Resumption and Partial Interpretation

Ash Asudeh Carleton University

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Ungrammaticality and Interpretation

- How are ungrammatical utterances interpreted?
- Three hypotheses:
 - H1: Ungrammatical utterances are repaired to the closest grammatical utterance, then interpreted normally.
 - H2: Ungrammatical utterances are not interpreted using normal linguistic mechanisms of interpretation, but we apply general cognitive mechanisms of inference to them.
 - H3: Ungrammatical utterances are interpreted to the greatest extent possible using normal linguistic mechanisms of interpretation.

The Best Hypothesis?

- The problem for H1 is how 'closest grammatical utterance' is computed.
 - Until we have a theory of this, H1 is not explanatory.
- H2 suffers from two immediate problems:
 - It is rather implausible that the linguistic mechanisms for interpretation are switched off in their entirety, given that substructures of the utterance are likely grammatical and interpretable.
 - 'General inference' must apply to something and that something is surely the well-formed parts. Therefore H2 depends on H3 — H3 subsumes H2.
- The best initial hypothesis is **H3**.

The General Problem

- The standard interpretation of semantic compositionality is that an expression has a full compositional interpretation if and only if it has a valid syntactic structure.
 - Montague Grammar: syntax-semantics homomorphism
 - Type-Logical Grammar: syntax-semantics isomorphism
 - Interpretive Semantics: input to semantics is a syntactic structure

English Resumptives: Intrusive Pronouns

English 'Resumptive' Pronouns

• Apparent resumptive pronouns in English ameliorate island violations and other violations of constraints on extraction.

- 1. This is **a book** that Jens forgot if Sofia had read **it** before.
- >
- 2. This is **a book** that Jens forgot if Sofia had read _____ before.
- 3. This is **the book** that Jens forgot if Sofia had read **it** before.
- >
- 4. This is **the book** that Jens forgot if Sofia had read _____ before.

Strong Islands

1. I'd like to meet a psychologist who Peter knows somebody who recommended her.

>

- 2. I'd like to meet a psychologist who Peter knows somebody who recommended __.
- 3. I'd like to meet **the psychologist** who Peter knows somebody who recommended **her**.

>

4. I'd like to meet **the psychologist** who Peter knows somebody who recommended ___.

ECP/COMP-Trace

1. This is a donkey that I wonder where it lives.

>

2. This is **a donkey** that I wonder where ____ lives.

3. This is the donkey that I wonder where it lives.

>

4. This is **the donkey** that I wonder where ____ lives.

Resumptive Pronouns and Intrusive Pronouns

- Resumptive pronouns are pronouns that occupy the foot of an unbounded dependency.
- A definitional characteristic of true resumptive pronouns is that they are interpreted as **bound variables/bound pronouns** (McCloskey 1979, 1990, 2002, Chao & Sells 1983, Sells 1984, Asudeh 2004).
- English resumptive pronouns are not bound variables and are therefore not true, grammaticized resumptive pronouns, but rather **'intrusive pronouns'** (Sells, 1984).

No Bound Variable Reading 1: Quantifier Binding

- * I'd like to meet every linguist that Mary couldn't remember if she had seen him before. (Chao & Sells, 1983:49,(5c))
- 2. * **No book** that Bill wonders whether he should read **it** is really interesting to **him**.
- In these cases, the version with the gap is, if anything, preferred:
- 3. ? I'd like to meet **every linguist** that Mary couldn't remember if she had seen ____ before. (Chao & Sells, 1983:49,(5b))
- 4. ? **No book** that Bill wonders whether he should read ____ is really interesting to him.

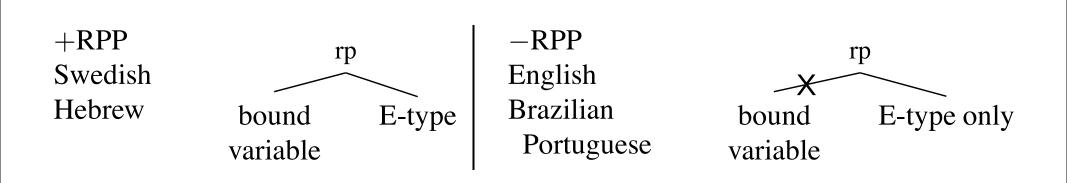
No Bound Variable Reading 2: List Answers

