Situationality and informativity

**Situationality**

1a. SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY

1b. Motorists should proceed slowly, because children are playing in the vicinity and might run out into the street. Vehicles can stop more readily if they are moving slowly.

2. The Linate accident

   06:05:40  GROUND  Delta Victor X-ray taxi North via Romeo five, QNH one zero one three, call me back at the stopbar of the... main runway extension.

   06:08:20  D-IEVX  Delta... India Echo Victor X-ray is approaching Sierra four.

   06:08:25  GROUND  Delta Victor X-ray confirm your position?

   06:08:28  D-IEVX  Approaching the runway... Sierra four.

   06:08:32  GROUND  Delta Victor X-ray roger, maintain the stopbar, I'll call you back.

3. *Alice in Wonderland*

The twelve jurors were all writing very busily on slates. “What are they doing?” Alice whispered to the Gryphon. “They can’t have anything to put down yet, before the trial’s begun.” “They’re putting down their names,” the Gryphon whispered in reply, “for fear they should forget them before the end of the trial.” “Stupid things!” Alice began in a loud indignant voice. (Carroll 1960: 144f.)

4. *Taming of the Shrew*, Induction [sic] ii 2-17

   1st servant: Will’t please your lordship drink a cup of sack?
   2nd Servant: Will’t please your honour taste of these conserves?
   3rd Servant: What raiment will your honour wear to-day?

   SLY: I am Christophero Sly; call not me ’honour’ nor ’lordship.’ I ne’er drank sack in my life; and if you give me any conserves, give me conserves of beef. Ne’er ask me what raiment I’ll wear; for I have no more doublets than backs, no more stockings than legs, nor no more shoes than feet...

   Lord: Heaven cease this idle humour in your honour! O that a mighty man of such descent, of such possessions and so high esteem, Should be infused with so foul a spirit!

   Sly: What, would you make me mad?

6. Goodbye! Lenin

Alexander: Mummy.
Christiane: What's happened?
Alexander: You collapsed.
Christiane: What's happened?
Alexander: You collapsed.

2 De Beaugrande – Dressler, 1981
3 Schank and Abelson, 1977

Christiane: I can't... remember.
Alexander: That's normal. It will come back to you. You just have to have patience.
Christiane: And what... what happened?
Ariane: Well, that was...
Alexander: It was October. I think you wanted to go shopping. And... there was a big queue in front of the store. And it was so hot, you just collapsed.

Christiane: In October?

Alexander: It was a really hot October, back then.

Christiane: And then?

Ariane: You were in a coma, Mum.

4.4. Minute 00.45.37

[voices from a TV] This is the First German Television with the news.

Christiane: Comrade Ganske watches West-TV?

Alexander: Comrade Ganske fell in love. During a vacation in Hungary with a pensioner from... Munich. Since then his love for the party has suffered.

Christiane: Oh.

Alexander: Well...

Informativity

1a The sea is water
1b The sea is water only in the sense that water is the dominant substance present. Actually, it is a solution of gases and salts in addition to vast numbers of living organisms...

2. Playing with informativity


3. GHOSTS

[1] Those houses haunt in which we leave
[2] Something undone. It is not those
[3] Great words or silences of love
[4] That spread their echoes through a place
[6] Ghosts do not haunt with any face
[7] That we have known; they only come
[8] With arrogance to thrust at us
[10] The words we would not speak they use,
[11] The deeds we dared not act they flaunt,
[12] Our nervous silences they bruise;
[13] It is our helplessness they choose
[14] And our refusals that they haunt.

4. Fronting. Fill in the gaps

1. The city elders of Milan wanted Mike Bongiorno interred alongside one of Italy’s greatest writers, A Manzoni, and Silvio Berlusconi’s government decreed that he have a state funeral. Only perhaps in Berlusconi’s videocracy _____________ a state funeral be accorded to a TV quizmaster.
2. I was always under the impression that the insurance policy would pay my hospital fees. At ___________ time was I informed by your agent that it did not cover skiing injuries.

3. So ________________was he affected that he had to be taught to speak again.

4. Little did I realise that the story ________________spread like wildfire on the internet.

5. ________________property taxes to be increased further, there would be a huge public outcry.

6. Hardly had the meeting begun ________________the CEO stormed in.

7. ___________ is the gravity of the situation that it has already sparked an international incident.

8. At least it is only two kisses and not three, as ________________the Russian custom

9. No sooner did I start my presentation ________________a couple of listeners started heckling me.

10. Our company has invested over 20,000 pounds in marketing in the last six months. Not ___________ penny will we spend unless we see a return on our investments.

5. **Fronting:** identify elements that have been fronted in the following text

A film script is a document that outlines all of the elements needed to tell a story in a film. Included in this elements are the setting and character descriptions, dialogue, behavioural cues, and sound. Important as descriptions are in a film, you must keep in mind that film is a visual medium, hence you must show, not tell your audience what is going on. Equally critical is to be passionate about the characters you create so your audience will share your feelings about them. And certainly as important as creating characters that the audience will care about is developing an engaging conflict or obstacle that the characters have to deal with. The conflict could be something personal, such as a romantic obstacle, or for the good of all people, such as the freedom of a country. Not only do you need to develop some kind of obstacle or conflict but you need a good ‘hook’, that is an interesting plot idea with an original twist that will captivate your audience and make them want to read on. By creating a hook, you will set your script apart from the many others that agents receive. Finally, be sure to read up on all of the conventions and formatting for scriptwriting so you meet the expectations of your audience. So important is this last point that if you ignore it and decide to do things your own way, your script will probably end up in the wastebasket.