

OT and Pragmatics: Introduction

1. The advantages of doing pragmatics within OT
 - a. helps to explicate hidden assumptions. The general advantages of having a (semi)formal framework. Helps to clarify the relation to other frameworks (Relevance Theory - Robert van Rooy, Cognitive Semantics - Torgrim Solstad, Abduction and Poole Systems - Tolja Strigin, The use of defaults in different pragmatic frameworks – Rob van der Sandt)
 - b. connections with other parts of OT (learning, language change, processing, connectionist and probabilistic foundations)
 - c. helps to clarify the status of pragmatic anomalies, pragmatic blocking etc.
 - d. seek for an uniform system of constraints. The external grounding of OT-constraints (Gärtner)
 - e. helps to overcome the boundaries between syntax, semantics and pragmatics
 - f. Can OT help to find a rational foundation for pragmatics? (Grice, Stalnaker)

2. Pragmatics as going beyond standard OT:
 - a. graded constraints
 - b. graded anomalies (correctness)
 - c. relational constraints
 - d. the problems with linear ranking (why??? Automatic and controlled processing)
 - e. the asymmetry of bidirectional OT (Henk Zeevat). Is the asymmetry based on “asymmetric” constraints, or upon the basic architecture of bidirection, or the special role of context?
Solutions to the rad-rat problem?? (Gärtner, Blutner)

3. The role of context in OT
 - a. Input context as an external (fixed) parameter
 - b. context as a level of representation that is involved into the optimisation procedure. Accommodation as a mechanism that looks for an optimal context. The general problem of selecting the input context.

4. OT and diachronic linguistics.
 - a. The status of iconicity (Blutner)
 - b. Conversational implicatures as triggering grammaticalization (Hans-Martin Gärtner)
 - c. OT and developing a theory of grammaticalization (Henk Zeevat)

5. The status of modularity. The division of labour between pragmatics and syntax/semantics
 - a. binding theory (Jason Mattausch)
 - b. focus theories (Petra Hendriks, Helen de Hoop)
 - c. word ordering (Ralf Vogel, Hanjung Lee)

6. New horizons
 - a. Corpus and OT
 - b. evolutionary game theory and OT (Robert van Rooy)
 - c. OT and the solution of some puzzles in the philosophy of language (Paul Dekker, Maria Aloni)
 - d. OT and psycholinguistics (Jennifer Spenader)