- 1. Which of the linguists do you think that if Mary hires _____ then everyone will be happy?
 - ✓ Chris
 - ✓ Chris, Daniel or Bill
- 2. Which of the linguists do you think that if Mary hires him then everyone will be happy?
 - ✓ Chris
 - X Chris, Daniel or Bill

No Bound Variable Reading 3: Functional Answers

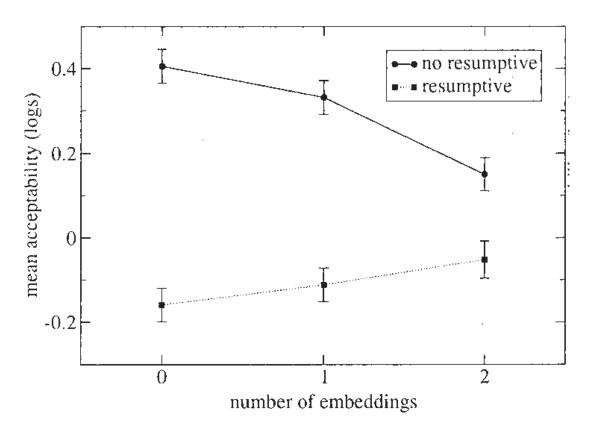
- 1. Which exam question does no professor believe ____ will be tough enough?
 - ✓ Question 2A.
 - \checkmark The one her students aced last year.
- 2. Which exam question does no professor even wonder if it will be tough enough?
 - \checkmark Question 2A.
 - X The one her students aced last year.

Chao & Sells: The Resumptive Pronoun Parameter and E-type Readings



- Ferreira & Swets (2005)
 - 1. [This is a] [donkey] [that] [I don't know] [where it lives]. RP Target
 - 2. [This is a] [donkey] [that] [doesn't know] [where it lives]. Control
- Asked for grammaticality judgements on a scale of 1 (perfect) to 5 (awful)
- Written presentation: RP = 3.3, Control = 1.9
- Oral presentation: RP = 3.0, Control = 1.7

- Alexopoulou & Keller (2007):
 - Gradient grammaticality judgement task
 - Summary of results:
 - Resumptive pronouns judged worse than gaps in all conditions except strong islands, where they were judged only as good as gaps.
 - Resumptive pronouns increased in grammaticality with level of embedding.



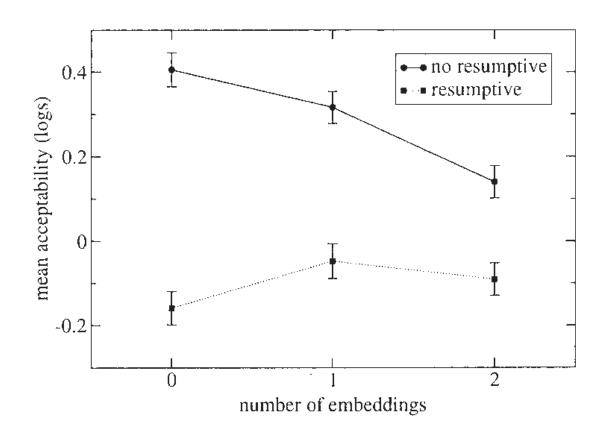
a. Nonisland condition (bare clause).

- a. Who will we fire Ø/him?
- b. Who does Mary claim we will fire Ø/him?
- c. Who does Jane think Mary claims we will fire \emptyset /him?

Graph & examples from Alexopoulou & Keller (2007)

(zero embedding)

(single)



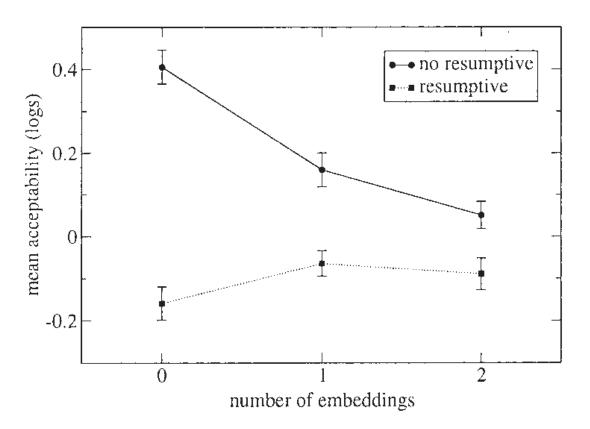
Graph & examples from Alexopoulou & Keller (2007)

b. Nonisland condition (*that*-clause).

