

# A selected and annotated bibliography on Pragmatics

Hortènsia Curell  
Melissa G. Moyer

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Departament de Filologia Anglesa i de Germanística

September 1995

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## Introduction

This annotated bibliography is primarily a selection of works addressed to the neophyte interested in discovering some of the basic sources in the various areas which belong to the field of Pragmatics.<sup>1</sup> The goal is to provide an introduction to those books and articles which are and have been influential in shaping current research concerns. This way the beginner can go back to the origins of the Pragmatic enterprise and appreciate how in the past specific kinds of questions have more recently been framed in wider contexts as exemplified by the *Handbook of Pragmatics* or by cognitive approaches as *Relevance Theory*. The entries included are intended to provide readers with the primary sources for accomplishing this. It will be helpful for the amateur to accompany the reading of these books and articles in this bibliography with one of the handbooks listed in the first section.

There are several reasons why the task of writing this bibliography was complex. Firstly, it was difficult to decide which parts or perspectives to include. Not all the sections correspond to a different approach to Pragmatics: section one provides a commentary on the major handbooks available in the field and section nine ends the bibliography with information about several of the major journals and periodicals that publish topics on or related to Pragmatics. The remaining sections—in between—include some of the more

1. For a more complete bibliography on Pragmatics see Jef Verschueren, 1978. *Pragmatics: An annotated bibliography*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

typical approaches that have contributed over the years in different ways to understanding the meaningful use of language. These include the now classic works on speech act theory, implicatures and presupposition, and more recent views on cognitive processes, conversational analysis, interactional perspectives, and discourse analysis.

We have adopted a linguistic orientation over a more functional or sociological perspective, excluding important traditions such as radical pragmatics leadered by Fairclough, functional linguistics by Halliday or text analysis by Teun van Dijk. Bearing in mind that our audience are non-specialists, we have opted for the classical pragmatic tradition which we have considered prior and basic to some of the research questions currently being asked. Secondly, the criteria for selecting the entries were also crucial. There were considerations of format and substance. Since the length of this bibliography is determined by the editorial policy of the journal, we decided to limit the commented entries to a minimum of three and a maximum of five in each section; otherwise we would have succeeded in filling the entire issue of *Links & Letters*. An attempt has been made to balance the most representative works in each of the sections with publications that illustrate the kind of research that is currently being done in each one of the domains. A third choice which had to be made was which research traditions (i.e., Functionalist tradition, British, French) to include or exclude. The decision to focus on the North American and some areas within the British traditions in Pragmatics is clearly not representative of all the different kinds of Pragmatics research being undertaken in the world. It is justified by our editorial policy of publishing on *English Studies* and for an English language readership.

### 1. General Handbooks on Pragmatics

Levinson, Stephen (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 420 p.+ vi.

Mey, Jacob (1993). *Pragmatics*. An introduction. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 357 p.+ xii.

Leech, Geoffrey (1983). *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman. 250 p.+ xiii.

These three books, given their titles, could be expected to be quite similar in the subject matter they cover. Nonetheless, they are radically different not so much in content as in scope. They share the covering of certain topics within the wide field of pragmatics: (conversational) implicature, speech acts and performatives, conversational analysis and presupposition, that is, the most traditional areas.

Levinson's book is a classic in the field; it presents an integrative analysis of the central topics in pragmatics: deixis (to which he devotes a whole chapter, with useful information), implicature, presupposition, speech acts and conversational analysis. His aim is to provide an introduction to the topics that for historical reasons are central to the Anglo-American Pragmatics

tradition, and he clearly does achieve it with clarity, albeit with occasional density given the characteristics of the subject matter. In all chapters, one for each of the areas mentioned above, he includes a brief history of the research previously accomplished, together with an evaluation and new proposals. In the introductory chapter we can find a valuable section devoted to the definitions of Pragmatics. He reviews a number of different definitions, pointing out their strengths and weaknesses. Although he does not propose any new definition himself, nor does he adopt fully any of the definitions he includes, he seems to side with the definitions of Pragmatics in terms of *meaning minus semantics*. According to him the best way of knowing what Pragmatics is about is to observe what pragmatists do, and to this observation he devotes the rest of the book. Of great importance is his insistence that Pragmatics should not be considered as complementary with or parallel to a general linguistic theory, but rather as a component or level together with phonology, syntax, and semantics. Another remarkable element is the bibliography, which includes over five hundred entries. This book is unquestionably a compulsory first reading for anybody wanting to *get started* in pragmatics as a whole or in any of the specific areas covered.

In *Principles of pragmatics*, Leech, aside from briefly reviewing the different approaches to Pragmatics, presents his own model, which he refers to as interpersonal rhetoric, developed within an overall functional model of language. It presupposes a goal-oriented speech situation, and communication is seen as governed by a series of principles (the cooperative principle, the politeness principle and the irony principle). His model implies a communicative approach to grammar, that is, one which aims to interrelate the following three levels of description: syntactic (how sentences are formed), semantic (what sentences mean) and pragmatic (the use of the language). In other words, Pragmatics (the study of how utterances have meanings in situations) is complementary to grammar in the study of language and language use.

Mey, as he himself explains clearly in the preface, is concerned with writing a classical textbook for first year graduate students, and he admits having drawn heavily on the books by Leech and Levinson. According to him, Pragmatics is *the study of the conditions of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society*. The book is structured in three parts: basic notions, micropragmatics, and macropragmatics. The first part is introductory, including a short history of pragmatics, several definitions of the term, and simple explanations of concepts such as context, presupposition and conversational implicature. He also addresses the question of whether Pragmatics is to be considered another component of linguistics together with syntax and semantics, as Levinson and Leech claim, or whether it should be thought of as a perspective on the study of language, as Verschueren proposes (see the following entry). Mey vaguely proposes a combination of the two: a pragmatic component (the set of whatever pragmatic functions can be assigned to language) together with a pragmatic perspective (the way these functions operate within the single units of the language system and of language use).

In the section on micropragmatics he deals with the lesser units of human language use (i.e., implicature, deixis, anaphora, and speech acts), whereas under the heading of macropragmatics he enlarges the scope of the units under consideration. He is concerned then not with isolated sentences or utterances, but with whole contexts: co-text, context, and conversational analysis. He introduces two concepts that do not appear either in Levinson's or in Leech's books: meta-pragmatics (the study of the circumstances and conditions that allow us to use our language adequately or prevent us from doing so), and societal pragmatics, which puts the emphasis on language users and their conditions of language use. Given its condition as a textbook, Mey's work also includes helpful exercises and review questions.

Verschueren, Jef; Östman, Jan-Ola; Blommaert, Jan (eds.) (1994). *Handbook of Pragmatics. Manual*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company. 658 p.+ xiv.

The *Handbook of Pragmatics* consists of three distinct parts: the Manual, the handbook proper, and the user's guide. In 1995, only the *Manual* had been published, and three areas were covered in it. In the first place, the major traditions relevant to pragmatics are presented in brief articles, each including historical background information, together with a formulation of present interactions with other traditions within pragmatics or with the discipline as a whole. This area incorporates not only *traditional* topics such as conversational analysis, conversational logic, discourse analysis or speech act theory, but also other disciplines covered only by a wider interpretation of the term *pragmatics*, for instance typology, historical linguistics, cognitive psychology, or catastrophe theory. In the second place, there is a description of the most important methods of research used in Pragmatics, such as contrastive analysis, deconstruction, error analysis, fieldwork, interview, or taxonomy. Thirdly, one can find various kinds of notational systems, including notation in formal semantics and the most important transcription systems for spoken discourse. The final aim of the manual is that it be used for reference whenever the need arises to find basic information about Pragmatics or pragmatic-related topics.

The handbook proper contains both in-depth articles of varying lengths and short notes, all of them organized around entries, in alphabetical order. The pieces in this section cover general articles as well as detailed studies of certain topics. Moreover, they also provide brief discussions of non-English concepts, and biographical information about influential pragmaticists. A loose-leaf format has been chosen for this section, to allow for maximum flexibility and expandability, and the installments will be annual starting in 1996. The user's guide is a booklet, annually updated, providing a complete index, with as many cross-references as necessary to enable easy access to all the information contained in the Handbook of Pragmatics.

The chapter entitled the *Pragmatic perspective*, by Jef Verschueren, serves as a theoretical introduction to the book. The Manual is then followed by

*Traditions* (as many as eighty-eight), *Methods* (sixteen) and *Notational systems*. Verschueren's article contains a historical presentation on Pragmatics, a discussion of problems concerning the delimitation of the field of study, and a full explanation of the notion of *pragmatics* (the cognitive, social and cultural study of language and communication) that underlies this work.

Contrary to what Leech (1983) and Levinson (1983) propose, Verschueren does not think that Pragmatics is to be considered a level of linguistics together with syntax and semantics, but rather a perspective on the subject matter covered in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and so on. According to him, Pragmatics, unlike the components of linguistics, does not have basic units of analysis. Pragmatics, then, is to be interpreted as a general *functional perspective* on any aspect of language, i.e., as an approach to language which takes into account the full complexity of its cognitive, social, cultural, and meaningful functioning in the lives of human beings (pages 13-14).

The use of language is related to the making of choices. Making choices involves both the speaker selecting what s/he wants to say and the listener when interpreting, and choices are not necessarily either-or decisions. There are three notions needed to fully understand the idea of making choices. First, variability, which determines the range of possible choices. Second, negotiability, that is, the fact that choices are not made mechanically, but, following highly flexible principles and strategies. Third, adaptability, which enables language users to make negotiable choices from all the possibilities so as to satisfy basic human communicative needs. To sum up, the *Handbook of pragmatics* is an indispensable tool for anybody interested in Pragmatics as a whole or in any of the various areas related to it.

