



*Some Important Thoughts
On Pragmatics In Arabic
With Their Realizations In
English*

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ABSTRACT

Pragmatics is one of the most modern branch of Linguistics which relates to speech analysis , writing , symbols and describes the functions of speech events and their characteristic out of the acts of communication this can make pragmatics have a quality of practical way to influence when it deals with language problems. Pragmatics is thus one of the causes of considerable advances in language , and consequently is regarded as an unusual phenomenon (Fadhel,1996 : 34) . The current study aims at 1.studying pragmatics based on a very clear way avoiding all the suspicions around this topic , 2.showing what pragmatics is : in both Arabic and English , and 3. Investigating pragmatics in the two languages taking the thoughts that are of importance to the readers or who are interested in both Arabic and English. It is hypothesized that the notion of Pragmatics is used in Arabic and English , yet it is conceived differently. It is also hypothesized that the specific topics of pragmatics which raised in Arabic are completely different from that of English. There must be certain limitations on what the study is carried out. So the study is limited to five important points as follows : 1.Definitions , 2. The basic principles of pragmatics , 3.Results of pragmatic use , 4.Thoroughness and 5.The point of the study The basic findings arrived at are as follows : 1.It is possible to make the most important ideas of pragmatics known to the readers in a clear way , 2. Five significant points are specified to be our data , and 3. Pragmatics in Arabic may be realized easily unlike English which undergoes a multitude difficulties to be conceived well.



1.Introduction:

Since pragmatics is thought to have appeared in a short time ago and there is no agreement among scholars about determining its terms , hypotheses , rules and dimensions , the study of pragmatics will confuse the readers with many aspects (Parret ,1979 : 154). This is the main problem when to raise in both Arabic and English. Some people think that the study of pragmatics is not a big deal in both Arabic and English because they are treating pragmatics in the two languages the same. But it is the complete opposite. It is important to tackle the problem based on honest sources. The another problem is that the global scholars in the field of pragmatics are trying to give support and confidence to every scholar who wants to de research into pragmatics. They are also going to keep the majority of scholars going on researching pragmatics in different ways in order to find out more information and facts for it has played a vital role in the ideal use of language. It is also significant for the scholars who are interested in pragmatics not to over look the other levels of language but they should focus on the influential use of language in causing the conditions of society to be changed and updated sincepragmatics gives us a contemporary account of language use . Pragmatics is one of the major problems and regarded as a linguistic phenomenon. So it is very important to account for this phenomenon and give reasons for it so that other readers will have a whole picture to understand this topic well. The study has come to give enough examples so as to consolidate what is studied to find out more information about pragmatics.

2.The Exact Meaning of Pragmatics In Arabic:

Al-bajawe and Ibrahim (1952 : 37) say that though the Arab never called pragmatic by its formal name , they understood and studied language out of pragmatics by using it for intentions , purposes and diverse situations (i.e. very different from each other. The Arab referred to pragmatics as that system of



rules or ideas which help a certain individual decide what to do. They also defined pragmatics as an easy way to say which includes vigorous meaning that there must be certain change in the speaker's condition .Abed-alhameed (1963 : 244) points out that the meaning of pragmatics is to meet the need of the speaker by making the listener eager to understand what the speaker says.

Khafaji (1961 : 38) views that pragmatics can be expressed for clarity of structures , practical abilities of individuals to select the purely aesthetic words and the creative performance of using language .Al-mousa (1980 : 88) confirms that the meaning of pragmatics can be clear when someone says a phrase , a word , or a statement and this can cause a sort of vagueness for the listener that he has more than one way to understand the meaning as well as the multiplicity of abilities to conceive the meaning of a phrase or a statement.Umer (1989 : 22) illustrates that pragmatics does not mean to understand language considering it as an independent subject without practicing, i.e. a person should use langue with practice : it is very important to make langue distinguished according to the influential and the ideal use which impress and influence people and this is the concept of pragmatics. It is significant to give special attention to use langue in an influential way. It is also important to choose a word or phrase and make the listener be ready to receive what is said willingly. The significant thing in pragmatics is the way in which something is said and not just what is said without giving great attention to the rules and principles of pragmatics (ibid: 23).

