

## **CASE STUDY: Assumptions in the search-after-meaning theory**

TEXT: “Bill switched on the light before entering the room cautiously.”

READER GOAL ASSUMPTION – The reader constructs a meaning for the text that addresses his/her goals:

- Goal: To establish time of day.
- Inference: Night.

COHERENCE ASSUMPTION – The reader tries to construct a meaning for the text that is coherent locally and globally:

- Relationship between light and room.
- Inference: The light switched on is inside the room.

EXPLANATION ASSUMPTION – The reader tries to explain the actions, events and states referred to in the text:

- Explanation assumption.
- Inference: Something has attracted Bill’s attention to the room and worried him, so he has put the light on before going in and is approaching cautiously.