## 2. Speech Acts

Austin, John (1962). *How to do things with words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 167 p.+ vii.

This book is an edition of a series of lectures delivered by Austin in 1955 at Harvard University. Austin is not a linguist but a philosopher, interested in the study of ordinary language. He is one of the first to realize that not all statements are used to provide information, that not all of them are verifiable, that is, either true or false. Following this, he divides utterances into two main groups: constatives and performatives. Constatives are those that provide information. Performatives are those in which the uttering of the statement is the doing of an action, and they do not describe or report anything.

Uttering certain words is not enough to do something; certain conditions need to be met. Only if this happens can the performative be considered *happy*. The rules to be followed are of two kinds: i) there must be an accepted conventional procedure in which uttering certain words has a certain effect, and the people and circumstances involved must be the appropriate ones; more-

over, the procedure must be executed correctly and completely; ii) the people involved must mean what they say, i.e., must intend to comply with what they have committed themselves to do. If one or more of these rules is not followed, the utterance will be said to be *unhappy*, and the ways in which an utterance can be *unhappy* are called infelicities. Austin develops a classification of infelicities, according to the rule that is violated.

After a detailed analysis of performatives and their relations to constatives (including entailments, implications, and presuppositions), Austin reaches the conclusion that the two kinds of utterances are not so different, and that they are all affected by similar phenomena related to sincerity, commitment, and presupposition. Indeed, the linguistic form characteristic of performatives can also be used for explicit performance of constatives: *I state that...* He distinguishes between locutionary act (saying something), illocutionary act (doing something by saying something), and perlocutionary act (having an effect on the speaker by saying something). Finally, he proposes a classification of utterances according to their illocutionary force: verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behavities, and expositives. The text is accompanied by numerous examples that clarify the concepts introduced. The reader misses, however, a complete index to allow easy access to the many new notions.

Searle, John (1969). *Speech acts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 203 p.+ vii.

Searle's book fits into the philosophy of language, that is, the attempt to give philosophically illuminating descriptions of certain features of language, such as reference, truth meaning and necessity (Searle 1969: 4) Speaking a language is engaging in a rule-governed form of behavior (1969: 16). His aim is to provide characterizations and explanations of his use of language, formulating the underlying rules. The role of native speaker intuitions is very important.

There are two basic premises underlying the context of the book. First, that speech acts, such as making statements, issuing commands, asking questions or making promises, are the basic units of linguistic communication. Second, the principle of expressability, that is, the fact that it is always possible to find a way to say what the speaker wants to convey or communicate. Taking these two premises together, there are a series of connections between the notion of speech act, speaker meaning, sentence meaning, speaker intention, hearer intention, hearer comprehension, and the status of rules governing the linguistic elements.

Following Austin (1962), Searle distinguishes between utterance acts (uttering words), propositional acts (referring and predicating), illocutionary acts (doing things such as stating, questioning or promising) and perlocutionary acts (the consequences or effects of illocutionary acts). After explaining the notions of reference and proposition, the author moves on to study the structure of illocutionary acts. In order for an illocutionary act to be successful, it

needs to fulfill certain conditions. These conditions are specified by means of rules of different kinds: preparatory rules, sincerity rules, and essential rules, together with rules of propositional content. If the rules are not followed the act is said to be defective. The second part of the book is devoted to applying the theory to various aspects, some of a philosophical nature, others of a more linguistic nature, such as the problems of reference.

Vandeweken, Daniel (1990). *Meaning and speech acts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 244 p.+ x.

This book aims at formulating the general principles connecting sentence meaning and speech acts in the use and interpretation of language. It presents a formal semantics for natural languages which must be able to characterize both the conditions of success and the truth conditions of literal utterances. The author's ultimate purpose is to partly unify speech act theory with truth conditional semantics in order to discover which kinds of speech acts are expressed by sentences with different syntactic structures such as declaratives, exclamatives, imperatives, or interrogatives. A logical-philosophical semantics, which has as its basic units illocutionary acts, must accurately describe semantic universals of language use, and hence give an account of the thought processes of human beings.

The book consists of two volumes, *Principles of language use* and *Formal semantics of success and satisfaction*. The basic principles and rules of a general semantic theory of success, truth and satisfaction are presented in the first, whereas the second is devoted to the development of an appropriate formalization of that semantic theory. The first volume is directed to a multi-disciplinary audience including philosophers, cognitive linguists and psychologists, among others. It is easily accessible even for readers with only a basic knowledge of logic and philosophy of language. The second volume, on the other hand, includes a powerful logical formalization of the theory, more adequate to people involved in theoretical linguistics, mathematical logic or artificial intelligence.

### 3. Implicatures and Presupposition

Grice, H. Paul (1975). «Logic and conversation». In Cole, Peter; Morgan, Jerry L. (eds.). *Speech Acts. Syntax and Semantics 3*: 41-58. New York: Academic Press.

