

LING 461: Experimental Semantics

Stimuli

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Superior-to-inferior PD (8 scenarios)

1) *Boss to Employee:* You are the boss of a sales company, and your employee comes to your office with a monthly report that shows a significant drop in sales. You call your employee into your office, and you will say:

1. Rude ironic: *"Oh, how fantastic! You have made incredible progress since the last time!"*
2. Polite ironic: *"Well, this is the incredible result that we expected. Please explain these results."*
3. Rude non-ironic: *"What happened to the sales numbers? This is terrible! We have to fix these numbers until the next month!"*
4. Polite non-ironic: *"I've noticed a decrease in sales this month. Is there anything we can discuss to improve performance?"*

2) *Professor to Student:* You are a Professor, and your student approaches you after receiving a lower-than-expected grade on an exam, suggesting that you recheck the exam. What is your reaction?

1. Rude ironic: *"Of course! Rechecking exams is my favorite part of the day. I can do it a hundred times in a day"*
2. Polite ironic: *"Well, perhaps I have missed a hidden masterpiece! Let's take a look."*
3. Rude non-ironic: *"Exams are graded carefully. Are you questioning the accuracy of the grading process?"*
4. Polite non-ironic: *"Sure, I can take a brief look at your exam again. However, grading is thorough."*

3) *Police Officer to Car Driver:* You are a police officer, and you saw that one car was speeding in an inappropriate place. What is your reaction?

1. Rude ironic: *"Well, well, well...I guess you were too busy practicing your award-winning speeding skills."*
2. Polite ironic: *"It seems like you were channeling your inner race car driver there, but speeding is not allowed here."*
3. Rude non-ironic: *"Do you know how fast you were going? This is a highway, not a racetrack!"*
4. Polite non-ironic: *"Hi there, I pulled you over because of your speed. License and registration, please"*

4) *Military Officer and Soldier:* During a monthly fitness test, a soldier who is always the last in the ranking and has barely been passing it failed it this month. You are the officer who asked the soldier to come and talk about this issue.

1. Rude ironic: *Private Last Place, it seems you've outdone yourself this time. I must say, I'm surprised it took this long for you to hit rock bottom finally.*
2. Polite ironic: *"Private Last Place, it appears we're maintaining our tradition of... let's call it 'steady improvement,' huh?"*
3. Rude non-ironic: *Let's cut to the chase. You failed the fitness test. Again. It's becoming a habit, is it?*
4. Polite non-ironic: *Unfortunately, you did not meet the required standards. I know you've been working hard, but you need to adjust your approach.*

5) *Doctor to Patient*: You are a doctor, and your patient always ignores your medical advice and doesn't follow the prescribed treatment. You notice that the patient's condition has worsened.

1. Rude ironic: *Maybe you start just googling your symptoms and never come back?*
2. Polite ironic: *I appreciate you trying to treat yourself in your own way, but maybe we'll work together?*
3. Rude non-ironic: *You clearly haven't been following my recommendations. I don't know what you expected.*
4. Polite non-ironic: *I am concerned about your health and your approach, as it is not helping you.*

6) *Hotel Manager to Staff*: You're a hotel manager and preparing for the wedding in your hotel. On the day of the wedding, you find out that one of the staff members, who was responsible for baking the cake, forgot to do it.

1. Rude ironic: *Well, look who forgot the only task he was responsible for!*
2. Polite ironic: *I guess, the bride and the groom will have air for dessert then.*
3. Rude non-ironic: *What do you mean you forgot the cake? Are you kidding?*
4. Polite non-ironic: *I can't believe you forgot about it. It was essential for today.*

7) *Team Lead to Intern*: You're a project leader facing a challenge with an intern who isn't completing their assigned tasks, hurting the team's progress. During a team meeting, it's evident once more that the intern has not completed their assigned tasks.

1. Rude ironic: *"Fantastic, another deadline missed. That's becoming your job now."*
2. Polite ironic: *"Embracing the concept of 'less is more' with your tasks, I see. "*
3. Rude non-ironic: *"This is unacceptable. Your repeated failures are dragging the entire team down."*
4. Polite non-ironic: *"I've noticed your tasks are incomplete again. Let's discuss how we can ensure this doesn't happen moving forward."*

8) *Trainer and Trainee*: You're a trainer and preparing a trainee for an upcoming competition. The trainee has been practicing a crucial move repeatedly, but fails to perform it correctly during the final practice session, even though you've taught him/her that a lot of times.

