

Title:

Presupposition as abduction? Inferential effects of presupposition accommodation.

Abstract:

Presuppositions can produce what come across as inferential effects. An example is the following three-sentence discourse:

(1) 'I gave the workers a generous tip. One thanked me. The other left without saying a word.' (see [1])

This discourse seems to entail that the number of workers referred to in the first sentence was 2.

This effect is quite systematic, as can be observed by varying the subject phrases of the second and third sentence of (1). (For instance, substitute 'two' for 'one' in the second sentence or 'another one' for 'the other one' in the third.)

Examples showing similar effects have long been known from work of Kripke [2], which has been in informal circulation since 1990, appeared in *Linguistic Inquiry* in 2009, and was reprinted in the first Volume of Kripke's collected essays in 2012. A telling instance of the kind of examples Kripke discusses is (2):

(2) 'If Kasparov defeats Karpov in the game in Tokyo, probably he will defeat him again in the game in Berlin.'

The effect of the presupposition trigger 'again' in this sentence is to give rise to the inference that the game in Berlin will be after the game in Tokyo.

The aim of the talk is two-fold: (a) a critical evaluation of Kripke's discussion of such cases; (b) the presentation of a framework in which the mechanisms that are responsible for (quasi-)inferential effects of the kind exemplified by (1) can be adequately represented. The prime emphasis will be on the latter.

[1] H. Kamp, 'Presupposition Computation and Presupposition Justification'. In M. Bras & L. Vieu (eds.) *Pragmatic and Semantic Issues in Discourse and Dialogue*. Crispi, Elsevier, 2001

[2] S. Kripke 'Presupposition and Anaphora: Remarks on the Formulation of the Projection Problem.' *Linguistic Inquiry*, Vol. 40, Nr. 3, 2009

[3] S. Kripke 'Collected Papers, Vol. I', OUP, 2011.