A relevance-theoretic perspective on the typology of questions

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The present paper proposes a model of studying typology of questions that relies on the notions of *common ground* (Stalnaker, 1978, 2002) and *cognitive environments* (Sperber and Wilson, 1986) and corpus linguistics methodology. Following Sperber and Wilson (1986), it will be assumed that what happens in communication is that the speaker's and addressee's individual cognitive environments interact. This interaction creates an intersection of these environments and results in the emergence of a mutual cognitive environment. I will argue that when the speaker asks a question she assumes one of the following four situations. K here refers to knowledge that according to the speaker's assumptions is or is not part of the speaker's or addressee's beliefs (coded as SB and AB respectively).

Situation 1: $(K \in SB) \land (K \in AB)$;

Situation 2: $(K \notin SB) \land (K \in AB)$;

Situation 3: $(K \notin SB) \land (K \notin AB)$;

Situation 4: $(K \in SB) \land (K \in AB) \lor (K \notin AB)$

References: • Sperber, D. and Wilson, D**.** (1986): Relevance: Communication and Cognition Basil Blackwell, Oxford. • Stalnaker, R. (1978): Assertion. In Cole, P. (ed.), Syntax and semantics 9, 315-332. • Stalnaker, R. (2002): Common ground. In: Linguistics and Philosophy, 25(5), 701–721.