Scope-taking and presupposition satisfaction

University of Chicago

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Presupposition

The empirical observation

(1) Karlos stopped smoking.

 \sim Karlos smoked.

(presupposition)

We have linguistic devices that grammatically encode what we take for granted in making an utterance.

Presupposition

The empirical observation

How do we identify presuppositions?

- family-of-sentence tests (Chierchia and McConnell-Ginet, 1990)
- "hey, wait a minute!" test (von Fintel, 2004)

Major research question: what grammatical properties of an expression give rise to its presuppositions?

A compositional account answers two questions:

- how do we grammatically encode presuppositions in simple expressions (presupposition triggers)?
- how do presuppositions project in complex expressions?
 - ▶ the "projection problem" (Langendoen and Savin, 1971)

Characterizing and explaining presupposition projection

Much work has gone into simply characterizing presupposition projection behavior (Karttunen, 1973, 1974, i.a.).

Principled explanations have generally taken two approaches:

- ▶ a "pragmatic" approach
 - general pragmatic principles are sufficient to properly characterize the presuppositions of complex sentences in terms of the presuppositions of their parts
 - Gazdar 1979, Schlenker 2009, 2011, Lassiter 2012
- a "semantic" approach
 - presupposition projection is a matter of grammar
 - semantic composition

Characterizing and explaining presupposition projection Semantic accounts

General features of semantic accounts:

- regard presupposition projection as an effect of meaning composition
- deliver semantic presuppositions
- depend on pragmatic principles to relate these to actual observed presuppositions

Characterizing and explaining presupposition projection Semantic accounts

Today, I will defend a semantic account of presupposition projection.

It will share properties with other semantic accounts.

- quantifier scope accounts (Russell, 1905)
- multi-valued logic accounts (Beaver, 1999, 2001; Beaver and Krahmer, 2001, i.a.)
- "two-dimensional" accounts (Karttunen and Peters, 1979)
- presupposition as semantic definedness (Heim, 1983)
- presupposition as anaphoric potential
 - ▶ DRT-based: van der Sandt 1992
 - dependent type semantics: Bekki 2014, i.a.

The satisfaction account of presupposition projection

The following account (like Heim 1983) relates an expression's presuppositions to its semantic definedness conditions.

- ▶ it is dynamic: sentences denote context-change potentials
 - \triangleright $[S]_{\mathcal{M}} = \phi$
- the meaning of a sentence is defined (in some linguistic context) just in case its presuppositions are satisfied (in that context)
- an expression's presuppositions are just statements of these satisfaction conditions
- it is thus a "satisfaction" account (Karttunen, 1974; Stalnaker, 1974; Heim, 1983; Beaver, 2001; von Fintel, 2008, i.a.)

Plan

The rest of today:

- discuss a general problem for extant satisfaction accounts
 - "trapped presupposition triggers"
 - known in many guises as the "proviso problem" (Geurts, 1996)
- present my account
 - a satisfaction account
 - a three-valued logic account
 - a two-dimensional account
 - a scope-based account



The proviso problem

Geurts (1996) notes that certain sentences are predicted to have weaker presuppositions than they are, in fact, observed to have.

- (2) If Theo is a scuba diver, he will bring his wetsuit. → If Theo is a scuba diver, he has a wetsuit. (presupposition)

The proviso problem

Conditional sentences

Accounts like Heim's predict the correct presupposition for (2), but too weak a presupposition for (3).

▶ If Theo has a sister, he has a wetsuit.

```
c + [\![ \text{if Theo has a sister he will bring his wetsuit} ]\!]
```

Defined in exactly those contexts in which

if Theo has a sister he has a wetsuit

is true.

The proviso problem Conditional sentences

The presuppositions of a complex sentence are defined in terms of the **local contexts** of its presupposition triggers.

▶ in (2) and (3): c + conditional antecedent

Generalization: the semantic presuppositions of a sentence are often **weaker** than its observed presuppositions.

The proviso problem Strengthening and selection

Much work since Geurts 1996 has been geared towards solving this problem within satisfaction accounts.

Complete solutions must address two problems (Singh, 2007):

- a strengthening problem
 - what are the available ways of strengthening a semantic presupposition
- a selection problem
 - given the available ways of strengthening a semantic presupposition, which one is selected as the observed presupposition?

Trapped presupposition triggers

The proviso problem is but a collection of instances of a larger generalization.

