Symposium S8-2
Acquiring the semantics and syntax of presuppositions

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Three components of sentential meanings

The king of France is no longer bald.

- **Assertion** — new contribution of the sentence
  = X is no longer bald

- **Presupposition** — remains immune to transformations of the sentence by negation, questions, or conditional. It has to be true for the sentence to be felicitous.

    = there is a king of France
    = he used to be bald

The king of France is no longer bald, and his outlook on life has improved.

- **Implicature** — inferentially made from the asserted meaning: can be denied without ill formedness.

  = the reason his outlook on life has improved

  Two dukes of France are bald.

  = not all the dukes of France are bald

Where are triggers of presuppositions?

Lexical items

He **was glad** that he bought a present (factives)

Functional items

The king of France (definites)

Syntactic structures

It was the sandwich that John ate (clefts)

Aims of the symposium

- examine the acquisition of different PP triggers in different domains
- explore the role of the development Theory of Mind for the acquisition of presupposition

General Questions

- How do children develop presuppositions?

- How do children integrate propositional meanings with content represented in the common ground of discourse?

- How does this development depend on the cognitive development such as ToM?

- To what extent does mastery of presuppositional meanings originate from grammatical, pragmatic, or cognitive development?

Order of presenters

Ana Pérez-Leroux

Asserting and presupposing grammatical number

Cristina Schmitt & Karen Miller

Why it is better to treat PL as expressing a presupposition in acquisition

Petra Schulz & Carolyn Ludwig

The role of theory of mind in the acquisiton of factivity

Tanja Heizmann

Children' acquisition of exhaustivity in clefts

Tom Roeper
From Exclamation to Proposition to Presupposition to Implicature: the path to deductive reasoning