

Variables and assignments

Pronouns and quantifiers

Pronoun: She is smart.

Quantification: Every girl is smart.

Some boy is silly.

Multiple quantifiers: Every girl saw a boy.

Quantifier+pronoun: No kid likes their school.

What do a pronoun or a quantifier denote?

Variables

A pronoun does not have a deterministic meaning. Its value varies among different contexts.

- (1) Ada resolved the puzzle. She is smart.
- (2) Becky got an A. She is smart.

Formally, variables do not have deterministic values, either.

Assignment (function)

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \quad g = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto a \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\llbracket \text{she}_x \rrbracket^{M,g} = g(x)$$

The concrete value of g is **contextually** determined.

- For (1), $g(x) = a$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{she}_x \text{ is smart} \rrbracket^{M,g} &= \llbracket \text{smart} \rrbracket^{M,g}(\llbracket \text{she}_x \rrbracket^{M,g}) \\ &= \text{smart}(g(x)) \\ &= \text{smart}(a) \end{aligned}$$

- For (2), $g(x) = b$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{she}_x \text{ is smart} \rrbracket^{M,g} &= \llbracket \text{smart} \rrbracket^{M,g}(\llbracket \text{she}_x \rrbracket^{M,g}) \\ &= \end{aligned}$$

Universal quantification

$$\llbracket \text{everyone is smart} \rrbracket^{M,g} = \forall x. \text{smart}(x)$$

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto a} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto b} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto b \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto c} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto c \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

‘ $\forall x. \text{smart}(x)$ ’ means:

$$\text{smart}(g^{x \mapsto a}(x)) \wedge \text{smart}(g^{x \mapsto b}(x)) \wedge \text{smart}(g^{x \mapsto c}(x))$$

Existential quantification

$$\llbracket \text{someone is silly} \rrbracket^{M,g} = \exists x. \text{silly}(x)$$

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto a} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto a \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto b} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto b \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto c} = \begin{bmatrix} x \mapsto c \\ y \mapsto b \\ z \mapsto c \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

‘ $\exists x. \text{silly}(x)$ ’ means:

$$\text{silly}(g^{x \mapsto a}(x)) \vee \text{silly}(g^{x \mapsto b}(x)) \vee \text{silly}(g^{x \mapsto c}(x))$$

Multiple quantifiers

$$\llbracket \text{everyone saw someone} \rrbracket^{M,g} = \forall x \exists y. \text{see}(y)(x)$$

$$g \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto a} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto a} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto c} \end{array} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto b} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto a} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto b} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto c} \end{array} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto c} \begin{array}{l} \nearrow g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto a} \\ \longrightarrow g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto b} \\ \searrow g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto c} \end{array} \end{array}$$

‘ $\forall x \exists y. \text{see}(y)(x)$ ’ means:

$$\left(\bigvee \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto a}(y))(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto a}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b}(y))(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto b}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto c}(y))(g^{x \mapsto a, y \mapsto c}(x)) \end{array} \right\} \right) \wedge \left(\bigvee \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto a}(y))(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto a}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto b}(y))(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto b}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto c}(y))(g^{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto c}(x)) \end{array} \right\} \right) \wedge \left(\bigvee \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto a}(y))(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto a}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto b}(y))(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto b}(x)) \\ \text{see}(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto c}(y))(g^{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto c}(x)) \end{array} \right\} \right)$$

How about the other meaning: $\exists y \forall x. \text{see}(y)(x)$

Bound pronouns

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{no one likes their}_x \text{ school} \rrbracket^{M,g} &= \\ &= \neg \exists x. \text{like}(\text{school-of-}x)(x) \end{aligned}$$

The value of *their*_x **co-varies** with $\exists x$