Najar (2011 : 5) states that the main subject that pragmatics deals with is the way in which sayings are interpreted in certain situations . It is possible for every speaker to determine a certain meaning of a given saying : Iam strong . This sentence can have multi- meaning like Iam having firmly decided to succeed something , I have strong arms and I have strong views on the subject , etc.



3.How to Define Pragmatics In English:

Firth (1966:223) defines pragmatics as a branch of linguistics which takes a context as a very important element to produce the linguistic expression. It is significant to call pragmatics contextualism for context is a very helpful element to explain the intended meaning. The meaning of a word becomes very clear out of its use in language , the way in which it is used and the role that it plays in the expression. Pragmatics is dealing with the meaning of words according to the contexts in which they come with. The more , there is multiple –context , the more we have multiple – meaning and the meaning is determined by a context.

Parret (1981 : 154) ascertains that people knew nothing about pragmatics before 1957 because the notion of pragmatics had been practiced without explaining in detail. Pragmatics means the way in which sayings are interpreted since there is more than a way to understand the intended meaning. It is a new technique for making language much attractive and influential than usual ways to use language in different problems.

Armenco (1981 : 34) views that pragmatics may refer to the language usage in a way that has an effect or influence on people on one hand , the meaning of an expression can be understood in more than one way and context may play significant role to make the meaning so clear that the listener can conceive it without too much thinking on the other.

Carnap (1980 : 167) mentions that extensive knowledge , careful study and giving a lot attention to details of language can be expressed for pragmatics. Everything happens to language user belongs to meaning can receive a lot of attention since pragmatics will responsible for it.

Levinson (1983 : 1) remarks that pragmatics refers to the study of the symbol in relation to the way of how to understand the symbol and whatever it



goes with it. The difference between pragmatics and semantics is that the relationship between the symbol and the things that it refers to. Pragmatics must concern high- level words with powerful meanings. Pragmatics has come to stick to the speaker, i.e. all the issues , conditions and hypotheses of pragmatics are connected strongly to the user of language . The analysis of expressions and their meanings are concerned with semantics.

Shunnaq (2000 : 58) says that tact and suitability may be a strong foundation of pragmatics , connecting sentences with suitable contexts and to handle the situation with tact and diplomacy. It is important for the user of language to be careful of what he is going to say that must be relevant to the context.

Parisi and Castelfranchi (1981 : 556) argue that pragmatics can include the study of language and context and the relationship between them . This relationship is based on how to understand language well. Context is in charge of the speaker's will when he is going to do things , often for a particular purpose : sometimes one lifts his hat up in front of his boss to show respect and appreciation and sometimes he lifts his hat up before the gopher. The second case is to show respect with a ridiculous intention . The second case also has done either by hostile aim or to make fun of him.

4. The principal element of pragmatics:

It is significant to mention that Arabic is quite different from English in the basic thing on which pragmatics is structured in an organized way, whereas English has depended on ' Context' which regarded as an idea that is suggested as the possible explanation for pragmatics , while pragmatics in Arabic centers on 'Situation' . It is preferable to concentrate on different views of different writers to see how context and situation are different in the two different languages.



4.1 The Notion of Situation In Arabic:

Ashareef (2011 : 5) says that the notion of situation is the central point on which pragmatics is moving around in the current time. Each phenomenon does not work well , or is of no use unless it is connected with its principles in past. The act of speaking must be related to a certain purpose or a given aim in order to meet a given need or advantage. So language is used for diverse aims and intentions depending on different situations. Pragmatics has come to emphasize on the old catchphrase "every act of talking can have a suitable situation".

Talib (1985 : 141) illustrates that situation is regarded as a very essential element to describe and analyse pragmatic phenomenon. The role of situation in pragmatic has got very clear , referring to multiple abilities to use language and express opinions well when someone speaks in publish in a way that it can have more than a way that it may have more than one possible meaning. Situation may assign time and space in which a certain utterance is said as well as the status of the speaker.

Taha (1981 : 88) asserts that one principles of pragmatics is to focus on the state that the speaker is in. So is the listener , for instance , the listener is certainly not in a condition to give attention to what the speaker is talking about . The meaning will be contradictory and confusing . Therefore; situation is incharge for everything happens between the speaker and the listener , then the meaning will be clear to understand. It is better to mention that situation may include the subject which refers to a person or thing that is considered , shown or talked about . the views on the subject between the speaker and listener are very important too .

