



## Introduction

 The term “pragmatics” was first coined in the 1930s by the philosopher C.W. Morris; developed as a subfield of linguistics in the 1970s.


 Pragmatics is needed if we want a fuller, deeper, and generally more reasonable account of human language behavior

# Definitions

 Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics which studies the ways in which context contributes to meaning.


 Pragmatics studies the factors that govern our choice of language in social interaction and the effects of our choice on others. (David Crystal)

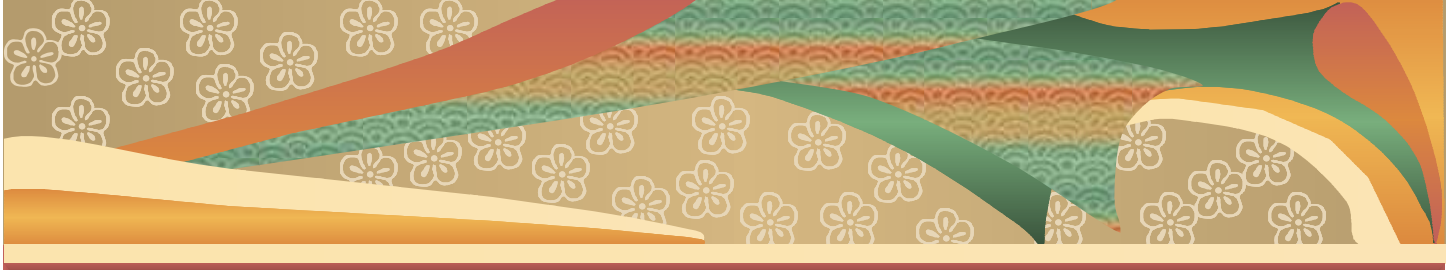
## Definitions

 *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy* (Fotion 1995). Pragmatics is the study of language which focuses attention on the users and the context of language use rather than on reference, truth, or grammar.



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 **Bach 2004.** Semantic information is information encoded in what is uttered — these are stable linguistic features of the sentence. Pragmatic information is (extralinguistic) information that arises from an actual act of utterance, and is relevant to the hearer's determination of what the speaker is communicating.



Outside of pragmatics, no understanding; sometimes, a pragmatic account is the only one that makes sense, as in the following example, borrowed from David Lodge's *Paradise News*: 'I just met the old Irishman and his son, coming out of the toilet.'



'I wouldn't have thought there was room  
for the two of them.'

'No silly, I mean *I* was coming out of the  
toilet. They were waiting.' (1992:65)

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How do we know what the first speaker meant? Linguists usually say that the first sentence is ambiguous, and they excel at producing such sentences as:

*Flying planes can be dangerous*

*The missionaries are ready to eat*

what is meant by 'ambiguous': a word, phrase, or sentence that can mean either one or the other of two (or even several) things.

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 Whereas semantic information is encoded in what is uttered, pragmatic information is generated by, or at least made relevant by, the act of uttering it.



# Four fundamental cornerstones of pragmatic inquiry.

 The points are

 (1) Communication involves complex intentions.

(2) These communicative intentions have to be inferred.

(3) Communication is governed by principles/maxims.

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 (4) There is a fundamental distinction between explicit and implicit conveyance of information.


Pragmatics involve three major communication skills:

- **Using language** for different purposes, such as
- greeting (e.g., hello, goodbye)
- informing (e.g., I'm going to get a cookie)
- demanding (e.g., Give me a cookie)
- promising (e.g., I'm going to get you a cookie)



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 requesting (e.g., I would like a cookie, please)

 **Changing language** according to the needs of a listener or situation, such as talking differently to a baby than to an adult

 giving background information to an unfamiliar listener

 speaking differently in a classroom than on a playground.



