

ON THE (IN)DEPENDENCE OF PERSON

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This contribution aims at clarifying the role of Person at the interface between syntax and the interpretive systems. Our task here is twofold.

Firstly, we would like to show that *de se* readings are the product of a specific type of anaphoric dependency, stemming from the option of leaving the referential index underspecified on the pronoun in those languages that do not permit pronoun-shifting. In doing so, we will emphasize the consequences of our approach for the nature of Higginbotham's (1983) asymmetric relation of 'linking' (cf. Safir 2004 for a recent overview), for the properties of the referential index system proposed by Elbourne 2005 and for the nature of the economy principles that underlie language design.

Second, we will assume as our starting point the basic insight that the Kaplanian view of first-person indexicals as essentially context-dependent (hence as not capable of giving rise to sentence-internal anaphoric dependencies) has to be 'adapted' when it becomes clear that Kaplan's 'monsters' (i.e. anaphoric first-person pronouns) are indeed attested in a variety of languages, crucially including Semitic and Dravidian languages (cf. Schlenker 2003 and the references cited therein). As a consequence, we will attempt here at expressing the semantics of first-person in strictly neo-davidsonian terms (somehow adopting and extending the insights developed in Higginbotham 2003). In doing so, we will emphasize that event semantics is a suitable formal tool for the treatment of indexicals when our target consists in explaining how the syntax of the first-person (arguably involving the clausal left-periphery in Rizzi's sense) relates to its semantics and to the observed range of interpretive variation to which first-person gives rise crosslinguistically.

In this spirit, we will try to connect the semantic level at which first-person readings, logophoric readings, and *de se/de re* ambiguities are processed with the morphosyntactic level at which person-feature expression (at a DP-level) takes place.

The results of the present contribution include thus proposals on the connection between the semantics of first-person and the syntax of the left-periphery, a neo-davidsonian treatment of the semantics of first-person indexicals and a novel view of pronominal anaphora according to which Higginbotham's asymmetric relation of 'linking' is analysed in terms of a mechanism of thematic role inheritance closely tied to the semantics of first-person.

References

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