



PRAGMATIC SEMANTICS: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL INTERPRETATIONS

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17596224>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 10th November 2025

Accepted: 11th November 2025

Online: 12th November 2025

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT

The study of the meaning of words and sentences in linguistics has a centuries-old scientific tradition. Semantics, as a field that analyzes the semantic layer of language, was formed in the 20th century and gave rise to its various directions. Among them, pragmatic semantics occupies a special place, because it analyzes the meaning of language units not only in terms of their structural or lexical properties, but also in relation to the speech situation, the relationship between the speaker and the listener, and the context. Pragmatic semantics deeply analyzes the interaction of meaning and context in linguistic research. This approach serves to reveal the social and communicative nature of language. Therefore, pragmatic analysis occupies a central place in today's modern semantics system..

The study of the meaning of words and sentences in linguistics has a centuries-old scientific tradition. Semantics, as a field that analyzes the semantic layer of language, was formed in the 20th century and gave rise to its various directions. Among them, pragmatic semantics occupies a special place, because it analyzes the meaning of language units not only in terms of their structural or lexical properties, but also in relation to the speech situation, the relationship between the speaker and the listener, and the context. Pragmatic semantics deeply analyzes the interaction of meaning and context in linguistic research. This approach serves to reveal the social and communicative nature of language. Therefore, pragmatic analysis occupies a central place in today's modern semantics system.

The term "pragmatics" was first proposed by Charles Morris in 1938, which proposes the analysis of semiosis (sign system) at three levels - syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Syntactics studies the formal relationships between signs. Semantics analyzes the relationship between signs and their meaning. Pragmatics studies the relationship between signs and the subjects who use them. Thus, pragmatic semantics is understood as the field in which the meaning of language units is analyzed in relation to the context of their use and communicative purpose.

In the middle of the 20th century, semantic studies developed widely within the framework of analytical philosophy and logical linguistics. In particular, scientists such as J. L. Austin, J. Searle, P. Grays, H. Paul created the theoretical foundation of pragmatics. Austin put forward the theory of speech acts in his work "How to Do Things with Words" (1962) and introduced the concept of performing actions through words. Searle, in turn, divided speech

acts into types and highlighted their semantic-pragmatic essence. The cooperative principle and the theory of implicature developed by Grays are the mainstay of the practical part of pragmatic semantics. These ideas were later expanded by researchers such as Leech (1983), Levinson (1987), and Vanderwaken (1990), and the term “pragmatic semantics” was consolidated as a scientific term.

While traditional semantics views meaning as a structural unit in the language system, pragmatic semantics interprets meaning as a result of use. That is, the meaning of a word or sentence is determined, in addition to its lexical meaning, by what circumstances, by whom, to whom, and for what purpose it is said. For example: “Will you close the window?” Although this sentence is structurally an interrogative sentence, pragmatically it conveys the meaning of a request. This case demonstrates the most important aspect of pragmatic semantics - the contextual variability of meaning.

According to the theories of Austin and Searle, each speech act includes three components: Locutionary act - a grammatically and semantically formed sentence; Illocutionary act - the speaker's intention (command, request, advice, message, etc.); Perlocutionary act - the effect produced in the listener (confidence, surprise, agreement, etc.). Therefore, pragmatic semantics reveals the practical communicative function of language by analyzing this illocutionary meaning.

Gray's "cooperative principle" is a key factor in understanding implicit meaning in speech. It proposes four basic rules: The rule of quantity - to provide as much information as necessary; The rule of quality - to provide only the right information; The rule of argument - to stay on topic; The rule of method - to express ideas clearly and systematically. The deliberate or unintentional failure to comply with these rules creates implicature, that is, hidden pragmatic meaning. For example:

A: “Did you go to class today?”

B: “The teacher was not there.”

This answer has the implicit meaning (implicature) of “no, I didn’t go.”

Contextual semantics: Context is an important factor in determining the meaning of a word or sentence. Pragmatic semantics views context as a semantic component of speech. Therefore, the same word can have different meanings in different contexts. “He walked” — (1) walked with courage (courage), (2) walked on foot (action). Contextual semantics is closely related to the experience, social situation, and cultural knowledge between the speaker and the listener.

Pragmatic semantics studies deictic units (I, this, now, here, etc.). Deixis indicates the speaker's speech position. For example, “I” is a variable unit with respect to time and place - it always depends on the context. This reflects the subjective nature of language.

Presuppozitsiya — bu gapda yashirin holda mavjud, lekin soʻzlovchi va tinglovchiga allaqachon maʼlum boʻlgan axborotdir. Masalan: “Ali yana keldi.” Bu gapda “Ali ilgari ham kelgan” degan presuppozitsiya mavjud. Pragmatik semantika presuppozitsiyani muloqotning kognitiv tayanch elementi sifatida koʻradi.

Lexical semantics studies the internal meaning of words, their paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships. Pragmatic semantics analyzes the meaning of words in use. For example, the word “light” lexically means the absence of heaviness, but pragmatically it has an

evaluative meaning in contexts such as "light work", "light behavior". Cognitive semantics studies how meaning is formed in the human mind. Pragmatic semantics answers the question of how this meaning is understood and used. Thus, cognitive semantics is the internal model of meaning, and pragmatic semantics is its external, communicative form.

Pragmatic semantics plays an important role in discourse analysis, because discourse is a chain of consecutive pragmatic units. Each replica contains speech acts, implicatures, and presuppositions, which together create a continuous flow of content. Pragmatic semantics plays an important role in teaching foreign languages. Because in addition to grammatical correctness, pragmatic competence — that is, "knowing when, to whom, and how to speak" — also determines communicative success. In translation theory, pragmatic semantics helps to correctly convey contextual meanings. For example, if the English expression "Could you open the window?" is translated as "Please open the window," rather than as "Would you open the window?", the pragmatic meaning is preserved. In modern language technologies (chatbots, automatic translation, voice systems), systems that understand context are being created by developing pragmatic semantics algorithms. This area is important as a practical form of semantic modeling. In Uzbek linguistics, pragmatics issues have been actively studied in recent decades. In particular, scientists such as N. Mahmudov, A. Nurmonov, D. Khudoyberganova, M. Jo'raev, M. Mamajonov, N. Rasulova have analyzed the issues of the content-pragmatic layers of speech, subjective assessment, speaker intention, and cultural context in their research. A distinctive feature of pragmatic units in the Uzbek language is their richness in cultural and social connotation. For example: "Please, come in." Although this sentence is grammatically an order, pragmatically it is an expression of respect and hospitality. Therefore, the national characteristics of the Uzbek language are of particular importance in the study of pragmatic semantics.

Pragmatic semantics is a fundamental direction in linguistics that analyzes the relationship between meaning and context. It represents a new stage in semantic analysis, since it studies meaning not only as part of the language system, but also in conjunction with social, psychological and communicative factors in the speech process. This approach reveals the contextual, implicit and intentional meanings of language units. Therefore, pragmatic semantics is of great practical importance not only theoretically, but also in the fields of language teaching, translation, speech culture, and communicative technologies. Further development of pragmatic semantics will allow us to deepen the areas of discursive, cognitive and cultural pragmatics in Uzbek linguistics.

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