

Formale Semantik

09. Tempus und Modalität

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Stets aktuelle Fassungen: <https://github.com/rsling/VL-Semantik>

1 Tense

2 Modality

3 Embedding

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- Get a first idea of why we need the *up* operator $\hat{}$.

Tense

- **present:** no operator (ϕ 'it is the case that ϕ ')

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• it was always the case... (**H** = \neg **P** $\neg\phi$)

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- $\llbracket PD(a) \rrbracket^{\mathcal{M}, w, i', g} = 1$

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- *What_i **did** you expect t_i?* vs. *Nani-o yokishi-**ta**-ka.*

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- $[_{TP} NP T VP] \Rightarrow [_{TP} T NP VP]$ (T raising)

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- there is **at least one** s.t. $\llbracket TP \rrbracket^{\mathcal{M}, w, i', g} = 1$

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- $V(\beta)$: non-relativized function for all β which are not a proper name
- $V(\beta)(\langle w, i \rangle)$: V evaluates β to a function from world-time pairs to the denotata of the predicate (sets of individuals, tuples of them, etc.)

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- shifts of evaluation time

	past ($R < S$)	present (R, S)	future ($S < R$)
anterior($E < R$)	$E < R < S$ <i>er war gegangen</i>	$E < R, S$ <i>er ist gegangen</i>	$S < E < R$ $S, E < R$ $E < S < R$ <i>er wird gegangen sein</i>
simple(E, R)	$E, R < S$ <i>er ging</i>	E, R, S <i>er geht</i>	$S < E, R$ <i>er wird gehen</i>
posterior($R < E$)	$R < E < S$ $R < S, E$ $R < S, E$ $R < S < E$ <i>*er würde gehen</i>	$R, S < E$ <i>er wird gehen</i>	$S < R < E$ <i>*er wird gehen werden</i>

- *A man was born who will be king.*

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- **affixes:** *Frau Eckardt is recogniz**able**.*

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- modal *Aux* in English is tense-insensitive (evidence for *Infl*)
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- in NL: evaluation of modal expressions against restricted **conversational backgrounds**

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The background

- different sets of possible worlds under consideration for different types of modal expressions
- different types of modality: different sets of admitted possible worlds
- we call the conversationally relevant background the set of $\langle w, i \rangle$ pairs relevant to the interpretation of the sentence

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- known facts narrow down the root background

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- statable in propositional form (ten commandments, law, ...)

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- such that **all** possible worlds are: $\bigcap g(\langle w, i \rangle)$

Embedding

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- CP (fully fledged sentence) receives theta role by *believe* under government.

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- **PRO, controlled** by the subject of *has plans*:
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- belief: $\langle w, i \rangle$ is an element of the proposition of CP

- value of propositional attitude (PA) verbs: functions $[\langle w, i \rangle \rightarrow \langle u_n, p \rangle]$ with $u_n \in U$, p a proposition (set of $\langle w_n, i_m \rangle$) and compatible to u_n 's background

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- $\hat{}$ rids us of the problem that the belief content looks truth-conditional (a sentence) but doesn't contribute to the embedding sentence's truth-value. PA verbs take intensions as arguments.

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- Only Ralph doesn't know.

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- false: since Ralph doesn't know that and in a way 'doesn't believe it'

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- at $\langle w, i \rangle$ the first individual in space (definitely Y.G.) is not Y.G. in an accessible world
- Names are rigid designators across world-time-pairs, definite descriptions aren't.

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- PRO must be interpreted, in our examples by coindexation with the matrix subject

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- *try(j, $\hat{\text{swim}}$)*

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