Chapter 23

Semantics

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This chapter discusses the integration of theories of semantic representations into HPSG. 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 Mainstream Generative Grammar[1], 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; Ajdukiewicz 1935; Pollard 1984; Steedman 2000). But, as we shall see, only the spirit of the rule-to-rule approach is adhered to, as there can be more

[1]We follow Culicover & Jackendoff (2005: 3) in using the term *Mainstream Generative Grammar* (MGG) to refer to work in Government & Binding or Minimalism.

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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 was 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 90s, if we exclude work on the association of semantic arguments to syntactic valents in the early 90s (see Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2021, Chapter ?? of this volume). The formal architecture was ripe for research on the interface between syntax and semantics, but comparatively few scholars stepped in. Early work on semantics in HPSG investigated scoping issues, as HPSG surface-oriented syntax presents interesting challenges when modeling alternative scope relations. This is what Pollard & Sag (1987; 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.

The real innovation HPSG brought to the interface between syntax and semantics is the use of underspecification in Minimal Recursion Semantics (Copestake, Flickinger, Malouf, Riehemann & Sag 1995; Egg 1998; Copestake, Lascarides & Flickinger 2001; Copestake, Flickinger, Pollard & Sag 2005) and Lexical Resource Semantics (Richter & Sailer 2004b); see also Nerbonne (1993) for an early use of scope underspecification in HPSG. 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: Chapter 4, on Situation Semantics see Barwise & Perry 1983). 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). However, this statement should not

be construed as implying the choice was inconsequential. 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 Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2021, Chapter **??** of this volume). A second aspect is the built-in "intensionality" 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 variables that can be restricted and sorted, thus allowing for an easy semantic classification of types of NPs, something that HPSG's Binding Theory makes use of (Müller & Branco 2021: Section **??**, Chapter **??** of this volume).

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 referents in Discourse Representation Theory (Kamp & Reyle 1993). 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.[2]

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

Because indices are restricted variables/parameters, the model of quantification proposed in Pollard & Sag (1987: Chapter 4) involves restricted quantifiers. Consider the sentence *Every donkey sneezes* and its semantic representation in (2) (Pollard & Sag 1987: 109).

[2]In Pollard & Sag (1987), which we discuss here, semantic relations are the values of a RELN attribute and restrictions are single semantic relations rather than set-valued. To ensure historical accuracy, we use the feature geometry that was used at the time.

(2)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{quant} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{det} & \textit{forall} \\ \textsc{ind} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{var} & \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{rest} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} & \textit{donkey} \\ \textsc{inst} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{scope} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{reln} & \textit{sneeze} \\ \textsc{sneezer} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

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 phonological and semantic component as well as a syntactic level of representation (along with other possible levels, e.g. information structure; see De Kuthy 2021, Chapter **??** of this volume).

This sounds as if SYN adn SEM are still alive, but we have SYNSEM now.
JPK edited

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 Semantics Principle that constrains this relation. The Semantics Principle of Pollard & Sag (1987: 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 ($\boxed{1}$) of the head daughter is of sort *circumstance* and the semantic content ($\boxed{2}$) of the complement daughter is of sort *quantifier*, the semantic content of the mother is $\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{quant} & \boxed{2} \\ \textsc{scope} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix}$.

b. Otherwise, the semantic contents of the head daughter and the mother are identical.

The fact that the Semantics Principle in (3) receives a case-based definition is of note. Since HPSG is monostratal, there is only one stratum of representation (see Ladusaw 1988 for the difference between levels and strata). But the semantic contribution of complement daughters varies. Some complement daughters are

proper names or pronouns, while others are generalized quantifiers, for example. Since it is assumed that the way in which the meaning of (free) pronouns or proper names combines with the meaning of verbs differs from the way generalized quantifiers combine with the meaning of verbs, the Semantics Principle must receive a case-based definition. In other words, syntactic combinatorics is less varied than semantic combinatorics. The standard way of avoiding violations of 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).[3]. Of course, such a move requires multiple strata, as there is little evidence that quantifier scope affects surface syntactic structure. The Semantics 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 & Sag explicitly recognized (p. 112), their Semantics Principle only models left-to-right scopal relations, i.e. quantifiers that are expressed by a complement (or subject)

argument?

JPK No, argument is ambiguous in a way complement or subject is not

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 Semantics Principle they propose. Much of the discussion of semantics

[3]For a discussion of the relation between the semantic scope of aspect markers and the syntactic structures they enter in in Mainstream Generative Grammar vs. HPSG, see **KoenigandMuansuwan2005**

within HPSG in the 90s pertains to improving how scope is modeled, both the scope of quantifiers and the scope of adjuncts. We discuss each in turn in this section.

3.1 Quantifier scope

Until the mid-2000s, HPSG's "standard" model of the interface between the syntax and semantics of phrases that contain quantifiers 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 Figure 1 from Pollard & Sag (1994: 324) illustrates the inverse scope reading of an English sentence containing two quantifiers.

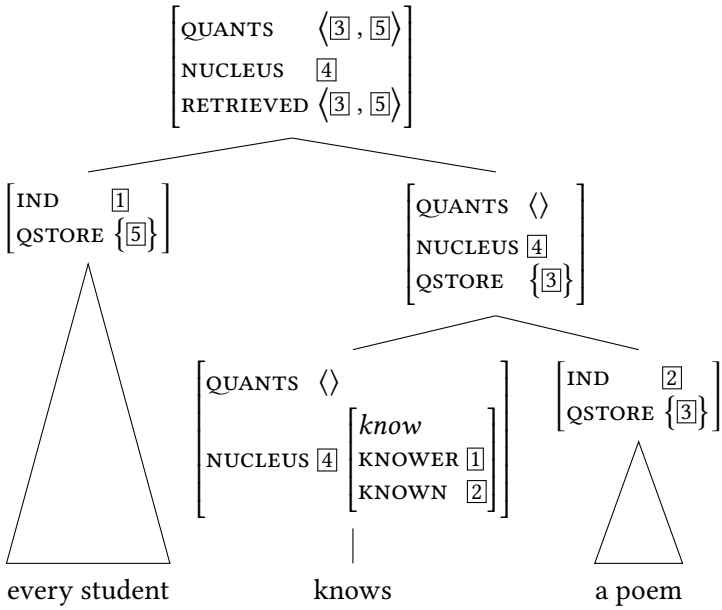

Figure 1: Semantic composition of an English sentence containing two quantifiers

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* ($\boxed{3}$) retrieved at the VP level, the sole quantifier retrieved at the S level, the one 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 (4) (adapted from Pollard & Sag 1994: 322–323).

(4) 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*, which stands for "parameterized state of affairs"), the QUANTS value is the concatenation of the RETRIEVED value and the QUANTS value of the semantic head.