- trapped presupposition triggers
- (4) A: My parents think John is in bed.
 - B: They think I am in bed, too.
 - → My parents think John is in bed. (presupposition)
- (5) A: John is in bed.
 - B: My parents think I am in bed, too.
 - \sim John is in bed. (presupposition)

No relation of strength between the presuppositions.

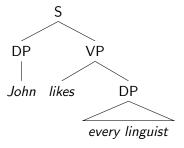
Presupposition triggers and scope

My solution:

Rather than regarding the "strengthening" problem as about strength, let us instead regard it as about **scope ambiguity**.

Presupposition triggers and scope The basic idea

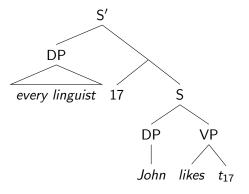
(6) John likes every linguist.



Presupposition triggers and scope

The basic idea

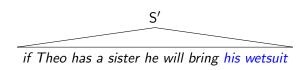
(6) John likes every linguist.



Quantifier Raising (Heim and Kratzer, 1998)

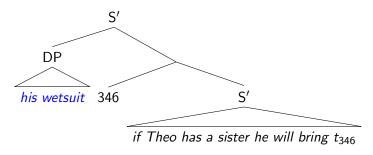
Presupposition triggers and scope The basic idea

(3) If Theo has a sister, he will bring his wetsuit.



Presupposition triggers and scope The basic idea

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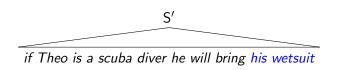


"Presupposition Trigger Raising"

 \sim unconditional presupposition

Presupposition triggers and scope The basic idea

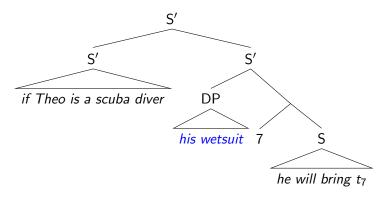
(2) If Theo is a scuba diver, he will bring his wetsuit.



Presupposition triggers and scope

The basic idea

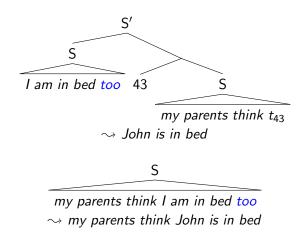
(2) If Theo is a scuba diver, he will bring his wetsuit.



 \sim conditional presupposition

Presupposition triggers and scope The basic idea

(4/5) My parents think I am in bed, too.



Presupposition triggers and scope Outlook

How do we allow presupposition triggers to take scope?

▶ via the operators of a graded monad (Katsumata, 2014; Orchard et al., 2014; Fujii et al., 2016)

Why? It allows an account that is:

- compositional
- simply typed
- modular

Plan:

- introduce a basic, presupposition-free grammar
- add presuppositions via graded monadic side effects
 - conditionals
 - indefinites
- conclude

Presupposition-free grammar

We model truth in terms of information states.

- functions from input assignments to sets of output assignments
- meanings will normally be tests (Groenendijk and Stokhof, 1991)
 - true sentences send input assignments out unmodified
 - ▶ false sentences throw them out and return the empty set
- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{T} ::= e \mid v \mid a \mid t \mid \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$
- ▶ true $:= (\lambda g.\{g\}): T := a \rightarrow a \rightarrow t$
- ▶ false $:= (\lambda g.\{\})$: T

Presupposition-free grammar

 $[(7)]_{\mathcal{M}} = (\lambda g.\{g \mid sleepm\})$

(7) Mary slept.

$$[\![Mary]\!]_{\mathcal{M}} = (\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{m}) \colon E := a \to a \to e$$

$$[\![slept]\!]_{\mathcal{M}} = (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid \mathbf{sleep}(xgg)\}) \colon E \to T$$

$$[\![Mary slept]\!]_{\mathcal{M}} = [\![Mary]\!]_{\mathcal{M}} \triangleleft [\![slept]\!]_{\mathcal{M}} \qquad ((\triangleleft) \colon \mathbf{backward app.})$$

$$= (\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{m}) \triangleleft (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid \mathbf{sleep}(xgg)\})$$

$$= (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid \mathbf{sleep}(xgg)\})(\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{m})$$

$$= (\lambda g.\{g \mid \mathbf{sleep}((\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{m})gg\}))$$

$$= (\lambda g.\{g \mid \mathbf{sleepm}\})$$

(1) Karlos stopped smoking.

