

# Dynamic Semantics, ESSLI 2010

## DONKEY ANAPHORA IS ORDINARY BINDING

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- (1) a. If a farmer owns a donkey, he beats it.
- b. Every farmer who owns a donkey beats it.

We claim that the relationship between the pronouns and indefinites in (1) *seems* like binding because it *is* just binding. In each case, the indefinites take scope over the pronouns in question, and binding occurs just as in the bound reading of *Everyone thinks he is intelligent*.

Evans, May: scope uniformly clause-bounded

- (2) a. \* $\forall$ Everyone<sub>i</sub> arrived and [she<sub>i</sub> spoke].
- b.  $\forall$  [A woman<sub>i</sub> arrived] and [she<sub>i</sub> spoke].
- (3) a.  $\forall$  [Everyone<sub>i</sub>'s mother] loves him<sub>i</sub>.
- b.  $\forall$  [Someone from every city<sub>i</sub>] hates it<sub>i</sub>.

Reinhart: quantificational binding requires c-command

- Certain quantifiers, including indefinites, can take scope outside of their minimal clause.
- We assume that c-command simply is not a requirement on quantificational binding.

Evans: but the truth conditions!

- (4) a. If a donkey eats, it sleeps.
- b.  $\exists d. (\text{donk } d) \wedge [\text{if}(\text{eats } d), (\text{sleeps } d)]$

- We should conclude rather that the indefinite does not take wider scope than the *if*.

### 1.2. Sketch of the account

- $\text{if}(A, B) = \neg(A \wedge \neg B)$

1

- (5) a.  $\neg[\exists d. (\text{donk } d) \wedge ((\text{eats } d) \wedge \neg(\text{sleeps } d))]$
- b.  $\forall d. \neg[(\text{donk } d) \wedge ((\text{eats } d) \wedge \neg(\text{sleeps } d))]$

- (6) a. Most men who own a car wash it on Sundays.
- b. Every man who owns a donkey beats it.

Evans (1977:117) provides an influential assessment:

If the sentence is to express the intended restrictions upon the major quantifier—that of being a car- or donkey-owner—it would appear that the second quantifier must be given a scope which does not extend beyond the relative clause, and this rules out a bound variable interpretation of the later pronouns.

Once again, appearances are deceiving:

- (7) a. Every farmer who owns a donkey beats it.
- b.  $\neg\exists x\exists y. \text{donk } y \wedge ((\text{farmer } x \wedge \text{owns } y \ x) \wedge \neg(\text{beats } y \ x))$

### 1.3. Supporting evidence: donkey weak crossover

- (8) If a bishop<sub>i</sub> meets a bishop<sub>j</sub>, he<sub>i</sub> blesses him<sub>j</sub>.
- (9) If a farmer owns a donkey or a goat, he beats it. [Stone]
- (10) a. A woman<sub>i</sub> arrived and she<sub>i</sub> spoke.
- b. \*She<sub>i</sub> arrived and a woman<sub>i</sub> spoke.
- (11) a. Most women who have a son<sub>i</sub> love his<sub>i</sub> father.
- b. \*His<sub>i</sub> father loves most women who have a son<sub>i</sub>.
- (12) a. If a farmer owns a donkey, he beats it. (same as (2b))
- b. \*If he owns it, a farmer beats a donkey.
- (13) a. A farmer beats a donkey if he owns it.
- b. \*He beats it if a farmer owns a donkey.

## 2. Fragment

2.1. *The tower notation: taking scope*

$$(14) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{DP} & & \text{syntactic category} \\ \textit{John} & & \text{expression} \\ \mathbf{j} & & \text{semantic value} \end{array}$$

$$(15) \quad \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{DP} \\ \textit{John} \\ \mathbf{j} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{DP} \backslash \text{S} \\ \textit{left} \\ \mathbf{left} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{S} \\ \textit{John left} \\ \mathbf{left j} \end{array} \right) =$$

$$(16) \quad \frac{\text{S} \mid \text{S}}{\text{DP}} \frac{\text{everyone}}{\forall y[] \quad y}$$

$$(17) \quad \frac{\text{S} \mid \text{S}}{\text{DP}} \text{ means } \frac{\dots \text{to form an S.} \mid \text{ and takes scope at an S.} \dots}{\text{the expression functions in local syntax as a DP,}}$$

$$(18) \quad \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{S} \mid \text{S} \\ \text{DP} \\ \textit{everyone} \\ \forall y[] \\ y \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{S} \mid \text{S} \\ \text{DP} \backslash \text{S} \\ \textit{left} \\ [] \\ \mathbf{left} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{S} \mid \text{S} \\ \text{S} \\ \textit{everyone left} \\ \forall y[] \\ \mathbf{left y} \end{array} \right) =$$