(4a) ensures that quantifiers in storage are passed up the tree, except for those that are retrieved; (4b) ensures that quantifiers that are retrieved outscope quantifiers that were retrieved lower in the tree. Retrieval at the VP level entails narrow scope of quantifiers that occur in object position; 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 (5), Pollard and Sag propose the constraint in (6).

(5) One of her$_i$ students approached [each teacher]$_i$. (Pollard & Sag 1994: 327)

(6) 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 to 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 (7) (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 (4a–b) ensure that quantifiers are never retrieved "lower" than their surface position.

(7) A unicorn appears to be approaching.

Pollard & Yoo (1998) tackle that problem, as well as take into account the fact that a sentence such as (8) is ambiguous (i.e. the quantifier *five books* can have wide or narrow scope with respect to the meaning of *believe*).

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

As Pollard & Yoo note, since quantifier storage and retrieval is a property of signs, and fillers (see Borsley & Crysmann 2021, Chapter ?? of this volume) only share their LOCAL attribute values with arguments of the head (*read* in (8)), the narrow scope reading cannot be accounted for. (7) and (8), 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.

Pollard & Yoo's solution (p. 419–420) amounts to making quantifier storage and retrieval a property of the LOCAL value and to restricting quantifier retrieval to semantically potent heads (so, the *to* of infinitive VPs cannot be a site for quantifier retrieval). The new feature geometry of *sign* that Pollard and Yoo propose is represented in (9). The pool of quantifiers collects the quantifiers on the QSTORE of its selected arguments (members of the SUBJ, COMPS, and SPR lists, and the value of MOD, except for quantifying determiners and semantically vacuous heads like *to* or *be*) and the constraints in (10) and (11) (Pollard & Yoo 1998: 423) ensure proper percolation of quantifier store values within headed phrases as well as the semantic order of retrieved quantifiers.

"semantic order"?
JPK Yes. On the QUANTS list (if you prefer bracketed semantic representation think of the order as c-command order on your favorite FOPC or higher order formula)

(9)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{sign} & \\ \text{PHONOLOGY} & \textit{list(phon_string)} \\ \text{SYNSEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{LOCAL} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CATEGORY} & \textit{category} \\ \text{CONTENT} & \textit{content} \\ \text{QSTORE} & \textit{set(quantifier)} \\ \text{POOL} & \textit{set(quantifier)} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{RETRIEVED} & \textit{list(quantifier)} \end{bmatrix}$$

(10) $$sign \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{synsem|loc} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{qstore} & \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{pool} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{retrieved} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \\ \wedge \text{ set-of-elements } (\boxed{3}, \boxed{4}) \wedge \boxed{4} \subseteq \boxed{2} \wedge \boxed{1} = \boxed{2} - \boxed{4}$$

(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.

What remains in the QSTORE of a sign is the quantifiers that were in the POOL of (unretrieved) quantifiers minus quantifiers that were retrieved, according to the constraint in (10). Since the POOL of the sign's mother is the QSTORE of its head daughter as per constraint (11a), a quantifier retrieved on a head daughter is not part of the POOL of (unretrieved) quantifiers of the mother.

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 the head-complement or head-subject 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: 56). (The principle we cite does not consider the 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 to 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.

(14) a potentially controversial plan

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: 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 by Keenan & Faltz (1985: 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: 10–11) points out.

(16)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{nom-obj} \\ \text{INDEX } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{potential} \\ \text{ARG } \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{plan} \\ \text{INST } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \& \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{controversial} \\ \text{ARG } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

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 regular content) from meanings it may have in a particular construction: its combinatorial semantics (its internal and 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 adjunct's meaning with what it modifies. The Semantics Principle is revised to reflect the distinction between internal and external contents and is provided in (17) (Kasper 1997: 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 to the adjunct daughter's CONT.

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

The result of applying the revised Semantics Principle to *potentially controversial* is provided in Figure 2 and the semantics of *controversial* and *potentially* are provided in (18) and (19), respectively. (The value of ARG in Kasper's analysis of *controversial* corresponds to the syntactic and semantic properties of the modified constituent. The feature ARG value is thus the equivalent of the SYNSEM value in current HPSG.)

(18)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD|MOD} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ECONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR} & \boxed{2} \ \& \ \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ICONT} & \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textit{controversial} \\ \text{INST} & \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Explain what ARG is and that now ARG is shared with the synsem of the head.
JPK I did where (18) is introduced for the first time

(19)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{adv} & \\ \text{MOD} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} & \boxed{3}\textit{psoa} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ICONT} & \boxed{5} \\ \text{ECONT} & \boxed{5}\textit{psoa} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN} & \textit{potential} \\ \text{ARG} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \boxed{4} \\ \text{CONT } \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{MOD} \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG} \begin{bmatrix} \text{CONT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ECONT} \begin{bmatrix} \text{IND } \boxed{1} \\ \text{RESTR } \boxed{2} \ \& \ \boxed{6} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{ICONT } \boxed{6} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD|MOD} \begin{bmatrix} \text{ARG } \boxed{7} \\ \text{ECONT } \boxed{5} \\ \text{ICONT } \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT } \boxed{5} \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{potential} \\ \text{ARG } \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \boxed{7} \begin{bmatrix} \text{HEAD } \boxed{4} \\ \text{CONT } \boxed{3} \begin{bmatrix} \text{RELN } \textit{controversial} \\ \text{INST } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

renumber: there is 8 but no 6 or 7. Use top down, left right numbering scheme.
JPK: Ensured consecutive numbers but not total renumbering. Too many chances of introducing a mistake at this point with no benefit I can see :)

Figure 2: The meaning of *potentially controversial*

Critically, each kind of modifier specifies in its MOD|ECONT value the combinatorial effects it has on the meaning of the modifier and modified combination; the ECONT value contains that result and will be inherited as CONT value by the mother node. Intersective adjectives like *controversial* specify that their combinatorial effect is intersective, as shown in (18); conjectural adverbs like *potentially*, on the other hand, specify their CONT value as the result of applying their meaning to the CONT value of the modified sign. As shown in the left daughter of Figure 2, the resulting CONT value of *potentially* is identified by (17a) with its ICONT value (which is in turn lexically specified as identical with the ECONT value)

The lexical item for *potential* is missing. It would definitely be helpful.
JPK Good point: I added it!

when *potentially* combines as adjunct daughter with an intersective adjective such as *controversial* in a head-adjunct structure. Moreover, when the depicted phrase *potentially controversial* combines with a noun such as *plan* in another head-adjunct phrase, $\boxed{5}$ and $\boxed{6}$ in Figure 2 become identical, again by (17a), thereby also integrating the meaning of *potentially controversial* into the second conjunct of the ECONT|RESTR value of the depicted phrase. 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 in its ECONT, in combination with its ARG value, what it modifies (*plan*) and, ultimately, the CONT value of the entire phrase *potentially controversial plan*, thus ensuring that its intersectivity is preserved even 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. On Glue Semantics in LFG see also Wechsler & Asudeh (2021: Section ?? and ??), Chapter ?? of this volume.

