

Grice offers an analysis of what is involved in someone's conversationally implicating/hinting/suggesting that q in saying, or seeming to say, that p. Very roughly, the speaker conversationally implicates that q (in saying that p) if

- (1) she is presumed to be cooperative in the sense of following the conversational maxims
- (2) the supposition that she thinks that q is required to bring her saying that p, or making as if to say it, in line with the presumption that she is being cooperative
- (3) she takes it to be within the audience's capacity to work out that the supposition mentioned in (2) is required to make her performance appear cooperative

The task for this assignment is to outline Grice's analysis more carefully, and to critically assess it. You have around three pages (up to 1200 words). But this time the focus of your discussion should be on the criticism. If you can, take it one stage further: consider how Grice might respond to your initial criticism, and how you might counter his response.

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

24.251 Introduction to Philosophy of Language  
Fall 2011

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.