(19)

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \mid \text{D} \\ \text{A/B} \\ \textit{left-exp} \\ g[] \\ f \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{D} \mid \text{E} \\ \text{B} \\ \textit{right-exp} \\ h[] \\ x \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \mid \text{E} \\ \text{A} \\ \textit{left-exp right-exp} \\ g[h[]] \\ f(x) \end{array} \right) =$$

**Type shifter 1 of 3: Lift** (Partee & Rooth, many others)  
(20)

$$\frac{\text{DP} \backslash \text{S}}{\textit{left} \quad \mathbf{left}} \quad \text{Lift} \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\text{S} \mid \text{S}}{\text{DP} \backslash \text{S}} \frac{\text{left}}{[]} \quad \mathbf{left}$$

(21)

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} \text{A} & \text{Lift} & \frac{\alpha \mid \alpha}{\text{A}} \\ \textit{expression} & \Rightarrow & \textit{expression} \\ x & & \frac{[]}{x} \end{array}}$$

**Type shifter 2 of 3: Lower** (Chierchia 1995, p. 85; typical of continuations)  
(22)

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\alpha \mid \text{S}}{\text{S}} & \text{Lower} & \alpha \\ \textit{expression} & \Rightarrow & \textit{expression} \\ \frac{\textit{f}[]}{x} & & \textit{f}[x] \end{array}}$$

$$(23) \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S} \quad \frac{\text{everyone left}}{\forall y [\ ]} \quad \frac{\text{left } y}{\text{left } y}}{\text{Lower} \Rightarrow} \quad \frac{S}{\text{everyone left}} \quad \frac{\text{left } y}{\forall y. \text{left } y}$$

$$(24) \quad \frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \frac{\text{someone}}{\exists x [\ ]} \frac{x}{x} \quad \left( \frac{S \mid S}{(\text{DP} \setminus S) / \text{DP}} \frac{\text{loves}}{[\ ]} \frac{\text{loves}}{y} \right) = \frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \frac{\text{everyone}}{\forall y [\ ]} \frac{y}{y}$$

$$= \frac{S \mid S}{S} \quad \frac{\text{Someone loves everyone}}{\exists x [\forall y [\ ]]} \quad \frac{\text{loves } y \ x}{\text{loves } y \ x} \quad \frac{\text{Lower} \Rightarrow}{} \quad \frac{S}{\text{Someone loves everyone}} \quad \frac{\text{Someone loves everyone}}{\exists x [\forall y [\text{loves } y \ x]]}$$

2.2. Multiple layers and inverse scope.

Also important for handling multiple donkey pronouns.

(25)

$$\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \frac{\text{someone}}{\exists x [\ ]} \frac{x}{x} \quad \frac{\text{Lift} \Rightarrow}{} \quad \frac{\frac{S_L \mid S_L}{S \mid S} \quad \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{someone}} \quad \frac{[\ ]}{\exists x [\ ]} \quad x}{x}$$

$$(26) \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S_L \mid S_L} \quad \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{someone}} \quad \frac{\exists x [\ ]}{[\ ]} \quad x}{\text{Lift} \Rightarrow} \quad \frac{S \mid S}{S_L \mid S_L} \quad \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{someone}} \quad \frac{\exists x [\ ]}{[\ ]} \quad x$$

$$(27) \quad \frac{S_L \mid S_L}{S \mid S} \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{someone}} \quad \left( \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S_L \mid S_L} \quad \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{everyone}}}{(\text{DP} \setminus S) / \text{DP}} \right) = \frac{S \mid S}{S \mid S} \frac{\text{DP}}{\text{someone}} \quad \frac{\text{loves everyone}}{\text{loves everyone}}$$

(28)

$$\frac{\frac{\exists x [\ ]}{x} \quad \frac{\text{loves}}{y} \quad \frac{\text{loves } y \ x}{\text{loves } y \ x}}{\text{Lower (twice)} \Rightarrow} \quad \frac{\frac{\forall y [\ ]}{\exists x [\ ]} \quad \frac{\text{loves } y \ x}{\text{loves } y \ x}}{\forall y (\exists x (\text{loves } y \ x))}$$

(29)

$$\left( \frac{\frac{A \mid B}{C \mid D} \quad \frac{E}{\text{left-exp}} \quad \frac{g [\ ]}{i [\ ]} \quad x}{\text{left-exp}} \quad \frac{\frac{B \mid F}{D \mid G} \quad \frac{E \setminus H}{h [\ ]} \quad \frac{j [\ ]}{f}}{\text{right-exp}} \right) = \frac{\frac{A \mid F}{C \mid G} \quad \frac{H}{g[h [\ ]]} \quad \frac{i[j [\ ]]}{f(x)}}{\text{left-exp right-exp}}$$