- a. Who does Mary claim that we will fire \emptyset /him?
- b. Who does Jane think that Mary claims that we will fire Ø/him?

(single)

(double)

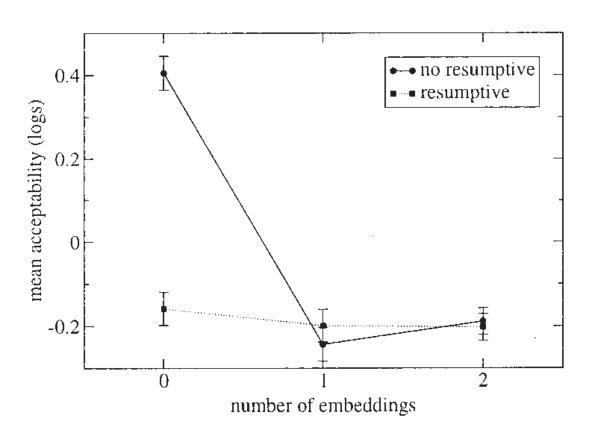


Graph & examples from Alexopoulou & Keller (2007)

c. Weak-island condition (whether-clause).

- a. Who does Mary wonder whether we will fire Ø/him?
- b. Who does Jane think that Mary wonders whether we will fire Ø/him? (double)

(single)



Graph & examples from Alexopoulou & Keller (2007)

d. Strong-island condition (relative clause).

- a. Who does Mary meet the people that will fire \emptyset /him? (single)
- b. Who does Jane think that Mary meets the people that will fire Ø/him? (double)

Dilemma: Intrusive Pronouns and Compositionality

1. If English lacks true resumptive pronouns, then intrusive pronoun examples do not have fully well-formed syntactic structures, since there is no way to syntactically relate the relative operator to its base position (which is occupied by a non-bindable pronoun).

The standard interpretation of semantic compositionality is that an expression has a full compositional interpretation if and only if it has a valid syntactic structure.

- i. How, then, do we compute meanings for sentences with intrusive pronouns?
- ii. Do we have to give up compositionality to do so?

Dilemma: Intrusive Pronouns and Compositionality

- Intrusive pronoun examples apparently do have interpretations. Compositionality is a deep property of language, so we could assume that English does have grammaticized resumptives and the expressions in which they occur have compositional interpretations.
 - i. If intrusive pronouns are in fact grammatical, what explains the contrast in grammaticality based on the antecedent of the pronoun?
 - 1. This is a/the book that Jens forgot if Sofia had read it before.
 - 2. * Jens recognized **every man** who Ola forgot if Sofia had seen **him** before.
 - ii. Why does a growing body of empirical evidence show that speakers judge intrusive pronoun examples as ungrammatical or of degraded grammaticality?

Asudeh (2004):

- 1. English intrusive pronouns are not fully grammatical.
- 2. Intrusive pronoun examples receive a *partial interpretation*, but one which is fully compositional (in the parts).
- 3. The partial interpretation is *informative* if the antecedent of the pronoun has a lower nominal type (individual type, *e*), but not if the antecedent has higher nominal types (quantified NP type, <<e,t>,t>).
- Introduction of new theoretical notion: Informative partial interpretations for non-fully-well-formed syntactic structures

Glue Semantics

Glue Semantics

- Glue Semantics is a type-logical semantics that can be tied to any syntactic formalism that supports a notion of headedness.
- Glue Semantics can be thought of as *categorial semantics without categorial syntax.*
- The independent syntax assumed in Glue Semantics means that the logic of composition is *commutative*, unlike in Categorial Grammar.
- Selected works: Dalrymple (1999, 2001), Crouch & van Genabith (2000), Asudeh (2004, 2005a,b, in prep.), Lev 2007, Kokkonidis (in press)