This is a classical article on how meaning is delivered and interpreted in everyday conversation. The author's aim is to study the general conditions under which conversation takes place. He claims that, apart from what is said through the conventional meaning of words, there are implicatures to be inferred in what people say, labeled by him conversational implicatures. Conversation is governed by a general principle, the cooperative principle, that presupposes

that both speaker and hearer are involved in maintaining a conversation, and, hence, that their contributions will be adequate at each stage of the dialog. Grice formulates four maxims which are followed by people engaged in a conversation: the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. A participant in a conversation may fail to fulfill one or more of the maxims, in four different ways, the most significant of which is flouting a maxim, clearly and blatantly, letting the hearer know which maxims are exploited, giving rise to conversational implicatures.

Conversational implicatures must be liable to be worked out and logically solved, otherwise they would be conventional implicatures. An important feature of conversational implicature is that it is non-detachable, that is, it is not possible to say the same thing using other words that do not carry the same implicature. Finally, the author distinguishes between particularized conversational implicatures (an implicature exists because specific words have been uttered in a specific context), and generalized conversational implicatures (the use of certain words in any context would normally carry a given implicature). Such implicatures, called presuppositions by other authors, can be canceled in certain cases, either explicitly or implicitly.

Grice, H. Paul (1978). «Further notes on logic and conversation». In Cole, Peter (ed.). *Radical pragmatics. Syntax and Semantics 9*: 113-128. New York: Academic Press.

This article starts with a short revision of the main ideas proposed in Grice (1975), namely, the difference between what is said and what is implicated, and the cooperative principle together with its maxims. The author then proceeds to discuss the two main features of conversational implicatures, that is, non-detachability and cancellability, noting that these characteristics are useful in distinguishing between conventional and conversational implicatures. Nevertheless, these two features are neither necessary nor sufficient conditions for the existence of conversational implicatures. This fact leads the discussion into the area of the proliferation of senses, that is, whether a given word, such as *or* has a single sense or else has two, a weak one and a strong one. The issue would then be to establish where the conventional meaning/s finish and where implicature starts. The author briefly studies three phenomena (stress, irony, and truth), trying to determine, by applying his previous observations, the limits between conventional meaning and implicature.

Gazdar, Gerald (1979). *Pragmatics. Implicature, presupposition, and logical form*. New York: Academic Press. 186 p.+ xi.

In the introductory chapter, the author states his views on certain basic issues, which are necessary to follow the contents of the rest of the book. In his opin-

ion, pragmatics can be defined as meaning minus truth conditions. He defends the use of set-theory notation, arguing that formalization both allows and demands standards of rigor and exactitude in the expression of theories, standards which are beyond the scope of informal statements (page 8). As far as the data are concerned, Gazdar accepts both sentences actually uttered and sentences invented by the linguist.

Chapter two is devoted to the inadequacies of the performative hypothesis of illocutionary acts proposed by generative semanticists. According to generative semantics, pragmatic information is included in the semantic representation of sentences so that pragmatics as such does not really exist. In their view, then, illocutionary force is an element of sentence meaning. After a detailed study of the performative hypothesis, Gazdar shows that it fails to explain the most important facts concerning performative sentences.

In chapter three, the author provides an outline of the notion of implicature as proposed by Grice (1967). In chapter four, on the other hand, we can find an analysis of the logical functors related to negation, truth conditional connectives and conditionals. The author's aim is to answer, albeit partially, the following questions: what is the logical form of English sentences containing words like *not*, *and*, or *if*? Are such words truth-conditionally definable? If they are, then how? Which truth-functions are found in natural language and why? What are the pragmatic properties of the words that correspond to such functions? (Gazdar 1979: 63).

#### 4. Cognitive Approaches to Pragmatics

Sperber, Dan; Wilson, Deirdre (1986). *Relevance. Communication and Cognition*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 279 p.+ vii.

This book lays the foundation for a theory of cognition and communication which claims that understanding utterances is dependent upon the construction of mental representations which are affected by inferential deductions. The book starts off with a chapter on communication which first reviews the most important theory of communication (the code model, the semiotic approach, the mutual-knowledge hypothesis and Grice's approach), and, after showing its limitations, the authors propose a model of ostensive-inferential communication. This model argues that in each act of communication there are two layers of information: (a) the information that is signaled, and (b) the information expressed by the first layer and the information intentionally communicated. In the subsequent two chapters, this model of communication is developed at length. An utterance is defined as an act of communicative behavior which creates a presumption of optimal relevance. One of the key innovations is the fact that the context against which an utterance is interpreted is not given and shared by speaker and hearer (as is claimed by other theories of pragmatics which adopt a functional perspective), but must be constructed ad hoc in order to give the utterance its maximal relevance. In

the last chapter, entitled *Aspects of verbal communication*, the authors show that the ostensive-inferential model should be combined with a code model to provide a satisfactory description of verbal communication, by applying it to a few selected issues such as explicatures, implicatures, presuppositions, metaphor and irony. Throughout the book for following the explanations are profusely illustrated with examples, which is helpful to follow the theories presented.

