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Part III

Other levels of description

Chapter 21

Phonology

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1 Introduction: PHONOLOGY in the HPSG sign

The PHONOLOGY attribute in (Pollard & Sag 1987) and (Pollard & Sag 1994):

- rudimentary PHON value

- basic Phonology Principle constrained by Linear Precedence rules: corresponds to simple terminal spell-out of the phrase structure tree

- "Phonology-Free Syntax" (Miller et al. 1997): PHON information inaccessible for selection via SYNSEM

There has been relatively little work within HPSG on phonological representation and the analysis of phonological phenomena. Most references to the PHON attribute use it simply as a lexical identifier, or they are dealing with phenomena at the phonology-syntax interface (e.g. constituent order, ellipsis). For such applications, the actual content of the PHON value is unimportant. These topics are covered in other chapters.

2 Phonological representations in HPSG

Proposals for the detailed content of PHON values:

- encoding of phonological constituents (Bird & Klein 1994; Klein 2000; Höhle 1999)

- syllable structure Tseng (2008)

- metrical phonology (Klein 2000; Bonami & Delais-Roussarie 2006)

3 Phonological analysis in HPSG

- principles of constraint-based phonology vs derivational phonology (Bird & Klein 1994): compositionality, monotonicity

- compositional construction of prosodic structure in parallel with phrase structure (Klein 2000)

But HPSG is formally compatible with many approaches, and there is as yet no emerging consensus among practitioners.

- Finite state phonology (Bird 1992; 1995)

- need for abstract underlying forms (Skwarski 2009); phonologically empty categories

- OT in HPSG (Orgun 1996)

4 Specific phenomena and case studies

- shape conditions (Asudeh & Klein 2002)

- French (Tseng 2003; Bonami et al. 2004)

- phonological idioms [already covered in Manfred's chapter]

- …

Abbreviations

Acknowledgements

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Chapter 22

Morphology

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1 Introduction

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rhoncus magna vitae enim pellentesque, eget porttitor quam finibus. Nunc ultricies turpis at quam vehicula, at tempus justo molestie. Proin convallis augue ut turpis cursus rhoncus. Donec sed convallis justo. Sed sed massa pharetra ex aliquet eleifend. finality

Abbreviations

Acknowledgements

Chapter 23

Semantics

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This chapter discusses the integration of theories of semantic representations. It focuses on those aspects that are specific to HPSG and, in particular, recent approaches that make use of underspecified semantic representations, as they are quite unique to HPSG.

1 Introduction

A semantic level of description is more integrated into the architecture of HPSG than in many frameworks (although, in the last couple of decades, the integration of syntax and semantics has become tighter overall; see Heim & Kratzer (1998) for minimalism, for example). Every node in a syntactic tree includes all appropriate levels of structure, phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics so that *local* interaction between all these levels is in principle possible within the HPSG architecture. The architecture of HPSG thus follows the spirit of the rule-to-rule approach advocated in Bach (1976) and more specifically Klein & Sag (1985) to have every syntactic operation matched by a semantic operation (the latter, of course, follows the Categorial Grammar lead, broadly speaking). But, as we shall see, only the spirit of the rule-to-rule approach is adhered to, as there can be more than one semantic operation per class of syntactic structures, depending on the semantic properties of the expressions that are syntactically composed. The built-in interaction between syntax and semantics within HPSG

is evidenced by the fact that Pollard & Sag (1987), the first book length introduction to HPSG, spends a fair amount of time on semantics and ontological issues, much more than customary in syntax-oriented books at the time.

But, despite the centrality of semantics within the HPSG architecture, not much comprehensive work on the interface between syntax and semantics was done until the late 90's, if we exclude work on the association of semantic arguments to syntactic valents in the early 90's (see the chapter on argument structure): the formal architecture was ripe for research on the interface between syntax and semantics, but few stepped in. Early work on semantics in HPSG focused on scoping issues, as HPSG surface-oriented syntax presents interesting challenges to scope. This is what Pollard & Sag (1987); Pollard & Sag (1994) focus on most. Scope of modifiers is also an area that was of importance and received attention for the same reason both in Pollard & Sag (1994) and Kasper (1997). Ginzburg & Sag (2000) is the first study not devoted to argument structure to leverage the syntactic architecture of HPSG to model the semantics of a particular area of grammar, in this case interrogatives and questions.

The real innovation HPSG brought to the interface between syntax and semantics is the use of underspecification, starting with Minimal Recursion Semantics (Copestake et al. 2001; 2005) and Lexical Resource Semantics (Richter & Sailer 2001). The critical distinction between grammars as descriptions of admissible structures and models of these descriptions makes it possible to have a new way of thinking about the meaning contributions of lexical entries and constructional entries: underspecification is the other side of descriptions.

2 A situation semantics beginning

The semantic side of HPSG was initially rooted in Situation Semantics (Pollard & Sag 1987: ch.4). The choice of Situation Semantics is probably somewhat a matter of happenstance and overall nothing too crucial depended on that choice (and other choices have been explored since, as we detail below). Our statement that the Situation Semantics underpinnings of HPSG's early approach to semantics should not be construed as implying the choice was unconsequential. There were several interesting aspects of this choice for the study of the interface between syntax and semantics that is integral to any grammatical framework. We briefly mention a few here. A first interesting aspect of this choice is that the identification of arguments was not through an ordering but via keywords standing for role names, something that made it easier to model argument structure in subsequent work (see the chapter on argument structure). A second aspect is the built-

in "intentionality" of Situation Semantics. Since atomic formulas in Situation Semantics denote circumstances rather than truth values and circumstances are more finely individuated than truth-values, the need to resort to possible world semantics to properly characterize differences in the meaning of basic verbs, for example, is avoided. A third aspect of Situation Semantics that played an important role in HPSG is parameters. Parameters are akin to variables, except that there is no assumption that corresponds to the assumption that variables are bound (parameters are thus akin to discourse referents in Discourse Representation Theory, Kamp & Reyle 1993) and parameters can be of different kinds thus allowing for an easy semantic classification of types of NPs, something that HPSG's binding theory makes use of.