Glue Semantics

- Lexically-contributed *meaning constructors* :=
- Meaning language term $\mathcal{M}: \mathcal{C}$
- $\mathcal{M}: G$ Composition language term
- Meaning language := some lambda calculus
 - Model-theoretic
- Composition language := linear logic
 - Proof-theoretic
- Curry Howard Isomorphism between formulas (meanings) and types (proof terms)
- Successful Glue Semantics proof:

 $\Gamma \vdash \mathcal{M} : G_t$

Key Glue Proof Rules with Curry-Howard Terms

Application : Implication Elimination

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ a:A \\ f:A \longrightarrow B \end{array}}{f(a):B} \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$$

Abstraction : Implication Introduction

$$[x:A]^{1}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f:B$$

$$\overline{\lambda x.f:A \longrightarrow B} \xrightarrow{-\infty_{\mathcal{I},1}}$$

PairwiseConjunctionSubstitution:Elimination $[x:A]^1 \quad [y:B]^2$: \vdots : $a:A \otimes B$ f:Cf:C $\otimes \varepsilon_{,1,2}$

Beta reduction for let: let $a \times b$ be $x \times y$ in $f \Rightarrow_{\beta} f[a/x, b/y]$

Example: Mary laughed

- 1. mary : \uparrow_{σ_e}
- 2. $laugh : (\uparrow SUBJ)_{\sigma_e} \multimap \uparrow_{\sigma_t}$
- 1'. mary : g_{σ_e}

2'.
$$laugh: g_{\sigma_e} \multimap f_{\sigma_t}$$

$$f\begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{PRED} & \mathsf{`laugh}(\mathsf{SUBJ})'\\ \mathsf{SUBJ} & g\begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{PRED} & \mathsf{`Mary'} \end{bmatrix}\end{bmatrix}$$

1". mary : m
2". laugh :
$$m \rightarrow l$$

ProofLex. Mary1. mary : mLex. Mary2. $laugh : m \multimap l$ Lex. laughed3. laugh(mary) : l $E \multimap, 1, 2$

 $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \mathbf{Proof} \\ \hline mary:m & laugh:m \multimap l \\ \hline laugh(mary):l \end{array} \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \end{array}$

Example: Most presidents speak

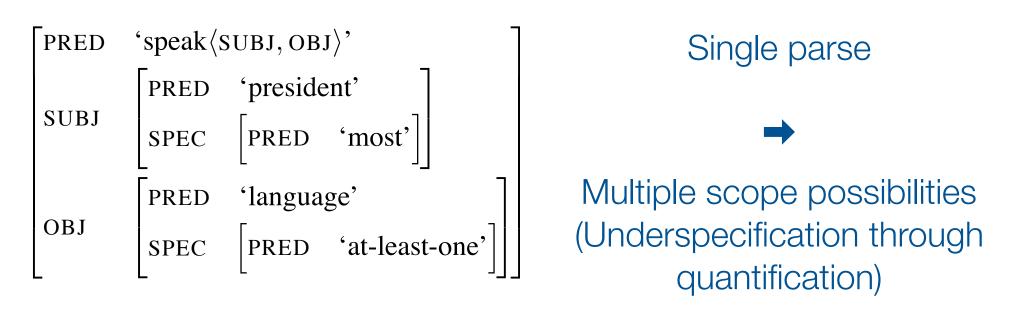
1.
$$\lambda R \lambda S.most(R, S) : (v \multimap r) \multimap \forall X.[(p \multimap X) \multimap X]$$

- 2. $president^* : v \multimap r$
- 3. $speak : p \multimap s$

Lex. most Lex. presidents Lex. speak

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \lambda R\lambda S.most(R,S): & president^*: \\ (v \multimap r) \multimap \forall X.[(p \multimap X) \multimap X] & v \multimap r \\ \\ \hline \lambda S.most(president^*,S): & speak: \\ \forall X.[(p \multimap X) \multimap X] & p \multimap s \\ \hline most(president^*,speak):s & - \infty_{\mathcal{E}}, [s/X] \end{array}$$

