

The Interpersonal Function in Language

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Micro-linguistics

Ideational function



Lexicology
(the Word)



Morphology
(the Morpheme)



Phonology
(the Phoneme)



Phonetics
(the Phone)



Syntax
(the Sentence)



Semantics
(the Proposition)

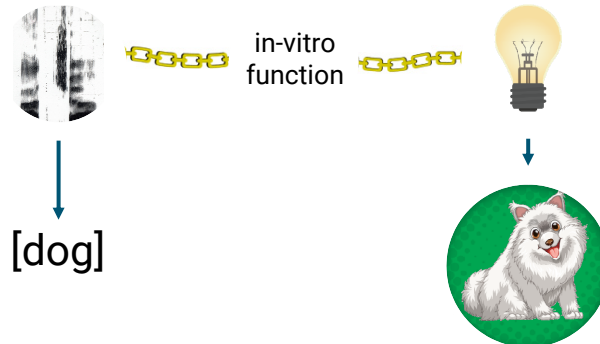
~~The Unit~~ Perspective

Icons: University of Waterloo

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Ideational function

Language from the perspective of encoding and transmitting ideas



Waveform: Randy Harris; Dog: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Lightbulb: University of Waterloo

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

[dog]



Dog: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Icons: University of Waterloo; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Pragmatics

Interpersonal function

~~The Unit~~ Perspective



Context:
(the Word)



Context:
(the Morpheme)



Context:
(the Phoneme)



Context:
(the Phone)



Context:
(the Sentence)



Context:
(the Proposition)

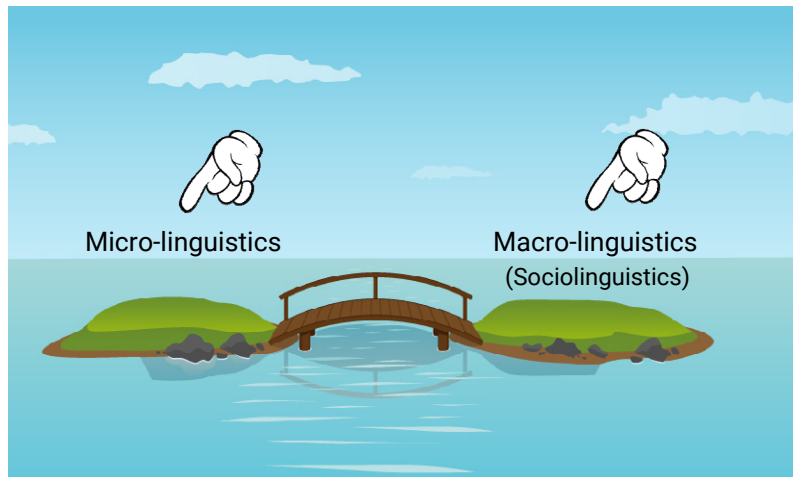
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Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Pragmatics

Micro-linguistics

Macro-linguistics
(Sociolinguistics)



Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock; Small wooden bridge: Laralova/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Interpersonal function

Language from the perspective of making and maintaining human contact.

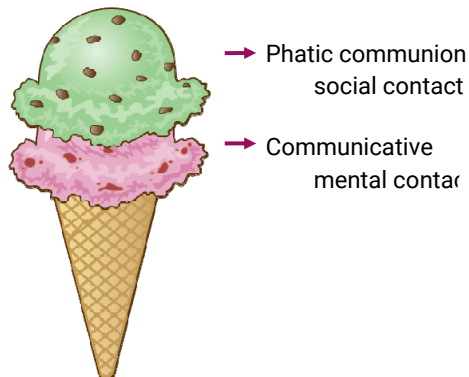


Green Eggs and Ham: Dr. Seuss (1988). *Green Eggs and Ham*. Random House. p.35; Hand: Noedelhap/ISTock/Thinkstock

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

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Language from the perspective of making and maintaining human contact.



Green Eggs and Ham: Dr. Seuss (1988). *Green Eggs and Ham*. Random House. p.35; Ice cream: Jamie Jay/ISTock/Getty Images Plus; Hand: Noedelhap/ISTock/Thinkstock

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Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Interpersonal function

Language from the perspective of making and maintaining human contact.



→ Phatic communion



Green Eggs and Ham: Dr. Seuss (1988). *Green Eggs and Ham*. Random House. p.35; Ice cream: Jamie Jay/iStock/Getty Images Plus; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Phatic Communion

Phatic communion

- The use of language to establish or maintain social relations
- Greetings



Dogs: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Men: Kharlamova/iStock/Thinkstock

Phatic Communion

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- The use of language to establish or maintain social relations
- Greetings
- Saying someone's name
- Utterances whose chief function is to establish or maintain contact; much like canine gluteus-maximus reciprocal olfactory analysis



Dogs: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Men: Kharlamova/iStock/Thinkstock

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Communicative Function

Communicative

The use of language to encode and transmit intentions



Green eggs and ham: Dr. Seuss (1988). *Green Eggs and Ham*. Random House. p. 54-55.

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Communicative

- The use of language to encode and transmit intentions
- Utterances whose chief function is to share mental contents
 - information
 - attitudes
 - worldviews



Homer eats crap.

Assertions:

Homer eats things I designate crap.

It says something about my attitude.

It also encodes a world view.

Homer: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson", Wikimedia Commons.

Two Dimensions of the Interpersonal Function

Phatic and Communicative

Every utterance has both phatic and communicative dimensions.

- phatic = talk
 - the very act of talking is social
- communicative = to make common
 - communication is sharing by making socially known



Two Approaches to Pragmatics

Speech Acts

People do things with words
beyond asserting truth:

promise, warn, request,
offer, threaten

They act through speech



J.L. Austin

John Austin: Gustafsson, M., Sorli, R (Ed.) (2012). "The Philosophy of John Austin". Oxford University Press. Retrieved from Amazon.com; Paul Grice: The British Academy (2001). "Paul Grice". Used under Fair Dealing.

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Conversational Maxims

The way people coordinate their
speech is very intricate.

Maxims



H.P. Grice

John Austin: Gustafsson, M., Sorli, R (Ed.) (2012). "The Philosophy of John Austin". Oxford University Press. Retrieved from Amazon.com; Paul Grice: The British Academy (2001). "Paul Grice". Used under Fair Dealing.