

PRAGMATICS- TOWARDS AN INFERENTIAL ACCOUNT

MIRJANA MIŠKOVIĆ-LUKOVIĆ, PRAGMATIKA. DRUGO IZDANJE. [PRAGMATICS. SECOND EDITION.] (KRAGUJEVAC: FILOLOŠKO-UMETNIČKI FAKULTET U KRAGUJEVCU, 2018, 165 PP.) [FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY AND ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC, 165 PP., ISBN 978-86-85991-75-2]

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Review

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Professor Mirjana Mišković-Luković shows us that quite a lot of water has continued to flow under the pragmatics-oriented linguistics bridge since the advent of pragmatics broadly conceived as a study of language in use. Some questions that might be immediately posed are the following: What is linguistic pragmatics? What is inferential pragmatics? What type of knowledge does pragmatics account for?

The book is about inferential pragmatics and, thus, providing answers to the posed questions will inevitably be carried out in this direction. Yet, the author points out that the undertaking has not been eased at all, given the fact that there is not a unitary account on inferential pragmatics. Briefly, however, it may be observed that this type of pragmatics is best seen as sort of pragmatics aimed at arriving at a conclusion about what the interlocutor wants to convey by her message based on her utterance.

The book opens with Introductory Remarks (p. 9-10). The rest of the book is organized into four parts: I Pragmatics (p. 13-33), II Linguistic pragmatics (p. 35-66), III Cognitive pragmatics (p. 67-104), and IV Lexical pragmatics (p. 105-128), respectively. The book ends with a state-of-the-art Glossary (p. 129-155), List of symbols (p. 156), accompanied by Bibliography (p. 157-165) of a hundred and seventy-nine titles.

Introductory Remarks reveal that the book is a result of the author's two-decade research into bringing together meaning and inference in studying linguistic phenomena in use. The fundamental question that permeates all levels of the present study may refer to sort of semantic-pragmatic interface. Professor Mišković-Luković guides us through the maze of an interpretive tunnel whilst illuminating semantic aspects fused with the full beauty of pragmatics.

In the first section of the book, one is encouraged to enter the realm of pragmatics through the description of its development as a science and its field of study (p. 13-19). The pertinent data are presented in sufficiently selected doses thereby making this introductory part digestible to a wider audience of linguists who are not experts in the field of pragmatics. The author, then, moves on towards explaining models of communication (p. 19-21) highlighting the importance of the code-inferential model but not neglecting the code model. Subsequently, the relationship between grammar and pragmatics is thoroughly explained. Then, the author furnishes an excellent account of the semantics-pragmatics interface (p. 24-26). Next, the concepts *sentence*, *proposition*, *utterance* and *context* are expounded clearly (p. 27-31). Ultimately, the final section (p. 31-33) presents *metarepresentational strategies* thereby delving deeply into inferential pragmatics.

In the second section, the author recognizes the pertinence of linguistic pragmatics. Furthermore, the author describes and explains speaker's meaning and Grice's construct of *the pragmatics of what is said* (p. 35-37). Then, cooperative principles are outlined in the part dedicated to pragmatic cooperative principles (p. 37-38). The author concentrates on implicit meaning (p. 39), looks at conversational implicatures (p. 39-43) and examines conventional implicatures (p. 44-45) pertaining to the theory of implicatures proposed by Herbert Paul Grice. The next subsection provides details of different kinds of presuppositions (p. 45-49), and then, semantic (logic) implications are examined thoroughly (p. 50-52). Characteristics of implicit meaning are observed by means of conversational and conventional implicatures (p. 52-55), conversational implicatures and presuppositions (p. 55-56), conversational implicatures and semantic implications (p. 56-58) and presuppositions and semantic implications (p. 58-60). Regarding the revision of the Grice's model, the author seems to primarily refer to reductionism. However, as we move on, the author adopts the eclectic fusion of the New-Gricean model proposed by Laurence R. Horn and Stephen C. Levinson on the one hand, and the Post-Gricean relevance-theoretic model proposed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson, on the other hand (p. 60-63). Professor Mirjana Mišković-Luković hits the nail on the head in the last subsection, entitled Case Study: Conventional Implicature or Pragmatic Markers (p. 63-66), in which she explains, among other things, the necessity for updated insight into language data depending on semantic-pragmatic configurations. Her methodology is meticulously and adequately explained and the corpus-based data are satisfactorily articulated.

