Lecture 1: Introduction to Formal Semantics and Compositionality

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Optional:

LOOK AT THE WEBSITE FOR THE COURSE:
https://udrive.oit.umass.edu/partee/HSE_Web_14/
 – Become familiar with it. It will be revised and updated during the semester.
   • The front page gives the basics – time, place, short description, plus current announcements.
   • The “Description” page explains the course requirements and gives a fuller description.
   • The “Materials” page, revised weekly, gives a week-by-week schedule of topics, with links to handouts, to the most important readings (downloadable), and to the homework.
   • The “Resources” page contains useful downloads and useful links, for this course, and for semantics and pragmatics, and for linguistics in general. One important document available there, which will be updated during the semester, is “Links to Readings 2014”, which will contain links to all downloadable readings related to this course, and more.

Bring next time or send by e-mail: “Anketa” = Homework No. 0. It is available online: https://udrive.oit.umass.edu/partee/HSE_Web_14/materials/Anketa.doc

Note: If you missed the first lecture and/or seminar: Please study this handout, and try to do some of the homework we did together in Seminar and send it to me by e-mail. Answer the questions on http://people.umass.edu/partee/HSE_Web_14/materials/Sample_exercise_1.pdf, study Exercise 2 of Appendix 2, and in Exercise 3 try to do (b) and (c) and the first three steps of (d).
1. Compositional Semantics and Pragmatics

1.1. The Principle of Compositionality.

A basic starting point of generative grammar: there are infinitely many sentences in any natural language, and the brain is finite, so linguistic competence must involve some finitely describable means for specifying an infinite class of sentences. That is a central task of syntax.

Semantics: A speaker of a language knows the meanings of those infinitely many sentences, is able to understand a sentence he/she has never heard before or to express a meaning he/she has never expressed before. So for semantics also there must be a finite way to specify the meanings of the infinite set of sentences of any natural language.

A central principle of formal semantics is that the relation between syntax and semantics is compositional.

The Principle of Compositionality: The meaning of an expression is a function of the meanings of its parts and of the way they are syntactically combined.

Each of the key terms in the principle of compositionality is a “theory-dependent” term, and there are as many different versions of the principle as there are ways of specifying those terms. (meaning, function, parts (syntax)). We’ll discuss the history of this notion later.

Some of the different kinds of things meanings could be in a compositional framework:

(a) (early Katz and Fodor) Representations in terms of semantic features. bachelor: [+HUMAN, +MALE, +ADULT, +NEVER-MARRIED (?!)]. Semantic composition: adding feature sets together. Problems: insufficient structure for the representations of transitive verbs, quantifiers, and many other expressions; unclear status of uninterpreted features.

(b) Representations in a “language of thought” or “conceptual representation” (Jackendoff, Jerry Fodor); if semantics is treated in terms of representations, then semantic composition means compositional translation from a syntactic representation to a semantic representation.

(c) The logic tradition: Frege, Tarski, Carnap, Montague. The basic meaning of a sentence is its truth-conditions: to know the meaning of a sentence is to know what the world must be like if the sentence is true. Knowing the meaning of a sentence does not require knowing whether the sentence is in fact true; it only requires being able to discriminate between situations in which the sentence is true and situations in which the sentence is false.

Starting from the idea that the meaning of a sentence consists of its truth-conditions, meanings of other kinds of expressions are analyzed in terms of their contribution to the truth-conditions of the sentences in which they occur.


In formal semantics, truth-conditions are expressed in terms of truth relative to various parameters — a formula may be true at a given time, in a given possible world, relative to a certain context that fixes speaker, addressee, etc., and relative to a certain assignment of meanings to its atomic “lexical” expressions and of particular values to its variables. For simple formal languages, all of the relevant variation except for assignment of values to variables is incorporated in the notion of truth relative to a model. Semantics which is based on truth-conditions is called model-theoretic.
Compositionality in the Montague Grammar tradition:
The task of a semantics for language L is to provide truth conditions for every well-formed sentence of L, and to do so in a compositional way. This task requires providing appropriate model-theoretic interpretations for the parts of the sentence, including the lexical items.

