# 语用原则与测试及教学的关系

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#### 摘要

"合作原则(Cooperative Principle)"和"会话含义理论(Theory of Conversational Implicature)"是英语语用学中的两条著名原则,诸多中外学者如Grice,George Yule等,都对其进行了深入分析和探讨,并将其应用到了语言教学和某些社会实践中。然而,通过参阅这方面的研究专著和学术论文,笔者发现,对于这两条理论在英语测试中的实际应用的探讨尚不完善和明晰,留下了学术研讨中的空白和缺憾。有鉴于此,文章摘选了英语测试中的一些题目,从语用学的角度,通过"合作原则"和"会话含意原则"加以分析阐释,拟在该领域做一粗浅尝试,在英语教学和应对测试方面进行一些有益的探索,以期对教师的教学活动和学习者的应试技能有所帮助和借鉴。

#### 关键词

语用原则,合作原则,会话含义理论

# The Relations between Principles of Pragmatics and Tests & Teaching

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#### **Abstract**

Among various principles of pragmatics, "Cooperative Principle" and "Theory of Conversational Implicature" claim great significance, which have been well illustrated and adequately applied by a considerable number of scholars and experts like Grice, George Yule, etc. After consulting relevant works and literature in this sphere, the writer of this paper noticed, however, the exploration of the application of these two theories in English tests is far from enough. In view of this situation, the writer of this paper attempts to, by selecting some test items and from the perspective of "Co-

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operative Principle" and "Theory of Conversational Implicature" fill the blank in the research in this field.

#### **Keywords**

Principles of Pragmatics, Cooperative Principle, Theory of Conversational Implicature

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#### 1. 前言

人们在进行对话的时候,一般都要彼此合作。即"问有所答",回答的内容要符合提问者或说话者的要求和标准。"For reference to be successful, it was proposed that collaboration was a necessary factor."在接受提问者问题之时,听话者通常认为前者不会制造混淆或歧义,这种合作是对话能够正常进行的基础和核心。有鉴于此,著名语言学家 Grice 于 1967 年提出了著名的"合作原则"和"会话含义理论"[1]。

#### 2. 合作原则

Grice 注意到,在日常谈话中,人们通常不会直接说话,而是倾向于暗示。例如,男孩对女孩说:"你不戴眼镜的时候很漂亮",女孩立即回应"我戴眼镜的时候一定很丑"。男孩可能有理由否认女孩的理解,但不能完全否认这至少是他的暗示。有鉴于此,Grice 创造了含义(implicature)这个术语。他还探讨了人们如何设法传达没有明确表达的含义的问题[2]。

他说:"谈话有一定的规律性。我们的谈话通常不会由一连串不相干的话组成,如果是这样的话,便不合乎情理。它们至少是谈话几方的合作努力;并且每位参与者在某种程度上是有着某个共同目的,或者至少是相互接受的方向"。换句话说。我们似乎遵循如下原则:"在对话发生的某个阶段,根据你所从事的谈话的公认目的或方向,做出你该做出的对话贡献"。这个原则被称为合作原则。

Grice 提出的合作原则包括四大准则(Maxims) [3]:

- (1) 量准则(Quantity maxim)
- a) 所说的话应包含交谈目的所需要的信息;
- b) 所说的话不应包含超出需要的信息。

例如:

Many people go for sports.

该例是说话人提供的交谈所需要的信息,其中包含这样的意思:

Not everyone goes for sports.

- (2) 质准则(Quality maxim)
- a) 不要说自知是虚假的话;
- b) 不要说缺乏足够证据的话。

例如:

Smoking is harmful to one's health.

该例遵守了质的原则,表达了说话人自己的看法,或有证据证明自己的看法。其中包含这样的意思:

I believe (or: I have evidence) that smoking is harmful to one's health.

(3) 关系准则(Relation maxim)

说话要有关联。

例如:

You had better leave now.