Example: Most presidents speak at least one language



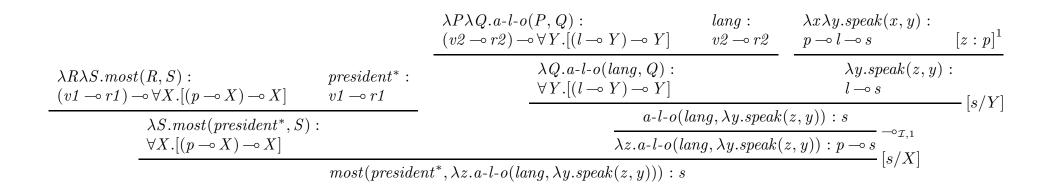
- 1. $\lambda R \lambda S.most(R, S)$: $(v1 \multimap r1) \multimap \forall X.[(p \multimap X) \multimap X]$ 2. $president^* : v1 \multimap r1$ 3. $speak : p \multimap l \multimap s$ 4. $\lambda P \lambda Q.at-least-one(P, Q)$: $(v2 \multimap r2) \multimap \forall Y.[(l \multimap Y) \multimap Y]$
- 5. $language: v2 \rightarrow r2$

Lex. most

Lex. **presidents** Lex. **speak** Lex. **at least one**

Lex. language

Most presidents speak at least one language Subject wide scope



Most presidents speak at least one language Object wide scope

		$\begin{array}{l} \lambda R \lambda S.most(R,S):\\ (v1 \multimap r1) \multimap \forall X.[(p \multimap X) \multimap X] \end{array}$	$president^*: v1 \multimap r1$	$\begin{array}{l} \lambda y \lambda x.speak(x,y):\\ l \multimap p \multimap s \end{array}$	$[z:l]^1$
$\lambda P \lambda Q.a-l-o(P,Q):$ $(v2 \multimap r2) \multimap \forall Y.[(l \multimap Y) \multimap Y]$	lang: $v2 \multimap r2$	$\begin{array}{l} \lambda S.most(president^*,S):\\ \forall X.[(p\multimap X)\multimap X] \end{array}$		$\frac{\lambda x.speak(x,z)}{p \multimap s}$	= [s/X]
$\lambda Q.a-l-o(lang, Q):$		$most(president^*, \lambda x.speak(x, z)):s$			[3/21]
$\forall Y.[(l \multimap Y) \multimap Y]$		$\overline{\lambda z.most(president^*, \lambda x.speak(x, z)): l \multimap s} \xrightarrow{= \circ_{\mathcal{I}, 1}} [s/Y]$			
$a-l-o(lang, \lambda z.most(president^*, \lambda x.speak(x, z))): s$					

Anaphora in Glue Semantics

- Variable-free: pronouns are functions on their antecedents (Jacobson 1999, among others)
- Commutative logic of composition allows pronouns to compose **directly** with their antecedents.
 - No need for otherwise unmotivated additional type shifting (e.g. Jacobson's z-shift)

Anaphora in Glue Semantics

- 1. Joe said he bowls.
- Pronominal meaning constructor:

$$\lambda z.z imes z: A \multimap (A \otimes P)$$

Further Points of Interest

- Glue Semantics can be understood as a *representationalist* theory, picking up on a theme from Wednesday's semantics workshop.
 - Proofs can be reasoned about as representations (Asudeh & Crouch 2002a,b).
 - Proofs have strong identity criteria: normalization, comparison
- Glue Semantics allows recovery of a non-representationalist notion of *direct compositionality* (Asudeh 2005, 2006).
 - Flexible framework with lots of scope for exploration of questions of compositionality and semantic representation

Partial Interpretation

Premises:

I met the linguist who Kate forgot if Thora had seen him

1.
$$s:i$$
Lex. I2. $meet: i \multimap l \multimap m$ Lex. met3. $\lambda P.\iotay[P(y)]: (v \multimap r) \multimap l$ Lex. the4. $linguist: v \multimap r$ Lex. linguist5. $\lambda Q \lambda P \lambda x. P(x) \land Q(x): (l \multimap f) \multimap [(v \multimap r) \multimap (v \multimap r)]$ Lex. RelOp6. $kate: k$ Lex. Kate7. $forget: k \multimap s \multimap f$ Lex. forgot8. $thora: t$ Lex. Thora9. $see: t \multimap h \multimap s$ Lex. seen10. $\lambda z. z \times z: l \multimap (l \otimes h)$ Lex. him