Abul – faraj (1966 : 58) points out that situation may refer to everything which can associate with an expression and it can be helpful element to explain



the meaning. Place and space are two significant points that need to be regarded when to raise situation directly connected with pragmatics in Arabic.

4.2 Context as the point of pragmatics in English:

Parret (1981 : 13) ascertains that context is regarded as a fundamental element to produce linguistic expression as well as its structure and its analytic way. Context can form a starting point or basis on which other pragmatic ideas rest for it plays a significant role in pragmatic framework. So linguists called pragmatics contextualism and sometimes called it pragmatics .

Black (1970 : 21) views that context may be expressed for the words that come before or after a word , phrase , sentence , etc. And that help the listener to conceive the intended meaning. It is impossible to know the intended meaning of a certain word without putting it in different contexts since the meaning may be changed according to the contexts . When a context is different , the abilities to understand the meaning will be multiple. This way is simply connected with pragmatics. Therefore; Black called linguists for calling pragmatics contextuahism for showing the role of context in calling pragmatics since the basic subject in which pragmatics deals with is the way in which sayings or the acts of speaking are interpreted and the meaning is understood in more than one way.

Leech (1983:2) states that pragmatics was named contextulism. This has made context play a leading role in explaining the meaning. Context and whatever it goes with it , had a significant contribution to the issues of clarifying the meaning . For these reasons , pragmatics has come to be the last phase in the surges of extension in the forms of linguistics .

Firth (1966 : 288) seems to be in agreement with Lyons , Mitehell , Sinclair , Mc Intosh and Halliday by stating that context is of great importance

to the hypotheses of pragmatics. They asserted that context may include the meaning of word out of its use in language , the way in which it is used out of the role that it has in the context.

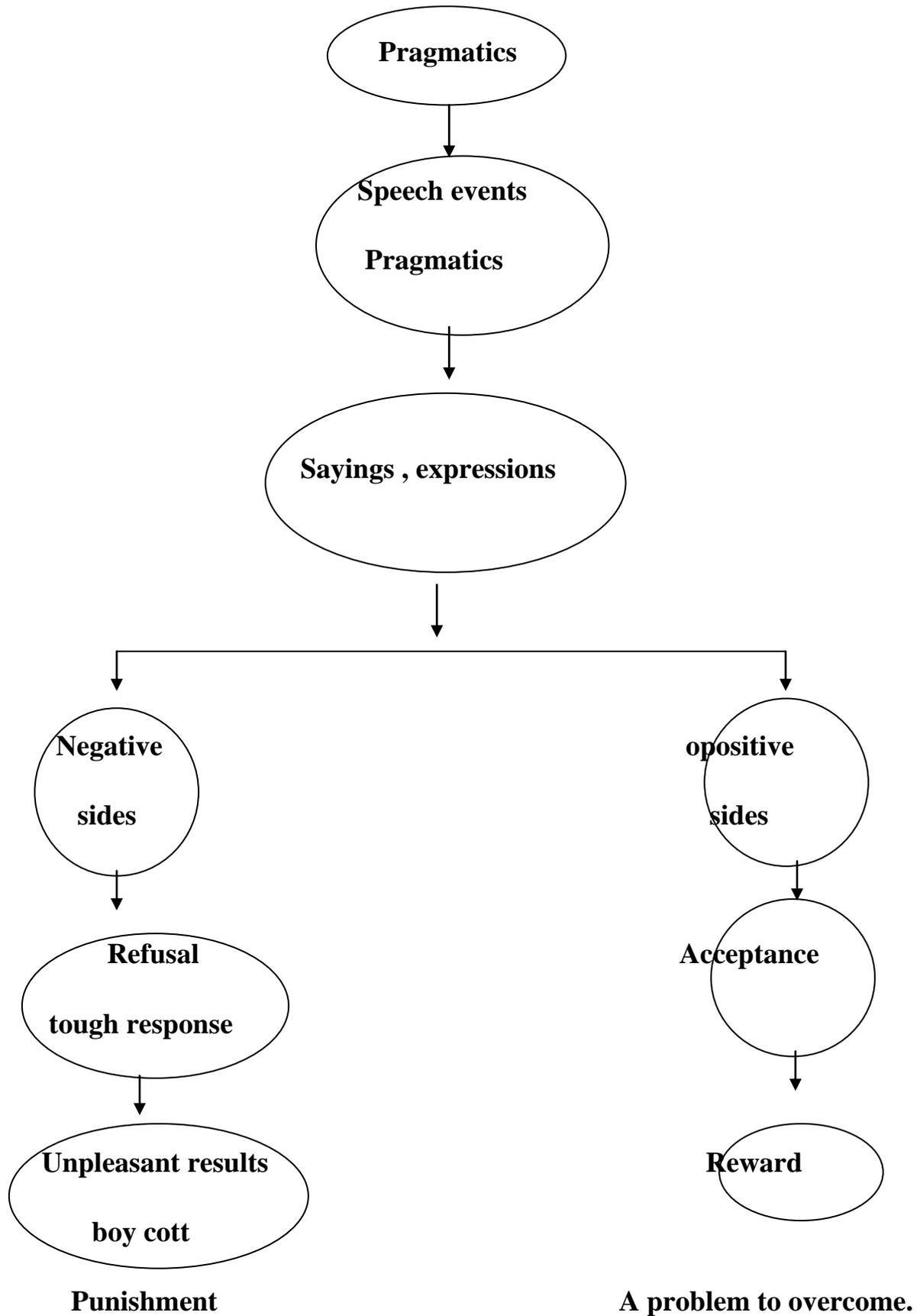
Ullman (1973 : 8) says that the meaning of word is still ambiguous unless putting it in its specified context. The meaning of word also can be described by giving great attention to other words that are near or next to another. So the study of word meanings requires an analysis of the contexts in which they are coming with, then the meaning will be clear to understand.

