

# Shared Knowledge or Mutual Belief?: A Case from the Particle *Ná* in Thai

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## Abstract

This paper presents a preliminary analysis of the nature of the common ground as guided by the Thai particle, *ná*. When used in spoken language, this final particle basically calls for hearer's attention to the information being asserted. Tawilapakul and McCready (2023) propose adopting the question under discussion, or QUD, to address the relevance of the issue in the discussion. This proposal, while proposing the prevalent existence of presupposed content in the interlocutors' common ground, does not exhibit the diverse interpretations made possible by different contexts. The speaker's and hearer's retrieval of the presupposed content and their seeking of an appropriate interpretation in individual contexts have not been investigated. In order to achieve this, first of all, the nature of the presupposed content and how it is viewed and treated by interlocutors in the common ground need to be reexamined. The paper mainly addresses these issues via a debate on common ground initiated by Stalnaker's (2002) account of common ground as mutual belief versus Yalcin's (2024) proposal of common ground as shared knowledge. By analysing the scope of *ná* over different parts of the sentence, the resulting three possible interpretations shed light on what tends to motivate the use of the particle. Mutual belief appears to have a stronger influence on the acceptability of *ná* in a sentence.