

Note from the editor

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This special issue of Working Papers in Linguistics is a representative sample of semantic research at UCLA.

Papers in this collection address a diverse range of topics, from semantic compositionality (Keenan) to lexical semantics (Burnett, Feinsinger). The phenomena under study include vagueness (Burnett), presupposition (Kapitonov), quantification (Keenan), coordination (Paperno), modality (Rett), and focus (Torregrossa).

UCLA has a noble tradition of interaction between linguistic semantic research and the philosophy of language. At UCLA, both philosophers such as Richard Montague and David Lewis, and linguists such as Edward Keenan, Terrence Parsons, and Barbara Partee, made contributions to the understanding of natural language semantics which are relevant for linguists and philosophers alike. This collection, too, follows this tradition. The reader will find an interdisciplinary spectrum, from more descriptively oriented papers in linguistic semantics (Paperno, Rett) to fundamental studies in philosophy of language (Burnett, Feinsinger).

Heather Burnett analyzes adjective meanings and develops an original theory of vagueness and gradability across adjective classes. She argues against a separate notion of imprecision, in addition to the notion of vagueness. Instead, Burnett refines the very notion of vagueness based on the Tolerant, Classical, Strict logical framework (Cobrerros, Égré, Ripley, and van Rooij 2010).

The paper by Ashley Feinsinger investigates the structure of mental lexicon. Feinsinger argues, contra Fodor and Lepore (1997), that lexical meanings are complex, i.e. that there's more to lexical meaning than pure denotational meaning. Evidence includes negative polarity phenomena, animacy effects in grammar, and more.

Ivan Kapitonov proposes a new analysis of the meaning of *too*. Kapitonov's account has two components, semantic and pragmatic. The semantic part of the analysis is grounded in the framework of dynamic logic.

Edward Keenan argues against Quantifier Raising as an approach to semantic composition of quantified noun phrases. Keenan proposes to treat generalized quantifiers as arity reducers, making Quantifier Raising unnecessary. The paper presents several arguments for treating quantified NPs in the object position *in situ*.

Denis Paperno describes patterns of comitative coordination in Q'anjob'al (Mayan).

He proposes to analyze sentential uses of comitative coordination as an extension of sum formation, presumably equivalent to JOIN combination in Mann and Thompson (1988). The proposal helps explain special discourse properties of sentential comitative coordination.

Jessica Rett scrutinizes epistemic modals in their subjective (speaker-oriented) interpretation. She argues, contra Papafragou (2006), that some idiosyncratic properties of subjectively interpreted modals aren't due to indexicality to speaker and time of utterance. Rett proposes an alternative analysis using the notion of (un)determinate modal bases.

The paper by Jacopo Torregrossa discusses two focus constructions in Italian, Information Focus and Contrastive Focus. Torregrossa contrasts Italian data to related constructions in Hungarian, as studied in Horvath (2010), and attempts to explain the observed contrasts between Italian and Hungarian through difference in the domains of exhaustification.

Let me finish this short introduction with a list of people who helped prepare this collection. Joe Buffington, Heather Burnett, Ashley Feinsinger, Ivan Kapitonov, Denis Paperno, and Jessica Rett helped to review papers in this volume. Thomas Graf provided technical guidance and organizational advice. I am grateful to all the persons mentioned.

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