
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sense and Reference Meaning Barriers in Pragmatics among Arabic Native Students

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| ABSTRACT

The study investigated some barriers in pragmatics to prevent EFL students from conveying sense and reference meaning. It was carried out in 2024 and was used to collect primary data through a questionnaire filled out by 50 university students in the English department. The results showed the most important differences Cause pragmatics barriers are contextual factors, as stated by (94%) of participants. Then cultural differences were stated by (80%) of them, and (34%) of participants said that differences come from culture more than linguistics. The most common challenges that can reduce ambiguities undermining intended sense and reference meaning are clarifying assumptions upfront, intended sense and reference meaning mentioned by (78%) of participants. Then (68%) stated that intended and reference meaning could be conveyed through non-linguistic cues. (64%) of participants confirmed that English communication assumptions sometimes undermine sense and reference meaning. (76%) of participants claimed that philosophers and linguists (pragmaticians) aim to be scientific. They can distinguish sense and reference meaning concepts throughout research and case studies across communities. Based on "analysis of pragmatics across diverse languages and context, 66%) of them mentioned that future pragmatics research should incorporate non-English languages. The study ended with some recommendations: Treat FEL students' difficulties in morphemic analysis and vocabulary and focus on some strategies. e.g., translation and interlanguages are facilitators of cultural and contextual meaning.

| KEYWORDS

old sayings, Dialectology, Pragmatians, interlanguage, conventions, Cross-cultural

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

Pragmatics uses two contextual combinations; one now sounds archaic and the other innovative. The influence is bi-directional: language and culture may influence each other to create pragmatics barriers, Conventions aspects represented and determined pragmatics barriers in different cultural and contextual assumptions, Old sayings – older texts – some dialects – some words and phrases now sound archaic – pragmatic connections – metaphor – innovative technology opens a new era of information and different devices can be affected negatively cross-cultural relationships. Meaning is created through conversations, depending on conversation knowledge between communities that share non-linguistic knowledge. Studies in social dialectology confront difficult issues, especially with investigators venturing into cities. Using strategies of interlanguages and translation in pragmatics can help overcome pragmatic barriers.

Effective communication relies on the successful conveyance of intended meaning between parties. However, in cross-cultural exchanges especially, various pragmatic barriers can undermine the intended sense or reference meaning. Such barriers arise due to differences in contextual conditions, cultural assumptions, linguistic forms, and interpretation of intended meanings across languages and cultures. When left unaddressed, pragmatic barriers contribute to misunderstandings that impair relationships and outcomes. Pragmatics is the study of meaning in communication, examining how context, cultural norms, and assumptions influence interpretation. Key concepts in pragmatics include sense, referring to a word's meaning concerning other

words, and reference, concerning how words relate to real-world concepts. Pragmatic theories predict certain contextual factors and cultural differences can create barriers to conveying intended sense and reference.

Previous research has explored pragmatics to some extent. Some studies analyzed advertising content and persuasive styles. Others examined links between media exposure and brand awareness, ad aesthetics and impacts, or commitment to ethics and social responsibility in ads. However, limited attention has been given to comprehensively identifying the nature and sources of barriers to conveying intended meaning across cultures.

The current study examines pragmatic barriers that undermine sense and reference meaning in cross-cultural English communications to address this gap. The research objectives are to define relevant concepts, identify potential barriers based on theory, classify types of barriers, analyze contextual and cultural influences, review examples of misunderstandings, and suggest strategies for improved understanding despite differences.

Insights from this study can contribute to better management of pragmatic barriers and more effective cross-cultural understanding through communication. The findings may also inform future intercultural research on pragmatics across diverse languages and settings.

2. Statement of the problem

Due to various pragmatic barriers, many English language communications seem to result in misunderstandings or ambiguities in the intended sense or reference meaning. These barriers can stem from differences in context, cultural assumptions, linguistic forms, or intended meanings between communication parties. Such pragmatic barriers undermine effective cross-cultural understanding if the causes and types of barriers are not properly understood.

3. Research objectives and questions

Research Objectives

- 1/ Identify potential barriers. In conveying sense and reference meaning pragmatically based on pragmatics theory, cultural, contextual, linguistics.
- 2/ Classify different types of pragmatic barriers that can occur in context, cross-cultural, and intercultural contexts.
- 3/ Explain how challenges in context, culture, assumptions, and intended meaning can reduce ambiguities undermining intended sense or reference meaning.
- 4/ Illustrate some examples that show intended sense or reference meaning that seem to have been misunderstood due to a pragmatic barrier.
- 5/ Suggest some strategies or future research to overcome pragmatic barriers and more effectively convey intended sense and reference meaning in pragmatics breeires.

Research Question

- 1/ How can differences be classified by source (e.g. cultural, contextual, linguistic, pragmatic barriers)?
- 2/ What assumptions, co-factors, or pragmatics theory may create barriers to intended meaning?
- 3/How can challenges in context, culture, assumptions, or non-linguistic knowledge reduce ambiguities undermining intended sense or reference meaning?
- 4/ What examples show that the intended sense or reference meaning seems to have been missed or misunderstood due to a pragmatic barrier?
- 5/ What role has future research been proposed or found effective for overcoming pragmatics barriers to improve understanding of intended sense and reference meaning?

