Unconditionals and Free Choice Unified
Anna Szabolcsi, NYU

Who(ever) called?

Whoever called, I was happy.

Anyone may call.

I don't think anyone called.

Ki hívott?

Akárki hívott, örültem.

Akárki hívhat.

Nem hiszem, h. akárki hívott.

- English unconditional, analysis based on question semantics (Rawlins 2013).

- Hungarian unconditional, analysis based on a universal free choice semantics that's related to negative polarity semantics (this poster, extending Chierchia 2013, Dayal 2013).

- *Same overall meanings from different uses of alternatives.*

Unconditionals as a special case of ∀ free choice: alternatives, ∃, fluctuation, strengthening

- Vanilla ∀-FC item, ∃ scopes above a possibility modal ◊.

  Unconditional adjunct, ∃ scopes above "if".

- From the fluctuation presupposition:

  (i) Each alternative in the antecedent is true somewhere;

  (ii) Episodic (single-event) antecedent iff speaker ignorance.

- From strengthening ∃ to ∀:

  Every <antecedent, consequent> pair is true.

- Mutual exclusivity of alternatives? Not in all unconditionals.

  Depends on identificational focus with an exclusive semantics in the adjunct (reflected in word order in Hungarian).