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Midterm

Semantics

Fall 2016

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1 Part 1

1. (a) B's utterance implicates that B does not have a siamese but that he does have a cat. The Gricean framework assumes that speakers are communicating cooperatively and therefore a response should always answer a question with as most detail as possible (unless attempting to deceive). If B had a siamese, the Gricean framework would have required that they answer that they had a siamese cat. Since B answered that they simply had a cat, we infer that that cat is not a siamese.

Good, but exactly
which sub maxim
being flouted or
violated?
7/15

Although the utterance of B did not answer A's question semantically, B might have chosen this response in order to provide A with more information. If B wanted A to know that B did indeed have a cat, but that that cat was not a siamese, B would answer as in B not B' (this could be in the context of trying to relate to A in all manners relevant to cats). Perhaps B would do this in order to keep the conversation flowing, following the cooperative principle.

Good
15/15

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