Research hypothesis

- 1/ There are many types of differences, contextual factors, or cultural differences that pragmatics theory predicts may create barriers to conveying intended sense and reference meaning.

2/ Pragmatics barriers in cross-cultural communications can be classified or categorized by source, effect, context, etc.

3/ There are no challenges in context, culture, assumptions, or intended meaning between parties that reduce ambiguities that undermine the intended sense or reference meaning.

4/ Today, a lot of examples in English language communications where the intended sense or reference meaning seems to have been missed or misunderstood due to pragmatic barriers.

5/ It is difficult to find strategies or future research that have been proposed or found to be effective for overcoming pragmatics barriers to improve understanding of intended sense and reference meaning.

Research Significance:

Only pragmatics allows humans to analyze. Also, it sometimes seems to be a frustrating area of study because it requires us to make sense of people and what they have in mind. Pragmatics has big disadvantages is that all these very human concepts are extremely difficult to analyze consistently and objectively, so this study is important because it will identify the most important cultural, contextual and linguistic differences that cause barriers in understanding sense and reference meaning and trying to find appropriate solutions through future strategies and researches.

Research Limits

There are many barriers in sense and reference meaning in the pragmatics of EFL learners. The study was conducted at the university level in the fifth level of the English language department at Al-Baha University Faculty of Science and Arts in Almekhwa.

Some constraints were encountered during the research during the collected questionnaire with the students. For example, they need translation to some statements and have little fear of pragmatic meanings.

4. Materials and Methods

This research used descriptive and analytical methods and selected a random sample of 50 students of the English language department, Faculty of Arts&science at Al-Baha University, in March 2024 in the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia. The researcher used analytical methods to transfer qualitative data to numerical figures. The data was collected through a questionnaire after they had studied the pragmatics (Micropragmatics and Macropragmatics) course for 36 contact hours to enable them to evaluate the pragmatics barriers encountered in the pragmatics course after they had passed previous courses, such as semantics. Statistical tools, such as percentages, frequency, tables, figures, graphs, and charts, were used to investigate study hypotheses.

5. Literature Review

While some previous studies have touched on certain aspects related to pragmatics barriers, such as content analysis of advertisements or culture-specific interpretations, there remains a need for comprehensive research that specifically examines the nature and sources of barriers to conveying intended sense and reference meaning across cultures. A better understanding of context, assumptions, language differences, and intended meanings interact to potentially introduce ambiguities is needed. Additionally, classifying pragmatics barriers and analyzing real-world examples of misunderstandings can provide valuable insights. Identifying effective strategies for overcoming such barriers can also help improve cross-cultural communication outcomes. Therefore, this study aims to address these gaps by defining key concepts, identifying potential pragmatic barriers, examining sources of ambiguity, analyzing misunderstandings, and suggesting strategies for enhanced understanding of intended sense and reference meaning despite cultural differences.

Pragmatics

We focused on referential meaning and the relationships between words. Other aspects of meaning depend on more than context and communicative intentions. Communication depends on recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance and what speakers mean by their utterances in a particular context. The study of what speakers mean, or "speaker meaning" is called pragmatics.

Invisible Meaning

In many ways, pragmatics is the study of invisible meaning, or how we recognize what is meant even when it is not actually said or written. For that to happen, the speaker or writer must be able to depend on a lot of shared assumptions and expectations

when they try to communicate. The investigation of that assumption and expectations provides insights into how we understand more than just the linguistic content of utter.

Context

It must be the case that we use the meanings of the words, the context in which they occur, and some pre-existing knowledge of what would be a likely message as we work toward a reasonable interpretation of what the producer or the sign intended it to convey. Our interpretation of the sign's meaning is not based solely on the words, but on what we think the writer intended to communicate. Hyland (2001) explained that engagement is important to describe academic writers's effort to invoke the reader, address the reader's questions, direct the reader's attention, and bring reader into process of meaning componanets .

An utterance

It is a particular, actual occurrence of the product of human behavior in communicative interaction (i.e, a string of sounds), as it is pronounced, grammatically structured, and systematical and pragmatically interpreted in its context. (Croft2002: 26)

Examples of cultural differences in communication

Examples of cultural differences are low-context and high-context cultural differences. A low-context culture relies on giving details and requires people to have formal engagements. In contrast, a high-context culture does not focus on details. Instead, people draw implicated meanings from words. People also have personal relationships that are emotional and expressive.

The cultural barriers to communication

Cultural barriers are the communication challenges that arise due to differences in the cultural backgrounds of the involved parties. They include differences in language, ethnocentrism, stereotypes, and prejudice.

Some examples of how culture affects communication

Culture can affect how people communicate in different ways. For example, it may affect communication styles such as phrases, words, gestures, and languages. Culture can also affect how people deliver information and their attitudes towards conflict.