Karlos and smoking:

stopped?

- anaphoric to an event
- presupposition: the event satisfies the property denoted by its complement (smoking)
- ► at-issue meaning: the referent of its subject ended the event to which it is anaphoric

Presupposition success/failure:

- ► a new atomic type #, with one inhabitant (also #)
- meanings which may be either successes or failures:
 - ▶ a successful individual (Karlos):

$$(\lambda s, f.s(\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{k})) \colon (E \to o) \to (\# \to o) \to o$$

a failed individual:

$$(\lambda s, f.f\#): (E \rightarrow o) \rightarrow (\# \rightarrow o) \rightarrow o$$

An α with presuppositions: $(\alpha \to o) \to (\# \to o) \to o$.

Modelling definedness conditions

Representing an α with presuppositions:

$$(\top \Vdash M) = (\lambda s, f.sM) : (\alpha \to o) \to (\# \to o) \to o$$

$$(\bot \Vdash M) = (\lambda s, f.f\#) : (\alpha \to o) \to (\# \to o) \to o$$

$$(\phi \Vdash M)$$

- ightharpoonup returns M when ϕ is true
- \blacktriangleright returns # when ϕ is false

What about anaphora?

We introduce a function $\mathbf{P} \colon \mathcal{T}^* \to \mathcal{T} \to \mathcal{T}$.

 \mathcal{T}^* : the set of strings over \mathcal{T}

possible string of types of anaphoric dependencies

$$\mathbf{P}\epsilon lpha = (lpha
ightarrow o)
ightarrow (\#
ightarrow o)
ightarrow o$$
 $\mathbf{P}(ae)lpha = a
ightarrow \mathbf{P}elpha$
 $\llbracket stopped
bracket_{\mathcal{M}} \colon (V
ightarrow T)
ightarrow \mathbf{P}V(E
ightarrow T)$
 $= (\lambda P, e.(Pe = \text{true} \Vdash (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid (\exists e'. ext{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\})))$

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ightarrow \mathbf{P}elpha$

$$\llbracket stopped \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}} \colon (V \to T) \to \mathbf{P}V(E \to T)$$

$$= (\lambda P.(Pe = \mathtt{true} \Vdash_{e} (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid (\exists e'.\mathtt{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\})))$$

Modelling presupposition satisfaction

Meanings of type $\mathbf{P}e\alpha$:

- definedness conditions
- anaphora

What about presupposition satisfaction?

- we need to allow presuppositions to depend on prior context
- the effect of a context is to change or filter an expression's presuppositions
- ightharpoonup we model this effect explicitly by adding a dependency to presupposition triggers of type T o T

$$\mathbf{D}e\alpha = (T \to T) \to \mathbf{P}e\alpha$$

Modelling presupposition satisfaction

```
stopped (old):
```

$$(\lambda P.(Pe = \texttt{true} \Vdash_e (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid (\exists e'. \texttt{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\})))$$

$$(V \to T) \to \mathbf{P}V(E \to T)$$

stopped (new):

 $\begin{array}{c} (\lambda P, c. \\ (c(Pe) = \mathtt{true} \Vdash_e (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid (\exists e'.\mathtt{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\}))) \\ (V \to T) \to \mathbf{D} V(E \to T) \end{array}$

► abbrv: stop

Semantic composition

$$\llbracket \mathit{Karlos}
bracket_{\mathcal{M}} = \Bbbk$$
 $:= (\lambda g, g'.\mathbf{k}) \colon E$
 $\llbracket \mathit{smoking}
bracket_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathtt{smk}$
 $:= (\lambda e, g. \{g \mid \mathbf{smoke}(egg)) \colon V \to T$
 $\llbracket \mathit{stopped}
bracket_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathtt{stop} \colon (V \to T) \to \mathbf{D} V (E \to T)$

How do we compose such meanings?

- ▶ $\llbracket stopped\ smoking \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}} = \mathtt{stop} \triangleright \mathtt{smk} \colon \mathbf{D} V(E \to T)$ ((▷): forward app.)
- then what?

