Pragmatics

Jean Peccei

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Jean Stilwell Peccei

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CONTENTS

	Using this book	*vii*
	Acknowledgements	*viii*
1	What is pragmatics?	1
2	Entailment	9
3	Presupposition	16
4	The co-operative principle and implicature	24
5	More on implicatures	32
6	Speech acts	40
7	More about speech acts	48
8	Politeness	57
9	Making sense	68
10	Exploring pragmatics: projects	76
	Answers to further exercises	*79*
	Bibliography	*86*
	Index	*88*

For Patch

USING THIS BOOK

Key word

This workbook has been written for all those who are embarking on the study of pragmatics for the first time and have little or no prior background in linguistics. Because of this, technical terminology has been kept to a minimum. Where specialist terms have been intro duced, they are explained in the text. You will find them highlighted as KEY WORDS. As you will see in **Unit 1,** pragmatics is primarily concerned with what speakers mean rather than what words or sentences mean. For the sake of brevity, the use of *speaker* in these units also includes *writer* and the use of *hearer* also includes *reader*.

You should not need to do any supplementary reading while you are working your way through this book. However, the **Further Reading** section at the end of each unit will provide you with suggested background reading and the sources for the research and data which we will be discussing in the units.

Unit 1 explores the relationship between semantics and pragmatics, the two branches of linguistics that look at meaning. **Units 2–9** cover some of the basic techniques and key concepts involved in studying and analysing pragmatic meaning. As you work through these units you will find a number of exercises. Each **Exercise** is followed by a **Comment** section with a solution to the problem posed by the data and a further discussion of the topic under consideration. This workbook takes a 'hands on' approach to studying language, and you will get much more out of the units if you complete each exercise before moving on to the **Comment** section. At the end of **Units 1–8** you will find **Further Exercises** which will give you the chance to practise and consolidate your skills. Answers to these exercises appear at the end of the workbook. All the units also have **Supplementary Exercises** and **Discussion Questions** which allow for more independent work. These exercises and questions do not have model answers, and if you are not using this book as part of a taught course, you may find it helpful to discuss your answers with someone else.

By the time you finish the first nine units, I hope that you will want to take your newly acquired skills into the real world. **Unit 10** provides you with ideas and guidance for carrying out several short research projects involving pragmatic analysis.

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