

Logic and Conversation

Assignment 1

Please return the assignment by email to: floris.roelofsen@gmail.com
Due date: Monday 5/11

1 Introduction

Please briefly tell us something about:

1. The programme that you are currently enrolled in (Master of Logic, Master of Philosophy, ...) and in which year of the programme you are.
2. Your previous education (BA) and courses that you have taken in your current programme that may be relevant for this course.
3. Your interests and what you expect from the course.

2 Grice

1. What is the difference between conventional and conversational implicatures? Give an example of each (preferably ones not given by Grice himself).
2. The statement in (1-a) typically has (1-b) as a conversational implicature.
 - (1) a. The curtains in the living room were black or darkblue.
 - b. The speaker doesn't know whether the curtains were black.

Describe how this implicature arises according to Grice.

3. The statement in (2-a) typically implies (2-b).
 - (2) a. Bill gave most of the team members clear instructions.
 - b. Bill didn't give all of the team members clear instructions.

Should this implication be treated as something that follows from 'what is said' in (2-a), or rather as a conventional or conversational implicature? Motivate your answer.

3 The logic of interrogation

1. The elliptical statement in (3) is ambiguous.

(3) Alf rescued Bea, not Chris.

On one reading it implies that Alf did not rescue Chris, on the other reading it implies that Chris did not rescue Bea. However, a preceding question may eliminate one of these readings.

(4) Who did Alf rescue? Alf rescued Bea, not Chris.

⇒ Alf did not rescue Chris

(5) Who rescued Bea? Alf rescued Bea, not Chris.

⇒ Chris did not rescue Bea

Explain this phenomenon using the notion of a *pertinent* answer.

2. Prove fact 6 given on page 11 of the paper.