4 Sorting semantic objects

One of the hallmarks of HPSG is that all grammatical objects are assigned a sort (see the chapters Abeillé & Borsley 2021: Section ?? and Richter 2021: Section ?? 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 Wechsler, Koenig & Davis (2021), Chapter ?? of this volume for details about argument structure and only provide an illustrative example here. Consider the constraint in (20) from Koenig & Davis (2003: 231). It says that all verbs that denote a causal change of state, i.e. verbs whose CONTENT values are of sort *cause-rel*, link their causer argument to an NP that is the first member of the ARG-ST list.

(20) $$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{content} & \begin{bmatrix} \textit{cause-rel} \\ \textsc{causer}\ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{arg-st} & \langle \textsc{np}, \ldots \rangle \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{arg-st} & \langle \textsc{np}_{\boxed{1}}, \ldots \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Critically, verbs like *frighten*, *kill*, and *calm* have as meanings a relation that is a subsort of *cause-rel* and are therefore 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.)

Constructional analyses that flourished in the late 1990s 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 its meaning is composed: direct object quantifiers, for example, are syntactic sisters of the verb, even when they have wide scope over a quantifier in subject position. 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 1990s 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 on 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 Wechsler, Koenig & Davis 2021, Chapter ?? of this volume) 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 in order to interface it with semantics. Of course, that was Montague's point already in the late 1960s and early 1970s (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-90s opened up new possibilities for modeling the interface between syntax and semantics. One of these possibilities is to organize families of informationally rich phrasal constructions into a multi-dimensional inheritance hierarchy

constructions or constructicons

JPK Good point; I reworded to make it clearer what we meant– hopefully it worked

so as 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 that Ginzburg and Sag propose is new in that it does not rely on the traditional Hamblin semantics for questions, namely that

the meaning of questions is the set of (exhaustive) answers; see Hamblin (1973) and Groenendijk & Stokhof (1997). Rather, the meaning of questions consists of 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 consists of 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). (21a) and (21b) provide examples of the meaning of *wh*-questions and polar questions, respectively (Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 137), where the AVM that follows ↦ is a description of the value of the CONTENT attribute of the expression that precedes ↦. Note that polar questions are modeled as zero-parameter propositional abstracts.

(21) a. Who left? ↦

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{question} \\ \textsc{params} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \textit{param} \\ \textsc{index}\ \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{restr}\ \{\text{person}(\boxed{1})\} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \\ \textsc{prop} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{proposition} \\ \textsc{sit}\ \ s \\ \textsc{soa} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{quants}\ \langle\rangle \\ \textsc{nucl} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{leave-rel} \\ \textsc{leaver}\ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

b. Did someone leave? ↦

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{question} \\ \textsc{params}\ \{\} \\ \textsc{prop} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{proposition} \\ \textsc{sit}\ \ s \\ \textsc{soa} \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{quants} \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \textit{some-rel} \\ \textsc{index}\ \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{restr}\ \{\text{person}(\boxed{1})\} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \textsc{nucl} \begin{bmatrix} \textit{leave-rel} \\ \textsc{leaver}\ \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

The quants in (20) was wrong. I added it as it was in GS.
JPK Thanks for noticing. Don't know where my mind was!

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, namely a proposition-cum-parameters, as shown in Figure 3. Crucially, questions are defined as a parameterized proposition.

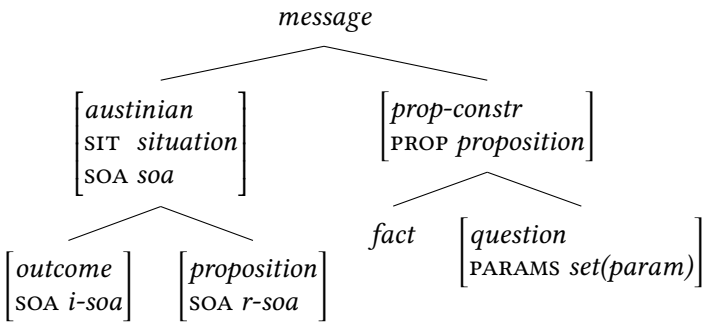

Figure 3: A hierarchy of sorts of messages

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 (22), 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 daughter nodes in (22a), and "…" in (22b) informally indicates the absence of constraints on daughters on the general *inter-cl* sort.

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

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

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 adds to the "traditional" subject-predicate construction a type-shift unary rule that maps a state of affairs description onto a proposition.

But (22) is a unary branching pumping rule.
JPK Good point. I expanded to make clear what we meant.

In other words, the analysis of clause types familiar from traditional grammar plays an explicit role in the grammar, as they are associated with a particular kind of semantic content. Interrogative clauses (clauses of sort *inter-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 *inter-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 for a study of the family of inversion constructions in English) 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. It is similar to some versions of Construction Grammar (see Müller 2021b, Chapter ?? of this volume), but 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).

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 those associated with *wh*-phrases that occur *in situ*. Consider the sentences in (23) and the difference in interpretation that they can receive. (The observation is due to Baker 1970; see Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 242–246 for discussion.) Sentence (23a) only has interpretation (24a) and, similarly, sentence (23b) has interpretation (24b).

(23) a. Who wondered *who* saw what?
b. Who wondered *what* was seen by who?

(24) 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 (23a) (*what* in (23b)) cannot outscope the embedded clause, but *what* in (23a) (*who* in (23b)) 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 (25) that requires the WH value of the filler to be a retrieved parameter (i.e. become part of the PARAMS set; $\uplus$ in the statement of the constraint stands for disjoint union, i.e. the intersection of the two sets is the empty 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 either to be retrieved in the clause in which they occur or to be retrieved in a higher clause.

(25) Filler Inclusion Constraint:
wh-inter-cl: $\left[\text{CONT}\ \left[\text{PARAMS}\ \{\boxed{1}\} \uplus \mathit{set}\right]\right] \rightarrow \left[\text{WH}\ \{\boxed{1}\}\right], \text{H}$

It should be noted that the combination of a constructional and a 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 (26) and (27) (from Ginzburg & Sag 2000: 270, (37) and 280 (63a)), a reprise and non-reprise use, respectively, of *in situ wh*-phrases.

(26) A: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from East Anglia.
B: Jo saw absolutely every shaman priest from WHERE.

(27) A: Well, anyway, I'm leaving.
B: OK, so you'll be leaving WHEN exactly?

