Diagnosing different kinds of meaning

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Linguist 130a/230a: Introduction to semantics and pragmatics
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

No  Yes

Entailed  Conversational implicature

Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?

No  Yes

At-issue entailment  Not at-issue entailment

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

No  Yes

Conventional implicature  Presupposition
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

- **No**
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        - At-issue entailment
      - **Yes**
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- **Yes**
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            - **No**  
              - Conventional implicature  
            - **Yes**  
              - Presupposition

- **Yes**  
  - Conversational implicature  
  
  We also expect the meaning to be *reinforceable*
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
  - Entailed
  - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
    - No
      - At-issue entailment
    - Yes
      - Conversational implicature

- Yes
  - We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable
  - Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

- Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
  - No
    - Conventional implicature
  - Yes
    - Presupposition
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
  - Entailed
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
        - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
        - Conversational implicature
          - We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable

- Yes
  - Not at-issue entailment
    - Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
      - No
        - Conventional implicature
      - Yes
        - Presupposition

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.
We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable.

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

No

Entailed

Yes

Conversational implicature

Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?

No

At-issue entailment

Yes

Not at-issue entailment

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

No

Conventional implicature

Yes

Presupposition

We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.
Is the meaning cancellable?

- **No**
  - **Entailed**
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - **No**
        - **At-issue entailment**
      - **Yes**
        - **Conversational implicature**

- **Yes**
  - **We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable**
  - **Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.**

The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

- **No**
  - **Conventional implicature**
- **Yes**
  - **Presupposition**
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

No

Entailed

Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?

No

At-issue entailment

Yes

Conversational implicature

We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

No

Conventional implicature

Yes

Presupposition
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

No

Entailed

Yes

Conversational implicature

Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?

No

At-issue entailment

Yes

Not at-issue entailment

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

No

Conventional implicature

Yes

Presupposition

We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable.

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.

We also expect the meaning to be a commitment in the interrogative and conditional antecedent versions of the sentence.
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
  - Entailed
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
        - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
        - Conversational implicature
          - We also expect the meaning to be *reinforceable*.

- Yes
  - Conversational implicature
    - Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on *cooperativity*.

The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

- No
  - Conventional implicature
- Yes
  - Presupposition
    - We also expect the meaning to be a commitment in the interrogative and conditional ancedendent versions of the sentence.
Diagnostic chart

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
  - Entailed
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
        - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
        - Conversational implicature
          - We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable
          - Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

- Yes
  - Conventional implicature
  - Presupposition
    - The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.
    - Successful backgrounding corresponds to the speaker assuming the content is already mutually known – presupposed.
We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable. Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

The meaning is in the semantic scope of negation.

Successful backgroundering corresponds to the speaker assuming the content is already mutually known – presupposed.
We also expect the meaning to be reinforceable.

Cancellation can fail if it involves too great a compromise on cooperativity.

The content is intended to be new but secondary.

Successful backgrounding corresponds to the speaker assuming the content is already mutually known – presupposed.
Examples

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
  - Entailed
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
        - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
        - Conversational implicature
  - Yes
    - Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
      - No
        - Conventional implicature
      - Yes
        - Presupposition

- Yes
  - At-issue entailment
  - Not at-issue entailment

Conversational implicature
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Is the meaning cancellable?

- No
- Yes

Entailed

Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?

- No
- Yes

Conversational implicature

At-issue entailment

Not at-issue entailment

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

- No
- Yes

Conventional implicature

Presupposition
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: 
not all cyclists wore spandex.
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex.
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex.
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex.
  - cancellable ⇒ conversational implicature
- Some, but not all, cyclists wore spandex.
  - reinforcable ⇒ conversational implicature
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex. conversational implicature
- Some, but not all, cyclists wore spandex.

Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?

- Conventional implicature
- Presupposition
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex. 
  cancellable ⇒ conversational implicature
- Some, but not all, cyclists wore spandex.
Some cyclists wore spandex.

Meaning of interest: *not all cyclists wore spandex.*

- Some, in fact all, cyclists wore spandex.  
  cancellable $\Rightarrow$ conversational implicature

- Some, but not all, cyclists wore spandex.  
  reinforceable $\Rightarrow$ conversational implicature
Kim managed to finish the exam.
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it.
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it.
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest:
*Kim finished the exam*

• #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it.
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest:  
*Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it.
  
  not cancellable  $\Rightarrow$ entailed
Examples

Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it. not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Kim didn’t manage to finish the exam.
Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it. *not cancellable → entailed*
- Kim didn’t manage to finish the exam.
Examples

Kim managed to finish the exam.

