APPL711

Advanced Topics in Pragmatics and Intercultural Communication

S2 Evening 2015

Dept of Linguistics

Contents

Disclaimer

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General Information

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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit explores linguistic pragmatics, with a focus on intercultural communication. The unit
equips participants with the tools for analysis of how meaning is constructed in context
through spoken and written language. The content includes speech act theory; politeness and
face; the co-operative principle and implicature; relevance theory; cultural scripts; and
metaphor. There is an emphasis on how communication operates in different cultural contexts
and on accessing and interpreting current research. Communication in social and institutional
contexts, language in the media, and practical implications for learning and teaching and
interpreting and translating are explored.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are
available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture

Understand the kinds of approaches to analysing language that are commonly used in pragmatics.

Make judgements about the types of analysis that are most suitable for researching particular types of discourse

Identify examples of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication and use pragmatic theories to explain them.

Analyse examples of discourse using speech act theory, politeness theory and theories of implicature

Reflect on how intercultural competence operates in their own professional context

Understand the applications of linguistic pragmatics in real life

Apply a critical approach to choices in linguistic pragmatics in a range of text types

Evaluate current research in an area of personal or professional interest

Formulate and outline an appropriate research question which addresses an identified gap in existing research.

General Assessment Information

Late assignments

a) Unless students have negotiated an extension based on documented evidence of significant disruption to their studies, a penalty of 5% per day will apply to late submission of assignments. Please make sure you discuss any application for extensions with the unit convenor **before** the assignment is due.

b) Again, unless otherwise negotiated, assignments will not be accepted at all AFTER the date on which the marked assignments are returned to all students in the unit.

Academic Honesty

As a good student, you are responsible for ensuring academic integrity practices are followed at all times. Your first step is to read the University's Academic Honesty Policy, and make sure you know what constitutes good practice. Then make sure you know how to reference and cite correctly. There are other practices we need to consider, and one of these is the potential for collusion.

Informal study groups are encouraged as a good way to assist your learning, but please remember that all your independently assessed assignments must be totally independently completed. Unless you are doing a group project where each member contributes to producing one piece of work, for which you get the one mark, using part or all of someone else's work constitutes collusion and breaches the University's Academic Honesty policy.

Do not collude with any other student by selling, giving, lending, explaining or showing all or parts of your independently assessed work/answers/past or current assignments, and do not ask to buy, borrow, see and use all or parts of the work of another student.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Assignment 1: Text analysis	30%	Monday Week 6
Assignment 2: Essay	20%	Monday Week 8
Assignment 3	50%	Monday Week 13

Assignment 1: Text analysis

Due: **Monday Week 6**
Weighting: **30%**

Analysis of transcript, plus commentary.

You will be given a transcribed spoken text to analyse, applying what you have learnt about the elements of context, implicature, speech act theory and politeness theory.

The assignment will be assessed in relation to the following criteria

- Accuracy of identification of the features of context that must be understood in order to understand the speakers' meanings in the text.
- Accuracy of analysis using the tools from each of the three areas of pragmatics covered in the course.
- Statement and justification of conclusions drawn: clarity of argument and relationship to results of analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Understand the kinds of approaches to analysing language that are commonly used in pragmatics.
- Analyse examples of discourse using speech act theory, politeness theory and theories of implicature

Assignment 2: Essay

Due: **Monday Week 8**
Weighting: **20%**

This assignment involves considering an issue/problem/experience related to communication **in your own life**. It might be a recurring issue/problem or a 'one-off' experience. How do you think this issue/problem/experience might be addressed, illuminated or dealt with by one (or more) of the pragmatics concepts which have been considered so far in this unit? The assignment will be assessed in relation to the following criteria.

You should:

- identify and describe a relevant issue or topic in a specific context that you are familiar with;
- demonstrate an understanding of the concepts introduced in the readings and study notes that are relevant to your chosen issue;
- apply these concepts to a consideration of your chosen issue and context;
- write clearly and concisely in academic style;
- refer specifically to the relevant readings and study notes to introduce, illustrate and support your own personal reflections;
- provide a reference list citing all and only those references cited in the body of your essay;
- use APA referencing style;
- observe the word limits.

Your grade will be mostly determined by:

- how well the relevant issue is identified and described;
- how well your discussion of the issue is related to the theory.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Identify examples of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication and use pragmatic theories to explain them.
- Analyse examples of discourse using speech act theory, politeness theory and theories of implicature
- Reflect on how intercultural competence operates in their own professional context
- Evaluate current research in an area of personal or professional interest

Assignment 3

Due: **Monday Week 13**
Weighting: **50%**

Decide on area of pragmatics and a context in which you might like to undertake conduct research.

Some suggested theoretical areas are:

Politeness and face, Implicature and/or relevance theory, Discourse pragmatics, Metaphor, Critical discourse analysis

Using appropriate databases and library resources, build up an annotated bibliography of

relevant recent publications in your area of interest. Keeping your broad research question in mind

The review will have the following sections:

1. Propose a broad question

2. Review and critique the literature in this area.

3. Create an annotated bibliography of 10 key sources.

4. Narrow the question down and be specific about the methodology choices and reasons.

The assignment will be assessed in relation to the following criteria.

- identify the initial area of research and broad question

- identifying and evaluating recent relevant work.