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Graded monads

Something special about **D** (and **P**):

▶ it is a graded monad

There are three operators: $(\cdot^{\stackrel{\uparrow}{\mathbf{D}}})$, $(\cdot^{\stackrel{\downarrow}{\mathbf{C}}}_{e,\,f})$, and $\mu_{\mathbf{D}_{e,f}}$, satisfying specific laws. $(e,f\in\mathcal{T}^*)$

Defined as:

$$M^{\stackrel{\uparrow}{\mathsf{D}}} = (\lambda c. (\top \Vdash M))$$

$$(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m} M))^{\mathfrak{p}}_{\alpha_1...\alpha_m,\beta_1...\beta_n}(\lambda c.(\psi \Vdash_{y_1,...,y_n} N))$$

$$= (\lambda c.(\phi \land \psi \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m,y_1,...,y_n} MN))$$

$$\mu_{\mathbf{D}_{\alpha_{1}...\alpha_{m},\beta_{1}...\beta_{n}}}(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{\mathsf{x}_{1},...,\mathsf{x}_{m}}(\lambda c'.(\psi \Vdash_{\mathsf{y}_{1},...,\mathsf{y}_{n}}M)))) \\
= (\lambda c.(\phi \land \psi[c/c'] \Vdash_{\mathsf{x}_{1},...,\mathsf{x}_{m},\mathsf{y}_{1},...,\mathsf{y}_{n}}M[c/c']))$$

Graded monads

```
M^{\uparrow}_{\mathsf{D}} = (\lambda c. (\top \Vdash M))
```

- "unit" (or "return")
- injects a value into the graded monad D by giving it trivial side effects (i.e., presuppositions)

Graded monads

$$(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,\ldots,x_m} M))^{\stackrel{\mathbf{D}}{\downarrow}}_{\alpha_1\ldots\alpha_m,\beta_1\ldots\beta_n}(\lambda c.(\psi \Vdash_{y_1,\ldots,y_n} N))$$

$$= (\lambda c.(\phi \land \psi \Vdash_{x_1,\ldots,x_m,y_1,\ldots,y_n} MN))$$

- "sequential application"
- applies a function with presuppositions to an argument with presuppositions
- sequences their side effects (i.e., presuppositions)

Graded monads

$$\mu_{\mathbf{D}_{\alpha_{1}...\alpha_{m},\beta_{1}...\beta_{n}}}(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{\mathsf{x}_{1},...,\mathsf{x}_{m}}(\lambda c'.(\psi \Vdash_{\mathsf{y}_{1},...,\mathsf{y}_{n}}M))))$$

$$= (\lambda c.(\phi \land \psi[c/c'] \Vdash_{\mathsf{x}_{1},...,\mathsf{x}_{m},\mathsf{y}_{1},...,\mathsf{y}_{n}}M[c/c']))$$

- "join"
- collapses two layers of side effects (i.e., presuppositions) into a single layer
- an expression with presuppositions with presuppositions becomes just an expression with presuppositions

Unit, sequential application, and join work together to free trapped presupposition triggers.

Functional application can be modelled as **graded monadic functional application**.

$$\blacktriangleright (\triangleright^*) ::= (\triangleright) \mid (\lambda u, v.((\triangleright^*)^{\mathsf{D}_{\epsilon,e}^{\mathsf{D}}} u)^{\mathsf{D}_{\epsilon,f}^{\mathsf{D}}} v)$$

Two "inference" rules:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \underline{M} & \underline{m} & \underline{m} & \underline{m} \\
\uparrow^{\uparrow} & \uparrow^{D} & (\lambda x. x^{D})^{D_{\epsilon, e_{1}}^{\downarrow}} m & (\lambda x. x^{D})^{D_{\epsilon, e_{1}}^{\downarrow}} D_{\epsilon, e_{2}}^{\downarrow} m
\end{array} \dots$$

$$ightharpoonup \frac{m}{\mu_{\mathsf{De},f}m}$$

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction

Building sentence meanings

```
[Karlos stopped smoking]] _{\mathcal{M}}
= \llbracket \mathit{Karlos} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}}^{\uparrow} \triangleleft^* (\llbracket \mathit{stopped} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}} \rhd \llbracket \mathit{smoking} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}})
= k^{\uparrow} \triangleleft^* (stop \triangleright smk)
 = \Bbbk^{\stackrel{\uparrow}{\mathsf{D}}} \, \triangleleft^* \, (\lambda c. (c(\mathtt{smk} e) = \mathtt{true} \Vdash_e (\lambda x, g. \{g \mid (\exists e'. \mathtt{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\})))
=((\triangleleft)_{\stackrel{D}{\stackrel{\downarrow}{\epsilon}}}^{\stackrel{D}{\downarrow}}_{\stackrel{V}{\epsilon}}
                (\lambda c.(c(\mathtt{smk} e) = \mathtt{true} \Vdash_e (\lambda x, g.\{g \mid (\exists e'.\mathsf{end}(egg)(xgg)e')\}))))^{\mathsf{U}}_{\mathsf{V}.\epsilon}
 = (\lambda c.(c(smke) = true \Vdash_e (\lambda g.\{g \mid (\exists e'.end(egg)ke')\})))
```

