LING-UA 1 *Language*

Meanings, Exam 1 Prep

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Week 5   3:30PM, 6 October 2025

Logistics

- **Exam 1:**
    - Tomorrow, Tuesday, 7 October, class time (2:00–3:15PM)
    - Discovering patterns, Morphology (I–II), Syntax (I–IV), and Meanings (I–II)
    - Last names A–J: **here** (10WP #104) w/ Me
    - Last names K–Z: **course room** (SILV #401) w/ Gideon
- **Study Session**
    - Immediately after recitation (5:30PM) until close
    - Practice problems, HW questions, etc.
    - Starburst candy will be provided
- **Friday Office Hours** moved +1hr (now 3–5PM) this week only

Questions from HW/Lecture?

Meanings & Semantics

- Two core notions: **assertions** and **presuppositions**
- **Assertion**
    - Informally: Something that *must* be true given what was said
    - Formally: $P \implies S$ if and only if whenever P is true, S is also true
- **Presupposition**
    - Informally: Something that must be true for what was said to even make sense
    - Formally $P \gg S$ if and only if $P \implies S$ and $\neg P \implies S$

Assertions

- ▶ Does *"John has a dog"* assert that John has a pet? yes

- ▶ Does *"John has a pet"* assert that John has a dog? no

- ▶ Does *"John is tall and blue"* assert than John is blue? yes

- ▶ Does *"John is short or red"* assert that John is red? no

- ▶ Does *"Every starburst is pink or red"* assert every startburst is red? no

- ▶ Does *"No starburst is white or grey"* assert that no starburst is grey? yes

- ▶ Does *"Every cloud is white and fluffy"* assert every cloud is white? yes

- ▶ Does *"No cloud is spiky and green"* assert that no cloud is spiky? no

Presuppositions

- What does *"John stopped smoking"* presuppose?
  John used to smoke

- What does *"Bob knows that Alice is smart"* presuppose?
  Alice is smart

- What about *"Bob believes that Alice is smart"*?
  No such presupposition