My friend is in the shower.

I flip the lights off

He says “dude”

I flip the lights back on because I have inferred the meaning of “dude”

My friend is in the shower

He says “dude”

I flip the lights off

He might say “That’s not what I meant” (Notice the “that” requires inferential referential interpretation by me)

My friend and I are walking out of the house

I flip the lights off

My friend says “dude”

I don’t attribute it to the lights, but to the start of a new conversation

My environmentally conscious friend and I are walking out of the house

I don’t flip the lights off

My friend says “dude”

I flip the lights off because I have inferred that he wants them off

Perhaps the reason these alternatives are salient in the first place can be accounted for informally by relevance theory, but the