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 will that of 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-inter-cl* construction defined in (28). One of the subsorts of this construction is the one involved in discourse (27) and defined

in (29) (the Independent Clause feature value "+" in (28) is meant to prevent *in situ* interrogatives from being 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.[4]

(28) *is-inter-cl*:

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

(29) *dir-is-inter-cl*:

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

6 Semantic underspecification

One of the hallmarks of constraint-based grammatical theories is the view that grammars involve *descriptions* of structures and that these descriptions can be non-exhaustive or 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-90s, the importance of distinguishing between descriptions and described structures began to be appreciated in HPSG's model of semantics, as discussed for example in Nerbonne (1993), in Frank & Reyle's HPSG implementation of Underspecified Discourse Representation Theory (Frank & Reyle 1992; 1995), and Copestake, Flickinger, Malouf, Riehemann & Sag (1995), and recent work has also stressed the importance of the same distinction when modeling inflectional morphology (see Crysmann & Bonami 2016 and Crysmann 2021: Section ??, Chapter ?? of this volume). Because underspecification, partiality, and the like are so critical to HPSG, their 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

[4] Müller (2015) argues that a surface-oriented grammar does not have to rely on a hierarchy of clause types to model the interaction of clause types and semantics: appropriate lexical specifications on verbs (as the heads of sentences) and phrasal principles that exploit the local internal structure of a sentence's immediate daughters can be used to achieve the same effects. See also Müller (2021a: Section ??), Chapter ?? of this volume.

conceptually related frameworks such as Lexical Functional Grammar (see Bresnan & Kaplan 1982, among others, and Wechsler & Asudeh 2021, Chapter ?? of this volume) or variants of Categorial Grammar (see Steedman 1996, among others, and Kubota 2021, Chapter ?? of this volume). 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 2004a,b 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 Semantics approach, does not 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 HPSG 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 dialogue that started in the early 90s (see Kay et al. 1994 for an overview of the Verb*mobil* 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 (30).

(30) a. $\lambda x.(\text{fierce}(x) \wedge (\text{black}(x) \wedge \text{cat}(x)))$
b. $\lambda x.(\text{cat}(x) \wedge (\text{black}(x) \wedge \text{fierce}(x)))$

These distinct semantic representations would make translating these simple nominal expressions from one language to the other difficult. 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. (31) and its underspecified and fully disambiguated semantic representations in (32) illustrate this informally and (33) 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 (33), the label of a formula is written before it and separated from it by a colon (e.g. h1:every(x,h3,h2)); variables over labels are simply labels that do not correspond (yet) to labels of formulas ($h2$ and $h6$).[5]

(31) Every dog chased some cat.

(32) a. $\text{every}_1(x, 3, n), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, m), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$

b. $\text{every}_1(x, 3, 4), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, 1), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$

c. $\text{every}_1(x, 3, 5), \text{dog}_3(x), \text{cat}_7(y), \text{some}_5(y, 7, 4), \text{chase}_4(e, x, y)$

(33) a. h1:every(x,h3,h2), h3:dog(x), h7:cat(y), h5:some(y,h7,h6), h4:chase(x,y)

b. $h2 =_{qeq} h4, h6 =_{qeq} h1$

c. $h2 =_{qeq} h5, h6 =_{qeq} h4$

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

[5] 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 without detailed lexicon" (p. 73); see Peldszus & Schlangen (2012) for how RMRS allows for the incremental construction of meaning representations in dialogue systems.

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 determined by an MRS 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 (32a) 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 meaning of the verb (namely, $chase_4(e, x, y)$) is outscoped by the nuclear scope or body of both generalized quantifiers, either constraint will fully determine the relative scope of all formulas in (32). Although it is possible to use a typed feature structure formalism to resolve scope ambiguities, Copestake et al. (1995: 309–311) argue that it is more efficient for the relevant resolution process not to be part of the grammar and be left to a separate algorithm.

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 of (1) a bag of relations or elementary predications (the value of RELS), (2) 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 elementary predications (the value of HCONS – for handle constraints). 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 (34).

(34)
$$\begin{bmatrix} mrs & \\ \textsc{hook} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{index} & index \\ \textsc{ltop} & handle \\ \textsc{gtop} & handle \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{rels} & list(relation) \\ \textsc{hcons} & list(qeq) \end{bmatrix}$$

Sentence (35) and its (underspecified) *mrs* representation in (36) illustrate how *mrs* structures can be used to capture scope underspecification (see Copestake et al. 2005: 306).

(35) Every dog probably sleeps.

(36)
$$\begin{bmatrix} mrs & \\ \textsc{hook} & \begin{bmatrix} hook & \\ \textsc{gtop} & \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{ltop} & \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{rels} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} every_rel & \\ \textsc{lbl} & \boxed{2} \\ \textsc{arg0} & \boxed{3} \\ \textsc{rstr} & \boxed{4} \\ \textsc{body} & handle \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} dog_rel & \\ \textsc{lbl} & \boxed{6} \\ \textsc{arg0} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} prbly_rel & \\ \textsc{lbl} & \boxed{5} \\ \textsc{arg1} & \boxed{7} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} sleep_rel & \\ \textsc{lbl} & \boxed{8} \\ \textsc{arg1} & \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ \textsc{hcons} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} qeq & \\ \textsc{harg} & \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{larg} & \boxed{5} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} qeq & \\ \textsc{harg} & \boxed{4} \\ \textsc{larg} & \boxed{6} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} qeq & \\ \textsc{harg} & \boxed{7} \\ \textsc{larg} & \boxed{8} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

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 (35) underspecified, it *does* constrain some scope relations, and the *mrs* in (36) 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 (35) quantifies over dogs; $\boxed{3}$ is the variable bound by the quantifier. And similarly, the value of ARG1 of *sleep_rel* is lexically constrained to correspond to the index of the subject, itself constrained to be identical to the value of ARG0 for the *dog_rel* predication (i.e. $\boxed{3}$). 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 LARG). Similarly, the restriction of *every_rel* is constrained to outscope *dog_rel* as $\boxed{4} =_{qeq} \boxed{6}$. 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. $\boxed{5}$ or $\boxed{8}$.

Examples that include multiple quantifiers work in a similar way. Take the sentence in (37) 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 $\boxed{1} =_{qeq} \boxed{3}$ and $\boxed{2} =_{qeq} \boxed{3}$, where the left-hand side of the equality corresponds to the HARG and the right-hand side to the LARG).[6] But we do not know if *every_rel* outscopes *some_rel* or the reverse; adding either HCONS $\boxed{1} =_{qeq} \boxed{2}$ or $\boxed{2} =_{qeq} \boxed{1}$ specifies which is the case. (This example illustrates that $=_{qeq}$ is not commutative, as it is meant to encode greater or equal scope.) Figure 4 provides a tree representation of the underspecified outscope relation induced by $=_{qeq}$ constraints; dashed lines indicate that there may be intervening semantic material between the operator and what it outscopes.