1. Rude ironic: *Oh, what a new change to our routine to make sure we fail the competition!*
2. Polite ironic: *I see you want to experiment with the move right before competition. Fix it.*
3. Rude non-ironic: *You messed up the move again. Seriously, what's going on? We've practiced it over and over.*

4. Polite non-ironic: I see you're struggling with the move we've been practicing. Try to improve it.

Inferior-to-superior PD (8 scenarios)

- 1) *Student to Professor*: You are a student who received a low grade on a term paper despite putting in a lot of effort. You believe that the grade does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, so you approach the professor to express your disagreement.
 1. Rude ironic: Thanks for the low grade. It's the perfect reward for nights spent researching and writing.
 2. Polite ironic: Your grading style is quite unique! It's really good at hiding the hard work I put in.
 3. Rude non-ironic: This grade is completely unfair and shows you didn't even bother understanding the effort I put into this paper.
 4. Polite non-ironic: I believe there might have been a misunderstanding in evaluating my paper. Can we review it together?
- 2) *Tenant to Landlord*: You just moved into your new place and found a leaky faucet, even though your landlord said everything was fine. It causes not only inconvenience but also a noticeable increase in your water bill. You decide to address the landlord again, expressing your dissatisfaction.
 1. Rude ironic: Great, a leaky faucet. Just what I wanted for higher bills.
 2. Polite ironic: Ah, the 'everything's fine' includes a water show. How quaint.
 3. Rude non-ironic: Still leaking. You don't care about fixing it, do you?
 4. Polite non-ironic: The faucet leaks still. Can we fix it soon? It's costing me.
- 3) *Intern to Team Leader*: You are an Intern in a design company, and it is your first week there. You find out that your Team Leader stole your idea and presented it as his idea for an important project. You think it was unfair of him, and you approach him to talk about that.
 1. Rude ironic: Well done! It's truly impressive how effortlessly you make someone else's work your own. I guess I have to learn this skill from you.
 2. Polite ironic: I must say, your ability to seamlessly integrate my ideas into your own presentations is quite impressive.
 3. Rude non-ironic: This is ridiculous! You just stole my design and presented it as your own! That's completely unfair, and I won't stand for it!
 4. Polite non-ironic: I can understand these things can happen unintentionally, but could you please explain why your ideas are similar to mine?
- 4) *Waiter to Manager*: You are a waiter working extra hours, and you believe you deserve a raise. You decide to approach your manager to discuss it.

1. Rude ironic: I've really enjoyed sacrificing my personal time without getting any payment for that!
2. Polite ironic: I know you value my dedication and hard work, especially when it comes to giving a rise.
3. Rude non-ironic: I cannot work another week without getting paid for extra hours. Give me a rise!
4. Polite non-ironic: I was hoping we could discuss the possibility of paying for my extra hours.

5) *Athlete to Coach*: You are an athlete, and your team coach, who is superior to you, created a plan that is not suitable for your team and in no way will help your team improve or win. You decide to talk to them about the matter.

1. Rude Ironic: Thanks, Coach. It seems with this brilliant plan we will definitely succeed at getting the most failed team award.
2. Polite Ironic: It seems like you have a knack for making very interesting strategies. Maybe we can make them more suitable for the team?
3. Rude non-ironic: Your strategy is a disaster, and our team is not going to win any match this season if we follow it.
4. Polite non-ironic: I was hoping we could get a plan that is more suitable for our current position and goals.

6) *Employee to Team Supervisor*: You are an employee working for a marketing company, and your team supervisor made a big mistake that led to the failure of the whole project. During the meeting, your whole team gives feedback to the supervisor. Your response is:

1. Rude ironic: Seems like you made your decisions depending on a coin toss, because I cannot believe this brilliant approach has come from your head.
2. Polite ironic: Your unconventional methods are definitely worth discussing.
3. Rude non-ironic: As a supervisor you had no right to fail the whole team, it was not very responsible from your side.
4. Polite non-ironic: Maybe we will discuss our future actions beforehand with the whole team?

7) *Waiter to Manager*: You are a waiter for a grill & bar cafe and your manager who is responsible for timetables and schedules of each waiter created a chaos of a timetable for the next week. You applied for a vacation weeks prior, but you were scheduled to work every day for 5 days, and other waiters who work nights were scheduled for days and those who asked for more shifts were cut to work once a week only. You decide to confront the manager.

1. Rude ironic: This is the best scheduling I have seen, I cannot believe I still get to work while I'll be in the Bahamas enjoying my vacation.
2. Polite ironic: I don't think our waiters will appreciate this surprise dish you are serving next week.
3. Rude non-ironic: I have applied for vacations weeks ago, I can't be scheduled to work next week. Maybe you will ask someone competent enough to create schedules from now on?

4. Polite non-ironic: I have applied to be on vacation starting from next week so I will not be working. Could you, please, revisit the schedule?

