PRAGMATICS – George Yule

Pragmatics, in linguistics and philosophy, the study of the use of natural language in communication; more generally, the study of the relations between languages and their users.

pragmatics is

"The study of contextual meaning communicated by a speaker or writer, and interpreted by a listener or reader." (G.Yule)

• "The study of the relation of signs to their interpreters." (Charles Morris)

• "The study of the relations between linguistic forms and its users (…). Only pragmatics allows humans into the analysis: their assumptions, purposes, goals, and actions they perform while speaking." (G.Yule)

PRAGMATICS IS…

1- THE STUDY OF SPEAKER MEANING WHAT PEOPLE MEAN by their utterances rather than what the words or phrases might mean by themselves.

- The study of contextual meaning • Importance of the CONTEXT: the circumstances and the audience or public.

- The study of how more gets communicated than said.

- **The INFERENCES** made by listeners or readers in order to arrive at an interpretation of the intended meaning. • A great deal of what is UNSAID is recognized as part of what is communicated.

• The study of "invisible meaning"

- **The study of the expression of relative distance:** The CLOSENESS or DISTANCE of the listener or reader determines how much needs to be said. For example: A: there is a store over there (Let's go inside) B: no (I don't want to go inside) A: why not? (why do you not want to go inside?) B: I'm tired. (I don't want to because I'm tired.)

IN OTHER WORDS… **PRAGMATICS studies HOW PEOPLE MAKE SENSE OF EACH OTHER LINGUISTICALLY.** For example: A: So_ did you? B: Hey_ who wouldn't? Two friends in a conversation may imply some things and infer some others without providing any clear linguistic evidence. So, pragmatics requires us to make sense of what people have in mind.

What is inference in pragmatics?

When the message of a speaker goes beyond the literal or logical meaning of the sentences used, a **pragmatic inference** is required to understand the complete meaning of an utterance. Here we study one example of **pragmatic inference**, called conversational implicature.

- Speech acts. ...
- Conversational implicature. ...
- Rhetorical Structure. ...
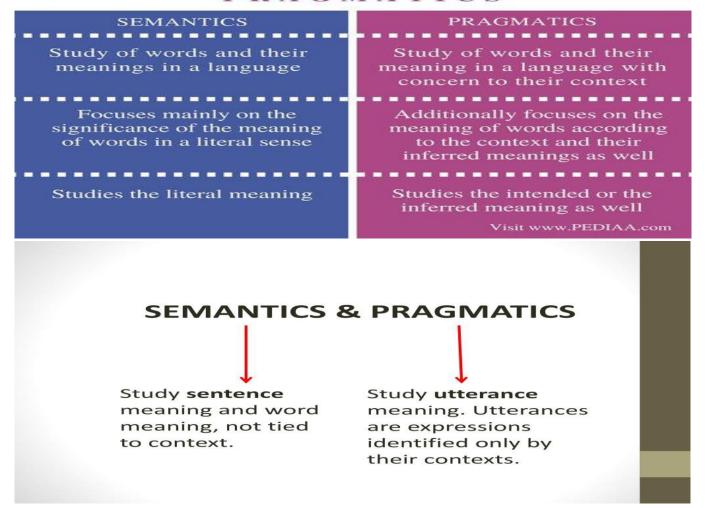
- Managing the flow of reference in discourse.

What is difference between pragmatics and semantics?

According to one way of understanding the **distinction**, **semantics** is the study of how sentences of a language - or some suitable level of representation, such as logical forms - compositionally determine truth conditions, while **pragmatics** is the study of inferences that hearers draw on the basis of interpreting truth.

Semantics vs. Pragmatics

SEMANTICS
- Language Internal
- Linguistic Meaning
- What expressions mean
- What is Said
- Language itself

PRAGMATICS
- Language External
- Communication
- What speakers mean
- What is implied
- Use of language

SEMANTICS VERSUS PRAGMATICS

SEMANTICS	PRAGMATICS
Study of words and their meanings in a language	Study of words and their meaning in a language with concern to their context
Focuses mainly on the significance of the meaning of words in a literal sense	Additionally focuses on the meaning of words according to the context and their inferred meanings as well
Studies the literal meaning	Studies the intended or the inferred meaning as well

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SEMANTICS & PRAGMATICS

Study **sentence** meaning and word meaning, not tied to context.

Study **utterance** meaning. Utterances are expressions identified only by their contexts.

Definition

1: "Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning."

2: " Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning"

3:" Pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said"

4:" Pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance."

pragmatics is the study of deixis

Deixis are words in our language that cant be interpreted at all if we don't know the context, especially the physical context of the speaker. Example: You'll have to bring it back tomorrow because she isn't here today.

Deixis We can only understand deictic expressions, or indexicals, in terms of the speaker's intended meaning. Deixis means 'pointing' via language.

Three kinds of deixis: • Person deixis: to point to things and people… such as: it, this… • Spatial deixis: to point to a location… such as: here, there • Temporal deixis: to point to a time… such as: now, then

Deixis We also make a distinction between what is "close" to the speaker and what is "distant" depending on the speaker's deictic center or location. • Proximal: 'near the speaker'… such as: … • Distal: 'away from the speaker'…