

Exercises due on: Wednesday July 1st, noon

Semantic Theory 2020: 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.