

Midterm  
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Semantics  
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## Gricean Reasoning

We will use Gricean Reasoning to justify why B choose their response instead of that of B'.

11/15 First, semantically the question is “Do you have a siamese (cat)?”, where Siamese is referring to a type of cat. B could have said “No”, however that is not the most relevant answer that *B* could give. To say “No” would violate the maxim of quantity, since *B* knows that saying “I have a cat” is a better alternative. We will calculate why this this is the case from *A*'s perspective.

From A's perspective, A must find the answer strange, perhaps because it appears to violate the maxim of relation at first. Now, A has to consider the alternatives and decide why this utterance was chosen.

15/15 One possibility is that B has a Siamese cat and that answer was yes. Then saying “I have a Siamese cat” or “Yes” would be more informative and more relevant, and so that should be preferred. Since that was not said, A can also correctly calculate the implicature that B does not have a Siamese cat, and that the answer would be “no” (as in B'). As discussed earlier, what B said is better than B'. Under these circumstances, not only can A correctly determine the intended meaning (no, but B has a different cat) it is more informative for B to reveal that they do in fact have a cat, just not a Siamese one.

So this implicature arises from a violation of quantity, not quality

Should also do a cancellation test to show that this is an implicature and not an entailment  
0/3

## Possessives

See Lambda Notebook.

## Adjectives

See Lambda Notebook.