Parameters also play an important role in early accounts of quantification; these accounts rely on restrictions on parameters that constrain how variables are anchored, akin to predicative conditions on discourse references in DRT. Restrictions on parameters are illustrated with (1), the (non-empty) semantic content of the common noun *donkey*, where the variable $\boxed{1}$ is restricted to individuals that are donkeys, as expressed by the value of the attribute REST.

$$(1) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{REST} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textit{donkey} \\ \text{INST} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Because indices are restricted variables/parameters, the model of quantification proposed in Pollard & Sag (1987) involves restricted quantifiers. Consider the sentence *Every donkey sneezes* and its semantic representation in (2) (op.cit., p.109).

$$(2) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{DET} & \textit{forall} \\ \text{IND} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{VAR} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{REST} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textit{donkey} \\ \text{INST} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SCOPE} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textit{sneeze} \\ \text{SNEEZER} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

The subject NP contributes the value of the attribute QUANT, while the verb contributes the value of SCOPE. The quantifier includes information on the type of quantifier contributed by the determiner (a universal quantifier in this case) and the index (a parameter restricted by the common noun).

Because HPSG is a sign-based grammar, each constituent includes a PHONology and SEMantic component as well as a SYNtactic level of representation (along with

other possible levels). Compositionality has thus always been directly incorporated by principles that regulate the value of the mother's SEM attribute, given the SEM values of the daughters and their mode of syntactic combination (as manifested by their syntactic properties). Different approaches to semantics within HPSG propose variants of a semantic principle that constrains this relation. The semantic principle of Pollard & Sag (1987: p.109) is stated in English in (3) (we assume for simplicity that there is a single complement daughter; Pollard and Sag define semantic composition recursively for cases of multiple complement daughters).

(3) a. If the semantic content of the head-daughter [1] is of sort *circumstance* and the semantic content of the complement daughter [2] is of sort *quantifier*, the semantic content of the mother is $\begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANT} & [2] \\ \text{SCOPE} & [1] \end{bmatrix}$

b. Otherwise, the semantic content of the head-daugther and the mother are identical.

The fact that the semantics principle in (3) receives a case-based definition is of note. Because HPSG is monostratal and there is only one stratum of representationn (see Ladusaw (1988) for the difference between levels and strata), the semantic contribution of complement daughters varies and the semantic principle must receive a case-based definition. In other words, syntactic combinatorics is less varied than semantic combinatorics. The standard way of avoiding violating compositionality (the fact that semantic composition is a *function*) is to have a case-based definition of the semantic effect of combining a head-daughter with its complements, a point already made in Partee (1984). As (3) shows, HPSG has followed this practice since its beginning. The reason is clear: one cannot maintain a surface-oriented approach to syntax, where syntax is "simpler" to borrow a phrase from Culicover & Jackendoff (2005), without resorting to case-based definitions of the semantic import of syntactic combinatorics.

3 Scope relations in HPSG

In mainstream generative grammar, there is an assumption that syntactic constituency reflects semantic constituency at one stratum of representation. In the case of quantifier scope in works like May (1985), this means that quantified expressions are moved out of their surface position and raised to a position where they can receive their proper scope through Quantifier Raising (and/or Quantifier Lowering, see, among others Hornstein 1995). Of course, such a move

requires multiple strata, as there is little evidence that quantifier scope affects surface syntactic structure. The semantic principle and the representation of quantifier meanings outlined in Pollard & Sag (1987) and briefly presented in the previous section was not flexible enough to model the relation between single syntactic structures and multiple scopal relations. As Pollard and Sag explicitly recognized, their semantic principle only models left to right scopal relations, i.e. quantifiers that are expressed by a complement that is to the left of another complement have wide scope with respect to that quantifier. So-called inverse scope, including the fact that quantifiers in object position can outscope quantifiers in subject position cannot be modeled by the kind of semantic principle they propose. Much of the discussion of semantics within HPSG in the 90's pertains to improving how scope is modeled, both the scope of quantifiers and scope of adjuncts. We discuss each in turn in this section.

3.1 Quantifier scope

HPSG's "standard" model of the interface between the syntax and semantics of phrases that contain quantifiers until the mid 2000's adapted to HPSG the approach proposed in Cooper (1975; 1983), i.e. so-called Cooper storage: When a quantified expression combines with another expression, the quantifier is put in a store and various scopal relations correspond to the various nodes at which the quantifier can be retrieved from storage. Within HPSG, quantifier storage involves a QSTORE attribute where each quantifier starts and at each node quantifiers are either retrieved (part of the RETRIEVED list) or continue to be on the mother's QSTORE. The relative scope of quantifiers itself is determined by the ordering of quantifiers on the QUANTS list. The simplified tree in (4) from Pollard & Sag (1994: p.324) illustrates the inverse scope reading of the English sentence *Every student knows a poem.*

(4)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANTS} & \langle \boxed{4},\boxed{6} \rangle \\ \text{NUCLEUS} & \boxed{5} \\ \text{RETRIEVED} & \langle \boxed{4},\boxed{6} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{QSTORE} & \{\boxed{6}\} \end{bmatrix}$$
every student

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANTS} & \langle \rangle \\ \text{NUCLEUS} & \boxed{5} \\ \text{QSTORE} & \{\boxed{4}\} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANTS} & \langle \rangle \\ \text{NUCLEUS} & \boxed{5} \begin{bmatrix} know \\ \text{KNOWER} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{KNOWN} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$
knows

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{QSTORE} & \{\boxed{4}\} \end{bmatrix}$$
a poem
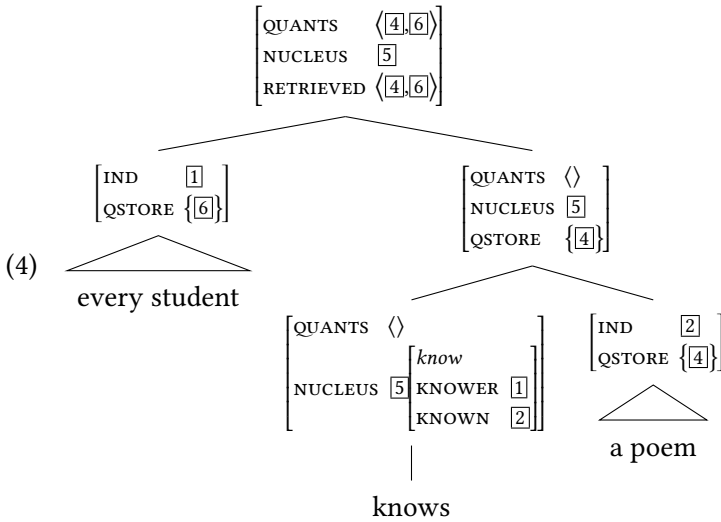
Both subject and object quantifiers start with their quantifiers (basically, something very similar to the representation in (2)) in a QSTORE. Since the reading of interest is the one where *a poem* outscopes *every student*, the quantifier introduced by *a poem* cannot be retrieved at the VP level. This is because the value of QUANTS is the concatenation of the value of RETRIEVED with the QUANTS value of the head daughter. Were the quantifier introduced by *a poem* ($\boxed{4}$) retrieved at the VP level, the sole quantifier retrieved at the S level, the quantifier introduced by *every student*, would outscope it. So, the only way for the quantifier introduced by *a poem* to outscope the quantifier introduced by *every student* is for the former to be retrieved at the S node just like the latter. Simplifying somewhat for presentational purposes, two principles govern how quantifiers are passed on from head-daughter to mothers and how quantifier scope is assigned for retrieved quantifiers; they are stated in (5) (adapted from Pollard & Sag 1994: p.322-323).

(5)   a.   In a headed phrase, the RETRIEVED value is a list whose set of elements is a subset of the union of the QSTORE of the daughters; the QSTORE value is the relative complement of that set.

      b.   In a headed phrase (of sort *psoa* or parametrized state of affairs), the QUANTS value is the concatenation of the RETRIEVED value and the QUANTS value of the semantic head.

(5a) ensures that quantifiers in storage are passed up the tree, except for those that are retrieved; (5b) ensures that quantifiers that are retrieved outscope quanti-

fiers that were retrieved lower in the tree. Narrow scope of quantifiers that occur in object position entails retrieval at the VP level; wide scope of quantifiers that occur in object position entails retrieval at the S level. But retrieval at the S level of quantifiers that occur in object position does not entail wide scope, as the order of two quantifiers in the same RETRIEVED list (i.e., retrieved at the same node) is unconstrained. Constraints on quantifier retrieval and scope underdetermines quantifier scope. To ensure that quantifiers are retrieved sufficiently "high" in the tree to bind bound variable uses of pronouns, e.g., *her* in (6), Pollard and Sag propose the constraint in (7).

(6)   One of her$_i$ students approached [each teacher]$_i$. (Pollard & Sag 1994: ex.27a)

(7)   A quantifier within a CONTENT value must bind every occurrence of that quantifier's index within that CONTENT value.

The use of Cooper storage allows for a syntactically parsimonious treatment of quantifier scope ambiguities in that no syntactic ambiguity needs be posited to account for what is a strictly semantic phenomenon. But, as Pollard and Sag note (p.328), their model of quantifier scope does not account for the possible narrow scope interpretation of the quantifier *a unicorn* in (8) (the interpretation according to which the speaker does not commit to the existence of unicorns). Raised arguments only occur once, in their surface position, and (5) ensure that quantifiers are never retrieved "lower" than their surface position.

(8)   A unicorn appears to be approaching.

Pollard & Yoo (1998) is an attempt to solve that problem, as well as take into account the fact that a sentence such as (9) is ambiguous (i.e., the quantifier *five books* can have wide or narrow scope with respect to the meaning of *believe*). As Pollard and Yoo note, since quantifier storage and retrieval is a property of signs and fillers only share their LOCAL attribute values with arguments of the head (*read*) in (9), the narrow scope reading cannot be accounted for. (8) and (9), among other similar examples, illustrate some of the complexities of combining a surface-oriented approach to syntax with a descriptively adequate model of semantic composition.

(9)   Five books, I believe John read. (ambiguous)

Pollard and Yoo's solution (p.419-420) amounts to making quantifier storage and retrieval a property of the LOCAL attribute and to restrict quantifier retrieval

to semantically potent heads (so *to* of infinitive VPs cannot be a site for quantifier retrieval). The new feature geometry of *sign* Pollard and Yoo propose is represented in (10). The pool of quantifiers collects the quantifiers on the QSTORE of its selected arguments (members of the SUBJ, COMPS, SPR lists and value of MOD) (except for quantifying determiners and semantically vacuous heads like *to* or *be*) and the two constraints in (11) (Pollard & Yoo 1998: p.423) ensure proper percolation of quantifier store values within headed phrases as well as the semantic order of retrieved quantifiers.

(10)
$$\begin{bmatrix} sign \\[4pt] \text{PHONOLOGY} \quad list(phon\_string) \\[4pt] \text{SYNSEM} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{LOCAL} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{CATEGORY} & category \\ \text{CONTENT} & content \\ \text{QSTORE} & set(quantifier) \\ \text{POOL} & set(quantifier) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\[4pt] \text{RETRIEVED} \quad list(quantifier) \end{bmatrix}$$

(11) a. The pool of the mother of a headed-phrase is identical to the quantifier store of the head daughter.

b. For a semantically nonvacuous lexical head, the QUANTS value is token-identical with the RETRIEVED value.

In a follow-up paper, Przepiórkowski (1998) proposed a strictly lexicalized retrieval mechanism which removes structural ambiguities arising from different possible retrieval sites for quantifiers along a syntactic head path, is compatible with trace-based and traceless analyses of extraction (Pollard & Yoo's analysis only covers trace-based extraction), and shifts all semantic structure under the CONTENT attribute.

3.2 Adjunct scope

HPSG phrase structure schemata are built, for a significant part, around headed structures. In the case of head-complement and head-specifier schemata, syntactic headedness and semantic headedness match. The verb is the head of VPs and clauses and the circumstance or state of affairs denoted by verbs typically takes as arguments the indices of its complements or subjects, and more generally part of the CONTENT value of the verb takes as arguments part of the CONTENT value of its dependents. But in the case of head adjunct structures, syntactic and semantic headedness do not match. The denotation of adjuncts often takes the

denotation of heads as arguments. Thus, in (12), fastness is ascribed to Bob's running. Accordingly, the semantics principle distinguishes between head-adjunct structures and other structures, as shown in (13) (Pollard & Sag 1994: p.56). (The principle we cite does not consider quantifier retrieval we discussed in the previous section.)

(12)   Bob runs fast.

(13)   In a headed phrase, the CONTENT value is token-identical to that of the adjunct daughter if the DTRS value is of sort *head-adj-struc*, and with that of the head daughter otherwise.

Unfortunately, the hypothesis that the content of phrases "projects" from the adjunct in the case of head-adjunct structures leads to difficulties in the case of so-called recursive modification, e.g., (14), as Kasper (1997) shows. The NP in (14) denotes an existential quantifier whose restriction is a plan that is potentially controversial; intuitively speaking, what is potential is the controversiality of the plan, not it being a plan. But, the semantics principle, the syntactic selection of modified expressions by modifiers, and lexical entries for intersective and non-intersective adjectives conspire to lead to the wrong meaning for recursive modification of the kind (14) illustrates.

(14)   A potentially controversial plan.

Since *controversial* selects for *plan*, combining their meaning leads to the meaning represented in (15), as *controversial* is an intersective adjective.

(15) $\begin{bmatrix} \textit{nom-obj} \\ \text{INDEX} \ \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} \ \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} \ \textit{plan} \\ \text{INST} \ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \& \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} \ \textit{controversial} \\ \text{ARG} \ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$

But since adjuncts are the semantic head, the meaning of *potentially controversial plan* will be projected from the meaning of *potentially*, the most deeply embedded adjunct. Now, *potentially* is a conjectural adverb, to adapt to adverbs the classification of adjectives proposed in Keenan & Faltz (1985: p.125). Within HPSG, this means that the meaning of *potentially* is a function that takes the meaning of what it modifies as argument, i.e. the meaning represented in (15). But, this leads to the meaning represented in (16), which is the wrong semantics, as a potentially controversial plan is not a potential plan as Kasper (1997: p.10-11) points out.

(16)
$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{nom-obj} \\
\textsc{index} \; \boxed{1} \\
\textsc{restr} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} \;\; \textit{potential} \\ \textsc{arg} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} \;\; \textit{plan} \\ \textsc{inst} \;\; \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \& \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} \;\; \textit{controversial} \\ \textsc{arg} \;\; \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

The problem with Pollard and Sag's semantics principle, when it comes to recursive modification, is clear: semantic selection follows an adjunct path, so to speak, so the most deeply embedded adjunct will have widest scope.

Kasper's solution is to distinguish the inherent meaning of an expression (its internal content) from the meaning it may have in a particular construction, its combinatorial semantics (its external content). With respect to prenominal adjuncts, the internal content corresponds to the content of the adjunct's maximal projection, whereas the external content corresponds to the content of the combination of the meaning of the adjunct with what it modifies. The semantic principle is revised to reflect the distinction between internal and external contents and is provided in (17) (Kasper 1997: p.19).

(17) a. The semantic content of a head-adjunct phrase is token-identical to the MOD|ECONT value of the adjunct daughter, and the MOD|ICONT value of the adjunct daughter is token-identical with the adjunct daughter's CONT.

b. For all other headed phrases, the CONT value is token-identical with the CONT value of the head daughter.

The result of applying the revised semantic principle to *potentially controversial* is provided in (18) and the semantics of *controversial* is provided in (19).

(18)
$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textsc{head} \; \boxed{4} \\
\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{mod} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{econt} \; \boxed{7} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{ind} \;\; \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{rest} \;\; \boxed{2}\&\boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{arg} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{cont} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{ind} \;\; \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{restr} \;\; \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\
\textsc{cont} \; \boxed{3} \\
\textsc{icont} \; \boxed{3}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textsc{head}|\textsc{mod} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{econt} \; \boxed{3} \\ \textsc{arg} \;\; \boxed{8} \\ \textsc{icont} \; \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \\
\textsc{cont} \; \boxed{3} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} \;\; \textit{potential} \\ \textsc{arg} \;\; \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
\qquad
\boxed{8} \begin{bmatrix}
\textsc{head} \; \boxed{4} \\
\textsc{cont} \; \boxed{5} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} \;\; \textit{controversial} \\ \textsc{inst} \;\; \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

$$(19) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD}|\text{MOD} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ICONT} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{ECONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{2}\,\&\,\boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & controversial \\ \text{INST} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Critically, each kind of modifier specifies the ECONT value of what it modifies, i.e. specifies the combinatorial effects it has on the meaning of the modifier and modified combination. Intersective adjectives like *controversial* specify that this effect is intersective, as shown in (19); conjectural adverbs like *potentially*, on the other hand, specify that the ECONT of the adjective they modify is the result of applying their meaning to the adjective, as shown in the left daugther of (18). Now, since the MOD value of the head in a head-adjunct phrase determines the MOD value of the phrase, it means that *controversial* determines the ECONT of what it modifies and, ultimately, the CONT value of the entire phrase *potentially controversial plan*, thus ensuring that its intersectivity is preserved when it combines with a conjectural adverb. Asudeh & Crouch (2002) and Egg (2004) provide more recent solutions to the same problem through the use of a Glue semantics approach to meaning composition within HPSG and semantic underspecification, respectively.

4 Sorting semantic objects

One of the hallmarks of HPSG is that all grammatical objects are assigned a sort (see the chapter on formal foundations for details). This includes semantic objects. Sorting of semantic objects has been used profitably in models of lexical knowledge, in particular in models of argument structure phenomena. We refer the reader to the chapter on argument structure for details and only provide an illustrative example here. Consider the constraint in (20) from Koenig & Davis (2003). It says that all verbs that denote a causal change of state, i.e. are of sort *cause-rel*, link their causer argument to an NP that is the first member of the ARG-ST list. Critically, verbs like *frigthen*, *kill*, *calm* have as meanings a relation that is a subsort of *cause-rel* and are subject to this constraint. Sorting lexical semantic relations thus makes for a compact statement of linking constraints. (The chapter on argument structure provides many more instances of the usefulness of sorting semantic relations, a hallmark of HPSG semantics.)

$$(20) \quad \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONTENT} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{cause-rel} \\ \text{CAUSER} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP}, ... \rangle \end{bmatrix} \Longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG-ST} & \langle \text{NP:}\boxed{1}, ... \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Constructional analyses that have flourished in the late 1990's also benefited from the sorting of semantic objects. The analysis of clause types in Sag (1997) and Ginzburg & Sag (2000) makes extensive use of the sorting of semantic objects to model different kinds of clauses, as our discussion of the latter in the next section makes clear.

