

SEMANTICS SEMINAR:
(IN)DIRECT REPORTS IN NL DISCOURSE

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR:

Professor Maria Bittner

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(download lecture notes and some papers)

office hour: M 11:15–12:15

WHEN & WHERE:

M 2:50 – 5:50 Pm, SEM-108.

PREREQUISITE:

Topics in Semantics 1 **or** 2, or permission of the instructor (who will require working knowledge of, *minimally* (i) Muskens 1995 ‘Tense and the logic of Change’ and, *ideally* (ii) sections 1–3 of Bittner 2006 ‘Online Update: Temporal, modal, and *de se* anaphora in polysynthetic discourse’. Both papers are available online.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There is a huge semantic literature on direct and indirect reports, but most of the formally explicit accounts are limited to English and to isolated sentences. The goal of this seminar is to develop a more general account that (i) extends from English to languages that use other grammatical means to express (in)direct reports, (ii) extends from report-internal anaphora to anaphora into and out of (in)direct reports, and (iii) captures crosslinguistic generalizations in a manner compatible with direct online interpretation of language-specific surface forms.

Toward this end we will study some formal as well as descriptive literature, and supplement both with whatever data we can gather, from corpus studies and introspection, on samples of NL discourse in typologically diverse languages.

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

•Abusch, D. 1997. ‘Sequence of tense and temporal *de re*’. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 20:1–50.

Anand, P. and A. Nevins. 2004. ‘Shifty operators in changing contexts.’ In R. Young, ed., *Proceedings from SALT 14*. CLC, Ithaca, 20–37. [<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~lingdept/indexicals.html>]

Bittner, M. 2006a. ‘Online update: Temporal, modal, and *de se* anaphora in polysynthetic discourse’. In C. Barker and P. Jacobson (eds.), *Direct Compositionality*. Oxford University Press, Oxford. In press. [<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner/ou.html>]

Bittner, M. 2006b. ‘Aspectual universals of temporal anaphora’. Rutgers ms. To appear in S. Rothstein, ed., *Theoretical and Crosslinguistic Approaches to the Semantics of Aspect*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam. [<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner/ou.html>]

•Doron, E. 1991. ‘Point of view as a factor of content’. In S. Moore and A. Wyner, eds., *Proceedings from SALT 1*. Cornell Working Papers in Linguistics 10.

- Faller, M. 2002. Semantics and Pragmatics of Evidentials in Cuzco Quechua. Ph.D. diss. Stanford University. [Martina Faller's web page]
- Faller, M. 2006. 'The Cusco Quechua Reportative Evidential and Rhetorical Relations'. Ms. [at <http://semanticsarchive.net> under 'Martina Faller']
- Gennari, S. 2001. 'Tense, aspect, and aktionsart in Spanish and Japanese'. *Maryland Working Papers in Linguistics*, vol 11, MD:UMCP, 60–84. [Sylvia Gennari's web page]
- Kamp, H. 2005. 'Temporal reference inside and outside propositional attitudes'. Ms.
- Kamp, H. et al. 2003. 'Discourse Representation Theory'. 2003 draft of an article for the new edition of the *Handbook of Philosophical Logic*. [<http://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/~hans>]
- Rice, K. 1986. 'Some remarks on direct and indirect speech in Slave (Northern Athapaskan)'. In F. Coulmas, ed., *Direct and Indirect Speech*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin, 47–76.
- Schlenker, P. 2003. 'A plea for monsters'. *Linguistics and Philosophy* **26**:29–120. [<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~lingdept/indexicals.html>]
- Schlenker, P. 2004. 'Sequence phenomena and double access readings generalized: Two remarks on tense, person, and mood'. In J. Guéron and J. Lecarme, eds., *The Syntax of Time*. MIT Press, Cambridge MA, 555–596. [Schlenker's web page]
- Sells, P. 1987. 'Aspects of logophoricity'. *Linguistic Inquiry* **18**:445–479.
- Stone, M. 1994. 'The reference argument of epistemic *must*'. In H. Bunt et al, eds., *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Computational Semantics*, Institute for Language Technology and Artificial Intelligence (ITK). Tilburg University, The Netherlands, 181–190. [<http://www.cs.rutgers/~mdstone>]

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be expected to make one *class-presentation* and do a *research project*. In the class-presentation they will present one of the readings and report the current findings of their research project, which should be related to that reading. In addition students will be expected to write up the final findings of their research project in the form of a *conference paper*. (See the current call for papers for *Sinn und Bedeutung* 11, with abstracts due **April 30, 2006**. *SuB* proceedings are published online. Note the limit of **15 pages**, and the **style sheet** available from the web page for *Sinn und Bedeutung* 10. Follow these guidelines in writing up your paper.) Important **deadlines**:

- 3/20: 1st draft
- 4/20: 2nd draft (optional: 1st draft of abstract)
- 4/30: (optional: final abstract)
- 5/10: final paper for the course

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. () = papers the presenter may mention in passing, assuming other people have also read them.

TOPIC 1 (*weeks 1–4*). (In)direct reports in *Kalaallisut* (Eskimo-Aleut) discourse

- M 1/23. Kalaallisut reports: Roots, suffixes, and/or clitics.
Read: Bittner 2006a, sec. 1–3.
- M 1/30. Reported habits, habitual reports, and anaphora.
Read: Bittner 2006a, sec. 4, 5, 7.
- M 2/6. Attitude reports and anaphora.
Read: Bittner 2006a, sec. 6, 8.
- M 2/13. Direct quotes and anaphora.
Read: Bittner 2006b.

TOPIC 2 (*weeks 5–7*). (In)direct reports in *Slave* (Athapaskan) discourse.

- M 2/20. Introduction to Slave [slevi].
Read: Rice 1986.
Deadline for *Sam Cumming*: Handout on Schlenker 2003 due.
- M 2/27. Indexical pronouns in (in)direct reports (*Sam Cumming*).
Read: Schlenker 2003. (Anand and Nevins 2004)
- M 3/6. Toward a crosslinguistic theory (1st try).
Read: Schlenker 2004. (Doron 1991)
Deadline for *Daniel Altshuler*: Handout on Abusch 1997 due.

Week 8. SPRING BREAK

TOPIC 3 (*weeks 9–11*). (In)direct reports in *Indo-European* discourse.

- M 3/20. Reports and tense (1): English vs. Russian (*Daniel Altshuler*)
Read: Abusch 1997.
Deadline for *Michael Johnson*: Handout on Kamp 2005 due.
- M 3/27. Belief revision in English (*Michael Johnson*)
Read: Kamp 2005.
- M 4/3. Toward a crosslinguistic theory (2nd try).
Read: Kamp et al 2003, sec. 5 ‘Propositional attitudes’.
Deadline for *John Manna*: Handout on Sells 1987 due.

TOPIC 4 (*weeks 12–13*). (In)direct reports in *Japanese* discourse.

- M 4/10. Logophoric pronouns in Japanese. (*John Manna*)
Read: Sells 1987
- M 4/17. Tense and aspect in indirect reports: Toward a crosslinguistic theory.
Read: Gennari 2001
Deadline for *Sarah Murray*: Handout on Faller 2002 due.

TOPIC 5 (*weeks 14–15*). Reportative evidentials.

- M 4/24. Reportative evidentials across languages. (*Sarah Murray*)
Read: Faller 2002, ch. 1 & 5. (Faller 2006)
- M 5/1. Reportative evidentials: Toward a crosslinguistic theory. **Course evaluation.**