人们在交际过程中不会无缘无故地说出以上的话。要弄明白该句的意思,就必须依靠语境。如果该例发生的地点是说话人的办公室或家中,这句话可以看作是对听话人的逐客令。如果发生地点切换成某个危险场所,这句话则可以看作是对听话人的警告或劝诫。

- (4) 方式准则(Manner maxim)
- a) 避免晦涩;
- b) 避免歧义;
- c) 简练;
- d) 井井有条。

例如:

He brushed his teeth and listened to the song.

该例中的两个动作可以理解为同时进行,即边刷牙边听歌;也可理解为两个动作有先后,即先刷牙再听歌。如果要让听话人明确清楚该句所表达的是第二种含义,可在两个动作之间加上逻辑连接词 then:

He brushed his teeth and then listened to the song.

#### 3. 会话含义理论

- 一般而言,交际双方都是遵循合作原则进行对话的。然而,在真实的日常交际中,说话人并不一定完全依照以上列举的各项原则,即违背合作原则。不过,这并不等于说话者不能违反准则。这时,听话者要认定对方还是遵循合作原则的,后者之所以要违反常规,可以推断,肯定是事出有因,或故意为之。所以听话者就要根据当时的语境,推断出说话者违背合作原则的真实目的,即其表面话语的隐含意义,使会话得以正常进行。Grice 将这种推导出的隐含意义称为"会话含义"。通常而言,会话含义可以细分为以下四个方面:
  - (1) 违背量准则的特殊含义
  - 例: Father: How many classes do you have in a week?

Daughter: Many.

女儿的回答过于笼统,没有提供父亲关于 How many 提问的准确答案,明显违背了"量原则"。但 其本意是告诉父亲"不要干预我的私事",或者是对学习任务繁重的一种抱怨。

- (2) 违反质准则的特殊含义
- 例: Jack has a loose tongue and always likes to let the cat out of the bag.

这句话中的 has a loose tongue 并不是"舌头松了", let the cat out of the bag 也并非是"把猫从袋子里放出来",而是两个习语,分别是"管不住嘴"和"泄密"之意。说话者故意违背质准则,目的在于表达对 Jack 为人处世方面令人讨厌之处。

- (3) 违反关系准则的特殊含义
- 例: Mother: Have you finished your assignment?

Son: I feel terribly unwell.

儿子的回答明显文不对题,违背了关系准则。但是我们依然可以推断出儿子想传递给母亲的本意是:

我很讨厌作业,而且你不要干涉我!

- (4) 违反方式准则的特殊含义
- 例: A: Where are you going out with your son?
- B: To the H-O-S-P-I-T-A-L.

B 的回答是不合常理的,违背了方式准则。我们可以设想的场景是: 儿子生病了,得去医院就诊,但他很不乐意。当母亲带他前往,遇到熟人发问时,为了不让儿子知道真相,只能做出了非常规的应答。

#### 4. 会话含义的特征

会话含义具有五个特征,即可取消性(cancellability)、不可分离性(non-detachability)、可推导性(calculability)、非规约性(non-conventionality)以及不确定性(indeterminacy)(语用学与英语学习: p. 55)。可取消性指的是如果在原先的某一话语上附加某些前提,某一种语用含义就会取消。可取消性可通过两种方式实现: 一是说话人在原先的话语上附加一些内容来表明自己要取消原来话语的语用含义,这些内容往往以 but,however,even 等标记词开头; 二是话语在特定的语境中表明说话人意欲取消该话语中的语用含义。不可分离性指的是会话含意需要依靠整个话语传达的内容来做出判断,因此,只改变话语中的某些词汇或句式,并不能改变整个话语的会话含意。可推导性指的是会话含意是靠推导而来的。非规约性指的是会话含意不是话语的一般含意,而是不受规约的特殊含意。需要结合语境,通过话语的表面意义推导而出。不确定性指的是会话含意是不确定的,往往跟随语境而变。前两个特征在在对话的语境中、尤其是在测试题目中使用频率较高。

