Hauptseminar Semantics 2

Presuppositons in LRS?

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Homework

- 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!)

Tentative schedule

19.4. Introduction
26.4. Presuppositions
3.5. Presuppositions
10.5. Presuppositions in LRS
17.5. Presuppositions in LRS
24.5. Conventional implicatures
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 in LRS?

Procedure

- What are the logical forms we need for sentences that contain presuppositions?
- Which parts of these logical forms are contributed by the presupposition?
- Define a feature percolation mechanism

For now:

The book -> a book

I read the book.

Logical: There is a book and I read it.

Existence: There is a book.

Uniqueness: There is exactly one contextually relevant book.

Existence presupposition of definites

Kim's wife has called.

logical form: ∃x(wife2(x,kim) ∧ call1(x))

Kim's wife hasn't called.

logical form: ∃x(wife2(x,kim) ∧ ¬ call1(x))

¬∃x(wife2(x,kim) ∧ call1(x))

Technically: ∃x(wife2(x,kim) ∧ call1(x))

Kim's wife:

PARTS < wife2, wife2(x,kim), ∃x(... ∧ ...), (...∧...), x, kim >

Kim: PARTS < kim>

wife: PARTS < wife2, wife2(x,kim), x >

's: PARTS < ∃x(... ∧ ...), (...∧...), x >

call: PARTS < call1, call1(x) >

didn't: PARTS < ¬ (...) >

Kim's wife didn't call:

PARTS < wife2, wife2(x,kim), ∃x(... ∧ ...), (...∧...), x, kim, call1, call1(x), ¬(...) >

Pat didn't read a book.

EXCONT

PARTS < ..., ..., XXXXX, YYYY, ... >

PRESUPPOSITION < XXXX, YYYY >

Kim's wife didn't call:

PARTS < wife2, wife2(x,kim), ∃x(... ∧ ...), (...∧...), x, kim, call1, call1(x), ¬(...) >

PRESUP < wife2, wife2(x,kim), ∃x(... ∧ ...), (...∧...), x, kim >

PRESUP-material has scope over the rest in the EXCONT, i.e.:

PRESUP-material does not occur in the scope of non-PRESUP material

=> ∃x(wife2(x,kim) ∧ ¬call1(x))

Pat didn't read the book.

didn't: PARTS < ¬(...) >

read: PARTS < read2, read(pat,x) >

book: PARTS < book1, x, book1(x) >

the: PARTS < [1]∃x(...∧...), [2](...∧...) >

PRES < [1]∃x(...∧...), [2](...∧...) >

the book: PARTS < book1, x, book1(x), ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

PRES < ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

read the book:

PARTS < read2, read(pat,x), book1, x, book1(x), ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

PRES < ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

didn't read the book:

PARTS < read2, read(pat,x), book1, x, book1(x), ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...), ¬(..) >

PRES < ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

Pat didn't read the book:

PARTS < read2, read(pat,x), book1, x, book1(x), ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...), ¬(..), pat >

PRES < ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

Pat didn't read the book:

PARTS < read2, read(pat,x), book1, x, book1(x),

∃x(...∧...), (...∧...), ¬(..), pat >

PRES < ∃x(...∧...), (...∧...) >

EXCONT ∃x(book1(x) ∧ ¬read(pat,x))

EXCONT ¬∃x(book1(x) ∧ read(pat,x))

Excluded because non-presupposed operators scope over presupposed operators!

Alex thinks [that Pat didn't talk to Kim's wife], but we know that Kim is not married.

talk to Kim's wife

PRES < ∃x(... : ...),x >

didn't talk to Kim's wife

PRES < ∃x(... : ...),x >

that Pat didn't talk to Kim's wife

EXCONT ¬talk(pat,x)

PRES < ∃x(... : ...),x >

EXCONT ∃x(wife2(x,kim): ¬talk(pat,x))

PRES < >

Alex thinks that ...

EXC ∃x (wife2(x,kim) : think(alex, ¬talk(pat,x))

PRES

EXC think2(alex,∃x(wife2(x,kim): ¬talk(pat,x))

PRES < >

Presupposition projection

(Sailer & Am-David 2016)

(25) Percolation and retrieval for PRESUP:
In each phrase: All elements from the daughters' PRESUP lists are on the mother's PRESUP list unless the phrase is a clause and they appear in the clause's EXCONT value. In the latter case, they occur in the scope of some appropriate semantic operator.

Strategies:

1) Preferred: Retrieve the presupposition as high as possible

2) If low retrieval is needed, do it as low as possible.