8) *Grandchild to Grandmother*: You have a nut allergy and your grandma bakes a cake for lunch and invites you to the table. You ask if there are nuts right before you are about to eat. She says yes and says sorry as she forgot about that. Your response:

1. Rude ironic: No, it's fine, I was really looking forward to having an anaphylactic shock before I leave your house.
2. Polite ironic: No, it's fine, I am just not in the mood for having a hospital trip today.
3. Rude non-ironic: Grandma, seriously?! You know I have a severe nut allergy and you forgot?!
4. Polite non-ironic: No worries, it's okay. I know you didn't do it on purpose

Equal power dynamic (8 scenarios)

1) *Friend to Friend*: It is your birthday and your friend offers to bake you a cake. However, when they bring it, you see that the cake is burnt to a crisp and not edible. What is your reaction?

1. Rude ironic: Wow, this cake is exactly what I wanted - a burnt one for a birthday!
2. Polite ironic: Oh, what a unique take on birthday cake - I've never tasted anything quite like it!
3. Rude non-ironic: What is this? Did you even try to make a proper cake?
4. Polite non-ironic: I appreciate the effort, but this cake didn't turn out quite as expected.

2) *Sibling to Sibling*: You are going to choose a movie with your siblings for movie night. However, everyone is suggesting different options and you cannot decide for a while on a movie.

1. Rude ironic: Fantastic! This is exactly how I pictured spending my movie night
2. Polite ironic: Well, it seems we've stumbled upon a film festival in our own living room!
3. Rude non-ironic: Ugh, come on guys! Make a decision already. I'm not stuck here all night!
4. Polite non-ironic: Maybe we can vote to find something everyone enjoys?

3) *Colleague to Colleague*: Your colleague asked to borrow your good headphones for a quick conference call. You trusted them and gave them the headphones. Later, you found the headphones on your desk, damaged and not working.

1. Rude ironic: Great, 'improved' my headphones to silence. Thanks.
2. Polite ironic: Love the new silent feature you added to my headphones.
3. Rude non-ironic: You broke my headphones and said nothing?
4. Polite non-ironic: My headphones are broken. Can we fix this?

4) *Roommate to Roommate*: You cleaned your shared room and felt happy with how fresh and orderly it looked. But when you returned, you saw that your roommate had made a massive mess while searching for something in a hurry.

1. Rude ironic: Turned our room into a dumpster? Perfect.
2. Polite ironic: Love the new chaos chic you've introduced. It's really... lively.
3. Rude non-ironic: This is a mess! Can't you respect our shared space at all?
4. Polite non-ironic: Room's upside down. Let's clean it up, shall we?

5) *Best Friend to Best Friend*: You lent your favorite shirt to your best friend for a night out and they came back with a huge wine stain.

1. Rude ironic: Thanks for turning my favorite shirt into a hideous abstract art
2. Polite ironic: I didn't know I had a second-hand Picasso as a friend, thank you,
3. Rude non-ironic: What else could I expect from Mr Slob?
4. Polite non-ironic: I know accidents happen, but next time let's be careful with things we borrow, okay?

6) *Student to Student*: You are a student and work on a group project with another student from your class. You need to do a presentation and he was responsible for submitting it to the professor forgot to do it.

1. Rude ironic: Oh, classic you forgetting to submit it.
2. Polite ironic: Interesting strategy, missing deadlines.
3. Rude non-ironic: Are you crazy? You had one job.
4. Polite non-ironic: Oh no, we needed that submitted.

7) *Sibling to Sibling*: It is your parent's birthday today, and you are organizing a party. Your sibling was responsible for buying a present, but forgot to do so.

1. Rude ironic: Forgot the present, huh? Then, I guess someone's not getting a present for Christmas too.
2. Polite ironic: Oh, no present? Well, who needs presents when you have such kids, right?
3. Rude non-ironic: You forgot a present? For a birthday? Are you serious?
4. Polite non-ironic: Oh no, that's so sad we don't have anything to give this year.

8) *Co-authors of a research paper*: You write the research paper with the other author for a scientific journal. Later, you notice that your partner forgot to cite a crucial reference in a paper jeopardizing its credibility.

1. Rude ironic: Oh, we're citing from memory now? Very impressive.
2. Polite ironic: You know that references do not magically appear? We write them ourselves.

3. Rude non-ironic: No reference? It's a big deal for a paper to be published!
4. Polite non-ironic: I noticed there was no reference on this page. Please be more careful.

Fillers (12 scenarios)

Filler scenarios with only one relevant response option and the rest unrelated can help in evaluating participants' attention to detail and their ability to choose an appropriate reaction in a specific context.

- 1) You've been waiting for your coffee at a cafe for 30 minutes while it's not particularly busy, but when it finally arrives, it's not what you ordered.

