

# How and Why Conventional Implicatures Project

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## Conventional implicatures are...

non-cancellable, not 'at-issue', scopeless, and speaker-oriented [cf. Potts 2003; 2005]  
⇒ 2 classes: Supplemental & Expressive CIs.

CIs project, just like presuppositions, **but** CIs provide *new*, instead of *old*, information

**Challenge:** a unified (DRT) account of CIs and presuppositions (reflecting the difference in *information structure*)

**Solution:** CIs are 'piggy-backing' on their *projecting anchor*

## PDRT: Projective Discourse Representation Theory

[Venhuizen et al. 2013]

PDRT is an extension of traditional DRT [Kamp 1981; Kamp & Reyle 1993] including DRT's Montague-style compositionality [cf. Muskens 1996]

**Projection pointers** distinguish *introduction-* and *interpretation-*sites

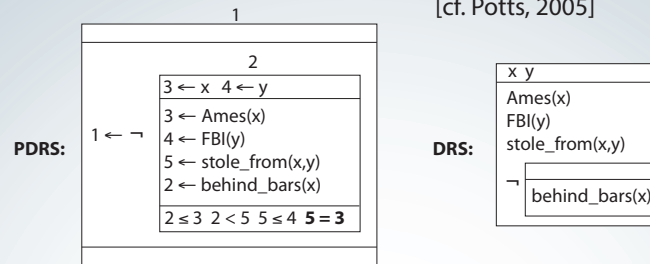
Presupposition projection formalized as variable binding [cf. van der Sandt 1992]

**MAPs:** Minimally Accessible Projection-contexts indicating contextual constraints:  $\leq$  or  $=$

**Subjective PDRT:** personalised pointers introduce restrictions on the model of interpretation (s.t. each discourse agent is taken to introduce its own model).

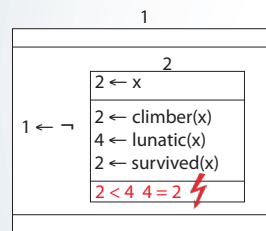
(1) **It's not the case that Ames, who stole from the FBI, is behind bars.**

[cf. Potts, 2005]



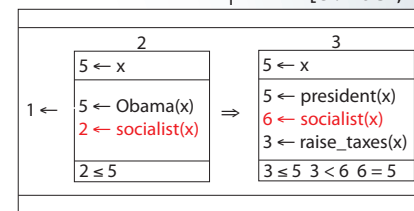
(2) **# No climber, a lunatic, survived.**

[cf. McCawley, 1998]

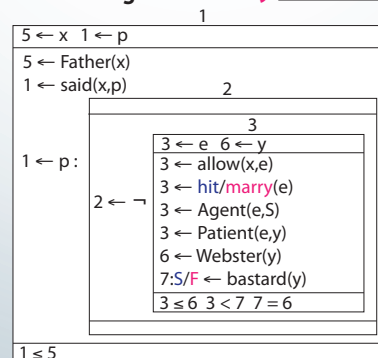


(3) **?? If Obama is a socialist, then the president, who is a socialist, will raise taxes.**

[cf. Koev, 2014]



(4) **Father<sub>F</sub> said he would not allow me<sub>S</sub> to hit/marry that bastard Webster.** [cf. Kratzer, 1999]



## The Why: piggy-backing on the anchor

CIs signal **backgrounded** and **novel** information.

This implies that every CI has an **anchor** (for *coherence*), which is **specific** (background ⇒ non-restrictive ⇒ established referent)

The CI content *elaborates* its anchor by attaching to the same projection site (**piggy-backing**)

## The How: p-anaphoricity

CIs pose a **constraint** on their projection site ( $p_{local} < p_{ci}$ ) and **depend** on the one of the anchor ( $p_{ci} = p_{anchor}$ )

Personalized pointers of Subjective PDRT can represent **expressive** CIs: their content only needs to be true relative to some subjective model.

## Conclusion and Discussion

The projection behaviour of CIs can be explained via their **projecting anchor**.

**PDRT** is a formal framework in which the interaction between asserted *and* (different types of) projected content is made explicit.

Are there any CIs without an anchor? Do these really behave just like anchored CIs? Are they CIs?

Check out **PDRT SANDBOX** to experiment with your own DRSs and PDRSs: merge, translate, and more!

