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The Premises and Presuppositions behind the 'Pre' Prefix – Commentary on Stojanovic's 'Prepragmatics'

In the comment I explore the kind of priority suggested by the prefix 'Pre' in the term 'Prepragmatics'. I point to the notions of presemantics (Belnap) and postsemantics (MacFarlane) in the literature and examine their relation to Stojanovic's concept. I then consider the proposed definition of prepragmatics which refers to three dimensions in which one might evaluate aspects of utterances: whether they are encoded in the linguistic expressions themselves, whether they are sensitive to various contextual factors and whether they play a role in determining the truth conditions. Prepragmatic phenomena are defined as those in which the answers to the above are 'no', 'yes', and 'yes', accordingly. I express my doubts as to whether this definition and the corresponding definitions of semantic and pragmatic phenomena capture what is intended. Lastly, mostly to check whether I understand the idea properly, I suggest that explicatures would make for good examples of prepragmatic phenomena in Stojanovic's sense.