

PRAGMATICS-FINAL EXAM- 31 July 2020
SUGGESTED ANSWERS

I. (2 marks)

Speakers often show they are aware of the co-operative principle when they use “**HEDGES**”. Give **TWO** examples to show that the speaker in each situation is conscious of a different maxim. Explanation should be provided to clarify your answer.

1. **Well, I think** the clerk is innocent.

The speaker is conscious of the maxim of **QUALITY**.

2. **You probably already know this**, but the working conditions are our first priority.

The speaker is conscious of the maxim of **QUANTITY**

II. (2 marks)

Write down one **IMPLICATURE** that can be drawn from the second speaker’s response in each of the following dialogues and decide which **MAXIM** has been **FLOUTED** in each case.

1. Student: Teheran is in Turkey, isn’t it?

Teacher: And London is in America, I suppose.

The teacher’s utterance implicates that the answer to the question is “No”. This dialogue involves the flouting of **QUALITY** and **RELATION/RELEVANCE** as “And London is in America, I suppose” is not apparently a relevant answer to the question “Teheran is in Turkey, isn’t it?” and at the same time the teacher says what (s)he believes to be false.

2. Jane: How come Mary’s all dressed up?

Mark: We’re going to the D-O-C-T-O-R.

Mark’s utterance may implicate that he does not want Mary (*probably a one-year-old girl who can recognise the word ‘doctor’ and hates being taken there*) to know the answer to the question asked. This dialogue involves the flouting of **MANNER/CLARITY**.

III. (2 marks)

What are the presuppositions in the following utterances?

Identify the types of presuppositions used in each case.

1. Carter **returned/didn’t return** to power.

→ Carter held power before. (Lexical Presupposition)

2. His wife **pretended** to be pleased with his explanation.

→ His wife was not pleased with his explanation. (Non-factive Presupposition)

3. I don’t live in this house **any more**.

→ I used to live in this house. (Lexical Presupposition)

4. **When I come to Vietnam**, I will invite all of you.

→ I will come to Vietnam. (Structural Presupposition)

IV. (2 marks)

Analyse the **LOCUTION**, **ILLOCUTION**, **PERLOCUTION** of the following utterances.

1. There 's a fly in my soup. (*said by a customer to the restaurant's waiter*)

A likely possibility would be:

Locution: The customer uttered the words "There 's a fly in my soup."

Illocution: The customer performed the act of complaining about his/her soup.

Perlocution: The waiter apologized to the customer and promised to get him/her another soup.

2. I'll be back for you. (*said by a man to his girlfriend*)

A likely possibility would be:

Locution: The man uttered the words "I'll be back for you", with I referring to the man and YOU referring to his girlfriend.

Illocution: The man performed the act of promising.

Perlocution: The girlfriend said "I'll be waiting for you" or she felt happy because of the man's promise.

3. I have a gun. (*said by a man in a mask to a bank cashier*)

A likely possibility would be:

Locution: The man in a mask uttered the words "I have a gun.", with I referring to the man.

Illocution: The man performed the act of threatening the bank cashier.

Perlocution: The bank cashier was scared or had no choice but give the man the money as requested

4. There's a spider in your hair. (*said by a girl to her roommate*)

A likely possibility would be:

Locution: The girl uttered the words "There's a spider in your hair."

Illocution: The girl performed the act of warning

Perlocution: The classmate tried to get rid of the spider.

V. (2 marks)

Give a situation in which each of the following utterances occurs. **INTERPRET** its meaning, and then **CLASSIFY** it according to different types of speech acts.

1. "Come to the table right now!"
2. "Actions speak louder than words"

Marking this part is based on how the given utterances are interpreted and classified as certain speech acts in the light of the situations provided.