**Language & Communication – Practice exam with model answers**

*Deze oefenvragen zijn alleen in het Engels beschikbaar, maar ze zouden alsnog goed te begrijpen en te maken moeten zijn.*

**1. Implicatures (25 points)**

In Chapter 2, Birner discusses a court case during which the following exchange took place:

1 A: Do you have any bank accounts in Swiss banks, Mr. Bronston?

2 B: No, sir.

3 A: Have you ever?

4 B: The company had an account there for about six months, in Zürich.

It turned out later that not only the company but also Bronston himself had a bank account in Switzerland. However, it seems to be an implicature of his last answer that he did NOT have a bank account there.

1. a. What kind of implicature would that be according to Grice (conventional, generalized, particular)? Why?
2. b. In the derivation of this implicature, TWO maxims are at play. Which ones? Explain.
3. c. Did Bronston lie in his final answer of did he not, according to Grice? Why (not)?
4. d. If Bronston would defend himself against, perjury by pointing out that he did not really say anything untrue (since the company did have an account there), which defence strategy is he using in the terminology of Boogaart et al. (2020) based on classical rhetoric? Would you consider this a strong defence? Why (not)?

**2. Speech Acts (20 points)**

Answer the questions below about the following comic:

A comic of a person sitting at a bar

Description automatically generated

1. a. The first utterance in the comic above (“Sir, is this stool taken?”) can be interpreted as an indirect speech act. Explain what the primary and secondary speech acts would be, and how you can connect these speech acts with each other according to Searle.
2. b. Explain why the utterance “I’m not surprised” can clarify how the S meant her first utterance in the cartoon.
3. c. Discuss the speech acts in the utterances “Not at all, young lady!” and “I’m not surprised” (describe the specific illocutionary acts, as well as the speech act categories they belong to, and whether they are explicit/implicit performatives).

**3. Presuppositions (25 points)**

Answer the questions below about the following conversation:

1 A: Do you need help?

2 B: No, no, I have to make the decision about Jannie myself. I shouldn’t rush it, I should think about it again.

3 A: Yes, that’s okay, take your time...

It was Walter who told you to take your time!

a. On line 5, the phrase “it was Walter who...” evokes a presupposition. Explain what the presupposition is and how it is evoked.

1. b. For the presupposition mentioned in question a, indicate how you can determine that this is indeed a presupposition and not an entailment.
2. c. Reformulate the utterance on line 5 in a minimal way, in order for the presupposition mentioned in question a to disappear.
3. d. Provide two examples of other presuppositions from the text and explain how they are evoked.

**4. Conversation analysis (20 points)**

*The dialogue below is a (slightly adapted and translated) excerpt of a consultation between a family doctor (D), and a patient with voice problems (P).*

1 D How are ye?

2 P Me, fine

3 D Yeah?

4 P Yeah. (.)

5 But I actually came for my throat because I get very hoarse, and more and more hoarse. (0.2) Then I wonder what it is. Sometimes I can really hardly talk. And I thought now: maybe there is something wrong

6 D But, tell me a little bit more, you say “I get hoarse all the time” or…

7 P Yes, I’ve always got a hoarse voice

8 D That doesn’t sound right, no

1. a) Describe the dialogue in terms of basic, insertion, pre- and post-sequences.
2. b) Describe how the family doctor and patient organise their turn taking.
3. c) Which of Brown & Levinson’s (1987) five main politeness strategies does the patient use in turn 5 (this could be multiple strategies)? Please motivate your answer.
4. d) Is the patient ‘politic’ or ‘polite’ in this dialogue? Please explain.
5. e) Last, give an example of an adjacency pair in the above dialogue. Explain what kind of adjacency pair it is (e.g., invitation-acceptation).