The task of a syntax for language L is (a) to specify the set of well-formed expressions of L (of every category, not only sentences), and (b) to do so in a way which supports a compositional semantics. The syntactic part-whole structure must provide a basis for semantic rules that specify the meaning of a whole as a function of the meanings of its parts.

Basic structure in classic Montague grammar:
(1) Syntactic categories and semantic “types”: For each syntactic category there must be a uniform semantic type. One possible hypothesis: sentences express propositions, nouns and adjectives express properties of entities, verbs express properties of events.

(2) Basic (lexical) expressions and their interpretation. Some syntactic categories include basic expressions; for each such expression, the semantics must assign an interpretation of the appropriate type. Within the tradition of formal semantics, most lexical meanings are left unanalyzed and treated as if primitive; Montague regarded most aspects of the analysis of lexical meaning as an empirical rather than formal matter; formal semantics is concerned with the types of lexical meanings and with certain aspects of lexical meaning that interact directly with compositional semantics, such as verbal aspect. But much has been done since then about lexical meanings; that was the focus of my MGU course in 2013.

(3) Syntactic and semantic rules. Syntactic and semantic rules come in pairs:

Syntactic Rule n: If \(\alpha\) is an expression of category A and \(\beta\) is an expression of category B, then \(F(\alpha, \beta)\) is an expression of category C. [where \(F_i\) is some syntactic operation on expressions]

Semantic Rule n: If \(\alpha\) is interpreted as \(\alpha'\) and \(\beta\) is interpreted as \(\beta'\), then \(F(\alpha, \beta)\) is interpreted as \(G_k(\alpha', \beta')\). [where \(G_k\) is some semantic operation on semantic interpretations]

1.3. Semantics and pragmatics
The logico-philosophical tradition divides semiotics (the study of signs, applicable to both natural and constructed languages) into syntax, semantics, and pragmatics (Morris 1938). On this classic view, syntax concerns properties of expressions, such as well-formedness; semantics concerns relations between expressions and what they are "about" (typically "the world" or some model), such as reference and truth conditions; and pragmatics concerns relations between expressions and their uses in context, such as informativeness and conversational implicature. Many have challenged the autonomy of semantics from pragmatics implied by the traditional trichotomy, arguing that reference and truth-conditions themselves often depend on context. We may revisit these issues in future lectures.

2. Linguistic Examples.
(See also the Larson chapter) These are examples of the kinds of problems that we will be able to solve with the tools of formal semantics and pragmatics. The third set raises questions about anaphora; we’ll come back to that topic starting in Week 5.

2.1. The structure of DPs with restrictive relative clauses.
Consider DPs such as “the boy who loves Mary”, “every student who dances”, “the doctor who treated Mary”, “no computer which uses Windows”. Each of these DPs has 3 parts: a
determiner (DET), a common noun (N), and a relative clause (RC). The question is: Are there semantic reasons for choosing among three different possible syntactic structures for these DPs?

a. Flat structure:

```
  DP
  /|
 DET N   RC
 /|
the  boy who loves Mary
```

b. “DP - RC” structure: The relative clause combines with a complete DP to form a new DP.

```
  DP
  /|
 DP   RC
 /|
 DET N who loves Mary
 /|
the  boy
```

c. “NP - RC” structure: (NP: common noun phrase: common noun plus modifiers)

```
  DP
  /|
 DET NP
 /|
the NP
 /|
 N who loves Mary
 /|
boy
```

Argument: we can argue that compositionality requires the third structure: that “boy who loves Mary” forms a semantic constituent with which the meaning of the DET combines. We can show that the first structure does not allow for recursivity, and that the second structure cannot be interpreted compositionally. (The second structure is a good structure to provide a basis for a compositional interpretation for non-restrictive relative clauses.)

### 2.2. Phrasal and sentential conjunction.

Consider the following equivalent and non-equivalent pairs, where the first sentence has phrasal conjunction (VP-conjunction, in particular) and the second has sentential conjunction (S-conjunction). The puzzle is to explain why some examples are semantically equivalent and some are not, although in each case the surface syntactic relation is the same.
John sings and dances = John sings and John dances
One boy sings and dances ≠ One boy sings and one boy dances
Every boy sings and dances = Every boy sings and every boy dances
No boy sings and dances ≠ No boy sings and no boy dances

We will need two parts to solve this puzzle: (i) the syntax and semantics of sentential and phrasal conjunction, particularly the question of how they are related; and (ii) the semantics of the Determiners one, every, no (and others), as well as of simple DPs like John.