Blakemore, Diane (1992). *Understanding utterances*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 191 p.+ x.

This is a text book that provides an introduction to Pragmatics from a cognitive perspective which assumes the Chomskyan hypothesis of modularity of the mind. The understanding of utterances is placed in the framework of Sperber and Wilson's *Relevance Theory*, a theory of cognition and communication. It starts with a review of the fundamental notions of the *relevance-theory* approach to utterance interpretation. These notions are then applied to a series of phenomena typically studied by different approaches to pragmatics: the difference between semantics and pragmatics, speech acts, explicature, implicature and discourse coherence. It also includes topics traditionally covered by literary studies, such as metaphor and irony. In addition, it shows how literary notions also exist in everyday language, and can be studied within a cognitive framework. The explanations are clear, and supplemented by discussion topics, recommended readings and exercises. For a more detailed account of this book see the review section of this issue.

Fauconnier, Gilles (1985). *Mental spaces*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. 190 p.+ xlvii.

It presents a cognitive theory of meaning construction at the sentence level as well as longer stretches of discourse, which incorporates the full range of natural language phenomena, including reference, descriptions and coreference, which are phenomena traditionally studied by logic semanticists. Language is to be interpreted insofar as it builds up mental spaces, relations between them, and relations between the elements within them. Mental spaces are constructed in any discourse following guidelines provided by the linguistic expressions used by the speaker. They are a representation of the mental processes involved in speech, thought and communication. An enumeration of the chapters would provide an idea of the specific topics covered: pragmatic functions and images; roles and multiple connectors; presuppositions; floating, transfer and projection strategies; counterfactuals and comparatives; transspatial operators, philosophical issues, and future perspectives.

## 5. Conversational Analysis

Sacks, Harvey; Schegloff, Emmanuel; Jefferson, Gail (1974). «A simplest systematics for the organization of turn-taking for conversation». *Language* 50: 696-735. A longer version is published in Schenken, J. (ed.) 1978. *Studies in the organization of conversational interaction*, p. 7-55. New York: Academic Press.

Turn-taking is a widespread form of social organization that is manifested in talk (as well as in other social activities such as moves in games, servicing of customers and fights). This pioneering study of turn-taking addresses conversation, which is considered just one of the possible types of speech exchange systems. A model for turn-taking is proposed and it consists of two components involving the unit types which can be used to initiate or follow up a turn and the way turns can be allocated. These two components must be taken together with a set of rules which explicitly state how turn-initial and transitional relevance places are distributed between a speaker and hearer/s. The universal frame of this model captures the context-free nature of conversation, while bearing in mind that in a conversation it is also possible to make changes in a situation. The model proposed in this article is supported and discussed in relation to data obtained from a wide variety of situations. Conversation is contrasted with other types of activities where speech exchanges are involved.

Atkinson, J. M.; Heritage, J. (eds.) (1984). *Structures of social action. Studies in conversational analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press and Paris: Editions de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme.

This collection of sixteen articles (with the exception of the contributions by Harvey Sacks) were presented at a conference on Practical Reasoning and Discourse Processes held at Oxford in July of 1979. These studies constitute a report on different aspects of conversation which include the organization of nonverbal phenomena such as gaze, body movement in relation to turns in talk, the sequencing of laughter, particle use, proposals, the structuring of sequences involving assessments, invitations, as well as topic organization and rhetorical techniques of public speakers. The introduction by Heritage and Atkinson presents the main theoretical tenants of conversational analysis, which rely on the basic assumption that conversation is a way of producing social behavior that can be directly observed and analyzed. Part 1: theoretical orientations, Part 2: preference organization, Part 3: topic organization, Part 4: the integration of talk with non-vocal activities, Part 5: aspects of response, and Part 6: everyday activities as sociological phenomena all seek to show how naturally occurring interactional sequences are systematically organized. A preliminary section on transcription notation is included at the beginning of

the volume. The book as a whole makes an important contribution to the development of social action theory.

## 6. Interactional Approaches to Pragmatics

Gumperz, John (1982). *Discourse strategies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 225 p.+ xii.

This is a classic book which is basic for understanding the interactional approach to language use. There are ten chapters, in which Gumperz presents his early views on the importance of an interpretive approach to oral discourse whereby the analyst attempts to reconstruct the ways speakers and hearers construct meaning in spoken interaction. This work points out the limitations of relating language variation with independent social and contextual variables within a quantitative sociolinguistic framework. Each chapter includes several examples which illustrate the theoretical points put forth throughout the book. The notion of contextualization cue, which refers to the different elements (i.e., paralinguistic phenomena) used to convey meaning, is introduced and illustrated by examples of cultural miscommunication. Attention is dedicated to code-switching as a contextualization cue in chapters three and four. In chapter five the role of prosody as an important means for interpreting discourse is exemplified. Gumperz also includes a detailed subject and author index, as well as a list of the transcription conventions he uses in the examples analyzed.