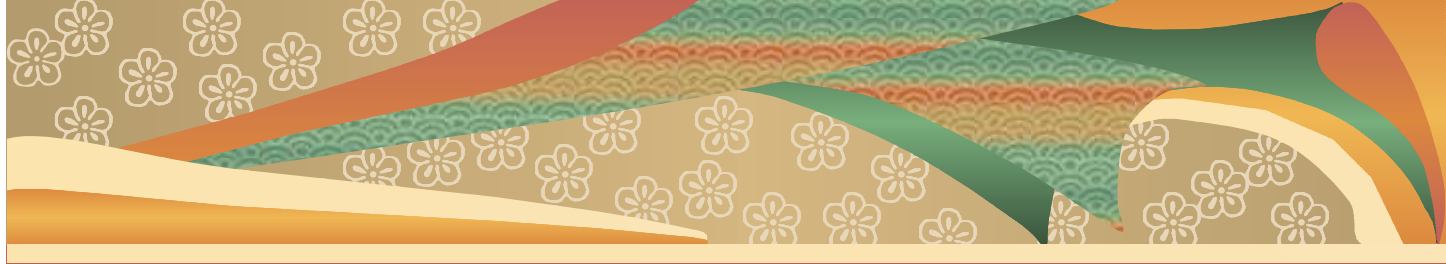
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- **Following rules** for conversations and storytelling, such as
- taking turns in conversation
- introducing topics of conversation
- staying on topic
- rephrasing when misunderstood
- how to use verbal and nonverbal signals



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 how close to stand to someone when speaking


 how to use facial expressions and eye contact



# Difference between Semantics and Pragmatics


-  Semantics attempts to relate meanings to logic and truth, and deals with meanings as a matter primarily of sense-relations within the language.
-  Pragmatics attempts to relate meanings to context of utterance; it views language as action which is performed by speakers.

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 Pragmatics is the study of meaning of words, phrases and full sentences, but unlike semantics which deals with the objective meanings of words that can be found in dictionaries, pragmatics is more concerned with the meanings that words in fact convey when they are used, or with intended speaker meaning as it is sometimes referred to.



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 Semantics is concerned with the word and sentence meaning, pragmatics entails utterance meaning. An utterance can be defined as a word or sentence which is uttered by a speaker.

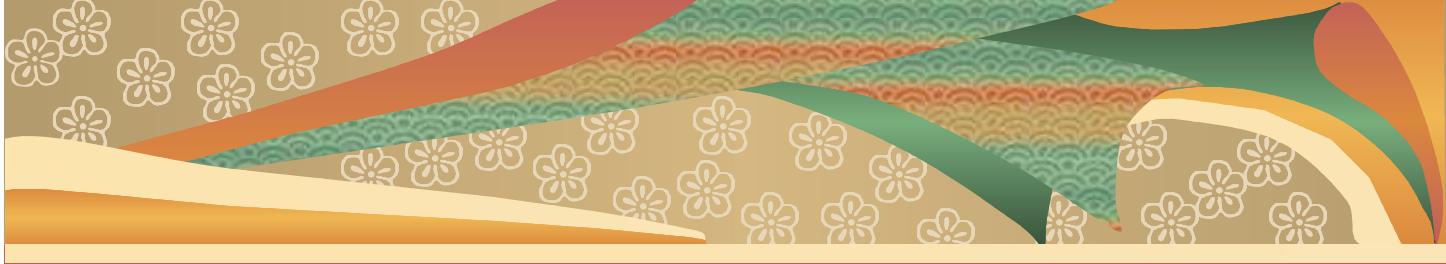
 Pragmatics attempts to analyze how it happens that often more is communicated than said.

# Types of Contexts

- pragmatics is the study of the contribution of context to meaning.
- Context of an utterance consists of- speaker, the sentence which is uttered, the act performed in the uttering of sentence, and the hearer.
- In pragmatics four types of context can be differentiated:


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-  physical context
-  epistemic context
-  linguistic context
-  social context







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 **Physical context:** The physical context is the location of a given word, the situation in which it is used, as well as timing, all of which aid proper understating of the words

 **Epistemic context:** the epistemic context refers to what speakers know about the world. For example, what background knowledge is shared by the speakers is part of your epistemic knowledge.



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-  **Linguistic context:** the linguistic context refers to what has been said already in the utterance. For example, if I begin a discussion by referring to Jane Smith and in the next sentence refer to "her" as being a top notch athlete, the linguistic context lets me know that the antecedent of "her" (the person "her" refers to) is Jane Smith.
-  **Social context:** the social context refers to the social relationship among speakers and hearers.