## A question of content

## April 15, 2017

This talk extends the system outlined in Elliott 2016, 2017 for embedded declaratives to embedded interrogatives. Elliott observes that the polysemy of embedding verbs such as *explain* is conditioned by the complement's semantic type. This is illustrated by the paradigm in (1). Elliott provides an explicit compositional account, based on the idea that a *that*-clause is of type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ , a DP headed by a content noun such as *fact* is of type e, and "propositional DPs" such as *the same thing* is type-flexible.

- (1) a. Jeremy explained [CP that Theresa has resigned]. explanans, \*explanandum
  - b. Jeremy explained [DP the fact that Theresa has resigned].

\*explanans, explanandum

c. John explained [DP the same thing].

explanans, explanandum

We show that similar arguments extend to interrogative complements. In the first part of the presentation we argue that the embeddability of propositional DPs like *the same thing* under verbs such as *wonder* undermines both Grimshaw's (1979) and Pesetsky's (1982) syntactic accounts of selectional properties of embedding predicates. In the second part, we develop ideas originally proposed by Kratzer (2006) and Moulton (2009) for embedded declaratives to embedded interrogatives. Specifically, we argue that interrogative clauses are headed by meaningful complementizers that take a set of propositions of type  $\langle st, t \rangle$ , and give back a property of individuals with *rogative* content, of type  $\langle e, t \rangle$ .

## References

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