

## **The Nominal System across Languages. The formal approach**

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### **February 11th, 2019 - Introduction to Formal Semantics**

Introduction to Contemporary Formal Semantics

Predicates, and arguments Heim & Kratzer, Ferreira

- (1) O menino ergueu a mesa / The boy lift the table
- (2) João ergueu a mesa / John lift the table

### **February 12th, 2019 -The Semantics of Nominal Phrases**

Nominal Systems: Determiner Phrases, Bare Nouns, and Indefinites  
Presuppositions

- (3) John is looking for secretaries/ John is looking for a secretary.
- (4) João tá procurando secretária/ secretárias/ uma secretária.

### **February 13th, 2019 - Bare Nominals across languages**

Carlson (1977) on Kinds.

What is a concept? How do languages express concepts?

- (5) Whales are on the verge of extinction.
- (6) Baleia está em extinção
- (7) João está procurando uma secretária/secretária

### **February 14th, 2019 - Plurals and Events**

What does plural mean?

- (7) Você tem filhos?
- (8) Do you have kids?

What is a lattice structure?

Mass and Count across languages

### **February 15th, 2019 - Comparison and the Mass-Count distinction**

- (9) João é mais alto que Pedro.  
Adjectives: do we need degrees?  
alto/tall and azul/blue

- (10) Ele tem mais mesa do que ela/ # He has more table than she does.

Comparison - quantifiers.  $x > y$  (x is taller than/has more cakes than/)

Muito alto/Muito azul very high/very blue  
Muito carro/ muito vinho many cars/much wine

How is it in Spanish?

### **References**

Bevilaqua & Pires de Oliveira

Bertolini & Pires de Oliveira (em preparação)

Chierchia (2003), cap. 9.

Chierchia & McConnell-Ginnett (1990)

Heim & Kratzer, cap. 4

Kearns (2011), cap. 11.

Krifka

Pires de Oliveira & de Souza (2018).

Pires de Oliveira & Rothstein (2011)

Link, G. (1998). Algebraic semantics in language and philosophy. Stanford, California: CSLI Publications

WACHOWICZ, T. C. . A semântica dos reticulados para os plurais em PB. In: Ana Lúcia Müller; Esmeralda Vailati Negrão; Maria José Foltran. (Org.). Semântica formal. 1ed.São Paulo: Contexto, 2003, v. , p. 75-94.