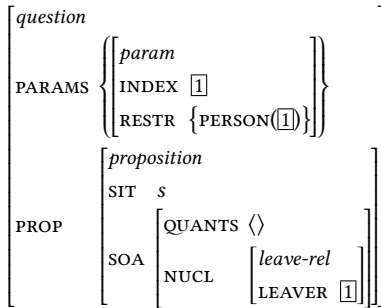# 5 The advantages of a surface-oriented grammar

Until now we have mostly covered how semantic composition works in an approach where each node in a tree is associated with a meaning and where there is only one stratum and therefore the "location" of an expression in a syntactic tree does not necessarily correspond to where in the sentence's semantic representation its meaning is composed. Although important as a proof that semantic composition can be modeled in a surface-oriented grammar, it is fair to say that HPSG work until the late 1990's does not have too much new insight to contribute to our understanding of the interface between syntax and semantics. This is in no way a slight of that early research in the interface between syntax and semantics. Demonstrating that you can "get things right" without multiple strata is important and work on the relation between lexical meaning and argument structure (see the argument structure chapter) is also important in showing that simplicity of syntactic representation does not come at the cost of adequacy. The message was good news: you do not need to make your syntax more complex to make it possible to interface it with semantics. Of course, that was Montague's point already in the late 1960's and early 1970's (see the collected papers in Montague 1974), but that work was more a proof of concept. Carrying out what is basically the Montagovian agenda with a large scale grammar is more difficult and this is what early work in HPSG, at least retrospectively, seems to have focused on.

The development of a more constructional HPSG in the mid 90's opened up new possibilities for modeling the interface between syntax and semantics. One of them is the ability of rich phrasal constructicons to model the shared semantic combinatorics of quite distinct constructional patterns. This is for example apparent in Sag (1997) where a single modification meaning is assigned to a family of relative constructions that differ markedly syntactically. This is also what Ginzburg & Sag (2000) show with their analysis of interrogatives. But their analysis goes further in demonstrating that there may be advantages to a surface-
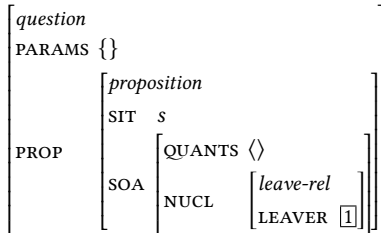
oriented approach to syntax in that it correctly predicts an effect of the *surface* syntax onto semantics for the interpretation of interrogatives, as we now show.

The approach to interrogatives Ginzburg and Sag propose is new in that it does not rely on the traditional Hamblin semantics for questions that the meaning of questions is the set of (exhaustive) answers; see Hamblin (1973); Groenendijk & Stokhof (1997). Rather, the meaning of questions are propositional abstracts (not sets of propositions). Parameters of the kind that have been part of HPSG approaches to semantics since the beginning are used to model these propositional abstracts. Because the meaning of questions are propositional abstracts, the meaning of *wh*-phrases is not the same as that of generalized quantifiers either; rather, *wh*-phrases introduce a parameter (roughly, the equivalent of a lambda-abstracted variable). (21) and (22) provide examples of the meaning of *wh*-questions and polar questions, respectively (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: p.137), where the AVM that follows $\mapsto$ stands for the value of the CONTENT attribute of the expression that precedes $\mapsto$. Note that polar questions are modeled as zero-parameter propositional abstracts.
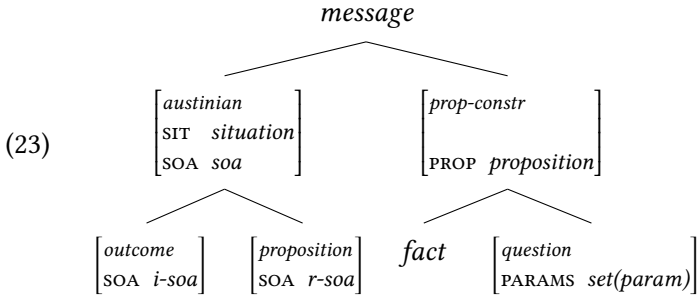
(21) Who left? $\mapsto$

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{question} \\
\text{PARAMS} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \textit{param} \\ \text{INDEX} \;\; \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} \;\; \{\text{PERSON}(\boxed{1})\} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \\
\text{PROP} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{proposition} \\ \text{SIT} \quad s \\ \text{SOA} \begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANTS} \; \langle \rangle \\ \text{NUCL} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{leave-rel} \\ \text{LEAVER} \;\; \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

(22) Did someone leave? $\mapsto$

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{question} \\
\text{PARAMS} \; \{\} \\
\text{PROP} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{proposition} \\ \text{SIT} \quad s \\ \text{SOA} \begin{bmatrix} \text{QUANTS} \; \langle \rangle \\ \text{NUCL} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{leave-rel} \\ \text{LEAVER} \;\; \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

The meaning assigned to questions illustrated above relies on an ontology of messages (the semantic content a clause expresses) which is richer than the traditional notion of propositional content (as distinct from illocutionary force) in work such as Searle (1969). Questions in this view are not just a speech act (where

the propositional content of that act remains a proposition), but rather a particular kind of propositionally constructed message, a proposition cum parameters, as shown in (23). Crucially, questions are defined as a parametrized proposition.

