

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

ENG 236: *Semantics and Pragmatics* ❖ Spring 2006: TUE & FRI 9.00-10.30 @ E 002
Linguistics Section ❖ Department of English Studies ❖ University of Cyprus
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EXERCISE SET 2

Critically review the article “Discourse and Semantics” by Neal Norrick and pick out one issue to discuss further. This means that you should first summarize the article in your own words — what it is about, how the author goes about it, what the relevance/purpose of the article is, why the author wrote it, what his goals are, etc. Second, you should express your opinion on how well the author achieves the goals he sets himself (or as you understand them), or what could have been improved. Third, you should choose any of the topics/issues that the author discusses and discuss them further — this you achieve by doing research on the issue (i.e. consult other sources). You may base yourself on what we have done in class (i.e. from the perspective of formal semantics laid out in Portner 2005) and discuss some formal aspects in more detail, for example, but you don’t have to. (If you don’t want to do this, you could look at the edited volume this paper has appeared in, for example, and extend your discussion to discourse analysis, e.g. state what it is, how it relates to and is different from semantics and/or pragmatics, and so on.)

Write up your discussion, with full illustration where appropriate (e.g. examples, preferably your own), in at least 1,500 words. Here are some specific guidelines:

- you must work individually, i.e. no cooperation with other students;
- the margins should be 3cm on all sides, the line spacing 1.5, and at the end you should note your total word count (don’t count: quotes, examples, references);
- use at most two internet and one textbook source, but together these should not exceed “real” sources from the semantic and pragmatic literature (no limit).

If you want to (partially) integrate your previous research assignment, you may do so. In this case, just make sure it fits the topic (i.e. clearly state its relevance to the present paper) and improve on your writing — this concerns in particular the way you may have taken printed words and sold them as yours (on purpose or not).

ABOVE ALL, THIS IS AN EXERCISE IN RESEARCH — AND THIS TIME, PLAGIARISM WON’T BE TOLERATED AS LENIENTLY AS PREVIOUSLY!

References

- Norrick, Neil R. 2001. “Discourse and Semantics”. In Deborah Schiffrin, Deborah Tannen, and Heidi E. Hamilton (eds.), *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 76-99.
- Portner, Paul H. 2005. *What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell.