1 Modal Particles and At-Issue Presuppositions

1.1 Reasoning

1.1.1 Presuppositions are non-at-issue

Presupposition triggers require that their prejacent be entailed by the common ground (**stalnaker2002common**). In other words, utterances with presuppositions are only defined when the presupposition is already part of the accepted facts. In (**??**), no truth-value can be assigned since, in the actual world, there is no king of France, which causes a presupposition failure with respect to the definite determiner heading the subject constituent. On the other hand, in the parallel case (**??**), the presupposition is met and the utterance can be assigned a truth-value.

(1) a. The king of France is bald.
b. The prince of Monaco is bald.

Taking this as a starting point, we can say that presuppositions (in the ideal case) refer to old pieces of information. This being the case, a further property is revealed: presuppositions are entailments that are not (usually) up for discussion; they are not at-issue (**aravind2017factivity**). To see this, consider the direct denial in (**??**) where the only possible interpretation refers to the at-issue content of A's utterance – the fact that Peter gave up stripping – but not the presupposed, non-at-issue component – the fact Peter used to strip (**tonhauser2012diagnosing**).

(2) A: Peter stopped stripping.
B: # That's not true.
Intended: Peter never stripped before.

(3) Lexikoneinträge
$[\![\textbf{not}]\!] = \lambda p \in D_t \,.\, p = 0$
$[\![\textbf{Carla}]\!]$ = Carla
$[\![\textbf{invite}]\!] = \lambda x \in D_e \,.\, [\lambda y \in D_e \,.\, y$ lädt x ein$]$
$[\![\textbf{a}]\!] = \lambda f \in D_{\langle e,t\rangle} \,.\, [\lambda g \in D_{\langle e,t\rangle} \,.$ es gibt ein x, sodass $f(x) = 1$ und $g(x) = 1]$
$[\![\textbf{politician}]\!] = \lambda x \in D_e \,.\, x$ ist ein Politiker