Informative Partial Interpretation: Antecedent in type *e*

• Desired interpretation:

 $meet(s, \iota y[linguist(y) \land forget(kate, see(thora, y))]) : m$

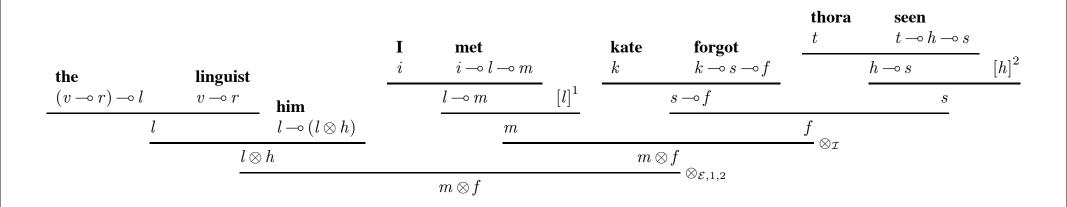
• Derived partial interpretation (corresponds to sub-proof):

 $meet(s, \iota y[linguist(y)]) \times forget(kate, see(thora, \iota y[linguist(y)])) : m \otimes f$

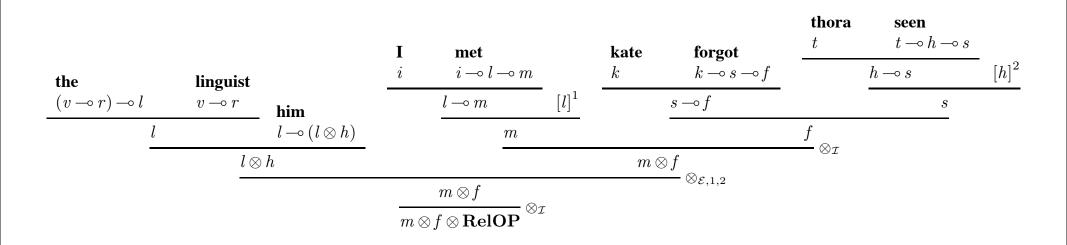
• Full derived interpretation (corresponds to full proof):

 $(meet(s, \iota y[linguist(y)]) \times forget(kate, see(thora, \iota y[linguist(y)]))) \times \mathbf{RelOP} : m \otimes f \otimes \mathbf{RelOp}$

Sub-Proof for Informative Partial Meaning



Full Proof



Bound Pronoun Readings in Glue Semantics

- In order to receive a bound reading, a pronoun must make an assumption on its antecedent that is discharged within the scope of a scope-taking element.
- To be discharged within the scope of a scope-taking element means to be discharged in a contiguous sub-proof that extends from the assumption to the point at which the scope dependency is discharged (cf. audit trails of Crouch & van Genabith 1999:160ff.).

Every girl said **Kim** thinks John likes **her**

$$\underbrace{ \begin{array}{ccc} \displaystyle \frac{\left[k\right]^{1} & k \multimap l \multimap t}{l & \left[h\right]^{2} & \displaystyle \frac{j \multimap h \multimap l}{h \multimap l}}{\frac{l \multimap t}{l}} & \\ \displaystyle \frac{\left[k\right]^{3} & k \multimap (k \otimes h)}{k \otimes h} \\ \\ \displaystyle \frac{t}{l} & \displaystyle \frac{t & \displaystyle \frac{k \otimes h}{k \otimes h} \\ \\ \displaystyle \frac{t & \displaystyle y \multimap s}{k \odot s} \end{array} }{g \multimap s} \\ \\ \displaystyle \frac{k & \displaystyle \frac{s}{k \multimap s} \multimap_{\mathcal{I},3}}{k \multimap s}$$

s

Every girl said Kim thinks John likes her

$$\frac{k \quad k \multimap l \multimap t}{\underbrace{l \multimap t} \quad \underbrace{[h]^2 \quad \overbrace{h \multimap l}}_{h \multimap l}}_{g \multimap s} \underbrace{[g]^3 \quad g \multimap (g \otimes h)}_{g \otimes h}_{\otimes \mathcal{E}, 1, 2}}_{\bigotimes \mathcal{E}, 1, 2}$$

$$\frac{\forall X \cdot [(g \multimap X) \multimap X]}{\underbrace{f = 1}}$$

s

Premises:

I met every linguist who Kate forgot if Thora had seen him

1.
$$s:i$$
Lex. I2. $meet: i \multimap l \multimap m$ Lex. met3. $\lambda P \lambda Q. every(P, Q): (v \multimap r) \multimap \forall X.[(l \multimap X) \multimap X]$ Lex. every4. $linguist: v \multimap r$ Lex. linguist5. $\lambda Q \lambda P \lambda x. P(x) \land Q(x): (l \multimap f) \multimap [(v \multimap r) \multimap (v \multimap r)]$ Lex. RelOp6. $kate: k$ Lex. Kate7. $forget: k \multimap s \multimap f$ Lex. forgot8. $thora: t$ Lex. Thora9. $see: t \multimap h \multimap s$ Lex. seen10. $\lambda z.z \times z: l \multimap (l \otimes h)$ Lex. him

Uninformative Partial Interpretation: Antecedent in type <<*e*,*t*>,*t*>

• Desired interpretation:

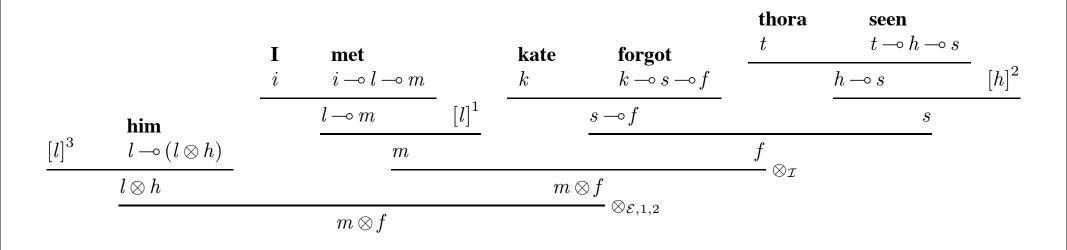
 $every(linguist, \lambda x.(meet(s, x) \land forget(kate, see(thora, x)))$

• Derived partial interpretation (corresponds to sub-proof): $meet(s, x) \times forget(kate, see(thora, x)) : m \otimes f$

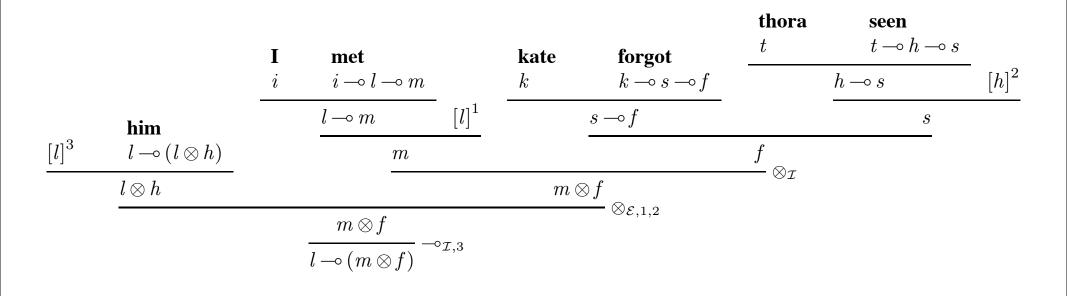
Derived full interpretation (corresponds to full proof):

 $\begin{array}{l} ((\lambda x.meet(s,x) \times forget(kate, see(thora, x))) \times (\lambda P \lambda Q.every(P,Q))) \times \mathbf{RelOP} \\ ((l \multimap m \otimes f) \otimes \forall X.[(l \multimap X) \multimap X]) \otimes \mathbf{RelOP} \end{array}$