Some examples of pragmatics barriers:

(Vyvyan. Exans2019) stated that some linguistic and conceptual phenomena considered a metonymic basis in cognitive linguistics account for generalizations in language usage by positing underlying conceptual metonymies. Some examples of such patterns are provided here :

1/ Place for institution

- a- *Buckingham Place denied the rumours.*
- b- *The white House won't support gun control.*
- c- *The Kremlin accused of new foreign election meddling.*

2/ Producer for product

- a- *I have just bought a new Citroen.*
- b- *Pass me the Shakespeare on the top shelf.*
- c- *She likes eating Burger King.*

3/ Place for event

- a- *Irag nearly cost Tony Blair the premiership.*
- b- *American public opinion fears another Vietnam*
- c- *Chernobyl is a stark reminder of the dangers of nuclear energy.*

4/ Part for all

- a- *My wheels are parked out the back.*
- b- *Lend me a hand.*

c- *She's not just a pretty face.*

5/ Whole for part

a- *American is set to build a wall along its Mexican border.*

b- *England beat Australia in the Rugby World Cup final.*

c- *My car has developed a mechanical fault.*

6/ Effect for cause

a- *He has a long face.*

b- *B- He has a spring in his step today*

c- *Her face is beaming*

Results related to the literature review :

1/ Pragmatics uses two contextual combinations; one now sounds archaic and the other is innovative.

2/ Old sayings – older texts – some dialects – some words and phrases now sound archaic – pragmatic connections – metaphor – innovative technology opens a new era of information and different devices can be affected negatively cross-cultural relationships.

3/ Conventions aspects represented and determined pragmatics barriers in different cultural and contextual assumptions.

4/ Context is more important than explicit words because people interpret meaning in a particular context and how the context affects what is said.

5/ It is offensive in pragmatics to consider that explicit words are more important than context in determining pragmatic meaning because they need to infer the meaning of invisible meaning, unsaid meaning, relative distance meaning, and metaphoric meaning.

6/ Anaphoric connections indicate a kind of knowledge, hence social connections, in contrast to difficulties in morphemic analysis, which negatively affects non-linguistic cues.

7/ The influence is bi-directional: language and culture may influence each other to create pragmatics barriers.

8/ Meaning is created through conversations, depending on conversation knowledge between communities that share non-linguistic knowledge.

9/ Studies in social dialectology confront difficult issues, especially with investigators venturing into cities.

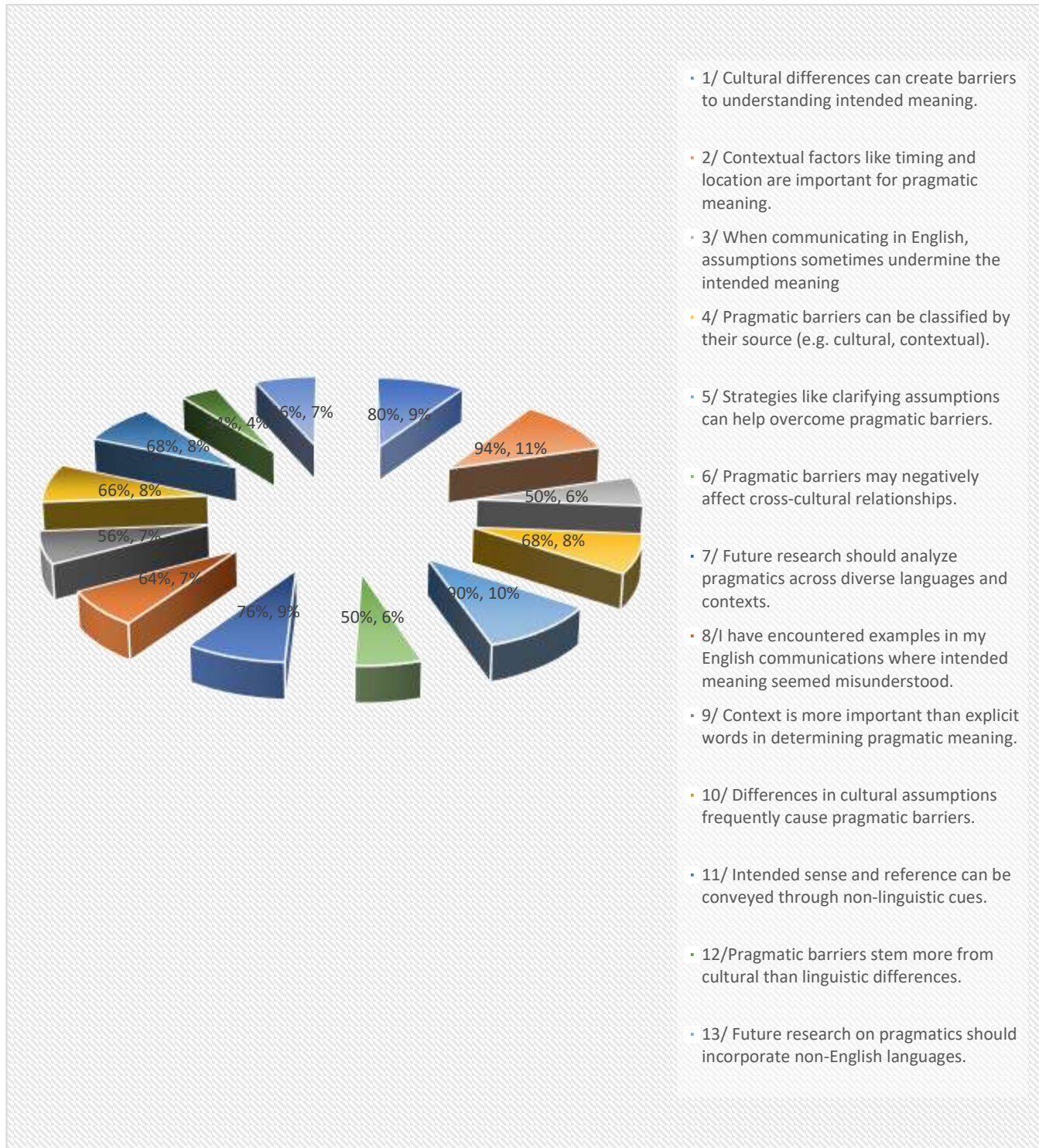
10/ Using strategies of interlanguages and translation in pragmatics can be helped to overcome pragmatics barriers.

