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978-0-521-87097-9 - Pragmatics and Non-Verbal Communication

Tim Wharton

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COMMUNICATION

The way we say the words we say helps us convey our intended meanings. Indeed, the tone of voice we use, the facial expressions and bodily gestures we adopt while we are talking, often add entirely new layers of meaning to those words. How the natural non-verbal properties of utterances interact with linguistic ones is a question that is often largely ignored. This book redresses the balance, providing a unique examination of non-verbal behaviours from a pragmatic perspective. It charts a point of contact between pragmatics, linguistics, philosophy, cognitive science, ethology and psychology, and provides the analytical basis to answer some important questions: How are non-verbal behaviours interpreted? What do they convey? How can they be best accommodated within a theory of utterance interpretation?

TIM WHARTON is an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London. He is a member of the International Pragmatics Association and is a regular contributor and reviewer for a number of international journals in language, philosophy and cognition. His previous book publications include contributions to *The Pragmatics Encyclopedia* (2009), for which he was a consultant editor, and *Pragmatics and Theory of Mind* (2009). Prior to his academic career, he was a singer-songwriter and has written and recorded a number of songs which are still used as teaching resources for those learning English as a foreign language.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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*This book is dedicated to my two beautiful daughters,  
Xani and Zoë, and to the memory of Mary Wharton.*

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i>	<i>ix</i>
1	Natural pragmatics	I
	Introduction	I
	Overview	10
2	Natural and non-natural meaning	18
	Gricean meaning <sub>NN</sub>	18
	Showing and meaning <sub>NN</sub>	25
	Deliberately shown natural behaviours	30
3	Pragmatics and the domain of pragmatic principles	38
	Relevance theory and the showing–meaning <sub>NN</sub> continuum	38
	Semantic undeterminacy and lexical pragmatics	47
	Translational and non-translational activation of concepts	57
4	Interjections and language	70
	Interjections	70
	Interjections and concepts	74
	Interjections and ‘response cries’	80
	Interjections and meaning: ‘what do interjections communicate?’	84
	Interjections and procedures: ‘how do interjections communicate?’	89
	Interjections and language: ‘are interjections part of language?’	92
	The naturalness of interjections	98
5	Natural codes	107
	Codes, signs and signals	107
	What type of information is conveyed by natural codes?	117
	Concepts, procedures and meta-procedures	128

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
6	Prosody and gesture	139
	Prosody	139
	What does prosody encode?	145
	Gesture	149
7	Mindreaders	155
	Other minds	155
	Experimental evidence and future directions	165
8	The showing–meaning <sub>NN</sub> continuum and beyond	171
	Two ‘showing–meaning’ continua	171
	A prince among primates	176
	Myths	184
	Beyond	191
	<i>References</i>	195
	<i>Index</i>	211

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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