Yule (1996 : 129) points out that context means unknown word whose meaning is difficult to understand and it is possible to find its meaning out of a set other words used in the same sentence. Context may be divided into two types : linguistic and physical context . Time and place are important elements to understand the meaning.

5.Pragmatics And Thoroughness In Arabic:

Abed-alJaleel (2001 : 41) claims that the meaning of thoroughness may be clear throughout the positive and negative sides of using pragmatics. Thoroughness is timed to coincide with the appearance of pragmatics i.e. This case has happened at the same time as pragmatics.

Fadhel (1996 : 5) Confirms that the negative side of using pragmatics may solve a certain problem but it depends on the character of a person who is meant , i.e. The receiver may be a strong head. Therefore; reaction is so tough that he will make troubles instead of doing something good . Pragmatics must be used for certain purposes and specific advantages. The Arab had used both the negative and opositive aspects out of pragmatics. It is important to explain pragmatics and its opositive and negative sides throughout different situations based on the following figure:





This figure is to show the opositive and negative sides of pragmatics as illustrated by Abed – aljaleel (1996 : 41).

6. Pragmatics And Thoroughness In English:

Weltz (1996: 130) thoroughness is inclusive of all the things which participate in pragmatics for the purpose of achieving high advantages , supreme aims , pleasant interests and attracting the attention of others just to do what is good avoiding unpleasant things. The English think that the negative side of pragmatics will be worsened even if it is done to suggest something in an indirect way. Therefore; they suggest that pragmatics must be used in order to have pleasant results. English may be treating just with the opositive sides of pragmatics and that's the meaning of thoroughness.

7. The main Piece of Information In the Study:

It is significant to focus on the general meaning of pragmatics rather than all the details. The study has given the facts or ideas about pragmatics. But the point is to get the gist of what is being said in a succinct way.

7. 1 The fact to get to the point In Arabic:

Abed-alhammed (1963:243) asserts that pragmatics and eloquent speech are treated alike . situation is regarded as a very significant element to discover the intended meaning . pragmatics may occur in both standard and slang language . but it can have much more important rule in standard language than to be in slang Matloob (1964:75) says that pragmatics may refer to an ideal way of speaking and writing based on eloquence that is intended to impress or influence people. The most important quality of pragmatics is to think of and look at rhetoric as a great level and grand way to show different meaning to the listener that calls for contemplation in order to be understood.