(23)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\textit{message} \\
\\
\begin{bmatrix} \textit{austinian} \\ \text{SIT} \quad \textit{situation} \\ \text{SOA} \quad \textit{soa} \end{bmatrix} \qquad\qquad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{prop-constr} \\ \\ \text{PROP} \quad \textit{proposition} \end{bmatrix} \\
\\
\begin{bmatrix} \textit{outcome} \\ \text{SOA} \quad \textit{i-soa} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{proposition} \\ \text{SOA} \quad \textit{r-soa} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \textit{fact} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{question} \\ \text{PARAMS} \quad \textit{set(param)} \end{bmatrix}
\end{array}
$$

   Of concern to us here is less the specifics of this ontology of messages (or of the introduction in the universe of discourse of place holders and other abstract objects, as is typical of situation semantics) than its role in the interface between syntax and semantics, e.g., the fact that clause types can refer to different kinds of messages. Declarative and interrogative clauses are defined as in (24), where the expression that precedes the colon indicates the sort of the phrase and what follows the colon is an informal representation of properties of the phrase's constituents (AVMs to the left of the arrow are properties of the mother node and what follows the arrow are properties of the daughters), / indicates default identity between information on the mother and daugther nodes in (24a) and ...in (24b) informally indicates the absence of constraints on daughters on the maximally general *inter-cl* sort. In contrast to earlier approaches to semantics in HPSG where combining a VP with a subject amounted to nothing more than adding the relevant information in the event structure (akin to functional application), this more constructional approach associates a type-shift to the "traditional" subject-predicate construction, from a state of affair description to a proposition. In other words, the analysis of clause-types familiar from traditional grammar plays an explicit role in the grammar, as it is associated with a particular kind of semantic content. Interrogative clauses (clauses of sort *int-cl*) are partially defined by their message, i.e. as denoting questions. Different kinds of interrogatives (polar interrogatives, *wh*-interrogatives, and *in situ* interrogatives) can then be defined as subsorts of *int-cl*. Because this constructional analysis of clause types is embedded in a multiple inheritance network of constructions, an elegant model of similarities in syntax that do and do not correspond to similarities in meaning becomes possible. For example, English declaratives, like typical *wh*-interrogatives,

can be inverted (and therefore some declaratives are subject-auxiliary-inversion phrases, as in *Under no circumstance will I allow Tobi to go out at night*, see Fillmore 1999) and, conversely, some interrogatives are not (*in situ* interrogatives, in particular), but some must be inverted (polar interrogatives). Embedding a constructional semantics (i.e., the association of meaning to particular kinds of clauses) in a multidimensional analysis of phrases allows a model that associates meaning to some structures, while recognizing that they need not to. It is similar to some versions of Construction Grammar, but is weaker in that it does not require phrasal constructions to be associated with an unpredictable meaning (i.e., with more than the equivalent of functional application in Categorial Grammar-like approaches).

(24) a. *decl-cl*: $\left[\text{CONT} \begin{bmatrix} austinian \\ \text{SOA} \ /\boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \right] \rightarrow \text{H} \left[\text{CONT} \ /\boxed{1} \right]$

 b. *inter-cl*: $\left[\text{CONT} \ question \right] \rightarrow ...$

One particularly interesting aspect of the constructional semantics of Ginzburg & Sag (2000) is that it can model differences in scoping possibilities of the parameters associated with *wh*-phrases that occur as fillers of head filler structures and *wh*-phrases that occur *in situ*. Consider the sentences in (25) and the difference in interpretation they can receive. (The observation is due to Baker 1970; see Ginzburg & Sag 2000: p.242-246 for discussion.) Sentence (25a) only has interpretation (26a) and, similarly, sentence (25b) has interpretation (26b).

(25) a. Who wondered *who* saw what?

 b. Who wondered *what* was seen by who?

(26) a. For which person x and thing y did x wonder who saw y

 b. For which person x and person z did x wonder which z saw what

The generalization seems to be that the scope of the parameters introduced by *wh*-phrases that occur in filler position (i.e., as (part of) the filler daughter of a head-filler phrase) is constrained by its surface position, but *wh*-phrases that occur *in situ* are not so constrained. Thus, *who* in (25a) (*what* in (25b)) cannot outscope the embedded clause, but *what* (*who* in (25b)) can. The explanation for this puzzling observation runs as follows. *Wh*-interrogatives are a subsort of interrogative clauses and head-filler phrases. They are thus subject to the Filler-Inclusion Constraint in (27) that requires the WH value of the filler to be a retrieved parameter (i.e., become part of the PARAMS set). This constraint ensures

that *wh*-phrases that are fillers of a head-filler phrase contribute their parameter in the clause they are fillers of. In contrast, the parameter of *wh*-phrases that remain *in situ* are not so constrained and are thus free to either be retrieved in the clause in which they occur or be retrieved in a higher clause.

(27) Filler Inclusion Constraint

$$\textit{wh-int-cl: } \left[\text{cont} \left[\text{params } \{\boxed{1}\} \uplus \textit{ set} \right] \right] \rightarrow \left[\text{wh } \{\boxed{1}\} \right], \text{H}$$

It should be noted that the combination of a constructional and surface-oriented approach to the semantics of interrogatives requires positing several unary branching constructions whose sole function is to "type-shift" the meaning of the daughter phrase to match the semantic requirements of the phrase it occurs in. Consider the discourses in (28) and (29) (from Ginzburg & Sag 2000: p.270,ex.37 and 63a), a reprise and non-reprise use, respectively, of *in situ wh*-phrases. We focus on the latter case, which involves an "ordinary" question interpretation, for simplicity. Since B's answer is syntactically a declarative subject-predicate clause, its meaning will be of sort *proposition* (as any head-subject clause that is not a *wh*-subject clause). But the meaning associated with this construction is that of a question. So, we need a unary-branching construction that maps the propositional meaning onto the question meaning, i.e. that retrieves the stored parameter contributed by the *wh*-phrase and makes the CONTENT of the head-subject phrase the value of the PROP attribute of a question. This is what is accomplished by the *is-int-cl* construction defined in (30), a construction one of whose subsorts is the construction involved in discourse (29) and defined in (31) (the Independent Clause feature value + in (30) is meant to rule out *in situ* interrogatives to be embedded interrogatives). Assigning distinct messages to different clause types while maintaining a surface oriented approach requires quite a few such unary branching constructions whose function is strictly semantic.

(28) A: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from East Anglia.

B: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from WHERE.

(29) A: Well, anyway, I'm leaving.

B: OK, so you'll be leaving WHEN exactly?

