

Pragmatics II

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Week 9

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LING 20001: Introduction to Linguistics

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- This is a **scalar implicature**.

amazing > great > good > average > bad > terrible

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amazing > great > good > average > bad > terrible
- The inference is that the movie was not higher on this scale (given the **Maxim of Quantity**).

Scalar implicatures



Scalar implicatures



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... > 40 > ... > 20 > ... > 10 > ...

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Scalar implicatures

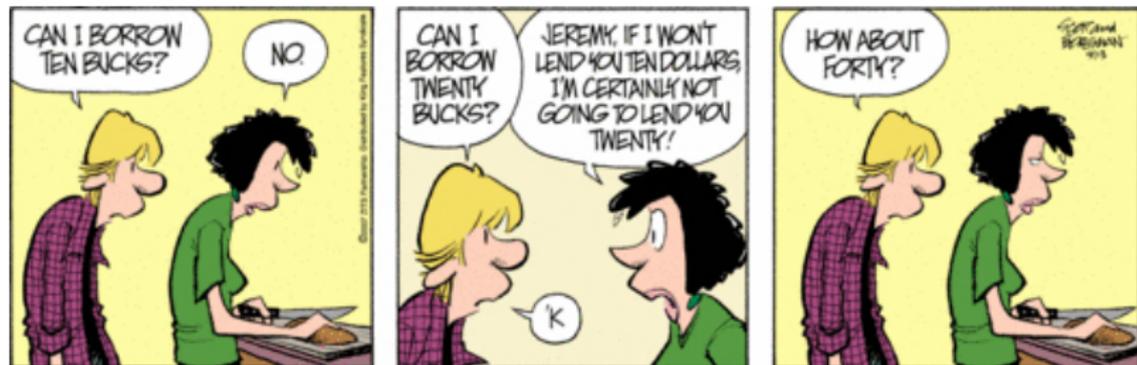


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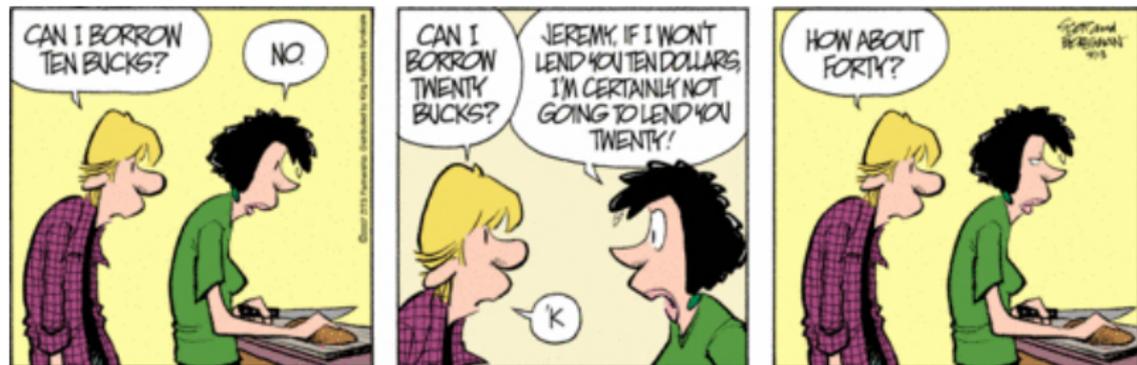


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- Presuppositions differ from implicatures in **still being present** under negation/questions:

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- This leads to a **presupposition failure** when we try to evaluate the truth conditions of the sentence.
- Nevertheless, we know what the world would have to look like for this sentence to be true (cf. Unicorns have purple horns).

Summary

	cancelable?	reinforceable?	present under negation/q's?
implicature	✓	✓	✗
presupposition	✗	✗	✓

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (28) Jake forgot to clean his room.
Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (28) Jake forgot to clean his room.
Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

- (29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(31) Jake didn't forget to clean to his room.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(31) Jake didn't forget to clean to his room.

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(31) Jake didn't forget to clean to his room.

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

(32) Did Jake forget to clean his room?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(31) Jake didn't forget to clean to his room.

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

(32) Did Jake forget to clean his room?

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(28) Jake forgot to clean his room.

Inference: Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- **Cancelability:**

(29) Jake forgot to clean his room, #but he wasn't supposed to.

- **Reinforceability:**

(30) Jake forgot to clean his room, #and in fact he was supposed to.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(31) Jake didn't forget to clean to his room.

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

(32) Did Jake forget to clean his room?

→ Jake was supposed to clean his room.

