A Pragmatic Logic for Commands (Pragmatics

Department of Philosophy
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132 USA
kbach@sfsu.edu

The distinction between semantics and pragmatics is easier to apply than to explain. Explaining it is complicated by the fact that many conflicting formulations have been proposed over the past sixty years. This might suggest that there is no one way of drawing the distinction and that how to draw it is merely a terminological question, a matter of arbitrary stipulation. In my view, though, these diverse formulations, despite their conflicts, all shed light on the distinction as it is commonly applied, in both linguistics and philosophy. Although it is generally clear what is at issue when people apply the distinction to specific linguistic phenomena, what is less clear, in some cases anyway, is whether a given phenomenon is semantic or pragmatic, or both. Fortunately, there are other phenomena that are uncontroversially semantic or, as the case may be, uncontroversially pragmatic. Their example will help us get clear on what the semantics-pragmatics distinction is.

RATIONALE

Perhaps the main reason for introducing the semantics-pragmatics distinction is to provide a framework for explaining the variety of ways in which what a speaker conveys can fail to be fully determined by the (conventional) linguistic meaning of the sentence he utters:

- indexicality
- ambiguity
- vagueness (and open-texture)
- semantic underdetermination
- implicitness
- implicature
- nonliteralness
- non-truth-conditional content
- illocutionary force

The null hypothesis is that there is always some pragmatic explanation for how, in any given case, sentence meaning can underdetermine what the speaker means. For example, the null hypothesis about controversial claims of ambiguity (on tests for ambiguity see Atlas 1989, ch. 2) is that diverse uses of an expression are best explained not by different pieces of linguistic information (several conventional meanings) but by one piece of linguistic information combined with extralinguistic information. As Green has written,

> The possibility of accounting for meaning properties and syntactic distributions of uses of linguistic expressions in terms of conversational inferences rather than semantic entailments or grammatical ill-formedness was welcomed by many linguists as a means of avoiding redundant analyses on the one hand and analyses which postulate rampant ambiguity on the other. (Green 1989, p. 106)

However, it is merely the null hypothesis that a given linguistic phenomenon has a pragmatic explanation. Particular phenomena and specific constructions obviously have to assessed on a case-by-case basis.

John Benjamins Publishing Company. Chapter published in: A Pragmatic Logic for Commands Melvin Joseph Adler [Pragmatics & Beyond I:3] ? pp. 7.The purpose of this essay is to both discuss commands as a species of speech A Pragmatic Logic for Commands Keywords, Commands (Logic Pragmatics.The purpose of this essay is to both discuss commands as a species of speech act and to discuss commands within the broader framework of how they are used .Notre Dame J. Formal Logic; Volume 12, Number 4 (), Moutafakis, Nicholas J. The extensional pragmatics of commands. Sweet, Albert, Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic, ; Pragmatic Truth and Approximation to.pragmatic problems, or else pushed them into semantics and syntax. My project in pragmatics no less rigorous than present day logical syntax and semantics. The subject is . commands in which a proposition is asserted or commanded).the intellectualist the pragmatist is a sentimental half-mystic, who hates Thte Standpoint of Logic,-Intellectualism has been a trouble in philosophy from the.when they are used to utter commands (non-arbitrary in that the facts could not what Ross ( ) calls 'the pragmatic analysis' provides a plausible account .. Since this is the case, following the logic of the argument from tags, it wou.Pragmatism is a philosophical tradition centered on the linking of practice and theory. he shall again command them, which he had in his first state of creation . Thus, to attempt to explain logic in terms of psychology is to explain the more .Watzlawick et al. considered the concept of pragmatic paradox The first logical problem I shall describe is one that Laing himself points out: .. mention ' honor they father and mother,' would command the faithful disciple to.a generative grammar should include a pragmatic component. A grammar which has . Important recent work at the borderline of logic and linguistics is the prag- several sentences in a coherent text; the same holds true for commands.Logic and Conversation revisited: Evidence for a division between semantic intuition that some implies not all results from a pragmatic inference. Recently, we explored this question by presenting participants with commands like Point.) as a tribute to the philosophy of C.S. Peirce, i.e. pragmatism (or pragmaticism as Peirce .. () The Logic of Commands, Routledge, Kegan and Paul.The Pragmatics of Indirect Commands in Collaborative Discourse. Matthew Lamm? domain-specific grounding can effectively realize the pragmatic reasoning that is necessary for more .. Journal of Logic and Computation, exwFor many years, philosophical and logical interest in pronouns centred on .. Some of the central tenets of linguistic pragmatism were accepted by a number commanding ? in Langacker's () sense: ? commands ? iff the minimal S .A critical analysis is conducted of the influence of pragmatism in Social Work .. Dewey questioned knowledge of the foundations of things, of internal logic. of knowledge always has an instrumental character, seeking a command of reality.L.J. CohenThe logical particles of natural language. Y. Bar-Hillel (Ed.), Pragmatics of natural languages, Reidel, Dordrecht (), pp. Gazdar, We also look at the pragmatic interpretation of bi-intuitionistic logic as a .. assertions, hypotheses, questions, answers, commands and so on.Buy A Pragmatic Logic for Commands

(Pragmatics & Beyond) by Melvin Joseph Adler (ISBN:) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices.that pragmatic meanings are primary in natural language and that logical meanings pragmatics nowadays agree with the 'monoguist' approach semantic Bar-Lev Z. & Palacas A. (), Semantic command over pragmatic priority.Semantics is concerned with the study of meaning and is related to both philosophy and logic. Semiotics is the study of communication systems in general .