

Sociolinguistic Theory

- Pragmatics Revolution
 - 1980s and 1990s
 - followed Semantics
- Searle's Speech Act Theory

All utterances can have three speech acts:

 - (1) Locutionary Speech Act - the words of an utterance
 - (2) Illocutionary Act - purpose or intent underlying words of utterance
 - (3) Perlocutionary Act - effect of utterance on listener or listener's interpretation
- Illocutionary force = intention of the communication (Owens, 2008, p. 45)

Core Beliefs

- Language use or pragmatics is emphasized
- Yes, there are innate cognitive and linguistic abilities, so some NATURE
- **Parent-child interaction** and **Context** are central – so also NURTURE
- Context =
 - Environmental context - setting
 - Linguistic context - other utterances, words
 - Social context - people present
- World Knowledge =
 - Past experience of the event, people

Transactional Model

- Caregiver – child relationship is central
- Caregivers respond to infant behaviors
 - like “perlocutionary,” meaning exists in listener
 - caregiver routines, reading aloud, social games “peek-a-boo,” repeated interactions shape communication
- Child is active participant

Limitations/Contributions

□ Limitations

- Alone, inadequate
 - How is the language form or grammar acquired? How are the intentions linked to the form and meaning?

□ Contributions

- "Reinforcement" in the form of loving social relationships plays a part in language acquisition
- Role of the caregiver in children's language development
- Differences in language development and use can be due to differences in environment, and language functioning is linked to context
