HG2002: Solutions to Tutorial 7
Context and Inference

Francis Bond <bond@ieee.org>

1. What are the deictic words/phrases in the following sentences? Identify each one as **space/time/person/social** or some combination of them.

   (1) *They tried to hurt me, but he came to the rescue.*
   Space: come; Time: tried, came; Person: they, me, he;

   (2) *The shop is across the street.*
   Space: across; Time: is

   (3) *She was sitting over there.*
   Space: over there; Time: was sitting; Person: she

   (4) *It is raining out now, but I hope when you read this it will be sunny.*
   Space: out?; Time: is raining; when you read this; Person: I, you

   (5) *I was born in London and I have lived there all my life.*
   Time: was, all my life; Person: I, my

   (6) *Wilt thou not listen to me?*
   Time: Wilt; Person: thou, me; Social: thou

2. Describe the features used in your own language's pronoun system, with examples. (e.g. for Modern English: person, number, gender)
   Japanese

   - Referent Gender: 彼 *kare* 3p:m; 彼女 *kanojo* 3p:f
   - Status/Solidarity: **2p**: あなた *anata* honored/formal; きみ *kimi* impolite/informal; おまえ *omae* very impolite/informal
     1p: 私 *watakushi* very formal; 私 *watashi* formal; ぼく *boku* impolite/informal; おれ *ore* very impolite/informal
     watashi/anata generally preferred by women; ore/omae by men
   - Person: 私 1p; あなた *anata* 2p; 彼／彼女 3p;

3. Give two examples each of **metonymy** and **synecdoche**.

   - **metonymy**
     - *The pen is mightier than the sword*
     - *I am tangled in red tape*
   - **synecdoche**: part for whole or vice-versa
     - *They had been fighting, these gray-beards and half-grown boys, for three days*
     - *I was interviewed by the Straits Times*

4. Explain what is going on here
(from *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* (*1976*))

Clouseau: Does your dog bite?
Hotel Clerk: No.
Clouseau: [bowing down to pet the dog] Nice doggie.
   [Dog barks and bites Clouseau in the hand]
Clouseau: I thought you said your dog did not bite!
Hotel Clerk: That is not my dog.

Closeau is assuming that the dog is the Clerk's, which is the most salient reading — a cooperative speaker should note if it is not the case; because the clerk doesn't it is anomalous (and funny)

5. Hedges are used when you know you will flout a maxim. Which maxim is flouted in the following hedges (and why)?:

   (7) *This may be a bit confusing, but I remember being in a car.*   Manner
   (8) *I may be mistaken, but I thought I saw a wedding ring on her finger.* Quality
   (9) *I won't bore you with all the details, but it was an exciting trip.* Quantity
   (10) *I don't know if this is important, but some of the files are missing.*   Relation
   (11) *As far as I know, they're married.*   Quality
   (12) *This may sound like a dumb question, but whose handwriting is this?* Relation
   (13) *I don't know if this is clear at all, but I think the other car was reversing.* Manner
   (14) *As you probably know, I am afraid of dogs.*   Quality

6. In the text you are annotating for project one try to find examples of different kinds of reference:

PRONOUN: Pronominal reference	*I saw a dog. It bit me.*
BRIDGE: Bridging reference	*I saw a dog. The owner was cute.*
DEFINITE: Reference with an NP	*I saw a dog. The animal bit me.*

   Email the examples you found to your tutor, in the following format:

   SID: sentence
   ROLE: NP: target (just enough to identify it:
             it may come from a previous sentence)

   For example:

   11934: If he did not take immediate action, surely the string would split in half at the middle, and he would fall.
   PRONOUN: he: Kandata
   DEFINITE: the string: the thinly shining spider's thread