There are some very strong and robust universals concerning the semantics of phrasal and sentential conjunction, which we may or may not study later this semester. One place you can read about it is in Partee and Rooth (1983).

2.3. A classic anaphora puzzle: “Strict and sloppy identity”.

The sentence John loves his wife has one obvious ambiguity – “his” can mean “John’s”, or it can have a referent outside the sentence – someone else that we have been talking about, for instance Max. Such an ambiguity is sometimes notated as follows:

(1) John loves his\textsubscript{i} wife. (i.e. his can have the same “referential index” as John or a different one.)

But the ambiguity of the (2) raises a further puzzle. (2) involves “VP (Verb Phrase) anaphora”: “so does” is anaphoric to the VP of the first sentence, “loves his wife”.

(2) John loves his wife and so does Bill. Possible interpretations:
   (i) John loves Max’s wife, and Bill loves Max’s wife. (“loves his\textsubscript{i} wife”, he\textsubscript{i} = Max)
   (ii) John loves John’s wife, and Bill loves John’s wife. (“loves his\textsubscript{i} wife”, he\textsubscript{i} = John)
   (iii) John loves John’s wife, and Bill loves Bill’s wife. (?? “loves self’s wife”? )

The contrast between (ii) and (iii) arises even when the first clause seems to unambiguously say that John loves John’s wife. Is that first clause actually ambiguous? In what way?

The readings in (i) and (ii) are called “strict identity” readings, and (iii) “sloppy identity”. Why “sloppy”? (It’s J.R. Ross’s term; he was the first to discuss the phenomenon, in Ross (1967)) Because there isn’t always exact morpho-syntactic identity; cf. (3).

(3) John can stand on his head, and Mary can too. (= “can stand on her head too”)

Keenan, Partee, and others argued that so-called “sloppy identity” is strict semantic identity involving bound variable readings of pronouns. We’ll study this in Lecture 5 and beyond.

3. Formal Semantics in Logic and Linguistics

3.1. English as a Formal Language.

R. Montague 1970, “English as a Formal Language” argued that the syntax and semantics of natural languages could be treated by the same kinds of techniques used by logicians to specify the syntax and model theoretic semantics of formal languages such as the predicate calculus\textsuperscript{1}. (He thus rejected a shared assumption during a period when philosophers of language were engaged in a “war” concerning “ordinary language” vs. “formal languages.”)

\textsuperscript{1}“I reject the contention that an important theoretical difference exists between formal and natural languages. ... In the present paper I shall accordingly present a precise treatment, culminating in a theory of truth, of a formal language that I believe may reasonably be regarded as a fragment of ordinary English. ... The treatment given here will be found to resemble the usual syntax and model theory (or semantics) [due to Tarski] of the predicate calculus, but leans rather heavily on the intuitive aspects of certain recent developments in intensional logic [due to Montague himself].” (Montague 1970b, p.188 in Montague 1974)
This is a basic thesis of formal semantics. With “Montague grammar” the logical and linguistic perspectives gradually came together, although of course from a linguist’s perspective there are very big differences between formal and natural languages, and linguists had to develop additional formal tools to do justice to the analysis of natural languages.

In the first few lectures, an introduction to formal semantics, we will try to answer the following questions:

- What is a formal language?
- What features of formal languages are most important for formal semantics?
- What makes a grammar of a formal language “compositional” (or not)?

As the semester progresses, we will get into substance and history of some harder questions:

- What are the main differences between “artificial” formal languages and natural language?
- For what parts of “real” natural language semantics has formal semantics offered useful tools for linguistic research? For what parts were theoretical innovations needed?
- How does formal semantics contribute to the study of anaphora and its typology? How have puzzles concerning anaphora led to theoretical innovations in semantics?

3.2. Example. Syntax and semantics of the predicate calculus (PC).

Predicate Calculus is the most well known and in a sense the prototypical example of a formal language. We use it to demonstrate features of formal languages which are most important for us: the notions of model and model-theoretic semantics, and the Principle of Compositionality.

Here we give some examples and remarks. More exact definitions are given in Appendix 1.