1. **Unrelated**: *"You lost my stuff! How are you going to fix this?."*
2. **Unrelated**: *"This steak is overcooked. I didn't order it like this."*
3. **Relevant**: *"This isn't what I ordered. Do you guys even pay attention?"*
4. **Unrelated**: *"Excuse me, would you mind lowering your voice? It's a bit distracting."*

- 2) You're at a movie theater watching a highly anticipated movie, and the person behind you won't stop talking. You try to ignore it, but the talking continues, growing louder and more distracting. What's your reaction?

1. *"What a beautiful day to enjoy the coffee!"*
2. **"Can you stop talking? You're ruining the movie."**
3. *"This is ridiculous. Why did I even wait if you can't help?"*
4. *"Well, this is just another unexpected adventure, isn't it?"*

- 3) You've been in line at the grocery store for a while, and when it's finally your turn, the cashier opens a new lane and serves someone who just arrived.

1. **"Excuse me, but I've been waiting in line for quite some time now."**
2. *"I love how fresh the produce looks today!"*
3. *"Can you believe how much rain we've been getting?"*
4. *"Do you have this in another color?"*

- 4) You're at the library studying for your upcoming exam, and someone's cell phone keeps ringing without them answering it.

1. *"The weather's been great for jogging lately."*
2. *"How much is the membership fee?"*
3. *"I heard the cafe down the street is under new management."*
4. **"Would you mind silencing your phone? It's quite distracting."**

5) You find a parking spot at a busy mall, but as you're about to park, someone else zooms in and takes it.

1. *"They've got a sale on kitchenware this weekend."*
2. ***"Hey, I was waiting for that spot. That was really inconsiderate."***
3. *"Is Wi-Fi available here?"*
4. *"I'm looking for gluten-free options, any suggestions?"*

6) You're arriving home very tired on the bus. Suddenly, someone nearby starts blasting music on their phone speaker.

1. *Wow, thanks so much for taking the time to bake me a cake for my birthday!*
2. *Can I take tickets with me now or can I take them later after work?*
3. ***Excuse me, could you use headphones for your music? I'm very tired***
4. *Could you make it louder? I cannot hear what she is trying to say*

7) You're running a little late for work and get pulled over for a minor speeding violation. The police officer walks up to your window and says, "License and registration, please."

1. *This is terrible! This dish is cold and uncooked! I cannot eat this stuff, can you cook it properly?*
2. *What's wrong with it? I tried to cook this dish a hundred times, but every time I could not make it cook well.*
3. ***Yes, sir/ma'am, here are my license and registration. I apologize for exceeding the speed limit.***
4. *Well, I did not talk to my daughter for a while, so tomorrow I will talk to her about this situation.*

8) You go to a fancy restaurant for a special occasion. You order a delicious meal, but when the bill arrives, it's much higher than you expected. The waiter leans in and politely asks, "How was everything this evening?"

1. *This is ridiculous! I should have chosen another movie to watch!*
2. ***Well, this is certainly a... surprising bill. The food was lovely, though***
3. *Excuse me, your phone keeps ringing. Would you mind silencing it?*
4. *Excuse me, I believe I was next in line here. Can you move to another line?*

9) Your friend invited you to a cinema and you go there at an appointed time but they ghost you. You see them the next week at work and decide to confront them.

1. *Where did you get the dress from?*
2. ***About last week... I went to the cinema on time but didn't see you.***
3. *This is not the coffee I ordered, I am lactose intolerant.*
4. *Sorry, your delivery is being delayed because of the heavy snow.*

10) Your mom calls you and asks you to help them with buying theater tickets.

1. ***You should go to this website and choose a seat and pay with your card.***
2. *The recipe does not include flour so it's gluten-free.*
3. *The book I am reading now has been adapted to a movie.*
4. *My roommate snores at night so I cannot sleep.*

11) You've been waiting for a special dinner that your friend promised to cook for you, but when you arrive, you find out that they forgot about it and made other plans.

1. *I can't believe the restaurant messed up our reservation. That is unacceptable.*
2. ***Wait, you forgot about our dinner plans? I was really looking forward to it.***
3. *The traffic was terrible. I got stuck for hours on the highway.*
4. *I can't talk right now, I'm running late for an appointment.*

12) You're moving into your new apartment and your friends promised you to help, but when the moving day arrives, none of them show up, leaving you to handle everything on your own.

1. *I can't believe the elevator is out of order again. This building has so many issues!*
2. *The movers arrived late and damaged some of my furniture. This is a disaster!*
3. ***Wait, none of my friends showed up to help me move? I thought I could count on them.***
4. *I forgot to pack my lunch. Now I have to go out and buy something.*