Chapter 6, DATABASE SYSTEMS Thomas Connolly et al.,

Enhanced Entity-Relationship Modeling Transparencies

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Chapter 6 - Objectives

- Limitations of basic concepts of the ER model and requirements to represent more complex applications using additional data modeling concepts.
- Most useful additional data modeling concepts of Enhanced ER (EER) model called:
 - specialization/generalization;
 - aggregation;
 - composition.



Chapter 12 - Objectives

 A diagrammatic technique for displaying specialization/generalization, aggregation, and composition in an EER diagram using UML.



Enhanced Entity-Relationship Model

- Since 1980s there has been an increase in emergence of new database applications with more demanding requirements.
- Basic concepts of ER modeling are not sufficient to represent requirements of newer, more complex applications.
- Response is development of additional 'semantic' modeling concepts.



The Enhanced Entity-Relationship Model

- Semantic concepts are incorporated into the original ER model and called the Enhanced Entity-Relationship (EER) model.
- Examples of additional concepts of EER model are:
 - specialization / generalization;
 - aggregation;
 - composition.



Superclass

• An entity type that includes one or more distinct subgroupings of its occurrences.

Subclass

 A distinct subgrouping of occurrences of an entity type.



- Superclass/subclass relationship is one-to-one (1:1).
- Superclass may contain overlapping or distinct subclasses.
- Not all members of a superclass need be a member of a subclass.



Attribute Inheritance

• An entity in a subclass represents same 'real world' object as in superclass, and may possess subclass-specific attributes, as well as those associated with the superclass.



Specialization

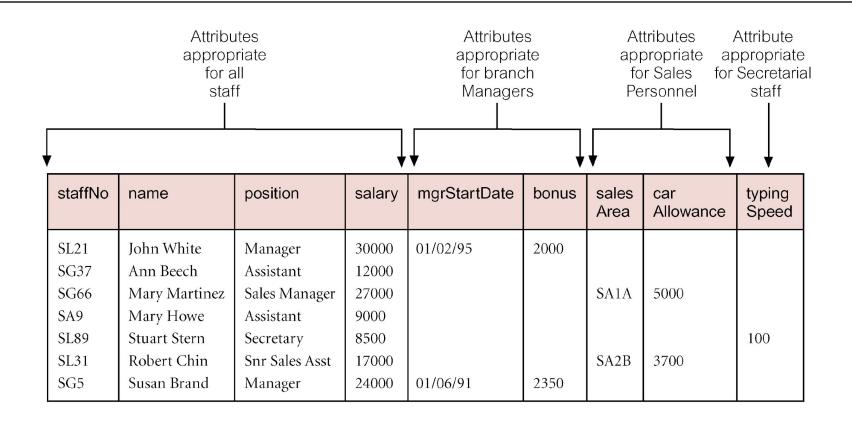
 Process of maximizing differences between members of an entity by identifying their distinguishing characteristics.

Generalization

 Process of minimizing differences between entities by identifying their common characteristics.

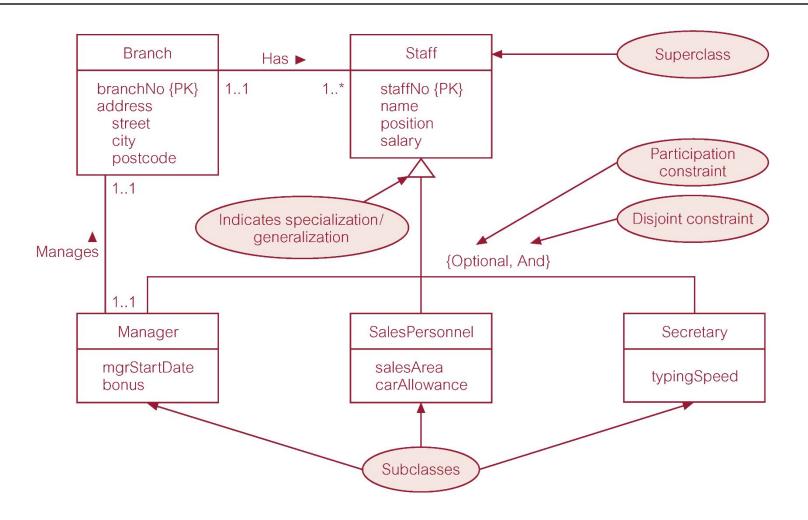


AllStaff Relation Holding Details of all Staff



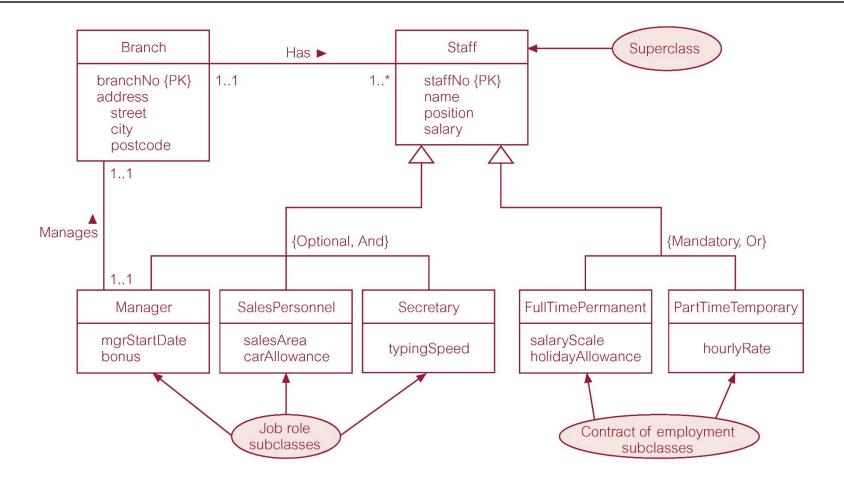


Specialization/Generalization of Staff Entity into Subclasses Representing Job Roles





Specialization/Generalization of Staff Entity into Job Roles and Contracts of Employment





EER Diagram with Shared Subclass and Subclass with its own Subclass