Participants' view of pragmatics barriers in sense and reference meaning

Pragmatics barriers	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
1/ Cultural differences can create barriers to understanding the intended meaning.	13	26%	27	54%	7	14%	2	4%	1	2%
2/ Contextual factors like timing and location are important for pragmatic meaning.	27	54%	20	40%	2	4%	0	0	1	2%
3/ Pragmatic barriers can be classified by their both source (e.g. cultural, contextual).	13	26%	21	42%	10	20%	5	10%	1	2%
4/ Pragmatics barriers may negatively affect cross-cultural relationships.	7	14%	18	36%	8	16%	14	28%	3	6%
5/ Differences in cultural assumptions frequently cause pragmatic barriers.	18	36%	15	30%	11	22%	4	8%	2	4%
6/ Pragmatic barriers stem more from cultural than linguistic differences.	10	20%	7	14%	20	40%	10	20%	3	6%
7/ Context is more important than explicit words in determining pragmatics meaning.	16	32%	12	24%	10	20%	8	16%	4	8%
8/ Clarifying assumptions upfront can prevent pragmatic misunderstandings.	22	44%	17	34%	7	14%	4	8%	0	0
9/ Intended sense and reference can be conveyed through non-linguistic cues.	17	34%	17	34%	10	20%	3	6%	3	6%
10/ When communicating in English, assumptions sometimes undermine the intended meaning.	9	18%	21	42%	10	20%	8	16%	2	4%
11/ I have encountered examples in my English communications where the intended meaning seemed misunderstood.	9	18%	23	46%	8	16%	6	12%	4	8%
12/ Future research should analyze pragmatics across diverse languages and contexts.	10	20%	28	56%	5	10%	7	14%	0	0
13/ Future research on pragmatics should incorporate non-English languages.	11	22%	17	34%	9	18%	6	12%	7	14%

6. Results and Discussion

Participants' views toward pragmatics barriers



The researcher explains the results in numbers depending basically on the participants' views (agree and strongly agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree) and

discusses them according to the research hypotheses above systematically and scientifically analyzing the statements. scientifically analyzing the statements.

1/ Contextual factors like timing and location are important for pragmatic meaning. strongly agree and agree (94%), Neither agree nor disagree (4%), disagree and strongly disagree (2%)

Pragmatics studies how context contributes to identifying meaning and environment around human language utilized in social interaction and is tied to the relationship between the interpreter and the interpreter. The linguists who utilize pragmatics are called pragmatists. (Mey.J.L.2006). Contextual meaning in pragmatics depends on many factors i.e. tone, gesture, norms, values, and social diversities, and how the speaker and listener use language to achieve pragmatic goals. (Rajend, Mesthrie. 2018) says that "*The socioculture context of situation along with the cumulative experience, habits, competence, and immediate goals of the interactions*".

Grusky.2014) says that" *One of the key problems is that class and cultural context are intricately intertwined so that universal principles which apply to all cultures and societies are hard to identify*"

2/ Cultural differences can create barriers to understanding the intended meaning. Strongly agree and agree (80%), Neither agree nor disagree (14%), disagree and strongly disagree (6%)

Cultural differences are a huge term that involves many traditions, values, norms, and shared experiences within communities, whether individual or collective. Various cultural in pragmatics due to conversational inference, different language structures having different word orders, and how people share non-linguistics knowledge which affects pragmatics inferences and understanding of intended meaning.

"cross-cultural pragmatics" is sometimes used to refer to precisely this kind of research, more and more frequently a clear distinction between the terms "cross-cultural" and "intercultural" is being made. Though these terms are often used interchangeably, it is useful to distinguish between them. The term "cross-cultural" refers to exploring how natives speak and act in their native language and within their cultural context and comparing how native behavior in one culture compares with that in another culture. This definition of cross-cultural therefore does not refer to the exploration of issues relating to people conversing across cultural boundaries—as the literal meaning of the term suggests—but rather the exploration of issues pertaining to intracultural communication. Cross-cultural pragmatics adopts a comparative methodological approach that contrasts the characteristics of intracultural communication in two cultures by identifying similarities and differences in their (speech) behavior.

The Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics. Edited by Carol A. Chapelle. © 2018 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Published 2018 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

All the above-mentioned about percentages and their information state that philosophers, linguists and pragmatians aim to be scientific. They can also distinguish concepts of sense and reference meaning because they studied scientific language throughout their life through researches and cases studies cross communities based on study language is systematically. Todd.L (1987) cites that "*study language is systematically as far as possible without prejudice. It means observation language use, forming hypotheses about it, testing these hypotheses and then refining them on the basis of the evidence collected*".

3/ Pragmatic barriers can be classified by their source (e.g. cultural, contextual). Strongly agree and agree (68%), Neither agree nor disagree (20%), disagree and strongly disagree (12%)

Pragmatics barriers can be classified into many different resources, i.e., English language levels, individual performance and competence, and cultural and contextual differences. In pragmatics, there are three areas: the literal meaning of utterances, the constructed meaning of utterances in context and the grammar of utterances that can be affected by cultural and contextual factors. Cultural barriers can be caused by Language varieties, beliefs, values, and norms, and intercultural communication and, commonalities and shared knowledge create a core common ground on which pragmatics understanding is built, which helps to better understand other cultural concepts.

Contemporary pragmatic makes use of two combination of contextual one is now sound archaic and the else is innovative contextual which their interpretation depends on the speaker's intention, context and physical environment.

4/ Differences in cultural and contextual assumptions frequently cause pragmatic barriers. strongly agree and agree (66%), Neither agree nor disagree (22%), disagree and strongly disagree (12%)

strongly agree and agree (66%) Cultural assumptions are made from our in and outside customs and traditions which are composed of a set of values, norms, habits, beliefs ways of thinking, etc. All these cultural assumptions can be extended conventionally from some factors through across-cultural and intercultural items. Individuals or collectives depend on the assumption of how proximal and distal the receivers are. Speakers determine how much needs to be said. People are members of social groups and convey the same behaviors expected in the same groups. The researcher considers the role of religion and family structures.

An example: In some cultures like the US, this can mean "Yes, we can do that!" In others, like Japan, this can mean, "No, it's not possible." These are examples of cultural assumptions that often creep into our daily lives.

5/ Pragmatic barriers may negatively affect cross-cultural relationships. Strongly agree and agree (50%), Neither agree nor disagree (16%), disagree and strongly disagree (34%)

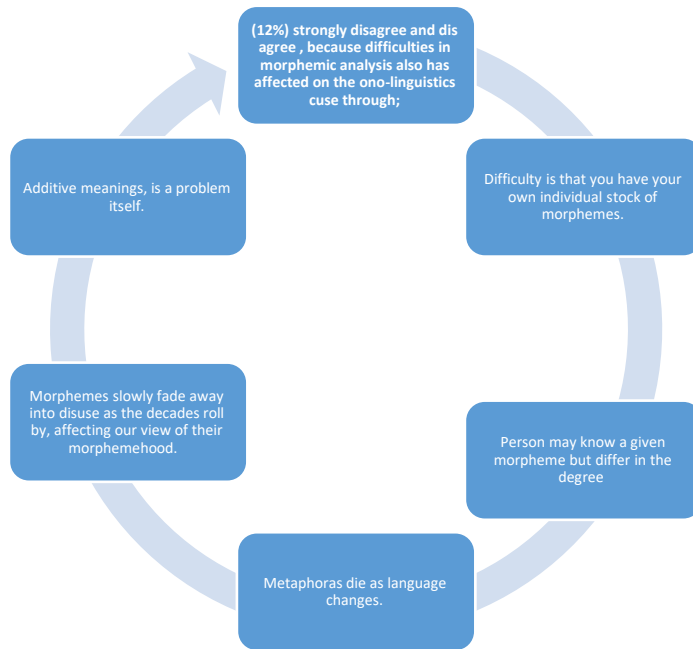
Cross-cultural relationships mean the transmission inhertical features of language and culture and generation throughout all unity of community or commonly by keeping basic traditional characteristics in mind. In pragmatics cross-cultural concerns with acts of speech, language behavior, politeness, religious beliefs, metaphor, and invisible meaning. Many barriers of pragmatics can affect negatively cross-cultural relationships e.g. old sayings, in older texts, and in some dialects, some words and phrases now sound archaic, pragmatics connections, and innovative technology open new era of information and different devices.

