

## PRAGMATIC ASPECTS OF SOCIAL STATUS

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**Abstract.** *The pragmatic aspects of social status are integral to understanding and navigating social interactions. By examining the relationship between social status and pragmatic communication, we gain deeper insights into the intricate nature of human interactions and the factors that influence social dynamics.*

**Key words:** *social standing, social interaction, communication styles, social norms, pragmatic competence, pragmalinguistics, formal language, specialized jargon;*

### INTRODUCTION

Social status determines the perceived importance or value of an individual within society, reflecting aspects such as respect, honor, competence, and deference. Grasping the pragmatic features of social status is essential for analyzing how people communicate and interact within their social context. They reveal how individuals adjust their communication strategies based on their social standing and the expectations they encounter.

In the pragmatic section of linguistics there are very heterogeneous objects of presupposition, speech acts, cross-cultural mismatches, performatives, deixis, strategies of politeness and argumentation, code switching . In logical analysis, pragmatics includes elements outside the brackets of the proposition, namely indicators of time, place and indices of speech participants.

Pragmatic aspects of social status shed light on how social hierarchy affects communication and interactions within a society. These can be explored through different elements such as language use, non-verbal cues, adherence to social norms, and the dynamics of power. Here are some essential points to consider:

1. **Communication Styles:** Effective social interaction heavily relies on pragmatic language skills, which encompass not only verbal communication but also non-verbal cues like eye contact, facial expressions, and body language. Individuals with higher social status often display communication styles that are confident and assertive, impacting how their messages are perceived and received by others.

2. **Adaptation to Context:** Communication is often tailored according to the social context and the status of the participants involved. For example, a person with higher

social status might use formal language or specialized jargon reflecting their expertise, whereas someone with lower status might use a more deferential tone. This adaptability is a crucial aspect of pragmatic skills, enabling individuals to effectively navigate social hierarchies. In the semiotic model of C. Morris, pragmatics is interpreted as the relationship of a sign to its interpreter, as opposed to the relationship of a sign to its object (semantics) and to other signs (syntactics) .

3. Social Norms and Expectations: Pragmatic understanding includes recognizing and adhering to the social norms that dictate appropriate behavior in different settings. Individuals with higher social status might be expected to take on more significant roles like initiating conversations or leading groups, while those with lower status might be expected to be more attentive listeners. Discussion on the essence of linguistic pragmatics shows that pragmatics is understood in a broad sense, including sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and other areas of linguistics related to the functioning of language in society, i.e. as the linguistics of speech, and in a narrow sense as the relationship of a sign to a person .

4. Influence of Social Status on Interaction: The dynamics of social status can profoundly influence how interactions unfold. People with higher status tend to receive more attention and deference during conversations, reinforcing their place in the social hierarchy and perpetuating a cycle where their status is continuously affirmed through these interactions.

5. Pragmatic Competence: Pragmatic competence involves using language effectively in social contexts, including understanding figurative speech, managing conversational turns, and interpreting subtle social cues. Higher-status individuals often exhibit superior pragmatic competence, which bolsters their ability to lead and influence others.

The pragmalinguistic study of a person's social status partly overlaps with the sociolinguistic study, being a refinement of the latter. In order to characterize the meaning in terms of pragmatics, i.e. in the relative fullness of meaning revealed in a specific communication situation taking into account interpersonal relations, it is necessary to review the main provisions of pragmalinguistics. Our task is facilitated by the fact that there are a number of fundamental works that provide a thorough analysis of this area of linguistics . In the most general sense, pragmalinguistics can probably be characterized as a consistent development of content linguistics, i.e. linguistics that addresses meaning. Gradually, the sphere of interests of linguists included data that had previously been the responsibility of other sciences: regional studies, encyclopedic, sociological, psychological information. These data are addressive, and taking them into account, the communication model becomes more adequate. Of course, the previous achievements of both formal and content linguistics are not discarded, but are included in the concept of a broader approach to language.

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