

Topics in Semantics
Ling 207r Harvard; 24.979 MIT
G. Chierchia, I. Heim

Time: Thursday 2-5

Places: 32-D461 MIT; Emerson 106 Harvard.

Indefinites: where do we stand?

This class will analyze the scope, quantificational, and anaphoric properties of indefinites. We will start from the 'classic DRT' period and work our way to present days, through dynamic approaches and situation based ones. A tentative schedule with more specific topics follows.

(Bracketed dates are those where only one of the two institutions is open; students from the inactive institution are not expected to come on these dates, although they are of course welcome to, if they so wish)

Week 1 1/26 Harvard Chierchia *MIT hasn't started*
Introduction to classic DRT for the uninitiated. Indefinites as variables, quantificational variability, adverbs of quantification, existential closure.

Week 2 2/2 Harvard Chierchia
Developments of classical DRT. Diesing's mapping hypothesis, aspects of the theory of generics

Week 3 2/9 MIT Heim
Basically, Heim (1982) and its developments. The birth of dynamic semantics: File Change Potentials.

Week 4 2/16 Harvard Chierchia
"Standard" Dynamic Semantics of the 90's. Indefinites as Dynamic Generalized Quantifiers, weak and strong readings of donkey pronouns, existential disclosure.

Week 5 2/23 MIT Heim
Situation based approaches and e-type anaphora

Week 6 3/2 Harvard Heim
More on situation based approaches and e-type anaphora

Week 7 3/9 MIT Chierchia
The debate on long distance indefinites: Non canonical scope properties of indefinites.

(Papers by Y. Winter, T. Reinhart, A. Kratzer, R. Schwarzschild, and G. Chierchia)

[Week 8 3/16 MIT Heim *Harvard's Spring break*]
Students' presentations

Week 9 3/23 Harvard Heim
An interesting way to compare dynamic vs. e-type approaches: Plural anaphora.

[Week 10 3/30 Harvard Chierchia *MIT's Spring break*]
Student presentations

Week 11 4/6 MIT Chierchia
An attempt at explaining Weak Crossover with dynamic semantics

Week 12 4/13 Harvard Chierchia
More on Weak Crossover

Week 13 4/20 MIT Heim
Other Binding Theoretic issues (especially, principle B and principle C).

[Week 14 4/27 MIT Heim *Harvard's exam period*]
Spill over week.