

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### LIGN101 Homework 5 - Will Styler, Fall 2018

*Be sure to include your name at the top of the homework sheet. Homeworks may be typed (many PDF reader applications can type on top of documents) or handwritten legibly. Please do your best to make your answers concise, you are graded on quality, not quantity.*

**Solution:** This homework is out of 69 points, and as always, give the student's grade as a percentage. Thanks!

1. Answer the following. Each question has only one correct answer. (3 points each)

(a) In an academic context, which of the below words is an **antonym** of “enroll” (e.g. in a class)?

- ☐ Register
- ☐ Unroll
- ✓ **Drop**
- ☐ Attend
- ☐ Take

(b) In the sentence “Moscow views the treaty with some reluctance”, indicating reluctance on the part of the Russian government, the use of the word “Moscow” is an example of...

- ☐ Homonymy
- ☐ Hyponymy
- ☐ Semantic Ambiguity
- ✓ **Metonymy**
- ☐ Antonymy

(c) Which of the below word pairs is an example of **homophony**?

- ☐ Through and thorough
- ✓ **Heard and Herd**
- ☐ Spam (the ‘meat’) and Spam (the email)
- ☐ Hot and Cold
- ☐ Broken and busted

(d) You get home and ask your roommate whether they went to the store. They respond, “My aunt loves watching cat videos online”. This is best described as a violation of Grice’s maxim of...

- ☐ Quantity
- ☐ Quality
- ✓ **Relevance**

○ Manner

(e) Which of the following sentences does *\*not\** contain the use of deixis?

- ☐ I'm meeting Rhonda there.
- ☐ Gary and Andries are having dinner later.
- ☐ He and Sharon really hate ice cream.
- ☐ I see you.

✓ **John met with Karen at the restaurant.**

(f) A: "Mary has four cats in her two bedroom apartment". B: "Mary loves cats". The relationship between sentence A and B is one of...

✓ **Implicature**

- ☐ Entailment
- ☐ Synonymy
- ☐ Tautology
- ☐ Structural Ambiguity

(g) Thinking about the lexical semantics of each bolded verb below, which sentence does **not** include a word which could be considered an 'instrument' argument.

- ☐ Mary **examined** the hair sample using a microscope.

✓ **Lil' Bub swatted at the dangled cat toy.**

- ☐ Herbie **broke** the window of the factory with a heavy rock.
- ☐ The company filed for bankruptcy, having been **hit** with several expensive fines.
- ☐ Using the lighter, Robert **ignited** the pile of logs.

(h) You overhear, as part of a greater conversation, Ushna telling her friend Ruby "Before I say you can join us, you have to promise me that this year, you won't get drunk at Thanksgiving dinner and steal all the pumpkin pies". Which of the following is not an implicature that can be easily drawn from that sentence?

✓ **Ushna does not drink alcohol.**

- ☐ Ruby has previously stolen the pumpkin pies from a Thanksgiving dinner.
- ☐ Ushna is concerned that Ruby might cause problems at Thanksgiving.
- ☐ Ushna is considering inviting Ruby to Thanksgiving.
- ☐ Ruby has at least one past episode of drinking alcohol to excess.

2. For each of the below sentence pairs (X, Y), state whether X **entails** Y. If it doesn't, give an example of a situation where X would be true, but Y is not. *Be creative! Remember that any reasonable situation where X can be true without Y being true is evidence that there is not true entailment.* (3 points each)

- (a) X: Herbie went to Imperial, CA.  
Y: Herbie drove to Imperial, CA.

**Solution:** For these questions, any example situation is fine as long as it addresses the question. Put differently: - If the answer is entailment, and they say it is, full points. No example needed. - If the answer is entailment, and they say it's not, zero points. - If the answer is NOT entailment, and they say it's not, and then give an example which seems roughly plausible, full points. - If the answer is NOT entailment, and they say it's not, and then give an example which doesn't bear on the matter at hand or is silly (e.g., for this question, "Imperial is very far away, lapsus linguae"), then 1 point. - If the answer is NOT entailment, and they say it's not, and give no example, 1 point.

For this specific question: NOT entailment. John could have taken a bus, e.g.