Goffman, Erving (1981). *Forms of talk*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 335 p.+ iv.

Five articles (three of which were previously published in journals) written between 1974-1980 make up this volume. The first paper, entitled *Replies and responses*, critically examines deterministic approaches to conversation. The second chapter, *Responses and cries*, analyzes and questions conventional conversation analysis within a linguistic framework. The third chapter, *Footing*, takes up Gumperz' notion of code-switching and adopts it in order to illustrate changes in footing, which is defined as the alignment of an individual with an utterance. The last two sections of the book, *The lecture* and *Radio talk*, are descriptive accounts of specific social events. Important insights are provided on the linguistic, social, and ethnographic aspects of lectures and radio announcements. Talk is analyzed both from the perspective of the speaker and the hearer. Goffman underlines the need to link linguistic analyses with ethnographic concerns. Three types of considerations are present in Goffman's papers: (a) ritualization of unintended linguistic and paralinguistic phenomena as features of talk; (b) participation framework, which refers to the influence of any person within the perceptual range of the speaker; (c) embedding, involv-

ing the way speakers can insert in their own speech the words of others in order to bring about a change in footing.

Auer, Peter; Luzio, Aldo di (eds.) (1992). *The contextualization of language*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 402 p.+ xiii.

This compilation of articles by Auer and di Luzio were presented at a workshop on *Contextualization of Language* held in October 1988 at the University of Constance. The papers presented address the concept of contextualization cue put forth by Gumperz. A subject index is included at the end, and some articles are followed by the comments of a discussant. Part one is dedicated to a theory of contextualization. It includes an introduction to Gumperz' dynamic, multiple meaning/value approach by Auer. An article follows by Gumperz which links his notion of context to early anthropological work. Silverstein's contribution deals with the indeterminacy of the concept of contextualization and calls for a broader and more dynamic view of this phenomena which cannot be subsumed by deterministic models. Part two deals with gestures and visible forms of behavior which are construed as contextualization cues as well. Goodwin and Harness Goodwin explore the way participants construe activities in the midst of moment to moment interaction. Heath looks at ways gestures and other forms of body movement serve to structure participation during the course of an activity. Streek and Hartage examine the role of gestures in interactions, and de Fornel examines the role of iconic gesture in the process of creating context. Finally, part three on prosody includes seven articles which analyze the role of various prosodic features in different speech events. Cook-Gumperz looks at how gender contexts are created by two young girls. Müller examines the use of prosody for contextualizing different moods in narratives, while Selting focuses on intonation in story telling. Local analyzes the role of phonetic resources in organizing interactions. Speech rate changes in conversation is taken up by Uhmman and further explored by Couper-Kuhlen. The last article by Ericson studies basic contextualization cues such as vocal and kinetsic rhythm in a family dinner conversation.

Duranti, Alessandro; Goodwin, Charles (eds) (1992). *Rethinking context*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 363 p.+ viii.

One of the most important contributions in recent years to the study of language interaction. For a more detailed discussion of the ideas in this volume see the book review section of this issue. Fourteen articles on context and situated discourse from various analytical traditions are brought together by the editors Duranti and Goodwin. A precise definition of context is avoided in favor of taking preliminary steps for discovering how context works and the kinds of behavior context is expected to explain. The contributions to this

volume maintain that context not only shapes talk but that talk also shapes context. Context is thus viewed as a dynamic process that changes through time and space.

Brown, P; Levinson, S. (1987). *Politeness*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This book is a classic in the study of a particular form of human social order which is expressed in the use of politeness in communication. It provides an abstract theoretical framework which accounts for most uses of politeness cross-linguistically and cross-culturally. Most of the data analyzed comes from naturalistic situated conversational exchanges. The theoretical model presented in this work is based on Grice's theory of conversational implicatures. Politeness principles in this model have a different status from principles of cooperation in the sense that politeness constitutes a deviation from *rational efficiency*, contrary to the cooperative principle. Another aspect of Brown and Levinson's proposal that ties in with the Gricean perspective is the way communication is viewed as a special kind of intention that is meant to be recognized by the recipient. An idea which is central to the entire model is the notion of face which refers to an individual's self-esteem. Three sorts of politeness strategies are recognized: positive politeness (the expression of solidarity), negative politeness (the expression of restraint) and off-the-record politeness (the avoidance of impositions). The forms of politeness that are dealt with in the book include honorifics, address forms, indirect speech acts, ways of communicating affect, and the use of certain constructions such as passives and datives. In the introduction to the present edition reprinted in 1988 a detailed discussion is presented of the implications of this model for the disciplines of linguistics, anthropology and sociology. Recent developments of the model and its application to several domains of research such as to the study of non-powerful or disadvantaged groups, child language acquisition, and conversational analysis are also presented.

## 7. Discourse Analysis

Schiffrin, Deborah (1994). *Approaches to discourse*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 470 p.+ ix.

