

TiXPrag Paper: In a manner of speaking: an empirical investigation of Manner Implicatures

Experimental items				
Context	M-ending	M-implicated meaning	I-ending	I-implicated meaning
Ben and Jude were acting in a play. Ben asked, "What happens at the end of the scene?" Jude answered,	"The villain leaves the room with a swish of his cloak and causes the door to close."	The villain closes the door by swishing his cloak and making a draft.	"The villain leaves the room with a swish of his cloak and closes the door."	The villain leaves the room and closes the door, by pulling it shut.
Nick and Dan were watching a history programme, but Nick fell asleep. Afterwards he asked, "What happened at the end?" Dan replied,	"The invaders caused the villagers to die."	The invaders killed the villagers but indirectly, by introducing disease.	"The invaders killed the villagers."	The invaders killed the villagers directly.
The office employees were in a meeting. Meryl asked, "What happened with that recent problem?" Tom said,	"John had the ability to solve it."	John could have solved it but he didn't.	"John was able to solve it."	John could solve it (and he did).
Jim and Ed were discussing their weekend plans. Jim said "I'm going to Liverpool - how should I get there?" Ed replied,	"You are permitted to use my car."	Remember that you can use my car .	"You can use my car."	I'm offering you the use of my car.
Mick showed his boss the new feature he'd written. "What do you think?" he asked. She replied,	"I'm not unpleased by what you've done."	I'm not entirely pleased with what you've done.	"I'm pleased with what you've done."	I'm pleased with what you've done.
Barry and Ted were discussing a recent dismissal at work. Barry asked, "What did you think about it?" Ted said,	"The decision was not unjust."	The decision was reasonably just.	"The decision was just."	The decision was just.

Debbie was showing Sue around her new loft conversion. Sue asked, "How did you get that lovely big sofa up here?" Debbie replied,	"It took not inconsiderable effort."	It took quite a bit of effort.	"It took considerable effort."	It took considerable effort.
Nigel needed to get his car fixed. "What's the garage on the corner like?", he asked Amy. She replied,	"It's not unreliable."	It's less than reliable.	"It's reliable."	It's reliable.
Jamie got home from his grandmother's. His mum asked, "Did she give you a drink?" He answered,	"She put a teabag into a cup and poured over boiling water."	She gave me a cup of tea, only it didn't taste like tea.	"She gave me a cup of tea."	She gave me a normal cup of tea.
Janet was telling Ed about the school concert. He asked, "What did Betty do in the concert?" She answered,	"She produced a series of sounds corresponding closely to the score of an aria from Rigoletto."	She sang an aria from Rigoletto, but not very well.	"She sang an aria from Rigoletto."	She sang an aria from Rigoletto (well).
The Clark family were doing their weekly clean. Mr Clark asked Mrs Clark, "What task has Katie done?" She replied,	"She wiped a dusting cloth around the bookshelves."	She attempted to dust the bookshelves, but they don't seem any cleaner.	"She dusted the bookshelves."	She dusted the bookshelves (effectively).
Tom and Susan were chatting over coffee. "What did Alistair do at the weekend?", Tom asked. Susan replied,	"He stacked up a pile of bricks and mortar."	He built a wall, if you can call it a wall.	"He built a wall."	He built a wall (properly).
Simon had been to the village talent show. Colleen asked, "What did Bob do in it?" Simon replied,	"He said the words of a poem."	He recited a poem, very tediously.	"He recited a poem."	He recited a poem (well).

Elspeth Wilson

Sue and her mum were chatting on the phone. Sue asked her mum, "What did Dad do last night?" Her mum said,	"He stirred together flour, eggs, sugar and chocolate, and put the mixture in the oven for an hour."	He tried to make a chocolate cake but without much success.	"He made a chocolate cake."	He made a chocolate cake (successfully).
Terry was looking for some documents. He asked Julie, "Do you know where they are?" She replied,	"David opened a file, put the documents in, and closed it again."	David filed them, but not in the right place.	"David filed them."	David filed them (in the normal place).
Andy and Ben were talking about their intern's progress. "What did he do this morning?", asked Andrew. Ben said,	"He typed up a string of words describing the meeting."	He wrote a rather bad report of the meeting.	"He wrote a report of the meeting."	He wrote a satisfactory report of the meeting.