

(16:615:535:01 SSEM)
 TEMPORALITY: UNIVERSALS AND VARIATION

Syllabus
 (January 27, 2012)

LECTURES

Th 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, in SEM-108

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Maria Bittner

email: mbittner@rci.rutgers.edu

office: SEM-203A

office hour: M 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in SEM-203A (by appointment only)

PREREQUISITE

16:615:531 *Semantics II*, or permission of the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Current theories of temporal discourse reference are mostly based on English (see e.g. Reichenbach 1947, Partee 1973, Webber 1988, Kamp & Reyle 1993, Klein 1994) and similar languages (e.g. Kamp 1981, Kamp & Rohrer 1983, on French). According to these theories, grammatical tenses anaphorically refer to contextually salient time periods, in much the same way as pronouns and definite descriptions anaphorically refer to contextually salient people or things.

However, recent research has shown that some languages have no tense marking at all, and yet temporal anaphora in discourse is still as precise as in English (see e.g. Li and Thompson 1989, Wu 2003, on Mandarin Chinese; Bohnemeyer 2002, on Yukatek Maya; Bittner 2005, 2007, 2011, on Kalaallisut; Tonhauser 2011, on Guarani). This finding is a puzzle for English-based theories, as is the fact that some languages (e.g. Polish, Kalaallisut, and Mandarin) express nominal anaphora without articles or pronouns. Thus, the universal phenomenon of discourse anaphora to semantic entities of various types (such as time intervals, people, and things) must be distinguished from grammatical categories (such as tenses, pronouns, and articles) that may, but need not, be used to express it.

In Bittner (2012) *Temporality: Universals and Variation* (Ch. 1–8 at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>), I develop a cross-linguistic theory of nominal, temporal, and other types of discourse reference, based on English, Polish, Mandarin Chinese, and Kalaallisut. The goal of the theory is to use the universal rules of Categorial Grammar to directly build sample discourses in these languages and simultaneously translate them into a dynamic logic that is transparently related to the actual surface forms of these languages. Part one of the book (Ch. 1–7: *Universals*) develops a suitable logic, *Update with Centering*, beginning with a simple variant and then gradually motivating and defining various enrichments. In this seminar, we will first read Ch. 1–8 of the book, as well as some related literature, and then work on temporal CG.UC fragments of English, Polish, Mandarin Chinese, and Kalaallisut, for part two of the book (Ch. 9–12).

Students will be expected to work out sample derivations along the way and present them to the class. They will also be expected to define a research project, give a conference style presentation on their research at the end of the course, and write a first draft toward a conference paper.

COURSE WEBPAGES

- After each class, *lecture notes* will be made available at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>
- Course participants will also have access to the website “16:615:535 SSem S12” on Sakai.

READINGS (under “Resources” on Sakai, except for •Bittner 2012):

- AnderBois, S. *et al.* 2010. Crossing the appositive/at-issue meaning boundary. *SALT XX*.
- Bach, E. 1986. The algebra of events. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 9:5–16.
- Bittner, M. 2005. Future discourse in a tenseless language. *Journal of Semantics* 22(4):339–88.
- Bittner, M. 2007. Online update: Temporal, modal, and *de se* anaphora in polysynthetic discourse. In: *Direct Compositionality* (Barker, C. and P. Jacobson, eds.), Ch. 11. OUP, Oxford.
- Bittner, M. & N. Trondhjem. 2008. Quantification as reference: Evidence from *Q*-verbs.
- Bittner, M. 2011. Time and modality without tenses or modals. In: *Tense across Languages*.
- Bittner, M. 2012. *Temporality: Universals and Variation*. <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>
- Huang, C. 2003. Talking about past events in conversation: An analysis of Mandarin mother-child and adult-adult discourse. *Taiwan Journal of Linguistics* 1(1):121–154.
- Kamp, H. 1981/to appear. Discourse representations and temporal reference. To appear in *Dynamic Semantics: A Reader*, Bittner, M. *et al.*, eds. [French translation published in 1981]
- Kamp, H. & U. Reyle. 1993. *From Discourse to Logic*. Ch. 5. Kluwer, Dordrecht.
- Kehler, A. 1994. Temporal relations: Reference or discourse coherence. *ACL-94*.
- Kertz *et al.* 2006. Grammatical and coherence-based factors in pronoun interpretation. *CS-28*.
- Lascarides, A. & N. Asher. 1993. Temporal interpretation, discourse relations, and commonsense entailment. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 16:437–93.
- Lewis, D. 1975. Adverbs of quantification. In: *Formal Semantics of Nat. Lg.* (Keenan, E. ed.)
- Lewis, D. 1979. Attitudes *de dicto* and *de se*. *The Philosophical Review* 88:513–43.
- Li, W. 2004. Topic chains in Chinese discourse. *Discourse Processes* 37:25–45.
- Młynarczyk, A. 2004. *Aspectual Pairing in Polish*. Ph. D. thesis. University of Utrecht. [Published by LOT, Utrecht]
- Moens, M. and M. Steedman. 1988. Temporal ontology and temporal reference. *Comp. Ling.* 14.
- Murray, S. 2010. *Evidentiality and the Structure of Speech Acts*. Ph. D. thesis, Rutgers.
- Partee, B. 1970. Opacity, coreference, and pronouns. *Synthese* 21:359–85.
- Smith, C. & M. Erbaugh. 2005. Temporal interpretation in Mandarin Chinese. *Linguistics* 43-4.
- Stone, M. 1997. The anaphoric parallel between modality and tense. *IRCS Report* 97–6.
- Webber, B. 1988. Tense as discourse anaphor. *Computational Linguistics* 14:61–73.
- Wu, J.-S. 2009. Tense as a discourse feature: Rethinking temporal location in Mandarin Chinese. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 18:145–65.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (for credit):

