Problem Set 1

Due January 23 before class. Submit on IVLE > Files > Student Submission > PS1.

A note on judgments: If you are not a native speaker of English, you will want to consult with a friend to ask for their English judgments for this problem set. (Later problem sets will involve less English judgments.)

1. Are the sentences in (1) truth-conditionally equivalent? How about the sentences in (2)?

    (1)   a. Dogs have four legs.

          b. Every dog has four legs.

    (2)   a. John will eat everything.

          b. John will eat anything.

    Another way to think about this: Is it possible to construct a model where (a) is true but (b) is false, or (a) is false but (b) is true?

2. In each pair of sentences, determine the relationship between A and the B sentences: A presupposes B, A entails B, or no relationship. Support your answer using one or two of the the tests for presupposition vs entailment discussed in class.

    (3)   A. I know that Bill is married.

          B. Bill is married.

    (4)   A. Alex read the book.

          B. Alex read some of the book.

    (5)   A. Only Sarah did the homework.

          B1. Sarah did the homework.

          B2. John did not do the homework.

3. The following sentences are ambiguous. For each sentence, give paraphrases for two different readings. Then, for each paraphrase, describe or illustrate a model that makes that paraphrase true and the other false. If this is not possible, say so.

    (6)   Three students lifted the piano.

    (7)   There is a cat in every box.

    (8)   Everyone in Switzerland speaks one language, German or French.