

## NEW APPROACHES TO PLURALITY AND QUANTIFICATION

**Syllabus**

(October 25, 2006)

## INSTRUCTOR:

Professor Maria Bittner

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(download lecture notes, publications, text studies)

*office hour:* M 8:30–9:30 am

## WHEN &amp; WHERE:

MW 4:30–5:50, SEM-108.

## PREREQUISITE:

*Semantics 2*, or permission of the instructor (who will require equivalent background)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Since the pioneering work by Link 1983, 1987 and Kamp & Reyle 1993 on plurality, quantification, and discourse anaphora there has been renewed interest in these phenomena. This resulted in a number of promising new theoretical approaches, which along with the pioneers will be surveyed in this course. We will focus on a relatively small number of linguistically interesting innovations, going slowly and aiming to acquire in-depth understanding of each of these theories as well as their mutual relations.

READINGS: Most are available online. Only those that aren't (•) will be in the xerox room.

Asher, N. & L. Wang. 2003. 'Ambiguity and anaphora with plurals in discourse'. *Proceedings of SALT 13*. <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/philosophy/faculty/asher/papers.htm>

Berg, M. van der. 1994. 'A direct definition of generalized dynamic quantifiers'. *Proceedings of the 9th Amsterdam Colloquium*. <http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu/vandenberg94direct.html>

Brasoveanu, A. 2006. *Structured Nominal and Modal Reference*. Ph.D. thesis. Rutgers. To be posted by Dec. 1 at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~abrsvn>

Dekker, P. 1994. 'Predicate Logic with Anaphora'. *Proceedings of SALT 4*. <http://staff.science.uva.nl/~pdekker/papers.html>

Dekker, P. 2003a. 'A proper architecture for presupposition and quantification'. Unpublished ms. <http://staff.science.uva.nl/~pdekker/papers.html>

Dekker, P. 2003b. 'Topical restriction and answerhood'. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung*. <http://staff.science.uva.nl/~pdekker/papers.html>

Dekker, P. 2004. 'The pragmatic dimension of indefinites'. *Research on Language and Computation* 2:365–399. <http://staff.science.uva.nl/~pdekker/papers.html>

•Kamp, H. & U. Reyle. 1993. *From Discourse to Logic*. Kluwer, Dordrecht.

•Link, G. 1983. 'The logical analysis of plurals and mass terms: A lattice-theoretical approach'. In R. Bäuerle, C. Schwarze, and A. von Stechow (eds.) *Meaning, Use, and Interpretation of Language*, de Gruyter, Berlin, 302–323.

- Link, G. 1987. 'Generalized quantifiers and plurals'. In P. Gärdenfors (ed.) *Generalized Quantifiers*, D. Reidel, Dordrecht, 151–180.
- Sharvy, R. 1980. 'A more general theory of definite descriptions'. *The Philosophical Review* **89**:607–624

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected to give a *class presentation* and write a *conference paper*. In the class presentation they will present (part of) a paper (15 pages max) from the above list, and work out the predictions of the proposed theory for some interesting examples not explicitly analyzed in the paper. In addition, each student will write a *conference paper* analysing some variety of quantification in some natural language using some formal theory discussed in class (Note e.g. *SULA* 4 with abstract deadline on **Jan. 15, 2007**. The **style sheet** for the proceedings is posted at [http://www.umass.edu/linguist/events/SULA/SULA\\_2005\\_proceedings.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/linguist/events/SULA/SULA_2005_proceedings.shtml) Use this style sheet to format your paper and be sure not to exceed the **page limit**.) Important **deadlines**:

- 11/6: outline (**2-3 pages**)
- 12/4: 1st draft (**15 pages max**) (optional: 1st draft of abstract)
- 12/20: final paper (**15 pages max**)

Late papers will *not* be accepted. There will be *no* midterm, *no* final, and *no* incompletes.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

We will study the following topics in the indicated order. Hopefully we'll cover most of them.

TOPIC 1 (*weeks 1–2*). Link 1987, 1983

9/6 Introduction. Type Theory with Pluralities ( $Ty_1^+$ ).

Read: Link 1987

9/11 Distributivity and quantification in  $Ty_1^+$ .

Read: Link 1983

9/13 Logic of Plurals and Mass Nouns (LPM)

Read: Sharvy 1980

TOPIC 2 (*weeks 3–4*). Kamp & Reyle 1993

9/18 Summation and abstraction.

Read: K&R 1993, Ch. 4:305–345, 397–420

9/20 Generalized quantifiers and duplex conditions.

Read: K&R 1993, Ch. 4:345–356, 420–425 (1st time)

9/25 Collective and distributive readings (**Carlos Fasola**)

Read: K&R 1993, Ch. 4:320–330, 425–434

9/27 Proportions and weak/strong ambiguity

Read: K&R 1993, Ch. 4:345–356, 420–425 (2nd time)

10/2 Dependent plurals (**Karen Lewis**)

Read: K&R 1993, Ch. 4:356–397

TOPIC 3 (*weeks 5–6*). Asher et al 2003

10/4 Ambiguity and anaphora with plurals  
Read: Asher & Wang 2003 (1st half)

10/9 Ambiguity and anaphora with plurals ctd.  
Read: Asher & Wang 2003 (2nd half)

10/11 Theory comparison

TOPIC 4 (*weeks 7–9*). Dekker 1994, 2003a

10/16 PLA: Predicate Logic with Anaphora (**William Starr**)  
Read: Dekker 1994

10/18 QPLA (1): Anaphora and information structure  
Read: Dekker 2003a, sec. 1–2

10/23 QPLA (2): Names, pronouns, and negation (a)  
Read: Dekker 2003a, sec. 3 (1st half)

10/25 QPLA (3): Name, pronouns, and negation (b)  
Read: Dekker 2003a, sec. 3 (2nd half)

10/30 QPLA (4): Quantifiers and higher order drefs (a)  
Read: Dekker 2003a, sec. 4

11/1 QPLA (5): Quantifiers and higher order drefs (b)  
Read: Dekker 2003a, sec. 5

TOPIC 5 (*weeks 10–12*). Dekker 2003b, 2004

11/6 Topically restricted quantification (**Sarah Murray?**)  
Read: Dekker 2003b, sec. 1–2

11/8 Quantified constituent answers (**Daniel Altshuler?**)  
Read: Dekker 2003b, sec. 3

11/13 Something else (**John Manna?**)  
Read: Dekker 2003b, sec. 4–5

11/15 The pragmatic dimension of indefinites  
Read: Dekker 2004 (esp. sec. 8: Appendix)

11/20 Theory comparison

11/22 THANKSGIVING BREAK

TOPIC 6 (*weeks* 13–15). van den Berg 1994, Brasoveanu 2006

11/27 Generalized Dynamic Quantifiers (1)

Read: vd Berg 1994, sec. 1–2

11/29 Generalized Dynamic Quantifiers (2)

Read: vd Berg 1994, sec. 3

12/4 Generalized Dynamic Quantifiers (3)

Read: vd Berg 1994, sec. 4–5

12/6 Structured nominal reference (1)

Read: Brasoveanu 2006, ch. 5 (1st half)

12/11 Structured nominal reference (2).

Read: Brasoveanu 2006, ch. 5 (2nd half)

12/13 Theory comparison. *Course evaluation.*