Homework: Diagnosing Presuppositions

Note: Please print out your answers and bring them to class on October 18th so we can discuss them all together!

Also: Please label your answers A1, A2, ... B1, B2,...

A. Read: Chierchia and McConnell-Ginet (1990), Ch. 1, Sec. 3.

1. According to C&MG, there are two axes of classification for inferences, giving rise to four possible kinds of inference. What are these two axes?

2. Do exercise 2 on p. 27.

3. How do C&MG define *presupposition*?

4. What do C&MG mean when they say that "presuppositions come in families" (p. 30)?

5. Do exercise 3, pp. 32-33.

B. Read: Beaver and Clark (2008), pp. 214–217.

1. What is the prejacent in the sentence *Mary loves only Fred*?

2. What do Beaver and Clark mean by "vanilla entailment"? Which component of the meaning of *only* is generally agreed to be a vanilla entailment?

3. What is the basic positive inference the follows from *Mary loves only Fred*?

4. What is the basic negative inference that follows from *Mary loves only Fred*?

5. Does German *nur* give rise to the same two inferences? Give an example.

6. What is the conjunction analysis of *only*?

7. What is the prejacent presupposition theory of exclusives?

8. Construct examples like (9.5) and (9.6) in German with *nur*. (Don't translate directly, just make something up.) Does the positive component survive embedding under negation? How about the negative component?

9. Construct examples like (9.8) in German with *nur*. Do you observe the same asymmetry?

10. Apply the 'repeatability test' (as it was called in the lecture; what Beaver and Clark refer to as 'order asymmetries') to these examples (or their German equivalents):

(1) a. The flying saucer came again.
    b. The flying saucer has come sometime in the past.

(2) a. The flying saucer came yesterday.
    b. The flying saucer has come sometime in the past.

11. Construct an example like (9.10) in German with *nur*. Does *because* target the positive inference? Does it target the negative inference?

12. Construct an example like (9.11) in German with *nur*, using any emotive factive predicate of your choosing (e.g. *be glad that, be disappointed that*, etc.). Does the emotive factive predicate target the positive component? Does it target the negative component?

13. Apply the emotive factive test to these examples:

(3) a. It was Henry who kissed Rosie.
    b. Someone kissed Rosie.

(4) a. Henry kissed Rosie.
    b. Someone kissed Rosie.