The sentences *John loves Mary* and *Everyone whom Mary loves is happy* can be represented as formulas of PC:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{John loves Mary} & \quad \text{love (John, Mary)} \\
\text{Everyone whom Mary loves is happy} & \quad \forall x (\text{love(Mary, } x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))
\end{align*}
\]

*Formulas* and other *expressions* of PC are built from individual constants (or simply “constants”), (individual) variables, predicate constants (or predicate symbols), logical connectives and quantifiers. Each expression belongs to a certain *type*. The type structure of PC is very simple: individuals, relations of different arities (unary, binary, etc.), and truth-values.

In our examples we use the following expressions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expressions</th>
<th>Syntactic categories</th>
<th>Semantic Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John, Mary</td>
<td>(individual) constant</td>
<td>individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>variable</td>
<td>individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happy</td>
<td>unary predicate constant</td>
<td>unary relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>love</td>
<td>binary predicate constant</td>
<td>binary relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{love (John, Mary)}</td>
<td>{</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{love(Mary, x)}</td>
<td>{ formulas</td>
<td>truth-values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{happy(x)}</td>
<td>{</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\forall x (\text{love(Mary, } x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))</td>
<td>{</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expressions are interpreted in models. The structure common to all of the models in which a given language is interpreted (the model structure for the model-theoretic interpretation of the given language) reflects certain basic presuppositions about the “structure of the world” that are implicit in the language. For PC, any given model structure consists of the set of truth-values \{0,1\}, a domain \(D\) which is some set of objects (or entities), and some \(n\)-ary relations on this set.

A model, or interpreted model, consists of a model structure plus a (“lexical”, or “basic”) interpretation function \(I\) which assigns semantic values to all constants.

\[ M = <D, I> \]

An interpretation \(\|\) \(M\), built up recursively on the basis of the basic interpretation function \(I\), assigns to every expression \(\alpha\) its semantic value \(\|\alpha\|_M\) in a given model \(M\). (More precisely, \(\|\alpha\|_{M,g}\).) These semantic values must correspond to the types of the expressions. Thus, in our examples to the individual constants John and Mary are assigned certain objects, individual variables take their values in the set of objects (entities), to the predicate constant love is assigned a binary relation \(\|\text{love}\|_M\), and to the predicate constant happy, a unary relation (property) \(\|\text{happy}\|_M\). Formulas receive truth values. The formula love (John, Mary) is true in the model \(M\) if the pair of objects corresponding to the constants John and Mary belongs to the relation \(\|\text{love}\|_M\).

The formula \(\forall x(\text{love}(\text{Mary},x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))\) is true in \(M\) iff:

for every object \(d\) in the domain,

\[ d \in \|\text{happy}\|_M \text{ if } <\|\text{Mary}\|_M, d> \in \|\text{love}\|_M. \]

Restating the last statement more carefully and more generally requires talking about semantic values relative to a model and an assignment \(g\) of values to variables.

The notation \(g[d/x]\) means: The variable assignment which is identical to \(g\) except for the (possible) difference that \(g[d/x]\) assigns the individual \(d\) to the variable \(x\).

The complication of needing to talk about \(g[d/x]\) comes from formulas with more than one variable, like:

\[ \forall x \exists y(\text{love}(y, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(y)) \text{ and } \exists y \forall x(\text{love}(y, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(y)). \]

– See the practice exercises at the end.

So let us restate more carefully, according to the semantics given in Appendix 1, the truth conditions for the formula: \(\forall x(\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))\):

\[ \|\forall x(\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))\|_{M,g} = 1 \text{ iff:} \]

for each \(d\) in \(D\),

\[ \text{if } <\|\text{Mary}\|_{M,g[d/x]}, x \|_{M,g[d/x]} > \in \|\text{love}\|_{M,g[d/x]}, \text{ then } \|x\|_{M,g[d/x]} \in \|\text{happy}\|_{M,g[d/x]}. \]

For each constant \(\alpha\), \(\|\alpha\|_{M,g[d/x]} = I(\alpha)\).