3) You can also retrieve in between...

Retrieval location

If the king of France is bald, then

If the king of France is bald, then Alex can't cut his hair.

Kim believes that the king of France is bald, but there is no king of F.

Kim believes that the king of France is bald, but I know that he just has very short hair.

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.

4) Can be cancelled/detached.

A: Who has called? (+> someone has called) B: Nobody.

A: Alex didn't talk to his WIFE, he talked to his GIRL-friend.

Projective meaning

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.

Entailment:

You got married last december.

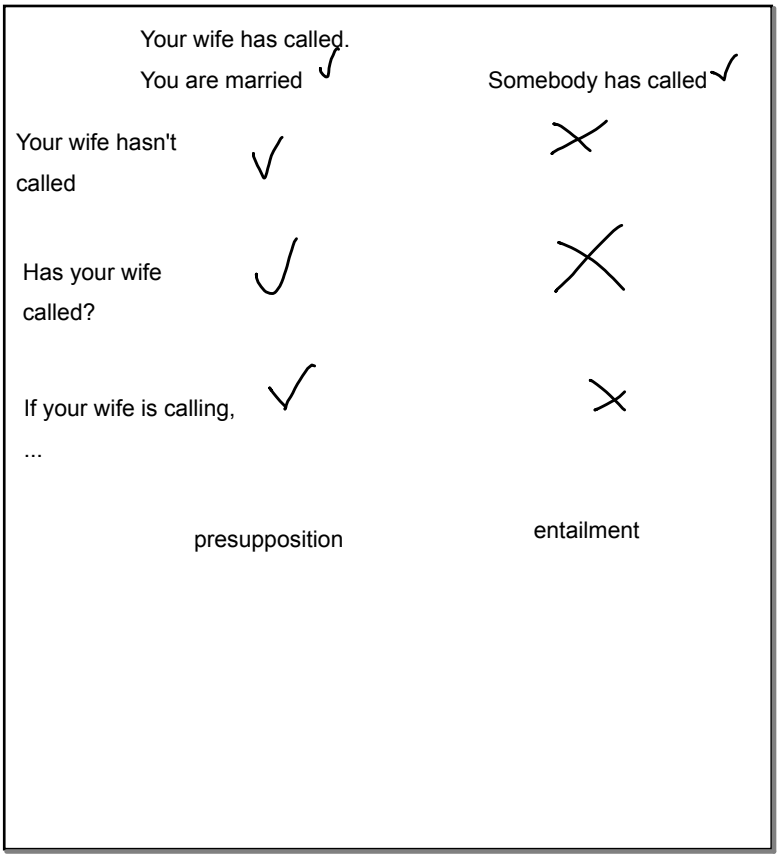
entails (|-): You got married last year.

Negation: You didn't get married last december.

not longer entails: You got married last year.

Y/n q: Did you get married last december?

if clause: If you got married last december, you must have had a white wedding.



Alex thought [that my wife had called], but I am not married!
Alex thought that Anne, my wife, had called, #but I am not married.

Entailment: cannot project
Presuppositions: can project
Conventional implicatures: must project

Alex thought that my wife had called. +>
Alex thought that I am married.
neg1: Alex thought that my wife hadn't called.
+> Alex thought that I am married.
neg2: Alex didn't think that my wife had called.
+> I am married

Presupposition-triggering structures

- Matrix wh-questions
- Embedded wh-questions: I would like to know/I wonder when you will have dinner
- Definite descriptions
- Iteratives: again, another
  Alex is home again. Alex is reading another book now.
- temporal clauses:
  I am a happy man [since I am married].
- Change of state verbs ("phasal verbs")
  Alex stopped smoking.
- Clefts: It was the Scots who invented whisky.
- Pseudo-clefts: What's important is that we all understand.
- Counterfactual conditional
  If I was in Tübingen now, I would be sitting next to the Neckar river.
- ~~Implicative verb: remember, forget, manage, happen~~
- Focus - background

  They got married last deCEMber.

  Focus: They did this last december.

  Background: They got married <- is presupposed

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.

For next week

- Revision: Read Grundy (2008:48-63) [Scan on olat]
- Task:
  - > Take the existence presupposition and come up with your own example. Show that the correct readings are predicted by our theory.
  - > Choose another presupposition and try to formalize it in LRS.
- Plan for next week: conventional implicatures

- Read: Yule, Chapter 4 (Presuppositions and entailment) [available on olat]
- Go over today's material again!

References

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

Yule, George. 1996. Pragmatics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.