7.2 The point in the study in English:

George (1964 : 107) asserts that semiotics is the scientific study of linguistics and non – linguistics symbols which are regarded as communicational means. It is a science which is concerned with communicational processes . It is also a science which deals with the symbols in a general way. Linguistics is a branch of semiotics . It is possible to call semiotics signification or semiology and this does not make difference to semiotics. Signification is including a lot of linguistics- branches , especially semantics , syntax and style. It is more comprehensive than semantics in the sense that semantics deals with only linguistic symbols , while semiology concerns signs and symbols whether they are linguistics or non – linguistics .

Umer (1982 : 14) says that Morris and Carnap had produced thoughts about semiotics that are better than other views else including the following points :

- a. Explaining how to use signs and symbols as mean of communication in a certain language.
- b. Eliciting the relationship between a symbol and what a symbol does refer to .
- c. Focusing on the symbol and its relation with another symbol else.

Green (1989 : 42) views that small changes have been done to semiotics by Morris for the first time . This could certainly leave the door open for further studies concerning pragmatics. Just at that moment semiotics has become the strong foundation of pragmatics.

8.A Comparison of Arabic with English As Regards Pragmatics:

First of all , Arabic is quite different , by comparison with English as regards pragmatic thoughts . Ashama (2006 : 152) asserts that the meaning of comparison is to consider people or things for the purpose of finding ways in which they are similar or different . The significant thing is to see the dissimilarity between things since dissimilarity is always causing a particular reaction in people while an agreement does not excite people too much or excite great interest. So the difference may receive a lot of attention . Arabic is thus completely different from that of English concerning pragmatic views . A table is a good way to explain the difference between Arabic and English just in this respect.

Title	Basic element	Pragmatic aspects	Meaning of pragmatics	Pragmatic origin	Pragmatics to put into order
Pragmatics In Arabic.	Situation.	Opositive and negative effects.	Eloquent speech.	Umayyud Era.	Pragmatic views are not arranged into a system.
Pragmatics In English.	Context.	Opositive effects.	Semiotic.	Modern time.	Pragmatics thoughts are rather arranged in an acceptable way.

This table is to show the contradicted views of pragmatics in Arabic and English as illustrated by (Abed – alhameed,1963:245) and (parret , 1981:156).



9. Conclusion and Suggestions:

The study has ended with the following points as conclusion :

- a. The speaker has to have a good influence on the listener by choosing an influential way in language use either spoken or written that he makes the listener eager to look at and think deeply about different and serious meaning and this is the meaning of pragmatics.
- b. It is impossible for a speaker to talk within the dimensions of pragmatics and his mastery of language is below standard either his native language or the second language . There is an exception to every rule . The prophet Muhammed is illiterate , yet he used the height of pragmatics in relation to other different subjects.
- c. Ambiguity or vagueness in understanding the meaning does not happen randomly since the words and the influential way which are used, certainly require rhetoric and eloquence as well as to understand a certain situation concerns pragmatic ways.
- d. The words which are used in pragmatic ways may be either simple or sophisticated words as the meaning does attribute to only the speaker.
- e. Pragmatics is not intrusive on language . But different names of pragmatics in different languages were contradictory and confusing. In addition , pragmatics is regarded as a pertinent point of language. Language is including pragmatics in its nature but the problem is that some people had taken care of it long time ago , some other used it first and they did not determine its hypotheses , ideas and plans .
- f. Pragmatics means the study of language , knowing it well and realizing its dimensions . These may enable the speaker to select the influential way to impress people . Vagueness and mutli- ability to understand sayings ,

phrases and sentences are familiar to pragmatics because the meaning is object to be changed according to different contexts in which words are used.

g.The act of speaking may be divided into three parts :

1.Nonsense : something that somebody says or writes that is not true or is just silly , 2. Speech with having a clear meaning and it does not need too much thinking to understand and 3. A way of speaking including a meaning that needs to look at , often quietly or think deeply about it . The third type is concerned with pragmatics .

The study may make the door open for further studies for the following reasons :

- 1.The relationship between pragmatics and syntax in both Arabic and English may be studied differently .
- 2.Some phonetic aspects in relation to pragmatics could be a research to show the differences between Arabic and English .
- 3.The study of a clear connection between pragmatics and certain types of meaning in both Arabic and English could benefit both researchers and students .
- 4.Since pragmatics is a contemporary subject ,it will be a lot of topics as many as the researchers want to be studied contractively,



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