- (b) X: Nikola has small hands.  
Y: Nikola has hands.

**Solution:**  
Entailment.

- (c) X: Nikola has hands.  
Y: Nikola has small hands.

**Solution:**  
NOT entailment. Normal sized hands.

- (d) X: Snuggles won the Cat Show.  
Y: Snuggles was the best cat at the show.

**Solution:**  
NOT entailment. Could be corruption, the best cat dropped out, varying definitions of 'best'.

- (e) X: Will told an embarrassingly bad joke.  
Y: Will was embarrassed.

**Solution:**  
NOT entailment. Maybe she's proud of her bad jokes.

- (f) X: Rodrigo is an active duty US Marine.  
Y: Rodrigo is a member of the US Armed Forces.

**Solution:**

Entailment. Unless they come up with some AMAZING counterexample hinging on technical definitions.

- (g) X: Sarah has a knife.  
Y: Sarah has an extremely sharp object.

**Solution:**

NOT entailment. Butter knife. Dull knife. Cheese knife.

- (h) X: Talisha's home is in Michigan.  
Y: Talisha works in Michigan.

**Solution:**

NOT entailment. Talisha could work in Ohio, etc.

3. The very best part of studying conversational maxims is violating them in conversation, and then watching what happens. *This is a three part question, 21 points total, 7 points per maxim.*

For the Gricean Maxims of Quantity, Relevance, and Manner, your job is to purposefully and without any prior warning violate it once in an everyday conversation, and then record, briefly:

1. What is the maxim you violated?
2. The conversational context in which you violated the maxim
3. How you violated that specific maxim
4. How what you said is a violation of that maxim
5. What you would have said or done had you been following that maxim
6. How the person reacted (e.g. what they said or did) when you violated it.
  - If they don't react at all, or if you'd like more information, feel free to ask them something along the lines of "What did you think or feel when I just did [maxim violating thing]?" once that part of the conversation ends.
7. Was the conversation able to continue smoothly after you violated the maxim?

As an example, here for the maxim of quality...

1. *The Maxim of Quality*
2. *My wife asked me what I had for dinner.*
3. *I replied "Bald Eagle Eggs"*
4. *This is an implausible and untruthful answer.*
5. *Some pasta and marinara sauce.*
6. *She stopped me and said, "No, what'd you really have". When I asked her about it, she thought I was "hiding having eaten ice cream for dinner or something"*
7. *No, she stopped and asked me for the real answer.*

**IMPORTANT:** Please do this activity with sympathetic and friendly people, in a situation where no major harm can be caused (e.g. with friends, family, and roommates, rather than random cashiers or the 911 operator). You are encouraged to explain afterwards what you were doing and why (e.g. "I was asked to violate conversational norms for a class assignment."). Also, please spread this out over several conversations, ideally with several people. Your instructor and TAs are fair game.

If you feel uncomfortable violating these maxims in conversation, you may identify instances of these maxims being violated in movies, TV shows, or fiction, giving both the source (Movie, Book, or Show/Episode), as well as the time or page number within the show when the violation happens, and then answering the seven questions above for each. But I highly encourage you to participate in this activity, as it demonstrates the fragility and reliance of conversation on everybody being cooperative.

So, for each of the three maxims (Quantity, Relevance, and Manner), you'll answer the seven questions above ("1. What maxim did you violate?" and so forth). Please attach separate sheets of paper with your answers, clearly labeling each maxim, and each of the seven questions for each maxim.

**Solution:**

For this, you are **only grading** parts 1, 3 and 4. Put differently, all that I'm wanting you to check is that the response that they've described actually violates that maxim.

- If the thing they did or describe seems like a plausible example of violating maxim X, given the alternative in (5), then full points for that maxim.
- If the thing they did seems like a plausible example of violating a different maxim (e.g. they've mixed up relevance and quantity), 4/7 points, labeling the bad maxim.
- If the thing they did does not violate any of the maxims, no points.

The line between manner and quantity is blurry (e.g. an overly ornate but truthful answer could violate either, although it's more clearly quantity). Be generous there, and just mark something like "This is more like quantity".