6/Pragmatic barriers stem more from cultural than linguistic differences. strongly agree and agree (34%), Neither agree nor disagree (40%), diaagree and strongly disagree (26%)

(26%) The participants mentioned that they strongly disagree because both culture and linguistics may cause pragmatic barriers in different ways. People communicate with each other linguistically through speech and writing to enable the receiver to identify meaning. There are several possible relationships between language and society. One is that social structure may either influence or determine linguistic structure and/ or behavior. Second, linguistic structure and/ or behavior may influence or determine social structure. A third is that the influence is bi-directional: language and society may influence each other. Any change in socio-psychological perspective leads to worries, skepticism, and even fears (Burridge & Bergs. 2017)

(7)/ Clarifying assumptions upfront can prevent pragmatic misunderstandings . strongly agree and agree (78%), disagree (8%)

Strategies like clarifying assumptions can be achieved through recognizing the role of inferences, pragmatics connection between proper names and objects that define community conventionally, and speaker's intention during conversations i.e. (Yule.G. 2017) states that "*speakers have other ways of indicating how their utterances are to be interpreted. They can include short forms such as **you know, well, I mean, I don't know**, which are optional and loosely attached to utterances. These are pragmatic makers, and they can be used to mark a speaker's attitude toward the listener or to what is being said. Speakers can use you know to indicate that knowledge is being treated as shared, and I mean to self-correct or to mark an attempt to clarify something.*



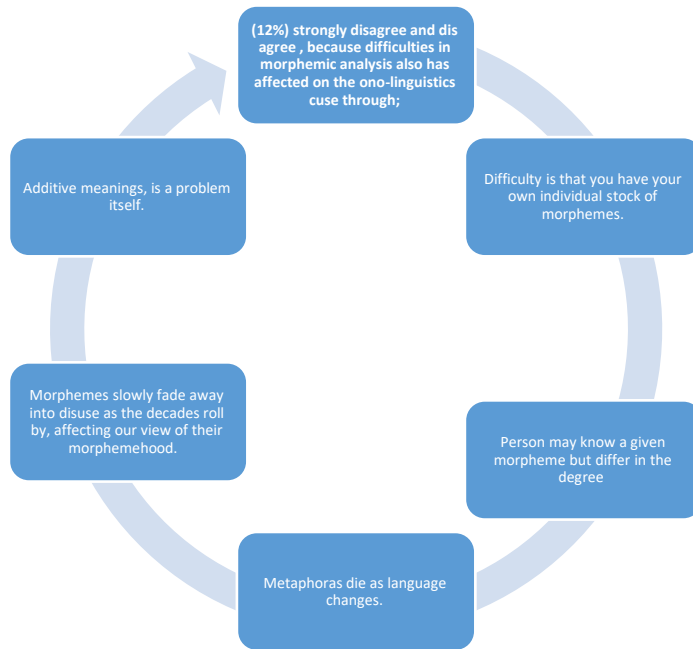
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8/ Intended sense and reference can be conveyed through non-linguistic cues. strongly agree and agree (68%), Neither agree nor disagree (20%), disagree and strongly disagree (12%)

Strongly agree and agree (68%) stated by participants the significant role of sense and reference meaning and how they tied to non- linguistics cues. The difference between a word's sense and word's reference is very necessary, a word sense is "how the word relates to other words in a language, and word reference is ' how word relates to real-world concepts" James, Hurford, Brendan Heasley and Michael B. Smith. (2007). For successful reference, we must consider the role of inference. Because there is no direct relationship between entities and words, the receiver's task is to infer accurately the meaning. The role of anaphoric connections indicates a kind of shared knowledge and, hence, social connection.

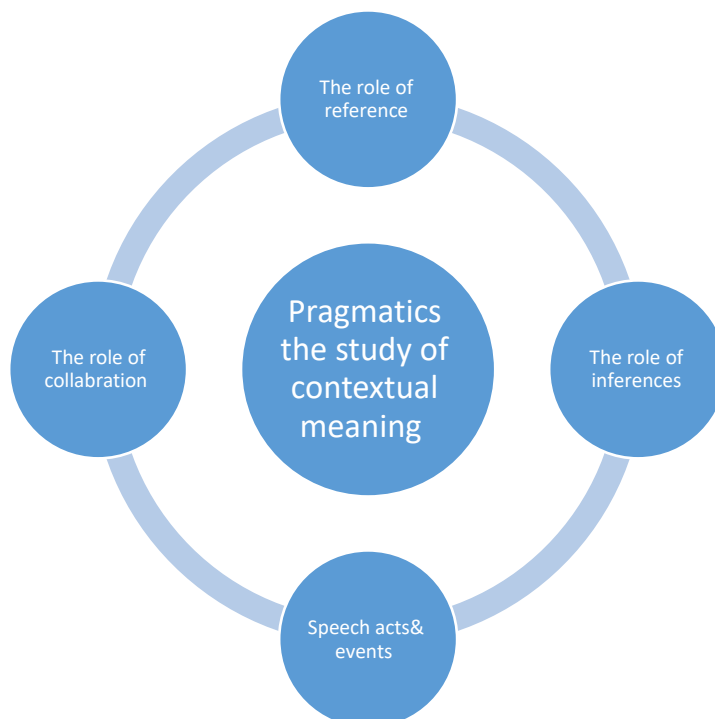
(8%) strongly disagree and disagree, because difficulties in the morphemic analysis also have affected on the non-linguistics cause through;

- a/ Difficulty is that you have your own individual stock of morphemes.
- b/ Person may know a given morpheme but differ in the degree to which they know its presence in various words.
- c/ Metaphoras die as language changes.
- d/ Additive meanings, is a problem itself.
- e/ Morphemes slowly fade into disuse as the decades roll by, affecting our view of their morphemehood.



