Victoria University
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FINAL EXAMINATION

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a) **What does it mean to say that action can be performed with words (i.e. with an utterance)? What are such acts called?**
   Answer: In linguistic semantics, the idea that an utterance can perform an action is referred to as "speech acts." Speech acts are utterances that serve a communicative function beyond simply conveying information. Saying that action can be performed with words refers to the idea that language can be used to perform speech acts, or communicative acts that have an effect in the world. Such acts are also known as illocutionary acts, which are utterances that are meant to produce a specific effect in the world. Examples of illocutionary acts include making a promise, giving an order, making a request, giving an explanation, and making a statement. These utterances perform actions such as influencing the listener's behavior, changing the social situation, or affecting the speaker's own commitments. Speech acts are an important part of pragmatics, the study of language use in context.

b) **What basic kinds of acts are typically performed by the utterance of declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences, respectively? What parts of speech can function as deictics? List them and give an example or two of each.**
   Answer: Declarative sentences perform the speech act of making a statement. For example, "The sky is blue." makes a statement about the color of the sky.

   Interrogative sentences perform the speech act of asking a question. For example, "What is the color of the sky?" asks for information about the sky.

   Imperative sentences perform the speech act of giving a command or making a request. For example, "Close the window." gives a command to close the window.

   Deictics are words that refer to entities in the context of the utterance, such as the speaker, the listener, and the time and place of the utterance. The following parts of speech can function as deictics:

   1. Pronouns: "I," "you," "he," "she," "it," "we," "they"
   Examples: "I'm going to the store." "You should come with me."

   2. Adverbs of place: "here," "there," "where"
   Examples: "Let's meet here." "I put the book over there."

   3. Adverbs of time: "now," "then," "today"
   Examples: "I'll see you now." "I'll do it then."

   4. Demonstratives: "this," "that," "these," "those"
   Examples: "This is my book." "Those are my shoes."

   These words function as deictics by referring to entities in the context of the utterance, rather than referring to entities in an absolute sense.

c) **What are some similarities and differences between truth conditions and felicity conditions?**

Answer: Truth conditions and felicity conditions are two important concepts in the study of speech acts.

Similarities:
1. Both truth conditions and felicity conditions are used to evaluate the success or failure of speech acts.

2. Both concepts involve considering the context of the utterance, including the speaker's intentions, the listener's understanding, and the situation in which the utterance is made.

Differences:
1. Purpose: Truth conditions are concerned with the truth or falsity of the content of an utterance, while felicity conditions are concerned with the appropriate or appropriate use of the speech act in a given context.

2. Content: Truth conditions relate to the truth value of the proposition expressed by an utterance, while felicity conditions relate to the speaker's ability to perform the speech act, given the context.

3. Evaluation: Truth conditions are evaluated based on the correspondence of the content of the utterance with reality, while felicity conditions are evaluated based on the fulfillment of certain conditions that must be met for the speech act to be considered successful.

In summary, truth conditions deal with the truth or falsity of what is said, while felicity conditions deal with the success or failure of the speech act as a whole.

d) What do the notions entailment and implicature have in common? How do they differ? What does it mean to say that implicature are non-truthconditional inferences?

Answer: Entailment and implicature are two important concepts in the study of pragmatics, which is concerned with the use of language in context.

Similarities:
1. Both entailment and implicature involve the interpretation of an utterance in context.
2. Both concepts are concerned with the meaning that is conveyed by an utterance beyond its literal content.

Differences:
1. Definition: Entailment refers to the relationship between a statement and what must be true if the statement is true. Implicature refers to the relationship between an utterance and what the speaker is implying or suggesting, beyond what is literally said.
2. Nature: Entailment is a necessary and automatic relationship between a statement and what it entails, while implicature is a conversational inference based on the context, the speaker's intentions, and the listener's understanding.
3. Reversibility: Entailment is reversible, meaning that if one statement entails another, the reverse is also true. Implicature, on the other hand, is not reversible, meaning that the implicature of one utterance does not necessarily imply the implicature of another utterance.

In summary, entailment deals with the logical relationship between what is said and what must be true, while implicature deals with the relationship between what is said and what is suggested or implied in a given context.

-Implicatures are considered to be non-truth-conditional inferences because they are not based solely on the truth or falsity of the proposition expressed by the utterance, but rather on the context and the speaker's intentions.

Truth-conditional inferences are based solely on the meaning of the words and the syntax used in an utterance, and do not take into account the context or the speaker's intentions. For example, if someone says "John is tall," it follows logically that if John is tall, then he is not short. This is a truth-conditional inference based on the meaning of the words used in the statement.

Implicatures, on the other hand, are inferences that go beyond the literal meaning of the words used in an utterance, and depend on the context, the speaker's intentions, and the listener's understanding of the situation. For example, if someone says "John hasn't called yet," they may be implying that they expected John to call by a certain time. This is a non-truth-conditional implicature, because it depends on the context and the speaker's intentions, not just the literal meaning of the words used in the statement.

In summary, implicatures are considered to be non-truth-conditional inferences because they are not based solely on the truth or falsity of the proposition expressed by the utterance, but rather on the context, the speaker's intentions, and the listener's understanding.