Current Issues at the Semantics / Philosophy of Language Interface
Linguistics 753 / Philosophy 746

Scalar Implicature:

De Re / De Dicto / De Se:

Course Instructors:
Seth Cable (scable@linguist.umass.edu)
Alejandro Pérez Carballo (apc@umass.edu)

Time: Tuesdays, 1-3:30PM

Location: Integrative Learning Center N400
1. General Overview

This seminar will join together the seminars Topics in Semantics (LING 743) and Seminar in Philosophy of Language (PHIL 746), and will explore two main areas of research that are currently engaging both semanticists and philosophers of language. The seminar will consist of two parts, summarized below.

The seminar will be open to graduate students in both linguistics and philosophy. Our hope is that this will be the first of many similar opportunities to encourage dialogue between linguists and philosophers on issues of common interest.

1.1 Part One: De Re, De Dicto, De Se

Part 1 of the seminar will concern recent work on the compositional semantics of propositional attitude reports, particularly that work concerned with the ambiguity between so-called *de dicto*, *de re*, and *de se* readings.

We will begin with a whirlwind review of the classic literature on the *de re* / *de dicto* ambiguity and the development of the ‘Kaplan-Lewis analysis’. We will then move on to such topics as the analysis of so-called ‘third readings’, whether (and how) so-called ‘acquaintance relations’ are actually part of the truth-conditions of these readings, the problem of ‘*de se* communication’, and other related topics.

1.2 Part Two: Scalar Implicature and Embedded Implicature

Part 2 of the seminar will center around recent work on scalar implicatures. We will do a crash course on scalar implicatures, starting with Grice’s seminal work and working up to the Neo-Gricean approaches that have been developed to account for embedded scalar implicatures. We will then look at arguments for and against so-called ‘grammatical’ approaches to scalar implicatures (e.g. Chierchia, Fox, and Spector). If time permits, we will spend some time thinking about how this debate bears on questions about modularity in linguistic theory.

2. Course Requirements

Enrolled students will be required to write a final paper of the course. Students should meet with Alejandro and/or Seth prior to March 27th to discuss the intended topic of the paper. The final paper will be due on May 8th.

In addition to the final paper, students will be required to present a major reading (or collection of smaller readings). Given the relatively large number of students, we would like these presentations to be made by pairs consisting of one linguistics student and one philosophy student. Student teams should declare their choice of reading(s) to Alejandro and Seth by February 13th. The readings recommended for presentation are indicated in Section 3 below.

Students should take note that those who are registered for LING 753 will be expected to submit a ‘linguistics paper’ as their final paper, while those registered for PHIL 746 will be expected to submit a ‘philosophy paper’.
3. Rough Outline of Topics and Readings

Papers marked with an asterisk are ones that we’d rather students not present in class.

3.1 Part 1: De Re, De Dicto, De Se

3.1.1 The Evolution of the Kaplan-Lewis Analysis (and Its Relatives)

Key Readings:
* Kaplan (1968) “Quantifying In”
* Lewis (1979) “Attitudes De Dicto and De Se”
* Quine (1956) “Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes”
* Yalcin (2015) “Quantifying In From a Fregean Perspective”

Optional Readings:
Charlow & Sharvit (2014) “Bound De Re Pronouns and the LFs of Attitude Reports”
Maier (2009) “Presupposing Acquaintance: A Unified Semantics for De Dicto, De Re, and De Se Belief Reports”

3.1.2 The Nature and Derivation of the ‘Third Reading’

Key Readings:
Percus (2000) “Constraints on Some Other Variables in Syntax”
Schwager (2011) “Speaking of Qualities”
Szabo (2011) “Specific, Yet Opaque”

Optional Readings:
Schueler (2010) “World Variable Binding and Beta Binding”

3.1.3 Problems Concerning ‘Acquaintance Relations’

Key Readings:
Aloni (2005a) “A Formal Treatment of the Pragmatics of Questions and Attitudes”
Ninan (2012) “Counterfactual Attitudes and Multi-Centered Worlds”
* Sosa (1970) “Propositional Attitudes De Dicto and De Se”

Optional Readings:
Aloni (2005b) “Individual Concepts in Modal Predicate Logic”
3.1.4 The Puzzle of *De Se* Communication

**Key Readings:**
- Ninan (2010a) “*De Se* Attitudes: Ascription and Communication”
- Ninan (2010b) “Semantics and the Objects of Assertion”
- Torre (2009) “Centered Assertion”

**Optional Readings:**
- Stalnaker (1981) “Indexical Belief”

3.2 Part 2: Scalar Implicatures

3.2.1 Implicatures: Pragmatics and Modularity

**Key Readings:**
- Gazdar (1979) “Pragmatics: Implicature, Presupposition and Logical Form” (Chapter 3)
- Grice (1957) “Meaning”
- Grice (1975) “Logic and Conversation”
- Horn (1996) “Presupposition and Implicatures”

**Optional Readings:**
- Devitt (2006) *Ignorance of Language*
- Fodor (1983) *Modularity of Mind*
- Recanati (2011) *Truth-Conditional Pragmatics*

3.2.2 Embedded Implicatures

**Key Readings:**
- Ippolito (2011) “A Note on Embedded Implicatures and Counterfactual Presuppositions”
Optional Readings:
Fox (2004) “Implicatures and Exhaustivity”
Horn (1996) “Presupposition and Implicatures”
* Levinson (2000) *Presumptive Meanings*

3.2.3 Implicatures and Grammar

Key Readings:
Chierchia, Fox, and Spector (Forthcoming) “The Grammatical View of Scalar Implicatures.”

Optional Readings:
Fox (2004) “Implicature Calculation, Pragmatics or Syntax, or Both?”
Franke (2011) “Quantity Implicatures, Exhaustive Interpretation, and Rational Conversation.”
Ippolito (2010) “Embedded implicatures?”
Magri (2011) “Another Argument for Embedded Scalar Implicatures”
van Rooij & Schulz (2004) “Exhaustive Interpretation of Complex Sentences”

4. Various Dates of Interest

**Friday 2/13:** Declare readings to be presented
**Tuesday 2/17:** No Meeting (Monday schedule)
**Tuesday 3/17:** No Meeting; Spring Break
**Friday 3/27:** Discuss topic for final paper
**Friday 5/8:** Final paper due
**Tuesday 5/12:** Final Grades Submitted