This recent publication on approaches to discourse is a textbook in the strict pedagogical sense. It successfully combines theory with its practical application to examples from English spoken discourse. In addition, each chapter contains a set of exercises and detailed end notes which expand on many of the points brought up in the theoretical presentation. The aim of the book is to be comprehensive. Six approaches are distinguished which include the following headings: speech act theory, interactional sociolinguistics, ethnography

of communication, pragmatics, conversation analysis, and variation analysis. The main problem with this classification (especially concerning the perspectives on ethnography, pragmatics and variation analysis) is that researchers working within these frameworks often adopt other methods, and research concerns from the other approaches she talks about. There is also the problem of delimiting the boundaries of a pragmatic approach strictly to discourse. The author is conscious of these drawbacks and she hopes that bringing these approaches together in a single volume will help us to organize our knowledge about how discourse works and at the same time serve as a link between models of discourse and theories of language. This book also seeks to shed light on the relation of linguistic structure and the way people use grammatical resources to communicate to one another. More information is presented in the review published in this issue.

Coulthard, Malcolm (1985). *An introduction to discourse analysis*. London: Longman. 212 p.+ xi.

The second edition of Coulthard's *An introduction to discourse analysis* includes two new chapters, one on *intonation* which addresses the problem of paralinguistic features from the analyst's perspective and another on *a linguistic approach* which presents the author's research efforts on discourse carried out in the decades of the seventies at Birmingham. The book focuses on spoken interaction and it provides useful presentations of the various approaches to discourse analysis. In comparison with Brown and Yule's (1983) textbook, Coulthard goes beyond strict structural or procedural concerns in favor of an organizational or a more interactional approach. The form-function paradox is resolved more in a programmatic fashion (see the preface by C. Candlin) than in practice (see chapter six). Action can be mapped to utterance by looking at natural processes of contextual negotiation, background information on the participants, the shared social and cultural norms, and so on. A highlight of the book is its concern with applying discourse analysis to other fields of research such as language teaching, language acquisition, and the analysis of literary texts. A chapter is dedicated to each one of these areas. An extensive bibliography is provided as well as suggestions for further readings which serve to follow-up the contents presented in each chapter.

Brown, Gillian and George Yule. 1983. *Discourse analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 288 p. + xii.

The main point of this textbook is to provide a description of linguistic forms which contribute to the way addressers construct messages for addressees, and to a lesser extent to the way addressees interpret these messages. The linguistic forms discussed are limited to well-established features of English syntax and prosody. Both oral and written forms of discourse are addressed. The main topics included are language functions in the Hallidayian tradi-

tion, reference, general issues of coherence, and topic organization. Aspects of interpretation are covered in a limited discussion of reference, presupposition, implicatures, inference and context (defined in terms of a situational setting). The book for the most part is a classificatory system of the linguistic means addressers employ for communicating. It contrasts with more recent approaches to discourse which attempt to go beyond the form-function relationship, in order to answer questions within specific theoretical frameworks that are more directly related to the way meaning can be expressed and interpreted. For the second language learner this is a helpful tool to understand the workings of English.

Sherzer, Joel (1987). «Discourse centered approach to language and culture». *American Anthropologist* 89, 2: 295-309.

The relation between discourse and culture is examined with data from speech play including verbal dueling and bargaining at local markets in several culturally distinct communities. This article takes up the often avoided Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Discourse as opposed to lexical items or grammar is shown to be a very concrete manifestation of the language-culture relationship. Sherzer's work is an important pre-requisite for understanding current developments in the interpretation of various sorts of meaning (i.e., contextualization cues) in verbal interactions. He claims that language does not necessarily reflect culture but that language use in discourse creates, recreates and modifies culture.

## 8. Journals and periodicals on Pragmatics

### *Discourse & Society*

An international journal for the study of discourse and communication in their social, political, and, cultural contexts. It is concerned with the study of society through discourse rather than linguistic or theory oriented. It deals with relevant social, political or cultural issues and problems which require an interdisciplinary approach. There are articles devoted to the detailed analysis of social and political relations of power, dominance and inequality and to the role discourse plays in their legitimation. This bi-annual journal started in 1990 increasing to four issues a year in 1991. The editor is Teun A. van Dijk and the co-editors are Michael Billig, Cheri Kramer and Beatriz Lavandera. Sections for articles and book reviews. The approximate length of each issue is 150 pages. Some of the special issues published are on *Women speaking from silence* (1991) volume 2, number 4 edited by Marsha Houston and Cheri Kramer; *Discourse and political change in Europe* (1993) volume 4, number 1 edited by Paul Chilton and Mikhail Ilyin; and *Critical discourse analysis* (1993) volume 4, number 2, edited by Teun A. van Dijk. Sage Publications (6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, UK) publishes the journal.

