

HG2002: Tutorial 7

Context and Inference

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1. What are the deictic words/phrases in the following sentences? Identify each one as **space/time/person/social** or some combination of them.

- (1) *They tried to hurt me, but he came to the rescue.*
- (2) *The shop is across the street.*
- (3) *She was sitting over there.*
- (4) *It is raining out now, but I hope when you read this it will be sunny.*
- (5) *I was born in London and I have lived there all my life.*
- (6) *Wilt thou not listen to me?*

2. Describe the features used in your own language's pronoun system, with examples. (e.g. for Modern English: person, number, gender)
3. Give two examples each of **metonymy** and **synecdoche**.
4. Explain what is going on here
(from *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* (1976))

Clouseau: Does your dog bite?

Hotel Clerk: No.

Clouseau: [bowing down to pet the dog] Nice doggie.
[Dog barks and bites Clouseau in the hand]

Clouseau: I thought you said your dog did not bite!

Hotel Clerk: That is not my dog.

5. Hedges are used when you know you will flout a maxim. Which maxim is flouted in the following hedges (and why)?:

- (7) *This may be a bit confusing, but I remember being in a car.*
- (8) *I may be mistaken, but I thought I saw a wedding ring on her finger.*
- (9) *I won't bore you with all the details, but it was an exciting trip.*
- (10) *I don't know if this is important, but some of the files are missing.*
- (11) *As far as I know, they're married.*
- (12) *This may sound like a dumb question, but whose handwriting is this?*
- (13) *I don't know if this is clear at all, but I think the other car was reversing.*
- (14) *As you probably know, I am afraid of dogs.*

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| PRONOUN: Pronominal reference | <i>I saw a dog. It bit me.</i> |
| BRIDGE: Bridging reference | <i>I saw a dog. <u>The owner</u> was cute.</i> |
| DEFINITE: Reference with an NP | <i>I saw a dog. The animal bit me.</i> |

SID: sentence
 ROLE: NP: target (just enough to identify it:
 it may come from a previous sentence)

11934: If he did not take immediate action, surely the string would split
in half at the middle, and he would fall.
PRONOUN: he: Kandata
DEFINITE: the string: the thinly shining spider's thread

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