LECTURE TITLE

جامعة ساوة

كلية التربية

علم اللغة/قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الرابعة

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Reference AND Inference

They represent two sides of the communication :

the speaker's action and the listener's interpretation

Reference (the speaker) : an act by which a speaker/writer uses language (proper noun , pronoun) to enable a listener/reader to identify someone or something

We can also refer to things when we're not sure what to call them. We can use expressions such as the blue thing and that icky stuff and we can even invent names.

We usually make a distinction between introducing new referents (a puppy) and referring back to them (the puppy, it).

We saw a funny home video about a boy washing a puppy in a small bath.

The puppy started struggling and shaking and the boy got really wet.

When he let go, it jumped out of the bath and ran away.

Inference (the listener or reader)

additional information used by a listener/reader to create a connection between what is said and what must be meant.

Ex: Can I look at your Chomsky?

And get the response, Sure, it's on the shelf over there.

We found a house to rent, but the kitchen was very small.

I caught a bus and asked the driver if it went near the downtown area.

In the first example, we must make an inference like "if X is a house, then X has a

kitchen" in order to interpret the connection between antecedent a house and anaphoric

expression the kitchen. In the second example, we must make an inference like "if X is a

bus, then X has a driver" in order to make the connection between a bus and the driver.

We have used the term "inference" here to describe what the listener (or reader)

does. When we talk about an assumption made by the speaker (or writer), we usually

talk about a "presupposition."

anaphora (anaphoric expressions): use of pronouns (it) and noun phrases with the (the puppy) to refer back to something already Mentioned

antecedent: the first mention of someone or something later referred to via anaphora

Ex : I caught a bus and asked the driver if it went near the downtown area.

Presupposition

When we use a referring expression like this, he or Shakespeare, we usually assume

that our listeners can recognize which referent is intended. In a more general way, we

design our linguistic messages on the basis of large-scale assumptions about what our

listeners already know. Some of these assumptions may be mistaken, of course, but

mostly they're appropriate. What a speaker (or writer) assumes is true or known by a

listener (or reader) can be described as a presupposition.

presupposition: an assumption by a speaker/

writer about what is true or already known by

the listener/reader