An expression with presuppositions of type $\mathbf{D}VT$.

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Conditionals

(3) If Theo has a sister, he will bring his wetsuit.

Following, e.g., Barker and Shan (2008) and Charlow (2014), the semantics of conditionals is defined in terms of:

- discourse update: (;)
- dynamic negation: not

```
ifmn := not(m; not n)
```

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Conditionals

$$\begin{split} & \left(\lambda c. (\phi \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m} p)\right) \; ; \; \left(\lambda c. (\psi \Vdash_{y_1,...,y_n} q)\right) \\ \coloneqq & \left(\lambda c. (\phi \land \psi[(\lambda t. c(p \Rightarrow t))/c] \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m,y_1,...,y_n} p + q)\right) \end{split}$$

- ▶ (⇒): $T \to T \to T$ is "dynamic implication"
- ► (+) is information state update

So we're just updating p with q, while weakening the presuppositions of q to depend on p.

Anaphoric dependencies are just combined.

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction

$$\begin{split} & \operatorname{not}(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,\dots,x_m} p)) \\ & \coloneqq (\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,\dots,x_m} (\lambda g.\{g \mid pg = \emptyset\}))) \end{split}$$

- ▶ $not(\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m} true)) = (\lambda c.(\phi \Vdash_{x_1,...,x_m} false))$
- $\blacktriangleright \ \mathtt{not} \big(\lambda c. \big(\phi \Vdash_{\mathsf{X}_1, \dots, \mathsf{X}_m} \mathsf{false} \big) \big) = \big(\lambda c. \big(\phi \Vdash_{\mathsf{X}_1, \dots, \mathsf{X}_m} \mathsf{true} \big) \big)$

"inverse scope"

▶ the presupposition trigger *his wetsuit* has taken scope

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Conditionals

(2) If Theo is a scuba diver, he will bring his wetsuit.

[&]quot;surface scope"

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Indefinites

May be smoothly integrated with a dynamic semantics for indefinites.

- (8) A man walked in. The man sat down.
 - second sentence presupposes a man
 - presupposition is satisfied by the first sentence

Dynamic presupposition satisfaction Indefinites

"trivial" presuppositions

 $\llbracket a \text{ man walked in. the man sat down.} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}}$

= $\llbracket a \text{ man walked in} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}}^{\stackrel{\uparrow}{\mathsf{D}}} ; \llbracket \text{the man sat down} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{M}}$

```
= (\lambda c.(c((\lambda g.\{g' \mid g[1]g' \land \mathsf{man}g_1' \land \mathsf{walk}g_1'\}))
\Rightarrow (\lambda g.\{g \mid \mathsf{man}g_1\})) = \mathsf{true}
\Vdash (\lambda g.\{g' \mid g[1]g' \land \mathsf{man}g_1 \land \mathsf{walk}g_1 \land \mathsf{sit}g_1\})))
= (\lambda c.(c\mathsf{true} = \mathsf{true} \Vdash (\lambda g.\{g' \mid g[1]g' \land \mathsf{man}g_1 \land \mathsf{walk}g_1 \land \mathsf{sit}g_1\})))
```

Conclusions

Satisfaction accounts and "trapped presupposition triggers":

- the "proviso problem" (more generally, that of "trapped presupposition triggers") is **not** an inherent flaw of Heimian accounts of presupposition projection
- the problem disappears once the compositional repertoire is restructured in terms of the operators of a graded monad

Outlook:

- can the same basic technology be integrated with other dynamic semantic frameworks (e.g., de Groote, 2006; Charlow, 2014)?
- can it be modified to handle presupposition accommodation?
 - ▶ hybrid account with de Groote and Lebedeva (2010); Lebedeva (2012)?
- the selection problem as resolution of scope ambiguity

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