# The Border Wars: a neo-Gricean perspective

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I will be filing reports from several fronts in the semantics/pragmatics border wars. I will seek to bolster the loyalist (neo-)Gricean forces against various recent revisionist sorties, including (but not limited to) the Relevance-theoretic (e.g. Carston 2002) view on which the maxims (or more specifically their sole surviving descendant, the principle of relevance) inform truth-conditional content through the determination of "explicatures", the Levinson (2000) position on which implicatures can serve as input to logical form, a recent argument by Mira Ariel (2003) for a semantic treatment of the upper bound ("not all") for propositions of the form "Most F are G", and Chierchia's (2001) proposal to reanalyze implicatures as part of grammar. I will make the case for continuing to draw the semantics/pragmatics boundary along relatively traditional lines, maintaining a constrained characterization of "what is said", while adopting a variant of Kent Bach's "impliciture" for the unexcluded middle lying between the borders of what is said and what is implicated. I will also support the Gricean conception of implicature as an aspect of speaker meaning, as opposed to its reconstruction in terms of default inference or utterance interpretation, as in much recent work on pragmatics.
 In this presentation, I will revisit the the argument (cf. Horn 1992, Geurts 1997, Ariel 2003) for distinguishing cardinal values from other scalar predicates. I will also survey current controversies attending to the meaning and acquisition of disjunction and other scalar operators (Cherchia et al. 2001), the nature of subcontrariety and its implications for lexicalization (e.g. the constraint against lexicalizing not all), and the status of polarity licensing within the innateness controversy (cf. Crain & Pietroski 2002). In each case, I will seek to emphasize the significance of the generalizations that a (neo-)classical pragmatic approach enables us to capture.

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