

Homework

Recap: *Semantics*

Course: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Instructor: Alexander Rauhut
Due date: *17.01.2020*

1. Compositionality

What is the principle of compositionality. Explain with the help of a simple sentence.

2. Passives

Contrast two sentences with a passive and an active construction. Are they identical in meaning and function?

3. Presuppositions

Identify the presuppositions in the following sentences.

- (1) John passed the exam in Roman law this semester.
- (2) Anna's grandma had a surgical operation.
- (3) So when are you going to announce that you're resigning?
- (4) What movie shall we watch tonight?

4. Topic and focus

Take the following sentence as a basis and form a) an it-cleft, b) an inversion, c) a left dislocation. Explain the different effects those constructions have in terms of focus and topic.

- (5) The old lady really didn't expect the Spanish inquisition.