

“Introduction to Linguistics”
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ONLINE via Webex:
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I. Speech acts

Consider the following excerpt from the SUITS series:

MIKE speeds on his bike towards Pearson Hardman, suited up, briefs sticking out of his shoulder bag. He weaves through a couple of suits. He cuts the corner close and SCREECH. He swerves, narrowly missing RACHEL, who spills her coffee.

RACHEL

Watch it!

Mike leaps off his bike. Rachel shakes coffee off her hands.

MIKE

(A) I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

RACHEL

(A) There are easier ways to kill me if you're worried that I'll rat you out for LSAT cheating.

(...)

MIKE

(B) Let me buy you a fresh cup.

RACHEL

(B) Does that mean you'll actually buy it? Or steal it?

(C)

MIKE

(C) Okay, I don't steal. I cheat. There's a difference. And I don't do it anymore.

RACHEL

Great defense. "I know I murdered her, your honor, but I promise I won't do it anymore --"

MIKE

Funny. Me and a murderer. Totally the same thing. You must've aced your analogy section on the SATs. Oh wait -- you can't take tests.

RACHEL

Actually, I was using hyperbole to make a point. Like, say, if I were to call you a complete asshole. I'm only trying to illustrate the point that you're a complete asshole.¹

1. Specify which conversational maxims of the Cooperative Principle are being violated in A and B and which one was successful in the point C.

A:

B:

C:

II. Text linguistics

2. What is a text?

¹ Erica Lipez. 2011. SUITS "Play the Man" Episode #107, p .1-2.

3. What is the difference between coherence and cohesion?

4. Underline cohesive devices in the following part of the Wikipedia entry:

Text linguistics is a branch of linguistics that deals with texts as communication systems. Its original aims lay in uncovering and describing text grammars. (...) In general, it is an application of discourse analysis at the much broader level of text, rather than just a sentence or word.²

² En.wikipedia.org. 2021. *Text linguistics*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_linguistics> [29 January 2021].