Meaning of interest: *Kim finished the exam*

- #Kim managed to finish the exam, but she didn’t finish it. 
  not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Kim didn’t manage to finish the exam. 
  not a speaker commitment of the negated version ⇒ at-issue
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Is the meaning cancellable?

- Yes
  - Conversational implicature
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
        - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
        - Not at-issue entailment
          - Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
            - No
              - Conventional implicature
            - Yes
              - Presupposition
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*
Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked.

---

Examples

- Is the meaning cancellable?
  - Yes
  - Entailed
  - Conversational implicature
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
      - At-issue entailment
      - Yes
      - Not at-issue entailment
        - Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
          - No
          - Conventional implicature
          - Yes
          - Presupposition
Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- #Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked.
Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- #Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked.
  - not cancellable ⇒ entailed

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Example:

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Sandy stopped smoking.
```

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- #Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked.
  - not cancellable ⇒ entailed
Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- #Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked. not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking.
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest:
*Sandy smoked in the past*

- # Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked. not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking.

- Is the meaning cancellable?
  - No
  - Yes
  - Entailed
  - Conversational implicature
    - Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
      - No
      - Yes
      - At-issue entailment
      - Not at-issue entailment
        - Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
          - No
          - Yes
          - Conventional implicature
          - Presupposition
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- # Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked. 
  not cancellable $\Rightarrow$ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking. 
  speaker commitment of the negated version $\Rightarrow$ not at-issue
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked. not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking. speaker commitment of the negated version ⇒ not at-issue
- Sandy smoked in the past, but she stopped smoking.
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: *Sandy smoked in the past*

- # Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked. not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking. speaker commitment of the negated version ⇒ not at-issue
- Sandy smoked in the past, but she stopped smoking.
Examples

Sandy stopped smoking.

Meaning of interest: **Sandy smoked in the past**

- Sandy stopped smoking — in fact, she never smoked.  
  not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- Sandy didn’t stop smoking.  
  speaker commitment of the negated version ⇒ not at-issue
- Sandy smoked in the past, but she stopped smoking.  
  can be backgrounded ⇒ presupposition
David met Barbara, who is a linguist.
David met Barbara, who is a linguist.
Examples

Diagnosis chart

Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: Barbara is a linguist

- Is the meaning cancellable?
  - No
  - Yes

  - Entailed
  - Conversational implicature

- Is the meaning a speaker commitment of the negated version of the sentence?
  - No
  - Yes

  - At-issue entailment
  - Not at-issue entailment

- Can the meaning be backgrounded without creating a redundancy?
  - No
  - Yes

  - Conventional implicature
  - Presupposition
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.
- # David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.
- Barbara is a linguist, and David is a philosopher. David met Barbara, who is a linguist.
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.
- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.
  - not cancellable ⇒ entailed

- Conventional implicature

- Presupposition
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.  
  not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- David didn’t meet Barbara, who is a linguist.

![Diagram](image.png)
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- # David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist. 
  not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- David didn’t meet Barbara, who is a linguist.
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist. 
  not cancellable $\Rightarrow$ entailed
- David didn’t meet Barbara, who is a linguist.  
  speaker commitment of the negated version $\Rightarrow$ not at-issue
Examples

David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist. 
  not cancellable $\Rightarrow$ entailed
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  speaker commitment of the negated version $\Rightarrow$ not at-issue
- #Barbara is a linguist, and David is a philosopher. David met Barbara, who is a linguist.
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Meaning of interest: *Barbara is a linguist*

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- #Barbara is a linguist, and David is a philosopher. David met Barbara, who is a linguist.
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David met Barbara, who is a linguist.

Meaning of interest:
*Barbara is a linguist*

- #David met Barbara, who is a linguist, but Barbara is not a linguist.  
  not cancellable ⇒ entailed
- David didn’t meet Barbara, who is a linguist.  
  speaker commitment of the negated version ⇒ not at-issue
- #Barbara is a linguist, and David is a philosopher. David met Barbara, who is a linguist. redundant when backgrounded ⇒ conventional implicature