(37) Every dog chases some cat.

(38) $$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{every_rel} \\ \text{RESTR } \textit{handle} \\ \text{BODY } \boxed{1} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{some_rel} \\ \text{RESTR } \textit{handle} \\ \text{BODY } \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} \textit{chase_rel} \\ \text{LBL } \boxed{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Semantic composition within MRS is relatively simple and is stated in (39) (Copestake et al. 2005: 313–314); the third 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

[6] Copestake et al. (2005) do not explicitly require the nuclear scope of generalized quantifiers to outscope the predicate denoted by the verb they are syntactic dependents of. Since Lexical Resource Semantics does so, we include additional $\boxed{1} =_{qeq} \boxed{3}$ and $\boxed{2} =_{qeq} \boxed{3}$ constraints in the text and their effect in Figure 4 for ease of comparison. Nothing critical hinges on this issue.

Well, maybe this works without these constraints since quantifiers have to bind something and *chase* is the only option.

JPK Good point. Weirdly enoug, this is actually similar to the way embedded propositions work in LRS, I discovered since then

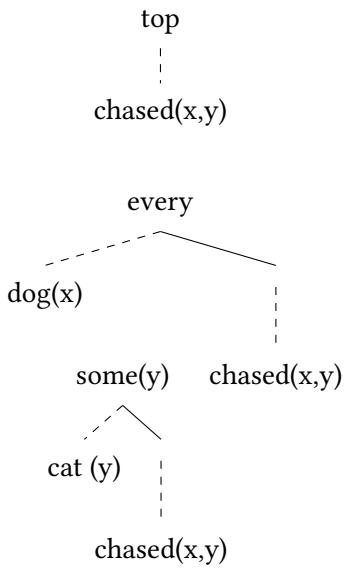

Figure 4: A graphical representation of the underspecified scope relations induced by $=_{qeq}$ constraints for sentence (37)

HOOK of the head daughter (Copestake et al. 2005 only discuss intersective and scopal constructions in their paper).[7]

(39)
1. The RELS value of a phrase is the concatenation (append) of the RELS values of the daughters.
2. The HCONS of a phrase is the concatenation (append) of the HCONS values of the daughters.
3. The HOOK of a phrase is the HOOK of the semantic head daughter, which is determined uniquely for each construction type.
4. One slot of the semantic head daughter of a phrase is identified with the HOOK in the other daughter.

This quite brief description of MRS illustrates what is attractive about it from an engineering point of view. Semantic composition is particularly simple: concatenation of lists (lists of elementary predications and constraints), percolation of

[7] A slot in (39–4) 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" (Copestake et al. 2005: 313).

the HOOK from the semantic head, and some general constraint on connectedness between the head daughter and the non-head daughter. Furthermore, resolving scope means adding $=_{qeq}$ constraints to a list of $=_{qeq}$, thus avoiding traversing the semantic tree to check on scope relations. Furthermore, a flat representation makes translation easier, as argued in Copestake et al. (1995), and has several other advantages from an engineering perspective as detailed in Copestake (2009). The ease flat representations provide comes at a cost, though, namely that semantic representations are cluttered with uninterpretable symbols (handles) and, more generally, do not correspond to sub-pieces of a well-formed formula. For example, we would expect the value of a quantifier restriction and nuclear scope to be, say, formulas denoting sets (as per Barwise & Cooper 1981), not pointers to or labels of predications. This is not to say that a compositional, "standard" interpretation of MRS structures is not possible (see, for example, Copestake et al. 2001); it is rather that the model-theoretic interpretation of MRS requires adding to the model hooks and holes, abstract objects of dubious semantic import. While it is true, as Copestake et al. point out, that abstract objects have been included in the models of other semantic approaches, DRT in particular (Zeevat 1989), abstract objects in compositional specifications of DRT and other such dynamic semantic approaches are composed of semantically interpretable objects. In the case of DRT, the set of variables (discourse referents) that form the other component of semantic representations (aside from predicative conditions) are anchored to individuals in the "traditional" model-theoretic sense. Holes and hooks, on the other hand, are not necessarily so anchored, as labels (handles) do not have any interpretation in the universe of discourse.

An example of the model-theoretic opacity of handles is provided by the compositional semantics of intersective attributive adjectives. The RELS value of *white horse*, for example, is as shown in (40) (after identification of the handles of the labels due to the meaning composition performed by the *intersective_phrase* rule that (intersective) adjectival modification is a subsort of).

(40) $$\begin{bmatrix} \text{RELS} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \textit{white_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{ARG0} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \textit{horse_rel} \\ \text{LBL} & \boxed{1} \\ \text{ARG0} & \boxed{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

The fact that the value of ARG0 is the same for both elementary predications ($\boxed{2}$) is model-theoretically motivated: both properties are predicated of the same individual. The fact that the value of LBL is identical ($\boxed{1}$) is also motivated if labels are used to help determine the scope of quantifiers; in a quantifier like *every white horse*, the content of *white* and *horse* conjunctively serve as the restriction of *every_rel* represented in (41).

(41) $\begin{bmatrix} \textit{every_rel} & \\ \textsc{restr} & \textit{handle} \\ \textsc{body} & \textit{handle} \end{bmatrix}$

But the identity of the two elementary predications' labels is not *directly* model-theoretically motivated. It is a consequence of the semantic representation language that is used to model the meaning of sentences, not a consequence of the sentences' truth conditions.

6.2 Lexical Resource Semantics

Whereas MRS emphasizes underspecification in semantic representations and expresses the syntax of underspecified representations in HPSG as typed feature structures, LRS focuses primarily on fine-grained linguistic analyses with explicit higher-order logics for meaning representation and utilizes underspecification prominently in the architecture of the syntax-semantics interface. Instead of encoding underspecified representations as denotations of grammar principles, it uses the feature logic itself as a tool for underspecifying fully specific logical representations in the symbolic languages of the literature on formal semantics. This means that a grammar with LRS semantics denotes sets of syntactic structures that comprise unambiguous meaning representations in a standard logical language, but it does so by means of underspecification in the grammar principles. By formulating very general ("underspecified") grammar principles which define the relationship between syntactic structure and semantic representation, LRS follows the lead of HPSG syntax. Grammar principles may admit a large number of structures, which in this case can be multiple semantic representations compatible with one and the same syntactic structure. An LRS analysis may then represent the readings of a sentence with two generalized quantifiers like (31), *every dog chased some cat* (repeated below as (42)) – i.e. the two readings shown in (43) – as distinct possible values of a semantics feature.

(42) Every dog chased some cat.

