Going beyond open access in an open access journal in linguistics

Kai von Fintel (MIT)
Co-editor of Semantics & Pragmatics
Semantics & Pragmatics

• One of the online-first open-access journals published by the Linguistic Society of America under its eLanguage initiative (headed by Dieter Stein)

• Rigorous peer review

• First call for papers in November 2007

• One article published, several under final revision
Beyond Open Access

• experimental materials and protocols
• multi-media components
• teaching materials
• ongoing commentary & replies
• [blog/forum discussions]
• [pre-publication peer feedback]
Experimental Materials

- Common practice now
- Supplemental materials
  - full data sets used in experiments
  - full documentation of experimental protocol
Multi-Media

- Audio files of example sentences
- "foreign" languages
- phonetic/phonological detail (focus)
- Videos of experiments
- Martin Hackl’s new “self-paced counting” technique (eye-tracking)
Teaching Materials

Interactive tutorial for `Donkey anaphora as in-scope binding`


This tutorial explores the formal system described in the paper Donkey anaphora is in-scope binding, by Chris Barker and Chung-chieh Shan. It includes some simple exercises that you can try on-line by typing in an expression and clicking on a button. (If the interactive parts don't work, make sure you have Javascript turned on in your browser.)

Please send comments, suggestions, bugs, or contributions to Chris dot Barker at NYU dot EDU.

Lesson 1: Simple categorial combination: C
Lesson 2: Lift: L
Lesson 3: Lower: D
Lesson 4: Binding and weak crossover: B
Lesson 5: Simple donkey anaphora: if

Lesson 1: Simple categorial combination: C

We begin with simple combinatorial categorial combination.

p. 8, (17):
(John left ) = John left
\((D\ P)\ \varepsilon\) = \(\epsilon\)

Page and example numbers refer to the paper. Here are the two lexical items involved:

\(\text{john: Syn: DP; Sem: j}\)
\(\text{left: Syn: (DP \varepsilon S); Sem: left}\)

The two-place operator \(C\) (which stands both for "Combine" and for "Continuation") combines a functor on the right with its argument on the left:

\(C(\text{John, left})\)

Click "try". The syntactic category computed for the complex expression (namely, "S") appears on the "Syn" line, and the semantic value ("left j") appears on the "Sem" line.
Ongoing Commentary

- After each article is published, we solicit short commentaries from relevant peer scientists.
- Commentaries are published after fast quality control by editors.
- Authors are encouraged to reply after a batch of commentaries are published.
We're considering hosting a discussion forum for each published article

Worries about noise
Currently, we encourage authors to post their original manuscript to their web pages and to disciplinary/institutional repositories (semanticsarchive.net).

Should we actually host submitted articles ourselves and facilitate prepublication discussion (concurrent with anonymous peer-review)?
Cf.

• http://semprag.org
• http://kaivonfintel.org
• fintel@mit.edu