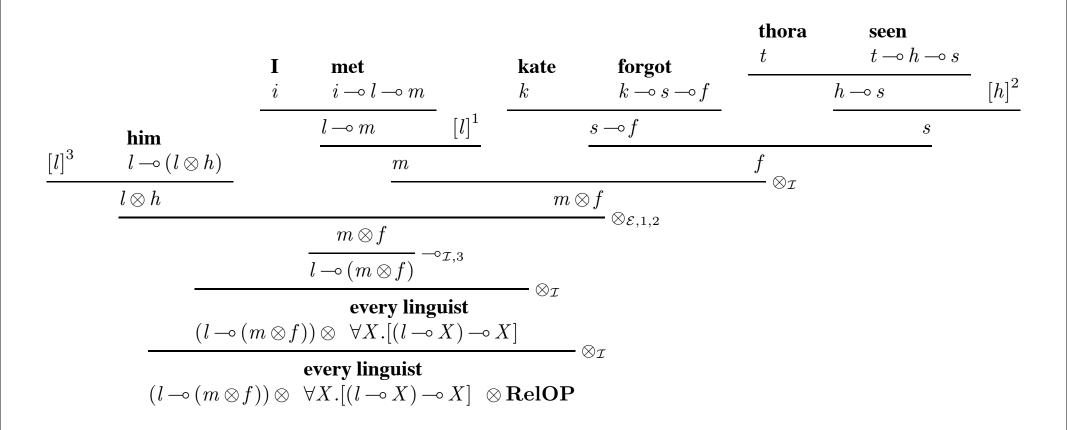
Sub-Proof for Uninformative Partial Meaning



Sub-Proof: Discharge Antecedent Assumption



Full Proof: Conjoin Remaining Lexically Contributed Premises



Summary

- If we maintain the traditional view of compositionality, then intrusive pronoun sentences cannot receive a full interpretation, because they do not have a well-formed syntactic structure.
- Nevertheless, these non-fully-well-formed syntactic structures may receive *informative partial interpretations*.
- Informative partial interpretations are derived from the compositional type system:
 - Intrusive pronoun antecedents in the lowest nominal type, type e — such as names, definites and indefinites — yield informative partial descriptions.
 - Intrusive pronoun antecedents in higher nominal types such as quantified NPs in type <<*e*,*t*>,*t*> — do not yield informative partial descriptions.

Interpretation of Quantified Antecedents of Intrusive Pronouns

Interpretation of Quantified Antecedents

- Partial interpretations for quantified antecedents of intrusive pronouns are uninformative if the pronoun is treated as a bound pronoun.
- What, if any, alternative interpretation can the intrusive pronoun receive that is consistent with a quantified antecedent, or at least certain quantified antecedents?
 - ➡ E-type (Evans 1980)
 - 1. Few congressmen admire Kennedy, and **they** are very junior.

[[they]] = **[[the congressman who admire Kennedy]**

E-type Interpretation and Intrusive Pronouns

- a. * Every congressman admires Kennedy, and he is very junior.
 b. * I met every linguist who Kate forgot if Thora had seen him.
- 2. a. * No congressmen admire Kennedy, and they are very junior.b. * I met no linguists who Kate forgot if Thora had seen them.
- 3. a. Few congressmen admire Kennedy, and they are very junior.b. I met few linguists who Kate forgot if Thora had seen them.
- In dialects that allow binding of *they* as 3rd person **singular** (with indeterminate gender):
- 4. a. Every congressman admires Kennedy, and they are very junior.b. I met every linguist who Kate forgot if Thora had seen them.

Agüero-Bautista's Examples

- Agüero-Bautista (2001) rejects the view that distinction between acceptable intrusive pronoun antecedents and degraded intrusive pronoun antecedents rests on a distinction between referential/non-referential antecedents (or a type-theoretic distinction).
- His arguments rest on contrasts like the following:
- 1. I'd like to suggest **any witness** that the defense doesn't even suspect that putting him on the stand would be a mistake.
- 2. ?* I'd like to suggest **every witness** that the defense doesn't even suspect that putting him on the stand would be a mistake.

Any X Allows E-type Reference

- 1. If any congressman admires Kennedy, then he is very junior.
- 2. I'm surprised if I meet any linguist who Kate forgot if Thora had seen him before.

Conclusion

- Introduced notion of *informative partial interpretations for nonfully-well-formed syntactic structures.*
- Partial interpretations are compositional interpretations, but not full interpretations.
- Certain partial interpretations are more informative than others.
- Lower-type antecedent of intrusive pronouns: informative partial interpretation with bound pronoun pronominal semantics
- Higher-type antecedent of intrusive pronouns: informative partial interpretation only with E-type pronominal interpretation
- Maintains traditional view of compositionality as depending on syntactic well-formedness

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