

Keywords Lectures 4, 5, 6, 7

Lecture 4. Formal semantics and the lexicon. Meaning postulates. Adjective meanings.

Model structures and natural language metaphysics (наивная картина мира)
Axioms, axiomatizable class of models, theories
Meaning postulates
Regarding a sentence or text as a theory
Adjectives: intersective, subsective, nonsubsective, privative
Vagueness and context-dependence
Coercion
The *fake gun* problem

Lecture 5. Semantics of the genitive construction, types, and sorts.

Types, sorts
Relational nouns (“transitive common nouns”)
Lexical relations, contextual relations
Metonymic meaning-shifts, sort-shifting

Lecture 6. Compositionality, context-dependence, and meaning shifts.

Compounds vs. modifiers
Coercion of noun meanings in construction with genitive, with *favorite*
Type-shifting vs. sort-shifting
The *stone lion* problem

Lecture 7. Noun phrases and generalized quantifiers

Function-argument structure
Function-argument application
Relations and functions
Currying (Schönfinckeling) a 2-argument function into a 1-argument function that gives another 1-argument function as its value
Quantifying in (in Lecture 3, but we didn’t discuss it then)
Determiners as relations between sets
Determiners as functions from sets to sets of sets
Conservative
Barwise and Coopers’s conservativity universal: all natural language determiners are conservative.
Keenan: conservativity and Boolean structure
Weak and strong determiners; positive strong and negative strong.
Existential sentences
Existential determiners
Symmetric determiners
Keenan: existential determiners = symmetric determiners
How to test for weak and strong in Russian?