And for any variable \(x\), \(\|x\|_{M,g[d/x]} = g[d/x](x) = d\). So the condition above is equivalent to:

\[ \text{iff: for each } d \text{ in } D, \]

\[ \text{if } I(\text{Mary}), d > \in I(\text{love}), \text{ then } d \in I(\text{happy}). \]

Example

Let us consider a very simple PC language which has (as in the formulas above) only two constants John and Mary and two predicate symbols love (binary) and happy (unary).

Let us consider three models, \(M_1\), \(M_2\), and \(M_3\):
M1 = <D, I1>, D = {j,m},
I1(John) = j, I1(Mary) = m,
I1(love) = {<j,j>,<j,m>,<m,m>,<m,j>}, I1(happy) = {j,m},

M2 = <D, I2>, D = {j,m},
I2(John) = j, I2(Mary) = m,
I2(love) = {<j,j>,<m,j>}, I2(happy) = {m}.

M3 = <D, I3>, D = {j,m,b},
I3(John) = j, I3(Mary) = m,
I3(love) = {<j,m>,<m,b>,<b,b>}, I3(happy) = {b}.

It is easy to see that both formulas love(John, Mary) and love(Mary, John) are true in M1 but only the second one is true in M2. What about in M3?

The formula ∀x(∀y(love(Mary, x) → happy(x))) is true in M1. But it is false in M2, since for the evaluation g such that g(x) = j we have ∥∀y(love(Mary, x))∥M2,g = 1 and ∥happy(x)∥M2,g = 0.

What about in M3?

The semantics of PC illustrates the Principle of Compositionality.
As we know the infinite set of formulas of PC are built from terms (individual variables and constants) and predicate symbols by recursive syntactic rules (rules R1—R8 in Appendix 1). The semantics of these formulas – their interpretation in every given model -- is defined by semantic rules S1 – S8, which correspond in a direct way to the syntactic rules. The semantics of the whole is based on the semantics of parts by means of this pairing of semantic interpretation rules with syntactic formation rules. See trees 1 and 2 in the “practice exercise” in APPENDIX 2. This is a very important feature of every formal language -- The Principle of Compositionality – and it is natural to think that this principle holds also for natural language.

3.3. “Logical form”, or semantically relevant syntax.
What is the interpretation of “every student”? There is no appropriate syntactic category or semantic type in predicate logic. Predicate logic has many wonderful properties, but we will argue that it is inadequate for representing the semantic structure of natural language.

In the next lectures, we will see how a logic built on a richer type theory including the tools of the lambda-calculus can provide a richer formal semantics that can more adequately represent the structure of natural language semantics in a compositional way.

APPENDIX 1. Syntax and semantics of the predicate calculus (PC).

SYNTAX.
Syntactic Categories: terms (Term), 1-place predicates (Pred-1), 2-place predicates (Pred-2), ..., n-place predicates (Pred-n), formulas (Form).

Basic Expressions:
Basic Term(s): (i) (individual) variables: x, y, z, x₁, y₁, z₁, x₂, ...
(ii) (individual) constants: a,b,c, a₁, John, Mary, ...

Basic Pred-1: run, walk, happy, calm, ...
Basic Pred-2: love, kiss, like, see, ...

Basic Form(ulas): — (none)
**Syntactic Rules:**

R1: If \( P \in \text{Pred}-1 \) and \( T \in \text{Term} \), then \( P(T) \in \text{Form} \).

R2: If \( R \in \text{Pred}-2 \) and \( T_1, T_2 \in \text{Term} \), then \( R(T_1, T_2) \in \text{Form} \).

More general rule: If \( R \in \text{Pred}-n \) and \( T_1, ..., T_n \in \text{Term} \), then \( R(T_1, ..., T_n) \in \text{Form} \)

R3: If \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \lnot \alpha \in \text{Form} \).

R4: If \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \) and \( \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( (\alpha \land \psi) \in \text{Form} \).

R5: If \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \) and \( \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( (\alpha \lor \psi) \in \text{Form} \).

R6: If \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \) and \( \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( (\alpha \to \psi) \in \text{Form} \).

R7: If \( v \) is a variable and \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \forall v \alpha \in \text{Form} \).

R8: If \( v \) is a variable and \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \exists v \alpha \in \text{Form} \).

