

Problem Set #4

The fourth problem set is due next Wednesday March 9th at 12 noon.

I. [adapted from a textbook by McCawley]

Give an account in terms of Gricean conversational implicature of why the slogan "We are serving Metro-Boston at over twenty locations" conveys that the company in question has fewer than 30 locations in the Metro-Boston area.

II. [from a textbook by Chierchia & McConnell-Ginet]

In each of the pairs below, sentence (a) conversationally implicates sentence (b). For each pair, provide a reason for thinking that the implication is not a truth-conditional entailment [consult Portner Section 11.1, pp. 203-205, and your class notes], and calculate the implicature as best you can, indicating where contextually specific premises need to be supplied.

(1) a. Joan swung at the ball.
b. Joan missed the ball.

(2) a. I wonder what time it is.
b. The speaker wants to be told what time it is by the addressee.

(3) a. Jill and Greg went to the movies.
b. Jill and Greg went to the movies together.