#### 5. 会话含义理论在测试中的运用

各种英语考试的听力部分多采用一问一答或者对话的形式。出题者往往会在回答或第二个环节中通过"答非所问"的方式设置障碍,即所谓的"陷阱",使考生不能直接迅速地捕捉到信息,而必须借助语境和常识推导出言外之意。这种"答非所问"的方式主要就是借助会话含义理论来实现的。而且,这种"陷阱"往往是通过一些特定的修辞手段来实现的,包括习语(idiom)、反语(irony)、委婉语(euphemism)、隐喻(metaphor)、夸张(hyperbole)、缓叙(meiosis),等等。笔者摘选了数例听力测试真题进行分析研究,以证明以上所述原理,并期望能对课堂教学中如何帮助学生应对这类题目有所帮助。

(1) 通过违背量准则设置考点

顾名思义,违背量准则就是说话者故意提供不完整的或超过正常量的信息,令听者无法按照正常逻辑推导出其所要表达的意思,从而产生了会话含意。

例 1: W: Do you know that Mark turned down that job offered by a travel agency? [4]

M: Yeah, the hours were convenient, but he wouldn't have been able to make ends meet.

- Q: Mark refused to take the job because .
- A) the working hours were not suitable B) the job was not well paid
- C) he had to do a lot of traveling D) the job was quite different

M用Yeah直接回答了W的提问,表面上满足了对话中量准则的要求,但显然这不是考点。随后M说"时间倒是很方便",这只是个铺垫,对问题(Q)没有太多帮助,目的在于分散考生注意力,增加难度。M在最后使用了一个but,看似超出了对话的正常量,实则是利用会话含义的可取消性将前面的内容所包含的含义取消,并且通过一个习语 not be able to make ends meet,暗含了一层深意:我入不敷出,只能拒绝这份工作,因为它提供的薪水太低了,这也正是出题者希望考生推导出的言外之意,所以正确答案为B)。

例 2: W: How did Mr. Hunt's project turn out? I heard he had trouble with the financing, and he then couldn't get the land he wanted [4].

M: It's true. He did have difficulties at first, but all in all, the project couldn't have turned out better.

- Q: What happened to Mr. Hun's project?
- A) It was fairly successful.
- B) It was hard and futile.
- C) It failed for lack of fund.
- D) It stopped for lack of land.

该题的解题思路同上例。M用 It's true. He did have difficulties 直接回答了W的提问恪守了量准则。但是考点设置在 but 之后,利用会话含意的可取消性将前面的内容所包含的含义取消,否定词 not 和比较级 better 联用表肯定语气,起强调作用,意即"不能再好了",所以答案为 A)。可以看出,该题中的 but 之后的信息超出正常量,但却引出了会话含义。

例 3: W: Excuse me, Professor Hill. May I ask you a few questions? [4]

M: Yes, of course. <u>But I'm sorry I have a class at ten</u>. Why don't you call me at my office hours? That is 4 to five 5 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday.

- Q: Why can't Professor Hill answer he questions now?
- A) He will only be available in the afternoon.
- B) It's not in his office hour.
- C) He doesn't have time.
- D) He is too tired after class.

这道题的模式与例 1 和例 2 非常相似。M 先用 Yes, of course 的回答满足了会话的量准则,然后利用 But 通过会话含义的可撤销性将前面 Yes 的意义撤消了,But 之后的内容即是答案,所以对应的选项为 C);另外后面的 4 to five 5 p.m.与前面的 at ten 制造了混淆,也给考生增加了难度。

例 4: W: Did you visit the Television Tower when you had your vacation in Shanghai last summer? [4]

M: I couldn't make it last June. <u>But I finally visited it two months later.</u> I plan to visit it again sometime next year.

- Q: What do we learn about the man?
- A) He saw the big tower he visited on TV.
- B) He has visited the TV tower twice.
- C) He has visited the TV tower once.
- D) He will visit the TV tower in June.

