

Homework 11

Recap: Semantics

Course: Introduction to Linguistics – Instructor: Alexander Rauhut
Due date: 01.02.2021

1. Speech acts

What is the sentence type, the direct and indirect speech act expressed by the following utterances.

- (1) Legolas's mother: Eat your Lembas, young man!
- (2) Legolas's mother again: Your tree house is tidy tonight or there's no more orc hunting!
- (3) Legolas drops his full coffee mug on Gimli's white warg-skin carpet, to which Gimli reacts with:
Are you serious?
- (4) Legolas: Alas, what darkness has befallen this white rug!

2. Felicity conditions

What felicity conditions have to be met in order for the following utterance to have an effect on the interlocutor?

- (5) You are banished forthwith from the Kingdom of Rohan, and all its demains, under pain of death.

3. Dad jokes

Consider the following exchange:

- (6) A little boy ran up to me "please help, my Dad is in a fight". I followed and we came across two men fighting. I said, " Ok, which one is your Dad?"..
.. I dunno, that's what they're fighting about

What conversational maxim is flouted. What was implied, what was presupposed, and why is the situation unexpected?

(example taken from <https://twitter.com/Dadsaysjokes>)