

# RIP1 Hypothesising Annotation Guidelines

February 2024

**TASK:** determine whether the current *asserting* or *arguing* YA type is correct, or should be changed to *hypothesising* instead. Hypothesising carries a lower level of epistemic commitment than asserting, i.e., the interlocutor is less committed to the validity or truth of what they say. While assertive questions often sound uncertain, they **are not** necessarily instances of hypothesising.

Some examples where *hypothesising* is more appropriate than *asserting* include Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, the reconstruction of the propositional content may need to be corrected – the original was *there could be another car*, which should be fixed to a definite statement as the speech act captures this uncertainty. If this reconstruction (taking out the uncertainty as it is now captured by the YA type) causes complications with later annotation e.g., there was a conflict attacking the uncertain part of the proposition, then leave the text unreconstructed to preserve that relation. Uncertainty and hedging (e.g., *I think*, *perhaps*, *it could be*, *possibly*) are good indicators of hypothesising. Figure 2's first locution *I think it was him* is incorrect segmentation; however, in this annotation, **only** the YA and the reconstruction of the proposition should be fixed.

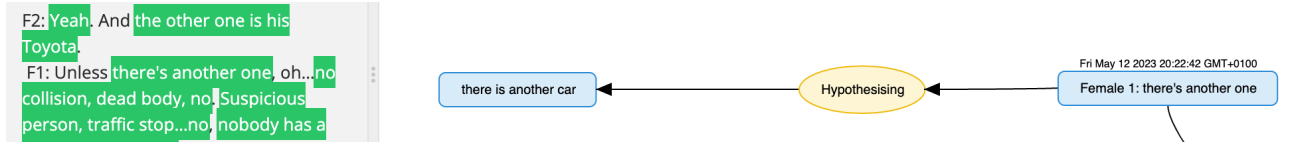


Figure 1: Example of reconstructing the proposition

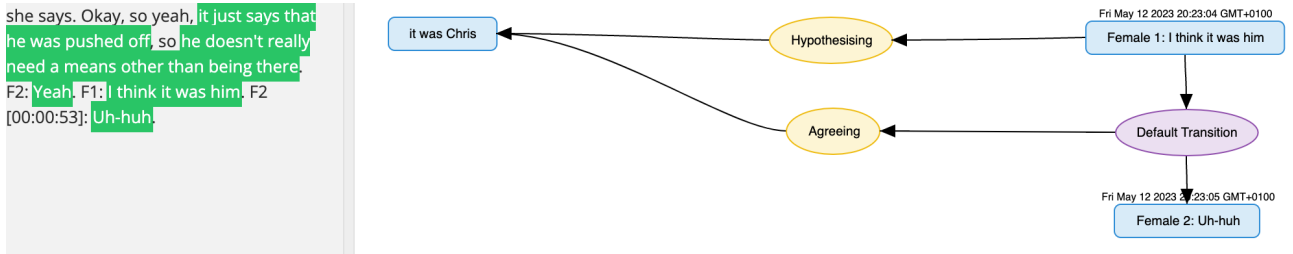


Figure 2: Example of hedging

The case where *hypothesising* may replace an *arguing* is where the proposition isn't what is being hypothesised, but rather the relationship between two pieces of information, seen annotated in Figure 3:

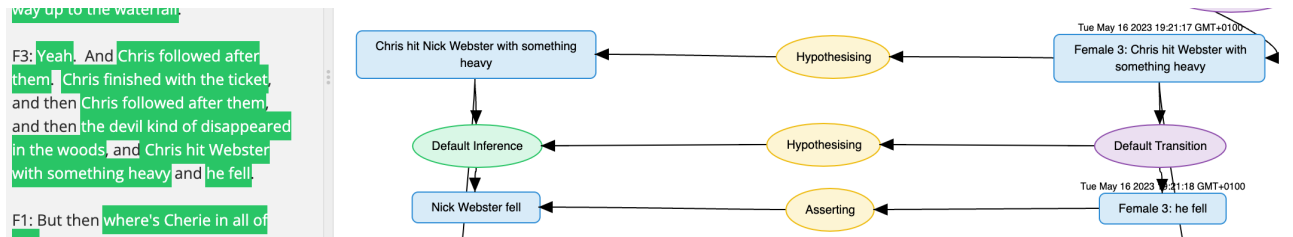


Figure 3: Causality

F1: Yeah.

'I guess that's why it hit me so hard when Nick died in December. It was so sudden and so bizarre. The official story is that Nick was drunk and lost his footing, but to me, strange things happened in the months leading up to his death, for me to believe it was an accident.'

