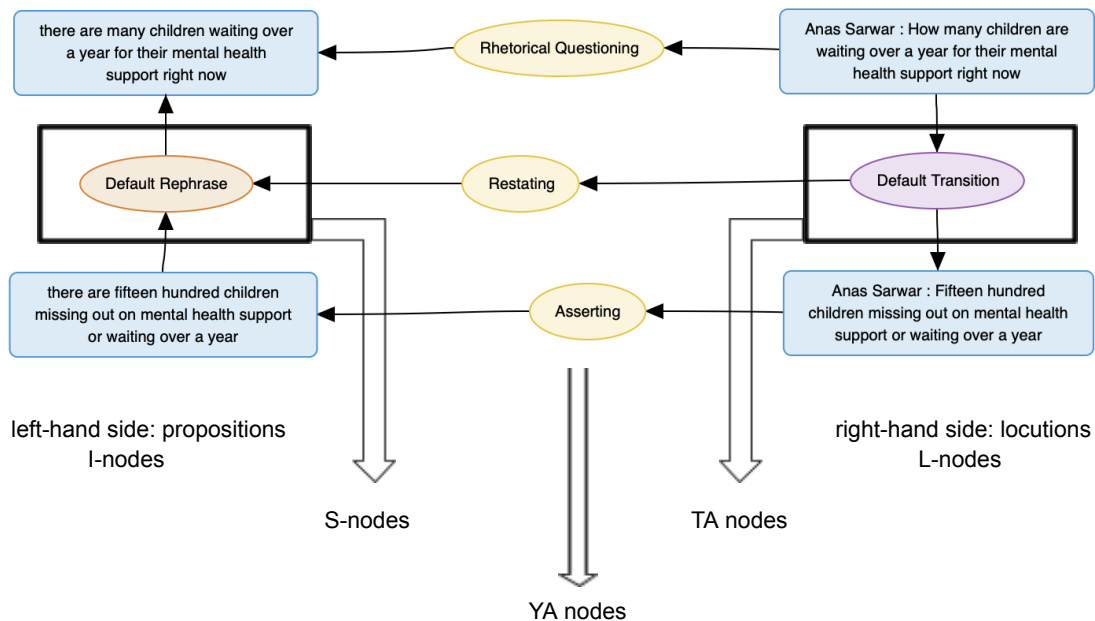


Inference Anchoring Theory (IAT) provides a theoretical scaffolding to handle dialogue and argument structures, and the relations between them. We use IAT in order to represent and understand the arguments people offer, often on public platforms, in order to develop insight into complex debates.

The smallest units of the IAT analysis are *argumentative discourse units* (ADUs). ADUs are typically directly analysed as locutions. Locutions are in the text boxes on the right of the graph structure and are known as *L-nodes*. 'Edges' (incoming and outgoing) is the term used to describe the relations, illocutionary forces, and Default Transitions (TAs) anchored in the nodes. Propositions are on the left-hand side and are reconstructed locutions, where linguistic features like anaphora, pronouns, and deixis are resolved.

IAT has three types of relations: (i) relations between locutions in a dialogue, called transitions (TAs); (ii) relations between content (propositional content of locutions) and (iii) illocutionary connections that link locutions with their content. These relations are collectively known as *S-nodes* (because they are governed by schemes) and they typically connect propositions known as *I-nodes* (because they express information).

Locutions typically have speakers (a term we use to encompass utterers in any medium) and typically also have timestamps. The text of locutions is not reconstructed or changed in any way from the source data in contrast to the propositional content of those locutions which are revised to reflect anaphoric resolution and other forms of grammatical repair. Locutions and propositions are connected via illocutionary connections.



The top left proposition has two incoming edges (one from the rephrase and the other from the rhetorical questioning), whereas the bottom left proposition has one incoming (asserting) and one outgoing (Default Rephrase).

**Directionality:** TAs only point downwards; MA and CA only point up; RA can point both up or down depending on where the conclusion and premise are; YAs go from the right- to left-hand side.

**S-nodes will be relations:** Default Inference (RA-node), Default Rephrase (MA-node), or Default Conflict (CA-node) and these are between I-nodes.

**Illocutionary connections can be, but are not limited to:** Asserting, Agreeing, Arguing, Challenging, Disagreeing, Default Illocuting, Pure Questioning, Assertive Questioning, Rhetorical Questioning, and Restating

*YAs between I- and L-nodes:* Asserting, Challenging, Pure Questioning, Assertive Questioning, Rhetorical Questioning

*YAs between TAs and S-nodes:* Arguing, Disagreeing, Default Illocuting, Restating

*YAs between TAs and I-nodes:* Agreeing, Challenging, Disagreeing

**Default Transitions (TAs) are only Default Transitions.**