(43) a. $\forall\left(\lambda x.\mathrm{dog}_w(x), \lambda x.\exists\left(\lambda y.\mathrm{cat}_w(y), \lambda y.\mathrm{chase}_w(x,y)\right)\right)$
b. $\exists\left(\lambda y.\mathrm{cat}_w(y), \lambda y.\forall\left(\lambda x.\mathrm{dog}_w(x), \lambda x.\mathrm{chase}_w(x,y)\right)\right)$

The syntactic format of semantic representations is flexible and can be adapted to the purposes of the linguistic analysis at hand. While (43) chooses predicates with an argument for possible worlds, lambda abstraction over the unary predicates which translate the nominal arguments, and categorematic quantifiers of

type $\langle\langle et\rangle\ \langle\langle et\rangle\ t\rangle\rangle$, in many contexts less elaborate representations will suffice, and the two readings would be rendered in a notational variant of first order languages. Other phenomena might necessitate more semantic structure. The LRS framework makes a selection of choices available to linguists to decide what is most adequate to spell out a semantic analysis.

6.2.1 Basic architecture

Lexical items contribute semantic resources to utterances; every semantic representation of an utterance must use up all and only the semantic resources provided by the lexical items in the utterance in all their legitimate combinations.[8] What is legitimate is determined by semantic principles which restrict at each phrase how the semantic resources of its daughters may be combined. Anything these restrictions do not rule out is permitted. Scope ambiguities between co-arguments of a verb can be seen as arising from the lack of a principled restriction to the effect that one outscopes the other. In the absence of restrictions, LRS expects ambiguity. As a special property setting LRS apart from other semantic underspecification frameworks, LRS semantics exploits HPSG's notion of structure sharing in its semantic representations by permitting that semantic contributions of different lexemes may in fact be identical. For example, if two words in a clause contribute negation in their meaning, the two negations may in fact turn out to be the same negation, in which case we observe a negative concord reading. The implementation of this idea is based on the fundamental structure-sharing mechanism of HPSG, which is available throughout all levels of grammatical description.

The combinatorial semantics of phrases is encoded with structures of sort *lrs*:

(44) $$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{sem} & \begin{bmatrix} lrs & \\ \textsc{excont} & me \\ \textsc{incont} & me \\ \textsc{parts} & list(me) \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Signs have an attribute SEMantics with value *lrs*. External content (EXCONT) and internal content (INCONT) designate two prominent aspects of the semantics of signs. Both of these attributes have values of sort *meaningful_expression*, for short *me*. The attribute EXCONT contains a term that represents the meaning of the maximal syntactic projection of the sign and is built from semantic material contributed within the projection. The INCONT is that part of a lexical sign's

[8] Lexical items may be phrasal.

representation which is outscoped by any scope-taking operator that it combines with within its syntactic projection. The PARTS list records all semantic resources contributed by a given sign. The LRS Projection Principle in (45a) governs the percolation of these attribute values along the syntactic head path of phrases, whereas the EXCONT and INCONT Principles in (45b–c) determine the relationship of the respective attribute values to other semantic attribute values within local syntactic trees. The most important relationships are those of term identity and of subtermhood of one term relative to another or to some designated part of another term. Subterm restrictions are in essence similar to the *qeq* constraints of MRS.

(45) a. LRS Projection Principle
In each phrase,
1. the EXCONT values of syntactic head and mother are identical,
2. the INCONT values of syntactic head and mother are identical,
3. the list in the PARTS value contains all and only the elements of the PARTS values of the daughters.

b. INCONT Principle
In each *lrs*, the INCONT value is an element of the PARTS list and a component of the EXCONT value.

c. EXCONT Principle
First, in every phrase, the EXCONT value of the non-head daughter is an element of the non-head daughter's PARTS list. Second, in every utterance, every subexpression of the EXCONT value of the utterance is an element of its PARTS list, and every element of the utterance's PARTS list is a subexpression of the EXCONT value.

The Projection Principle guarantees the percolation of EXCONT and INCONT values along the head path of syntactic phrases, and it records the semantic resources available at each phrase based on the semantic contributions of their daughters (45a). The INCONT Principle and the EXCONT Principle manage the properties of the respective attribute values. The term with minimal scope of each lexeme must be contributed by the lexeme itself and must be semantically realized within the representation of the maximal syntactic head projection (45b). The maximal semantic meaning contribution of a maximal syntactic projection must originate from within that maximal projection, and an utterance (as a distinguished maximal projection) consists of all and only those pieces of semantic representation which are contributed by some lexeme in the utterance (45c). The meaning of an utterance is given by the semantic representation which is

its EXCONT value. An ambiguous utterance receives structural analyses that are potentially only distinguished by different EXCONT values of their root node.

The constraints in (45) take care of the integrity of the semantic combinatorics. The task of the clauses of the Semantics Principle is to regulate the semantic restrictions on specific syntactic constructions (as in all previously discussed versions of semantics in HPSG). A quantificational determiner, represented as a generalized quantifier, which syntactically combines as non-head daughter with a nominal projection, integrates the INCONT of the nominal projection as a subterm into its restrictor and requires that its own INCONT (containing the quantificational expression) be identical with the EXCONT of the nominal projection. This clause makes the quantifier take wide scope in the noun phrase and forces the semantics of the nominal head into the restrictor. In (43) we observe the effect of this clause by the placement of the predicate dog in the restrictor of the universal and the predicate cat in the restrictor of the existential quantifier.

Another clause of the Semantics Principle governs the combination of quantificational NP arguments with verbal projections. If the non-head of a verbal projection is a quantificational NP, the INCONT of the verbal head must be a subexpression of the scope of the quantifier. Since this clause does not require immediate scope, other quantificational NPs which combine in the same verbal projection may take scope in between, as we can again see with the two possible scopings of the two quantifiers in (43), in particular in (43b), where the subject quantifier intervenes between the verb and the object quantifier.