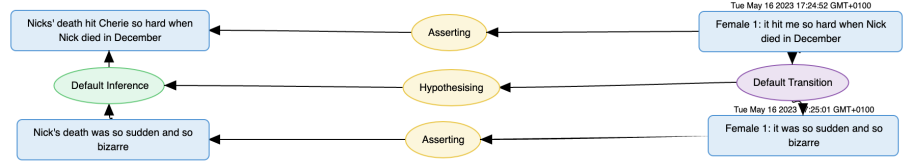


Figure 4: Uncertainty in argument

Some *if-then* clauses hypothesise. An example of this is in Figure 5 and Figure 6. In these cases, both the *if* and the *then* are annotated as *Hypothesising*.

Yeah, right.

F2: Actually, can I ask a question. Did the sheriff say he'd been drinking, 'cause that's a conflict, if he's lied, he said there was a minor, as almost you couldn't prosecute, and yet the...

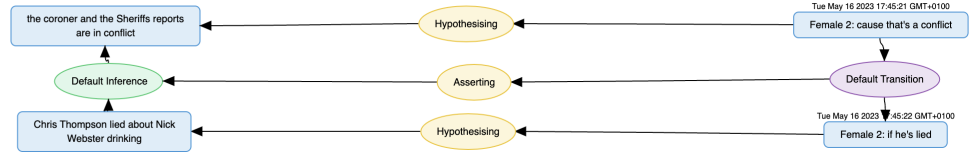


Figure 5: If-then Example 1

F2: Mmm. Here's an interesting one. I think, if we think it's an affair, we think it's this, the deputy...

F1: Let me work out this one.

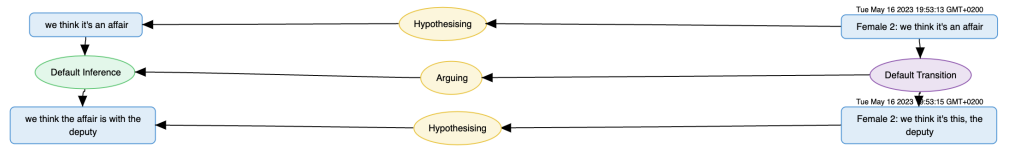


Figure 6: If-then Example 2

However, some if-then statements do not hypothesise. Utterances such as *I wouldn't worry if I were you* and *if he's right, I'll eat my hat* do not hypothesise.

In Figure 7, there is a conflict between two hypotheses. In the case where this happens, change the *Disagreeing* YA to the *Alternative Giving* YA.

F2: [2023/05/16 16:34:29 GMT+0000] Yeah, but let's say he was saying, I want to talk about the Wednesday meeting. It could have been the previous Wednesday's meeting, it might not be she wants to talk on Wednesday.

F1: Or wants to talk about land, Wednesday, Devil's Well, 11pm.

F2: But he died on the Saturday.

F1: Yeah, so he was already dead, but maybe about land, so about like the land with the...

F2: One of my questions is, when was the council meeting, the controversial meeting?

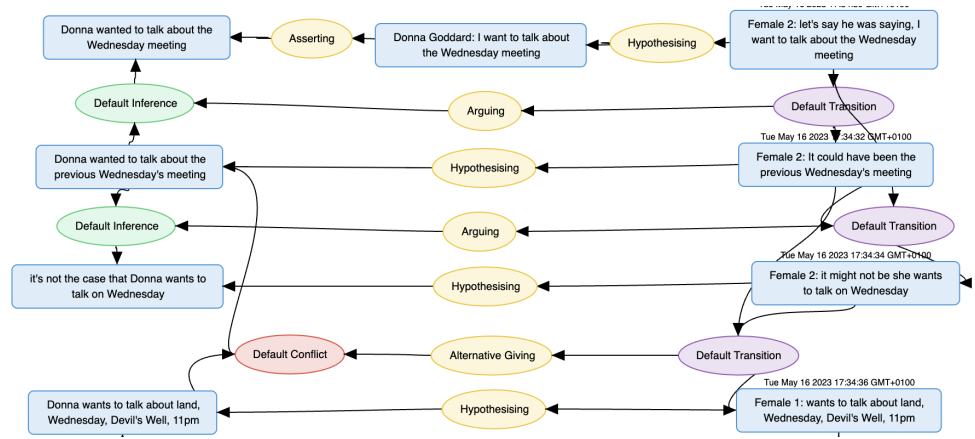


Figure 7: Alternative Giving anchoring a CA relation

**NOTE:** If you're not sure whether or not there is an hypothesis, the preferred way of dealing with this is *always not* annotating it as such. It means the difference between less data on hypotheses, than potentially incorrect data on hypotheses.