Aboutness Presupposition: The Role of Tense and Mood in Context Anchoring

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Indicative sentences are anchored to the context. They are *about* a particular situation. But how does this context anchoring arise compositionally? Since Klein, tense has been assumed to relate utterances to topic situations, but a similar contribution has also been attributed to the semantics of mood.

Examining the distribution of what are traditionally called subjunctive and indicative moods in Persian, I argue that mood and tense can be fused. Specifically, deictic tenses—typically (though not always) associated with the indicative mood—carry an *aboutness presupposition* contributed by an operator that introducing a topic situation.

In addition to capturing some key insights from the literature on mood, this proposal also sheds light on how tense/mood presuppositions function in embedded contexts, such as conditionals. In particular, I show that the presence or absence of deictic tense —which correlates with indicative and subjunctive mood—in the antecedent of a conditional plays a crucial role in determining its interpretation.