Hauptseminar

Semantics 2

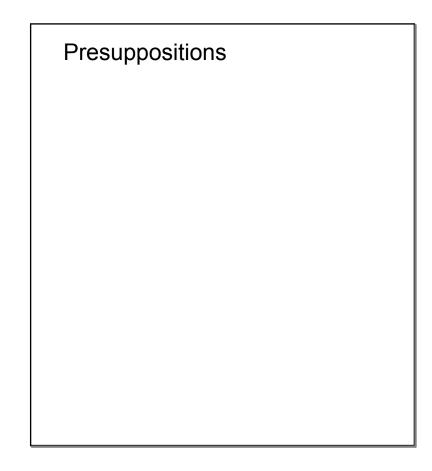SoSe 2017

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Homework

- Revision:
  - > Grundy (2008: chapter 1)
  - > Provide examples for three of the listed phenomena.
- Preparation:
  - > Read: Grundy (2008:48-63) [Scan on olat from Friday on]

Homework

- Appropriateness
- Indirect/non-literal meaning
- Inference
- Indeterminacy
- Context
- Relevance
- Accommodation
- Reflexivity
- Misfires

Medienzertifikat

Let me know if you are interested!

Only for L-students

- 2 CP (60 hours)
- Creation of an e-learning object for the wiki
- Documentation of the didactic considerations (4 pages)

p://www.uni-frankfurt.de/63262296/10_Medienzertifikat

Tentative schedule

19.4. Introduction
26.4. Presuppositions
3.5. Presuppositions
10.5. Presuppositions in LRS
17.5. Conventional implicatures
24.5. Conventional implicatures in LRS
31.5. Presuppositions and conventional implicatures in LRS
7.6. Conversational implicatures
14.6. Conversational implicatures
21.6. Phenomenon 1: Expressives
28.6. Phenomenon 2: Appositives
5.7. Phenomenon 3: Definites
12.7. Phenomenon 4: Kinegrams
19.7. Summary, open questions

Presuppositions

Example

A: When will you have dinner?

A: My wife hasn't called yet.

A: Have you stopped smoking?

Presuppositions as shared assumptions

Core properties:

1) projection in S-family contexts

Your wife has called +> You have a wife.

negation: Your wife hasn't called.

yes/no-question: Has your wife called?

if-clauses: If your wife is calling, you should answer the phone.

2) Not "at issue", i.e. not the main point of an utterance:

A: Your wife has called.

B: No, my brother has called.

B: No, she has send me a text message.

B: #No, she is my girl-friend.

3) Cannot be reinforced:

A: My wife has called - ?I am married by the way.

A: Alex has stopped smoking - she had smoked until then, by the way.

Presupposition-triggering structures

- Matrix wh-questions
- Embedded wh-questions
- Definite descriptions
- Iteratives: again, another

- temporal clauses:

- Change of state verbs ("phasal verbs")

- Clefts: It was the Scots who invented whisky.

- Pseudo-clefts: What's important is that we all understand.

- Counterfactual conditional

- Implicative verb: remember, forget, manage, happen

- Focus - background

Negation

Usually, presuppositions project over negation

But:

I would really love to meet your wife, - if you are married.

Presuppositions as pragmatically triggered
assumptions

Projection problem

Saw: presuppositions can project in S-family contexts

Hole: presupposition can project.

Plug: presuppostion cannot project.

Alex knows that Chris is sick.

Alex believes that Chris is sick.

He suffered a series of illnesses before he made his will.

He died before he made his will.

Relative clauses

The Greeks, who were clever, invented geometry.

The Greeks who were clever invented geometry, the Greeks who were dim were visiting the oracle.

Restrictived Rel.Cl.

Non-restrictive Rel.Cl.

For next week

- Revision: Read Grundy (2008:48-63) [Scan on olat]
- Task: Take a short text (not more than half a page) and identify and classifiy se many presuppositions as possible. (Test them with S-family contexts!)
- Preparation:

References

Grundy, Peter. 2008. *Doing pragmatics*. London: Hodder Education. 3rd edn.