The meaning of (rise-)fall-rise
As H*H H%, (rise-)fall-rise is predicted to convey:
• H*: non-compliance with the maxims wrt. primary QUD.
• H%: compliance with the maxims wrt. some focus-congruent QUD.
This predicts that RFR involves two QUDs. [1]

Entailed approach: understanding a particular usage of RFR, requires a grasp of the primary and secondary QUDs.

Quiz: what could be that secondary QUD?
(1) John – he failed the exam – envies Fred.
(2) John, who failed the exam, envies Fred.
• Non-at-issue content
• Non-at-issue content is ‘non-at-issue’ in that it does not address the primary QUD.
• But it must serve some purpose, hence, a secondary QUD, e.g. Why does John envy Fred?

(3) On an unrelated note, Fred ate the beans.
• Secondary QUD: a common denominator for a range of disparate uses of rise-fall-rise.
• Derived from the broader ICM theory.
• Falsifiability depends in part on broader QUD theory.

(4) Have you ever been West of the Mississippi? I’ve been to Missouri.
• Uncertain relevance
• Some purpose, hence, a secondary QUD (e.g. What places did you visit that may help resolve the main QUD? NB: Information-seeking strategy vs. presentational strategy [4,5]).

(5) So I guess you like apricots then? I don’t like apricots! I like [ei]pricots!
• Corrections (etc.)
• Common ground maintenance (cf. [11]) is plausibly subsumed to common ground enrichment.
• Secondary ‘maintenance’ QUD: Is the previous utterance correct?
• NB: “correct” is broader than “true”.

(6) What about the beans, who had those? Fred, he ate the beans.
• Contrastive topic
• In fact, (6) seems to be no different from (4): a strategic secondary QUD.
• By contrast, (7) is more like (3), in a way that (8) makes more explicit:
• (6) and (7) are not symmetrical (cf. [7,8]), contra [9]: only (6) leaves some QUD unresolved.

Summing up
• Secondary QUD: a common denominator for a range of disparate uses of rise-fall-rise.
• Derived from the broader ICM theory.
• Falsifiability depends in part on broader QUD theory.

References

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