- provide a synthesis as well as a summary of the work

- show how the work is interrelated

- show insight and awareness of different approaches, findings and arguments.

- identify a gap in the existing research

- propose a more specific research question that could be investigated.

- write clearly and concisely in academic style;

- provide a reference list citing all and only those references cited in the body of your essay;

- use APA referencing style;

- observe the word limits.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Make judgements about the types of analysis that are most suitable for researching particular types of discourse
- Understand the applications of linguistic pragmatics in real life
- Apply a critical approach to choices in linguistic pragmatics in a range of text types
- Evaluate current research in an area of personal or professional interest
- Formulate and outline an appropriate research question which addresses an identified gap in existing research.

Delivery and Resources

The textbook for this unit is Archer, D., Aijmer, K., & Wichmann, A. (2012). Pragmatics: An advanced resource book for students. London & New York: Routledge. ISBN:978-0415497879

You will need to buy a copy of this book, which can be obtained through the co-op bookshop at

Macquarie.

Another book which is useful for background reading is *Bowes*, H. & *Martin*, K. (2007). Communication across *cultures*: Mutual understanding in a global world. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Reading material for this course also consists of book chapters and some journal articles that can be found on e-reserve, and other journal articles can be accessed directly through the library catalogue. Weekly reading lists will be available on the i-learn site, which you can access from the first day of the course. Reading guides and questions are provided for the key readings.

For copyright reasons, some of the items on e-reserve may not be available for the entire period of the course. This means that students must download them when they are available and also that it is no cause for concern if readings do not appear until shortly before the corresponding module is due to commence.

The APPL911 website has a range of resources, including course notes, tasks, online discussions, etc. To login to the website, go to the is http://learn.mq.edu.au.

There are also links to advice and assistance in the left column of this web page.

There is a range of other resources available to Macquarie students, including:

- electronic access to a variety of book chapters and journal articles at http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/reserve/
- electronic access to journals at http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/journalfinder/
- electronic document delivery for journal articles and book chapters not available locally at http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/docsup/

See the following URL for more information:

http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/postresources.htm

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer
1	July 27	Introduction to pragmatics – context, and pragmatic failure	JK
2	Aug 5	Speech act theory	JK
3	Aug 12	Implicature and the co-operative theory	JM
4	Aug 19	Linguistic politeness	JM

5	Aug 26	Applying linguistic pragmatics to cross cultural communication	JM
6	Sept 2	Prosody and communication	JM
7	Sept 9	Pragmatics and discourse – corpus approaches	JM
BREAK			
8	Sept 30	Conducting research in pragmatics	JM
9	Oct 7	Politeness revisited – face / facework and impoliteness	JM
10	Oct 14	CDA, pragmatics and power	JM
11	Oct 21	Implicature revisited – post-Gricean pragmatics and relevance theory	JM
12	Oct 28	Metaphor, pragmatics and culture	JM
13	Nov 4	Applications of pragmatics	JM

Learning and Teaching Activities

HOW TO USE THE READINGS AND LECTURE MATERIALS - INTERNAL students

In order to get the most from this unit, you will need to: 1. Read the essential pre-reading before the lecture/seminars on the ilearn site (these are indicated with a *star) 2. Complete all of the nominated pre-lecture online tasks (indicated with a *star) 3. Attend all of the lecture/seminar sessions 4. Participate in small group discussions and tasks in class 5. Download and read the powerpoints after each of the lecture/seminars 6. Access other readings from the unit website as well as journals and library resources. 7. Consult with the lecturers about any assessment or other issues that need clarification. NB: Distance course materials are also available to internal students. Participation in the web discussion is optional but encouraged.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify examples of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication and use pragmatic theories to explain them.
- Reflect on how intercultural competence operates in their own professional context
- Understand the applications of linguistic pragmatics in real life
- Apply a critical approach to choices in linguistic pragmatics in a range of text types
- Evaluate current research in an area of personal or professional interest
- Formulate and outline an appropriate research question which addresses an identified gap in existing research.

Assessment task

- Assignment 3

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Understand the kinds of approaches to analysing language that are commonly used in pragmatics.
- Make judgements about the types of analysis that are most suitable for researching particular types of discourse
- Analyse examples of discourse using speech act theory, politeness theory and theories of implicature

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1: Text analysis

- Assignment 2: Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Make judgements about the types of analysis that are most suitable for researching particular types of discourse
- Apply a critical approach to choices in linguistic pragmatics in a range of text types
- Evaluate current research in an area of personal or professional interest
- Formulate and outline an appropriate research question which addresses an identified gap in existing research.

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1: Text analysis
- Assignment 3

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Make judgements about the types of analysis that are most suitable for researching particular types of discourse
- Analyse examples of discourse using speech act theory, politeness theory and theories of implicature
- Formulate and outline an appropriate research question which addresses an identified gap in existing research.

Assessment task

- Assignment 3

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Identify examples of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication and use pragmatic theories to explain them.

Assessment task

- Assignment 2: Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the relationship between pragmatics and culture
- Identify examples of unsuccessful cross-cultural communication and use pragmatic theories to explain them.
- Reflect on how intercultural competence operates in their own professional context
- Apply a critical approach to choices in linguistic pragmatics in a range of text types

Assessment task

- Assignment 2: Essay