The local semantics of signs is split from the combinatorial *lrs* structures in parallel to the separation of local syntactic structure from the syntactic tree structure. The local semantics remains under the traditional CONTENT attribute, where it is available for lexical selection by the valence attributes. The LOCAL value of the noun *dog* illustrates the relevant structure:

(46)
$$\begin{bmatrix} \textit{local} & \\ \textsc{cat}|\textsc{spr} & \langle \text{Det}_{\boxed{1}} \rangle \\ \textsc{content} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{index}|\textsc{dr} & \boxed{1}\ \mathsf{x} \\ \textsc{main} & \mathsf{dog} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

The attribute DISCOURSE-REFERENT (DR) contains the variable that will be the argument of the unary predicate dog, which is the MAIN semantic contribution of the lexeme. The variable, x, does not come from the noun but is available to the noun by selection of the determiner by the valence attribute SPR. The subscripted tag $\boxed{1}$ on the SPR list indicates the identity of DR values of the determiner and the

nominal head *dog*. A principle of local semantics says that MAIN values and DR values are inherited along the syntactic head path.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{every, dog} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX}|\text{DR} & \boxed{2a}\ \mathsf{x} \\ \text{MAIN} & \boxed{3a}\ \mathsf{dog} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2}\forall \mathsf{x}\ (\phi,\psi) \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{3}\mathsf{dog(x)} \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{2a}, \boxed{2b}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{3a} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\& \ \boxed{3} \triangleleft \phi$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{every} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX}|\text{DR} & \boxed{2a}\ \mathsf{x} \\ \text{MAIN} & \boxed{2b}\ \forall \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{2}\forall \mathsf{x}\ (\phi,\psi) \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \forall, \mathsf{x}, \forall \mathsf{x}\ (\phi,\psi) \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{dog} \rangle \\ \text{SS}|\text{L} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT}|\text{SPR} & \langle \text{Det}_{\boxed{2a}} \rangle \\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX}|\text{DR} & \boxed{2a} \\ \text{MAIN} & \boxed{3a}\ \mathsf{dog} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{3}\mathsf{dog(x)} \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \mathsf{dog}, \mathsf{dog}(\boxed{2a}) \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 5: The semantics of *every dog*

The semantics of phrases follows from the interaction of the (lexical) selection of local semantic structures and the semantic combinatorics that results from the principles in (45) and the clauses of the Semantics Principle. For ease of readability, Figure 5 omits the lambda abstractions from the generalized quantifier, chooses a notation from first order logic, and does not make all structure sharings between pieces of the logical representation explicit. The head noun *dog* contributes (on PARTS, PTS), the predicate dog and the application of the predicate to a lexically unknown argument, $\boxed{2a}$, identical with the DR value of *dog*. As shown in (46), the DR value of the noun is shared with the DR value of the selected determiner, which is the item contributing the variable x to the representation. In addition, *every* contributes the quantifier and the application of the quantifier to its arguments. The clause of the Semantics Principle which restricts the combination of quantificational determiners with nominal projections identifies the INC of *every* with the EXC of *dog*, and requires that the INC of dog ($\boxed{3}$) be a subterm of the restrictor of the quantifier, ϕ (notated as '$\boxed{3} \triangleleft \phi$', conjoined to the AVM describing the phrase). The identification of the EXC and INC of *every*

follows from (45b–c). According to this analysis, the semantic representation of the phrase *every dog* is a universal quantification with dog(x) in the restrictor and unknown scope (ψ). The scope will be determined when the noun phrase combines with a verb phrase. For example, such a verb phrase could be *barks*, as in Figure 6. If its semantics is represented as a unary predicate bark, the predicate and its application to a single argument are contributed by the verb phrase, and local syntactic selection of the subject *every dog* by the verb *barks* identifies this argument as variable x, parallel to the selection of the quantifier's variable by *dog* above. The relevant clause of the Semantics Principle requires that bark(x) be a subterm of ψ, and the EXC, $\boxed{2}$, of the complete sentence receives the value ∀x (dog(x), bark(x)) as the only available reading in accordance with the EXCONT Principle.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{every, dog, barks} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MAIN} & \boxed{1a}\ \text{bark} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2}\forall x\ (\phi,\psi) \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{1}\text{bark}(x) \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{2a}, \boxed{2b}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{3a}, \boxed{1}, \boxed{1a} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\& \boxed{1} \triangleleft \psi$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{every, dog} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{INDEX}|\text{DR} & \boxed{2a}\ x \\ \text{MAIN} & \boxed{3a}\ \text{dog} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2}\forall x\ (\phi,\psi) \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{3}\text{dog}(x) \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{2a}, \boxed{2b}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{3a} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\& \boxed{3} \triangleleft \phi$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PHON} & \langle \text{barks} \rangle \\ \text{SS}|\text{L} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{SUBJ} & \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{2a}} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{CONT} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{MAIN} & \boxed{1a}\ \text{bark} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \text{SEM} & \begin{bmatrix} \text{EXC} & \boxed{2} \\ \text{INC} & \boxed{1}\text{bark}(x) \\ \text{PTS} & \langle \boxed{1a}\text{bark}, \boxed{1}\text{bark}(\boxed{2a}) \rangle \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

Is this the right caption? A tree is shown. Maybe "composition of semantics" or something like this. I removed VAL here and below for conistency.

JPK I see what you mean, Stefan, but composition introduces another set of problems. I think "semantics" is vague enough to capture what we say.

There is no $\boxed{1}$ in the figure. Renumber?

JPK Done!

Figure 6: The semantics of *every dog barks*

In Figure 6, the identity of the restrictor ϕ of the universal quantifier with $\boxed{3}$ dog(x) and of its scope ψ with $\boxed{1}$ bark(x) are determined at the utterance level

by the lack of other material that could be added to the two arguments of the quantifier. For example, an extraposed relative clause which belongs to *every dog* could consistently contribute its meaning representation to the restrictor, and only the absence of such additional semantic material leads to the inferred identity of $\boxed{3}$ with ϕ.

Underspecification of the structure of meaning representations in the clauses of the Semantics Principle and in lexical entries interacts with the possibility of structure sharing. If two pieces of meaning representation have the same shape and obey compatible structural conditions (as determined by relevant subterm constraints), they can be identical. Even stronger, in certain grammatical constellations, principles of grammar may even require their identity. Lexical underspecification of meaning contributions moreover permits the shared construction of functors such as the construction of a polyadic quantifier from several lexical items in a sentence. These two applications of LRS lead to new possibilities of semantic composition compared to standard compositional semantics in Mainstream Generative Grammar, because functors can be composed in (logical) syntax which cannot be semantically decomposed or cannot be decomposed within the structural limits of a surface-oriented syntax, i.e. a syntactic structure which only reflects syntactic but not semantic composition.

Consider the semantic representation of the Polish sentence *nikt nie przyszedł* 'nobody came' in Figure 7.

Negated finite verbs in Polish contribute a negation that must be realized within the verb's EXCONT ($\boxed{4b} \triangleleft \boxed{1}$) and outscopes the INCONT of the verb ($\boxed{4} \triangleleft \alpha$). Similarly, the existential quantifier of the n-word *nikt* 'nobody' is outscoped by negation ($\boxed{2} \triangleleft \beta$). However, in addition to the familiar restriction when the quantificational subject combines with the finite verb, Polish as a strict negative concord language requires that a negated finite verb be in the scope of at most one negation in its EXCONT, entailing identity of the two negations, $\boxed{2c} = \boxed{4b}$, and the single negation reading *nobody came* as the only admissible reading of the sentence shown in Figure 7. To capture obligatory negation marking on finite words in Polish, a second principle of negative concord rules that if a finite verb is in the scope of negation in its EXCONT, it must itself be a contributor of negation (Richter & Sailer 2004b: 316). The resulting EXCONT value in Figure 7 is $\neg\exists$ x (person(x), come(x)).

