

Experimental Investigations of the Semantics/Pragmatics Interface

Course Outline and Preliminary Reading List

Lecture 1: Some Theoretical Background and Some Recent Developments.

The Gricean Programme and the Semantics/Pragmatics Distinction; Generalised Conversational Implicatures and Neo-Gricean Pragmatics; Post-Gricean Pragmatics - Local Implicatures; Grammaticisation of Implicatures?

Reading: Grice (1967/1989); Gazdar (1979); Horn (1989); Levinson (2000); Chierchia (2004); Recanati (2003); van Rooy & Schulz (2004); Chierchia et al (ms).

Lecture 2: Experimental Investigations into Pragmatic Theory I (Adults).

Testing 'strong defaultness'; On weak defaultness; Embedding Implicatures; The 'cost' of implicatures; Ambiguity or additive inference?

Reading: Noveck (2001); Bott & Noveck (2004); Breheny, Katsos & Williams (2006); Geurts & Pouscoulous (2008).

Lecture 3: Experimental Investigations into Pragmatic Theory II (Children)

Are kids really more logical than adults?; Effects of different methodological paradigms on generating scalar implicatures; What develops with age?

Reading: Guasti et al (2005); Pouscoulous et al (2007) ; Katsos (in press)

Lecture 4: The Development of Pragmatic Abilities.

Under- and over-informativeness; Perspective-taking, theory of mind and pragmatics; The acquisition of quantification;

Reading: Nadig & Sedivy (2002), Geurts & Nouwen (2007)

Lecture 5: Beyond Implicatures

Experimental Investigations into Presuppositions; Pragmatics and Psycholinguistics (Questions of modularity - the role of context in language processing); Pragmatics and Neuroscience.

Reading: Altmann & Steedman (1988); van Berkum et al (2003); Chemla & Schlenker (2007); Schwarz (2008)

Suggested Reading (essential reading is underlined):

- Altmann, G.T.M. & Steedman, M. (1988). Interaction with context during human sentence processing. *Cognition*, 30, 191-238.
- van Berkum, J. J. A., C. M. Brown, P. Hagoort, & P. Zwitserlood (2003). Event-related brain potentials reflect discourse-referential ambiguity in spoken language comprehension. *Psychophysiology* 40:235-48.
- Bott, L. and I. A. Noveck (2004). Some utterances are underinformative: the onset and time course of scalar inferences. *Journal of memory and language* 51: 437-457.
- Breheny, R., N. Katsos, and J. Williams (2006). Are generalised scalar implicatures generated by default? An on-line investigation into the role of context in generating pragmatic inferences. *Cognition* 100: 434-463.
- Chemla, E. (2008). *Transparency Theory: Empirical Issues and Psycholinguistic Routes*. (Ms).
- Chemla, E. & P. Schlenker (2007) Presuppositions vs. Scalar Implicatures: an Experimental Study. Poster at OSU workshop on presupposition.
- Chierchia, G. (2004). Scalar implicatures, polarity phenomena and the syntax/pragmatics interface. In A. Belletti (Ed.), *Structures and beyond*, pp.39-103. Oxford University Press.
- Chierchia, G. (2006). Broaden your views: implicatures of domain widening and the 'logicality' of language. *Linguistic inquiry* 37: 535-590.
- Chierchia, G., D. Fox & B. Spector (2008). The grammatical view of scalar implicatures and the relationship between semantics and pragmatics. ms
- Fox, D. (2006). *Free choice and the theory of scalar implicatures*. Ms, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Gazdar, G. (1979) *Pragmatics: Implicature, Presupposition, and Logical Form*, Academic Press, New York.
- Geurts, B. (2008). Scalar implicature and local pragmatics. *Mind and language* (forthcoming).
- Geurts, B. and Nouwen, R. (2007). 'At least' et al.: the semantics of scalar modifiers. *Language* 83: 533-559.

- Geurts, B. & Pouscoulous, N. (2008). No scalar inferences under embedding. Forthcoming in: Paul Egré and Giorgio Magri (eds.), *Presuppositions and implicatures*. MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- Grice (1967) 'Logic & conversation' reproduced in Grice (1989)
- Grice, P. (1989) *Studies in the Way of Words*, Harvard University Press, Harvard.
- Grodner, D., & Sedivy, J. (2004). The effect of speaker-specific information on pragmatic inferences. In N. Pearlmuter, & E. Gibson (Eds.), *The processing and acquisition of reference*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Guasti, M.T., Chierchia, G., Crain, S., Foppolo F., Gualmini, A., & Meroni L. (2005). Why children and adults sometimes (but not always) compute implicatures. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 20, 667-696
- Hanna, J. E., Tanenhaus, M. K., & Truswell, J. C. (2003). The effects of common ground and perspective on domains of referential interpretation. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 49, 43-61.
- Horn (1984) "A new taxonomy for pragmatic inference: Q based and R based implicature." In D. Schiffrin (ed.), *Meaning, Form and Use in Context* (GURT '84), 11-42. Washington: Georgetown University Press.
- Horn, L. (1989) *A Natural History of Negation*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Katsos, N. (in press). Evaluating under-informative utterances with context-dependent and context-independent scales: experimental and theoretical implications. In Sauerland U. & Yatsushiro K. *Experimental Semantics and Pragmatics*, Palgrave, London
- Katsos, N. (2007). The Semantics/Pragmatics Interface from an Experimental Perspective: the Case of Scalar Implicature, *Synthese*, DOI : 10.1007/s11229-007-9187-4
- Levinson, S. C. (2000). *Presumptive meanings*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.
- Nadig, A. & Sedivy, J. (2002). Evidence of perspective-taking constraints in children's on-line reference resolution. *Psychological Science*, 13: 329-336
- Noveck, I. (2001). When children are more logical than adults. *Cognition*, 86, 253–282.
- Papafragou, A., & Musolino, J. (2003). Scalar implicatures: Experiments at the semantics/pragmatics interface. *Cognition*, 86, 253–282.
- Pouscoulous, N., I. Noveck, G. Politzer, and A. Bastide (2007). A developmental investigation of processing costs in implicature production. *Language acquisition* 14: 347-376.
- Recanati, F. (2003). Embedded implicatures. *Philosophical perspectives* 17: 299–332.
- van Rooij, R. and K. Schulz (2004). Exhaustive interpretation of complex sentences. *Journal of logic, language and information* 13: 491–519.
- Sauerland (2004) Scalar implications in complex sentences. *Linguistics & Philosophy*
- Schwarz, F. (2008) Processing Presupposed Content. *Journal of Semantics*. 24: 373–416

Sedivy, J., M. Tanenhaus, C. Chambers & G. Carlson (1999). Achieving incremental semantic interpretation through contextual representation. *Cognition* 71:109-147

Tanenhaus, M., Spivey-Knowlton, M., Eberhard, K., & Sedivy, J. (1995). Integration of visual and linguistic information in spoken language comprehension. *Science*, 268, 1632-1634.