1. **SPEECH ACTS, IMPLICATURES & MEANING**

2. **Semantics vs Pragmatics**
   - 3 semiotic disciplines: syntax, semantics, pragmatics (pragmalinguistics) (Morris, 1938)
   - 60s: sentence/utterance distinction, focus from *langue* to *parole*, stress on context
   - Pragmatics: relationship between language and context
   - Gazdar: "Semantics deals with the meaning which is left after the pragmatics analysis"
   - Levinson: sentence deals with sentence meaning; utterance deals with utterance meaning
   - Sentence m. - utterance m. # 1:1 relationship (*It's cold.*)

3. **John Austin ("How to Do Things With Words", 1962.)**
   - John Austin's theory of speech acts as a reaction to TGG. What do we do when we speak?
   - l. - form of human intentional behaviour
   - communication - not just a matter of expressing propositions; a 'naked' proposition cannot communicate anything at all
   - utterances - basic elements of communication. In the form of speech acts - intentional linguistic behaviour with an aim
   - to communicate we express a proposition with a particular illocutionary force (speaker's intention) thus performing particular kinds of action (stating, promising, warning) = speech acts
   - 2 basic types of utterances:
     1. performative u. - to say sth. means to do sth.
     2. constative u. - act of providing information; can be judged as either true or false
   - propositions with no indicators of illocutionary force are also performative: Is the shop open? I'm asking you whether the shop's open.

   - distinguishes 3 elements in producing utterances:
     1. locutionary act: "utterance of certain noises, certain words in a certain construction, and the utterance of them with a certain sense and a certain reference" - act of producing an utterance
   - 2. perlocutionary act- performed by using l. as a tool. Elements which define the act are external to the locutionary act.
     e.g. act of persuading sb. to do sth. - speaking to sb. doesn't of itself constitute the act of persuasion. For that, the person persuaded has to do what the speaker is urging. This act refers to the effects which are obtained by illocutionary acts. (*It's cold.* sb. closes the window if understood as a request)
     - by saying sth (locutionary a.), you are performing an act (minister joining 2 people in marriage by saying I now pronounce you husband and wife.)
     - I promise to buy you a ring - uttering means performing the act of promising
     - locutionary- illocutionary act relationship # 1:1
     - I saw jane today : I saw your wife today
     - I'll be there (promise) : I'll be there (warning)

5. **Illocutionary acts- implicit and explicit illocutionary force**
   - illocutionary force of an utterance- illocutionary act aimed at by producing an utterance; no communication without illocutionary force
   - explicit illocutionary force - a specific linguistic signal whose function is to encode the act; 2 types: lexical & grammatical
   - lexical: I promise you I will leave in 5 minutes. I warn you I will leave in 5 minutes. I
beg you not to leave so soon. I thank you for staying.

(performative verbs encode ill. force)

- grammatical: You wrote the article. Did you write the article? Write the article! (gramm. form encodes ill. force)
- might appear that every utterance has some indication of ill. force, but it is not always fully specified linguistically: You will leave immediately has declarative form (encodes the ill. force of statement), but could be used to issue a command= implicit ill. force/indirect speech acts

**Explicit performativity**

- performative verbs- one of whose f. is to signal specific speech acts; have certain peculiar properties which set them apart from non-performative v.
- can normally occur with ‘hereby’

I hereby undertake to carry out all my duties. I hereby declare the bridge open. I hereby command you to surrender.

*I hereby persuade you to join me. I hereby recount the history of my family. I hereby tell the truth.

- Performative use of p.verbs is extremely restricted grammatically- must be in simple present tense; may be active or passive; if active, must be in first person
- I (hereby) promise to pay you next week. *I hereby promised to pay him the following week.
- I (hereby) declare you husband and wife. *I have hereby declared you husband and wife.
- Passengers are (hereby) requested not to smoke. Passengers were *hereby requested not to smoke.