### *Journal of Pragmatics*

A monthly interdisciplinary journal on language studies. It has been published on a bimonthly basis since it first appeared in 1977, up to 1991. Its goal is to bring together the fields of sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, applied linguistics, and psychiatry. Some of the topics covered are speech act theory, dialect studies, artificial intelligence, theory of meaning, homonyms, conversation, theory of understanding, different kinds of discourse (doctor-patient, legal, irony, and humor), formal semantics, anaphora, politeness, tense/aspect, as well as intonation and prosody. The editors are Jacob Mey and Harmut Haberland, and the review editors are Ferenc Keifer and Jef Verschueren. Each issue contains a section on articles, short notices, and reviews. The final number of each volume includes an index of articles and authors. Special issues are also published under this title, some of which include volume 7 (1983) number 3 dealing with *Conditionals* and edited by Johan van der Auwera; volume 8, (1984) number 4 on *Metapragmatics* edited by Claudia Caffi; and volume 12, (1988) numbers 5 and 6 on *Cognitive aspects of language use* edited by Asa Kasher. The Journal Dept. of Elsevier Science B.V. can be contacted for further information (P. O. Box 211, 1000 A. E. Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

### *Language and Society*

It is concerned with all approaches to the study of language as aspects of social life. It was founded by Dell Hymes in 1972 in order to create a forum for what he called the emerging field of sociolinguistic research. Additional objectives of the journal are to perform an integrative role for studies relating language and society as well as to pose questions of policy and choice for governments, schools, individuals, and communities. Articles vary from predominantly linguistic to predominantly social in content. After 1972 and until 1975 three issues a year were published and in 1983 it became a quarterly with four issues per year. William Bright is the current chief editor substituting Dell Hymes in 1994. The associate editors are Suzanne Romaine, Joel Sherzer and Deborah Tannen. The length of each issue varies between 176 pages per year in 1977 to 570 pages in 1983, and 477 pages in 1994. There are sections including articles and book reviews. This journal is published by Cambridge University Press (The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK).

### *Pragmatics*

This journal is a quarterly publication of the International Pragmatics Association (Formerly published with the title *IPrA Papers in Pragmatics*). It first appeared in 1990 and is published by the IPrA secretariat (P.O. Box 33,

Antwerp 11, B-2018, Belgium). The editors of the journal are Marcyliena Morgan, Gunter Senft, and Masayoshi Shibitani. The journal includes articles and the IPrA bulletin containing book notices and information about forthcoming meetings, publications received, and other matters relevant to the members of the association. The contents of the journal cover Pragmatics defined in its widest sense as a functional, cognitive, social, and cultural perspective on language and communication. Some of the topics include: speech acts, the study of human interaction, culture and ideology, inter-cultural communication, code-switching, code-mixing, multiculturalism, relevance theory, second language acquisition, political language, business communication, discourse analysis, and transcription systems, among others.

### *Pragmatics and Cognition*

It is an interdisciplinary journal focusing on the interrelations between cognition and the use of semiotic systems by humans, animals, and machines. Some of the topics include information distribution in texts, speech acts, connectives, coherence, relevance theory, interaction, cognition and analogy. The editor of *Pragmatics and cognition* is Marcelo Dascal and the associate editors are Jens Allwood, Benny Shannon, Stephen Stich and Yorick Willis. The editorial focus is on the exploration of the interrelation between cognition and semiotic systems along several lines: conditions of acquisition, language development and loss, modeling, simulation and formalization, biological and neurological bases of language, social and cultural variation, aesthetic expression, and historical development. The semiotic systems and mental processes considered are: natural language, computer language, writing, gesture, facial expression, ritual, pictorial representation, pattern recognition, emotion, fantasy and dreaming, conceptualization, understanding, creativity, humor, problem solving, and mental modeling. It appeared in 1993, with two issues a year published by John Benjamins (Amsterdam, Philadelphia). Each issue is approximately two hundred pages in length and includes articles as well as a discussion and a review article section.

### *Text*

It is an interdisciplinary journal for the study of discourse. It is specifically aimed at studies in discourse analysis from several points of view. Special emphasis is given to interdisciplinary theory formation and the development of methods of analysis. The topics covered include: rhetoric, cohesion and coherence, text structure and theme, the study of conversation, syntactic features of different text types, the study of intonation and prosody, theories of discourse interpretation, anaphora and deixis, cross-cultural communication, study of verbal communication, prejudice, different kinds of discourse (the

mentally challenged, legal, medical, and so on), the study of written texts, given and new information, the study of narrative, code-switching, text typology, gender differences, negotiation, and politeness. It has been published since 1981 by Mouton Publishers (Berlin, New York, and Amsterdam). *Text* publishes manuscripts as articles of approximately 150 pages in length. Teun A. van Dijk is the editor and the members of the editorial board are: John Black, Aaron Cicourel, Malcolm Coulthard, János Petöfi, and Deborah Tannen. Two issues a year are published. Number 1 and 2 of the journal include a statement by board members and a bio-bibliographical résumé. Volume 10 published in 1990 is a special anniversary issue titled *Looking ahead: Discourse analysis in the 1990s*. Annual special issues are available on a variety of topics except for 1992.