

Assignment 1

Lectures 01–03

Due on January 16, 2024

Exercise 1 (10 points)

- A. What is the fundamental question that the field of formal semantics seeks to answer?
- B. How does it seek to answer this question?

Exercise 2 (15 points)

- A. Please explain what is claimed by the Principle of Compositionality.
- B. What is one piece of evidence for the Principle of Compositionality?

Exercise 3 (10 points)

Please explain how the ‘truth conditions’ of a (declarative) sentence are a component of that sentence’s meaning. That is, why do we think that the overall meaning of a (declarative) sentence includes that sentence’s truth-conditions?

Exercise 4 (35 points)

Consider the following exchange:

- (1) A: Are you coming to Alan’s party?
- B: I have to do my semantics homework.

- A. What is the assertion made in Speaker B’s utterance?
- B. Are there any presuppositions made in Speaker B’s utterance? If so, please provide one of them and present the results of the cancellability and reinforceability diagnostics to support your claim.
- C. Are there any implicatures made in Speaker B’s utterance? If so, please provide one of them and present the results of the cancellability and reinforceability diagnostics to support your claim.

Exercise 5 (30 points)

Using the projection tests, please demonstrate whether or not the presupposition you identified in Exercise 4 is projective content.