

PRAGMATICS

I Consider the following dialogues and try to draw their conversational implicatures.

1 Mary: Did you manage to fix that leak?

Jim: I tried to.

2 Tom: Who used all the printer paper?

Dick: I used some of it.

3 Gina: I hear you're always late with the rent.

Robin: Well, sometimes I am.

4 Jenny: Mike and Annie should be here by now. Was their plane late?

Alfred: Possibly

5 Gwen: This cheese looks funny. The label said not to keep the cheese in the freezer.

Alvin: Yeah, I did see the label.

6 Mat: What's wrong with your mother?

Chris: Let's go to the garden.

7 Carmen: Did you buy the car?

Patricia: I cost twice as much as I thought it would.

8 Robert: Where's the salad dressing?

Gabriela: We've run out of olive oil.

9 Linda: Are you going to Mark's party tonight?

Anna: My parents are in town.

10 Maggie: The bathroom's flooded!

James: Someone must have left the tap on.

11 Mark: How do you like your bath?

Eric: Warm.

12 Doris: What do you think of this necklace and bracelet?

Patrick: The bracelet is beautiful.

13 Alice: Have you seen my sweater?

Max: There's a sweater on the sofa.

14 Phil: How did you do on these exams?

Lois: I failed physics.

- 15 Rick: It works now.
Janet: When did Eric fix it?

II Identify the presupposition(s) in the following sentences:

- 1 The CD you gave me is quite interesting.
- 2 I regret missing the last lecture.
- 3 Can you stop coming home after midnight?
- 4 It's odd how tricky the final exam is.
- 5 My wife pretended to be please with my answer.
- 6 Did you return the book to the library?
- 7 He didn't manage to support himself.
- 8 I'm going to buy some milk for the little child.
- 9 I wish I hadn't turned down his proposal.
- 10 I am not able to go to Hanoi this weekend.

III Interpret the meaning of each of the following utterances and then classify it according to various kinds of SPEECH ACTS.

- 1 'Thank you for the advice'
A: Thank you for the advice.
B: My pleasure
- 2 'Is Molly here?'
A: Is Molly here?
B: No, she just went out to lunch.
- 3 'You'll be too hot in the sun.'
A: I think I'll put on the wool suit.
B: You'll be too hot in the sun.
- 4 'It costs too much.'
A: Let's go to a real restaurant for a change.
B: It costs too much.

5 'I'm sorry.'

A: He'll be thirteen tomorrow.

B: I'm sorry. Did you say thirty or thirteen.

6 'He must have left for work.'

A: Did you call him?

B: He wasn't home. He must have left for work.

7 'I hear you've found a new apartment'

A: I hear you've found a new apartment.

B: Yes, I'm moving tomorrow.

8 'I've never been there'

A: What do you think of California?

B: I've never been there.

9 'I can't open the door.'

A: I can't open the door.

B: Pull it. Don't push it.

10 'Pull it. Don't push it.'

A: I can't open the door.

B: Pull it. Don't push it.

11 'Coco's sick.'

A: Coco's sick.

B: I'll take her to the vet.

11 'I'll take her to the vet'

A: Coco's sick.

B: I'll take her to the vet.

IV For each of the following utterances, provide two situations so that one utterance performs two different acts. Interpret the utterances and identify the acts performed in the light of the situations you provide.

1 It's cold in here.

SITUATION 1:

A:

B:

SITUATION 2:

A:

B:

2 Why don't you study French.

SITUATION 1:

A:

B:

SITUATION 2:

A:

B:

3 Do you know what time it is?

SITUATION 1:

SITUATION 2:

A:

B:

SITUATION 3:

A:

B