

7.XX. Pragmatics and Questions: Problems

1. Neko: You want to go hang out with me at the Logic Arcade?

Suki: I have literally a million things to do.

a. Does Suki mean her sentence to be read **literally**? (If not, what kind of non-literal communication is Suki engaged in?)

b. What is Suki's answer to Neko's question

2. Dr Slim: Do you like making money?

Jake: Who doesn't?

a) Jake intends his question rhetorically – that is, takes the answer to his question to be obvious. What is the **obvious answer** to Jake's question?

b) Based on that intended answer, what is Jake's answer to Dr. Slim's question?

c) Taking the answer to Jake's rhetorical question as a premise, and his answer to Dr. Slim's question as the conclusion, what is the **logical form** of this argument? (What **deductive rule** is this inference an example of?)

1. [Intended answer to Jake's rhetorical question]

∴ [Intended answer to Dr. Slim's question]

3. Kitty: Is this a good time to talk to Rex about investing in our new product?

Neko: Eh – Rex is a bear before he's had his morning coffee.

(a) Kitty assumes Neko's sentence should **not** be read **literally**, because if it were Neko would be violating the Maxim of:

_____.

(b) Kitty assumes Neko also intends an answers to her question, because if Neko had just been pointing out Rex's pre-coffee mood she'd be violating the Maxim of :

_____.

4. Student: Those chicks in the back of the room were talking all through your lecture today.

Rex: Yeah, and what else is new?

Rex asking "What *else* is new" suggests that *this event was new*; does Rex really (**literally**) mean to communicate that their talking in class was new? (Why?)

5. Letitia: You want a cup of coffee?

Lucretia: You read my mind.

a) Does Lucretia mean her sentence to be read **literally**?

b) Does Lucretia intend some **further, unspoken message** as well? (If so, what?)