(30) *is-int-cl:*

$$\left[\text{cat} \begin{bmatrix} \text{ic} & + \\ \text{subj} & \langle \rangle \\ \text{vform} & \textit{fin} \end{bmatrix} \right] \rightarrow \text{H} [\ ]$$

(31) *dir-is-int-cl:*

$$\left[\text{cont}|\text{pro } \boxed{1} \right] \rightarrow \text{H} \left[\text{cont } \boxed{1} \right]$$

6 Semantic underspecification

One of the hallmarks of constraint-based grammatical theories is the view that grammars are *descriptions* of structures and can thus be incomplete, as almost all descriptions are. This is a point that was made clear a long time ago by Martin Kay in his work on unification (see among others Kay 1979). For a long time, the distinction between (partial) descriptions (possible properties of linguistic structures, what grammars are about) and (complete) described linguistic structures was used almost exclusively in the syntactic component of grammars within HPSG. But starting in the mid 90's the importance of distinguishing between descriptions and described structures began to be appreciated in HPSG's model of semantics, as discussed for example in Copestake et al. (1995), and recent work has stressed the importance of the same distinction when modeling inflectional morphology (see Crysmann & Bonami (2016) and the chapter on morphology). Because underspecification, partiality and the like are so critical to HPSG, its inclusion in the model of the semantics of grammar has made recent work in semantics in HPSG quite distinctive from work in semantics within even conceptually related frameworks such as Lexical Functional Grammar or variants of Categorial Grammar. Two competing approaches to semantic underspecification have been developed within HPSG, Minimal Recursion Semantics (henceforth, MRS; see Copestake et al. 1995, Copestake et al. 2001, and Copestake et al. 2005 for introductions to MRS) and Lexical Resource Semantics (henceforth, LRS; see Richter & Sailer 2001; 2004 and Iordăchioaia & Richter 2015 for an introduction to LRS). MRS and LRS are not the only two "recent" approaches to assembling the meaning of phrases from lexical "meanings" (or resources). Asudeh & Crouch (2002), for example, show how to apply a glue approach to semantic interpretation to HPSG. Aside from simplification of the Semantics Principle, which , under a glue semantic approach, do esnot distinguish how to compose meaning on the basis of the semantic type of the daughters, e.g., whether one of the daughters is a quantifier, a glue approach leads to "highly efficient techniques for semantic derivation already implemented for LFG, and which target problems of ambiguity management also addressed by Minimal Recursion Semantics" (p.1). For reasons of space, we cannot detail Asudeh and Crouch's glue approach here; we concentrate on MRS and LRS as they have been the dominant approaches to semantic composition in recent years. But, the existence of yet another approach to semantic interpretation attests of the flexibility of the HPSG architecture when trying to model the interface between syntax and semantics.

6.1 Minimal Recursion Semantics

6.1.1 Why minimally recursive semantic representations

MRS developed out of computational semantic engineering considerations related to machine translation for face-to-face dialog that started in the early 90's (see Kay et al. 1992 for an overview of the the VerbMobil project). As Copestake et al. (1995) argue, syntactic differences between languages can lead to logically equivalent distinct semantic representations when using traditional "recursive" semantic representations. They point out, for example, that the English expression *fierce black cat* and Spanish *gato negro y feroz* would be given distinct semantic representations under standard assumptions, as shown in (32). These distinct semantic representations would make translating these simple nominal expressions from one language to the other difficult.

(32)   a. $\lambda x(\text{fierce}(x) \land (\text{black}(x) \land \text{cat}(x)))$
       b. $\lambda x(\text{cat}(x) \land (\text{black}(x) \land \text{fierce}(x)))$

Furthermore, some sentences may be similarly ambiguous in English and Spanish – for example, sentences that contain generalized quantifiers – , and requiring the semantic disambiguation of these sentences prior to translating them into sentences that contain similar ambiguities is inefficient. Semantic representations should only be as disambiguated as the source language grammar entails. For these reasons and others they detail, Copestake et al. (1995) propose to model the semantics of grammar via semantic representations that are as flat (or non-recursive) as possible. To achieve this minimal recursivity despite the fact that disambiguated scope relations among generalized quantifiers require embedding, they add additional variables or handles that serve as labels to particular relations in the flat list of relations and that can serve as "arguments" of scopal operators. (33) and its underspecified and fully disambiguated semantic representations in (34) illustrate informally and (35) more formally. Subscripts on names of relations in the informal representation stand for labels of the formulas they are part of. Thus, 1 in *every$_1$(x, 3, n)* is a label for the entire formula. In the more explicit representation in (35), the label of a formula is written before it and separated from it by a colon (e.g., *h1: every(x,h3,h8)*); variables over labels are simply labels that do not correspond (yet) to labels of formulas (*h8* and *h9*).[1]

---

[1]Copestake (2007) presents a Neo-Davidsonian version of MRS called R(obust)MRS where arguments of predicates (aside from their event variable) are contributed via independent elementary predications. Copestake shows that RMRS can be profitably used with shallower analyses, "including part-of-speech tagging, noun phrase chunking and stochastic parsers which operate

(33)　Every dog chased some cat.

(34)　　a.　$every_1(x, 3, n)$, $dog_3(x)$, $cat_7(y)$, $some_5(y, 7, m)$, $chase_4(e, x, y)$

　　　　b.　$every_1(x, 3, 4)$, $dog_3(x)$, $cat_7(y)$, $some_5(y, 7, 1)$, $chase_4(e, x, y)$

　　　　c.　$every_1(x, 3, 5)$, $dog_3(x)$, $cat_7(y)$, $some_5(y, 7, 4)$, $chase_4(e, x, y)$

(35)　　a.　h1: every(x,h3,h8), h3:dog(x), h7:white(y), h7:cat(y), h5:some(y,h7,h9), h4:chase(x,y)

　　　　b.　$h8 = h4$, $h9 = h1$

　　　　c.　$h8 = h5$, $h9 = h4$

To understand the use of handles consider the expression *every*$_1$*(x, 3, n)*. The first argument of the generalized quantifier is the handle numbered 3, which is a label for the formula *dog*$_3$*(x)*. The formula that serves as the first argument of *every* is fixed, it is always the meaning of the nominal phrase that the determiner selects for. But to avoid embedding that relation as the restriction of the quantifier and to preserve the desired flatness of semantic representations, the second argument of *every* is not *dog*$_3$*(x)*, but the label of that formula (indicated by the subscript 3 on the predication *dog*$_3$*(x)*). Now, in contrast to the quantifier's restriction, which must include the content of the head noun it combines with, the nuclear scope or body of the quantifier is not as restricted. In other words, the semantic representation that is the output of the grammar of English does not fix the second argument of *every*, represented here as the variable over handles *n*. The same distinction applies to *some*: its first argument is fixed to the formula *cat*$_7$*(y)*, but its second argument is left underspecified, as indicated by the variable over numbered labels, *m*. Resolving the scope ambiguity of the underspecified representation in (34a) amounts to deciding whether *every* takes the formula that contains *some* in its scope or the reverse; in the first case, $n = 5$, in the second, $m = 1$. Since the formula that encodes the verb meaning (*chase*$_4$*(e, x, y)*) is outscoped by the nuclear scope or body of both generalized quantifiers, either constraint will fully determine the relative scope of all formulas in (34).

