

# Back to politeness

- *Situated* forms of conduct that enhance, and prevent or repair infringements on, others' face.
- The forms themselves can always be used to the opposite effect.

# Deference

- Submission to the opinion, wishes, or judgment of another.
- Underlines the potential relation between politeness and power.

# Manners

- Conventions of polite conduct range from universal norms to quite rarefied ones.
  - Saying “excuse me” when you step on a toe.
  - Chewing with your mouth closed.
  - Holding your fork properly.
- Manners serve as social and cultural capital
- Hence the relation between politeness, refinement and class.

# Some strategies of politeness

- Hedging - “I tend to prefer coffee.”
- Euphemism “shoot”
- Mitigation - “You’re not quite ready.”
- Indirectness - “Can I take your order?”
- Honorification - “Are you ready to order, sir?”

# Indirection as respect

- Indirect speech acts - meaning is different from the literal meaning of the utterance.
  - Can/Could you pass the salt?
  - Would you remove your hat?
  - It would be nice if you were quieter.
  - It sure is cold in here.

# An utterance has

- Locutionary force - the referential value
- Illocutionary force - asserting, suggesting, demanding, promising... (speaker's implication)
- Perlocutionary force - persuading, convincing, scaring, insulting, getting the addressee to do something (effect on addressee)

The interpretation of illocutionary force depends on shared understanding

- Primary illocutionary act - what the speaker means to communicate
- Secondary illocutionary act - the literal meaning of the utterance

Do you want to go to the movies Saturday?  
I have to wash my hair.

John Searle. 1969. Speech Acts. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

<http://www.sil.org/linguistics/glossaryOfLinguisticTerms/WhatIsASpeechAct.htm>

X to Y: Do you want to go to the movies Saturday?

How does Y know this is an invitation?

- Y assumes that X is cooperating in the conversation, being sincere, and relevant.
- The literal meaning of X's utterance is not relevant to the conversation
- Hence there must be another meaning
- Based on mutually shared background information, Y knows X is inviting her to the movies.

See also - for Grice's maxims:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gricean\\_maxim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gricean_maxim)

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/~haroldfs/dravling/grice.html>

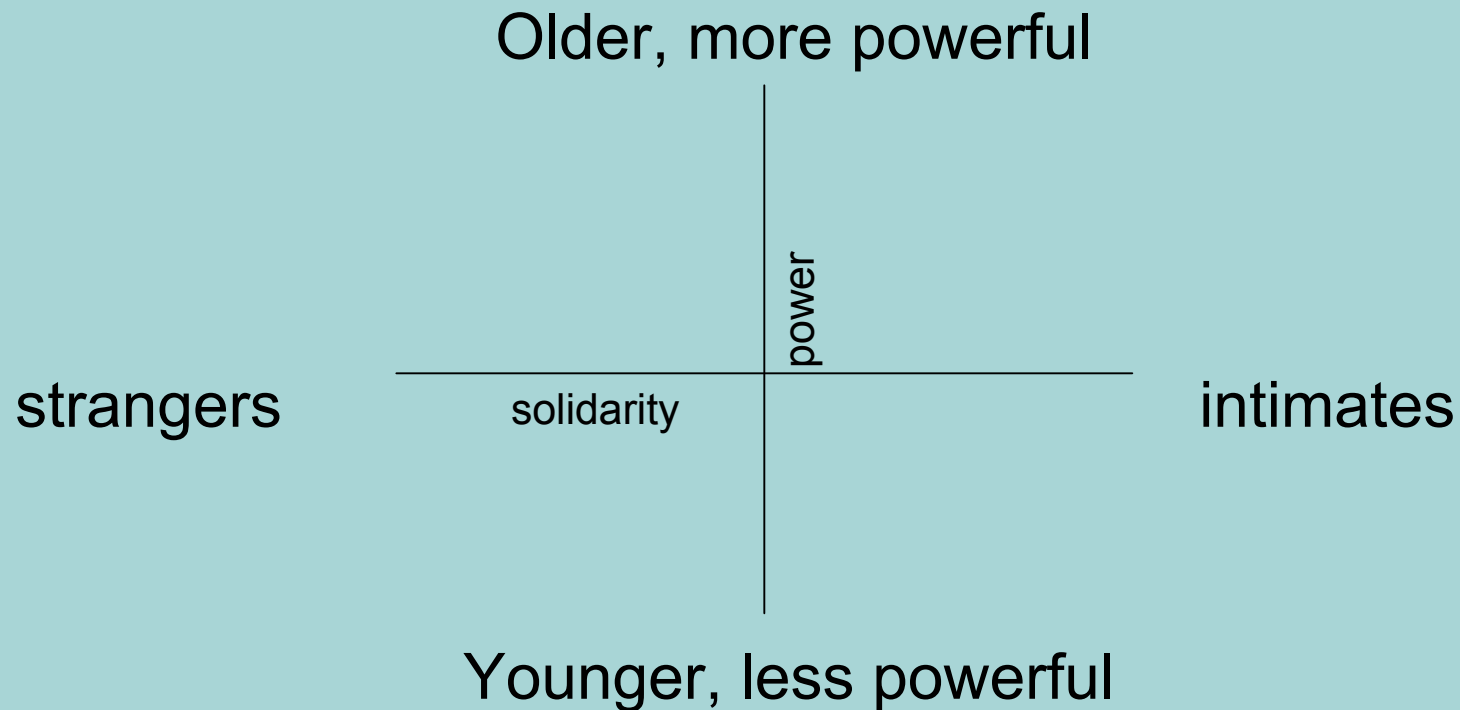
X: Do you want to go to the movies Saturday?

Y: I have to wash my hair.

- X assumes that Y is cooperating in the conversation, being sincere, and relevant.
- The literal meaning of Y's utterance is not relevant to the conversation
- Hence there must be another meaning
- Based on mutually shared background information, X knows Y can't go to the movies if she's washing her hair. (note that the interpretation is even more motivated if Y is a male.)
- Hence Y is refusing to go to the movies.

“I’m hungry”

# The axes of Power and Solidarity



BROWN, R. and GILMAN, A. 1972. Pronouns of power and solidarity. Language and social context, ed. by P.P. Giglioli. Harmondsworth, England: Penguin.

tu/vous, tu/usted, du/sie ...

- Asymmetric relationships
- The nobility
- Ideology
- Social change

# honorific

- An honorific is a term or title that conveys respect
  - Sir, Your Honor ...
- Honorific language refers to a word or style that conveys honor to a social superior

# Japanese honorifics

<b>Verbs</b>	Humble	Neutral	Respect
be	oru	iru	irassharu
go	mairu	iku	irassharu
do	itasu	suru	nasaru
say	mosu	iu	ossharu

# Prefixing (and beautification)

Neutral	Watakushi no kangae	My idea
Respect	Sensei no o-kangae	The teacher's idea

# Mitigation with S-final particles

	Mitigated	Assertive
I'm going	Iku wa	Iku yo
It's tomorrow	Ashita na no	Ashita da, da yo, da ne etc.
I wonder if he's coming	Kuru kashira	Kuro ka na