

Lecture 15, 10/19/2021

Intention inference

Announcements

- Project proposals due on Ed Discussions Wed (tomorrow!)
- Thu: some organizational stuff based on those proposals
- See full A2-A4 instructions, although we'll talk more about them on Thu

From Liye Fu's (2021) thesis, *Towards circumstance-sensitive communication assistance*, pg 30:

As a concrete example, misunderstanding ... signals can take (at least) two forms:

- Misunderstanding the means: people can differ in how they read the strength of politeness signals: e.g., a study reports that while American students consider "May I borrow a pen?" as strongly polite, their Japanese counterparts regard the expression as almost neutral (Matsuura, 1998).
- Misunderstanding the purpose: people can misunderstand why a polite phrasing is used. For instance, when the softened and polite suggestion made by a first officer to prompt the captain to de-ice—"See all those icicles on the back there and everything?"—is taken merely as a casual remark (Bonneton et al., 2011), it represents a misunderstanding on the functional purpose of the utterance.