PRAGMATICS IN LINGUISTICS

Ibrokhimova Mokhinur Mukhammadqurbanovna
Uzbekistan State University of World Languages
MA student
ibrohimova82@gmail.com

Abstract: In linguistics, pragmatics is the study of how meaning is influenced by context. It focuses on how language is used in everyday contexts and how social norms, speaker purpose, and cultural background all affect meaning. Examining shared knowledge, implicit meanings, and conversational implicatures, pragmatics studies how language users deduce meaning beyond the literal interpretation of words and phrases. In order to communicate effectively, one must have a solid understanding of pragmatics, which explains how language is used to show politeness, negotiate social relationships, and accomplish communicative goals. Linguists can learn more about how language functions in daily interactions and how meaning is produced in context by studying pragmatics.

Key words: Linguistics, pragmatics, cultural background, interpretation, communication, Charles W. Morris, William James, John Dewey, Charles Sanders Pierce, signs, language, behavior, social contexts, politeness theory, Penelope Brown, implicature, presupposition, speech acts.

Introduction

Language is more than just words and grammar rules; it is a dynamic, complex system. The study of language in use is called pragmatics, and it is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the ways that shared knowledge, context, and social cues affect communication. Pragmatics highlights the finer points and intricacies of human interaction by studying language use in authentic contexts.

The study of language in context, with an emphasis on the creation and interpretation of meaning in communication, is the field of pragmatics within linguistics. In contrast to semantics, which studies meaning, and syntax, which studies sentence form, pragmatics examines language use in contexts outside word meaning. It investigates the ways in which implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and conversational implicature are used by speakers to express meaning. It enables us to

concentrate on the construction of meaning in certain settings and helps us see beyond the literal meaning of words and utterances. In interpersonal communication, meaning is continuously negotiated between the speaker and the listener. By examining this bargaining, pragmatics seeks to comprehend the meaning that individuals convey to one another throughout communication.

The term pragmatics was first used in the 1930s by the philosopher and psychologist Charles W. Morris, and it was further developed as a subfield of linguistics in the 1970s. Among the linguistic fields, pragmatics in the English language is one of the newest. But its origins can be found in the philosophers William James, John Dewey, and Charles Sanders Pierce in the 1870s. A philosophical movement known as pragmatics views words as instruments for comprehending the outside world and opposes the notion that thought's primary purpose is to reflect reality. Pragmatists contend that the best way to understand any philosophical idea, including language, is to consider its applications in real life. Charles Morris developed his theory of pragmatics in his 1947 book "Signs, Language, and Behavior," drawing on pragmatism as well as his training in philosophy, sociology, and anthropology. According to Morris, pragmatics "addresses the sources, applications, and consequences of signs within the overall behavior of the interpreters of signs." Rather than literal indicators like road signs, pragmatics uses signs to describe the gestures, body language, and tone of voice that typically accompany speech.

Pragmatics refers to the practical application of language, taking into account its meaning within social contexts. We must consider the circumstances (including the physical setting) and pay attention to social indicators like body language and tone of voice in order to truly comprehend what is being said. Taking a look at several pragmatic instances and their meaning in context will perhaps help to clarify things. For instance, imagine this: It's hot in here, your friend remarks as you and she sit in your bedroom studying. Is it possible to pry open a window? If we interpret this correctly, your friend is requesting that you break the window, inflicting harm against it. When considered contextually, though, it appears that what they're really requesting is a small window opening. Second example, imagine this: Your neighbor appears bored as you converse with them. It appears that your neighbor is not paying much attention to what you are saying, since they are constantly checking their watch. "Gosh, would you look at the time!" they exclaim abruptly. In literal terms, this means that your neighbor is telling you to check the time. However, based on their overall body language, we can assume that they are attempting to leave the conversation.

Understanding pragmatics is essential to comprehending language use in context and provides a solid foundation for comprehending language interactions. A world without slang, without jokes that probably wouldn't be humorous, and with conversations that would take twice as long would be one in which you had to explain what you meant in full! Let's see what a world without pragmatics would look like.

"What time is this called?"

