

Reading Response: Fraser on Pragmatic Markers

Provide a concise overview (one single-spaced page of targeted prose should be sufficient) of this week's readings, which addresses the following questions:

- (A) In the paper entitled 'Pragmatic Markers', the notion of a *pragmatic marker* is (unsurprisingly) introduced, as well as a classification of these markers into four major types: *basic markers*, *commentary markers*, *parallel markers*, and *discourse markers*. For each of these four major types, a variety of further subtypes are defined and discussed.

In your own words, describe as precisely as you can this notion of a *pragmatic marker*—what are they, and what role do they play in affecting the message(s) that a speaker conveys in uttering a particular sentence? Then, give a brief characterization—again, in your own words—of what is signalled by each of the four major types of pragmatic markers. Finally, for each of the four major types, briefly discuss one of its subtypes (the one you find most interesting, perhaps), and construct illustrative examples.

- (B) Summarize the analysis of the discourse marker *but* that is presented in section 4.2 of the paper entitled 'An Account of Discourse Markers'. In particular, what is the difference between *direct/explicit contrast* and *indirect contrast*? What is meant by the term *Semantically Contrastive Sets* (SCSs), and how do these sets prove useful when describing the various uses of *but*? Then, choose two of the uses of *but* considered in this section and for each, briefly discuss the interpretation that emerges.

You should also feel free to discuss other points that strike you as interesting or important, to raise objections to any claims that you encounter, or to pose any questions that arise while reading these papers.