

Semantic Frameworks: Problem Set 2

Due before fifth session, 19 Nov

Problem 1

If Stalnaker's speech act norm (see the quote in handout 3) were to hold for lack of truth value caused by vagueness, what would the following assertion presuppose:

- (1) Either John is married or he is tall.

Problem 2

Suppose we have a trivalent semantics for presupposition with the following connectives:

| | |
|-----|----------|
| A | $\neg A$ |
| T | F |
| F | T |
| U | F |

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|
| \vee | T | F | U |
| T | T | T | U |
| F | T | F | U |
| U | T | U | U |

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| \wedge | T | F | U |
| T | T | F | U |
| F | F | F | U |
| U | U | F | U |

Let K = The king of France is bald, and I = There is a king of France. Assume that K is only true or false if I is true. (I is always true or false). Give the presuppositions of the following sentences (you can just describe them in words or write them out more formally):

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- (2) $\neg K$
 - (3) $I \vee K$
 - (4) $I \wedge K$
 - (5) $K \wedge I$
 - (6) $K \vee I$

Problem 3

Give a definition of a CCP for disjunction (à la Heim and lecture notes) that makes the following sentence have no presupposition:

- (7) The King of France is hiding or there is no King of France.

Assume the first disjunct presupposes the negation of the second disjunct (and that this has no presupposition).