- **Presentations 1–2: Sample computations in UC...** (joint with a discussion partner)
For-credit students will twice work through sample computations in UC..., together with another student, and then jointly present their results to the class (2 × 25min ?).
- **Presentation 3: Conference-style talk** (30 min talk + discussion)
For-credit students will each define a research project and give a conference-style presentation on the current state of their research during the last class (see tentative schedule below).
- **Conference-style paper**
For-credit students will write a conference-style paper about their research project. Ideally, it should be a draft that could be developed into an actual conference paper and/or QP.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

To be revised if and when necessary. The parenthesized readings are optional.

1 Th 1/19. Introduction

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 1

• ***Universals: Update with Centering***

2 Th 1/26. Attention-guided anaphora.

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 2

Li 2004

Kertz-Kehler-Elman 2006

(Partee 1970)

*Sample computations in UC_0 : **MB***

3 Th 2/2. Tense as temporal centering.

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 3.1–3

Moens and Steedman 1988

Webber 1988

*Sample computations in UC_0 and/or UC_τ : **MB***

4 Th 2/9. *Update with Temporal Centering (UC_τ)*

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 3.4

Lascarides & Asher 1993

Kehler 1994

Sample computations in UC_τ : _____ & _____

5 Th 2/16. Aspect as eventuality centering.

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 4

Kamp 1981/to.appear

Bach 1986

Sample computations in UC_τ : _____ & _____

6 Th 2/23. Quantification as top-level anaphora

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 5

Lewis 1975

(Bittner and Trondhjem 2008)

Sample computations in $UC_{\tau+}$: _____ & _____

7 Th 3/1. Mood as illocutionary centering

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 6

Murray 2010: Ch. 2 & 7

(AnderBois *et al.* 2010)

Sample computations in $UC_{\omega+}$: _____ & _____

8 Th 3/8. Mood-based temporal reference

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 7

Bittner 2005

Sample computations in UC : _____ & _____

9 SPRING BREAK 3/10–3/18

• ***Variation: Temporal fragments in CG.UC***

10 Th 3/22. Tense-based temporality in English

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 8–9
Stone 1997
(Kamp & Reyle 1993: Ch. 5)

11 Th 3/29. TA-based temporality in Polish

Read: Bittner 2012: Ch. 10
Młynarczyk 2004

12 Th 4/5. Aspect-based temporality in Mandarin

Read: Huang 2003
Smith & Erbaugh 2005
(Wu 2009)
(*Mandarin texts* at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>)

13 Th 4/12. Mood-based temporality in Kalaallisut (part 1)

Read: Bittner 2007
Lewis 1979
(*Kalaallisut texts* at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner>)

14 Th 4/19. Mood-based temporality in Kalaallisut (part 2)

Read: Bittner 2011

15 Th 4/26. ***Conference-style presentations***