

Assignment 7

Chris Potts, Ling 130a/230a: Introduction to semantics and pragmatics, Winter 2019

Distributed Mar 5; due Mar 12

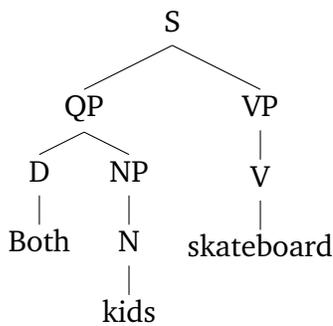
1 Presuppositional quantifiers

[2 points]

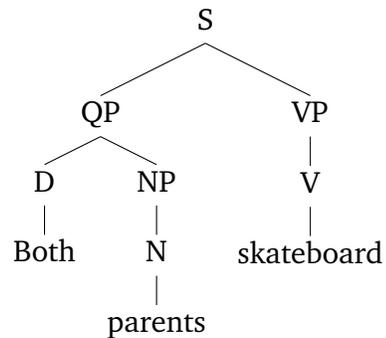
For each top (root) node in the following trees, use rule Q2 from the ‘Semantic composition’ handout to derive its meaning (if any) after all the allowable substitutions from functional applications. Assume the following lexical denotations; $\llbracket both \rrbracket$ is given on the ‘Presupposition’ handout.

- $\llbracket kids \rrbracket = \lambda x (T \text{ if } x \in \{\llbracket Bart \rrbracket, \llbracket Lisa \rrbracket, \llbracket Maggie \rrbracket\}, \text{ else } F)$
- $\llbracket parents \rrbracket = \lambda x (T \text{ if } x \in \{\llbracket Homer \rrbracket, \llbracket Marge \rrbracket\}, \text{ else } F)$
- $\llbracket skateboard \rrbracket = \lambda x (T \text{ if } x \in \{\llbracket Bart \rrbracket\}, \text{ else } F)$

1.1



1.2



2 Diagnosing kinds of meaning

[2 points]

The handout ‘Diagnosing different kinds of meaning’ provides a flow-chart for classifying meanings as variously at-issue, conventionally implicated, presupposed, or conversationally implicated. Use that framework to classify meaning p as expressed in (F).

(F) Carol was forced to sell her computer.

$p = \text{Carol sold her computer}$

Section 3 of the handout provides model answers. Your own answer could adopt the same format, and we’re looking for a similar level of explanation about the relevant examples.

3 Presupposition and implicature together

[2 points]

Consider the following prompt from a questionnaire-based study of pragmatics:

Suppose you and a friend are looking at an ice-cream bar with three pre-made sundaes (ice cream, hot fudge, cherries). Your friend’s hands are full, so she says to you,

“Could you get me the one with the cherry.”

Identify the sundae that you think she is asking for:



Sundae A



Sundae B



Sundae C

Our theories of presupposition and conversational implicature, working together, predict that participants will choose Sundae C. How do the theories come together to make that prediction? (3–5 sentences)

4 Indirect illocutionary acts

[4 points]

This is not required for people doing a final project. Final projectors should answer question 5 instead.

Re-read Solan and Tiersma’s short chapter “Consensual searches”, and then consider the question *Can I look in the trunk?* in contexts of interactions between police officers and drivers they have stopped. How can the interactions of Grice’s maxims help us to understand the intended illocutionary force and perlocutionary effects of such a question in these contexts? How are these Gricean interactions relevant to legal issues surrounding the Fourth Amendment and the precedents mentioned on page 37? (We expect answers to be about a half page. Strong answers here will draw heavily on Grice and on speech-act theory.)

5 Final project task

[4 points]

This problem is required only for people doing a final project. Everyone else should answer question 4 instead.

The goal of this question is get you as close as possible to a complete rough draft that your project mentor can provide feedback on. The specific requirements are meant to accommodate the fact that you might not yet be in a position to produce a truly complete rough draft:

- i. A preliminary title is required. If you like, you can give a few different options with some commentary about their strengths and weaknesses, and your mentor will provide feedback.
- ii. You should include your full introduction from Assignment 6, updated based on the feedback you received.
- iii. From here, you need to map out your current view of the rest of the paper: all the sections and subsections with their titles. Ideally, you will actually draft all of this prose – messy, non-final prose is fine if it helps your reader see what you are aiming to say. If you don't feel ready to write the actual prose, you should resort to organized bulleted lists of things you need to convey, claims you need to make, and gaps you need to fill in, etc. We will read these as establishing the framework for your paper, and we will assume that you'll turn it all into actual paper prose later.
- iv. For projects that aren't traditional papers:
 - If you're planning an experiment, include draft instructions for participants and drafts of the crucial experimental items. We need to see these in detail at this stage, since so much of your project will depend on getting them right.
 - If you're creating a corpus, include the examples you've collected so far. If you haven't collected data by this time, then you probably need to refocus your project so that it doesn't depend on corpus examples – please discuss this with your project mentor.
 - If you're implementing a model, include your code so far, and make sure your draft includes lots of specific details about what the code does and what you still have planned in terms of improvements and extensions.
- v. The draft should include a proper bibliography. The entries should appear alphabetically and give at least full author name(s), year of publication, title, and outlet if applicable (e.g., journal name or proceedings name). Beyond that, we are not picky about the format. Electronic references are fine but need to include the above information in addition to the link.

Prose from your previous project assignments can be reused freely. We're hoping that all of this is building cohesively to the final submission!