**SEMANTICS.**

**Model structure:**

Domain \( D \) of entities (individuals)

Truth values \{True, False\} or \{1,0\}

I: Interpretation function which assigns semantic values to all constants (in Term and in Pred-1, Pred-2, ... Pred-n)

\( M = <D, I> \)

Set \( G \) of assignment functions \( g \), functions from variables to \( D \).

**Semantic Types assigned to Syntactic Categories:**

Term: entities, individuals. The semantic values of this type are the members of \( D \).

Pred-1: sets (of entities). Semantic values of this type are members of \( \wp(D) \).

(\( \wp(D) \) is the power set (the set of all subsets) of \( D \)).

Pred-2: relations between entities (sets of pairs). Values: members of \( \wp(D \times D) \).

Pred-n: \( n \)-place relations; sets of \( n \)-tuples of entities. Values: members of \( \wp(D \times ... \times D) \).

Form: Truth values. Values: members of \{0,1\}.

**Semantic interpretation relative to \( M, g \):**

We use the notation \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} \) for the semantic value of an expression \( \alpha \) relative to \( M, g \).

**Basic Expressions (“lexical semantics”):**

A. If \( \alpha \) is a variable, then \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = g(\alpha) \).

B. If \( \alpha \) is a constant, then \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = I(\alpha) \).

**Semantic Rules (“semantics of syntax”):**

S1: If \( P \in \text{Pred}-1 \) and \( T \in \text{Term} \), then \( \| P(T) \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff \( \| T \|_{M,g} \in \| P \|_{M,g} \).

S2: More general rule: If \( R \in \text{Pred}-n \) and \( T_1, ..., T_n \in \text{Term} \), then \( \| R(T_1, ..., T_n) \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff

\[\| T_1 \|_{M,g}, ..., \| T_n \|_{M,g} \in \| R \|_{M,g} \].

S3: If \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| \lnot \alpha \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = 0 \).

S4: If \( \alpha, \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| (\alpha \land \psi) \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = 1 \) and \( \| \psi \|_{M,g} = 1 \).

S5: If \( \alpha, \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| (\alpha \lor \psi) \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = 0 \) or \( \| \psi \|_{M,g} = 1 \).

S6: If \( \alpha, \psi \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| (\alpha \to \psi) \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g} = 1 \) or \( \| \psi \|_{M,g} = 1 \).

S7: If \( v \) is a variable and \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| \forall v \alpha \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff

for all \( d \in D \), \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g[d/v]} = 1 \).

S8: If \( v \) is a variable and \( \alpha \in \text{Form} \), then \( \| \exists v \alpha \|_{M,g} = 1 \) iff

there is a \( d \in D \) such that \( \| \alpha \|_{M,g[d/v]} = 1 \).
The notation $g[d/x]$ means: The variable assignment which is identical to $g$ except for the (possible) difference that $g[d/x]$ assigns the individual $d$ to the variable $x$.

Truth: Some formulas are true independent of the choice of assignment; those can be called true relative to just $M$, i.e. simply true on the given interpretation.

If $\varphi \in \text{Form}$, then:

- $\| \varphi \|_M = 1$ iff for all assignments $g$, $\| \varphi \|_{M,g} = 1$.
- $\| \varphi \|_M = 0$ iff for all assignments $g$, $\| \varphi \|_{M,g} = 0$.
- Otherwise $\| \varphi \|_M$ is undefined.

+++++++++++++++++++++ +++++++++++++++++++++ ++++++++++++++++++++++++  

APPENDIX 2: For Seminar today: A Practice Homework  
(to do together in class, not to turn in)

Background:

1. We will first work on the formula $\forall x \, \text{happy}(x)$, and work out its interpretation with respect to the model $M_2$, working compositionally. See the separate 1-page handout called Sample Exercise 1: http://people.umass.edu/partee/HSE_Web_14/materials/Sample_exercise_1.pdf.

2. Below you will find a syntactic “derivation” tree for the formula $\forall x (\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x))$, which expresses the same proposition as the English sentence Everyone who Mary loves is happy. That is followed by a derivation of the truth-conditions of the formula according to the compositional semantic rules of the predicate calculus. Each line is annotated to identify what semantic rule was applied in the derivation of that line, and what node of the syntactic derivation tree it corresponds to. (The problem you are asked to solve is stated after all of that, in 3.)

