

A One-Day Workshop *Speech Acts, Scientific Discoveries, and Linguistic Etiolation*
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Linguistic Etiolation in Irony, Insinuation, and Audience-Indirection

My aim in this talk is, first, to elaborate on John L. Austin's idea of linguistic etiolation (Austin 1975: 22 and 92; cf. Friggieri 2014) and, second, use the resulting notion to discuss a few communicative phenomena that seem to involve the exploitation or even the parasitic use of normal communicative mechanisms. I would also like to consider whether the idea of linguistic etiolation can be used to describe at least some aspects of what Jan G. Michel in his contribution to this workshop describes as speech acts performed to report confounding findings.

My talk is organized into four parts. In the first one, I elaborate on the idea of linguistic etiolation and show how it can be used to account for ironizing construed as socially-constituted communicative practice (Witek 2022; Mękarska and Witek 2020). I take it that to perform an etiolated speech act — or, in other words, to adopt the etiolated communicative mode — is to use certain communicative mechanisms to achieve goals other than those for which these mechanisms have been designed for. In particular, I argue that in performing an act of ironizing, the speaker exploits or even is parasitical on the mechanisms of illocutionary practice. I also distinguish between local and global etiolation, and use Mitchell S. Green's signalling model of communication to account for the communicative function of acts of ironizing. In the second part, I use the proposed model of linguistic etiolation to discuss the phenomenon of *verbal insinuation*. Pace Elizabeth Camp (2018), I argue that the insinuated content of an utterance is not speaker-meant and, in particular, that it cannot be adequately described as an "implicature with deniability" (Camp 2018: 46). In my view, rather than being speaker-meant, the insinuated content is signalled in Green's (2007, 2009; cf. Witek 2021) sense, i.e., made available and recognizable to an appropriately situated and endowed hearer. I also claim that the design behind signalling insinuated contents involves adopting the etiolated communicative mode; more specifically, it involves parasitically exploiting the mechanisms of inferential communication. In the third part, I use the proposed model to shed light on what Mary Kate

McGowan (2022) calls *audience-indirectness*. Roughly speaking, to perform an audience-indirect speech act is to utter certain words with the primary intention to make them hearable, understandable and even quotable to hearers other than the official addressee. Discussing two examples of cross-examination (Levinson 1979; McGowan 2022), I distinguish between overt and covert intentional audience-indirect speech acts. I also argue that audience-indirectness can be best understood in terms of linguistic etiolation. Finally, in the fourth part, I discuss the possibility of using the proposed model to account for what Jan G. Michel describes as speech acts reporting confounding findings.

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