

Attitudinal Objects 2

Handout 6

1. Elaborating the Neo-Russellian account

1.1. Understanding multigrade predicates

(1) The soldiers surrounded the castle

Surround : two places, one taking several arguments at once (plural arguments), one taking also single arguments only

Plural argument position; order of arguments does not matter, single object occurs only one

Multigrade position: order matters, single object can occur several times

Think : predicate with two places, second place multigrade: allows for an indefinite number of arguments in a certain order

(2) John thought that Mary thought that S.

Second argument position of *think*:

multigrade, with each position in it possibly being multigrade itself

Formally: use multiple indexing for arguments x_{21} , x_{212} , ...

Indefinite number of indices

1.2. Connectives and sentence operators

(3) John that that Bill arrived or Mary left.

Or: takes attitudinal objects as arguments

Or: multigrade predicate, with each of its positions being multigrade itself:

(4) Or(A, Bill; L, Mary)

Multigrade thinking relation: also involves predication of A of Bill and L of Mary, but in the sense of 'judgment', 'acceptance', 'consideration'.

2. What is said vs what modal operators operate on

Dummett: assertoric content vs ingredient sense

Divergence:

Rigidly referring terms

What is said is not true of false relative to context

(5) a. The president is GB.

b. The current president is GB

c. GB is GB.

No difference for what is said

Different modal profiles

Attitudinal objects: represent what is said: contexts fixed by speaker, his attitude etc

Ingredient senses: sequences of propositional constituents filling in multigrade positions of predicates

Special quantifiers:

- can refer to attitudinal objects

- can refer to something more abstract: acceptances, kinds of attitudinal objects or:

(6) a. The current president is GB. That will always be true.

b. The current president is GB. That won't always be true. (J Stanley)

(7) a. John said that Bill likes Mary.

b. Joe said the same thing about Bob and Sue.