Tree 1.

\[
\forall x (\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x)) , \text{ Form, R7} \\
\]

\[
\text{x} \quad (\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x)) , \text{ Form, R6} \\
\]

\[
\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) , \text{ Form, R2} \quad \text{happy}(x) , \text{ Form, R1} \\
\]

\[
\text{love, Pred-2, Basic} \quad \text{x, T, Basic} \quad \text{happy, Pred-1, Basic} \quad \text{x, T, Basic} \\
\text{Mary, T,Basic} \\
\]

Annotated semantic derivation of truth conditions:

1. $\| \forall x (\text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x)) \|_{M,g} = 1$ iff for each $d$ in $D$, $\| \text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x) \|_{M,g[d/x]} = 1$. By rule S7 at the “R7” node.

2. That will hold iff for each $d$ in $D$, $\| \text{love}(\text{Mary}, x) \|_{M,g[d/x]} = 0$ or $\| \text{happy}(x) \|_{M,g[d/x]} = 1$. By rule S6 at the “R6” node.

3. That will hold iff for each $d$ in $D$,
By rule S2 at the R2 node and by S1 at the R1 node.

4. And that will hold iff for each \( d \) in \( D \),

\[
\text{if } < \| \text{Mary} \|_{M,g[d/x]}, x \|_{M,g[d/x]} > \in \| \text{love} \|_{M,g[d/x]}, \text{ then } x \|_{M,g[d/x]} \in \| \text{happy} \|_{M,g[d/x]}.
\]

By rule A (for variables) at the two \( x \) nodes.

5. I.e., if \( < l(Mary), d > \in l(\text{love}) \), then \( d \in l(\text{happy}) \).

By rule B (for constants) at the nodes for Mary, love, happy.

If we then annotate the syntactic tree above to also show the semantic rule applied at each step, we can see a perfect match between syntactic and semantic rules in the derivation of the form and meaning of the formula.

Tree 2.

\[
\forall x(\text{love(Mary, } x) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x)), \text{ Form, R7, S7} \\
\text{love(Mary, } x), \text{ Form, R2, S2} \quad \text{happy}(x), \text{ Form, R1, S1} \\
\text{love, Pred-2, Basic, B} \quad x, \text{ T, Basic, A} \quad \text{happy, Pred-1, Basic, B} \quad x, \text{ T, Basic, A} \\
\text{Mary, T, Basic, B}
\]

3. Exercise: (to do in seminar together) This one gives more practice with using \( g \).

The predicate logic formula \( \forall x(\exists y \text{ love}(x, y) \rightarrow \text{happy}(x)) \) is equivalent to the English sentence *Everyone who loves someone is happy.*

Assume an initial assignment \( g \) that assigns \( j \) to every variable.

(b) **Draw a syntactic tree** (analogous to Tree 1 above) which shows how that formula is built up from its parts according to the syntactic rules of the predicate calculus (in the Appendix above).

(c) **Give each node a label** that identifies both the syntactic category of the expression it dominates and the number of the syntactic rule by which its immediate constituents were combined (or “Basic”, if that node dominates a basic expression.)

(d) **Work out the truth-conditions** of the formula according to the semantic rules of the predicate calculus, analogous to the step-by-step derivation of truth conditions for the example above (see NOTE below). **Annotate each line** by identifying the semantic rule that was applied anywhere within that line (show where), and the node of the tree to which it corresponds. (According to the principle of compositionality, there should be a perfect match between syntactic rule and semantic rule applied at each node.)

(e) In addition, **further annotate the syntactic tree** by adding to the label of each non-terminal node the number of the semantic rule which was used to combine the meanings of the daughter-node expressions to get the meaning of the whole expression dominated by that node. For nodes dominating basic expressions, indicate...
whether the semantic rule to use is Rule A or Rule B. (If you’ve done it right, there should be a perfect correspondence between syntactic rules and semantic rules applied at a given node, as in Tree 2 above.)

**NOTE:** What happens when you are working with g[d/x] and you need to make a further substitution, e.g. for the variable y? Answer: you need to consider another arbitrary element d’ of D, and modify the assignment again, resulting in g[d/x][d'/y]: the assignment just like g except it assigns d to x and d' to y.

**REFERENCES.**
(Some of these may not be referred to in this lecture but will be referred to in later lectures.)