### 2.3. Binding

- the pronoun must create a need to be bound
- the binder must satisfy that need

$$(30) \quad \frac{\frac{\text{DP} \triangleright \alpha \mid \alpha}{\text{DP}}}{\frac{he}{\lambda y.[\ ]}} \frac{y}{y}$$

$$(31) \quad \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\frac{he}{\lambda y.[\ ]}} \frac{y}{y} \mid \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP} \setminus S}{left} \frac{[\ ]}{left}} \right) = \frac{\frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{S}}{\frac{He \text{ left}}{\lambda y.[\ ]}} \frac{Lower}{\frac{left \ y}{y}} \quad \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S}{He \text{ left}} \frac{y}{\lambda y.\mathbf{left} \ y}$$

Type shifter 3 of 3: Binding (coindexation)

$$(32) \quad \boxed{\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\alpha \mid \beta}{\text{DP}} & \text{Bind} & \frac{\alpha \mid \text{DP} \triangleright \beta}{\text{DP}} \\ \frac{expression}{f([\ ])} & \Rightarrow & \frac{expression}{f([\ ]x)} \\ x & & x \end{array}}$$

$$(33) \quad \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{everyone}} \frac{Bind}{\frac{everyone}{\forall x.([\ ]x)}} \frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}}}{\frac{x}{x}}$$

$$(34) \quad \frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{everyone}} \frac{x}{\frac{\forall x.([\ ]x)}{x}} \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{(\text{DP} \setminus S)/\text{DP}} \frac{loves}{loves} \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{his}} \frac{y}{\frac{\lambda y.[\ ]}{y}} \right) \right) \left( \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP} \setminus \text{DP}}{mother}} \frac{\mathbf{mom}}{\mathbf{mom}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S}}{\frac{Everyone \text{ loves his mom}}{\forall x.([\lambda y.([\ ]x)]}} \frac{Lower}{\frac{loves(\mathbf{mom} \ y)}{x}} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{S}{Everyone \text{ loves his mom}}}{\forall x.([\lambda y.([\ ]x)]} \frac{S}{\forall x.([\lambda y.([\mathbf{loves}(\mathbf{mom} \ y) \ x]])x)}$$

2.4. Binding without c-command; the dynamics of weak crossover

It is perfectly possible to have binding without c-command:

$$(35) \quad \left( \frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{everyone's}} \frac{\text{DP} \setminus \text{DP}}{mother} \right) \left( \frac{(\text{DP} \setminus S)/\text{DP}}{loves} \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{him}} \right)$$

Final interpretation:  $\forall y.\mathbf{loves} \ y(\mathbf{mom} \ y)$ .

$$(36) \quad \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{his}} \frac{\text{DP} \setminus \text{DP}}{mother} \right) \left( \frac{(\text{DP} \setminus S)/\text{DP}}{loves} \frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{everyone}} \right) = \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\frac{S}{\mathbf{HmV}}}$$

### 3. Donkey anaphora in conditionals

$$(37) \quad \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{(S/S)/S}{if}} \frac{\neg[\ ]}{\lambda p \lambda q. p \wedge \neg q}$$

$$(38) \quad \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{(S/S)/S}{if}} \frac{\neg[\ ]}{\lambda p \lambda q. p \wedge \neg q} \left( \frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{someone}} \frac{y}{\frac{\exists y.([\ ]y)}{y}} \right) \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP}}{she}} \frac{x}{\frac{\lambda x.([\ ])}{x}} \right) \left( \frac{S \mid S}{\frac{\text{DP} \setminus S}{left}} \frac{\mathbf{left}}{\mathbf{left}} \right)$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
(39) \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S} \quad \text{Lower} \quad \frac{S}{\neg(\exists y.((\lambda x.[])y))} \Rightarrow \neg(\exists y.(\mathbf{knocked} y) \wedge \neg(\mathbf{left} y))}{(\mathbf{knocked} y) \wedge \neg(\mathbf{left} x)}
\end{array}$$

Apart from the lexical entry for *if*, all of the mechanisms for scope and binding were developed entirely independently of any concerns for handling donkey anaphora.

