

Preliminaries of an  
**Indirectness Hypothesis**

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# Intent of Inquiries

Language Acquisition via:

- Principles
- Rules
- Tendencies
- Hypotheses

# Principle of Indirectness

Direct is Negative (bad, undesirable, offensive)

Indirect is Positive (desirable, euphoric, respectful)

# Non-linguistic Indirectness

# Indirect Linguistic Strategies

- Lexical Items, Vocabulary Items
- Utterances, Sentences
- Implicitly Indirect (indirectly indirect!)
- Explicitly Indirect (directly indirect!)

詞語

# Euphemisms

- A euphemism is a generally innocuous word, name, or phrase that replaces an offensive or suggestive one.
- To amuse, ...to give positive appearance to...
- Euphemisms are used for dissimulation, to refer to taboo topics (disability, sex, or death) in a polite way, and to mask profanity.

(Wikipedia)

# Situations calling for Euphemism

- **Job Titles:** 清潔隊員, 駕駛先生, 阿姨
- **Handicap:** 失聰, 弱智, 智障, xx不方便
- **Death:** 過去, 千古, 沒有了
- **Physical Appearance:** 發福, 苗條, 長相並不怎麼樣
- **‘Outhouse’:** 廁所>衛生間>洗手間>化妝室>( ? 休息間)
- **Profanity:** xxx, 神經
- **Adult/sex:** 成人, 情趣, 車震, 小三
- (有了, 處理了, 喝多了, 上臉了, .....



# Loan-words

- Language Contact:
- Filters: taboo, sound, meaning, relatedness, comprehension, logograph

# Taiwan

- **Phonetic Loan:** 秀, 漢堡, 起士, 馬拉松, 巧克力, 甜不辣
- **Semantic Loan:** 最愛, 新鮮人, 智慧型手機, 太陽眼鏡, 下午茶, 手機
- **Mixed:** 熱巧克力, 大麥克, 血腥瑪麗
- **+Footnote:** 微波爐, 隨身聽, 奇異果, 愛滋病, 吉普車

# Mainland

- **Phonetic:** 模特, 克隆, 卡司
- **Semantic:** 激光, 打印機, 奶酪
- **Mixed:** 新西蘭, 南蘇丹, 因特網
- **+Footnote:** 漢堡包, 呼拉圈, 踢踏舞, 比薩餅

# Evolution of Loan-words

Borrowed=> Exotic=> Assimilation=> Localised

Eng. 'tea', Ch. 葡萄

Localised as phonetic? As semantic? Other routes?

Yao (1991): 昆布=> 海帶

Teng (1996): 理想國=> 烏托邦, 智慧型手機=> 斯麥托芬,  
老人痴呆症=> 阿茲海默症

Phonetic Loans=> Direct borrowing (Japan, USA etc)

# 歇後語

- 挨鞭子不挨棍子——吃軟不吃硬
- 挨打的狗去咬雞——拿別人出氣
- 挨打的烏龜——縮脖子
- 挨刀的鴨子——亂竄
- 挨了巴掌賠不是——奴顏媚骨
- 挨了棒的狗——氣急敗壞
- 挨了打的鴨子——亂竄

# 成語

- 畫蛇添足 (=>多此一舉)
- 孟母三遷
- 螳螂捕蟬
- 草船借箭
- 緣木求魚

# 雙關語

- 谐音双关和语义双关都是一语关顾表里两层含意，其中蕴含着的不直接说出来的含意是表意所在，既要含而不露，又要使人体会得到，寻味得出，不能造成误会或歧义。
- 东边日出西边雨,道是无晴却有晴（情）。
- 嫩蛤蟆跳井一一扑通（不懂）。
- 新事业从头做起，旧现象一手推平。(理髮店廣告)

# 話語, 言談

- 能不能大聲一點兒?
- 好吵哦!!
- 經驗不夠.

# 句子形式 vs 句子功能

- 陳述, 祈使, 疑問, 感嘆
- Too strong
- Over-generate



# Speech Acts

- **Searle (1975): Illocutionary Acts** 言外行为  
Assertives 阐述, Directives 指令, Commissive 承诺,  
Expressives 表达, Declarations 宣告
- **Searle (1975): Indirect Speech Acts**  
"In indirect speech acts the speaker communicates to the hearer more than he actually says by way of relying on their mutually shared background information, both linguistic and nonlinguistic, together with the general powers of rationality and inference on the part of the hearer."

Searle introduces the notions of 'primary' and 'secondary' illocutionary acts. The **primary** illocutionary act is **the indirect one**, which is not literally performed. The **secondary** illocutionary act is the **direct one**, performed in the literal utterance of the sentence (Searle 178).

# Cooperative Principle: Grice (1975)

- Maxim of Quantity (數量準則)
- Maxim of Quality (質量準則)
- Maxim of Relation (關聯準則)
- Maxim of Manner (方式準則)

# Violations of CP

Leech (1983)

- We'll miss Bill and Agatha, won't we?
- Well, we'll miss Bill.

# Politeness Principles and Strategies

- Leech (1983):
  - Six Maxims
  - 惠 vs 损
- Brown & Levinson (1978):
  - Face
  - Redressive Strategies (補救策略)

- A. Do the act on-record
  - 1. Baldy, without redress 1
  - 2. With positive politeness 2
  - 3. With negative politeness redress 3
- B. Do the act off-record 4
- C. Don't do the act 5

## Yule (1996)

1. Give me a pen!
2. How about letting me use your pen?
3. Could you lend me a pen?
4. I forgot my pen.
5. Ø

# (在期末考場)

1. 請交卷!
2. 現在交卷, 好嗎?
3. 能不能現在交卷?
4. 校車快開了.
5. (.....)



# **Reformulations**

# Redressive Strategies

1. On-record Baldy
2. On-record Positive
3. On-record Negative
4. Off-record
5. Don't do the FTA

# Directness

- Direct
- Indirect-1
- Indirect-2
- Indirect-3
- ∅

		∅
Direct	廁所	↑
Indirect-1	衛生間	↑
Indirect-2	洗手間	↑
Indirect-3	化妝室	↑
	休息間	↑

Direct

(你這樣做什麼?)

Indirect-1

多此一舉

Indirect-2

畫蛇添足

Indirect-3

浪費時間!

- Direct

請交卷！

- Indirect-1

現在交卷, 好嗎?

- Indirect-2

能不能現在交卷?

- Indirect-3

校車快開了.

- 能不能大聲一點兒？

- 好吵哦！！

- 經驗不夠。

# Concluding Remarks

- Applications to other speech acts: 讚美, 拒絕, 接受, .....
- Speech acts not bipartite, but in gradation.
- Pedagogical applications.
- Communicative Competence.

Thank You

# References

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