该题中的 M 用否定句 I couldn't make it last June 直接回答了 W 的提问,符合量准则的要求。但如前所述,考点是不会设置在这里的。随后的 But 通过会话含义的可撤销性将前面 I couldn't make it last June 的意义撤消了,且超出了正常对话量,违背了量准则,但却引出了会话含意,所以正确答案应在 But 之后,对应的选项是 C),另外后面的 visit it again 也给考生制造了难度。

例 5: M: I think it's about climate change affects everyday life. I wonder how they make it entertaining [4].

W: Well, it sounds really awful. It is an important subject, but I'm not in the mood for anything depressing.

- Q: What does the woman think of climate change?
- A) Dull. B) Shallow. C) Inspiring. D) Informative.

W 的回答中前面的内容起到了一定的迷惑效果,but 之后才是重点,使用了习语 in the mood for something (对某事有心情/感兴趣)。选项 D) Dull 在该语境下是 depressing 的同义替换词,因此为正确答案。

(2) 通过违背质准则设置考点

违背质准则就是所说的内容带有虚假、不真实的特点,这种虚假性和不真实性往往通过习语、谚语、 夸张等手法实现,测试题目的考点也常常设置在这里。

- 例 1: When children start school for the very first time, parents often feel a sense of excitement coupled with a touch of sadness at the end of an era [4].
  - Q: How do parents feel when their children start going to school?
  - A) Anxious and depressed.

B) Contended and relieved.

C) Excited but somewhat sad.

D) Proud but a bit nervous.

问题大意是:孩子们上学了,父母有何感受?听力原文中使用了 coupled with a touch of sadness at the end of an era 来表达父母的感伤之情。虽然表面违背了质准则,但这样的夸张手法却能更加传神地表现父母对孩子离家时的依依不舍,正确答案选 C)。

- 例 2: M: Are you sure you can't remember the name of the film you saw last week? [4]
- W: It's just on the tip of my tongue.
- Q: What does the woman say about the film?
- A) It's hard to pronounce the name.
- B) It is not going to be well received.
- C) She has temporarily forgotten its name. D) She has never heard of the name.

W 对于 M 的提问没有直接用 Yes 或 No 回答,而是采用明显不合事实的 on the tip of my tongue,违背了质准则,但却引出了会话含意。on the tip of my tongue 是习语,意思是"就在嘴边,脱口而出"。但其前有一个表过去时间的 just,则表示"记不得了,忘记了",所以对应的选项是 C)。

(3) 通过违背关系准则设置考点

违背关系准则就是对话缺乏关联性,也就是常说的"答非所问",令听者无法直接判断出说话者的本意,从而引出会话含义。

- 例 1: M: I'm not really an expert on precious stones, but these are superb. Don't you like them?
- W: Have you looked at the price tag? It costs almost twice as much as the house we're now living in.
- Q: What is the probable relationship between the two speakers?
- A) Salesman and customer.
- B) Expert on jewelry and his wife.
- C) Estate agent and client.
- D) Husband and wife.

W 对于 M 的提问没有直接用 Yes 或 No 回答,而是提出了一个问句 Have you looked at the price tag? 表面上违背了关系准则,制造了解题难度。最后的 the house we're now living in 就是答案所在,所以对应的选项是 D)。

- 例 2: M: Are you going to buy that pirated CD? [5]
- W: Do I look like a thief?
- Q: What does the woman imply?
- A) She likes a CD on thieves and robbers.
- B) The man looks like a pirate.
- C) She will probably buy the CD.
- D) She won't buy the CD.

W 答非所问,没有直接回答是否 buy that pirated CD,违背了关系准则,因此导出会话含意。thief 与 pirate 有关联,且运用了反问句,反问句的作用通常是:形式肯定,实则表否定,形式否定,实则表否定,也就是说,反问句能表达说话者的观点态度,因此推导出的含义是"她不是贼",也就是不会去买盗版 CD,所以对应的选项是 D)。

例 3: M: Do you think we have made enough food for the party? [5]

- W: The refrigerator is about to explode.
- Q: What does the woman imply?
- A) There is a bomb in the refrigerator.
- B) They will probably run out of food.
- C) They might have enough food to go around.
- D) More than enough food has been prepared.