### 3.1. Multiple indefinites

$$(40) \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} / N \quad \frac{a}{\exists x.Px \wedge []} \quad \lambda P. \frac{a}{\exists x.Px \wedge []}}{x}$$

$$(41) \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} / N \quad \frac{a}{\exists x.Px \wedge []} \quad \lambda P. \frac{a}{\exists x.Px \wedge []}}{x} \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{N}{\text{farmer}} = \frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge []} \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\text{Lift}}{\Rightarrow} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{x}}{x}$$

$$(42) \quad \frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{farmer}} = \frac{\frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{Lift}} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{x}}{x}$$

$$(43) \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{farmer}} = \frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{Lift}} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{x}}{x}$$

$$(44) \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{farmer}} = \frac{\frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \quad \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{\text{Lift}} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{a \text{ farmer}}{\exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge ([]x)}}{x}}{x}$$

$$(45) \text{ If a farmer owns a donkey, he beats it.} \\
\neg \exists x.(\mathbf{far} x) \wedge [\exists y.(\mathbf{donk} y) \wedge [(\mathbf{owns} y x) \wedge \neg(\mathbf{beats} y x)]]$$

Weak readings? Barker (1996), Schein (2002)...

3.2. Unwanted uniqueness implications don't arise

$$(46) \text{ If a bishop meets a bishop, he blesses him.} \\
\neg \exists x.(\mathbf{bish} x) \wedge [\exists y.(\mathbf{bish} y) \wedge [(\mathbf{meets} y x) \wedge \neg(\mathbf{blesses} y x)]]$$

Thus bishop sentences pose no special difficulties on our account.

3.3. Extending the account to modal treatments of conditionals

$$\frac{\lambda p \lambda q.(w' \in \max(g(w))(\cap(f(w) + p))) \wedge \neg(w' \in q)}{\lambda w \lambda w'. \neg[]}$$

### 3.4. Why does every *disrupt donkey anaphora*?

- (47) If everyone owns a donkey, it blesses.

The scope of *every* is generally limited to its minimal clause.

(48)

$$\frac{\frac{S \mid S}{S} \quad \text{Lower} \quad \frac{\text{Everyone owns a donkey}}{\forall x. [\exists y. (\text{donk } y) \wedge [\text{owns } y \ x]]} \quad \text{Upper} \quad \frac{\text{Everyone owns a donkey}}{\forall x. [\exists y. (\text{donk } y) \wedge [\text{owns } y \ x]]}}{\text{owns } y \ x}$$

### 4. Donkey anaphora from relative clauses

- (49) a. Every farmer who owns a donkey beats it.  
b.  $\neg \exists x \exists y. \text{donk } y \wedge ((\text{far } x \wedge \text{owns } y \ x) \wedge \neg (\text{beats } y \ x))$

### 5. Coordination and donkey anaphora

- (50) If a farmer owns a donkey or a goat, he beats it. Stone (1992)

$$(51) \quad \frac{\left( \alpha \setminus \frac{S \mid S}{\alpha} \right) / \alpha}{\text{or} \quad \frac{\lambda R \lambda L. \frac{(\lambda \kappa. (\kappa L) \vee (\kappa R)) (\lambda x. [])}{x}}{x}}$$

Choose  $\alpha = \text{DP}$ :

$$(52) \quad \left( \text{DP} \setminus \left( \text{DP} \setminus \frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}} \right) / \text{DP} \right) / \text{DP} \quad \frac{\text{DP} \setminus \frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}}}{\text{Bill}} \quad \left( \frac{\text{DP} \setminus \frac{S \mid S}{\text{DP}}}{\text{called his mother}} \right)$$

(53)

$$\text{Bind} \left( \frac{S \mid \text{DP} \triangleright S}{\text{DP}} \right) \left( \frac{\text{DP} \triangleright S \mid S}{\text{DP} \setminus S} \right) \left( \frac{\text{DP} \setminus S}{\text{called his mother}} \right)$$

(54)

$$(\text{called}(\text{mom } j)j) \vee (\text{called}(\text{mom } b)b)$$

- (55) If a bishop and a bishop meet, he blesses him.  
(56) If a woman and a man meet, she asks him for his number.  
(57) a. If John and Bill meet, he falls asleep.  
b. If a butcher and a baker meet, he pays him.  
c. If a man walking a dog and a woman walking a dog meet, it barks at it.

### 6. Donkey weak crossover

- (58) a. Everyone<sub>i</sub>'s mother loves his<sub>i</sub> father.  
b. \*His<sub>i</sub> father loves everyone<sub>i</sub>'s mother. WCO  
(59) a. If a farmer owns a donkey, he beats it.  
b. \*If he owns it, a farmer beats a donkey. DONKEY WCO  
(60) a. A farmer beats a donkey if he owns it.  
b. \*He beats it if a farmer owns a donkey.

### 7. Conclusions

- indefinites can take scope over more than one clause
- c-command is not a requirement for binding
- quantifiers must be evaluated before the pns that they bind
- this explains weak crossover and donkey weak crossover
- Direct compositional, variable-free: no QR, assignment fns
- three independently-needed shifters: Lift, Lower, and Bind
- innovative lexical entry for *if*