

word

pragmatics 語用論

compositionality 構成性

proposition 命題

presupposition 前提

## Pragmatics – Lecture 3

### Historical Background

- Influences from:
  - Logicians (Frege(Greece), Aristotle(Germany))  
Late 19th century
  - Philosophers of language (Grice, Austin, Searle)

### Pragmatic Concepts

- **Relation within and among propositions:**
  - Logical relations (e.g.,  $P \wedge Q$ )
  - **Compositionality** (meaning from parts)
  - **Partial compositionality** in cognitive semantics
  - **Beyond logical relations:** role of context

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## Examples and Inference Judgments

- Several cases explored where **real-world inference** and **logical prediction** diverged:
  - Example: "My boyfriend is a vet and he is smart" – predicted good inference matches reality.

- Example: "She has a boyfriend" vs. "I have a boyfriend" – presupposition failures.
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## Presupposition

- **Definition:** Background information assumed for a sentence to make sense.
- Triggers include definite descriptions, clefts, and factive verbs.
- Examples:
  - "The king of France is bald." → Presupposes there is a king of France.
  - "I met the boy from Osaka." → Presupposes such a boy exists.

## Presupposition vs. At-issue Meaning

- **At-issue:** Main content of the sentence (truth-conditional)
  - **Presupposition:** Contextual background, not questioned directly
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## Holes vs. Plugs

- Some environments allow presuppositions to pass ("holes"), while others block them ("plugs").
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## Cognitive Semantics

- Concepts such as:
  - **Base and profile**
  - **Image schema**
  - **Subjectification**

- **Metonymy and metaphor**
  - Shift from formal structure to conceptual understanding of meaning.
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## Formal Semantics

- Predicate logic and functions
- **Lambda calculus**
- **Truth conditions**
- Contrast between **cognitive** and **formal** approaches:
  - Formal = logical precision
  - Cognitive = context sensitivity and mental representation

## Presupposition

### Definition:

- A **presupposition** is background information assumed by the speaker for an utterance to make sense.
- Unlike the **at-issue meaning** (main message), presuppositions are not directly evaluated for truth.

### Example:

- **Sentence:** *I met the boy from Osaka.*
  - **Presupposition:** There was a boy from Osaka.
  - **At-issue meaning:** The speaker met him.

## Presupposition Triggers

Certain expressions automatically introduce presuppositions:

### 1. Definite Noun Phrases:

- *the boy from Osaka* → assumes he exists.

### 2. Factive Verbs:

- *regret, realize, know*, etc.
- *I regret visiting a museum* → presupposes that the visit happened.

### 3. Additive Particles:

- *again, also*, etc.
- *He visited the museum again* → presupposes a previous visit.

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## Holes vs. Plugs

### + Holes:

- **Allow** presuppositions to pass through.
- E.g., *He knows that...*, *He thinks that...*

### — Plugs:

- **Block** presuppositions from surfacing.
- E.g., *He mentioned that...*

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## Semantic Operators and Presuppositions

- Presuppositions often **survive semantic operators** like:
  - **Negation:** *I didn't regret buying a book* still presupposes the book was bought.
  - **Questions:** *Did you regret buying a book?* → same presupposition.

# Presupposition Accommodation

When a listener is not previously aware of a presupposition, they may **accept** it to maintain coherence.

- Example:
  - A: *My brother is a vet.*
  - B (previously unaware): Accepts the presupposition that the speaker has a brother.

This process **updates the shared context**, called the **common ground**.

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## Structured Discourse Context

### Components:

1. Speaker's presuppositions
  2. Addressee's presuppositions
  3. Common ground
  4. Truth-conditional layer (tdl)
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## Speech Act Theory

### Two sentence types:

1. **Constative Sentences:**
  - Describe the world.
  - Truth can be judged (True/False).
  - E.g., *I named this ship the Queen Elizabeth.*
2. **Performative Sentences:**

- Create or update reality through speech.
  - E.g., *I hereby name this ship the Queen Elizabeth.*
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## Three Levels of Speech Acts

1. **Locutionary Act:** Literal utterance (grammar, phonetics).
  2. **Illocutionary Act:** Speaker's intention (asserting, questioning, promising).
  3. **Perlocutionary Act:** Effect on listener (persuading, offending, etc.)
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## Felicity Conditions

Performative sentences require appropriate **context** and **authority**:

- *I pronounce you husband and wife* → only valid in the right setting (e.g., a wedding officiant).
  - *I sentence you to 6 years* → only valid if spoken by a judge in court.
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## Dynamic Update

Even **constative sentences** can **update the context**:

- E.g., *It is raining outside* → adds a new fact to the shared knowledge base.
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## Interim Summary

| Type                  | Truth-conditional? | Context-updating? |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Constative Sentence   | ✓ Yes              | ✓ Yes             |
| Performative Sentence | ✗ Not applicable   | ✓ Yes             |

## Holes vs. Plugs

- **Holes:** Contexts where presuppositions still project
    - *He knows/thinks that...*
  - **Plugs:** Contexts that block presupposition projection
    - *He mentioned that...*
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## Presupposition Accommodation

- When a speaker makes a presupposition not in the listener's background knowledge:
    - The listener may **"accommodate"** it and update their mental model.
  - Example:
    - Speaker: *My brother is a vet.*
    - Listener may accept the new information: "Speaker has a brother."
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## Speech Act Theory

### What is a speech act?

- Saying something is also **doing something**.

### Three Types of Speech Acts:

| Type | Description | Example |
|------|-------------|---------|
|------|-------------|---------|

|                       |   |                                    |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Locutionary</b>    | The literal utterance (grammar, phonetics)        | <i>"Can" used as a noun</i>        |
| <b>Illocutionary</b>  | The speaker's intent (assert, promise, ask, etc.) | <i>I promise to help you.</i>      |
| <b>Perlocutionary</b> | The effect on the listener                        | <i>He was convinced/persuaded.</i> |

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## Constative vs. Performative Sentences

| Sentence Type       | Key Feature                               | Example                                 |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Constative</b>   | Describes the world, can be true or false | <i>I named this ship the Q.E.</i>       |
| <b>Performative</b> | Saying it performs the action             | <i>I hereby name this ship the Q.E.</i> |

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## Felicity Conditions

- A **performative sentence** is successful only if certain conditions are met:
  - Right person (authority)
  - Right time and place
  - Correct context

### Examples:

- *I sentence you to prison.* → valid if spoken by a judge in court.
  - *I pronounce you husband and wife.* → valid in a wedding ceremony.
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## Dynamic Context Updates



- Even **constative sentences** can update shared knowledge.
- Example:
  - *The sun is not out.*
  - *It is thundering.*
  - *Two men are outside.*

These utterances build and update a shared **discourse context**.

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## Discourse Model Concepts

| Concept                   | Description                                   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Possible World</b>     | A version of reality                          |
| <b>Context Set (cs)</b>   | Set of possible worlds under consideration    |
| <b>Common Ground (cg)</b> | Propositions all participants agree on        |
| <b>Proposition</b>        | A set of worlds where the proposition is true |

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## Summary Table

| Topic                 | Key Concepts                                    |
|-----------------------|---|
| Presupposition        | Triggers, Accommodation, Holes vs. Plugs        |
| Speech Act Theory     | Locutionary, Illocutionary, Perlocutionary Acts |
| Sentence Types        | Constative vs. Performative                     |
| Felicity Conditions   | Authority + Context make a performative valid   |
| Context Dynamics      | Utterances dynamically update discourse context |
| Discourse Model Tools | Common ground, possible worlds, propositions    |