Title of Article: Pragmatics. Lagos

Author(s): Chiluwa, I.


Date: 2010

Abstract: This is a course text in Linguistics Pragmatic – a three-unit course available in the first semester of the first year for BA English and BA (Ed) English programmes of the Open University of Nigeria. This course text aims at exposing students to the principles of pragmatics not only a discipline but as everyday language performance. Pragmatics as a programme of study develops out of the desire to properly explain the nature of language and how it works in the context of people and situations. And like other sociolinguistic sub-fields attempts to demonstrate the social dimensions of language and explain the difference between linguistic forms and what speakers actually say and mean in different social contexts. Thus pragmatics demonstrates the relationships between what speakers say and what they actually mean and the kind of effect they expect on the minds of the hearers. The study of pragmatics will no doubt enlarge the scope of enquiry into the true nature of social meaning and their effects in various situations.