

## 1 Presupposition projection

Consider the following text  $T_1$ :

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

- (a) Give a proto-DRS for  $T_1$  that contains  $\alpha$ -DRSs. It is not necessary to construct the DRS explicitly. Represent
  - personal pronouns as  $\alpha x [x | ]$
  - possessive constructions as on the slides
  - *this subject* like *the subject*
- (b) Show how a DRS that is a correct semantic representation of  $T_1$  can be derived from the proto-DRS by application of the binding and accommodation rules from the lecture.

## 2 Bridging

Consider the following sentence  $T_2$ :

*If Peter builds a house, he paints the door green.*

- (a) Give a (standard) DRS that represents  $T_2$ . You don't need to construct the DRS explicitly.
- (b) Give a reasonable proto-DRS that represents  $T_2$  before resolution of the presuppositions. You don't need to construct the proto-DRS explicitly.
- (c) Argue that it is not possible to derive the DRS (a) from the proto-DRS (b) using the binding and accommodation rules from the lecture.
- (d) The definite NP in  $T_2$  is a *bridging anaphor*, which is related to its antecedent “a house” not by identity (as an ordinary bound definite would be), but by a belongs-to relation. Propose a new resolution rule for presuppositions that makes it possible to resolve bridging definites (for instance, this could be a modified version of the binding rule). You can assume that the relation  $R$  which relates the anaphor and the antecedent (in the example, “belongs-to”) is given (e.g., it could have been determined by the anaphora resolution module).

### 3 \* Constraints on accommodation

Consider the following sentence  $T_3$ :

*Either there is no bathroom, or the bathroom is in a strange place.*

This sentence does not presuppose that there is a bathroom. Explain how this can be modelled in van der Sandt's presupposition theory. You will need to use the (local) consistency and/or informativity constraints, which we didn't have time to go into in class. These constraints can be found in the original paper:

Rob van der Sandt (1992). *Presupposition projection as anaphora resolution*. *Journal of Semantics* 9:223–267.

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To be turned in by 23/06/2005, 11:15 am