.9/ Context is more important than explicit words in determining pragmatics meaning. Strongly agree and agree (56%), Neither agree nor disagree (20%), disagree and strongly disagree (24%).

Some of the participants (56%) mentioned that they strongly agree and agree that context is more important than explicit words in determining pragmatics meaning; the context has a vital role in pragmatics because it involves people's interpretation of meaning in a particular context and how the context effect on what is said. Considering how the speaker arranges what he wants to say by who he is talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances.



Pragmatical is the study of contextual meaning

(24%) of the participants stated that explicit words in determining pragmatics meaning are more important than context. This motion is wrong and might be offensive in pragmatics because there are many interrelationships between invisible meaning, pragmatics connection, unsaid meaning, metaphor meaning, relative distance meaning, and pragmatics projection .

10/ When communicating in English, assumptions sometimes undermine the intended meaning. Strongly agree and agree (60%), Neither agree nor disagree (20%), intended meanings, their assumptions, disagree and strongly disagree (20%)

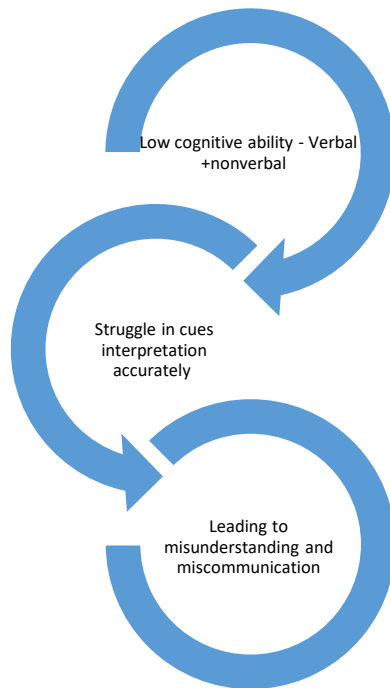
Communication in English requires a large vocabulary and fluency in pronunciation when shifting roles in conversation. Yule. G. (1996) describes that" *pragmatics is the study of the relationships between linguistics forms and the users of those forms. Only pragmatics allows humans into the analysis. The advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meanings, assumptions, purposes or goals and actions (for example, requests) that they perform when they speak.*

Assumptions can undermine the intended meaning of pragmatics and also extremely difficult to know what people have in their mind.

According to 20%, some participants disagree and strongly disagree, and some may have special resources to promote their communication skills. Conversation analysis (CA) looks at routine practices of social interaction as a fundamental way to understand everyday life (Hutchby & Wooffitt 1998).

11/I have encountered examples in my English communications where the intended meaning seemed misunderstood: strongly agree and agree (64%), Neither agree nor disagree (16%), disagree and strongly disagree (20 %)

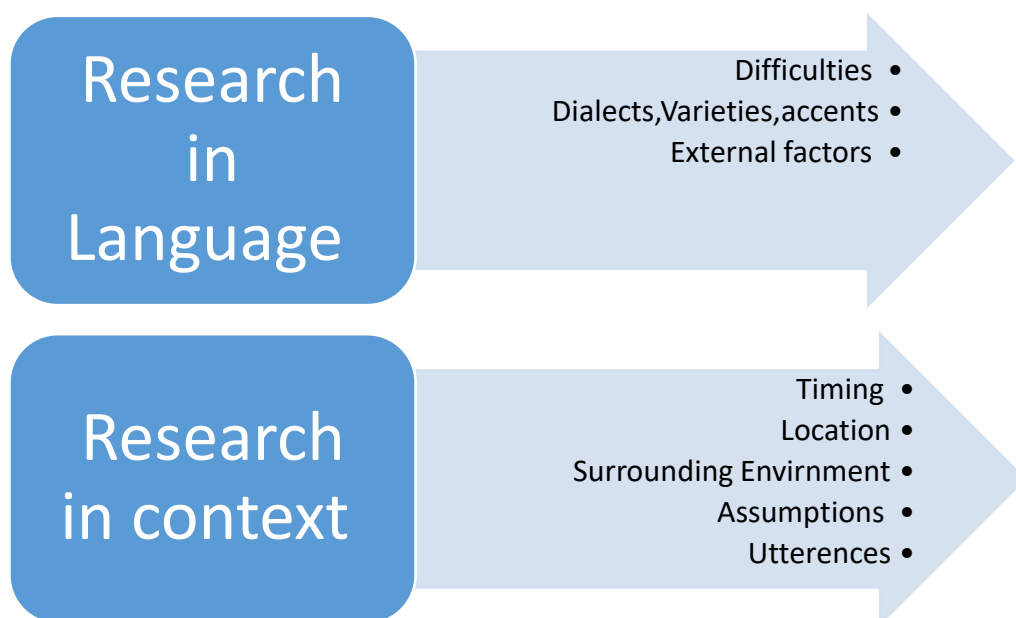
Firstly according to (64%) strogly agree and agree, the researcher supposes that stock of language has different rage from one to an other. The analysis of conversations pragmatically expresses many aspects; basically it based on understanding how meaning is created through conversation depend on convention knowwldge between community sharing non-linguistic knowledge. Moreover utterences via language and conveying intened meaning from speaker . Crystal (2003) has described attractiveness of global English most vividly. or writer to the listener or reader.



