

# HG2002: Tutorial 7

## Context and Inference

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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.*
- (2) *The shop is across the street.*
- (3) *She was sitting over there.*
- (4) *It is raining out now, but I hope when you read this it will be sunny.*
- (5) *I was born in London and I have lived there all my life.*
- (6) *Wilt thou not listen to me?*

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

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

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.

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

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 at least 24 hours before the tutorial.

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

**Acknowledgments** These questions are partially based on exercises from Saeed (2003).