



# IMPLICATURE

# Conversational Implicature

## Example 1

- A: Am I in time for supper?
- B: I've cleared the table.

What does B's proposition?

CI: *is the name given by some to non-truth-conditional aspects of meaning which are conventionally attached to particular linguistic forms.*

# How to recognize conversational implicatures.

## 1. Context dependence

An expression with a single meaning (i.e. expressing the same proposition) can give rise to different conversational implicatures in different contexts.

Example 2:

A: Have you cleared the table and washed the dishes?

B: I've cleared the table.



- **2. Defeasibility/cancellability**

CI can be cancelled by additional material without contradiction or anomaly.

Example 3:

A: Did the Minister attend the meeting and sign the agreement?

B: (1) The minister attended the meeting.

(2) The minister attended the meeting: a statement will be issued later with regard to the agreement.



- **3. Non-detachability**

The implicature is tied to meaning and not to form.

Example 4:

A: Have you cleared the table and wahed the dishes?

B: I've taken all the things off the table.





- **4. Calculability**

A conversational Implicature must be calculable, using storable general principles, on the basis of conventional meaning together with contextual information.