

Contents

In: Urbanová, Ludmila. *On expressing meaning in English conversation : semantic indeterminacy*. Vyd. 1. Brno: Masarykova univerzita, 2003, pp. 5-6

ISBN 8021032529

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/123324>

Access Date: 28. 02. 2024

Version: 20220831

Terms of use: Digital Library of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University provides access to digitized documents strictly for personal use, unless otherwise specified.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
1. ON CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE	11
1.1 Introduction: Aims, Methods and Analysed Material	11
1.2 Spoken Discourse Compared with Written Discourse	11
1.2.1 Functionalist Pragmatics in the Prague School	13
1.3 Semantic Indeterminacy in Authentic Conversation	14
1.4 Meaning in Interaction	15
1.5 Principles Governing Conversational Behaviour	17
2. FORM AND MEANING IN CONVERSATION	19
2.1 Indistinct Form and Implicit Meaning	19
2.2 Language Functions in Spoken Discourse	20
2.3 Conversation as Context-Embedded Interaction	20
2.4 Delimiting the Basic Unit of Spoken Discourse	21
3. MEANING IN CONVERSATION REVISITED	24
3.1 Types of Meaning in Spoken Discourse	24
3.2 The Notion of Semantic Indeterminacy	26
3.3 Speaker Attitude and Speaker Commitment	27
3.4 Pragmatic and Semantic Indeterminacy	28
4. INDIRECTNESS AND IMPLICITNESS	30
4.1 Indirect Speech Acts as a Linguistic Problem	30
4.2 Declarative Questions	32
4.3 Socio-Cultural Aspects of Indirectness and Implicitness	34
4.4 Implications Conveyed by Intonation	35
4.5 Emotiveness versus Informativeness	36
4.6 Question Phrases	38
4.7 Criteria for the Evaluation of Indirectness	40
4.8 Semantic and Pragmatic Aspects of Indirectness	41
4.9 Indirectness as an Expression of Locutionary Subjectivity	48
5. IMPERSONALITY	49
5.1 Impersonality as an Expression of Semantic Indeterminacy	49
5.2 Pragmatic Categories of Involvement and Detachment	49
5.3 Involvement v. Detachment in Different Conversation Genres	50
5.4 Semantic and Pragmatic Aspects of Impersonality in Spoken Discourse	56

6. ATTENUATION	58
6.1 Hedging as Weakening the Illocutionary Force	58
6.2 Classification of Attenuation Markers	59
6.3 Types of Attenuation in Discourse	64
7. ACCENTUATION	66
7.1 Attenuation-Accentuation Dichotomy in Spoken Discourse	66
7.2 Strengthening the Illocutionary Force	68
7.3 Criteria for Classification of Accentuation Markers	69
7.4 Accentuation as an Expression of Mutuality	71
7.5 Frequency of Accentuation Markers	72
7.6 Variety of Functions of Accentuation Markers	72
8. VAGUENESS	74
8.1 Non-Observance of Grice's Category of Manner	74
8.2 Vagueness as Speaker's Intention	75
8.3 Telephone Conversation as a Conversation Genre	76
8.4 Pragmatic and Semantic Aspects of Vagueness	77
8.4.1 Referential Uses of Vagueness	77
8.4.2 Affective Uses of Vagueness	78
8.5 Semantic Aspects of Vagueness	80
8.6 Speech Act Types and Vagueness	81
8.7 Vagueness as a Discourse Tactic	82
9. MEANING POTENTIAL IN CONVERSATION	83
9.1 Discourse Grammar	83
9.2 Degree of Indirectness: Comparing Genres	83
9.3 Semantic Indeterminacy and Modality	84
10. CORPUS LINGUISTICS AND PROBABILISTIC GRAMMAR	85
10.1 Computational Linguistics and its Methods of Research	85
10.2 Representativeness of Text Selection	86
10.4 Grammaticalness and Grammatical Acceptability	88
CONCLUSION	90
WORKS CITED	92
CZECH SUMMARY	98
APPENDIX	100