

# snippets

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# Plural anaphoric reference and non-conservativity

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Quantificational structures of the form  $D(A)(B)$  like *most MPs attended the meeting* can provide three potential antecedents for subsequent plural pronouns: the restrictor set (MAXSET)  $A$ , the reference set (REFSET)  $A \cap B$ , and the complement set (COMPSET)  $A \cap \bar{B}$ . Whereas reference to MAXSET and REFSET, as in (1) and (2), is always available, reference to COMPSET is restricted to negative quantifiers and is only available under certain pragmatic conditions (Nouwen 2003).

- (1) They all attended the Tuesday meeting.
- (2) They even stayed till the end.

Given conservativity, the general availability of MAXSET and REFSET anaphora seems very natural; the sets needed to evaluate the truth-conditions of  $D(A)(B)$  are also the ones available for anaphoric reference. This raises interesting questions about non-conservative construals (NCC). Ahn and Sauerland (A&S, 2015, 2017) identify relative measures as NCCs; (3) specifies the ratio of women the company hired to all the people hired by the company, so that the men hired by the company are relevant in establishing its truth. Although anaphora to the women the company hired is possible, as in (4a), anaphora to the people the company hired is degraded, as in (4b), as is anaphora to the set of women in (4c).

- (3) The company hired 75%  $\text{WOMEN}_F$ .
- (4) a. They will be paid 10% more than the men.  
b. #They will all start working next month.  
c. #We rejected some of them for lack of experience.

A&S provide an analysis of (3) that structurally unifies relative and intersective measures, as in *the company hired two dozen women*, which exhibit the same anaphoric possibilities. A&S's analysis is built around the entry for *percent* in (5) (where  $\mu$  is a contextually determined measure function). Factoring in focus-sensitivity and QR of 75%, as in (6), the restrictor of the generalized quantifier  $75$  [*percent c*] is the variable  $c$  resolved to the set of all people hired by the company (MAXSET), whereas the scope is the sum of all women hired by the company (SCOPSET), which is identical to REFSET.

- (5)  $\llbracket \text{percent} \rrbracket = \lambda x. \lambda n. \lambda P. \mu(x \sqcap \sigma y [P(y)]) / \mu(x) = n/100$
- (6)  $\llbracket 75$  [*percent c*] [ $\sim c$  [ $\lambda z$  [*the company hired* [ $\text{the}_z$  *women* ]]]]

In the case of NCCs of relative measures one cannot simply relate their dynamic properties to their truth-conditional requirements. Although anaphora to the set of women the company hired can be explained as a case of REFSET anaphora, the unavailability of MAXSET anaphora is puzzling.

Notice, moreover, that although anaphora to the set of women is correctly predicted to be unavailable in the A&S account, it is available in the case of other NCCs, like *the company hired many WOMEN*, in the relevant reading, indicating a limit in any attempt to unify the two. Similarly, any attempt to reduce (3) to partitive structures like *30% of the women the company hired live in NYC* is challenged by the fact that partitives do allow MAXSET anaphora (as pointed out to me by an anonymous reviewer). A successful account of (3), then, will not only have to correctly predict the pattern of anaphoric possibilities in (4), but also explain why this pattern is identical to that of intersective measures, and not identical to that of other NCCs or corresponding partitive structures.

## References

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