该题的分析思路如上所述。W 没有直接应答 M 的提问,违背了关系准则。通过 explode 这个夸张的词汇表达了会话含意,所以推导出的答案是选项  $\mathbf{D}$ )。

- 例 4: M: Although the man often plays a bad guy in movies, in real life he has a heart of a gold [5].
- W: So does a hard-boiled egg.
- O: What does the woman mean?
- A) The woman believes she's as good as the man.
- B) The woman doesn't think she's as good as the man.
- C) People will not notice the man's kind heart.
- D) The man's kind heart is of great value.

这道题趣味十足。M 通过 he has a heart of a gold 对 the man 作出了正面评价,而 W 却答非所问,说了一句毫不相干的话,违背关系准则,从而引出了会话含意。其本意是说: egg 也有 a heart of a gold,但却被蛋壳包裹着,从表面是看不到的,所以推导出的答案是 C)。

(4) 通过违背方式准则设置考点

违背方式准则就是说话隐晦、不直截了当,令听者无法快速直接领悟说话者的本意,从而导出会话 含义。这种会话含义往往通过委婉等手法来实现。

- 例: M: Do you think the singer is pretty? [5]
- W: Let's just say that I wouldn't vote for her in the local beauty contest.
- Q: What does the woman imply about the singer?
- A) If the singer were in a beauty contest, she might win.
- B) The singer is a very pretty woman.
- C) The singer is very unattractive.
- D) No votes were cast for the singer at the beauty contest.

W 没有直接回答 M 的提问,而是说 I wouldn't vote for her,表面上违背了方式准则。实则这是一种委婉表达,说话者为了保全 the singer 的面子,间接地否定了 pretty 一词,看似问与答毫不相干,实际引出了会话含意。所以推导出的含义是选项 C)。

## 6. 语用原则对于英语教学的指导意义

综合以上的理论分析和实例解析,笔者认为,语用原则对于英语教学具有宏观和微观两个层面的指导意义。宏观层面上,教师在教学过程中应努力恪守和践行语用原则。比如在课堂上,语言表达尽量做到文明礼貌、简明扼要(量准则、方式准则),内容讲解尽量做到紧扣主题、逻辑严谨(关系准则),详实充分、条理明晰(质准则、方式准则),等等。微观层面上,除了完成大纲要求的教学任务和内容之外,教师可以结合自身和学生的具体情况,适当传授一些应试技巧,这样不仅能使学生学到必备的课本知识,而且能够掌握一些实用的应试能力。比如,在英语听力的教学环节,教师除了讲授语音语调、词汇、语法等常规知识点之外,还可以增加一些常考知识点。仅举一例,在英语测试、尤其是听力测试中,出题人

多采用合作原则和会话含义理论给应试者制造悬念和难点。而且这些难点多数设置在几个标志词之后,如 but, yet, even 等。这一点 George Yule 在其著作 Pragmatics [6]中已有论述。在课堂教学中适当传授一些语用学基本原理,并且引导学生进行有效的推理联想等,并且适当灌输词汇的扩展义(如熟词生义)、修辞格的灵活应用、反问句的真实意图等内容,既能增强学生的理论基础和学术功底,又能对应试等方面大有裨益。下面的例子选自于大学英语教材,其中就灵活应用了语用原则,达到了妙趣横生的效果。

M: "What a lot of traveling you have done in your day, Aunt Augusta." [7]

W: "I haven't reached nightfall yet," she said.

M 用一个肯定句对 W 作出了正面评价,但 W 却说了一句毫不相干的话,表面上违背了关系准则。但却通过 I haven't reached nightfall yet 表达了其"老当益壮"的真实内涵,也是对 M 口吻中带有些许怀疑的有力回击。

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