ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Effect of Mood on Language Interpretation

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DATE: May, 2009

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There is a dearth in the literature examining the relationship between emotion and indirect language interpretation. The present research examined the influence of mood, using Forgas’ (1995) affect infusion model (AIM), on the interpretation of indirect meaning (Holtgraves, 1998). Following a mood induction task, participants engaged in a computerized language task (Holtgraves, 2000). Following the AIM, it was predicted that as reply-type became more complex and ambiguous, mood would have a greater influence on the interpretation of the reply-type as positive or negative. The results of the study did not follow from the predictions and the reasons for this are discussed.