

Athens Reading Group, March 13, 2015

Scopelessness

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My point of departure is the observation (made by Scha 1981 and many others) that DPs that may take scope w.r.t. other DPs -- here called QPs -- sometimes lack such scopal interaction. Due to the parallel of this latter construal with what we find in sentences where two or more definite plural DPs occur as co-arguments of a predicate, existing analyses usually aim to derive it qua the mechanisms standardly assumed to underlie plural predication, in particular, predicate cumulation. I argue, partially following Schein 1993, that this approach, irrespective of its particular implementation, is flawed, my main point being that predicate cumulation does not yield the right truth-conditions for sentences with QPs. I suggest an alternative proposal, in which the different components of standard predicate cumulation are derived in a stepwise fashion and thus become individually accessible, a point I argue to be crucial for the semantic treatment of sentences with QPs.