Meaning in literal terms: What time is it?

True meaning: Why are you running late?

We are aware that the speaker is merely highlighting the other person's tardiness and is not genuinely interested in finding out what time it is thanks to the pragmatic observations. It would be preferable to apologize in this instance rather than give the speaker more time! Now think about the subsequent phrases. How many interpretations are possible for them? To what extent does context matter in determining the meaning of individual sentences?

- You have the green light.
- This way.
- You are on fire!

Pragmatics: Politeness Theory

In the 1970s, Penelope Brown and Steven Levinson developed "politeness theory." It aims to clarify how civility functions in discourse. "Saving face" refers to preserving your reputation and avoiding embarrassment, and it is the foundation of politeness theory. Positive and negative faces are the two categories of faces that Brown and Levinson propose exist in humans.

Our self-esteem is our positive face. Take our need to be trusted, adored, and liked as an example.

Our need to be unhindered and free to do as we like is known as our negative face.

When we treat someone with courtesy, we are appealing to their good or bad side.

A person might be made to feel good about oneself by appealing to their positive side. Example: "You always dress so beautifully! One day, I hope to borrow something." Making the other person feel as though they haven't been taken advantage of is equivalent to appealing to their negative face. For instance, "I know it's a real pain, and I hope you don't mind, but could you please print these off for me?"

Key concepts in pragmatics:

1. Implicature. Paul Grice has proposed a theory called "conversational implicature," which is frequently referred to as just "implicature". It examines acts of indirect speech. Investigating implicatures helps us understand the

speaker's meaning even when it isn't stated clearly. It is a communication method that is not direct. The cooperative theory is closely related to conversational implicature. It is predicated on the cooperation of both the speaker and the listener. A speaker can be sure that the audience will grasp what they are implying. For example, while watching TV, a couple is not really paying attention to the TV because they are both engrossed on their phones. "Are you watching this?" asks the boy. Grabbing the remote, the girl flips through the channels. Although the suggestion to switch the channel was not made directly, it was inferred.

2. Presupposition. A presupposition is essentially what happens when you build something on an assumption. Assuming, for instance, that it will rain, you may remark, "I'll get my rain jacket before I leave". When you get right down to it, though, it's a pretzel of a concept. In this article, we'll unpretzel the pragmatics of the presupposition, including how to use the negation test to figure out if something is a presupposition at all.

3. Speech Acts. Speech acts, a subset of pragmatics and a type of verbal communication, frequently occur in both verbal and nonverbal communication. Speech actions, according to Yule (1996), are an investigation of the language use of speakers and listeners. Bach (1979) indicates that a verbal communication involves more than just language; it also involves action, as each verbal action has a message attached to it. To sum up, a speech act is an actual utterance, and an act is an activity. When a speaker speaks, there are goals that go beyond the words or sentences. According to Austin (in Tsui, 1994: 4), speech acts are actions that allude to the deeds carried out by generated utterances. According to Yule (1996: 47), speech acts are actions carried out through utterances. Similarly, Birner (2013) asserts that saying something entails acting upon it. Here, one can speak in order to carry out an action. The speaker can represent physical action with speech acts by using only words and phrases. The words spoken have a significant impact on the deeds done. The speaking acts are divided into three categories: illocutionary, locutionary, and perlocutionary.

In conclusion, pragmatics provides a comprehensive framework for examining the nuanced ways in which language is employed to convey meaning in authentic settings. Linguists can obtain important insights into the social, cultural, and cognitive facets of communication by examining the pragmatic components of language. Accepting pragmatics broadens our comprehension of language as a dynamic, ever-evolving system and helps us to appreciate the intricacy of human connection.

References:

1. *Levinson, Stephen C.* "Pragmatics". Cambridge University Press, 1983.

2. *Yule, George.* "Pragmatics". Oxford University Press, 1996.

3. *Sperber, Dan, and Wilson, Deirdre.* "Relevance: Communication and Cognition". Wiley-Blackwell, 1995.

4. *Brown, Penelope, and Levinson, Stephen C.* "Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage". Cambridge University Press, 1987.

5. https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/english/pragmatics/