

# Modelling coordination of lexical meaning Towards dynamic lexicons and ontologies

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In everyday language we use old terms in new and innovative ways, as well as encountering other's idiosyncratic language behaviour. Most of the time this does not create any problems in understanding. If there are problems, we tend to negotiate and ask for explanation. In a Gricean spirit we have a responsibility as a speaker to ensure that we speak so that we are understood. With regard to this, we tend to use meta-communicative acts to alert the listener that we use a word in an presumably unorthodox way. In our signalling of innovative usage of a word the following questions arise:

- Which hedges, if any, are used?
- What syntactic cues?
- What pragmatic cues?

For the listener the following questions are relevant:

- How does the listener indicate that there is a misunderstanding, rejection or acceptance and uptake of the new or innovative word?
- How do we process a new word in our mental lexicon?

A third dimension is the consequence of these issues in a dialogue system. The speaker-related issues are probably most easily resolved with corpus studies, including transcripts of dialogues and video recordings. For the study of the listener, corpus studies will be important as well, and there will probably in addition be some studies using more experimental methods in trying to convey the mental lexicon and building ontologies. Dialogue participants play both the role of speaker and listener during the course of a conversation and many of the interesting research questions lie in the cooperation and interplay between them.