

# Critical Pragmatics

*An Inquiry into Reference and  
Communication*

---

Kepa Korta and John Perry



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

# Contents

---

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1 Introduction	1
1.1 A conversation at Hondarribia airport	1
1.2 Three ideas	3
1.3 The anatomy of an utterance	8
1.4 Singular reference	12
1.5 The plan	14
2 A short history of reference	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 One hundred-plus years of reference	15
2.3 The problem of cognitive significance	21
2.4 From Kaplan to utterances	22
3 Acts, roles, and singular reference	25
3.1 Introduction	25
3.2 Acts and actions	25
3.3 Roles	28
3.4 Signs and information	30
3.5 Gricean reference	31
4 Elements of reference	37
4.1 Introduction	37
4.2 Cognition and information: an analogy	37
4.3 A modest theory of ideas	38
4.4 Paradigm referential plans	40
4.5 Examples	43
5 Demonstratives	46
5.1 Introduction	46
5.2 The professor and the portrait	47
5.3 Forensics	48
5.4 Walking through Donostia	51
5.5 Truth-conditions	53
5.6 Demonstratives and the problems of cognitive significance	55
	vii

6	Context sensitivity and indexicals	59
6.1	Role-contexts	59
6.2	Indexicals	60
6.3	Using 'I'	63
6.4	Indexicals, dates, and time	69
6.5	Technology and indexicals	71
7	Names	74
7.1	Introduction	74
7.2	Names and nambiguity	74
7.3	Networks and reference	76
7.4	Names and roles	82
7.5	Names as role-coordination devices: examples	83
7.6	Names and cognitive significance	85
7.7	The no-reference problem	88
8	Definite descriptions	90
8.1	Introduction	90
8.2	Incomplete descriptions	92
8.3	Designational truth-conditions and referring*	94
8.4	Inaccurate descriptions	96
8.5	Conclusion	100
9	Implicit reference and unarticulated constituents	102
9.1	Introduction	102
9.2	Unarticulated constituents and the supplemental nature of language	102
9.3	Three kinds of unarticulated constituents	104
9.4	Whence unarticulated constituents?	109
9.5	Are unarticulated constituents a myth?	111
10	Locutionary content and speech acts	114
10.1	Introduction	114
10.2	Locutionary content versus what is said	114
10.3	Locutionary acts and locutionary content	116
10.4	Locuted but not said: some examples	118
10.5	Locutionary versus propositional content	120
10.6	Conclusion	124
11	Reference and implicature	125
11.1	Introduction	125
11.2	Grice and what is said	126
11.3	Eros' thirst	128
11.4	Identity, implicature, and cognitive significance	130
11.5	The man who has run out of petrol	132
11.6	The maxim of manner of reference	134
11.7	Conclusion	138
12	Semantics, pragmatics, and Critical Pragmatics	139
12.1	Introduction	139
12.2	Situating semantics	140

12.3	Semantic content, raw and refined	142
12.4	Minimalism, contextualism, and Critical Pragmatics	143
12.5	Grice's circle	147
13	Harnessing information	150
13.1	Introduction	150
13.2	Content	150
13.3	Propositions and the structure of action	158
13.4	Coding and classification	160
13.5	Back to Hondarribia	163
14	Examples	166
	<i>Bibliography</i>	170
	<i>Index</i>	175