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Abstract

Irony as a latent form of 'anti-politeness'. Aggression in Language.

'Anti-politeness' is broadly defined as a refusal to adhere to etiquette. Swear words, the function of which is often seen as speech aggression towards the addressee or the listeners, for example, are typical forms of anti-politeness. But how is this classified in cases where irony is used? Can irony be seen as a typical way of expressing a latent anti-politeness? Or is it still necessary to distinguish between different forms of irony, from sarcastic (aggressive) irony to friendly irony, which has the function of establishing and maintaining contact? Can irony be considered within a certain polite-anti-polite continuum? The presentation will analyse various examples of irony use and their relation/non-relationship to the principles and maxims of politeness described in J. Leach's *Principles of Pragmatics* (1983) and *The Pragmatics of Politeness* (2014).