

HG2002: Tutorial 10

Formal Semantics

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1. Are the following quantifiers (i) symmetrical or asymmetrical; (ii) upward or downward entailing in the left (iib) or right (iic) argument?

- (1) *most*
- (2) *many (cardinal)*
- (3) *few (cardinal)*
- (4) *every*
- (5) *[at least] two*
- (6) *[exactly] two*

2. Using the formulae of meaning postulates, represent the semantic relations between the following word pairs:

- (7) *couch/sofa*
- (8) *accepted/rejected*
- (9) *student/person*
- (10) *on/off (of a switch)*
- (11) *buy/sell*
- (12) *computer/laptop*
- (13) *give/receive*
- (14) *Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday*

Also give the Theta-grid for the predicates.

3. Using set notation, define *few(A,B)* (cardinal) and *few_of(A,B)* (proportional).

Acknowledgments These questions are partially based on exercises from Saeed (2003).