By entering the third section we come to the crux of the book, more precisely, Cognitive Pragmatics in its own right. More precisely, the author examines the branch of pragmatics that studies the mental processes of participants in communication (i.e. interlocutors), and focuses primarily on the relationship between individual thoughts and ostensive acts by means of which private thoughts are publicly communicated. The section begins with an examination of cognition and communication. More specifically, the author states that relevance-theoretic pragmatics is based on cognition and inference. As the author progresses through the text, we come across concise and yet extremely informative and insightful account of Relevance theory. In other words, the merits of Relevance theory are meticulously explained starting from the cognitive and communicative relevance principles, optimal relevance and cognitive effects (p. 69-71) and then elaborating on the interlocutor's intention and its dual nature – communicative and informative, respectively (p. 71-72). The author, then, skillfully analyzes interpretive strategy of the least effort (p. 72-73) and the role of context (p. 73-74). Professor Mirjana Mišković-Luković masterfully describes saturation (p. 76-77) and the phenomenon that she dubs *free enrichment* (p. 77-78) explaining further that the process is seen as "free" due to its pragmatic nature. *Ad hoc* concept construction is also adequately explained (p. 78) followed by the author's treatment of explicit communication. According to the author, relevance-theoretic pragmatics pertains to the so-called truth-conditional pragmatics (p. 78). She goes on to explain that Relevance theory postulates three pragmatic ingredients of explicit communication: the proposition of an utterance, (basic) explicature and higher-level explicature (p. 79). The fourth subsection deals with implicit communication (p. 86-89) whilst mutual parallel adjustment is taken up in the fifth subsection (p. 89-91). Elaborating on mood indicators, the sixth subsection describes and explains declarative, imperative and interrogative mood indicators stating that these phenomena procedurally encode the information on inferential formation of a higher-level explicature (p. 92-97). This section also ends with the pertinent case study focusing on semantic-pragmatic interface (p. 98-104).

The fourth section re-visits the idea of the tripartite realm of language, thought and reality (p. 105-107). We are presented with concepts and meaning in the subsection in which the author quite rightly insists on the importance of three different approaches to concepts: decompositional, atomistic and stereotypical (p. 107-108). Furthermore, this subsection provides a detailed exposition on molecular (p. 108) and atomistic semantic theories (p. 109-110). The

third subsection re-visits *ad hoc* concept construction (p. 110-116), and we are reminded that prototypes in categorization entail an associative approach to concepts, the encyclopedic entries of which store typical category features. Subsequently, the author looks at inferential processes of narrowing (i.e. strengthening) of lexical meaning and widening (i.e. loosening) of lexical meaning (p. 116-122) and then, the focus is shifted to interpretive use (p. 122-123), which includes irony (p. 123), metalinguistic negation (p. 123-124), allusion (p. 124-125). The sixth subsection represents one completely refreshing case study from a novel perspective. Namely, Professor Mišković points out the usefulness of pragmatic approach to metaphor and implements implicature analysis, modified implicature analysis, explicature analysis and modified explicature analysis (p. 126-128), thus overriding the traditional and commonly employed approaches to metaphors. It seems to me that traditional approaches are rather intuitive and inevitably subjective. Consequently, this novel approach of the author can account for metaphors in a more objective (and unbiased) manner. In the mentioned case study, the author reflects on her experiences in facing the challenging task of reconciliation between the two approaches whilst emphasizing the role of experimental pragmatics.

The book is exceptionally organized. All book sections strike a good balance between theory and practice which is provided by the inclusion of a generous number of the author's own examples. The conclusions are concordant with the aims and follow the explication and elaboration of the author's proclaimed aims. Additionally, the author successfully shows how to grapple with the basic leitmotif of the book, i.e. semantic-pragmatic interface. She affords convincing proofs of all her claims. The book is particularly punctilious as regards the language employed throughout the sections and subsections. The introductory part, which presents a comprehensive review of the existing body of work on the rich topic of pragmatics with particular reference to inferential (and I may also add, relevance-driven) pragmatics, is tremendously useful to students wishing to explore deeper the realm of pragmatics. The neatly produced and well-organized book, *Pragmatics*, is yet another example of the quality and excellence of linguistic work produced by Professor Mirjana Mišković-Luković. Needless to say, extraordinary publishing technology has added to the attractive layout of the second edition of the book. Professor Mirjana Mišković-Luković's *Pragmatics* is worthy of the highest praise and must surely be one of the best books on the market in the South-Slavic region. Her book will attract a wider audience from the domain of pragmatics and will definitely be warmly welcomed

not only by inferentially-driven pragmatists but also by general linguists, philologists and philosophers.