Semantic Theory 2019: Exercise sheet 7

Exercise 1

Consider the following text:

(1) Peter studies semantics. If a student writes a seminar-paper on this subject, he gives it to his lecturer.

a. Give a proto-DRS (with α-DRSs) for text (1). Explicit semantics construction is not necessary. Represent "this subject" like "the subject", and represent "give ... to" by a three-place predicate `give-to(x, y, z)`.

b. Show how a DRS that correctly represents the meaning of text (1) can be derived from the proto-DRS by application of the binding and accommodation rules from the lecture—explicitly describe which rules and constraints you apply.

Exercise 2

Consider the following sentences:

(2) Either John is out of hay or his donkey is eating quietly in the stable.

(3) Either John has no donkey or his donkey is eating quietly in the stable.

a. Specify the presupposition(s) of (2) and (3). Is there a difference between the two sentences?

b. Give proto-DRSs for (2) and (3). To keep things simple, you can represent "is out of hay" by a one place predicate `out-of-hay(x)` and "is eating quietly in" by a two place relation `eat-in(x, y)`.

c. Resolve the two proto-DRSs. Again, explicitly describe the applied resolution constraints you apply.