The idea of identifying contributions from different constituents in an utterance is even more pronounced in cases of unreducible polyadic quantification. The reading of (47a) in which each unicorn from a collection of unicorns has a set of favorite meadows that is not the same as the set of favorite meadows of any other unicorn is known to be expressible by a polyadic quantifier taking two

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{phon} & \langle \text{nikt, nie przyszedł} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \textsc{cont} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{main} & \boxed{4a}\ \text{come} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{sem} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{exc} & \boxed{1} \neg \exists x\ (\phi, \psi) \\ \textsc{inc} & \boxed{4} \text{come}(x) \\ \textsc{pts} & \langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{2a}, \boxed{2b}, \boxed{2c}, \boxed{3}, \boxed{3a}, \boxed{4}, \boxed{4a} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ & \& \ \boxed{4} \triangleleft \psi \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{phon} & \langle \text{nikt} \rangle \\ \ldots\ \textsc{cont} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{index}|\textsc{dr} & \boxed{2a}\ x \\ \textsc{main} & \boxed{3a}\ \text{person} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{sem} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{exc} & \boxed{2} \exists x\ (\phi, \psi) \\ \textsc{inc} & \boxed{3} \text{person}(x) \\ \textsc{pts} & \langle \boxed{2}, \boxed{2a}, \boxed{2b}, \boxed{2c} \neg \beta, \boxed{3}, \boxed{3a} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ & \& \ \boxed{3} \triangleleft \phi \ \& \ \boxed{2} \triangleleft \beta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \textsc{phon} & \langle \text{nie przyszedł} \rangle \\ \textsc{ss}|\textsc{l} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{cat} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{subj} & \langle \text{NP}_{\boxed{2a}} \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{cont} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{main} & \boxed{4a}\ \text{come} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \\ \textsc{sem} & \begin{bmatrix} \textsc{exc} & \boxed{1} \\ \textsc{inc} & \boxed{4} \text{come}(x) \\ \textsc{pts} & \langle \text{come}, \text{come}(\boxed{2a}), \boxed{4b} \neg \alpha \rangle \end{bmatrix} \\ & \& \ \boxed{4b} \triangleleft \boxed{1} \ \& \ \boxed{4} \triangleleft \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

Renumber top down? Starting with $\boxed{1}$ from left to right?
JPK No, too many chances of errors and not worth it for a purely aesthetic and kinda subjective issue :)

Figure 7: The meaning of Polish *nikt nie przyszedł* 'nobody came'

sets and a binary relation as arguments (47d), but it cannot be expressed by two independent monadic quantifiers (Keenan 1992).

(47) a. Every unicorn prefers different meadows.
b. different meadows: $(\gamma', \Delta)(\sigma_1, \lambda y.\text{meadow}(y), \lambda v_1 \lambda y.\rho')$
c. every unicorn: $(\forall, \gamma)(\lambda x.\text{unicorn}(x), \sigma_2, \lambda x \lambda v_2.\rho)$
d. $(\forall, \Delta)(\lambda x.\text{unicorn}(x), \lambda y.\text{meadow}(y), \lambda x \lambda y.\text{prefer}(x, y))$

(47) sketches the LRS solution to this puzzle in Richter (2016). The adjective *different* contributes an incomplete polyadic quantifier of appropriate type which integrates the representation of the nominal head of its NP into the second restrictor but leaves open a slot in the representation of its functor for another quantifier it must still combine with (47b). The determiner *every* underspecifies the realization of its quantifier in such a way that one of the possible representations yields (47c) for *every unicorn*, which is exactly of the right shape to be identified with the representation of *different meadows*, leading to the expression in (47d) for (47a). Lahm (2016) presents an alternative account of such readings with

different using Skolem functions which also hinges on LRS-specific techniques. Iordăchioaia & Richter (2015) study Romanian negative concord constructions and represent their readings using polyadic negative quantifiers; Lahm (2018) develops a lexicalized theory of plural semantics.

6.2.2 Representation languages and notational conventions

Any LRS grammar relies on an encoding of the syntax of an appropriate semantic representation language in the feature logic. In principle, any finitary logical language can be encoded in Relational Speciate Reentrant Language, which covers every language that has been proposed for meaning representations in linguistics. Work in LRS has so far been couched mostly in variants of Two-sorted Type Theory (Ty2, Gallin 1975) as one of the standard languages of formal semantics, or in Montague's Intensional Logic. The type system of these logical languages is useful for underspecified descriptions in semantic principles, since relevant groups of expressions can be generalized over by their type without reference to their internal structure. For example, a clause of the Semantics Principle can use the type of generalized quantifiers to distinguish quantificational complement daughters of verbal projections and state the necessary restrictions on how they are integrated with the semantics of the verbal head daughter, while other types of complement daughters are treated differently and may not even be restricted at all by a clause in the Semantics Principle in how they integrate with the verbal semantics. The latter is often the case with proper names and definite descriptions, which can be directly integrated with the semantics of the verb by lexical argument selection.

Encodings of semantic representations in feature logic are usually assumed as given by the background LRS theory. Examples of encodings can be found in Sailer (2000) and Richter (2004). Sailer (2000) offers a correspondence proof of the encoded structures with a standard syntax of languages of Ty2. As descriptions of logical terms in literal feature logic are very cumbersome to read and write and offer no practical advantage or theoretical insight, all publications use notational shortcuts and employ logical expressions with metavariables for their descriptions instead. As nothing depends on feature logical notation, the gain in readability outweighs any concerns about notational precision.

7 Conclusion

Semantics in HPSG underwent significant changes and variations over the past three decades, and the analyses couched in the different semantic theories were

concerned with a wide variety of semantic phenomena. Two common denominators of the approaches are the relative independence of syntactic and semantic structure in the sense that the syntactic tree structure is never meant to mirror directly the shape of the syntax of semantic expressions, and the use of HPSG-specific techniques to characterize semantic expressions and their composition along the syntactic tree structure. Of particular relevance here is the use of a rich sort hierarchy in the specification of semantic structures and the use of underspecification in determining their shape, as these two aspects of the HPSG framework play a prominent and distinguishing role in all semantic theories. The flexibility of these tools makes HPSG suitable for the integration of very diverse theories of meaning of natural languages while respecting representational modularity, i.e. the assumption that distinct kinds of information associated with strings (e.g. inflectional information, constituency, semantic information) are not reflected in a single kind of syntactic information, say tree configurations, as it typically is assumed to be in Mainstream Generative Grammar.

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