was delighted!)
8. Elsa and Ebru graded papers quietly.
9. Olivia threw Nina an Apple.
10. Gloria sang a song by Ariana Grande.
11. Matt loves polysynthetic languages more than isolating languages.

Presup, bro? Now, I'd like you to spot the presuppositions in the below sentences, and explain how it's different from an entailment or an implicature:

1. Will no longer plays Breath of the Wild
2. Krystal realized that she was a speech pathologist
3. Will finally managed to make the students laugh.
4. Hagyeong restarted the server again.
5. Who is teaching Semantics next Spring?

Conversational Confusion: Now, it's time to do the impossible: Have a non-Gricean conversation. In your small groups, have a conversation about a topic of your choosing, but *violate as many of the Gricean maxims as you can*,

as often as you can, while still trying to maintain conversation. Make sure that you're regularly violating manner, quantity, quality, AND relevance. This is not easy. That's the point. Enjoy the struggle.