**Grammatical performativity**

- Most l. have gramm. ways of indicating the ill. force of an utterance (like perf. verbs):
  - John is brave.- I (hereby) state that John is brave.
  - Is John brave?- I (hereby) enquire whether John is brave.
  - Be brave, John!- I (hereby) urge John to be brave.
- range of choice of forms- much more limited than with perf. verbs, so the m. are less specific

**Classification of speech acts**

1. assertives- commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition: state, suggest, boast, complain, claim, report, warn (that)
2. directives- have the intention of eliciting some sort of action on the part of the hearer: order, command, request, beg, beseech, advise (to), warn (to), recommend, ask
3. commissives- commit the speaker to some future action: promise, vow, offer, undertake, contract, threaten

4. expressives- make known the speaker’s psychological attitude to a presupposed state of affairs: thank, congratulate, condole, praise, blame, forgive, pardon
5. declaratives- bring about a change in reality; the world is no longer the same after they’ve been used; encode concrete changes: resign, dismiss, christen, name, open (an exhibition), excommunicate, sentence (in court), bid (at an auction)

**Conditions for successful performance of s. acts (Searle)**

- contextual conditions which must be fulfilled- happiness c. / felicity c.
1. preparatory c.- if they don’t hold, the act hasn’t been carried out (misfired)
   e.g. declaratives- person must have authority to perform it, in appropriate circumstances, with appropriate actions
   not enough to say I name this ship Venus and break a bottle of champagne for the ship to acquire an official name (a proper ceremony must be enacted, with officially recognized participants); same for christening a baby, even for resigning
   e.g. directives- speaker must be in authority over the hearer
2. Sincerity condition - for these conditions to be fulfilled, a person must have appropriate beliefs or feelings.
   e.g. in performing an act of asserting, the speaker must believe the proposition they're expressing; when thanking sb., one ought to have feelings of gratitude.
   • If sincerity c. are not met, the act is actually performed, but there is said to be an abuse.

3. Essential Conditions - define the act being carried out.
   For a promise, the speaker must intend his utterance to put him under an obligation to carry out the act which corresponds to its propositional content.
   For a request, the speaker must intend that the utterance count as an attempt to get the hearer to do what is requested.
   • If essential c. are not met, the act has not really been carried out.

(Conversational) Implicatures

- Propositions or assumptions not encoded (completely) in what is actually said:
  A: Am I in time for supper?
  B: I've cleared the table.
  B's intention - to convey the proposition that A is too late for supper, but this has to be worked out by the hearer.

Recognizing Implicatures

a) Context dependence - an expression with a single max. can give rise to different implicatures in different contexts:
   A: Have you cleared the table and washed the dishes?
   B: I've cleared the table.
   A: Am I in time for supper?
   B: I've cleared the table.

b) Cancellability - implicatures can be cancelled by additional material without contradiction or anomaly:
   A: Did the Minister attend the meeting and sign the agreement?
   B(1): The Minister attended the meeting.
   B(2): The Minister attended the meeting; a statement will be issued later with regard to the agreement.
   • In prop. which are not impl. subsequent material gives rise to anomaly: *John hasn't arrived yet: I know for a fact he's not coming.

c) Non-detachability - same propositional content in the same context will always give rise to the same implicature in whatever form it is expressed:
   A: Have you cleared the table and washed the dishes?
   B: I've cleared the table./ I've taken all the things off the table.

Grice's Conversational Maxims

- Co-operative Principle: "make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged."
- Principle elaborated by a set of maxims, which spell out what it means to co-operate in a conversational way.

Maxims

- Maxim of Quality - concerned with telling the truth; has 2 parts: do not say what you believe to be false; do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.
- Maxim of Quantity - concerned with the amount of information an utterance conveys; has 2 parts: make your contribution as informative as is required for the current purposes of the exchange in which you are engaged; do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
M: What did you have for lunch today?
D: Baked beans on toast. I had 87 warmed-up baked beans (although eight of them were slightly crushed) served on a slice of toast 12.7cm by 10.3cm.

maxim of relation- be relevant (not sufficient for a statement to be true for it to constitute an acceptable conv. contribution); most violated

A: Have you seen Mary today?
B: I'm breathing.

maxim of manner- regarded as least important; consists of 4 parts:
- avoid obscurity
- avoid ambiguity
- avoid unnecessary prolixity
- be orderly

e.g. of an infringement of the submaxim 'be orderly': The lone ranger rode off into the sunset and jumped on his horse.

Nature of maxims
- guidelines, more flexible than gramm. rules
- Grice: not culture-bound conventions but rationally based and expected to be observable in any human society