An attribute evaluation rule is a **copy rule** if and only if it is of the form:

The RHS is called the **source** of the copy rule, and each attribute of the LHS is called a **sink** of the copy rule.

A set of copy rules is **independent** if and only if the source of each rule in the set does not appear elsewhere in any of the other rules in the set.

An attributed translation grammar is in **single assignment form** if and only if:

* The only rules that are not copy rules are rules for computing the synthesized attributes of action symbols.
* The set of copy rules associated with each production in the grammar is independent.

*Note*: It is sometimes possible to consolidate several copy rules into a single rule.

e.g.