12/ Future research should analyze pragmatics across diverse languages and contexts. Strongly agree and agree (76%), Neither agree nor disagree (10%), disagree and strongly disagree (14%)

One of the obvious matters is that pragmatics allows humans into the analysis because it concerns the relationships between linguistic and non-linguistic forms and the users of those forms. Analyzing pragmatics across diverse languages and contexts is crucial in all research because it will reflect and compare changeable differences and their circulation across language and culture. (Wardhaugh.R. 2006) illustrate that; Studies in social dialectology, the term used to refer to this branch of linguistics study, confront many difficult issues, particularly when investigators venture into cities because of family structures, employment, and opportunities for social advancement or decline. Migration, both out and in of cities, and diffusion of languages. Variety in terms of a specific set of linguistic items or human speech patterns (presumably, sounds, words, and grammatical features that uniquely associate with external factors particularly a geographical area or social group.

Context affects the success of pragmatics' intended meaning through many factors timing, location, relevant distance, co-text, etc. The relationship of pragmatics with context is that context decodes meaning and interpretation the unsaid meaning.



13/ Future research on pragmatics should incorporate non-English languages. Strongly agree and agree (56%), Neither agree nor disagree (18%), disagreed and strongly disagree (26%)

Regarding interlanguage and translation factors that can help to overcome pragmatics barriers, it depends on how syllables are structured, how subject teachers train well, and which types of languages will be carried out. Also, students prepare their abilities. Moreover, in tone languages, most speakers of European languages seem very strange and exotic, and a large proportion speaks them of the world's population. (Roach, P. (2009). The attractiveness of global English is very vividly because it is the language of international business and commerce, politics and media and it has been adopting the global role of a lingua franca of cross-cultural communication, Crystal (2003).

7. Results

This study showed many important results, which were as follows:

1/ The most important differences that cause pragmatics barriers are contextual factors, stated by (94%)of participants: timing and location are important for pragmatic meaning because contextual meaning in pragmatics depends on many factors i.e. tone, gesture, norms, values, and social diversities, and how the speaker and listener use language to achieve pragmatic goals. The second difference is cultural differences (80%) and finally in cultural assumptions (66%).

2/ Effect on pragmatics barriers appears less in the cross-cultural relationships stated by (50%) of participants, and also from cultural than linguistics differences (34%).

3/ The most effective challenges that can reduce ambiguities undermining intended sense or reference meaning are clarifying assumptions upfront, intended sense which was mentioned by (78%) of participants, then (68%) stated that intended sense and reference can be conveyed through non-linguistic cues. Finally, the less one is that context is more important than explicit words in determining pragmatics meaning, mentioned by (56%) of participants.

4/ Most of the participants stated that (64%) mentioned that in English communication, assumptions sometimes undermine the intended and reference meaning, and (60%) of them encountered examples in English communication where the intended meaning seemed misunderstood, also (20%) of participants confirmed that they haven't any problems according to mentioned above.

5/ The philosophers and linguists (pragmaticians) aim to be scientific; also they can distinguish concepts of sense and reference meaning because they studied scientific language throughout their life through research and case studies across communities based on the study of language is systematic as in "analyze pragmatics across diverse language and context, that stated by (76%) of participants", and also "(66%) of them said that future research on pragmatics should be incorporate non- English languages".

8. Recommendations

1/ The philosophers and linguistics should reveal the main pragmatics barriers and adopt adequate syllables to cope with specific university students' abilities.

2/ Create new approaches to differentiate between pragmatics: innovative and now sounds archaic.

3/ Taking into consideration conventions factors shared by collaborative work between members of the community, cross-culture, and intercultural aspects.

4/ Avoidance: This depends on explicit words and contextual meaning.

5/ Treat university students' difficulties in morphemic analysis and vocabularies.

6/ Focus on some strategies. e.g., translation and interlanguages are facilitators of cultural and contextual meaning.

7/ Invent some expressions to convey the sense and reference speakers' intended meaning.

8/ Further research should be conducted in the social-dialectology area to explain the influences of bi-directional language and culture to disguise pragmatics barriers.

9. Conclusions

This research investigates some pragmatic barriers that result in misunderstanding or ambiguities in the intended sense or reference meaning among university students in the English department, trying to present some possible solutions better to understand messages from speakers' intended meanings to listeners. The study stated that the sense and reference meaning barriers are mostly caused by timing and locating, Lack of strategies like clarifying assumptions, and cultural differences. Moreover many of the participants confirmed that clarifying assumptions upfront reduced pragmatic barriers. Also, non-linguistic cues can be understood by sense and reference meaning in pragmatics. Many participants claimed that further research should analyze pragmatics across diverse languages and contexts because they encountered many examples in a sense, and reference meanings have been missed due to pragmatics barriers. The research concludes that studying pragmatics in universities especially for EFL students, has considered and maintained the role of subject teachers, syllables well designed and implement new methods of teaching pragmatics through the use of a variety of innovative tools and techniques.

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