

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide some indication of the scope of linguistic pragmatics. 1 The origin and historical vagaries of the term pragmatics The modern usage of the term pragmatics is attributable to the philosopher Charles Morris (1938), who was concerned to outline (after Locke and Peirce)1 the general shape of a science of signs, or semiotics (or semiotic as Morris preferred).First, the historical origin of the term pragmatics will be briefly summarized, in order to indicate some usages of the term that are divergent from the usage in this book.In passing, some analytical notions that are .useful background will be introduced. 1