Implicature/Scalar Implicature (read Birner, Ch. 2)

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1. Explain the difference in implicatures in the following two utterances (Be sure to state what maxim is involved):

   a. I ate some sushi and I got sick.
   b. I got sick and I ate some sushi.

   How do the implicatures of both examples differ from the following?

   c. I put salt and pepper on my eggs.

   Speculate on what feature of (c) makes its implicature properties differ from those of (a) and (b). Hint: try experimenting with some paraphrases of (c).

2. For each of the following, "⇒" means "conversationally implicates". For purposes of this exercise, it means "possibly conversationally implciates". Your job in each case is to decide whether the second sentence really is a conversational implicature of the first. You will support your claim by applying one of the tests for conversational implicature in each case (implicatures are **cancellable, reinforceable,** and **detachable**). By the time you're done with the examples below you should have used each test at least once. If your test indicates that the second sentence is **not** a conversational implicature of the first, state whether there is an **alternative** semantic relation that does hold (for example, one sentence entails the other, or presupposes it, or conventionally implicates it, or they are contraries or contradictories). You do not need to perform a test to support these alternatives.

a.	I ate some sushi and I got sick.	⇒	I got sick because I ate some sushi.
b.	Rita is a linguistics student; therefore she is smart.	⇒	Linguistics students are usually smart.
c.	Alice is a tall taxi driver.	⇒	Alice is tall.
d.	Morgan has little money.	⇒	Morgan has money.
e.	Frank owns a compact Honda or a mid-sized Honda.	⇒	Frank owns a Honda.
f.	Frank owns a compact Honda or a mid-sized Honda.	⇒	Frank does not own both a compact Honda and a mid-sized Honda.
h.	Some questions on the pragmatics assignment were hard.	⇒	Not all the questions on the pragmatics asignment were hard.

3. For each of the following pairs of linguistic elements, decide whether the pair belongs to a Horn scale or not. If you decide they don't form a Horn scale, explain briefly why not. If they do, write down the Horn scale as we have written every Horn scale in lecture, with the more informative element on the right. Then construct an example of a quantity implicature using the elements of your hypothesized Horn scale. For example, given *all, some*, you would write:

⟨ some, all ⟩

and construct an example like

John ate some of the cookies Q-implicates *he did not eat all of them.*

Be careful not to confuse items on a Horn scale with contraries; *necessary* and *impossible* are not items on a Horn scale; they are contraries. since they are contraries, p is necessary entails p is not impossible, and that looks a lot like the property we're using to identify Horn scales.

One way to distinguish contraries from items on a Horn scale is the following fact. Scales always have a direction. A scalar implicature will always work one way but not the other. So in contrast to the case above, we have

> *John ate all of the cookies* does NOT Q-implicate *he did not eat some of them.* [= He ate none of the cookies.]

It's easy to see why it works this way: *all* cannot Q-implicate the negation of *some* because it entails *some.* So quantity implicatures on a Horn scale will always work only in one direction because they are based on one item being more informative than the other. Meanwhile contraries are always incompatible in both directions. so just as necessary implies not impossible, impossible implies not necessary.

Summary: contrary pairs and Horn-scale pairs are superficially similar in that one member of the pair will imply the negation of the other; but with Horn scale pairs, that implication will work in only one direction: if p_1 Q-implicates not p_2, it won't be the case that p_2 Q-implicates not p_1.

With contraries, we always have mutual incompatibility: p_1 implies not p_2 and p_2 implies not p_1.

a. black, white
b. hot, cold
c. free, cheap
d. intelligent, brilliant
e. attractive, stunning
f. gigantic, large
g. wet, soaked
h. spotless, clean