6.1.2　The nitty-gritty

We now present a brief outline of how MRS works in Typed Feature Structures. First, the content of an expression is of sort *mrs*. Structures of that sort consist in (1) a bag of relations or elementary predications (EPs) (the value of RELS), (2)

───────────────

without detailed lexicon" (p.73).

a HOOK, which groups together the labels or handles that correspond to elementary predications that have widest local and global scope and the expression's index (these three semantic objects are what is visible to semantic functors), and (3) a set of constraints on handles that restrict or determine the scope of scope-relevant elementray predications (the value of HCONS). Each constraint in the value of HCONS consists of a greater or equal relation between handles. A representation of the structure of an object of sort *mrs* is provided in (36).

(36)
$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{mrs} \\
\text{HOOK} \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX} & \textit{index} \\ \text{LTOP} & \textit{handle} \\ \text{GTOP} & \textit{handle} \end{bmatrix} \\
\text{RELS} \quad \textit{list(relations)} \\
\text{HCONS} \quad \textit{list}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \textit{qeq} \\ \text{HARG} & \textit{handle} \\ \text{LARG} & \textit{handle} \end{bmatrix} \right)
\end{bmatrix}
$$

Sentence (37) and its (underspecified) *mrs* representation in (38) illustrate how *mrs* structures can be used to capture scope underspecification (see Copestake et al. 2005: p.306).

(37)   Every dog probably sleeps.

(38)
$$
\begin{bmatrix}
\textit{mrs} \\
\text{HOOK} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{hook} \\ \text{GTOP} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{LTOP} & \boxed{7} \end{bmatrix} \\
\text{RELS} \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \textit{every\_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{ARG0} & \boxed{3} \\ \text{RSTR} & \boxed{4} \\ \text{BODY} & \textit{handle} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{dog\_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{6} \\ \text{ARG0} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{prbly\_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{7} \\ \text{ARG1} & \boxed{8} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{sleep\_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{9} \\ \text{ARG1} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\
\text{HCONS} \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \textit{qeq} \\ \text{HARG} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{LARG} & \boxed{7} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{qeq} \\ \text{HARG} & \boxed{4} \\ \text{LARG} & \boxed{6} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{qeq} \\ \text{HARG} & \boxed{8} \\ \text{LARG} & \boxed{9} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle
\end{bmatrix}
$$

Members of RELS correspond to the content of lexical entries while members of HCONS constrain the relative scope of semantic arguments of members of RELS. Now, although the grammar of English leaves the meaning of (37) underspecified, it *does* constrain some scope relations and the *mrs* in (38) therefore constrains how some elementary predications relate to each other. First, the identity between the value of ARG0 for both the *every_rel* and *dog_rel* elementary

predications indicates that *every* in (37) quantifies over dogs; ③ is the variable bound by the quantifier. And similarly, the value of ARG1 of *sleep_rel* is lexically constrained to corresponds to the index of the subject, itself constrained to be identical to the value of ARG0 for the *dog_rel* predication (i.e, ③). Second, *prbly_rel* is required to outscope *sleep_rel* (a *qeq* constraint either identifies its HARG or LARG or it constrains its HARG to outscope its ARG). Similarly, the restriction of *every_rel* is constrained to outscope *dog_rel* as ④ $=_{qeq}$ ⑥. Finally, the global top (the value of GTOP) is constrained to outscope the local top (the value of LTOP). (To simplify, the local top is the handle of the elementary predication that is not a quantifier with the widest scope.) The semantic representation that the grammar of English motivates remains underspecified, as it does not specify what the value of the BODY of *every_rel* is, in particular whether it is the handle of the *prbly_rel* or *sleep_rel* elementary predications. Resolving this scope ambiguity amounts to adding an HCONS that identifies the value of BODY with either handle, i.e., ⑦ or ⑨.

Examples that include multiple quantifiers work in a similar way. Take the sentence in (39) and the elementary predications for *every*, *chases*, and *some* (we only include relevant elementary predications and attributes for simplicity). We know that the body of *every_rel* and *some_rel* each outscope *chase_rel* (so ① $=_{qeq}$ ③ and ① $=_{qeq}$ ③, where the left hand side of the equality corresponds to the HARG and the right hand side to the LARG). But, we do not know if *every_rel* outscopes *some_rel* or the reverse; adding either HCONS ① $=_{qeq}$ ② or ② $=_{qeq}$ ① specifies which is the case. (This example illustrates that $=_{qeq}$ is not commutative, as it is meant to encode greater or equal scope.)

(39)   Every dog chases some cat.

(40) $\begin{bmatrix} every\_rel \\ \text{RESTR } handle \\ \text{BODY } ① \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} some\_rel \\ \text{RESTR } handle \\ \text{BODY } ② \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} chase\_rel \\ \text{LBL } ③ \end{bmatrix}$

Semantic composition within MRS is relatively simple and is stated in (41) (Copestake et al. 2005: p. 313–314); the second clause of this semantic composition rule amounts to a case-based definition, as is true of all Semantics Principles since Pollard & Sag (1987), as different constructions determine differently the HOOK of the head-daughter (Copestake et al. 2005 only discuss intersective and scopal constructions in their paper). (A slot in (41) is defined as "a semantic argument position in a word or phrase A that is associated with syntactic constraints on the word or phrase B whose semantics will supply that argument when the relevant grammar rule combines A and B" (op.cit., p.313).)