- This inference is an **presupposition**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(33) I have done some of the homework assignments.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (36) It's not the true that I have done some of the homework assignments.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (36) It's not the true that I have done some of the homework assignments.
↪ I haven't done all of the homework assignments.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (36) It's not the true that I have done some of the homework assignments.
↪ I haven't done all of the homework assignments.
- (37) Have do you done some of the homework assignments?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (36) It's not the true that I have done some of the homework assignments.
↗ I haven't done all of the homework assignments.
- (37) Have do you done some of the homework assignments?
↗ You haven't done all the homework assignments

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (33) I have done some of the homework assignments.
Inference: I haven't done all the homework assignments.

- **Cancelability:**

- (34) I have done some of the homework assignments, in fact I have done all of them.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (35) I have done most of the homework assignments, but I haven't done all of them.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (36) It's not the true that I have done some of the homework assignments.
↗ I haven't done all of the homework assignments.

- (37) Have do you done some of the homework assignments?
↗ You haven't done all the homework assignments

- This inference is an **implicature**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

(40) Mary bought another house, #in fact she already has one.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

(40) Mary bought another house, #in fact she already has one.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

(40) Mary bought another house, #in fact she already has one.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(41) Mary didn't buy another house. / Did Mary buy another house?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

(40) Mary bought another house, #in fact she already has one.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(41) Mary didn't buy another house. / Did Mary buy another house?
→ Mary already has a house

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(38) Mary bought another house
Inference: Mary already has a house.

- **Cancelability:**

(39) Mary bought another house, #but she doesn't already have one.

- **Reinforceability:**

(40) Mary bought another house, #in fact she already has one.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

(41) Mary didn't buy another house. / Did Mary buy another house?
→ Mary already has a house

- This inference is a **presupposition**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(42) He sat down and took off his coat

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability**:

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability**:

(43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability**:

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability**:

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability**:

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

(43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

(44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (45) Did he sit down and take off his coat?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (45) Did he sit down and take off his coat?
↗ He did it in that order.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (45) Did he sit down and take off his coat?
↷ He did it in that order.
- (46) It's not true that he sat down and took off his coat.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (45) Did he sit down and take off his coat?
↗ He did it in that order.

- (46) It's not true that he sat down and took off his coat.
↗ He did it in that order.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (42) He sat down and took off his coat
Inference: He did it in that order.

- **Cancelability:**

- (43) He sat down and took off his coat, but not in that order.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (44) He sat down and took off his coat, in fact he did it in that order.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (45) Did he sit down and take off his coat?
↗ He did it in that order.

- (46) It's not true that he sat down and took off his coat.
↗ He did it in that order.

- This inference is a **implicature**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (49) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #in fact you didn't here on time.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (49) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #in fact you didn't here on time.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (49) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #in fact you didn't here on time.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (50) It's not that the case that we could have left, if you had got here on time.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (49) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #in fact you didn't here on time.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (50) It's not that the case that we could have left, if you had got here on time.
→ You didn't get here on time

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (47) If you had got here on time, we could have left.
Inference: You didn't get here on time.

- **Cancelability:**

- (48) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #and you did get here on time.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (49) If you had got here on time, we wouldn't have been late, #in fact you didn't here on time.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (50) It's not that the case that we could have left, if you had got here on time.
→ You didn't get here on time

- This inference is a **presupposition**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(51) James found out that Mary bought a house

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

(52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (53) James found out that Mary bought a house, #and in fact she did.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (53) James found out that Mary bought a house, #and in fact she did.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (53) James found out that Mary bought a house, #and in fact she did.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (54) James didn't find out that Mary bought a house / Did James find out that Mary bought a house?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (53) James found out that Mary bought a house, #and in fact she did.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (54) James didn't find out that Mary bought a house / Did James find out that Mary bought a house?
↪ Mary bought a house

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (51) James found out that Mary bought a house
Inference: Mary bought a house

- **Cancelability:**

- (52) James found out that Mary bought a house, #but she didn't.

- **Reinforceability:**

- (53) James found out that Mary bought a house, #and in fact she did.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

- (54) James didn't find out that Mary bought a house / Did James find out that Mary bought a house?
↪ Mary bought a house

- This inference is a **presupposition**.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?
B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

- (55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?
B: There is a gas station on the corner.
Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner and you can buy cigarettes there.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner and you can buy cigarettes there.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner and you can buy cigarettes there.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

B: There isn't a gas station on the corner. / Is there a gas station on the corner?

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner and you can buy cigarettes there.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

B: There isn't a gas station on the corner. / Is there a gas station on the corner?

→ You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

Doing pragmatics: Presupposition or implicature?

(55) A: Where can I buy cigarettes?

B: There is a gas station on the corner.

Inference: You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- **Cancelability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner, but you can't buy cigarettes there.

- **Reinforceability:**

B: There is a gas station on the corner and you can buy cigarettes there.

- **Constancy under negation/questions:**

B: There isn't a gas station on the corner. / Is there a gas station on the corner?

→ You can buy cigarettes at the gas station.

- This inference is an **implicature**.