

16:615:532: SEMANTICS III
PLURALITY AND QUANTIFICATION

Syllabus
(November 20, 2009)

WHEN & WHERE:

T 4:30 – 5:50 pm, F 1:10–2:30 pm, in SEM-108.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Maria Bittner

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url. <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>
(download lecture notes)

office hour: F 9:00–10:00 am

PREREQUISITE:

Semantics 2, or permission of the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

This course will survey some influential work on plurality, distributive quantification, and discourse anaphora in English (e.g. Carlson 1977, Link 1987, Kamp & Reyle 1993, van den Berg 1994) as well as some recent theoretical developments based on other languages (e.g. Murray 2008 on Cheyenne, Brasoveanu 2008 on Hindi). We will focus on a relatively small number of genuinely different theoretical approaches and linguistically interesting ideas, going slowly and aiming to acquire in-depth understanding of each theory as well as their mutual relations.

By the end of this course students will be expected to be able to read technical semantic literature in this area and to write a theoretically-informed research paper suited for presentation at one of the major conferences on semantics.

READINGS: Available online and/or on Sakai at “16:615:532 Sem III F09”/Resources

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>

Berg, M. van der. 1995. ‘Dynamic generalized quantifiers’. In J. van der Does and J. van Eijck (eds.) *Quantifiers, Logic, and Language*. CSLI, Stanford, 63–94.

Brasoveanu, A. 2007. Structured Nominal and Modal Reference. PhD thesis. Rutgers, NJ.
(pdf at people.ucsc.edu/~abrsvn/P_n_P_Sem.html)

Brasoveanu, A. 2008. Uniqueness effects in correlatives. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 12.
(pdf at people.ucsc.edu/~abrsvn/P_n_P_Sem.html)

Carlson, G. 1977. *Reference to Kinds in English*. Ph. D. dissertation. UMass, Amherst. (pdf on semanticsarchive.net)

Groenendijk, J. and M. Stokhof. 1990. Dynamic Predicate Logic. *L&P* 14:39–100.

Kamp, H. & U. Reyle. 1993. *From Discourse to Logic*. (Ch. 4) Kluwer, Dordrecht.

Link, G. 1987. ‘Generalized quantifiers and plurals’. In P. Gärdenfors (ed.) *Generalized Quantifiers*, D. Reidel, Dordrecht, 151–180.

Murray, S. 2008. Reflexivity and reciprocity with(out) underspecification. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 12. (pdf at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~semurray>)

Sharvy, R. 1980. ‘A more general theory of definite descriptions’. *The Philosophical Review* 89:607–624

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will write a squib and a draft of a conference paper.

The **squib** (5–7 pages, due Friday, **Nov. 20**) should summarize and critically review some conference paper on plurality and/or quantification in some language. Finding a suitable paper is part of the task. The places to look are the proceedings of major semantics conferences such as *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* (SALT), *Sinn und Bedeutung* (online proceedings), *Amsterdam Colloquium* (some online proceedings), and *Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas* (SULA).

The draft of a **conference paper** (due Friday, **Dec. 18**) may build on the squib or start from scratch. In either case you should use some formal theory discussed in class to develop a new analysis of new or old data on plurality and/or quantification in some language. The paper should conform to the requirements (formatting and page limits) of one of the above-mentioned conferences (submit your paper with the relevant style sheet or link to the relevant web page).

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 1–3*). Bare plurals

T9/1 Syllabus. Bare plurals as reference to kinds
Read: Carlson 1977, ch. 1–2

F9/4 Fragment 1: Stages, objects, and kinds
Read: Carlson 1977, ch. 4, sec. 0–3 and Appendix

T9/8 **no class** (Monday classes only)

F9/11 Fragment 2: habituais and generics
Read: Carlson 1977, ch. 5: sec. 0–1

T9/15 Fragment 2: habituais and generics (ctd)
Read: Carlson 1977, ch. 5: sec. 2

TOPIC 2 (*weeks 3–5*). Pluralities (plural entities)

F9/18 Introduction. Logic of Plurals (LP)
Read: Sharvy 1980

T9/22 Collectivity and distributivity in LP.
Read: Link 1987: sec. 1

F9/25 Definiteness and number in LP.
Read: Link 1987: sec. 2–4

T9/29 Quantifiers in LP
Read: Link 1987: sec. 5–6

TOPIC 3 (*weeks 5–7*). Plural anaphora

F10/2 Dynamic Predicate Logic (DPL)
Read: G&S 1990: sec. 1–2

T10/6 DPL: Truth and anaphora.
Read: G&S 1990: sec. 3–4

- F10/9 DPL with pluralities (DPL⁺).
Read: K&R 1993: sec. 4.1
- T10/13 Plural anaphora in DPL⁺
Read: Brasoveanu 2007: ch. 1 (skim), ch. 2 (read)
- TOPIC 4 (*weeks 7–9*). Quantification and anaphora
- F10/16 Quantified np's and donkey anaphora. DPL⁺ with Quantifiers (DPL^Q)
Read: K&R 1993: sec. 4.3
- T10/20 Anaphora to quantified antecedents
Read: K&R 1993: sec. 4.2
- F10/23 E-type anaphora (~ K&R abstraction) in DPL^Q
Read: K&R 1993: sec. 4.4.1–3
- T10/27 Domain set & complement set anaphora in DPL^Q
Read: K&R 1993: sec. 4.4.3–6
- TOPIC 5 (*weeks 9–10*). Plural information states
- F10/30 (Static) Plural Logic (PIL)
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 1–2, vdBerg 1995: sec. 1–2 (skim), sec. 3 (read)
- T11/3 Collectivity and distributivity revisited
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 2.1
- F11/6 Quantifiers in PIL
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 2.2
- TOPIC 6 (*weeks 11–12*). Anaphora with plural info states
- T11/10 Dynamic PIL (DPIL): Plural anaphora revisited
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 3, vdBerg 1995: sec. 4
- F11/13 Collectivity and anaphora incrementally
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 4, vdBerg 1995: sec. 5
- T11/17 DPIL (v.2): Revisions and extensions
Read: vdBerg 1994: sec. 5, vdBerg 1995: sec. 6
- F11/20 E-type and domain-set anaphora in DPIL
squib (5–7 pages) due
- T11/24 Complement set anaphora and weak/strong rdgs. in DPIL (2)
- 11/27 *no class* (Thanksgiving)
- TOPIC 7 (*weeks 14–15*). Beyond English
- T12/1 Reflexive and reciprocal specification in English
Read: Murray 2008: sec. 1-3 and Appendix
- F12/4 Reflexive/reciprocal underspecification in Cheyenne
Read: Murray 2008: sec. 4–5 and Appendix

- T12/8 Introduction to Plural Compositional DRT (PCDRT)
Read: Brasoveanu 2008a, sec. 1–2 and Appendix
- T12/11 Hindi correlatives in PCDRT
Read: Brasoveanu 2008a, sec. 3–4 and Appendix