

言語学

(1)

(A) みんなが教室から出ようとしているのを呼び止めた
と

(B) みんなが教室から出ようとしているところを呼び止めた
とはどう違うのかを論じなさい。

(2) 最近の日本語に見られるイントネーションに、半疑問（半クエスチョン、語尾上げ）と呼ばれる現象がある。これはなぜ生まれ、どのような機能を果たしているのか、考えを述べなさい。

(3) 次の文を読んで論点を要約しなさい。さらに、ここにあげられているような現象が言語に存在するのはなぜかを考えて、自分の見解を述べなさい。

A famous problem with independent truth-based semantic theories involves contradictions and tautologies. An assertion like ‘The sum of 1 plus 1 is the sum of 1 plus 1’ seems totally vacuous, since it asserts that something is identical to itself. Such assertions (loosely called *tautologies*), considered out of context, ought to be meaningless. Nevertheless, many tautological assertions are meaningful and fairly common, such as ‘War is war’, or ‘If he gets here on time, he gets here on time; if he doesn’t, he doesn’t’; or the line attributed to baseball player and manager Yogi Berra: ‘It’s never over till it’s over’. All three ought to be maddeningly pointless things to say, but of course they are not. However, in order to make ‘War is war’, or ‘It’s never over till it’s over’ meaningful, considerable background knowledge on the part of the hearer has to be assumed. In the first case, you have to assume that the hearer knows what war is like and knows that the speaker has a similar knowledge of what war is like and, further, that the speaker finds the concept so overwhelming that it seems impossible to say anything more than that war is what it is. Berra’s quip has to be taken in the context of sports contests, in which one-sided scores near the end of the game can tempt participants and fans to assume the game is as good as over, but that teams which are far behind occasionally rally to win. In both cases, the explanation involves assuming a speaker, a hearer, and what they know about the world.

No such assumptions make sense unless the sentence is actually uttered by real people in a particular world-context. The case of ‘If he gets here on time, he gets here on time; if he doesn’t, he doesn’t’ is a little different. To make sense of this, it is

necessary to assume that the speaker would *not* be so inconsiderate of the hearer as to say something completely pointless. The hearer will instead suppose that the speaker intended to convey *something* meaningful and will try to infer what it is. The inference is doubtless that the speaker proposes making no special concessions for the person referred to as 'he', such as waiting for him if he should not be on time. The idea that people in conversations assume that others in the conversation are trying to say something meaningful is essentially H. Paul Grice's *cooperative principle*, which will give us the foundation for a solution to this whole set of semantic problems. The mechanism will not work, though, unless there is a speaker and a hearer and both assume the other is trying to communicate. This entails that the apparently tautological sentence has actually been uttered by somebody to somebody.

Contradictions are involved in a similar effect. A statement such as 'The number 1 is not the number 1', since it denies that something is identical to itself, is contradictory, and hence false under any conditions. As such it would seem useless to assert a contradiction; it would fail even as a lie. But, like tautologies, contradictions are not uncommonly used and used meaningfully. An example I actually heard is 'Glenn couldn't sing even if he could'. This was said of a man assumed to have no particular talent for vocal music and who also found it necessary to clear his throat frequently. The speaker meant that even if Glenn had the necessary talent, his throat-clearing would prevent him from being able to sing. Quite often apparent contradictions, like this one, involve a proposition being false in one sense while it is simultaneously true in the other. The speaker leaves it to the hearer to select the appropriate senses, based on the assumption that the hearer will take it for granted that the speaker is trying to communicate something reasonable. Another example, 'Harold isn't himself today', is a contradiction that has become a conventional way of saying that a person cannot be expected to behave in the way he normally would. As with tautologies, in order for contradictions to be meaningful they have to be uttered in context.

Another problem arises in such cases as 'The evening star is the morning star', a much-discussed example. If you know that the morning star and the evening star are both manifestations of the planet Venus, and you consider only the *referents* to the terms 'morning star' and 'evening star' then the sentence 'The evening star is the morning star' is tautologous. Of course, someone can perfectly well use the sentence to inform someone who does not know that particular fact of astronomy. Even if the identity of the 'morning star' and the 'evening star' is known, it is possible as McCawley points out, to say 'The morning star is more beautiful than the evening star', meaning simply that the view of Venus in the morning is more esthetically pleasing than the view of the same

planet in the evening. Somewhat similarly there is a problem evaluating the truth of ‘Hubert knows that Mr Hyde has a successful medical practice’. If Hubert knows that Dr Jekyll has a successful medical practice, but does not know that Mr Hyde is really Dr Jekyll, is the sentence true? Other problems arise with such sentences as ‘The Sheriff of Nottingham didn’t know that Robin Hood was Robin Hood’, supposing Robin Hood had fooled the sheriff with a disguise. Notice that this could be said even if the sheriff *did* know Robin Hood’s identity but did not know that he was exceptionally clever or an excellent bowman or had some other characteristic essential to Robin Hood’s nature. It is difficult to think of solutions to problems like these without taking into account what the speaker knows and believes about who is the same person as whom and what personal characteristics are essential to someone’s identity. Once more, this necessarily means we are talking about someone uttering a sentence at some place and time.

(R. Fasold による)