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Seminar on Presupposition
Heinrich Heine University
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Homework 5: Langendoen and Savin (1971)

1. On p. 57, Langendoen and Savin say that if we construct $A'(P'')$ for example S5, we find that it is “John wished that he had bad breath”. How do they get that? What are A' and P'' for S5?
2. What is Langendoen and Savin’s “projection principle for presuppositions”?
3. So, if A' and P' are the assertion and presupposition, respectively, of a main clause and A'' and P'' are the assertion and presupposition, respectively, of a subordinate clause, then which of the following are *asserted* by the main clause, according to their projection principle:
 - (a) $A'(A'')$
 - (b) $A'(P'')$
 - (c) $P'(A'')$
 - (d) $P'(P'')$
 - (e) A''
 - (f) P''

Which of the above are *presupposed* by the main clause?

4. Consider the following example:

John accused Mary of starting to smoke.

Assume that X accused Y of Z asserts that X claimed that Y did Z and presupposes that X thinks that it is bad for Y to do Z . Assume that X started to Y asserts that before time t , X did not Y , and presupposes that after time t , X did Y . In the example under consideration, what are A' , A'' , P' , P'' , $A'(A'')$, $A'(P'')$, $P'(A'')$ and $P'(P'')$ and which of these are predicted to be asserted by the sentence as a whole by Langendoen and Savin’s theory? Which are predicted to be presupposed?

5. Example S7, *If I hadn’t left Bloomington, I would have regretted it*, is a counterexample to Langendoen and Savin’s theory! Why is that?
6. Why is this sentence odd, according to Langendoen and Savin: *If I hadn’t left Bloomington, I would have regretted having left Bloomington*.