What presuppositions and conventional implicatures have in common? –
A comparative analysis of projective meanings of additive too in English and Vietnamese
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Despite their own development story, presuppositions and conventional implicatures both demonstrate the meaning layer that is conventionally encoded in the linguistic form of an utterance but does not directly affect its main propositional content. To better understand the nature of these phenomena and their differences, this project explores various subtleties of their commonality – their projection behavior. Particularly, additive too, a controversial lexical trigger that has been associated with both presuppositions and conventional implicature by different scholars is chosen as the object for a comparative analysis of its projective meanings in English and Vietnamese, which addresses the following questions:

- How are projective contents of additive too subject to the Strong Contextual Felicity (SCF) constraint and Obligatory Local (OL) effect?
- Does its projection behavior vary with the Question Under Discussion (QUD)?

The empirical part of this study starts with the collection of the examples of additive too in both Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English and Vietnamese Treebank that include the context information for SCF judgment and satisfy the conditions of the diagnostic for OL effect.

(1) So you don’t know any other Naomi Bernsteins? There’s a, there’s a famous, I mean you’re famous too. There’s another famous, there’s an art critic, or someone who writes on art whose name is Naomi Bernsteins. (An example from MiCASE)

Further, the actual analysis is performed for each example, involving the validation of SCF constraint on additive too in its context, the Family of Sentences test of its projection, the availability of its OL effect and the definition of the corresponding QUD. The analysis results support that the variation of OL effect of additive too subtly touches the boundary between what is presupposed and what is conventionally implicated by reflecting the different focuses in QUD.

Bibliography